



Newsletter

February 1, 2024

Florida Democratic Party Celebrates Black History Month

Tallahassee, FL — In recognition and celebration of Black History Month, the Florida Democratic Party has issued the following statement:

“Black History Month is a celebration of Black stories and strength, but it is also a call-to-action,” said **FDP Chair Nikki Fried**. “Today, we recommit to standing shoulder to shoulder with the Black community to continue the fight for racial and economic justice.



“From racism in the classroom to redistricting, Ron and the Florida GOP have repeatedly targeted the rights and freedoms of Black Floridians. They’ve attempted to rewrite Black history, stoked the flames of white supremacy and made it harder to vote.

“In the face of this legislative and rhetorical assault on Black Floridians, Florida Democrats will not stay silent — we will listen, march, organize, and elect more Black Democratic leaders up and down the ballot who will serve a Florida that fights for all of us.”

In February, Florida Democratic Party Chair Nikki Fried will be embarking on a Black History Month tour with a new stop each week across the state. The tour will feature a series of roundtables and organizing events to engage Black Floridians on the issues that matter to them the most. More details will be announced soon.

Spring Fundraiser

Our next fundraiser has a carnival theme with games to win fabulous prizes.

SEEKING 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

Hot Dogs, Chips,
Cookies, Popcorn

Play 10 different games
and win prizes

Bid on trips to Italy, France or Costa Rica

\$\$ Board of Lottery Tickets Scratch-Offs Raffle

Feel free to bring your own
drinks

TICKETS ARE \$35
CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO PURCHASE

For tickets, click here. <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/actionsumter>

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.

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.



Some people have had a hard time downloading from the above links. There are also petitions at the office for you to sign.

Florida Democratic Weekly Talking Points January 29, 2024

January Recap



As we prepare for the 2024 elections, Florida Democrats have started the year with a momentum shift.

- After being written off by the nation following the 2022 elections, Florida Democrats spent 2023 rebuilding and retooling in preparation for 2024 — racking up a key win in the Jacksonville mayor’s race and pushing HD 118 31 points to the left in a special election.
- Florida Democrats started this year by shocking the nation with the year’s first Democratic flip, electing Tom Keen in a House District 35 seat that went R+11 in 2022.
- Meanwhile, Ron DeSantis and Florida Republicans have done nothing but lose in 2024 — Ron’s union busting law couldn’t break the United Teachers of Dade, the Florida GOP is starting from scratch with an untested leadership team, and Ron’s presidential campaign couldn’t even make it past the New Hampshire primary.
- Florida Democrats are fired up and ready to compete from Pensacola to Key West to break the Republican supermajority and retire Rick Scott.

President Biden Visits Florida

On Tuesday, President Biden will visit Palm Beach County on a campaign fundraising trip. This is his sixth visit to Florida as president.

President Biden knows that Florida is worth fighting for.

- With reproductive rights expected to be on the ballot and the U.S. Senate majority on the line, there is too much at stake to ignore Florida.
- Earlier this month, Florida recorded the first Democratic flip of 2024 in HD 35 — proving that Democrats can win in Florida with the right investments.
- President Biden’s early visibility in Florida shows that the Biden campaign is serious about Florida’s status as a battleground state.

Legislative Session 2024

Last week was week three of the 2024 Florida Legislative Session. The Legislature will be in session until March 8th.

Florida Republicans continue to be out of touch with the needs and wants of Floridians.

- Instead of focusing on things that actually matter to Floridians, like healthcare, human rights, and the economy, Republicans in the legislature are busy advancing bills [protecting Confederate monuments](#) and accusing hard-working teachers of being “[woke](#).”
- Meanwhile, Florida Democrats are focused on making lives better for Floridians — advancing bills to make drinking water cleaner, enhance career pathways for students, and providing property tax relief for disabled veterans.

Redistricting Case Update

The Florida Supreme Court has agreed to hear a [challenge](#) to an appeals court ruling upholding Florida’s congressional maps, but the timeline laid out by the Court will keep the current maps in place for the 2024 elections.

We urge the Florida Supreme Court to reconsider their timeline and make sure the redistricting case has a speedy resolution.

- Ron’s racially gerrymandered maps unfairly stripped representation from Black voters in Jacksonville.

