



Newsletter

February 9, 2023

Help Victims of Earthquake in Turkey and Syria

We have all seen the horrible pictures and videos of the victims of the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

Here are recommended organizations to which to give.



Check out ATA-DC / The American Turkish Association of Washington D.C.'s team fundraising page for Turkish Philanthropy Funds
donate.tpfund.org

<https://donate.tpfund.org/team/479874>



MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

Doctors without Borders is helping in northern Syria.

<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>

Sumter County Democratic Fundraiser Gala

Don't miss out on the fun!



The links in graphic do not work. Watch a video about Maxwell Frost and get your tickets at [SumterFLDemocrats.com](https://sumterflDemocrats.com)

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.



Our initial business will be to meet the candidates for the Club's next board of directors.

But wait, there's more:

- A Club initiative to help local schools, with a testimonial from a Club member who volunteers in the classroom.
- An update on the GOP's threat to our economy, Social Security, and Medicare.
- A Villager who co-founded a Florida grassroots campaign for Death with Dignity.

Join us, Saturday, Feb. 11. Doors open at 8:45 a.m.; the meeting begins at 9:30 a.m.

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

A Florida scholar says partisan school boards aren't what the Founding Fathers wanted

WUSF Public Media - WUSF 89.7 | By [Kerry Sheridan](#)

Published January 25, 2023 at 11:59 AM EST

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis this week lent his support to [a push underway in the Florida legislature](#) to make school board races officially partisan, with a pair of House and Senate bills that if passed, could lead to a statewide referendum.

Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment in 1998 requiring that school board races be nonpartisan, so another voter-approved amendment would be necessary to make school board elections partisan.

Even as politics increasingly play a role today, school boards have long been considered non-partisan for reasons of preserving democracy, a notion goes back to the Founding Fathers, according to Meredith Mountford, an associate professor at Florida Atlantic University.

To read or listen to this article, click here. <https://news.wfsu.org/state-news/2023-01-25/a-florida-scholar-says-partisan-school-boards-arent-what-the-founding-fathers-wanted>

February 9, 2023

For Immediate Release

Contact: Devon Cruz

dcruz@floridadems.org



REMINDER: Florida Republicans Would Gut Social Security and Medicare

Today, President Biden is making a stop in Tampa to highlight the Biden-Harris administration's fight against Republican attacks on Social Security and Medicare, drawing a stark contrast with Florida Republicans' plans to gut the programs.

Florida has one of the largest populations of seniors on Social Security and Medicare in the country. But that didn't stop Senator Rick Scott from releasing a plan last year that included a proposal to "sunset" all federal legislation after five years, including Social Security and Medicare. Meanwhile, Ron DeSantis and Marco Rubio have pushed for legislation that would raise the retirement age and end Medicare and Social Security as we know it.

HERE ARE THE FACTS:

In [2022](#), Rick Scott put forth a proposal to sunset all federal legislation every five years. This would subject Social Security and Medicare to reauthorization every five years, which could threaten the guarantee of the programs and throw millions of Florida's seniors into uncertainty about the future of their benefits.

In [2022](#), Marco Rubio introduced legislation that could cut Social Security benefits for some families by disguising it as a proposal for paid family leave. The bill would give parents the option to choose between taking care of their families right now, or securing their retirement in the future because it would pull from future Social Security benefits to fund paid parental leave in the present.

In [2016](#), Marco Rubio detailed his plan that would raise the retirement age to 70 and turn Medicare into a voucher program. Rubio has been talking about raising the retirement age and privatizing Medicare since he first ran for Senate in [2010](#).

In [2015](#), Ron DeSantis supported a budget proposal to raise the eligibility age for Social Security and Medicare to 70 and 67, respectively. The proposal would have turned Medicare into a voucher program and given less generous cost-of-living increases to Social Security recipients.

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

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:

300 S Main Street

Wildwood, FL 34785

[352-794-1351](tel:352-794-1351)

Office Hours:

To be determined

Email: info@sumterFLDemocrats.com

Webpage: SumterFLDemocrats.com

Calendar

All Sumter County residents are welcome at events listed below.

March 26 **Democratic Gala Fundraiser** - March 26 at Brownwood Hotel and Spa, more details to come.

Have a comment or suggestion about this newsletter? Email Laura Goudreau, editor,
at dems_newsletter@sumterfldemocrats.com

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