

### Cocktail Party Success

The Sumter County DEC held a fundraiser Cocktail Party on Tuesday, October 24th. Attendees enjoyed bountiful hors d'oeuvres and a variety of drinks while enjoying the company of like-minded people who shared their vision of a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous future. During the evening, Representative Anna Eskamani mingled with the group and talked about what drove her to public service and how she pushes back against the other side in the House.

The profit of over \$10,000 from the evening will help support our "Breaking through the Noise" messaging campaign where we will deliver target message to voters in Sumter and beyond.



### Bushnell Fall Festival

We appreciate our volunteers and people who stopped by our tent at the Bushnell Fall Festival last Saturday.



### Golf Cart and Car Caravan



Join our One Year to Victory kickoff event Sunday, Nov. 5. Democrats need to make some noise -- and it starts with one of our famous Golf Cart and Car Caravans!

So get ready for a stately procession around Brownwood Square and nearby environs. Once you let us know you plan to ride, we'll send you details. Email Club Communications Director Dennis Foley: [dfdf4242@att.net](mailto:dfdf4242@att.net) Sponsored by the Villages Democratic Club.

## Neighborhood Links

Be a part of a group making a difference.



Information and training sessions are being held at the Sumter County Democrats Headquarters, 300 S Main Street, Wildwood. **Training sessions for new and current Links called Linking up the Old and the New Links have been taking place.**

This program is for all of Sumter County, not just The Villages. If you are interested and want more information, please email Lydia Busch at

lbusch48@gmail.com.



## Yummy Fundraiser

### Honey Baked Ham Fundraiser

Having company and don't want to cook?

Let Honey Baked Ham do the cooking and support the Sumter Democrats.



Buy a Honey Baked Ham gift card using our unique link and **20%** goes to the Sumter Democrats.

**It's a Win - Win!**

To purchase your gift card  
Go to [SumterFLDemocrats.com](https://www.sumterfldemocrats.com)

Or click here [https://www.honeybaked.com/fundraising/Sumter Democrats](https://www.honeybaked.com/fundraising/Sumter_Democrats)

## Florida Democratic Talking Points

### Upcoming Special Session of the Florida Legislature



On Friday, Senate President Kathleen Passidomo and Speaker of the Florida House

Paul Renner announced an [upcoming special session](#) from November 6-9 covering the following topics:

- Hurricane Idalia relief and resiliency funding
- Fixes to the Family Empowerment Scholarship program
- Support for Israel and condemnation of Hamas and related entities
- Sanctions on Iran
- Financial support for Florida entities at high risk of violence and hate crimes

### Ron is using this Special Session to prop up his failing presidential campaign.

- If Ron actually wanted to address issues affecting Floridians, this special session would be addressing our increasing insurance and affordability crises — instead, he's using the legislature to grandstand about foreign policy.
- The federal government has imposed serious [sanctions on Iran](#) for nearly fifty years — adding state-level sanctions is just another political stunt meant to make Ron look tough.
- Ron says he supports Israel, but he still won't condemn the neo-Nazis that vocally support his campaign — [despite repeated calls](#) to do so.

## Chaos caused by Matt Gaetz and his allies has endangered our ability to respond to crises like the attacks in Israel.

- Thanks to Matt Gaetz, the House of Representatives has been at a standstill for weeks during a time of global crisis.
- During the budget talks, Matt Gaetz and his supporters were more than willing to sacrifice people's paychecks to prove a political point.
- Matt Gaetz dangled millions of people over a cliff for weeks with Ron DeSantis and Rick Scott cheering him on from the sidelines.
- Voters can't trust the Republican Party to govern if they can't even govern themselves.
- While Republicans are in disarray, Democrats are united in our goals — provide common sense solutions to the problems faced by the American people.

## Israel-Hamas War

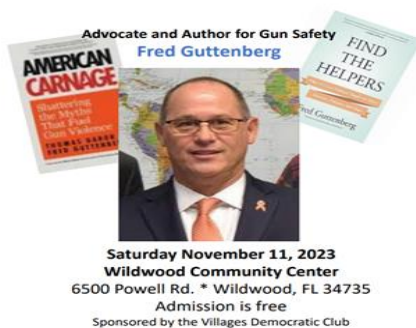
*Following the October 7th Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel, Israel declared war on Hamas. An invasion of Gaza is expected in the immediate future. On Thursday evening, President Biden addressed the nation in primetime from the Oval Office, announcing his intention to request billions in supplemental aid to Israel and Ukraine from Congress.*

