



## FROM THE MANATEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

**September 2023**

### **Honor 9/11: Commit to Service**

Dear Volunteers,

It's been more than two decades since 9/11. We will never forget how ordinary Americans performed extraordinary acts of heroism.

This year, it is our responsibility to join together to strengthen our community.

September 11 is a National Day of Service and Remembrance. We commemorate those whom we lost and honor the sacrifices made that day by the heroes, armed forces, first responders and others in acts of service to defend our nation's freedom. As President Joe Biden has said, "When we come together on this day, and every day, we demonstrate that even in the darkness, America remains a bright beacon of light and hope for the world."

There are many ways you can serve Manatee County. One way is to help the Manatee County Democratic Party (MCDP) in voter outreach. A fair, open, uncorrupted and easily accessible voting system is essential to the defense of our democracy. Learn more and sign up at [ManateeCountyDemocrats.com/take-action](http://ManateeCountyDemocrats.com/take-action).

Please support our efforts to transform the anniversary of 9/11 into a day of doing good. And thank you to all our volunteers for their tireless efforts to inform local residents and help ensure that they vote.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Evelyn Almodovar', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Evelyn Almodovar, Chair  
Manatee County Democratic Party

# Take Time to Verify Your Voter Registration Status

September 19 is **National Voter Registration Day** and there are active steps you can take today to ensure you are registered to vote in the 2024 elections.

1. Confirm your registration and update any information if needed at: <https://registertovoteflorida.gov/home>.
2. If you have received your ballot in the mail and prefer to continue that service, you must re-enroll in the Vote-By-Mail program. You can do that here: <https://www.votemanatee.com/Vote-By-Mail-Early-Voting/Vote-By-Mail-Ballot-Request-Online>.

Help MCDP commemorate National Voter Registration Day by distributing voter registration materials to Manatee citizens not yet registered.

Gov. DeSantis continuously attacks voting rights, and in past sessions the legislature created unprecedented obstacles to voter registration. MCDP is fighting to obtain Democrat and Dem-leaning voter registrations. Let's **Take Back Manatee** and help **Take Back Florida**!

[Details and Sign Up Here](#)

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## The BOCC Wetlands Vote Comes with Consequences

*By Diana Hines*

The Manatee County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met on August 17 to vote on a long-delayed land use issue: whether to maintain the 50-foot minimum buffer zone between wetlands and development or defer to the state's bare minimum of 15 feet.

You can become engaged in helping save our environment by joining the [Manatee Democratic Environmental Caucus](#). For more information, visit the [caucus' Facebook page](#) or contact Ruth Lawler, president of the caucus, at [ruthlawler@att.net](mailto:ruthlawler@att.net).

[Read the Full Article on Our Blog](#)

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## Caucus to Examine Reduced Wetlands Buffer Zones

Rusty Chinnis of Suncoast Waterkeepers will examine the



impact of the proposed decrease of wetland buffer requirements at the monthly **Manatee Democratic Environmental Caucus** Zoom meeting, Thursday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m.

Chinnis, board chair of the Suncoast Waterkeepers, will discuss the recent decision by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to recommend a decrease in Manatee County wetland buffer requirements. The presentation will help concerned residents understand what the BOCC decision means for Manatee County, neighboring counties and local waterways including Lake Manatee, a source of much of our drinking water.

For more information, contact Randy Miller at [eco.manateedems@gmail.com](mailto:eco.manateedems@gmail.com).

**Or Sign Up  
Here**

## Expressions Art Show Supports ALSO Youth

**ALSO YOUTH  
EXPRESSIONS  
EXHIBITION**

CALLING YOUTH ARTISTS

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 | 5-7 PM  
SARASOTA OPERA HOUSE  
61 N PINEAPPLE AVENUE SARASOTA, FL 34236

TICKETS & SPONSORSHIPS  
AVAILABLE NOW

ART SHOWCASE

BENEFITTING  
ALSO YOUTH

ALSO Youth, a local non-profit serving the LGBTQ+ youth community in Manatee and Sarasota counties, presents *Expressions Exhibition*, at the Sarasota Opera House, 61N Pineapple Ave, Sarasota, Thursday, Sept. 7, 5 to 7 p.m.

