



Newsletter

June 27, 2024

Help Protect Our Elections!

The Democratic Executive Committee of Sumter County is looking for volunteers to serve as **Poll Watchers (inside)** and **Poll Observers (outside)** for the upcoming **August election** in Sumter County. As a poll volunteer, you watch and make sure voters are able to vote. Both jobs are primarily sitting. Don't worry! Not many problems have occurred in the past, and we are doing a lot to keep issues from happening. Your presence, also acting as a deterrence, will help tremendously.



In person training have been scheduled for July 8, 11, 16, 20 and will take place at our headquarters. We are also planning to video tape the training.

Early voting will be from Saturday, August 10th through Saturday, August 17th, and August Election Day is Tuesday, August 20th. Shifts during Early Voting are 3 hours long, and on Election Day, they are 4 hours long. So far, we have about 25% 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 have automated 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.

Need help with scheduling? Contact Cathie Hardy, chardy2491@gmail.com or call 352-633-7889.

Have a question about training or other voter protection issues? Contact Laura Goudreau, lauragoudreau@gmail.com or call 770 864-0184.

If you want to be a Poll Watcher (inside) for the August election, the last day for signing up and picking shifts is Thursday, July 20. To get what shift and location you want, sign up today!

Upcoming Elections

The Democratic sample ballot for the August election is available here.

<https://www.sumterelections.org/Portals/Sumter/Documents/2024%20Contents/Democratic%20Sample%20Ballot.pdf?ver=duKk5hoF-sM7sA-u9eREIQ%3d%3d>

To find out more about local candidates, 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 including judges.

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.

Murder Mystery Fundraiser

Over 80 people attended the sold out and very fun Murder Mystery event last Sunday. Over \$8,000 was raised to support our cause. Hats off to the incredible and creative Fundraising Committee for their efforts.



Check Out Our Windows at Headquarters

Thank you to the Messaging Committee for making this happen.



Sumter GOP State Rep. John Temple and State Sen. Blaise Ingoglia Earned 'F' Report Cards on Key Legislative Issues

Public-interest organizations, Progress Florida and Florida Watch graded each state legislator based on their voting record on issues that matter most to everyday Floridians: health, reproductive freedom, the economy, public schools, housing affordability, climate change, equality, ethics in government, gun safety, and more.

Here are the results for Sumter County's State Sen. Blaise Ingoglia, District 11:

<https://floridareportcard.com/legislator/blaise-ingoglia/>

Here are the results for Sumter County's State Rep, John Temple, District 52:

<https://floridareportcard.com/legislator/john-paul-temple/>

Make a Difference

If you are able, we really need more than just your vote this year. Do you want to wake up after the election and say, "I wished I had done more"? Not able to volunteer? Please donate.



Phone Banking

Sumter County Democrats are currently calling Democratic voters to sign up for Vote by Mail. We are building our team to be ready for November. All calls can be made from your home and not with your phone number. It is easy, and we will train you. This activity is perfect for someone with mobility problems or wants to work from home. Interested or want more information, call Julian Timoner at 203 909-0384.

Work in Our Office

We are looking for volunteers to help staff the office. It's enjoyable work. You will be helping citizens understand how to register to vote, sign-up for Vote by Mail, provide and collect signed petitions and support projects designed to increase the election success of Democrats. You will meet many like-minded people and as a new Staffer, you will always be teamed with an experienced staff member.

If you are interested, please contact Rick Jilleba who coordinates the staffing: rjilleba1@comcast.net.

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>



Day of Action

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>

Other Volunteer Opportunities

We are also looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- Community Outreach
- Data
- Voter Outreach
- 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.

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.

Your Local Democratic Candidates



Barbie Harden Hall, Congress
<https://barbieforcongress.com/>



<https://holleranfordistrict11.com>



Ash Marwah, State
Representative
<https://ashfor52.com/>



Gloria Hayward, Sumter
Current Clerk of Circuit Court and
Comptroller
website coming soon

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.

Democrats Deliver



Florida Democratic Weekly Talking Points

June 24, 2024



SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF DOBBS DECISION

Today is the 2nd anniversary of the decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which overturned *Roe v. Wade*. The following talking points have been provided by the Democratic National Committee:

While Trump and MAGA Republicans are working to ban abortion access nationwide...

