



June 2025

Membership Meeting

Note

Monday, June 23, at 12PM

Door opens/Social time 11:30AM

Location: Clearwater East Library
2465 Drew St. on SPC campus

Speakers



Patty Cohn
1st Vice President
Democratic Women's
Club of Florida

Patty Cohn was elected during the recent state convention to serve as the 1st Vice-President of the Democratic Women's Club of Florida. She was 3rd VP (Chair of Chairs) and Chair of Region VIII, leading the clubs in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco Counties. Patty served three terms as President of the Democratic Women's Club of Hillsborough County and a decade on the Hillsborough County Democratic Executive Committee Public Relations Committee. Patty will discuss the relationship of local clubs to the state and national organizations, and the value of the cohesive society of Democratic Women's Clubs providing support for Florida Democrats and democratic values, promoting candidates for political office, and increasing voter registration and participation. Patty will be joined by Marlene Bloom, PhD, Psychologist, speaking on Staying Grounded and Resilient in these challenging times.



Caprice Edmond
Pinellas County School Board

Caprice Edmond was elected to the school board in 2020. Caprice is now campaigning for re-election. Her campaign is collecting the required number of petitions from registered voters in District 7 precincts (St Pete). (Campaign [website](#).) A lifelong resident of St. Petersburg, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Master of Elementary Education, Master of Educational Leadership, and Certification in Infant Family Mental Health from the University of South Florida. She was a teacher and science coach in Pinellas County in Title I and Transformation Zone Schools. Edmond has been Vice Chair on Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) Equity Committee and served as an officer on FSBA's Board of Directors. She is the appointed representative for Pinellas on FSBA's Advocacy Committees, federal and state. She is the Chair of FSBA's Equity Committee and President of the Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards.

June 14 Day of Action

NO KINGS is a national day of action and mass mobilization in response to authoritarian excesses and corruption from Trump and his allies. See the **details in this newsletter for Pinellas protest locations and times.**

DWCUP President's Remarks



We are the Resistance. We are women and men, Democrats, Independents, and disillusioned Republicans. We are the people who are aware of their ability and their role to save this country from the worst despotism ever in American history.

The Republican party has abdicated its responsibility to act in the best interests of the American people, which is the job of all elected officials. It's not just the bully on top, who rules with threats based on money and power. None of the elected Rs will stand up to their leader to point out blatantly illegal and unconstitutional actions. Instead, they're enablers of the most corrupt, undemocratic presidency in history. The courts are slow, ineffective, and also filled with many of the maga cohort.

That leaves it to the rest of us to say, "NO MORE!" Every day, another presidential edict or bloviation or post damages the fabric of our country. And the Big Ugly Bill is in the Senate now, awaiting disposition. Its goal is to enrich the top financial tier by slashing the benefits of the poor and struggling--just let them die. Yes, their colors are showing—callous, inhumane, selfish, un-American.

Plan to come out on June 14th, the nationwide NO KINGS day. Come to Largo Central Park from 9-12 and/or the corner of 580 and Curlew from 12-2. I plan to do both and need to think about verbiage for my sign. What do you want to say? How much pain and misery are We The People supposed to endure? We say No Kings, No Despots, No Tyrants, No Megalomaniacs.

And take care of yourselves and your loved ones. Self-care is a priority when you feel personal progress is blocked in every direction. Stay engaged with those who give you support and nurturing. Do something positive for someone without them even asking. When you do good, you feel good.

Join us on June 23rd. We'll talk about keeping on no matter how hard it is. We will start a new postcard project soon. Go and buy a roll of postcard stamps before July 13th when the price rises again. Use the 5calls app daily to let our representatives know our positions. We are already gearing up for the crucial Midterm elections, which may provide some relief to our nation.

And, thinking ahead, during the second half of 2025 the DWCUP will nominate and elect club officers—President, 1st VP (meeting & speaker planning), 2nd VP (membership), Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Regional Representative (participate in DWCF region meetings). We need your help! If you are interested, we provide mentorship and assistance at all levels.

Let us continue working together to save the USA. Our mission is nothing less than that!

DWCUP Mourns Janet Goen



It is with great sadness that we observe the passing of one of our former leaders. Janet Goen lived a life of service to the ideals and goals of the Democratic party.

