



Newsletter

May 4, 2023

## Music Bingo

**\$24 for 2024! Music BINGO!**

Sumter County Democrats  
Let's Have Some Fun!  
Join us for Music Bingo  
Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>  
6:00-8:00 PM  
Everglades Rec Center  
Music by DJ Ric Mitchell  
Tickets: \$24 for 2024! Donation

Join Us For A Fun Night.  
Bring Your Friends or Come Make New Ones.  
Guaranteed:  
You Will Laugh.  
You Will Smile.  
You Will Sing.  
And Just Maybe  
You Will Win A Prize!  
Let The Good Times Roll.  
Come and Support the  
Sumter County  
Democratic Party  
Go To  
SumterFLDemocrats.com  
To Get Your Ticket

Click here for Tickets

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/musicbingo2023>

## Stand United Rally



This rally in Tampa on Sunday, May 7 from 1 to 3 PM is an effort to show unity within the party, and with allies who support our efforts to protect reproductive freedom, diversity & inclusion, public education, and all freedoms that have come under attack during this legislative session. For more information <https://www.mobilize.us/floridadems/event/557281/> We were unable to get a bus for the trip. A carpool was arranged for those who emailed an interest. It is full.

## Help Get Democrats Elected in Duval County

We are now just one month out from the Duval runoff, and need all hands-on deck to elect Democrats on May 16. Recently, we have seen just how close local elections can be - with some of our Dems winning with margins as slim as 4 votes! Duval Dems have candidates running for 8 positions at both the county and city level, and we need to turn out every voter to ensure victory on May 16.

[Sign Up to Take Action Here](#)

## Florida Democratic Party Communications Update

This week, the communications team called Gov. Ron DeSantis out for his week-long foreign trip to Asia, Europe, and the Middle East while refusing to travel to South Florida after catastrophic flooding. We also highlighted Gov. Ron DeSantis' bad week after new reporting that the billionaire donors he has spent his time in Tallahassee cozying up to — and that he lined the pockets of — are pumping the brakes on giving money to his shadow campaign after seeing more of his extreme MAGA agenda on display, and the fact that his own party is taking aim at him for his culture war with Disney. And on Saturday, Chair Fried joined the St. Johns County Young Democrats, Moms Demand Action, NOW, Women's March, and several other progressive organizations for a "Spring to Action " march supporting gun safety and reproductive, voting, and LGBTQIA+ rights. Afterward, she joined the Duval County Democrats for a day of canvassing, phone banking, and texting in preparation for Jacksonville's May 16th runoff election.

Source: FDP newsletter, April 30, 2023

## COVID Test Information

### COVERAGE FOR COVID-19 TESTS

Testing remains an important tool in combating the spread of COVID-19



#### What you need to know

The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency is expected to end on May 11, 2023.

Until then, if you have any type of health insurance, you can get up to eight over-the-counter tests per month with no out-of-pocket costs. Over-the-counter tests are available in most pharmacies and may also be available online for delivery.

#### After May 11, 2023

Laboratory tests for COVID-19 that are ordered by your provider will still be covered with no out-of-pocket costs for people with Medicare. Over-the-counter tests will still be available, but there may be out-of-pocket costs. Coverage of over-the-counter tests may vary by your insurance type, as described below.

#### Medicare

Generally, Medicare doesn't cover or pay for over-the-counter products. The demonstration that has allowed us to offer coverage for COVID-19 over-the-counter tests at no cost ends on May 11, 2023.

However, if you are enrolled in Medicare Part B, you will continue to have coverage with no out-of-pocket costs for appropriate laboratory-based COVID-19 PCR and antigen tests, when a provider orders them (such as drive-through PCR and antigen testing or testing in a provider's office).

If you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan, you may have more access to tests depending on your benefits. Check with your plan.

#### Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program

If you have coverage through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program, you will have access to COVID-19 over-the-counter and laboratory testing through September 30, 2024. After that date, coverage of testing may vary by state.

#### Private Insurance

If you have private insurance, coverage will vary depending on your health plan. However, private plans won't be required by federal law to cover over-the-counter and laboratory-based COVID-19 tests after May 11, 2023.

If your insurance chooses to cover COVID-19 testing, they may require cost sharing, prior authorization, or other forms of medical management.

Before you throw out "Expired" tests, remember that expiration dates on some tests have been extended.