- Trump [endorsed](#) allowing states to punish and prosecute women who have an abortion and refused to rule out signing a nationwide abortion ban.
- Trump [has said it](#) over and over again: He supports a national abortion ban.
- Trump ["proudly"](#) killed *Roe v. Wade* and thinks that cruel abortion bans across the country are ["working very brilliantly"](#).
- Trump [continues](#) to take credit for overturning *Roe* and [boasts about it](#) any chance he gets.

President Biden and Vice President Harris are fighting to protect a woman's right to choose by:

- [Calling](#) on Congress to codify the protections of *Roe* into law, restoring rights women relied on for nearly 50 years.
- Strengthening [patient privacy](#) and access to [contraception](#).
- Supporting a woman's right to travel for medical care.
- [Promising](#) to veto a national abortion ban and affirming that, if given a Democratic majority in Congress, they will codify the protections of *Roe* in federal law once and for all.

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.

- Last week, Florida Democrats appeared at the Florida stops of the "[IUD Express](#)" — a 20-foot inflatable IUD — to raise awareness of growing right-wing efforts to ban contraception nationwide.
- 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.

DON'T COUNT FLORIDA OUT

Don't count Florida out.

- While Republicans are burning our state and our country to the ground, Florida Democrats are doing the real work required to take back Florida: knocking doors, listening to voters, and fielding candidates in all 168 state and congressional elections.
- This November, we're going to restore reproductive rights, legalize cannabis, defeat Rick Scott, and break the Republican supermajority — and we know that Donald Trump can't win the presidency without winning Florida.
- We're not naive about the challenges ahead, but we're building the foundation of Democratic success, not just for this cycle, but for the years and decades to come.

AFFORDABILITY

Last week, the Citizens Property Insurance board voted to seek a 14% hike on property insurance rates in Florida — the largest hike legally permitted under state law.

As we prepare for what could be an unprecedented hurricane season, Florida Republicans have left our state vulnerable to both natural and economic disaster.

- Last week, the Citizens Property Insurance board voted to seek a 14% hike on property insurance rates in Florida — the largest hike legally permitted under state law.
 - According to the [Miami Herald](#), the board seeking the rate hike "is made up of lawyers and business executives appointed by Gov. Ron DeSantis, Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis and the Republican leaders of the Legislature."
- Last year, [insurance experts warned](#) that a direct hit from a major hurricane could bankrupt Citizens, the state-run property insurance company that currently holds [three times](#) as many policies as it's designed to safely manage.
 - Florida's property insurance rates increased 125% from 2018 to 2023, bringing our costs to [four times the national average](#).
 - The property insurance crisis doesn't just affect homeowners — landlords are passing down higher premiums to renters through rent hikes and increased fees.
 - When asked about solutions to the property insurance crisis last year, [Ron asked Floridians to "knock on wood"](#) and hope that a hurricane would not hit Florida.
 - As the property insurance crisis rages in Florida, Citizens still holds nearly three times as many policies as [experts consider viable](#) in a crisis.

- While South Florida was literally underwater, Ron [vetoed](#) millions of dollars in projects earmarked to improve stormwater, flooding, and drainage systems across the state.
- While Florida is suffering from [life-threatening heat](#) and preparing for the worst storm season of our lives, Ron is wiping climate change from state statute, [stripping protections](#) from workers, and deregulating gas pipelines that can pollute our environment.

RICK SCOTT

This week marks two years since Rick Scott [celebrated](#) the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade, which ripped away women's right to make their own personal medical decisions.

Rick Scott celebrated Roe's downfall and says the dangerous state-level abortion laws enacted in its wake are "[exactly what ought to happen.](#)"

- 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.](#)"
- On the day Florida's ban took effect, Scott said he would sign "[any](#)" anti-abortion legislation.
- Now Scott wants to enact a [national](#) abortion ban and has blocked federal protections for [contraception](#) and [IVF](#).
- 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.

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.sclf@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

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](#)

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.sumterelections.org/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

Office is closed July 3, 5, and 6.

Email: info@sumterFLDemocrats.com Webpage: 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.

July 3 Happy Birthday, America, Wildwood, see above

July 10 Democratic Breakfast, 9 AM, Panera Bread at Lake Sumter Landing, RSVP Susan Houston: houdem93@gmail.com, sponsored by the Villages Democratic Club

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.

July 17 Democratic Lunch, noon, Bonifay County Club, Bonifay Country Club, 1033 Pinellas Place, RSVP Susan Houston: houdem93@gmail.com, sponsored by the Villages Democratic Club

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

PAID FOR AND AUTHORIZED BY THE SUMTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND NOT AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE.