



Newsletter

January 18, 2024

## Taking Back Florida



### Democrats - We did it!

Thanks to your hard work across the state, we just flipped a House seat. Tom Keen is our next State Representative for Florida House District 35.

Florida is winnable — and tonight’s victory proves that.

This victory is the first step to taking back Florida and chipping away at the supermajority in the legislature.

Thank you for your continued work and support.

*Team FDP*

[More about the victory from Click Orlando](#)

### **With Keen’s win in Florida House special election, Democrats see a path forward**

Democrats flipped a Republican Florida House seat in Central Florida Tuesday

ORLANDO, Fla. – Nikki Fried was effusive on Zoom Wednesday.

The Florida Democratic Party chair had spent the night celebrating a [special election win that saw a Florida House seat flipped from Republican to Democrat](#).

“What you saw not only in the (Jacksonville) mayor’s race...and our great victory last night, is that our Democrats had crowed about winning some local races in 2023, particularly the Jacksonville mayoral race, but even though Florida House District 35 has a fairly blue population, the Democrats are taking the win as a sign of something they haven’t had in a few years: Momentum.

Democratic base is motivated,” Fried said. “But more importantly, we’re also getting across-the-aisle crossover from independents and moderate Republicans who are no longer buying on what the Republicans are selling.”

Read the rest of the article here. <https://www.clickorlando.com/news/politics/2024/01/18/with-keens-win-in-florida-house-special-election-democrats-see-a-path-forward/>

## Go Door to Door

What has been one of the most important parts of the winning strategy in Florida Democrats recent victories? Going door to door (canvassing) registering people to vote and signing them up for Vote by Mail works. We are canvassing once a month in greater Sumter (not the Villages). Join us on Saturday, January 22. Gather at Headquarters at 10 AM.

For more information and to sign up, click here.

<https://www.mobilize.us/sumtercountydec/event/599569/>

Want to help in your neighborhood? Scroll down and check out our Neighbor Links program.

## No Florida Democratic Presidential Preference Primary

For the March 19, 2024 election, there will be NO Democratic ballot, so there is no reason for registered Democrats to vote. This may seem strange to those of us originally from outside Florida, but only Registered Republicans can vote in the Florida Presidential Preference Primary.

From Florida Phoenix

Federal judge confirms: No FL-Dem presidential primary in March

FL law says when a party submits only one candidate (like Biden), that candidate is deemed the winner, and there is no primary election

Any chance that registered Democratic Party voters in Florida would participate in this March's presidential primary ballot ended last Friday, when a federal judge rejected a Tampa attorney's bid for a preliminary injunction.

Read on here. <https://floridaphoenix.com/2024/01/16/federal-judge-confirms-no-fl-dem-presidential-primary-in-march/>

## Spring Fundraiser

A poster for a "Spring Fundraiser" event. It features a woman in a green jacket as the keynote speaker, Fentrice Driskell, Leader of the FI House Democratic Caucus. The event is on Friday, March 15, from 6:00 - 8:30 at the Lake Miona Rec Center, 1480 Buena Vista Blvd, The Villages. The poster includes a "SAVE THE DATE" banner, a list of activities (Food, Prizes, Games, Silent Auction), and ticket information: "Tickets are \$35" and "Tickets go on sale Thursday, February 1st". A red button at the bottom says "MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW".

## 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](mailto:lydiabusch48@gmail.com)



## 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/>



Want to see what has happened at past meetings? Go here. <https://www.youtube.com/@villagesdemocraticclub5965>

## Volunteer

Going door to door not your thing or you want to do more? We need to people to phone bank and text. We are also looking for members of the following committees:

- Community Outreach Committee
- Data Committee
- Voter Outreach Committee
- Voter Protection 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.



## Florida Democratic Weekly Talking Points January 15, 2024

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

As we remember the life and legacy of Dr. King, it's our job to continue the fight for justice and equality for all.



- Ron's extremist administration has consistently targeted the rights and freedoms of Black Floridians.

- Florida Republicans have gerrymandered away representation, made it harder to vote, and even tried to rewrite history by teaching our children that there were “personal benefits” to slavery.
- We all must do our part to help bend the “arc of the moral universe” towards justice — from speaking out against racist political agendas to standing up for the marginalized in our communities.

