



Newsletter

June 20, 2024

Debate Watch Party



The Sumter Democrats and The Villages Democratic Club are sponsoring a Debate Watch Party at our Headquarters, 300 S Main Street, Wildwood, FL 34785. Doors open at 8 PM but the 90-minute debate doesn't start until 9 PM. Food, snacks, and drinks will be provided.

For more information and to sign up, click here.

<https://www.mobilize.us/sumtercountydec/event/638094/>

Pride Party

The Pride Party held last Sunday was well attended. Caucus leader Nathan Sharp spotlighted continued efforts by the Florida Legislature and Gov. Ron DeSantis to target, attack, erase, and deny rights to this community.

See information about next meeting of the LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus in the calendar at the end of the newsletter. Find out more about the organization here. <https://www.ncrlgbtdems.org/>



Voter Protection

The Democratic Executive Committee of Sumter County is looking for volunteers to serve as Poll Watchers (inside) and Poll Observers (outside) for the upcoming Primary election in Sumter County. Early voting will be from Saturday August 10th through Saturday, August 17th and Primary Election Day is Tuesday, August 20th. Shifts during Early Voting are 3 hours long and on Election Day, they are 4.5 hours long. So far, we have about 15% of the 513 shifts covered for the August Election. The biggest need is on Election Day as there are more polling locations. August is a practice run for November.



If you are available and willing to serve as a Poll Watcher or Observer, please click on the link below and complete the form.

<https://forms.gle/SsCpMLGxAmkDVHjXA>

We are automating the system of signing up. Signing up is a three-step process. First, you sign up through the above link. Then an email will be sent to you to select the locations and times for which you want to volunteer. After that, another email will be sent with instructions for signing up for the July in person training. A big thanks to former DEC Chairman Cathy Hardy and former Club Director Andy Kleinman for setting up this system.

Upcoming Elections

Sumter County Commissioners Race

This letter to the editor has been submitted to the Villages-News.com.

There have been a couple of recent letters to the editor about the write in candidates for County Commissioner.

First, the Chair of the local Republican party attempts to justify this voter suppression effort [here](#).

Next, the League of Women Voters Co-President believes that this action subverted the intent of the Universal Primary Amendment. She conceded it was legal but posed the question, is it right? Check out her comments [here](#)

Until this write-in loophole is closed, we know it's legal. The readers/voters can decide if these voter suppression efforts are right morally.

The Republican Chair veers way out of her lane when she blames the Democrats for the Republican actions. For some unexplained reason, she seems afraid that the Democrats will crash or interfere with the primary. Note to the Republican Chair--Rather than using made up excuses, you need to own your actions. You used the write-in loophole and made the decision to extend the voter suppression to this race--own it and quit trying to find imaginary scapegoats.

The Republican chair further pretends that her actions are to preserve freedom and prosperity but we can see [here](#) who will actually prosper. BTW--it isn't the voter.

If you want freedom, start with letting women make their own health care choices and quit banning books as well as the words "climate change."

Bob Berg, Chair

Sumter Democrats

For more about the write in candidates and Sumter County Commissioner race, click here.

<https://www.villages-news.com/2024/06/13/last-minute-write-ins-will-eliminate-thousands-of-voters-in-sumter-county/>

Candidate Qualifying for Constitutional Officers, County, Cities, & Special Districts finalized last Friday. Sample ballots will be available through the Sumter Supervisor of Elections website at the end of the month. To find out who has qualified, click here.

https://www.voterfocus.com/CampaignFinance/candidate_pr.php?c=sumter

A voter guide is being developed with links for candidates for whom Democrats can vote.

Want to know the dates when Vote by Mail ballots are being mailed? Go to the calendar at the end of this newsletter.

There are six amendments on the November 2024 ballot. Learn more about them here.

https://ballotpedia.org/Florida_2024_ballot_measures Click on the Title column for background on the potential amendments.



Day of Action



Last Saturday, our canvassers went to homes in Wildwood. Thanks to the efforts of 115 Precinct Captain Debbie Faris and volunteers almost all of the 1100 registered Democrats have been visited.

Our next **Day of Action** Volunteer Door-to-Door Canvassing is **Saturday, July 20**, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will be in **greater Sumter (outside The Villages)** 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 <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>

Happy Birthday, America



This is an outdoor family event with food, games, vendors all to celebrate America's Birthday. We will have a tent, table, chairs, and election related information for voter registration and vote by mail enrollment forms.

We need volunteers. Click here to sign up for a shift.

<https://mobilize.us/s/LGuo0B>

Villages Democratic Club

The next Monthly membership meeting, Saturday, July 13, Colony Cottage Recreation Center. Doors open at 9 a.m., meeting starts at 10.