Originally from Indiana, she served two terms as Dekalb County Clerk, the first woman elected to that position. She handled the job so exceptionally she was named the 1992 Indiana Clerk of the Year. She was also a Precinct Committeewoman and delegate to the Indiana Democratic Convention.

When she moved to Florida in 1994, Janet immediately became active in the Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas, the Democratic Women's Club of Florida, the Pinellas County DEC, and the Greater Tarpon Springs Democratic Club, acting as Precinct Committeewoman to delegate to the 2004 Democratic National Convention. In 2008, Janet was one of the 27 Florida Electoral College Electors to cast their ballots for President Barack Obama.

Janet devoted herself to DWCUP, serving as President from 2000-02, then First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary. She moved on to become President of the Florida Democratic Women's Club from 2010-2013. During her tenure she initiated Tally Days, the yearly educational and lobbying effort by DWCF members to impact the Florida Legislature and demonstrate our support for Democratic legislators serving in Tallahassee. Janet was proud of the addition of fourteen new clubs during her term as President.

For her many years of dedication to and hard work for the Democratic Party and the Democratic Women's Club of Florida, the Board of the DWCUP salutes Janet Goen in memoriam. Her husband Gerald preceded her in death. Our sincere condolences to their daughter and family members.

DWCUP Recap of May 19th Meeting

The May DWCUP meeting was electric with dynamic speakers, Democratic news and updates, and lots of action coming up!

The biggest surprise was a visit from Josh Weil, recent candidate for Congress from Florida District 6. He set a record for Democrats by raising over \$15 million in his campaign. He's now setting his sights on higher office; watch for an announcement in late June. He's a rising star in the Florida Democratic Party. Josh is sharing strategies and collaborations developed in his campaign to activate Florida Democrats in other districts where registering voters will be the key to Democrats winning in the November 2026 races.

Karl Cieslak, Vice-chair of the Pinellas DEC, gave us a recap of the countywide "May the 4th be with You" picnic. Over 200 gathered to enjoy the day and learn about all the Democratic clubs and caucuses in Pinellas County. Check upcoming events and sign up on Mobilize.us/pinellascountydec/ or Pinellasdemocrats.org.

Members were alerted to mark June 14th for the day of action and rallies nationwide called "No Kings." See the details in this newsletter for locations in Pinellas where protests will be held. Make your signs, call your friends, and plan your day. Bring water and a hat; it's sure to be quite warm. But let's all get out there and make our feelings known!

President Donna Dennis summarized the highlights of the state convention of the Democratic Women's Club of Florida, held in Orlando from May 15-18th. A recap is included in this newsletter.

Mark Hanisee is the chair of the DWCF Political Committee (website dwcfpc.com) and also now a member of the DWCUP. His track record as a Democratic fundraiser is well-known and he shared his strategy—focus on a message about economic issues, such as the insurance crisis and affordable housing, and encourage monthly donations.

Kyandra Darling, candidate for Florida State Representative in District 62, introduced herself to the club via Zoom. She reminded us the only way we can help fix Florida's problems is to elect Democrats to the state legislature. Her website is DarlingforFL.com.

Other highlights from the meeting included:

- DWCUP now has 132 members.
- District Chairs Kathleen Keohane (D 58) and Greta Finney (D 59) reported on grassroots activities.
- Summary of the Florida Legislative Report from Jean Greenawalt. (The full report is in this newsletter.)
- We mourn the passing of former members, Janet Goen (club and state president) and Raemona Clark.

Our next meeting will be Monday, June 23rd, and include a workshop with grassroots activities.

NO KINGS – JUNE 14 DAY OF PROTEST



On Flag Day, June 14th, Trump intends to parade our military in the street in celebration of his birthday, at an overall cost of \$45 million. People rising up across the nation will protest in a nationwide day of defiance, showing the world what democracy really is in America.

NO KINGS protests taking place in Pinellas are on Mobilize. Register to be informed about location details.

Palm Harbor – register on [Mobilize](#) – Curlew Rd & US 19, 12noon-2PM

Largo – register on [Mobilize](#) – Central Park, 9AM -12noon

Largo – register on [Mobilize](#) – Ulmerton Rd & Seminole Blvd, 5PM-6PM

St. Pete – register on [Mobilize](#) – Tyrone & 66th Street intersections – 10:30AM-12noon

DWCUP Logo Redesign – are you creative?

