



Newsletter

January 11, 2024

Take Back Florida



Take Back HD-35!

We have just 5 DAYS to elect Tom Keen to the Florida State House on January 16th! President Joe Biden carried this seat by 5 points in 2020 and Democrats are going to Take Back HD-35 in 2024. We are asking Democrats statewide to rally for our Weekend of Action - whether you can join us in Orange and Osceola counties or virtually.

D-35 Volunteer Hub

As always, you can find all the information you need to join our grassroots movement through our **Volunteer Hub!** Access volunteer opportunities such as phone banks, text banks, and canvasses all in one place, with regularly updated election information. **Updated Weekend of Action Schedule and Election Day Info will be posted here!** Click here for the Volunteer Hub.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vz-DGKmGkqumWR9c-DVCqgasxOuMxmSBBwZI7qKLfR0/edit#gid=18227111>

Spring Fundraiser

A poster for a 'Spring Fundraiser' event. The top left features a logo with a blue and red leaping figure and the text 'SPRING INTO ACTION'. Below this, the event details are listed: 'Friday, March 15, 6:00 - 8:30, Lake Miona Rec Center, 1480 Buena Vista Blvd, The Villages'. A photo of Fentrice Driskell is shown. Text identifies her as the 'Keynote Speaker' and 'Leader, FI House Democratic Caucus'. A large red button says 'SAVE THE DATE'. Below are four smaller red buttons: 'Food', 'Prizes', 'Games', and 'Silent Auction'. At the bottom, it says 'Tickets are \$35, Tickets go on sale Thursday, February 1st'. A red box at the very bottom says 'MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW'.

New Precinct Captains

In the last year, a number of new Democratic precinct captains have been elected.

Name	Precinct	Voting Day Location	
Ash Marwah	104	Pimlico Rec	
Dorothy Duncan	110	Sterling Heights Rec	
Thomas Murphy, Eileen McCabe	111	Captiva Rec	
Kathy Hoover	116	Everglades Rec, Yosemite room	
Debbie Faris	115/117	Wildwood Community Building	Working in 115
Elaine Wielins	120	Bushnell Community Center	
Bruce Ambler, Lorenzo Martinez, Jr.	122	Everglades, Yellowstone room	
Bill Vayens	126	Riverbend	

Want to know which precinct you are in? Go here. <https://www.sumterelections.org/Precincts/Precinct-Finder-Where-Do-I-Vote>

Want to contact your precinct captain? Click here. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vRkvgv6H0mwHeJx4i29ihYUFHqiCF6brew-TdF939VQ4L9vP1KFYj8CqPkJThohwxCHyI5VZx6Kddno/pubhtml?widget=true&headers=false>

Abortion Rights on Florida Ballot

We did it. Thank you to everyone who signed and collected petitions. We sent in thousands of petitions from Sumter County.

From the Associated Press

Abortion initiative hits milestone for getting in front of Florida voters

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A [petition initiative](#) that would enshrine abortion rights in the Florida constitution on Friday reached the necessary number of verified signatures to qualify for the 2024 ballot, officials said.

More than 911,000 signatures have been verified, according to the Florida Division of Elections, surpassing the more than 891,500 petition signatures required by the state to put a ballot initiative before voters.

If the measure ultimately makes it on the fall ballot, voters in the third-most populous U.S. state could join citizens of other states in deciding what, if any, abortion protections or restrictions there should be following the U.S. Supreme Court's [decision to overturn](#) Roe v. Wade in 2022.

The court will hear arguments Feb. 7 on whether the ballot language should be approved.

Read more here: <https://apnews.com/article/florida-abortion-ballot-elections-931be34f9ffdd6d74f6beade05eeee47>



Villages Democratic Club



Our Jan. 13 speaker: Lake County Democrat Barbie Harden Hall, challenger to U.S. Rep. Daniel Webster



A personal tragedy motivates Barbie Harden Hall.

Her 2-year-old son Everett died in May 2022 after being diagnosed with a rare genetic condition.

She and her husband, Ryan, discovered that more than 30 million people nationwide are affected by such diseases and believe federal laws and the bureaucracy fail to adequately address the

illnesses, needlessly costing lives

The Halls were particularly upset by what they felt was inaction and ineffectiveness of U.S. Rep. Daniel Webster, so Barbie decided to become a candidate.

Her campaign is in honor of Everett and the millions of other Americans who have needlessly suffered, she said.

The 11th Congressional District includes Sumter County and portions of Lake, Orange and Polk counties.

Note: Previously announced speaker Carlos Guillermo Smith, running for state Senate, had to cancel but will appear at a later date.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m., at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, 510 Colony Blvd. The doors will open at 9, so come socialize, visit organization tables and drop off food pantry donations.