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.

Your Local Democratic Candidates



Barbie Harden Hall, Congress

<https://barbieforcongress.com/>



<https://holleranfordistrict11.com/>



Ash Marwah, State Representative

<https://ashfor52.com/>

Florida Democratic Weekly Talking Points



June 17, 2024

FLORIDA DEMOCRATS CONTEST EVERY RACE

Friday, June 14 was the deadline to qualify for state legislative races, and Florida Democrats are contesting every seat in both chambers — the first time either major party has done so in modern Florida history. This follows our [successful efforts](#) to contest all 28 congressional seats this cycle.

The Florida Democratic Party would like to congratulate the 11 candidates who won election unopposed:

- Rep. Yvonne Hinson (HD 21)
- Rep. Jervonte Edmonds (HD 88)
- Rep. Kelly Skidmore (HD 92)
- Rep. Christine Hunschofsky (HD 95)
- Rep. Dan Daley (HD 96)
- Rep. Lisa Dunkley (HD 97)
- Rep. Hillary Cassel (HD 101)
- Rep. Felicia Robinson (HD 104)
- Rep. Dotie Joseph (HD 108)
- Senator-elect Carlos Guillermo Smith (SD 17)
- Senator-elect Mack Bernard (SD 24)

This year, the Florida Democratic Party is doing something neither party has done in modern history — contesting every seat.

- In the face of Republican extremism, Florida Democrats are stepping up to lead.
- We refuse to let Florida Republicans walk into office without being held accountable for their actions.
- Having a Democrat in every race forces Republicans to defend their unpopular policies and gives voters another reason to turn out on election day.
- Contesting every seat shows clear momentum in our efforts to break the Republican supermajority and take back Florida.

FLORIDA BUDGET

Last Wednesday, Ron DeSantis [signed](#) the \$116.5 billion 2024-2025 Florida Budget, making [nearly \\$1 billion](#) in line-item vetoes.

Once again, Ron has passed a near-record budget that doesn't come close to meeting the needs of Floridians.

- Among other things, this year's veto list includes hundreds of millions of dollars in canceled stormwater projects, school safety improvements, and local infrastructure fixes — things that actually improve our day-to-day lives.
- Ron's neglect of public infrastructure is a slap in the face to Floridians dealing with the effects of the climate crisis, and it's one of the reasons why property insurance costs are spiraling out of control.
- As intense flooding becomes more frequent in South Florida, we should be making every effort to make sure our infrastructure is hardened, resilient, and ready to deal with our increasingly powerful storm systems.
- As always, Florida Democrats will work to hold him accountable for the harm he does to local communities in the name of a fake fiscal conservatism.

DACA ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, June 15 was the 12th anniversary of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

DACA would be in jeopardy during a second Trump presidency — he tried to eliminate DACA before and there's no doubt he'll try again.

- Thanks to DACA, Dreamers have been able to access higher education, secure jobs, start families, buy homes, open businesses, and contribute billions of dollars to our nation's economy, but the program has never been in more danger than it is today.
- Donald Trump — a man who has repeatedly called immigrants "animals" and "criminals" — has promised to run the largest deportation program in American history if elected.
- On the 12th anniversary of DACA, we renew our calls on Congress to act swiftly to provide a permanent solution — a path to citizenship that will guarantee all Dreamers the legal status they deserve.

ABORTION

Floridians are now living under one of the most extreme abortion bans in the country. The six-week ban signed into law by Ron DeSantis went into effect on May 1st.

Florida's extreme six-week abortion ban has virtually no exceptions and puts women's lives at risk.

- The near-total abortion ban is even more extreme because of Florida's mandatory 24-hour waiting period — signed into law by Rick Scott — and a requirement to have two in-person doctors appointments before accessing abortion care.
- [Polling](#) shows that 65% of Florida voters — including nearly half of Florida Republicans — support the right to safe, legal abortion.
- Donald Trump has made it clear that he's not satisfied with overturning *Roe v. Wade* and unleashing extreme abortion bans across the country — he's even [signaled](#) that he would even be open to restricting access to birth control.
- 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.

RICK SCOTT

A 20-ft [inflatable IUD](#) will be traveling the state this week to showcase Rick Scott's recent [vote against](#) bipartisan legislation to protect access to contraception. Last week, Scott went even further — [voting against](#) legislation to protect IVF treatment.

Rick Scott is fully behind Florida's abortion ban and will continue his dangerous push to rip away women's rights to make their own personal medical decisions.

- Rick Scott is fully behind Florida's abortion ban: "[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.](#)"
- Now Scott wants to enact a [national](#) abortion ban and block federal protections for [contraception](#) and [IVF](#).