Everybody loves makeovers, and it's time for DWCUP to refresh its look with a new logo. The DWCUP Board is seeking an original design (no AI generated ideas) that embodies the club's purpose and that can be used for all official club business, including banners, the newsletter, the website, business cards, and on promotional items such as shirts and drink containers. If your design is selected, the designer will be credited on the website but must assign all rights to the design to DWCUP.

The deadline for submitting designs is August 31, in PDF or JPEG format. The prize for the chosen designer is a one-year DWCUP membership plus a gift card for dinner at one of Clearwater's finest restaurants. And the satisfaction of seeing your design proudly displayed in everything DWCUP does.

Contact President Donna Dennis if you wish to submit a design. (dwcup727@gmail.com)

DWCUP Participation in the DWCF State Convention



The DWCF Convention, May 15-18 in Orlando, welcomed the clubs from across Florida. DWCUP's delegation was Donna Dennis, Liz Dahan, Mary & Shelby Freeman, and Mark Hanisee.

Democratic Women PERSIST for EQUALITY, DEMOCRACY and TRUTH!

That was the theme of this year's convention of the Democratic Women's Club of Florida. Several hundred members of the DWCF and guests gathered, representing the 53 clubs and 3300 members around the state.

A special guest was Harry Dunn, the former Capitol police officer known for his heroism during the January 6th assault on Washington. He later ran for Congress in Maryland. His speech to us was inspiring and gave us an initial adrenaline rush that lasted throughout the convention.

One primary action of the convention was the election of new state officers, as follows:
President - Meri Forte-Namuj; 1st VP - Patty Cohn; 2nd VP - Yvette Spano; 3rd VP - Sheryl Eddie;
Treasurer - Karen Moser; Recording Secretary- Virginia Osborne.

The new chair of the DWCF Political Committee is Mark Hanisee, now a member of the DWCUP. He spoke to the convention about the necessity of raising funds for the PC to help elect Democrats across Florida. He made the important point that Democrats need to listen to voters, rather than tell them what the issues are.

Alan Cohn, journalist and longtime Democrat of Tampa, spoke about a national initiative to limit Supreme Court justices to an 18-year term and an enforceable Code of Ethics. Over 70% of Americans believe that justices should not receive a lifetime appointment. It's not a front-burner issue, but there are long-term implications, which have already been seen in issues like redistricting, gerrymandering, and abortion.

The state convention is an opportunity to develop leadership skills. Leadership skills can be developed, and the DWCF is a great place to use them and make a positive difference! Furthermore, the DWCF offers training webinars to members which clubs can request.

Former DWCF President Patty Farley and new 1st VP Patty Cohn spoke about ways to raise others up, be a mentor, and set a positive tone for our club. Build confidence and build your bench! Stay organized, delegate responsibly, and follow the bylaws. Help members be successful in their volunteer efforts and thank people along the way.



One helpful quote is from Jen Hatmaker: "We need to quit trying to be awesome and instead be wise." Listen to members and base decisions on what's best for the group. Everything is based on our integrity. And don't let the perfect get in the way of the good! Renew, reflect, recommit, and reorganize.



There were fun activities along the way, including the banner parade, showing off each club's claim to fame. The PerSisters Rally provided music, dancing, comedy, guest speakers, and a good time to blow off steam. We know how hard the last few months have been on all of us.

Our state president stressed improved communications with our members. Local club presidents need to make sure that all members get

emails from the state organization and know how to use the state website. There are many great resources for us on it.

State Representative Christine Hunschofsky spoke at one of the lunch meetings. She will serve as the Democratic leader in the State House in the fall. She's also the former mayor of Parkland, FL, who oversaw the massive reaction to the Parkland high school shootings. As a lifelong advocate of education and building community, she believes in being the voice of the people who don't feel seen. She's a great model of the leader who connects with and works for the people who voted for her!

State Representative Anna Eskamani led a workshop in Safety and Security for Democratic Activists. Unfortunately, we're in a time where the other side has embraced an ideology that may include increased harassment and trolling, especially of marginalized people. We are cautioned not to engage, take a screenshot of suspicious posts, have a security plan at events, and remove identifying personal information in your posts. Social media is fine, but do not live post. Create posts after the event has ended. De-escalate whenever possible.