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/>

Neighborhood Links

Election Year is here. Be a part of a group making a difference.

Our Neighborhood Links keep voters connected to the party and to each other. Information and training sessions will be held at the Sumter County Democrats Headquarters, 300 S Main Street, Wildwood. The dates for the Links Information Sessions are

Friday, January 26th

Saturday, January 27th

Wednesday, January 31st

Please use this Mobilize Link to sign up. Times are included in the link.

<https://www.mobilize.us/sumtercountydec/event/597548/>

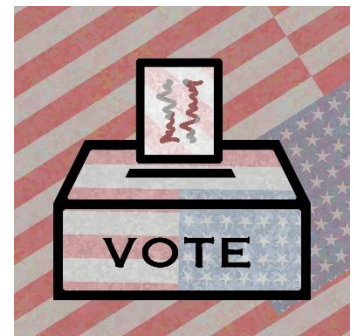
This program is for all of Sumter County, not just The Villages. If you are interested and want more information, please email Lydia Busch at lydiabusch48@gmail.com

Florida Democratic Presidential Preference Primary Update

Federal judge to decide soon on challenge to Dems including only Biden on primary ballot in FL

The decision by the Florida Democratic Party means as of now, there will be no presidential primary election in March

A Tampa attorney who says that the Florida Democratic Party (FDP) violated his constitutional rights as a voter when they chose only to place Joe Biden on their primary presidential ballot got his day in federal court on Wednesday.



Michael Steinberg, a former chair of the Hillsborough County Democratic Party, represented himself when he went before U.S. District Judge Allen Winsor in federal court in Tallahassee on Wednesday.

Steinberg has said the party's decision to exclude other prominent Democratic presidential candidates such as Minnesota Congressman Dean Phillips, New Age author Marianne Williamson and media personality Cenk Uygur was "arbitrary and capricious." His lawsuit lists the Florida Democratic Party and Secretary of State Cord Byrd as defendants in the case.

Judge Winsor said he intends to rule soon the matter, "hopefully in the next couple of days."

Continue to read now. <https://floridaphoenix.com/2024/01/10/federal-judge-to-decide-soon-on-challenge-to-dems-including-only-biden-on-primary-ballot-in-fl/>

Florida Democratic Weekly Talking Points and Statement

2024 Florida Legislative Session

Tuesday, January 9th marks the beginning of Florida's 60-day legislative session.



25 years of Republican leadership has been catastrophic for Floridians.

- Last year, Ron weaponized the legislature to prop up his presidential ambitions, passing hundreds of bills that made life worse for millions of Floridians.
- In 2024, they've already filed bills to eliminate civil rights for trans people, repeal post-Parkland gun safety laws, roll back protections against child labor, and make it even harder for people to vote.
- While Florida Republicans head to Tallahassee to do absolutely nothing that serves the people, Florida Democrats are prepared to fight every day to make Florida a safer, healthier, more affordable place to live.

Ron's obsession with his failing presidential campaign has to end.

- Ron can't possibly know what the state of the state is — he's spent the last six months in Iowa and New Hampshire.
- Ron could be focusing on things that actually matter to Floridians, like healthcare, human rights, and the economy, but instead, he's an absentee governor who cares more about media hits than policy solutions.
- Ron DeSantis will never be President of the United States, and his days on the campaign trail are numbered — it's time for him to stop the stunts and drop out of the race.

RPOF Replaces Christian Ziegler

After six weeks of scandal, the Republican Party of Florida voted overwhelmingly to remove Christian Zeigler as Chairman and elected Evan Power as his replacement. The Florida Democratic Party was the first to call for his immediate resignation, and over 2000 Floridians signed onto a petition demanding it.

The Florida GOP is finally cleaning house, but it doesn't really matter who Christian Ziegler's replacement is.

- Regardless of who leads the Florida GOP, they'll be too busy fighting their made-up culture wars to put forward policies that would actually make Florida a safer, healthier, more affordable place to live.
- Even though Ziegler isn't in power anymore, we trust that the Sarasota Police Department will continue to conduct a thorough investigation into the allegations of his criminal behavior.

FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY RESPONDS TO RON DESANTIS'S STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS 1.9.24

Tallahassee, FL — Today, as a major storm battered North Florida closing all government buildings except for the Capitol, Governor DeSantis delivered the State of the State address. In response, the Florida Democratic Party issued the following statement:

“Ron’s insistence on delivering today’s State of the State address before he returns to Iowa tonight showed he had more to say to Iowa voters than actually addressing the issues that matter to Floridians,” said **FDP Chair Nikki Fried**.

“Today, Ron spent more time [lying about crime rates](#) and repeating culture war attacks than he did addressing rising costs or the property insurance crisis. Let’s be clear: there is nothing ‘fiscally responsible’ about Ron’s agenda. He passed the [largest budget in our state’s history](#) last year, [rejected 11 billion dollars of federal funding](#) that would lower costs for Floridians, and has continually failed to address a property insurance crisis that could bankrupt the state.

“With a [State of Emergency declared for 49 counties](#) across the state, we are dealing with the state of emergency Ron’s leadership has created. Over the next 60 days, Florida Republicans will make it much worse with bills to weaken child labor laws, repeal post-Parkland gun safety laws that have saved lives, and end vote-by-mail. This isn’t what Floridians need and it’s certainly not what voters care about — it’s just another round of political posturing to prop up his failing campaign that does nothing to serve the people of Florida.”

In the News

From Clickorlando.com

‘It would be a complete disaster:’ Florida bill would end no-excuse needed mail-in voting

Voters caught lying could face jail time if the bill was passed

ORLANDO, Fla. – In Florida, anyone can request a vote-by-mail ballot for an election, without needing a reason.

That will change if a Republican state senator gets his way.

State Sen. Blaise Ingoglia, a Republican whose district includes Sumter, Citrus, Hernando and part of Pasco counties, introduced [SB 1752](#) late Friday.

Among the bill’s election provisions is a section that would restrict eligibility for voting by mail, requiring the voter to explain why they will not be able to vote on Election Day or the early voting period.

Read more here. <https://www.clickorlando.com/news/politics/2024/01/09/it-would-be-a-complete-disaster-florida-bill-would-end-no-excuse-needed-mail-in-voting/>

Tell Sumter County State Senator Ingoglia what you think about his proposal. <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/s11>



Community Event



A Documentary on Racism in America

Wednesday, January 24, 2024,

1:30pm - 4:00pm

Hosted by the Missions Team at UCC at The Villages

Examines racism in America and Florida's rewriting of history. FREE and Open to the public.



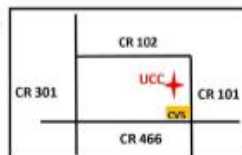
UCC at The Villages
Loving God by Loving Others

12514 County Road 101, Oxford FL 34484

Phone: 352-748-9199

Email: uccatvoffice@gmail.com

Website: VillagesUCC.org



Vote by Mail Cards Still Work

---VOTER ALERT---
ALL Mail Ballot Requests Have EXPIRED!
Secure Your Vote! RENEW NOW!



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 the future 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>

Vote by Mail is your insurance that you can vote in the 2024 elections. You do not need to use your Vote by Mail ballot if you still want to go to the polls. **Sign up for Vote by Mail today!**

Upcoming Elections

From the Sumter County Supervisor of Elections site: NEW TO FLORIDA? DO NOT FORGET TO REMOVE YOURSELF FROM YOUR FORMER STATE'S ROLES. [CLICK HERE](#)

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

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

Three Republicans and one Libertarian are listed for our Congressional District 11. Only the incumbents are listed our State House and State Senate Districts.

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. 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

Greetings:

*Tuesday is not the only day to give. Please consider some local political organizations that are fighting to **protect democracy**.*



We are an all volunteer organization providing voting outreach and organization.

Scan this QR Code to donate:



or go to SumterFLDemocrats.com and click **DONATE**



FDP is the statewide organization that provides support, guidance and training.

Scan this QR Code to donate:



or go to FloridaDems.org and click **DONATE**



The Hey Florida PC is a 527 political non-profit organization providing funding and resources to political groups across the state.

Scan this QR Code to donate:



or go to HeyFloridaPC.com and click **DONATE**



The Florida Data Director Council PC is a volunteer organization working to turn data into action to maximize the vote for Democrats!

Scan this QR Code to donate:



Want to give to a candidate?
Scan this QR Code and search for them by name



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

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)

Hours: Monday 1-4PM, Wednesday 9AM-Noon

Email: info@sumterFLDemocrats.com Webpage: 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.

January 15 Blue Crew Democratic Gathering, Spanish Springs, Music starts at 5PM. Wear blue. RSVP Dennis Foley: dfdf4242@att.net, sponsored by the Villages Democratic Club

January 18 Monthly Democratic Lunch, Noon, Palmer Legends, 1635 Palmer Way, The Villages, RSVP Susan Blalock: sblalock742@aol.com, sponsored by the Villages Democratic Club

January 22 Monthly Sumter County Democrats Business Meeting, 4PM, Headquarters, come see what we are about

March 15 Spring into Action Fundraiser, Lake Miona Rec Center Our guest speaker will be Fentrice Driskell, Leader of the Florida Democratic House Caucus

2024 Election Dates

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

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

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

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