*The following talking points are provided by the Democratic National Committee:*

**This moment calls for strong, steady leadership and — as he has done time and again — Joe Biden is meeting the moment.**

- President Biden's leadership was on full display as he stood up for American and democratic values, and made a forceful case for America's role in the world.
- The president demonstrated the deep empathy that he is known for, as he gave voice to the pain that so many communities across the world are feeling.
- While extremist Republicans are exploiting this moment to foment hate and score cheap political points by dividing people, President Biden is using his years of experience and tested global leadership to defend democracy and American values on the world stage.
- The world is watching and the American people rightly expect their leaders to come together and deliver on these priorities.
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## Villages Democratic Club



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/>

This special presentation at the monthly Villages Democratic Club membership meeting will start at 10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 11. We moved to a larger location and will be inviting numerous other clubs and organizations. You do not need to be a Villager or Villages Democratic Club member to attend.

We need volunteers to help with setting up chairs, taking them down afterward, and to control parking.

Email Club President Diane Foley: [foleydiane399@gmail.com](mailto:foleydiane399@gmail.com)

## Democrats Have a Clear Message: No Hate



### In the News

#### Florida Dems blast GOP selection of Louisiana's Mike Johnson as next U.S. House Speaker

"He's Jim Jordan in a suit jacket," said U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz

BY: [MITCH PERRY](#) - OCTOBER 25, 2023 6:07 PM Florida Phoenix



Florida congressional Democrats are blasting the House GOP's choice of Louisiana's Mike Johnson to serve as the next U.S. House Speaker.

Here's what some of them are saying:

"Mike Johnson is an election denying, LGBTQ+ hating, extremist conservative who wants to slash your Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, and supports banning abortion so that women are forced to give birth to provide more ["able-bodied workers"](#) for our workforce," Orlando-area U.S. House Democrat Maxwell Frost said in a written statement.

U.S. Rep. Mike Johnson, R-La., leaves a House Republican conference meeting in the Longworth House Office Building on Capitol Hill on Oct. 24, 2023 in Washington, D.C. (Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)

"He was the chief architect to overturn the 2020 election, voting to appease a seditious movement that aimed to destroy our democracy for personal gain."

South Florida Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz described Johnson [on X](#) as "Jim Jordan in a suit jacket."

"The next GOP Speaker is an election denier, Social Security enemy who would criminalize abortion and take FL's #Don'tSayGay law national," said Wasserman Schultz. "@RepMikeJohnson is a far-right puppet. He's not a serious leader; he just got seriously lucky."

Continue to read here. <https://floridaphoenix.com/2023/10/25/florida-dems-blast-gop-selection-of-mike-johnson-of-louisiana-as-next-u-s-house-speaker/>

## A case of magnitude: DeSantis' frontal assault on Voting Rights Act and fate of Black district

1st District Court to hear arguments with all 13 members on the bench



One of four proposed congressional maps drafted by Senate staff, which includes a Black-opportunity district in North Florida. Source: FloridaRedistricting.gov

BY: [MICHAEL MOLINE](#) - OCTOBER 25, 2023 7:00 AM Florida Phoenix

As fitting for a case of this magnitude, Florida's First District Court of Appeal will put on a rare show during oral arguments in voting-rights groups' challenge to Gov. Ron DeSantis' congressional districting map — specifically, its elimination of a Black-opportunity district in North Florida.

[All 13 members](#) of the court [will gather](#) in the court's [palatial courthouse](#) on Tallahassee's South Side to hear the case beginning at [9 a.m. on Halloween](#), instead of the usual three-judge panel. The court includes four women and only one Black person, Judge Joseph Lewis Jr. All were appointed by Republicans.

Florida's [Rules of Appellate Procedure](#) hold that en banc hearings are “not favored and ordinarily will not be ordered unless “necessary to secure or maintain uniformity of the court's decisions” or “the proceeding involves a question of exceptional importance.”

That's certainly the case here. DeSantis' map gave Republicans 20 of Florida's 28 congressional seats, helping to install the slim GOP majority in the U.S. House of Representatives that, at the moment, [can't figure out](#) how to organize themselves.

