



Newsletter

June 6, 2024

Pride Party



For more information and to sign up <https://www.mobilize.us/sumtercountydec/event/625625/>

Help Wanted



The Sumter Democratic Executive Committee is looking to replace their long-time treasurer as he is moving to be closer to his grandchildren. While bookkeeping and accounting would be helpful, being organized and dependable are the most important qualities. We expect that this would take a few hours per week. If you don't want to canvass or make calls, this may be for you!

If you are interested or need more information, please contact the Sumter DEC at info@sumterfdemocrats.com

Sumter Democrats at Work



Voter Registration postcards were sent to potential voters in Florida counties without organized leadership.

What You Need to Know about Health Care and the 2024 Election

Trump Will Increase Health Care Costs, Eliminate Protections for Nearly Every American



President Biden and Vice President Harris are protecting and strengthening the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to cover more Americans and reduce health care costs for working families. And, they are lowering the cost of prescription drugs. Even though Americans have been reliant on the ACA for over a decade, Donald Trump would repeal it and raise prescription drug costs. Trump spent four years trying to sabotage the ACA and was one vote away from repealing it.

TRUMP SIDES WITH BIG PHARMA AND HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES TO INCREASE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND HEALTH CARE COSTS FOR THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS:

- **More than 100 million Americans with pre-existing conditions could be denied coverage or charged thousands of dollars more** for health insurance coverage, such as \$4,300 for asthma and \$143,000 for metastatic cancer.
- **Millions of Americans relying on coverage from the ACA marketplace will have to pay thousands of dollars more each year.** A middle-class family could face over \$13,000 more in annual premium costs. And, patients could be charged full, out-of-pocket costs for basic services like mammograms and mental health visits.
- **150 million people will no longer be guaranteed free cancer** screenings, annual check-ups, cholesterol tests, and other preventive care services. And, more than 58 million women would be at risk of losing access to free birth control.
- **Prescription drugs will skyrocket by hundreds of dollars more each year for tens of millions of seniors** as Trump allows drug companies to charge as much as they want. Trump's allies are planning to repeal President Biden's annual cap of \$2,000 on prescription drugs for seniors and his \$35 monthly cap on insulin. While Big Pharma only pays \$13 to make and package insulin, they will be able to raise the cost back to \$400 per month.

TRUMP WILL KICK PEOPLE OFF THEIR INSURANCE:

Over 45 million Americans benefiting from the ACA marketplace insurance and Medicaid expansion could lose their coverage.

- **67 million seniors and people with disabilities could lose the Medicare benefits they rely on**, as Trump says there's "a lot you can do . . . in terms of cutting [Medicare]."
- **Young adults up to age 26 could be kicked off their parent's health care plan.**
- **Black, Latino, AANHPI, and Native American uninsurance rates would skyrocket**, increasing by 84% for Black people, 41% for Latinos, 76% for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and 75% for American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- **Millions of people could lose access to mental health care** or substance use treatment.
- **More of the over 500 rural hospitals at risk of closure could close** without Medicaid expansion.

PRESIDENT BIDEN AND VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS ARE LOWERING COSTS AND EXPANDING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE:

No American should be forced to choose between the health care they need and food or housing. President Biden and Vice President Harris are:

- ✓ **Lowering prescription drug costs.** They capped insulin at \$35 a month and yearly out-of-pocket prescription drug costs at \$2,000 for seniors—now they are fighting to cap them for *all* Americans.
- ✓ **Lowering health insurance premiums to save millions of Americans \$800 per year.** Now, they are fighting to make these savings permanent.

- ✓ **Getting more people health coverage than under any other President**, driving record low uninsurance rates and a record 21 million people enrolling in ACA marketplaces this year. Black and Latino Americans have seen particularly large increases in coverage.
- ✓ **Preventing one million surprise medical bills every month.**
- ✓ **Fighting to protect and strengthen Medicare** by requiring the ultra-wealthy to pay their fair share and negotiating lower drug prices with Big Pharma.
- ✓ **Expanding access to mental health care, including by requiring expanded coverage by insurers**—and fighting to ensure the 150 million Americans with private health insurance can access the mental health and substance use disorder benefits they need, as easily as other health care services.
- ✓ **Strengthening access to reproductive health care**, including by taking executive action to improve contraception access and affordability.



