



Newsletter

May 2, 2024

**There will be no newsletter next week. Your editor is going on vacation.**

## Murder Mystery Fundraiser

*Join Sumter Democrats  
for a  
Murder Mystery Fundraiser*

Sunday, June 23rd  
4:00 pm - 7:00pm  
"Uncork the Vote Winery"  
300 S. Main St  
Wildwood, FL

Come help solve a scandalous act of murder in the vineyard.

During this interactive role-playing murder mystery everyone will enjoy drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres.

Tickets are \$100 donation  
Tickets are limited  
Click the link below for tickets

*A Deadly VINTAGE*

*A NIGHT OF SWIRLING, SIPPING, AND SNIFFING OUT SCANDALS!*

Proceeds will help elect Democrats

Click here to get your tickets. <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/mysteryparty>

## Democratic Florida Youth Mobilize for Election



Jayden D'Onofrio, chair of the Florida Future Leaders PAC, spoke last week to the Sumter County Democratic Party leadership about what it will take to engage and enlist young people in voting. D'Onofrio leads a collaboration among youth groups, including the Florida College Democrats and the Florida High School Democrats. Their target demographic is 18- to 29-year-olds. We all know some. We need their votes in many states in large numbers, including Florida.

**1. Younger people care about issues**, not candidates. Focus there, not on electing a specific person. That includes President Biden.

**2. Affordability and the cost of living** are the top issues for younger Floridians, both those who vote and those who don't. Talk to them about Democratic policies and proposals to make their lives and prospects better -- and about how Republican policies hurt them.

**3. Women's right to choose** is a crucial issue. Florida's Amendment 4 would give women the freedom to make medical decisions without government interference. Amendment 4 -- and the recreational marijuana measure -- engage younger people. Let them know how Democrats strongly support both and Republicans do not.

**4. Gun violence** is hugely important to those who have voted in past elections, while **climate change** and **education** are more important to those who have not voted. This age group has grown up with active shooter drills and mass school shootings. Democrats favor common-sense gun safety measures, Republicans do not. Democrats also passed the Green New Deal and on Earth Day, the president announced a huge investment in solar power.

**5. Don't hesitate** to go on the offensive against Republican actions and ideas. Make it clear that Republicans have tried to thwart and oppose every significant action and proposal THEY and the majority of Americans support.

Florida Future Leaders PAC is doing a lot of organizing with high school and college students. Go to their website to see their Battle Plan and how you can help and/or get involved. <https://www.floridafutureleaders.com/>

## Door to Door Efforts

Our next **Day of Action** Volunteer Door-to-Door Canvassing is **May 18**, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will be in **greater Sumter** registering voters and enrolling registered voters in Vote by Mail. Now is the time to step up. We must do the groundwork now, so we are ready for August and then, of course, **November**.



Please meet at the Party headquarters, [300 S. Main St., Wildwood](#). We provide a script, maps, and lists of addresses. Never gone door to door? It is not hard. We will teach you.

For more information and to sign up, click here. <https://www.mobilize.us/sumtercountydec/event/599569/>

When we do not have enough volunteers, we sometimes hire local people to help us in our door-to-door efforts.



**Knock-Knock. Who's There?**  
**Volunteer. Volunteer Who?**  
*"A Democratic Volunteer with election information!"*

Help us hire canvassers to knock on doors in Sumter County and register **DEMOCRATS** and enroll **DEMOCRATS** in **VBM**.

Every **\$18.50** is one canvasser knocking on doors for **1 hour**.

