



Newsletter

January 25, 2024

Petitions for Democratic Candidates



Put a Democrat on the ballot to oppose U.S. Rep. Daniel Webster

Barbie Harden Hall needs thousands of signatures in Congressional District 11 to qualify for the ballot. That district includes all of Sumter County. Follow the link for the form, print it and fill it out.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1COYB_dLR9NFzhuDUdwBZgiJxDveJg5dH/view

Learn more about Barbie Harden Hall here. <https://www.barbieforcongress.com/>

Sign a petition to keep this local Democrat in office: Gloria Hayward, Sumter County Clerk of Courts.

Click here to print out her petition.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HDBFvTled7oTa71iRx9uAJHluYv6evfZ/view>

Find out more about Gloria and what the County Clerk of Courts does here.

<https://www.sumterclerk.com/index.cfm/about-the-clerk>



Please deliver petitions to the Sumter County Democratic Party office, 300 S. Main St., Wildwood, FL 34785. Hours are Mondays noon – 4PM and Wednesdays 9AM to noon. There are also petitions at the office for you to sign.

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/>



No Florida Democratic Presidential Preference Primary

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



Spring Fundraiser

Our next fundraiser has a carnival theme with games to win fabulous prizes. Tickets go on sale next week.

SPRING INTO ACTION

Friday, March 15
6:00 - 8:30
Lake Miona Rec Center
1480 Buena Vista Blvd,
The Villages

Keynote Speaker
Fentrice Driskell, Leader
Fl House Democratic Caucus

SAVE THE DATE

Food Prizes
Games Silent Auction

Tickets are \$35
Tickets go on sale Thursday,
February 1st

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Go Door to Door

Last week we had teams of volunteers registering Democrats to vote and signing them up for Vote by Mail. We are canvassing once a month in greater Sumter (not the Villages). Join us next month on Saturday, February 17.

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.

Door to Door Democracy

Join us as we knock on doors in Sumter County

- registering new voters
- enrolling voters in Vote By Mail

YOU can make a difference!

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/>



Our Feb. 10 Club meeting featured speaker: State Senate candidate Carlos Guillermo Smith

For six years, Carlos Guillermo Smith fought in the Florida House of Representatives for safer and better schools, women's and gay rights, and for improved medical care and more affordable housing for working-class families.

Now he's seeking to return as a state Senator, representing District 17 in Orange County.

The 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting deeply affected him. As the first openly gay Latino elected to the state Legislature, the first bill he introduced was legislation to ban the sale of military-style assault weapons and large-capacity magazines. He introduced it every year he was in office, but the Republican majority voted it down.



Visit his website here. <https://carlosguillermosmith.com/?playlist=10e716f&video=70e02cf>

You can hear and meet him Saturday, Feb. 10, at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, 510 Colony Blvd. The meeting begins at 10 a.m., but the doors open at 9 a.m., for socializing, visiting organization tables, and dropping off food pantry donations.

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
- Legislative Watch 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 22, 2024

DeSantis Drops Out

Ron DeSantis ended his presidential campaign on Sunday afternoon and immediately endorsed Donald Trump.



Ron's obsession with his failing presidential campaign hurt Floridians.

- Florida Democrats have spent the last year making sure that voters from Iowa to New Hampshire and everywhere in between know exactly how Ron has failed the people of Florida.
- Ron could have been focusing on things that actually matter to Floridians, like healthcare, human rights, and the economy, but instead, he's been an absentee governor who cares more about media hits than policy solutions.

- His ridiculous obsession with the presidency has had real consequences here, from his refusal to address our property insurance and affordability crisis to the effects of his made-up culture wars.

Now that Ron is gone, Florida Democrats are fully focused on re-electing Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.

- Our priorities include ending the Republican supermajority in our legislature and fighting Ron's racist, misogynist, homophobic, and transphobic policies at every turn.
- Florida Democrats will fight for reproductive rights, an end to our property insurance crisis, and economic relief for Floridians at every turn.
- Donald Trump bragged about overturning Roe v. Wade, and paved the way for Florida Republicans to pass one of the most extreme abortion bans in the country.
- Donald Trump's presidency was a complete and utter failure, and he's told us exactly what he plans to do if re-elected: pass a national abortion ban, rig the economy for his wealthy friends, and rule our country as a dictator.
- In just three years, the Biden-Harris administration has lowered healthcare costs, invested in American infrastructure, and created millions of new jobs.
- They've fought to protect our right to make private decisions about our health care without interference from the government, and they're committed to safeguarding democracy from extremism.
- For all of our sakes, we must give President Biden a chance to finish the job and continue delivering results for the American people.

Roe v. Wade Anniversary

Monday, January 22 marks the 51st anniversary of the Supreme Court issuing a landmark decision in Roe v. Wade, protecting a woman's constitutional right to choose

In Florida, reproductive rights have never been in more danger than they are right now because of Donald Trump, Ron DeSantis and Rick Scott.

- Donald Trump laid the groundwork for a national ban by appointing three of the right-wing Supreme Court justices who voted to overturn Roe v. Wade.
- And because of Trump, Florida Republicans have passed ban after ban, one more extreme and unpopular than the other.
- Last year, Ron DeSantis signed extreme legislation that bans abortion at six-weeks before many women even know they're pregnant and today, we are facing the most dangerous abortion bills in Florida we have seen yet.
- But it's not just Ron and Don who are coming after reproductive rights. Rick Scott has one of the most extreme records among Republicans. In the Senate, Scott cosponsored a national abortion ban, said he would sign Florida's dangerous six week ban into law if he was governor and instituted the 24-hour waiting period for women before they could obtain an abortion.
- The stakes could not be higher: If Donald Trump returns to the White House or we lose the Senate majority in November, Republicans will stop at nothing to ban abortion nationwide.

Since Roe v. Wade was overturned, Florida Republicans have moved swiftly to pass ban after ban, one more extreme than the other.

- Florida used to be a safe haven in the South for abortion and now we are home to one of the strictest abortion bans in the country.
- We are currently facing a 6-week abortion ban with NO exceptions, before most women even know they're pregnant – taking the extreme abortion ban currently held up in the courts even further.
 - HB 1519 restricts all abortions from the moment of fertilization, with no exceptions for rape or incest and threatens doctors with a third-degree felony and 10 years prison time.
 - HB 651 / SB 476 adds "unborn child" to a law that allows family members to seek damages when a person's death is caused by such things as wrongful acts or negligence. Florida is among just a handful of states that do not have laws on the books allowing such wrongful-death claims.
- This is not what Floridians want. Abortion bans are unpopular – 77% of Floridians didn't want a 6-week ban, the majority of Floridians opposed it.

