



Newsletter

March 30, 2023

Sumter County Democratic Fundraiser Gala



For a video of the Gala, go here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znbfD1pTco>

To See Maxwell Frost' Speech, click here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Q4g2DAN-zE>

Congressman Maxwell Frost issued a call to action to every one of the 311 Sumter County Democrats who filled a Brownwood Hotel ballroom at the party's annual gala Sunday night.

"Everyone in this room is a potential front-line organizer," Frost said. "We must raise and ring the alarm about what is going in this state."

Frost condemned Gov. Ron DeSantis and his enablers for their continuous assaults on human rights and freedoms all citizens should enjoy.

His keynote speech was interrupted numerous times by applause and shouts of approval, and ended with a long, standing ovation.

Frost, 26, won his Orlando-based seat last year, becoming the first-Generation Z member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He was activated into political action at 15, after the New Town elementary school shooting.

Florida Democratic Party Chair Nikki Fried greeted Democrats individually and at their tables during the social hour before the dinner, heading back to Tallahassee after welcoming Frost, leaving behind a short video congratulating the Sumter County Democrats and urging their continued political involvement.

Source: Villages Democratic Club Neighborhood Buzz

Because of attendance, donations, and silent auction participants, The Starry Night Sumter County Democrats Fundraising Gala exceeded fundraising goals. Over 100 pledges from attendees totaled over \$20,000. Gift baskets and trips garnered about \$16,000. With over 300 people in attendance, over \$45,000 was raised to support our efforts. A big thank you to Cris Andersen, our fundraising chair, and her committee Lydia Busch, Mary Goldberg, Carol Lizotte, Roberta Moore, and Joan Morris.

Florida Democratic Party Working for YOU

This week, our communications team continued to call out and fact-check Ron DeSantis, Rick Scott, and state Republican legislators as they continue to push the governor's fascist agenda, including; [fast-tracking an extreme abortion ban](#) that would ban abortion after six weeks, [introducing](#) an amendment to the House's permit less concealed carry bill to allow for open carry in the state, and quietly signing legislation aimed at helping [shield insurance companies from lawsuits](#), even as the property [insurance crisis in the state worsens](#). As the nation commemorated the 13th anniversary of the Affordable Care Act's passage, we released fact checks of Ron DeSantis and Rick Scott's staunch opposition to expanding access to [affordable health insurance through the ACA](#) and [Medicaid expansion](#). Lastly, we celebrated this week's Jacksonville Municipal election wins and vowed to get to work to elect the Democratic candidates in the May 16th Runoff election.

Source: FDP Weekly Newsletter March 27, 2023

Neighborhood Links

One set of trainings has been completed. More are to come. Sessions will be held at the Sumter County Democrats Headquarters, 300 S Main Street, Wildwood.

Saturday, April 1, 10 AM

Wednesday, April 12 at 10 AM or 3PM

Saturday, May 6 at 10 AM

Saturday, June 3 at 10 AM



This program is for all of Sumter County, not just The Villages. If you are interested and want to attend an information session, please email Kim Russell at russellkmb@hotmail.com.

We are also looking for precinct captains. They attend monthly meetings and work with Neighborhood Links to inform voters and elect more Democrats.

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.

People to work in the office are needed. We are also looking for members of the following committees:

- Community Outreach Committee



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

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.



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. Their next meeting is Saturday, April 8, at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, 510 Colony Blvd. The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m.



Learn more about the meeting and the club at <https://thevillagesdemocrats.com/>

They also 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 Signs Massive Voucher Expansion; Millionaire, Billionaire Families are Eligible

Governor signs voucher program into law at a Catholic school; critics say the law is devastating for FL public schools

BY: [DANIELLE J. BROWN](#) - MARCH 27, 2023 3:56 PM

Gov. Ron DeSantis on Monday signed an expansive voucher law to provide public money for children to attend parochial, secular and other private schools across the state, despite previous skepticism about letting millionaire and billionaire families participate in Florida's K-12 school voucher programs.

In the past, voucher, or "scholarship" programs have been used by low-income and middle-income families. But that won't be the case under the new law that begins July 1, 2023. Soon, the wealthiest of families will be eligible for taxpayer dollars to give their kids a private education, including at elite, pricey private schools.

Read the rest of the article here. <https://floridaphoenix.com/2023/03/27/desantis-signs-massive-voucher-expansion-millionaire-billionaire-families-are-eligible/>

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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:

Starting in April

Monday 1-4 PM

Wednesday, 9 AM - noon

Email: info@sumterFLDemocrats.com

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

Calendar

All Sumter County residents are welcome at events listed below.

March 19, 2024 Florida Presidential Preference Primary

Have a comment or suggestion about this newsletter? Email Laura Goudreau, editor,

at dems_newsletter@sumterfldemocrats.com

There will be no Sumter County Democrats newsletter March 23.

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