- That's why Scott received an [A+ rating](#) from an extreme anti-choice group that wants to ban IVF and contraception.
- Scott's extreme anti-abortion record is deeply unpopular — [nearly 70 percent](#) of whom support reproductive freedom.

Rick Scott's self-serving agenda would be a disaster for working families.

- June marks two years since Scott [doubled down](#) on his disastrous [Plan to Rescue America](#).
- Scott's plan would put Social Security and Medicare on the chopping block and [raise taxes](#) on [40 percent](#) of Floridians, including working families and active duty military personnel.
- Scott's plan to end Social Security and Medicare is so toxic, even Mitch McConnell calls it a "[bad idea](#)."
- Scott is corrupt and out-of-touch — he made millions defrauding Medicare and now wants to take away seniors' hard-earned benefits and raise taxes on everyday Floridians.

Support Democratic Efforts

Please support our efforts. <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/youareastar>

To support a Democratic candidate or cause, click here. <https://secure.actblue.com/> There is a search feature.

Volunteer Opportunities

We need to people to phone bank and have additional door to door opportunities. We are also looking for volunteers in the following areas:

Community Outreach

- Data
- Voter Outreach
- Voter Protection including poll volunteers
- Legislative Watch



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.

Sign Up for Vote by Mail



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!**

The state has a new 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>

Register 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>

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](#)

Children Learn about Farming

Come join the fun! Bring your children/grandchildren to learn about from where their food comes. Sign up on line. Details are in the ad. Sponsorships are also being solicited. Bring a child and sponsor a child. Contact Katina Stevens at kstephens.scif@gmail.com about helping a needy child learn about farming.



Events Outside Sumter County

Florida Youth Summit July 12-13th

College Dems, High School Dems, and FL Young Dems will be hosting the inaugural Youth Summit in Orlando, Florida on July 12th and 13th. This event marks a significant milestone for our party as we come together to empower and engage the next generation of Democratic leaders.

The Youth Summit will feature a series of workshops, panel discussions, and networking opportunities designed to inspire and equip young Democrats with the tools and knowledge they need to drive meaningful change in their communities.

Event Details:

Date: July 12-13, 2024

Location: Grand Avenue Neighborhood Center, Orlando, FL

Agenda: Workshops, panel discussions, networking sessions, and keynote speeches

It's free for students, so if you know students or young future leaders who needs to attend, they can RSVP here. https://www.mobilize.us/flcollegedems/event/618147/?referring_vol=6401164&share_context=dashboard-event-details&sharer_role=SharerRole.ORGANIZER

If they need a travel stipend to get to the event, they can apply https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScGSdSxm4K5PRWIYK3f3m6c6HOO_CJsg9FReuL5XYi3d4rmcg/viewform

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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 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: Mondays 1-4PM, Wednesdays 9 AM- noon, Friday 1-4 PM, Saturdays 10AM to 1PM

Email: info@sumterfldemocrats.com Webpage: [SumterFLDemocrats.com](https://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.



June 23 [Murder Mystery Fundraiser](#), sold out

June 24 [Sumter County Democrats Monthly Business Meeting](#), headquarters, 4PM, come check us out.

June 27 [Debate Party](#), see above

July 3 [Happy Birthday, America](#), Wildwood, see above

July 11 [Monthly Meeting of the LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus of the Nature Coast](#), Marker 48, 5:30 PM, just prior to the start of our Pride Event. Note: there will be no Zoom option available for this meeting.

2024 Election Dates

July 5 [Overseas ballots](#) mailed for primary election

July 18 Vote by Mail domestic ballots start getting mailed for primary election

July 22 Book Closes, last day to register to vote for the August primary

August 8 Last day to request Vote by Mail ballot to be mailed

August 9 Last Day to pick-up a Vote-By-Mail Ballot, without an Emergency Affidavit

August 10 – 17 Early Voting, Primary 9 AM - 6 PM, Voters can vote at any Early Voting Location

August 20 Election Day, Primary 7 AM - 7 PM, Voters must vote at their Assigned Precinct

September 20 Overseas ballots mailed for general election

October 3 Vote by Mail domestic ballots start getting mailed for general election

October 22 - November 2 Early Voting, General Election 9 AM - 6 PM, Voters can vote at any Early Voting Location

November 5, Election Day, General Election 7 AM - 7 PM, Voters must vote at their Assigned Precinct

The weekly newsletter of the Sumter County Democrats comes out every Thursday at 10 PM via email. It is also posted on our website. Want to sign up for the newsletter? Click here. <https://sumterfldemocrats.com/>
The sign up is at the bottom of the page.

Have a comment or suggestion about this newsletter? Email Laura Goudreau, editor,
at dems_newsletter@sumterfldemocrats.com

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