To donate

[Click on the link below](#)

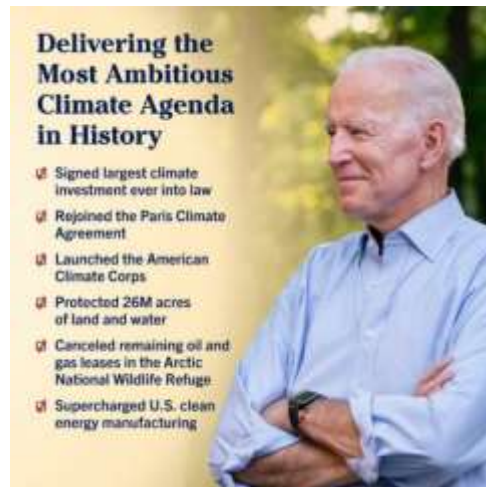
or

**Mail your check** (Payable to SCDEC) to  
Sumter Democratic Party  
PO Box 1151  
Wildwood FL 34785

The more money we raise the more canvassers we can hire and the more canvassers we hire the more doors we can knock on.

Donate here: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/24knock-knockcvr>

## Democrats Deliver



## Upcoming Elections

From Florida Phoenix, April 26, 2024, Mitch Perry

### 13 Florida candidates file to run for U.S. Senate nomination

*There are 13 Floridians vying to win the U.S. Senate seat currently occupied by Republican incumbent Rick Scott.*

That's after the qualifying period for all federal candidates, which ended Friday at noon.

Leading the pack is Scott, who narrowly won the seat six years ago against then 18-year Democratic incumbent Bill Nelson. He will face two candidates in August: businessman [Keith Gross](#) and [John S. Columbus](#).

On the Democratic side, while former U.S. Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell has dominated news coverage in the past few months, she still will have to defeat four other challengers to get a chance to face off against the GOP candidate in November.

In addition to Mucarsel-Powell, the other Democrats in the race are [Stanley Campbell](#), Rod Joseph, [Brian Rush](#) and former Congressman Alan Grayson.

Rush served in the Florida House of Representatives from 1986-1994. He ran and finished a distant second to Val Deming's in the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate in 2022.

Grayson is a former star in Florida Democratic politics who hasn't been in public office since 2016. He represented a Central Florida congressional district from 2008-2010, and again in 2012-2016. But he has lost his last three races – the 2016 Democratic Senate primary against Patrick Murphy; the 2018 Democratic primary in Congressional District 9 to Darren Soto; and the Congressional District 10 primary against Maxwell Frost in 2022.

Grayson says that while the establishment believes that Mucarsel-Powell is the favorite, he begs to differ, saying that there haven't been any polls of the Democrats in the contest.

"I think that what the establishment is doing is covering up the fact that I'm the only candidate with any statewide recognition," he says. "I'm definitely in it to win it."

He says he can do so by concentrating his resources on voter-registration efforts.

In addition to the major political party candidates, there are five other independent and/or third-party candidates who have filed for the U.S. Senate seat.

Three of them are non-party-affiliated candidates: Shantele Renee Bennett, Ben Everidge and Tuan TQ Nguyen. Libertarian Feena Bonoan and write-in candidate Howard Knepper complete the list.

## Villages Democratic Club



Our May 11 Club meeting speaker: U.S. Senate candidate Stanley Campbell

Stanley Campbell is a native Floridian who earned his degree in Physics & Mathematics at Florida A&M and served as a Navy pilot.

Campbell has also led several technology businesses, including Eagle Force Associates, which pioneered a Medicare fraud detection software.

His major issues are access to healthcare, reproductive rights, protecting Social Security and Medicare, and helping veterans.

Blue Crew Gatherings will take a break during the summer and return in the fall.

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/>

Their Sunday email newsletter has many activities and information about other Democratic groups in the Villages.

## Florida Democratic Weekly Talking Points April 30, 2024



### ABORTION BAN

Now, women in Florida are living under one of the most extreme abortion bans in the country. The 6-week ban went into law by Ron DeSantis goes into effect on May 1st.

