



Newsletter

February 16, 2023

## Sumter County Democratic Fundraiser Gala

The Gala is the main fundraising event of the year. Help us keep our doors open and our mission continuing.



A delicious dinner will be a part of the evening. The choices are:

- Roasted boneless pork loin, Herb Polenta, Broccolini and Lemon-Thyme Jus (GF)
- Rosemary roasted French cut chicken breast, Haricot Vert, Roasted Corn Johnny Cake, Pan Jus (GF)
- Vegetarian

Trips for ranging from six to eight guests to Italy, France, the Caribbean, or Hilton Head will be part of the numerous silent auction opportunities.

Watch a video about Maxwell Frost and get your tickets at [SumterFLDemocrats.com](http://SumterFLDemocrats.com)

## New Florida Democratic Party Chair

Leadership of the Sumter County Democrats are carefully considering their choices for a new party chair. We have six votes in a weighted voting system favoring larger counties. The vote will take place on February 25. Read about potential leaders for both parties below.

## Florida's Major Political Parties to Choose New Leaders

The changes come after the GOP dominated November elections; Democrats look to rebuild its struggling party

BY: [MITCH PERRY](#) - FEBRUARY 15, 2023 7:00 AM, FLORIDA PHOENIX



Former State Sen. Annette Taddeo of Miami-Dade (left) and former Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried (right) are under consideration for the Democratic Party Chair. Credit: Danielle J. Brown

Florida's Republican and Democratic state parties are meeting separately in Central Florida over the next two weekends to select new state party chairs to lead their organizations going into the 2024 presidential election cycle — and the stakes are high for both parties.

GOP dominance over Democrats has never been greater following the November elections, but Republicans face a possible donnybrook between former President Donald Trump — who has already announced his candidacy — and Gov. Ron DeSantis, who appears to be getting closer to a presidential bid.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Party is looking to rebuild after the glum election results, recapture at least some of its “purple state” persona and take on a new face following the resignation of Chair [Manny Diaz](#).

<https://floridaphoenix.com/2023/02/15/floridas-major-political-parties-to-choose-new-leaders/>

## Volunteer Opportunities

We need your help! 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 looking for members of the following committees:

- Community Outreach Committee
- Data Committee
- Voter Outreach Committee
- Voter Protection Committee
- Legislative Tracking Committee



## Neighborhood Links

New Informational Sessions Coming Soon



This program is for all of Sumter County, not just The Villages. We are also looking for precinct captains. They attend monthly meetings and work with Neighborhood Links to inform voters and elect more Democrats. If you are interested and want to find out more, please email Kim Russell at russellkmb@hotmail.com.

## Everyone Must Reregister for Vote by Mail

In Sumter County, unlike other places that have separate municipal elections, elections are held every two years. Please be aware no voter's Vote by Mail ballot status rolls over into the 2024 Election Cycle. The law has changed, and **everyone** must re-enroll in Vote by Mail.

### ENROLL IN VOTE BY MAIL FOR ALL ELECTIONS ON OR BEFORE 12/31/2024

Thanks to Florida Republican legislatures, voters must re-enroll in Vote By Mail after each General Election. You can now enroll in Vote By Mail for all elections on or before 12/31/2024 on-line by following these steps.

1. Go to elections.sumtercountyfl.gov
  - a. click on the tab **Vote by Mail**
  - b. click on **CLICK HERE TO REQUEST VOTE-BY-MAIL**
  - c. click on **Proceed**
  - d. click on Myself and click **Next**
2. Enter your information and click **Submit**
3. Enter your contact information and classification and click **Next**
4. The next page shows your current status. Click **Update Request**
5. Click on your address or add a new one then click **Next**
6. You can sign the form electronically by checking the box and typing your full name in the signature box
  - a. Check that you are not a robot and click **Submit**
7. Check your mail for a confirmation email
8. Your voter record will be updated in 1 to 2 business days. You can check your status by going to elections.sumtercountyfl.gov and click on **Voter Lookup**

Here is the link <https://www.sumterelections.org/Ways-to-Vote/Vote-By-Mail-Online-Request-Link> You need the last four digits of your social security card or your driver's license number to request the ballot on-line.

## Villages Democratic Club

If you live in The Villages, please consider joining the Villages Democratic Club.

<https://thevillagesdemocrats.com/> They have a newsletter that comes out on Sundays. There are many groups with activities listed there.



## Support Our Efforts

Cat Lovers and Democrats: Get your 2023 calendar



**Our 2023 Cat Contest is over and the voters have decided.** Every cat photo entered appears on a calendar page along with nuggets of Democratic information. Calendars are \$23.

**Order your calendar today!**

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/2023catcalenar>

## In the News

### DeSantis' Attack on AP, SAT and College Board Creates an Uncertain Future for FL High Schoolers

Civil rights activists, religious leaders, students, parents to rally Wednesday over AP African American studies course

BY: [DANIELLE J. BROWN](#) - FEBRUARY 14, 2023 6:15 PM FLORIDA PHOENIX

As Gov. Ron DeSantis continues to chastise the century-old College Board and its related programs — from honors-level Advanced Placement courses to college entrance exams — eliminating those activities could create a dramatically different school experience for Florida high schoolers.

In just 2022, nearly 200,000 students in Florida took the college entrance exam called the SAT, and tens of thousands of high school students have participated in Advanced Placement courses that could lead to earning college credits ahead of schedule.

If those programs are eliminated in Florida public high schools, it's not clear how families would react if DeSantis makes changes. The debacle arose last month over an AP African American studies course that has become a national controversy.

Read more here. <https://floridaphoenix.com/2023/02/14/desantis-attack-on-ap-sat-and-college-board-creates-an-uncertain-future-for-fl-high-schoolers/>

## 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://www.sumterelections.org/)

Sumter County Supervisor of Elections <https://www.sumterelections.org/>

## 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:

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Office Hours:

Mondays 1-4 PM  
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Email: [info@sumterFLDemocrats.com](mailto:info@sumterFLDemocrats.com)

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

## Calendar

All Sumter County residents are welcome at events listed below.

February 22     **Democratic Breakfast**, 9 AM, Cane Garden Country Club, 1728 Bailey Trail, The Villages, RSVP to Susan Blalock: [sblalock@742@aol.com](mailto:sblalock@742@aol.com)

March 8           **Democratic Lunch**, noon, Prima Italian Steakhouse, 3660 Kiessel Road, The Villages, RSVP to Susan Blalock: [sblalock@742@aol.com](mailto:sblalock@742@aol.com)

March 26        **Democratic Gala Fundraiser** - March 26 at Brownwood Hotel and Spa, see above

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

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