Are you a health care provider or patient who wants to updates and ways to engage with the Biden Harris campaign? Click here. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf2-uKEtuF5ap1owS_Ai3CijGi5gkTP7St3TXL9vPWaZfMyNA/viewform

Villages Democratic Club

Our June 8 speaker: Immigration law expert Elizabeth Ricci



In addition to litigation, she has been an expert witness in major court cases and has been interviewed on MSNBC, CNN, CBS, and Fox and has been quoted in The New York Times, Wall Street Journal and Washington Post.

Watch her story here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPf0FJX8zBo>

Her focus at our meeting will be:

- What we are missing in the immigration debate.
- Fact-checking Republican claims. -- Dangerous rhetoric about immigrants.
- Florida's anti-immigrant agenda.
- The importance of immigrants to Florida's economy and the nation's.

Colony Cottage Recreation Center,
10 a.m., Saturday, June 8.

Club director at-large Eric Lipsetts will address the membership on the Trump threat -- and what we must do to ensure his defeat.

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.

Day of Action



Our next **Day of Action** Volunteer Door-to-Door Canvassing is **Saturday, June 15**, 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>

Upcoming Elections

Local candidates are beginning to qualify for the August and November ballots. Want to know who has prefiled or qualified so far? Click here. https://www.voterfocus.com/CampaignFinance/candidate_pr.php?c=sumter

Candidate Qualifying for Constitutional Officers, County, Cities, & Special Districts finalizes June 10-14, so we will know who is on the August primary ballot after that. Want to know the dates when Vote by Mail ballots are being mailed? Go to the calendar at the end of this newsletter.

Your Local Democratic Candidates



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



<https://holleranfordistrict11.com/>



Ash Marwah, State Representative

<https://ashfor52.com/>

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](#)

Florida Democratic Weekly Talking Points

June 3, 2024



TRUMP VERDICT

On Thursday, May 30, a New York jury found former President Donald Trump guilty on 34 counts of falsifying business records.

Nobody is above the law — even presidents.

- Donald Trump is the greatest threat to our democracy ever.
- The verdict shows us that no one is above the law, not even the President of the United States.
- No one has politicized the legal process more than Republicans who lined up in court with Donald Trump. The Republican Party is no longer the party of law and order. It's Democrats who stand for freedom, democracy and the rule of law.
- Donald Trump is running to serve himself and pardon his crimes. He has told us exactly what he'll do as President:
 - He'll be a dictator on day one and he won't give it up on day two
 - He'll sign a national abortion ban
 - He'll give tax cuts to the rich while Floridians pay the price
 - And he'll run the largest deportation program in history
- President Biden is fighting to protect democracy, lower costs and create jobs and opportunities for every American.
- While the future is uncertain, this verdict has not changed our plan.
- Florida Democrats will continue to work every day to reach voters across the political spectrum – Republican, Democrat or Independent who believes in the rule of law and protecting the promise of this country.
- In November, voters will reject extremism and send President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris back to the White House.

The following talking points are provided by the Biden-Harris campaign:

- In New York, we saw that no one is above the law.
- Convicted felon or not, Trump will be the Republican nominee for president, and the only way to beat him is at the ballot box.
- Here's the choice:
 - Joe Biden is fighting for our freedom and democracy, lowering costs for families, creating more opportunity for everyone.
 - Donald Trump grows more unhinged and dangerous by the day as he continues his campaign of revenge and retribution – running to serve himself with no care for who he hurts in the process.
- The stakes have never been higher – democracy, personal rights and freedoms, and the future of our economy are all on the line.
- Our campaign is going to spend the next 5 months continuing to make that case to the American people.

HURRICANE SEASON

Saturday, June 1 was the first day of Hurricane Season.

While our property insurance crisis rages, Florida is facing what could be one of the busiest hurricane seasons in history.

- 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 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.

- In the 2023 budget, Ron [vetoed](#) over \$13 million in projects earmarked to improve stormwater, flooding, and drainage systems across the state — including over \$1 million in areas heavily impacted by Hurricane Idalia.
- 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.

PRIDE MONTH

Saturday, June 1 was the first day of Pride Month.

The Florida Democratic Party stands with the LGBTQ+ community and will continue to fight tirelessly for the rights of queer and trans people.