The exhibit supports LGBTQ+ youth ages 10 to 24 and their visual artworks. You can bid on original artwork during a silent auction, mingle with the artists and enjoy light bites and live music. The Manatee LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus is a Patron of the Arts sponsor of the exhibit.

**Get Your Tickets  
Here!**

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# Board Positions Give Dems a Chance to Step Up

**By Diana Hines**

Manatee County Democrats can become involved in local issues at a grassroots level and learn more about how things work in the county by volunteering for an advisory board.

The MCDP is building its bench of people who are ready to step up and make a difference in the county. Advisory board positions are often the first step for anyone interested in vying for a future elected position.

County advisory boards cover a range of topics such as affordable housing, children's services, the environment, health care, tourism, planning and development, and historical preservation. Advisory board vacancies are listed on the

**Manatee County Website  
Here**

The Manatee County School Board also has advisory boards in need of volunteers. Call the administration office, 941-708-8770 ext. 41155, for more information.

Currently, non-partisan positions are available on the School Board Audit Committee. For more information, go to <https://www.manateeschools.net/Page/4761>.

Positions also need to be filled on the School Board Citizens' Financial Oversight Committee. For more information go to <https://www.manateeschools.net/CFOC>.

In addition, local cities have various advisory boards. For information on City of Bradenton vacancies, go to <https://cityofbradenton.com/boards>.

In addition to volunteer positions on advisory committees, vacancies on elected boards will open up for the 2024 election. MCDP is prioritizing which races will make best use of the party's resources and is actively recruiting candidates for the following positions:

- School Board districts 1 and 3
- City of Bradenton mayor
- Bradenton City Council wards 1 and 5

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## Veteran Housing Project Exemplifies Manatee's Spirit of Respect and Solidarity

Manatee County Democratic Party Chair Evelyn Almodóvar wrote an opinion article for the Bradenton Herald that

takes issue with certain conservative individuals in the community. Apparently, these radical conservatives oppose the Veteran's Village project, which will provide permanent housing for veterans who find themselves in homeless situations.



**Evelyn Almodóvar**

"I believe offering safe, stable and affordable housing options is a vital step toward ensuring the well-being and dignity of our veterans," said Almodóvar. You can read her entire opinion piece:

[Here](#)

## Make Calls to Enroll Voters in Vote-By-Mail Program

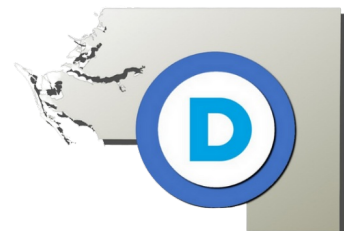


Commemorate National Day of Service by contacting voters by phone on Monday, Sept. 11, noon to 2 p.m., with important information. We are calling voters to let them know how to enroll in the Vote-By-Mail program so they are ready for the 2024 Election.

Most Manatee County residents are not aware that due to repressive Florida election law, all voters previously enrolled in Vote-By-Mail were disenrolled at the end of 2022.

Sign up and make calls to urge Manatee County residents to enroll in the Vote-By-Mail program. You can make calls from your home or at the Manatee County Democratic Party office, 435 Cortez Road W, Bradenton. Training and help will be provided.

[Sign Up Here](#)



The Manatee County Democratic Party is a **100%** **Get involved!** Check out

**volunteer organization.** All contributions of any size are appreciated.

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

**Receive our newsletter!** Was this email forwarded to you? Would you like to keep hearing from us?

**Donate Now**

**Upcoming Events**

**Sign Up**



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## Resource Links

**Florida Democratic Party**

**The Florida Channel**

**National Democratic Party**

**Manatee County Board of Commissioners**

## Headquarters Office

435 Cortez Road W, Bradenton, Florida  
34207, United States

(941) 301-4336

[info@manateecountydemocrats.com](mailto:info@manateecountydemocrats.com)



## 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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