For more information, please see: [www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list](https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list)

APRIL 2023



Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, cms.gov

## Re-enroll in Vote by Mail

Vote by Mail does not automatically renew. There is a concern that Florida is going to make signing up for Vote by Mail more difficult. Sign up now!

**---VOTER ALERT---**  
**ALL Mail Ballot**  
**Requests Have**  
**EXPIRED!**



**Secure Your Vote! RENEW NOW!**

**To Vote-By-Mail in all elections through December 2024:**

**Sumter County, Florida:**

**Renew online** at [votevbm.com/sumter](https://votevbm.com/sumter)

Or Call the Supervisor of Elections Office at 352-569-1540

**Elsewhere in Florida:**

Find your Supervisor of Elections website and phone# at:

[dos.elections.myflorida.com/supervisors/](https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/supervisors/)

### **Why 2.8 million Floridians voted by mail in the 2022 Election:**

- ✓ It's quick, easy, and safe – no waiting in line at the polls
- ✓ Vote no matter where you'll be on voting days – working or traveling
- ✓ Insurance against emergency, illness, bad weather on voting days
- ✓ Can review your ballot and decide how to vote at home
- ✓ Drop your ballot at several locations if you prefer that to mailing
- ✓ Can verify online that your ballot has been received & counted

Check your Vote by Mail status at <https://www.sumterelections.org/Voters/Review-My-Registration-Status--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.

## Become a Neighborhood Link

Connect with your Democratic neighbors.

Information and training sessions will be held at the Sumter County Democrats Headquarters, 300 S Main Street, Wildwood.

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](mailto: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

Help enroll other Democrats in Vote by Mail. We are also looking for members of the following committees:

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



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.

## Support Our Efforts with a Donation

<https://sumterfldemocrats.com/>

## Villages Democratic Club



Hear what we can do to make communities and families safer at our May 13 meeting

Moms Demand Action, a nationwide grassroots movement, works to pass stronger gun laws and to close the loopholes that jeopardize the safety of our communities and families.

The closest MOMS chapter to The Villages is in Citrus County and our May 13 speakers will be its co-directors, Rosemary Nilles and Deb Daniels.



Find out what you can do to help curb the shooting epidemic.

<https://momsdemandaction.org/>

As usual, we'll convene at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, 510 Colony Blvd. Door open at 8:30 a.m.; the meeting starts at 9:30.

If you live in The Villages, please consider joining the Villages Democratic Club. Learn more about their meetings 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.

## In the News

### Florida Phoenix News

DeSantis signs bill targeting 'woke' investments, 'social credit scores'

BY: [MICHAEL MOLINE](#) - MAY 2, 2023 11:12 AM

Gov. Ron DeSantis signed legislation Tuesday designed to ban “woke” investment policies that he claims represent “elite” efforts to impose a social agenda rather than ensure maximal returns on pension and other financial products.

The governor traveled to the Jacksonville Port Authority cruise terminal, accompanied by Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis and House Speaker Paul Renner, to sign [House Bill 3](#), the Government and Corporate Activism Act, into law.

“With that, ESG is officially DOA in the state of Florida,” DeSantis said.

“Woke” is GOP shorthand for anything progressive.

The bill targets so-called ESG investing, which means applying environmental, social, and governmental criteria toward investments. In other words, considering how an investment would protect the environment, boost social cohesion, and ensure against cronyism and corruption within corporations.

Read the rest of the article here. <https://floridaphoenix.com/2023/05/02/desantis-signs-bill-targeting-woke-investments-social-credit-scores/>

## Stay Informed

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

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

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

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

Monday 1 - 4 PM

Wednesday 9 AM - noon

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

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

## Calendar

All Sumter County residents are welcome at events listed below.

**May 10** Democrats Do Lunch, noon, Mallory Hills Country Club, 1675 Odell Circle, The Villages, RSVP Susan Blalock: [sblalock742@aol.com](mailto:sblalock742@aol.com)

**May 17** Democratic Breakfast, 9 AM, Cracker Barrell, 13637 US 27, Lady Lake, RSVP Susan Blalock: [sblalock742@aol.com](mailto:sblalock742@aol.com)

**June 4** Music Bingo, Everglades Recreation Center – see above

**March 19, 2024** Florida Presidential Preference Primary

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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