### **Donald Trump, Rick Scott, and Florida Republicans are to blame for Florida's extreme abortion ban.**

- Florida's extreme 6-week ban has virtually no exceptions and will put women's lives at risk.
- This ban goes into effect alongside Florida's mandatory 24-hour waiting period signed into law by Rick Scott and a requirement to have two in-person doctor's appointments before accessing abortion care.
- Women will die because of this ban. Women in Florida and across the South have nowhere to go to get the emergency care they need.
- In November, Florida voters can reverse this extreme ban and restore reproductive freedom in our state by voting yes on Amendment 4 and re-electing President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

### FULL SLATE OF CONGRESSIONAL RACES

*On Friday, Florida Democrats filed and qualified to contest all 28 Congressional Districts in 2024. It's the first time Florida Democrats have filled a full slate of congressional candidates since 2018.*

**For the first time since 2018, Florida Democrats filed to compete for every congressional seat, no Republican is running unopposed.**

- There is a Democrat qualified to run in every congressional seat in Florida, with a candidate qualified to run in all 28 congressional districts.
- Every part of this state is worth fighting for and we are not going to let Florida Republicans walk into office without being held accountable.

- Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick was declared the automatic winner of her reelection because the Florida GOP failed to qualify before the deadline.

## IMPORTANT DATES – JUNE 14

*The next qualifying deadline is June 14 for county offices, special districts, and state legislative races. For more information, candidates considering running for office in any of the uncontested districts are encouraged to visit [floridadems.org/runforoffice](https://floridadems.org/runforoffice) to apply for resources and support.*

## PRESIDENT BIDEN, VP HARRIS VISIT FLORIDA

*On Wednesday, Vice President Kamala Harris returned to Florida to deliver remarks in Jacksonville to discuss reproductive freedom on the day Florida's abortion ban takes effect.*

**Florida Democrats are leading the fight to protect reproductive rights and democracy in 2024 — not just for the Sunshine State, but for the entire country.**

- Recent visits from both President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris demonstrates the Biden-Harris campaign's commitment to fighting for Florida, recently [declaring the state 'winnable'](#), with a focus on defending reproductive rights in November.
- This will be the Vice President's 12th trip to Florida since taking office. She last visited the state in March, when she discussed gun violence prevention in Parkland. In January 2023, she visited Tallahassee to mark the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision and discussed reproductive freedom.
- Her visit follows an appearance by President Joe Biden in Tampa, Florida last week, which also focused on reproductive freedom.

## RICK SCOTT

*Rick Scott is fully behind Florida's abortion ban but he's refusing to answer for his [support](#) of the extreme ban, which obliterates reproductive health care access before most women know they're pregnant, with virtually no exceptions. That's because Scott knows his [endorsement](#) of Florida's ban, [support](#) for a national abortion ban, and [attacks](#) on safe and effective medication abortion are [deeply unpopular](#), and could cost him his seat in the Senate.*

**Rick Scott is fully behind Florida's abortion ban but he's running from his extreme anti-abortion record because he knows it could cost him his Senate seat.**

- Florida is ground zero in the fight for control of the Senate and the fight for reproductive freedom.
- The fight against Florida's dangerous abortion ban is shining a light on Scott's extreme anti-abortion record.
- Recently, Democratic leaders in [Tampa](#), [West Palm Beach](#), and [Orlando](#) have spoken out against Scott's support of Florida's abortion ban.
- Rick Scott is going to run from his support for the ban, but [take his own word for it](#) — he would've signed the bill into law himself if he was governor.
- Scott can't help it — he's doubled down on his support of the near-total ban, saying "[If I was the sitting governor, and the six-week abortion ban came in front of me, I would sign it. I've always said I would sign it.](#)"
- Rick Scott is hiding because his extreme anti-abortion agenda is at odds with Floridians, [nearly 70 percent](#) of which support reproductive freedom.



- This November, Floridians will reject this extreme abortion ban and send Rick Scott into retirement.