- Over the last year, many of Florida Republicans' most extreme anti-LGBTQ+ measures — including bans on drag queens and the expanded “don't say gay” law — were [overturned](#) by the courts.
- Even still, Ron's extreme policies still shape Florida today — from bans on books and rainbow lights on bridges to restrictions on gender affirming care for both children and adults.
- Florida Democrats are proud to support legislation protecting and honoring the LGBTQ+ community — including sponsoring the first pro-LGBTQ+ bill passed in recent memory, [HB 159](#), which will provide expanded access to HIV prevention medication.
- While Florida Republicans continue to target queer and trans people to score political points, Florida Democrats will continue to fight back against all forms of government interference and discrimination.

ABORTION

Women in Florida 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.
- [New 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 — last week, he [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.

MARCO RUBIO

In an interview with Fox News last week, [Marco Rubio](#) compared the United States judicial system to a trials in a communist dictatorship like Cuba

TOPLINE: Marco's comments are an insult to democracy and to the legitimate institutions of our nation.

- Comparing the United States judicial system to trials in an authoritarian country like Cuba, where the courts serve the regime, is offensive to the Cuban American community.
- Republicans continue to use the pain of the Cubans in exile and the Cuban people who do not have legal and fair representation in their country.
- Instead of playing political games with people's pain, Marco and the rest of the Republican Party should be focused on ways to make things better in Florida.

RICK SCOTT

Rick Scott has officially [launched](#) his bid to be the next Senate Republican Leader. Florida is ground zero in the fight for control of the Senate and now, the stakes are even higher.

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

- Last week, Scott threw a tantrum and [vowed](#) to block all legislation and nominations in the Senate. He's focused on partisan games and his bid for Republican leader at the expense of Floridians.
- As GOP leader, Scott would enact a national abortion ban, slash Social Security and Medicare, and raise taxes on working families while cutting taxes for corporations and the wealthy like himself.
 - Scott [supports](#) a national abortion ban and says he would support "[any](#)" anti-choice bill.
 - Scott's signature plan to sunset Social Security and Medicare would spike costs for seniors and families and rip away hard-earned benefits.
 - Scott's plan would raise taxes on the middle class while lowering taxes for corporations and the wealthy, like himself.

Rick Scott is fully behind Florida's abortion ban.

- Now that the ban is in effect, Floridians are living under one of the most extreme abortion bans in the country.
- Rick Scott is running from his support for the ban, but [take his own word for it](#) — he would've signed the bill into law himself: "[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.](#)"
- In May, Scott [pledged](#) to "[sign any anti-abortion bill.](#)"
- Last week, Scott received an [A+ rating](#) from an extreme anti-choice group that wants to ban IVF and contraception.
- Rick Scott is hiding because his extreme anti-abortion agenda is at odds with Floridians, [nearly 70 percent](#) of whom support reproductive freedom.

Events Outside Sumter County

Black Caucus 41st Annual Conference and Gala

The Democratic Black Caucus of Florida (DBCF) invites you to join us for our 41st Annual Conference and Gala. We have an amazing weekend created to make sure that we have the tools, plan and team to make sure that "Democracy Does Not Die on Our Watch!" Justin J. Pearson and Justin Jones, both well known for being part of the Tennessee Three, will be the keynote speaker and special guest respectively on June 8 at 6:30 PM at the Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Florida.

The DBCF will host two new notable events at its 41st Conference, our Faith-Based Leadership Candidate and Black Media Strategic Mini Summit Luncheon and our Candidate Extravaganza. This will be a three panel luncheon where each group will have the opportunity to connect, share ideas, and most importantly unite purpose, process and engagement so that we can make sure "Democracy Does Not Die on Our Watch." During the Candidate Extravaganza Democratic candidates from across the entire state of Florida will have the opportunity to share their platform. Join us on June 8th and help us to save Democracy! Click on the link below or contact J. Lewis-Daggs at 448-488-4042 for more information and special packages.

Click here for more information. <https://www.dbcflorida.org/41st-annual-conference>

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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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 16 Pride Day, see above

June 19 Democratic Lunch, noon, Havana Country Club, 2484 Odell Circle, The Villages, RSVP Dennis Foley: dfdf4242@att.net, sponsored by The Villages Democratic Club

June 23 Murder Mystery Fundraiser, sold out

July 4 Happy Birthday, America, Wildwood, more details to come

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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