



Newsletter

September 15, 2022

General Election November 8

**FREEDOM STARTS HERE!**

DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
of Sumter County

**US Senate**  
Val Demings  
[ValDemings.com](http://ValDemings.com)

**Congressional District 11**  
Shante Munns  
[VoteforShante.com](http://VoteforShante.com)

**Governor / Lt Governor**  
Charlie Crist /  
Karla Hernandez  
[CharlieCrist.com](http://CharlieCrist.com)

**Attorney General**  
Aramis Ayala  
[AramisAyalaFL.com](http://AramisAyalaFL.com)

**Chief Financial Officer**  
Adam Hattersley  
[AdamforFlorida.com](http://AdamforFlorida.com)

**Commissioner of Agriculture**  
Naomi Blemur  
[NaomiBlemur.com](http://NaomiBlemur.com)

**State Representative District 52**  
Ash Marwah  
[Ashfor52.com](http://Ashfor52.com)

**Show your support for our candidates.**

Come by the office to pick up signs, literature, etc.  
See address and days/times the office is open below.



**Potential Villages Independent Fire District Referendum**

The Nov. 8 ballot includes a referendum on whether an Independent Fire District should take over fire and ambulance service in The Villages.

**Vote No on the Independent Fire District** by Democratic Candidate for State Representative District 54 Ash Marwah

The Fire District is only for The Villages in Sumter County. People outside The Villages in Sumter County are not within the boundary of the Fire District. The Villagers in Lake and Marion County are not part of the Fire District.

Please Vote NO on the Fire District because it is nothing but a tax increase on us. There are so many things wrong with it. Here are couple of those wrong things:

1) We will be charged three different types of Fire Taxes:

First: \$124 flat fee per parcel, that means everyone pays \$124, a homeowner or Waterfront Inn or a commercial property, all pay this flat \$124, which is totally unfair to homeowners when commercial properties are paying the same fee.

Second: 0.75 mil on improvements on your property, which is your Market Value - Land Value (This tax will be based on the valuations in June 2023.)

For a house with market value of \$350,000 and land value of \$50,000 in June, 2023, this tax will amount to 0.75 (350-50) = \$225. This tax is also unfair to homeowners because commercial properties have much higher land value, therefore their deduct from the Market Value is much higher, lowering their tax burden and in turn increasing the tax burden on homeowners.

And the third tax is a 1 mil tax on the assessed value of your house in June 2023. Let us say for the house with market value of \$350,000 has an assessed value of \$250,000 then this tax will amount to  $1 \times 250 = \$250$

This third tax of 1 mil may be applied partially, meaning half or quarter of the 1 mil depending on the need as determined by a new Board of the Fire District.

Together, these 3 taxes could add up to \$150 to \$600 more in taxes for you. Houses on the golf course or water front, which have higher land value will fare better than other houses.

2) The County should ideally reduce our taxes by the amount of increase in taxes in the Fire District, but they are not doing it.

3) The initial five-member Board of the Fire District is appointed by the Governor, 2 for 2 years and 3 for 4 years. That means for the first four years, we are at the mercy of the majority of 3 out of 5 Appointed Board. They can raise our Fire Taxes, make long term agreements with the Developer, borrow millions or issue bonds, etc. The list is endless, and we are voting in good faith that they will do right by us. What if they don't? What if they raise our Fire Taxes 25%? There is nothing we can do about it.

Want more information about the Fire District Referendum? Here are some meetings you can attend to gather information and ask questions:

**Sponsored by the Villages Homeowner's Advocates:**

<https://www.thevha.net/make-your-vote-count/>

*Monday, Oct. 24*, Ezell Recreation Center, 769 Marilee Place, 7 p.m.

**Sponsored by the Property Owners Association of The Villages:**

<https://www.poa4us.org/special-fire-district-meeting-september-29-7-pm-at-laurel-manor/>

*Thursday, Sept. 29*, Laurel Manor Recreation Center, 1985 Laurel Manor Drive, 7 p.m.

**Sample ballots are now available. See your sample ballot here.**

<https://www.sumterelections.org/Voters/Review-My-Registration-Status--Voter-Lookup>

John Temple has agreed to debate with Ash Marwah. The Debate, sponsored by League of Women Voters, will take place on September 28, 2022 at 6 PM via Zoom. The Zoom link will be shared with everyone when it is available.

**More information on local candidates, judges, and amendment proposals is coming!**

## Candidate Meet and Greet



Come meet dynamic speaker Adam Hattersley, Democratic Candidate for CFO for the state of Florida. He will be at Headquarters (see address below) on Saturday, September 17 at 6:30 PM.

Adam was a big hit at the Villages Democratic Club meeting. He is stopping in Sumter County as part of a four-county swing in Central Florida. This will

be a great opportunity to see and hear Adam in person and ask him questions. The CFO oversees Insurance Companies and the current CFO has failed Florida residents. To sign up, go to <https://www.mobilize.us/sumtercountydec/event/504351/>

For more about Adam Hattersley, click here. <https://www.adamforflorida.com/>

## Why I Volunteer by Laura Goudreau

I don't like going door to door, too hot. I dislike calling people I don't know. I have a shy side. Sitting outside a polling place is not that exciting. I mostly like doing this newsletter and an informational email to my precinct, but they are a lot of work. I would rather be listening to music in one of the squares.

