



Newsletter

July 4, 2024

Happy Birthday, America



Thank you to our volunteers and to those who stopped by to see us at the Happy Birthday, America celebration on July 3rd in Wildwood.

Jubilant July: Blue Crew Blitz, Sponsored by the Villages Democratic Club



Never fear, the Blue Crew will be here, there, and everywhere next month, starting **Friday, July 5**, at **Sumter Landing**.

To beat some of the heat, we'll gather at 6 p.m., though music from the **5.0.1. Band** begins at 5.

Look for a chair with a blue balloon flying, surrounded by folks wearing blue..

No Villages ID required.

R.S.V.P. to Club Director Bill Knudson: bill.knudson@yahoo.com

Blue Crew will be happening every week in July. See the calendar at the end of this newsletter for additional dates and locations.

Debate Party

About 60 Democrats gathered Thursday to watch the presidential debate, an event co-hosted by the Villages Democratic Club and Sumter County Democratic Executive Committee.

Party Chair Bob Berg's take: "Great night with fellow Dems at the debate watch party in Sumter Democratic HQ. Expected and received a bit of a mud- wrestling contest. Fact remains that one



candidate wants women to be able to make their own health care decisions and the other doesn't. One is running a

campaign to protect voting rights and the other taking these rights away. One is for the promise of a better future together and the other for anger and retribution. Now is the time to get involved as we need your help to secure our democracy."

FDP and Labor Weekend of Action

This weekend the Florida Democratic Party launched our first, of what will be many, organizing days of action with key Labor groups by hosting a statewide kickoff for our 2024 grassroots voter registration campaign. Democratic members of the Central Labor Councils including AFL-CIO, SEIU, Classroom Teachers, and Teamsters, met with local DEC representatives in Leon, Duval, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Orange, Broward, and Miami-Dade connecting over 100 grassroots organizers, activists, and volunteers.



These events were made even more special with the addition of Florida Democratic Party Chair Nikki Fried, FDP Co-Chair for Labor Outreach and EVP of SEIU1199 Roxey Nelson, President of the Florida Democratic Labor Caucus Patricia Farley and former Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis joining to provide words of inspiration and encouragement as we continue to center the issues of working people and labor within the Democratic Party outreach programs.

Want to get involved in upcoming Democratic Labor actions? Email kris@floridadems.org to get connected to our Democratic Labor Caucus chapters.

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.

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.

Come hear State Senate Candidate Marilyn Holleran and State Representative Candidate Ash Marwah

You'll also hear a call to action from Sumter County Democratic Party leaders

You could help from now until November by:

-- Signing up for shifts as a poll watcher or observer during Early Voting and on Election Day. (See below for link)

- Going door-to-door to encourage Vote-By-Mail applications.
- Making phone calls to voters from your home.
- Helping with texting campaigns around the state from your home.

These methods will be explained, training offered, and your questions answered.

It's time for all hands on deck.

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.

Make a Difference

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.



In person trainings 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 30% 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!

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.

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/>



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.

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

Donate

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

Other Volunteer Opportunities

We are also looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- Data
- Voter Outreach

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

Florida Democratic Weekly Talking Points

July 1, 2024



FIRST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Last Thursday, the first 2024 Presidential Debate between President Biden and former President Donald Trump took place.

This election isn't about a 90-minute debate — it's about the last three years of President Biden's record and his lifetime of public service.

- President Biden's debate performance is not a reflection of the kind of president that he is or a representation of his record.
- According to research conducted during the debate, the more voters heard from Donald Trump, the more they remembered why they dislike him.
 - More than 3 out of every 4 undecided voters left with deep concerns about Donald Trump's temperament.
 - A [Univision focus group](#) of undecided Latino voters left the debate almost 100% behind President Biden.
 - Trump lost on the issues. Voters said that President Biden better addressed the issues they care about during the debate by a 3-1 margin.
- Trump [lied 50 times](#) during the debate and spent the night attacking our rights and freedoms:
 - He refused to answer whether he would accept the results of the election.
 - He downplayed the January 6th insurrection and his role in inciting it.
 - He repeatedly attacked veterans.
 - He defended plans to cut taxes for the wealthy at the expense of the middle class.
 - He called overturning *Roe v. Wade* a "great thing."
- President Biden rebounded with a fiery [speech](#) at a North Carolina rally on Friday, reminding voters he is the only candidate in the race who "knows how to tell the truth."
- This election provides a clear choice — President Biden, who will protect our democracy, safeguard our fundamental freedoms, and ensure everyone has a fair shot, or Donald Trump, a convicted felon and a clear threat to our democracy.
- Florida Democrats will do everything possible to make that choice clear between now and November.

BILLS GOING INTO EFFECT TODAY

Many of the past legislative session's bills go into effect today, including [a bill](#) that strikes all mention of the words "Climate Change" from state statute, a bill that preempted local heat regulations, and a bill that weakens state ethics laws

Ron campaigned on protecting Florida's environment, but is quickly becoming the most anti-environment governor in recent memory.

- In 2019, Ron wrote an [op-ed](#) for the Miami Herald where he vowed to keep his campaign promises, including "prioritizing environmental issues."
- Now, Ron is wiping climate change from state statute, ignoring the extreme heat while [stripping protections](#) from workers, and deregulating gas pipelines that can pollute our environment.
- This comes on the heels of Ron's Department of Environmental Protection giving [preliminary approval](#) for exploratory drilling in the Apalachicola River floodplain.
- For decades, protecting the environment has been a bipartisan issue in Florida — but Florida Republicans are quickly letting base politics and business interests take priority over common-sense policy ideas.

Ron and Florida Republicans are undermining Florida ethics law to keep themselves from being held accountable.

- Just last year, the Florida Democratic Party [filed ethics complaints](#) against members of the Executive Office of the Governor — complaints that will not be allowed under Ron's new law.
- The new ethics law guts the power of local ethics commissions and prevents anonymous whistleblowers from coming forward.
- Florida Republicans continue to show us how corrupt they really are — and now they're making sure they can keep getting away with it.

FLORIDA BUDGET

Last month, 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.

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, the Supreme Court ruled that an Idaho law violated the Emergency Medical Labor and Treatment Act, and required that pregnant patients be given medical care before reaching a near fatal
- 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

Last week marked 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.

- Scott's disastrous [Plan to Rescue America](#) 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.

PRESIDENTIAL IMMUNITY

Following today's Supreme Court Ruling: *Trump v. United States*, the Biden-Harris campaign provided the following talking points:

- Today's ruling is unprecedented and dangerous.
- The conservative justices on the Supreme Court – three of whom are there because of Donald Trump – removed one of the last remaining checks as Trump pursues his path to a dictatorship.
- The conservative justices have made it even easier for Trump to do exactly what he is saying he wants to do:
 - Rule as a dictator on "day one"
 - "Termination" of the Constitution
 - Replace civil servants with Trump loyalists
 - Weaponize the government against its own citizens and his political enemies
- The stakes were high before today, and they are even higher now. Our very democracy is on the line.
- The American people deserve a president who fights for them, not a "king above the law."
- We can stop Donald Trump's self-obsessed quest for power once and for all at the ballot box – by reelecting Joe Biden and Kamala Harris this November.

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 at 352 569-1540. 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](#)

Overseas Voters



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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Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/sumterflyoungdems/>

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

July 10 Blue Crew Democratic Gathering, Brownwood Square, 6PM, 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

July 18 Blue Crew Democratic Gathering, Spanish Springs, 6PM, sponsored by the Villages Democratic Club

July 24 Blue Crew Democratic Gathering, Sawgrass Grove, 6PM, 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

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