## 2024 Florida 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 — and his State of the State message was to “stay the course.”
- 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 are wasting time in Tallahassee doing nothing to serve Floridians, Florida Democrats are fighting every day to make Florida a safer, healthier, more affordable place to live.

## Roe v. Wade Anniversary

*Monday, January 22 marks the 51st anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Democrats across the country will spend the weekend highlighting extreme Republican abortion bans and calling for the return of reproductive rights.*

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

### Donald Trump and other 2024 Republican presidential candidates would enact a national abortion ban, putting them out of step with the vast majority of Americans.

- 51 years ago, on January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court issued a landmark decision in *Roe v. Wade*, protecting a woman’s constitutional right to choose.
  - The case reaffirmed basic principles of equality, reinforced the fundamental right to privacy, and enabled women in this country to make deeply personal decisions free from political interference.
- But because of Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans’ extreme anti-abortion agenda, these rights have been ripped away.
- Since Trump’s Supreme Court justices provided the deciding votes to overturn *Roe*, we’ve seen countless horrifying stories of women across the country denied lifesaving care and doctors threatened with prosecution for doing their jobs.
- This should not be happening in America – but it is because of Donald Trump.
- As Trump proudly [brags](#), he was the one who “got rid of” *Roe v. Wade*, allowing Republican extremists across the country to pass draconian abortion bans that are hurting women and threatening doctors across the country.
  - Because of Donald Trump, more than **1 in 3 women of reproductive age** now live under an abortion ban in effect.
- And if Trump returns to the White House, things will only get worse as he and MAGA Republicans work toward their ultimate goal: banning abortion nationwide.
  - Trump has [said](#) there should be “punishment” for women who get abortions;
  - In the past year, Trump [endorsed](#) a federal ban, [promising](#) “to be leading the charge” in getting one passed.
  - And Trump's advisors have drafted [plans](#) to unilaterally block women in every state from accessing medication abortion, and doctors and patients would even be threatened with jail time for sending or receiving abortion medication in the mail.
- President Biden and Vice President Harris are the only candidates in this race who will defend a woman’s right to choose.
  - President Biden has [called](#) on Congress to codify the protections of *Roe* into federal law, restoring rights women relied on for nearly fifty years.

- The Biden-Harris administration is working to protect access to reproductive health care and safeguard patient privacy amid ongoing Republican attacks, including:
  - Defending FDA approval of medication abortion
  - Fighting for women’s access to emergency medical care
  - Strengthening access to contraception
- And if Congress passes a national abortion ban, President Biden has [promised](#) to veto it.
- While Republicans are running on their anti-freedom agenda of taking away rights and dictating women’s private health care decisions, Democrats from state legislatures to the Oval Office are committed to making sure people have more rights, not fewer.

That is what will be on the ballot this November and we’re going to continue to make sure that every single voter knows these stakes.

## In the News

From Villages News

### Trumper gets jail time in voter fraud case involving dead father’s ballot

An official active in the Villagers for Trump group has been sentenced to jail time in a voter fraud case involving his dead father’s mail-in ballot.

Robert Rivernider Jr., 58, was sentenced to 180 days in jail on Tuesday after he was found guilty in December by a Sumter County jury on charges of fraud and forgery. In addition to the jail time, he has been ordered to pay \$916 in court costs.

Finish the article here. <https://www.villages-news.com/2024/01/09/trumper-gets-jail-time-in-voter-fraud-case-involving-dead-fathers-ballot/>

## 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.



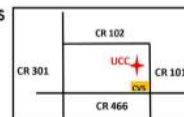
UCC at The Villages  
Loving God by Loving Others

12514 County Road 101, Oxford FL 34484

Phone: 352-748-9199

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Website: [VillagesUCC.org](http://VillagesUCC.org)



## 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 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](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, one Libertarian, and one Democrat have announced for our Congressional District 11. More on Democratic candidate Barbie Harden Hall next week. Only the incumbents are listed our State House and State Senate Districts.**

*Many candidates have not filed yet.*

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

## 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](https://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](https://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](https://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](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)

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

**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, **no Democratic ballot**

**March 19, 2024** Election Day, Presidential Preference Primary 7 AM - 7 PM, Voters must vote at their Assigned Precinct, **no Democratic ballot**

**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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