So why do I do this? two words

### **PRESIDENT DESANTIS**

He is already making Florida's education system worse. Putting unqualified people into classrooms, banning books, changing history, and making educators feel unhinged about every word they say. Then there is the meddling in local government. Suspending an elected Tampa prosecutor for what he said. He did nothing wrong. Replacing elected female Broward school board members with male members in part over the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. His party is the one who supports gun ownership. Then there is his overreach right here in Sumter County in replacing two elected County Commissioners using a law that hasn't been used in decades. Reproductive rights, arresting former felons of voter fraud when most of them had voter id cards and were registered to vote, all that happened to the four people in The Villages who voted twice were sent to a "civics class", insurance, affordable housing, his silence on ghost candidates, attacks on gay and transgender people ... the list goes on.

If this is what DeSantis is doing in Florida, I don't want to think about what he will do with the nation. He has to be stopped NOW. I don't want the same feeling I had when I woke up to find out Trump had won. I don't want to say, "I wished I would have ..."

Did you know that very few people are going door to door? We are reaching out to non-party affiliates and Democrats who have a low voting rate. Bob Berg, DEC president and one of the door-to-door organizers, said at a recent steering committee meeting it would take until 2025 to get through his lists. I had wanted to talk to all left leaning NPA's in my precinct, but the other precinct captain, three volunteers, and I can't do that. I am running a much smaller list for this week.

We might not be able to win a majority of votes here in Sumter, but we can add to the total. Democrats had an influence in the last election, the August primary. All three school board members and two of the county commissioners we recommended won. Democrats in Sumter County had a 50% turnout in the primary, which was NUMBER ONE in the state. If you look at the vote totals, none of these five people would have won without US. We can continue to be influencers in the November elections, but we need YOUR help.

If we stop DeSantis now, there will not be a President DeSantis. There will not be a Governor DeSantis. While we are at it, let's get rid of Rubio and others like him and give Governor Crist a group of Democrats with whom to work to actually improve the lives of Floridians instead of making them worse.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Forget about being an internet influencer and be an election influencer. We might not pay, but you can make a difference.

Here are some ways YOU can help.



### Keep Elections Safe and Secure

We need poll watchers (inside) and poll observers (outside) for Early Voting and Election Day. Not only do we need to make sure nothing happens, but we need to make sure no one says something happened when it didn't. Laura Loomer lost in the primary when the votes from precincts where she did not win came in toward the end of the evening of Election Night. Now Villagers for Trump want DeSantis' "Election Police" to investigate her fellow Republicans. She, like Trump, has refused to concede. Ridiculous, that is how close elections go! A few precincts reporting or not reporting can change who the leader is until the final votes come in. Election results are not even final for days after the Election as people cure ballots and overseas votes are received and counted. There was no "ballot dump" as she has claimed.

Just imagine what will happen when DeSantis and Rubio lose. What kind of foul will they call? What might be done to keep people from voting? We cannot control what happens all over the state, but we can control what happens here.

Early Voting runs October 25 to November 5 at the follow locations.

Bushnell Elections Annex, 316 East Anderson Avenue, Bushnell  
Villages Sumter County Service Center, 7375 Powell Road, Room 102, Wildwood  
Laurel Manor Recreation Center, 1985 Laurel Manor Drive, The Villages  
Tierra Del Sol Recreation Center, 808 San Marino Drive, The Villages  
Allamanda Recreation Center, 1515 Saint Charles Place, The Villages  
Rohan Recreation Center, 850 Kristine Way, The Villages  
Everglades Recreation Center, 5497 Marsh Bend Trail, The Villages

Election Day is November 8. We really need people for Election Day. Go here to see polling locations.

<https://www.sumterelections.org/Precincts/Precinct-Finder-Where-Do-I-Vote>

Click on All Precincts in Sumter County.

We especially need people in greater Sumter outside The Villages.

If everything is working well, these are not exciting volunteer jobs. One poll watcher brought her knitting while inside for the primary. Many people here vote by mail. Have a party if you are outside. At the Fenney Recreation Center polling place on Election Day, we are having a party all day and a watch party to follow.

There is some easy training required and inside people need to be certified by the Supervisor of Elections (a list of people sent by us). Want to be a Poll Watcher (inside) or Poll Observer (outside)? Email Cathie Hardy at [chardy2491@gmail.com](mailto:chardy2491@gmail.com)

### Come Help Us Canvass, Also Known as Go Door to Door

There will be no canvassing outside The Villages on Saturday, September 17.

Sunday afternoons inside The Villages: <https://www.mobilize.us/sumtercountydec/event/494958/>

When--Sunday (9/18) meet at 2:30 PM and expect to canvass from 3-6

Where--Meet at the Hibiscus Recreation Center (parking lot,) 1740 Bailey Trail (form teams, distribute turfs and canvassing materials.)

How--we will canvass by golf cart or car in and around the Cane Garden area.