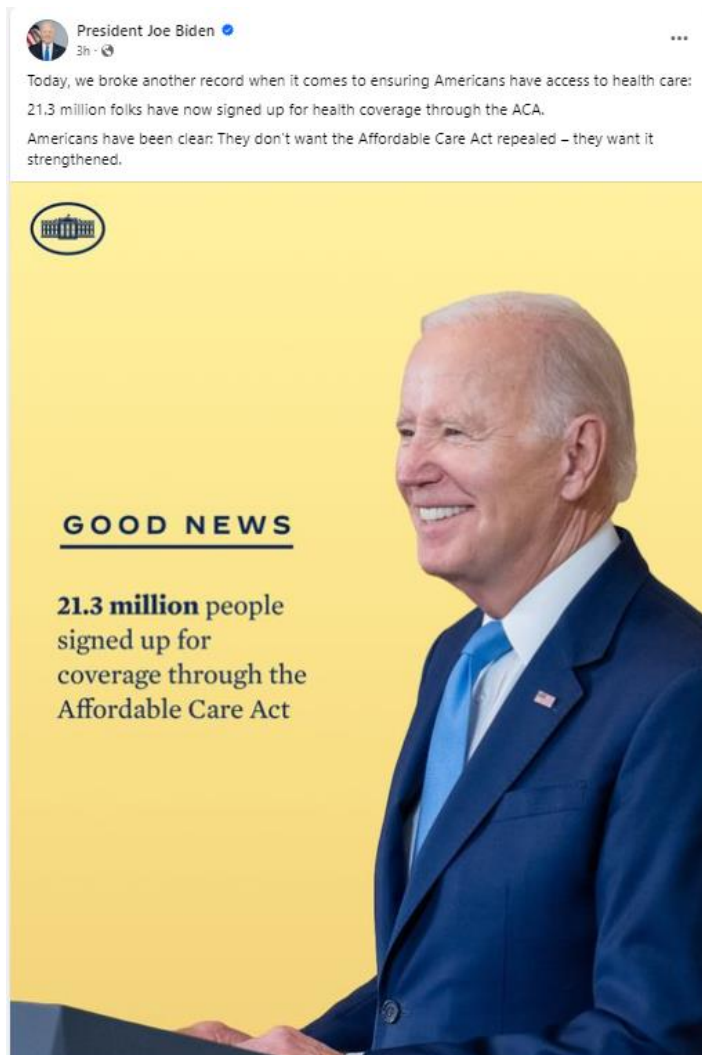
This is not a partisan issue – we’ve seen ballot initiatives pass in every state after the Dobbs decision with the support of Democrats, Republicans and Independents.

- Since the Dobbs decision, every state that has had abortion on the ballot has voted to protect reproductive rights. Last year, Ohio became the seventh state to protect reproductive rights. Florida is next.
- Florida is a pro-choice state.
- Grassroots organizers have been working on the ground and secured over a million signatures to put reproductive rights on the ballot. Earlier this month, the Division of Elections verified 910,946 signatures.
- Floridians deserve to have their chance to decide and determine the future of reproductive health care in our state.

As Republicans push to restrict abortion nationwide, Democratic leaders, legislators and voters are the last line of defense for reproductive rights.

- President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris are the only candidates in this race defending a woman’s reproductive freedom. They’re working to protect access to essential health care – including medication abortion, emergency medical care, and contraception.
- Democrats are calling on Congress to codify the protections of Roe into federal law, so that women in every state have access to the care that they need.
- That’s the choice that will be on the ballot this November – we’re going to make sure that every single voter knows that the Biden-Harris administration is fighting for them.

Democrats Deliver



In the News

From Florida Phoenix

Senate candidate Debbie Mucarsel-Powell takes on Scott's abortion record; he isn't responding.

A central tenet in Debbie Mucarsel-Powell's Senate campaign to unseat incumbent GOP U.S. Sen. Rick Scott is to attack his record on abortion rights.

"He is one of the most extreme Republicans and most radical Republicans when it comes to banning abortion and he has also publicly said that he supports a national abortion ban, so make no mistake, abortion is on the ballot in November," she says. Mucarsel-Powell spoke to the Florida Phoenix earlier this week.

Scott is now on record as saying that he would support the six-week abortion ban that Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed into law last year, though initially it appeared that he did not. (That law has not gone into effect yet while the Florida Supreme Court prepares to rule on the state's 15-week ban approved in 2022. If justices uphold the 15-week ban, the six-week ban will trigger 30 days later).

"As a woman and as a mother of two daughters, this fight is personal to protect our fundamental rights as women in this country to be able to make the decisions of when and how to start a family," Mucarsel-Powell said.



U.S. Senate candidate Debbie Mucarsel-Powell. Credit: U.S. Senate Campaign.

She is looking to take Scott one-on-one in November – though she has to win her party's primary election first. She is heavily favored to do so when the Democratic primary election takes place on August 20.

Continue the article here. <https://floridaphoenix.com/2024/01/25/senate-candidate-debbie-mucarsel-powell-takes-on-scotts-abortion-record-he-isnt-responding/>

Vote by Mail Cards Still Work



Again, we have been told there is a new form from the state, but we have not seen one. 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, one Libertarian, and one Democrat have announced for our Congressional District 11. 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 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



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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.

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

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