Read more here. <https://floridaphoenix.com/2023/10/25/a-case-of-magnitude-desantis-frontal-assault-on-voting-rights-act-and-fate-of-black-district/>

## Scholastic backtracks on policy that separated books on race and gender

NBC NEWS

LAURA STRICKLER AND JANELLE GRIFFITH

October 25, 2023 at 5:46 PM

Scholastic has reversed a decision to allow school districts running book fairs to opt in or out of selling a grouping of books with diverse titles about race and gender after facing widespread criticism, including from those in the publishing industry, educators and parents.



Steve Stokes

The children's book publisher [had grouped 64 titles, which feature Black and brown community themes and LGBTQ+ characters, as optional](#), citing legislation in more than 30 states restricting what content students can access.

“I want to apologize on behalf of Scholastic,” Ellie Berger, president of Scholastic Trade Publishing, said in a letter addressed to authors and illustrators. “Even if the decision was made with good intention, we understand now that it was a mistake to segregate diverse books in an elective case.”

It continued: “We sincerely apologize to every author, illustrator, licensor, educator, librarian, parent, and reader who was hurt by our action.”

Local book fair organizers select from a catalog of different Scholastic “cases,” or groupings of books, that are shipped as units to the schools for their events. This year's offering included 13 modules of books, such as “Fun Facts and Favorite Characters” and “Picture Book Combo.” New this year was the diversity grouping labeled “Share Every Story/Celebrate Every Voice Case.”

Continue this article here. <https://www.aol.com/scholastic-backtracks-policy-separated-books-214632060.html>

To see the books in Share Every Story/Celebrate Every Voice Case, go here. <https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/WebVault/SLJ/EDIT23/ScholasticShareEveryStoryCase.pdf>

## Petitions to Place Potential Florida Constitutional Amendments on the Ballot

Petitions are in circulation supporting abortion rights and ensuring clean water. The petition for the legalization of marijuana has enough signatures. Petitions and more information about them can be found here. <https://sumterfldemocrats.com/local-issues/>

All petitions can be returned to the address provided, or you can bring them to party headquarters, 300 S. Main St., Wildwood. The office is open 1-4 p.m., Mondays, and 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays.

## Vote by Mail Cards Still Work

Even though we were told there would be a new Vote by Mail form on October 1, there is not one. We have now been told that sometime in mid-November a form will be released. So, we can still use our cards to sign up for Vote by Mail. You can also enroll in Vote by Mail on-line, at the Supervisor of Elections office, or by calling their office.



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

Here is the link to enroll in Vote by Mail <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.

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

## Upcoming Elections

Important dates for upcoming 2024 elections are contained in the calendar part of this newsletter.

### Who is running?

To see seats up for election, go here. <https://www.sumterelections.org/Elections/Seats-up-for-Election>

To see who is running at the local level, click here

[https://www.voterfocus.com/CampaignFinance/candidate\\_pr.php?c=sumter](https://www.voterfocus.com/CampaignFinance/candidate_pr.php?c=sumter)

Click here to find out about state and national candidates who have filed.

<https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/candidates/CanList.asp>

Click on View List of General Election with 2024

*Many candidates at the national level have not filed yet.*

**Are you interested in running for office? Please contact us using information at the bottom of this newsletter.**

## Volunteer

Help enroll other Democrats in Vote by Mail and sign petitions. 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/>

## 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/>

Voting Information including registration, vote by mail, and polling locations

## 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/)

The office is located at 300 S. Main Street, Wildwood, in a stand-alone building shared with a doctor's office and facing Ace Hardware.

## Calendar

All Sumter County residents are welcome at events listed below.

**November 4** Golf Cart Caravan sponsored by the Villages Democratic Club, see above

**November 11** Villages Democratic Club meeting featuring the father of a Parkland Shooting victim Fred Guttenburg, Wildwood Community Center, see above

## 2024 Election Dates

**March 9 - 16, 2024** Early Voting, Presidential Preference Primary 9 AM - 6 PM, Voters can vote at any Early Voting Location

**March 19, 2024** Election Day, Presidential Preference Primary 7 AM - 7 PM, Voters must vote at their Assigned Precinct

**August 10 - 17, 2024** Early Voting, Primary 9 AM - 6 PM, Voters can vote at any Early Voting Location

**August 20, 2024** Election Day, Primary 7 AM - 7 PM, Voters must vote at their Assigned Precinct

**October 22 - November 2, 2024**, Early Voting, General Election 9 AM - 6 PM, Voters can vote at any Early Voting Location

**November 5, 2024**, Election Day, General Election 7 AM - 7 PM, Voters must vote at their Assigned Precinct

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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