



FROM THE MANATEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

August 2023

Voter Registration Rally Will Energize Manatee Dems

By Wil Clapper

Manatee County Democrats (MCDP) will stage a voter registration rally on Saturday, August 26, 10 a.m., at G.T. Bray Park, Bradenton. MCDP is participating in a state-wide effort to get registration forms in the hands of unregistered voters who lean Democratic.



The rally will be an opportunity to meet candidates for office, pump up the Democratic spirit and participate in voter registration literature drops. For more information, contact info@manateecountydemocrats.com.

The rally is a local effort to counter the repressive provisions of SB 7050 that went into effect July 1. Bottom line, MCDP, the Florida Democratic Party (FDP), Indivisible Manatee and other entities are no longer allowed to serve as third party voter registration organizations (3PVRO).

The new law means that organizations cannot collect voter registration forms from individuals and turn them over to the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) office. But the law does not contain any restrictions on organizations assisting individuals who wish to register.

To continue registering voters, MCDP and FDP recommend using electronic devices to register voters through the online application form on the SOE website. This workaround requires no receipt, protects volunteers from penalties and no applicant information is retained.

Listen to Vice President Harris' Speech

Hear the entire exhilarating speech from Vice President Kamala Harris,



delivered in Jacksonville two days after the Florida Board of Education approved a revised Black history curriculum to satisfy legislation signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

[Watch It Here](#)

AMI/WM Longtime member Francine Slack Passes

Francine Slack, 85, long standing member of the **Anna Maria Island and West Manatee Democratic Club**, passed away June 19. She served as an AMI/WM board member and in various leadership positions.



Barbara Ehren, AMI/WM president, remembered her friend and colleague: “She was passionate about democracy and put her actions where her heart was. Francine was the friendly face you saw at the welcome table when you came to the AMI/WM Democratic Club meetings.”

Francine was originally from New York and settled in Manatee County in the 1980s. She was a volunteer at Manatee County Democratic headquarters and a member of the Democratic Women’s Club. She volunteered at Turning Point, the Humane Society and the Audubon Society. She was also a member of the League of Women Voters.

“We were so fortunate to have her many contributions,” Ehren said.

Farm Worker Dies While Hispanic Advocacy Groups Protest Immigration Reforms

By Diana Hines

Hispanic advocacy groups and human rights organizations have filed suit against Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Florida Legislature after new immigrant laws went into effect July 1 that they say unfairly target hard-working, undocumented immigrants toiling for substandard

wages.



In the meantime, one of those workers, a 29-year-old man, died while working in extreme heat in the fruit fields of Homestead.

According to the [Miami Herald](#), Efraín López García was from a small town in Guatemala and had migrated eight years ago with his brother and cousin, all of whom became farm workers in south Florida. On July 6—when the heat index topped 100 degrees for the 16th day in a row—López García told his cousin and co-workers he did not feel well. They led him to shade and told him to rest, but when they returned, López García was several yards away, lying on his stomach. He had succumbed to heat stroke.

The deaths of López García and other undocumented laborers often go undercounted and unreported, according to local advocacy groups. Groups such as [WeCount](#), the [Hispanic Federation](#) and [Farmworkers Association of Florida](#) are pushing for legislation to give workers who labor outside in extreme heat basic assurances of adequate water, shade and rest breaks.

Such efforts join broader coalitions challenging the constitutionality of Gov. Ron DeSantis' recent legislation (SB 1718), which, among other provisions, punishes companies for hiring undocumented workers. [The Southern Poverty Law Center](#), the [ACLU of Florida](#), [Americans for Immigrant Justice](#) and [American Immigration Council](#) filed a federal lawsuit challenging the extreme overreach of the new law.

Their lawsuit focuses on what they charge is an “extreme act of state government overreach aimed at inciting fear and criminalizing immigrant communities... We will stand with the Constitution to affirm the rights of our communities in hopes of redirecting Florida toward a better future.”

While such a move comes too late for López García, perhaps it will lead to a more humane direction for immigration reform in the future.

Become an Active Democrat: Step Up and Volunteer

The Manatee Dems have many volunteer opportunities available this month. We urge you to find an activity where you can use your expertise and passion to bring the Democratic message to the varied Manatee County communities.

[Become a Volunteer](#)

Join the fight for Equity and Inclusion

Join a club or caucus such as the Black Caucus, Hispanic Caucus, Democratic Women's Club, LGBTQ+ Caucus, Progressive Caucus or Public Education Caucus.

Join a Precinct Team

Our ability to accomplish our agenda depends upon our ability to get candidates elected. This requires strong organization at the local level. Become part of your neighborhood organization.

Join a Petition Drive

Summer provides a great opportunity to gather signatures for the reproductive rights and clean water petitions. We must get these constitutional amendments on the ballot in 2024.

Join the Virtual Phone Bank

We know that people who enroll in the Vote-by-Mail program are the most likely to vote. Virtual phone banks lead to enrollments. Phone calls can be made from home at your convenience. And you will be calling only Democrats.

Volunteer at Party Headquarters

You can answer the phone, participate in the phone bank, prepare literature packets, help volunteers and walk-ins. The office at 435 Cortez Road W is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from noon to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. People usually volunteer for two hours but any time donated is appreciated.

For more information, contact Ken Handelman at signups.mcdp@gmail.com

Or Sign Up Here

LGBTQ+ at the Ballpark

The **Manatee LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus** joined with SarasotaOUT, Project Pride, Prime Timers Sarasota and ALSO Youth during the Bradenton Marauders Pride Night at LECOM Park, July 22. Marauders executives read the caucus mission statement on the video scoreboard mid-way through the game.



County Commissioner Town Halls

Manatee County Commissioners George Kruse and Mike Rahn will host town halls

this month at Braden River and South Manatee library branches. These monthly town halls give residents an opportunity to discuss board action and ask questions on topics related to the county.

Commissioner Kruse Town Hall – August 16, 6 to 8 p.m. Braden River Branch.

Commissioner Rahn Town Hall – August 16, 6:30 to 8 p.m. South Manatee Branch.



The Manatee County Democratic Party is a **100% volunteer organization**. All contributions of any size are appreciated.



Get involved! Check out the many area Democratic clubs and caucuses. Meet like-minded people at fun events!




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Manatee County Board of Commissioners

Headquarters Office

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Hours

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, Noon to 4 p.m.
Saturdays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Contact us to schedule a meeting

Visit our Website

Manatee County Democratic Party | 435 Cortez Road W, Bradenton, FL 34207

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