## More Canvassing

If you live in the Coleman or the Villages of Fenney, Hammock at Fenney, McClure or Desoto, please read your precinct 117 email about canvassing in your area. This week on Saturday, August 17, we will be going door to door in DeSoto. Contact Laura at [lauragoudreau@gmail.com](mailto:lauragoudreau@gmail.com) for more information.

## Write Postcards



The map shows the intersection of Highway 566 and Morse Blvd. Buildings marked include the Fire Department, Sheriff's Office, Health Department, and Clerk of the Court/Meeting Room. An arrow points to the Clerk of the Court building with the text "Turn right into the parking lot".

**Starting September 6<sup>th</sup>**

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**NEW POSTCARD INFORMATION**

A new day: Tuesday  
A new time: 1:30 – 4:30  
A new location  
Sumter County Villages Annex Conference Room  
8033 East County Road 466, Lady Lake  
At the corner of 466 and Morse Blvd

We have other things you can do. Go to <https://sumterfldemocrats.com/>

Click on **Get Involved** and then **complete the volunteer form**. If your computer is acting up, give us a call and leave a message at 352.794-1351.

We are also looking for callers, texters, people to work in the office, and drive people to the polls. If data is your thing, we have lists to pull and data to analyze. We need people to call volunteers from our list and tell them about upcoming opportunities.

## Support Our Efforts



**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF Sumter County**

**DONATE**

**November Election**

*With Your Help we can WIN!*      *We can't afford to lose!*

**DONATE \$25 To CONTACT VOTERS**

Postcards **YOUR \$25** can print and stamp 37 postcards  
Text message **YOUR \$25** can send 1,000 text messages  
Robocalls **YOUR \$25** can send 1,250 calls  
MailChimp Emails **YOUR \$25** can send 33,000 emails  
Slate Cards **YOUR \$25** can print 625 2-sided glossy front slate cards

**You can do all of these for only \$125!**

Paid for and approved by the Sumter County Democratic Executive Committee

Click below to donate!

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/yourtwentyfive>

Or use this QR code.



## Villages Democratic Club

The Villages Democratic Club &  
The Democratic Women's Club of The Villages  
Convene  
A Convention of Democratic Candidates  
Lake, Marion & Sumter Counties  
For The Villages Residents  
Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 – 11:30 AM  
Colony Cottage Recreation Center  
510 Colony Boulevard, The Villages FL

If you live in The Villages,  
please consider joining the Villages Democratic Club.  
<https://thevillagesdemocrats.com/>

## Democrats Deliver

President Biden's bipartisan infrastructure spending is upgrading bridges, water systems, and electric grids across America. These upgrades will help our essential systems better stand up to the growing effects of climate change. This administration is going on the offensive, looking for ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to protect our future. If this issue is important to you, let's support President Biden's agenda together. Vote Democrat!



## Stay Informed

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SumterFLDemocrats>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/sumterflyoungdems/>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/SumterFLDems>

Sign up for the newsletter [SumterFLDemocrats.com](https://SumterFLDemocrats.com)

## Sumter County Democrats

The Mission of the Sumter County Democratic Executive Committee is to achieve an inclusive society by electing qualified and responsible candidates who effectively represent the diverse population of Sumter County, Florida.

Headquarters:

300 S Main Street

Wildwood, FL 34785

352-794-1351

Email: [info@sumterFLDemocrats.com](mailto:info@sumterFLDemocrats.com)

Webpage: [SumterFLDemocrats.com](https://SumterFLDemocrats.com)

Office Hours:

Monday 1PM-4PM

Tuesday 1 -5PM **New**

Wednesday 9AM-1PM **New**

Thursday 9AM-1PM **New**

Saturday 9AM-1PM **New**

## Calendar

All Sumter County residents are welcome at events listed below.



- September 17            **Meet and Greet Florida CFO Candidate Adam Hattersley**, 6:30 PM,  
Headquarters – see above
- September 20            **Postcard Writing** – see above
- September 23            Overseas ballots mailed
- September 27            **Break Your Fast with Democrats**, 9AM, buffet breakfast, \$16 tax and tip included, cash only, St.  
Augustine’s 1812 House, 1101 Main Street, Lady Lake, on Spanish Springs Square, RSVP Susan  
Blalock, sblalock742@aol.com
- October 6th              Domestic ballots mailed
- October 11                Registration Book closing for the General Election
- October 21                **Trivia Night Fundraiser**, Rohan Recreation Center, The Villages, Tickets go on sale September 21.
- Oct 25 - Nov 5            Early Voting
- November 8                Election Day
- November 10              Cures and Provisionals Deadline
- November 18              Overseas ballots deadline (must be postmarked or and signed and dated by election day)
- March 26                  **Democratic Gala Fundraiser** - March 26 at Brownwood Hotel and Spa, more details to come.

**PAID FOR AND AUTHORIZED BY THE SUMTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND NOT AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE.**

Have a comment or suggestion about this newsletter? Email Laura Goudreau, editor,  
at [dems\\_newsletter@sumterfldemocrats.com](mailto:dems_newsletter@sumterfldemocrats.com)