



Newsletter

November 2, 2023

## Take Back Florida Convention

Sumter County Democrats and The Villages Democratic Club were well represented at the Convention in Orlando last Saturday.



This weekend, nearly 1,000 Florida Democrats converged on Florida to prepare for the 2024 elections. The weekend featured a series of training sessions, committee meetings, and receptions, as well as a fundraising dinner and a prayer breakfast.

**In 2024, Florida Democrats are going to compete for victories everywhere and build on the progress and momentum we have created this year.**

- Chair Nikki Fried called 2024 a “progress election” and emphasized a 10-year plan to Take Back Florida from Ron’s extremist regime.
- Florida is not a red state — it’s an under organized state. If we want to Take Back Florida, we have to commit to work for it every single day.
- Florida Democrats are proud to have unanimously nominated President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris for the 2024 elections.

Click here for a short video with highlights from the convention.

<https://www.facebook.com/FlaDems/videos/847545883523825>

## 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.

We're sure to see some elaborately decorated Democratic cars and golf carts at our caravan. But if you need some simple signs, we're happy to help. Just click the link below and print. They are meant to be displayed as a pair. Just make sure you print in LANDSCAPE mode. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FCdOZHwHy2pVzbEor6oFS2-cRdNIS7In/view>

## Neighborhood Links

Be a part of a group making a difference.






Information and training sessions were held for new and current Links at the Sumter County Democrats Headquarters for the past two weeks. We will be taking a break from Links trainings until January. 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](mailto:lbusch48@gmail.com).



## Villages Democratic Club



Advocate and Author for Gun Safety  
**Fred Guttenberg**



**Saturday November 11, 2023**  
**Wildwood Community Center**  
6500 Powell Rd. \* Wildwood, FL 34735  
Admission is free  
Sponsored by the Villages Democratic Club

His teen-age daughter was killed at Parkland. He's been on a mission since.

The shootings go on and on ... We grieve for victims and their families in Lewiston, Maine, and Ybor City.

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)

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/>

## 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.honeybaked.com/fundraising/Sumter_Democrats)

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

## Save the Date

Our next big fundraiser will be **Spring into Action** on Friday, March 15 at Lake Miona Rec Center. Our guest speaker will be Fentrice Driskell, Leader of the Florida Democratic House Caucus

## Voter Protection

We are working on having a more computer-based sign up for poll volunteers for the 2024 elections. Shifts will be three hours for Early Voting and four hours for Election Day. After the first of the year, we will have sign ups with both in person and on-line trainings available. We probably will **not** have **all polling places** and shifts covered for the Presidential Preference Primary in March.

## Florida Democratic Talking Points



### Ybor City Shooting

*Early Sunday morning, a shooting during a Halloween celebration in Ybor City left two people dead and at least 18 people injured.*

**Once again, we urge Congress to do their jobs — pass responsible gun laws to protect Americans from gun violence.**

- Our communities are exhausted from the ongoing threat of gun violence.
- Guns turned a night out into a nightmare — how many times do we have to wipe blood off of our streets before action is taken?
- Earlier this year, Governor DeSantis passed a law that made it legal to carry a gun without a Concealed Weapon License. For the safety of our streets and our children, we call on the Florida Legislature to repeal this dangerous policy.
- Last month, President Biden launched the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention — led by Vice President Kamala Harris — to address our nation's gun violence epidemic.

### Venezuelan Elections

*On October 30, Venezuela's top court **suspended** the results of opposition party primary elections — despite an agreement with the US to honor those results.*

**Florida Democrats support the Venezuelan people in their fight to bring back democracy to their nation, end voter suppression, and finally hold free, fair, and transparent elections.**

- The Maduro regime feels threatened by opposition candidate Maria Corina Machado and her ability to unite the Venezuelan people.
- Maduro hides behind false accusations to undermine democracy and the will of the Venezuelan people.
- The Florida Democratic Party stands with the Biden-Harris administration, and joins calls for sanctions to be reimposed if Maduro does not comply with the [Barbados agreement](#).

## Upcoming Special Session of the Florida Legislature

Senate President Kathleen Passidomo and Speaker of the Florida House Paul Renner have 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.

## Democrats are Tackling REAL Problems



Read more here. <https://floridaphoenix.com/2023/11/01/biden-launches-investing-in-rural-america-push-with-cabinet-officials/>

## In the News

### Florida Surgeon General to campaign with Gov. Ron DeSantis in New Hampshire

BY: [CHRISTIAN CASALE](#) - OCTOBER 31, 2023 2:53 PM Florida Phoenix

When it comes to one of Gov. Ron DeSantis’ favorite topics, vaccine skepticism – which he often calls “medical freedom” – he is often joined at the hip by Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo.

The two will take their show to the presidential campaign trail in Manchester, New Hampshire, on Wednesday for a “[Medical Freedom Town Hall](#)” sponsored by the pro-DeSantis Never Back Down PAC.

Continue to read here. <https://floridaphoenix.com/blog/florida-surgeon-general-to-campaign-with-gov-ron-desantis-in-new-hampshire/>

## 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 8** Democrat Lunch, noon, Orange Blossom Hills Country Club, 1542 Water Tower Circle, The Villages, RSVP Susan Blalock: [sblalock742@aol.com](mailto:sblalock742@aol.com), sponsored by the Villages Democratic Club

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

**November 30** Blue Crew Get Together, Lake Sumter Landing, music begins at 5PM, sponsored by the Villages Democratic Club

**March 15, 2023** Spring into Action Fundraiser, 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)

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