- Targeting Black voters as a political tool is illegal and unacceptable in all cases, and our justice system has an obligation to rule on those accusations as quickly as possible.

Andrew Warren

Ron DeSantis is [challenging](#) an appeals court ruling which found that he violated State Attorney Andrew Warren's First Amendment rights when he suspended him last year. The ruling could empower a federal court to reinstate Warren.

The people of Hillsborough County deserve to have an elected State Attorney — not an appointed political puppet.

- Andrew Warren is a highly qualified and dedicated public servant who was duly elected not once, but twice to serve as State Attorney.
- Since illegally suspending Andrew over political disagreements, Ron has thrown out another state attorney and continued his assault on our courts.
- Ron's made-up culture wars are losing at the polls *and* in the courts — from racially gerrymandered redistricting to his unconstitutional anti-LGBT laws.
- The modern Republican Party can no longer claim to be the party of small government — Ron's actions are the type of government overreach that we expect to see in dictatorships.
- As we wait for Andrew's case to return to the district court, Florida Democrats will continue to stand by him as he fights to serve out his term and challenge his illegal suspension in court.

Democrats Deliver



Volunteer

Go Door to Door in Greater Sumter

Increase voter turnout. We are canvassing to sign Democrats up for Vote by Mail and register voters once a month in greater Sumter (not the Villages). We provide a script, maps, and lists of addresses. Join us next month on Saturday, February 17.

For more information and to sign up, click here.

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



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. More dates to come.

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



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.

In the News

From Florida Phoenix

New state policy denies gender-affirming driver licenses to transgender people

State threatens fraud prosecution for 'misrepresenting one's gender'

Transgender people can no longer obtain a driver's license that reflects their gender identity under a new policy that treats "misrepresenting one's gender, understood as sex, on a driver license" as fraud punishable by civil and criminal penalties plus cancellation, suspension, or revocation of the license.

A memorandum to county tax collectors dated Jan. 26 from Robert Kynoch, deputy executive director of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, outlines the end of an old, more lenient, policy allowing licenses reflecting gender identity as "not supported by statutory authority."

Under state law, "the department can issue a replacement license only when a license or permit is lost or stolen, or when there is a subsequent change in the licensee's name, address, or restrictions," the memo reads.

"[T]he term 'gender' ... does not refer to a person's internal sense of his or her gender role or identification, but has historically and commonly been understood as a synonym for 'sex,' which is determined by innate and immutable biological and genetic characteristics," the memo reads.

“Additionally, a driver license is an identification document and, as such, serves a critical role in assisting public and private entities in correctly establishing the identity of a person presenting the license. Permitting an individual to alter his or her license to reflect an internal sense of gender role or identity, which is neither immutable nor objectively verifiable, undermines the purpose of an identification record and can frustrate the state’s ability to enforce its laws,” it continues.

The policy appears to allow for name changes, but not a “gender marker.”

Read the rest of the article here. <https://floridaphoenix.com/2024/01/30/new-state-policy-denies-gender-affirming-driver-licenses-to-transgender-people/>

See statement from Florida Democratic Party here. <https://www.floridadems.org/2024/01/30/florida-democrats-condemn-dhsmv-rule-changes-targeting-trans-people/>

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

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.

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**.*

SUMTER DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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**

FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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**

Hey FLORIDA
Political Committee

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**

Florida Data Director Council
Collaboration

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/sumterflyyoungdems/>

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



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.

February 3 Blue Crew, Gathering of Democrats at Lake Sumter Landing, music starts at 5PM, wear blue, a French television crew will be there, RSVP Dennis Foley: dfdf4242@att.net, sponsored by The Villages Democratic Club

February 12 LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus of the Nature Coast Region Monthly Meeting, includes Sumter County, hybrid and in person, Citrus County Democrats office, to register <https://www.mobilize.us/citrusdemocrats/event/369352/>

February 14 Democratic Breakfast, 9AM, Fenney Grill, 3210 Fenney Way, The Villages, RSVP Susan Blalock: sblalock742@aol.com, sponsored by The Villages Democratic Club

February 21 Democratic Lunch, Noon, Cane Garden County Club, 1726 Bailey Trail, The Villages, RSVP Susan Blalock: sblalock742@aol.com, sponsored by The Villages Democratic Club

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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