### **NEW LEADERS, NEW OFFICE IN MIAMI-DADE**

*On Friday, Senator Shevrin Jones was elected as Chair of the Miami-Dade Democratic Party alongside Millie Herrera as First Vice Chair and Marco Reyes as Secretary.*

**It's a new day for Miami-Dade Democrats with a new Chair and a new campaign office – the party is more organized and energized than ever before.**

- Miami-Dade Democrats have a new Chair and a new office, officially opening the first Take Back Coordinated campaign office in Miami Gardens over the weekend.
- The stakes could not be higher — no other county gets more national attention than Miami-Dade. The path to victory, whether it's to the White House, U.S. Senate, City Hall or School Board – all of it runs through Florida.
- This moment calls for a reset for the Miami-Dade County party, to ensure that we re-elect Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and send President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris back to the White House to finish the job.

### **PROGRESSIVE DROPS 100,000 HOMEOWNERS**

*According to [reports](#), Progressive insurance will not renew at least 100,000 policies for homeowners in Florida in high-risk areas. Homeowners will be notified by letter from the company this week.*

- Property insurance companies are continuing to abandon Florida, cutting another 100,000 policies ahead of hurricane season.
- Republican leadership has failed to deliver effective insurance reforms, proposing bandaid solutions to a growing crisis.
- Under Ron DeSantis's leadership, property insurance premiums have quadrupled for homeowners who still have coverage and left hundreds of thousands uninsured.
- Florida is one major hurricane away from bankrupting the state. Taxpayers will be on the hook to bail out Republicans for their failed leadership.

### **CRISIS IN HAITI**

*Haiti's Prime Minister resigned last week. Following months of gang violence, a new transitional council was sworn in to lead the country.*

**Florida Democrats continue to advocate for solutions to stabilize the country, and support a democratic transition in Haiti.**

- Florida has the largest population of Haitians in the country and it is our responsibility to extend our support and advocate for policy solutions that protect the Haitian community at this time of crisis.
- Ron DeSantis has repeatedly politicized the crisis in Haiti — [using taxpayer dollars to search for migrants escaping by sea](#).
- Florida Democrats are continuing to monitor the crisis in Haiti and join Congressional Democrats in advocating for solutions to stabilize the country, and support a democratic transition in Haiti.

## Registering to Vote

Republicans in Florida continue to make registering to vote harder. Voters must send in the form themselves. In the past we could bring the application to the Supervisor of Elections. Now there is a new form that we did not anticipate. Need to register to vote? Here is more information on how to register to vote.

<https://www.sumterelections.org/Voters/How-to-Register-to-Vote>

## Honey Baked Ham 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 the unique link below and 20% goes to the Sumter Democrats.  
**It's a Win - Win!**  
[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE YOUR GIFT CARD](#)

Click here for Honey Baked Ham fundraiser. [https://www.honeybaked.com/fundraising/Sumter Democrats](https://www.honeybaked.com/fundraising/Sumter_Democrats)

## Volunteer

Going door to door not your thing or you want to do more? We need to people to phone bank. 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.

## Vote by Mail



We finally have the new state Vote by Mail form. You can still sign up for Vote by Mail on-line or call the SOE office. We have request forms at our office. 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>

Get your ballot in advance. 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!**

## 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://www.sumterFLDemocrats.com)

Sumter County Supervisor of Elections <https://www.sumterelections.org/>

Voting Information including voter 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: Starting April 1: Mondays 1-4PM, Wednesdays 9 AM- noon, Friday 1-4 PM, Saturdays 10AM to 1PM

Email: [info@sumterFLDemocrats.com](mailto:info@sumterFLDemocrats.com) Webpage: [SumterFLDemocrats.com](https://www.sumterFLDemocrats.com)

The office, which is funded by the Sumter County Democratic Executive Committee and The Villages Democratic Club, 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.

**May 8** Democratic Breakfast, 9AM, Panera Bread, 1010 Lake Sumter Landing, The Villages, RSVP Susan Houston: [houdem93@gmail.com](mailto:houdem93@gmail.com), sponsored by the Villages Democratic Club

**June 16** Pride Day, more details to come

**June 23** Murder Mystery Fundraiser, see above

## 2024 Election Dates

**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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