Another fascinating workshop was led by Karen Perez, certified traumatologist and member of the Hillsborough County School Board. Her talk was on Navigating Today's Political Climate, a challenging issue for most of us. Maintaining resilience and mental wellness are important goals for Democratic activists, especially in the current administration. Many methods and techniques were suggested, from eating nutritious foods and spending time in nature, to using adult coloring books and addressing spiritual needs. Reframe negative thoughts and do things for others. We are stronger together, so continue to engage with friends, local groups and initiatives. Be kind and listen more. Sounds like good advice no matter what you're doing!



The Convention ended with the Saturday night Gala. In addition to a wonderful meal, we enjoyed awards presentations, music, and inspirational speakers.

The Keynote Speaker was Theresa King, President of the Building & Construction Trades of Florida (AFL-CIO), the first woman to attain this position. She emphasized the need for women in the trades and in leadership overall. What a fabulous way to end the convention.

Now it's up to us to keep the work going and stay committed to making Florida a great state to live in for all of us!

DWCUP Florida Legislative Report

Jean Greenawalt - May 23, 2025

As DWCUP Legislative Liaison to the Democratic Women's Club of Florida (dwcf.org) my task is to attend weekly Zoom meetings and provide information on the bills moving through the state legislature. These meetings were held during the regular session which started March 4. The regular session is normally over by now but has been extended because the legislature was unable to agree on appropriations. Appropriations/taxation bills are still in the works.

The DWCF has developed an extensive spreadsheet of "hot" topics. Link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aeZLnBPjgrT1uJQR--FpAr5H2567gl2R/edit?gid=2101361417#gid=2101361417>

To support the liaison task, I have written a program to scrape the websites and create a spreadsheet of all of the bills. I have merged the DWCF spreadsheet into it.

These are the websites: flsenate.gov and flhouse.gov

Here is the link to my spreadsheet:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12e2Djmgps4n398AadXHCXwL5uwxVnnVq/edit?usp=sharing&oid=105103654553308080498&rtpof=true&sd=true>

There are 1952 bills. The bills form 780 groups, typically containing House/Senate companion bills. This report focuses on those groups containing bills that are of particular interest and not bills like specialty license plates. About 320 groups can be ignored, leaving 460 bill groups of interest. Of those groups, DWCF focused on roughly a third of them in the weekly zoom meetings.

This report covers bills covered by DWCF. Feel free to use the spreadsheet to filter on bills not covered by DWCF, especially those that have passed.

This report highlights those bills that DWCF took a position on.

Bills passed that are good (chart 1) and bad (chart 2).

Many of the bill groups where all the bills in the group died, both good (chart 3) and bad (chart 4).

DWCF alerted on four bad bills, one of which passed (HB 1205 - Amendments to the State Constitution). The other three died (chart 5). DWCF took a neutral position on three bills of interest (chart 6).

Chart 7 lists the bills that are not dead. The focus for the extended session is on the budget bills, so maybe some of the bills are really dead but the website had not been updated.

1 - Good - Passed Bills

<p>SB 180 - Emergencies;Prohibiting certain local governments from adopting ordinances for substantial improvements or repairs to a structure which include cumulative substantial improvement periods; prohibiting certain entities from assessing impact fees for specified replacement structures; revising public hurricane shelter funding prioritization requirements for the Division of Emergency Management; authorizing certain servicemembers to provide medical care in specified circumstances; revising requirements for the state comprehensive emergency management plan, etc. Notes: Lots of etc. in this bill. Addresses many concerns related to emergencies (hurricanes).</p>	<p>HB 209 - State Land Management;Requiring public hearings for all updated conservation and nonconservation land management plans; requiring the Division of State Lands of the Department of Environmental Protection to make available to the public, within a specified timeframe, electronic copies of land management plans for parcels of a certain size and for parcels located in state parks; revising the duties of the Division of Recreation and Parks of the Department of Environmental Protection; specifying requirements for the management of parks and recreational areas held by the state; requiring the division to comply with specified provisions when granting certain privileges, leases, concessions, and permits; authorizing the division to acquire, install, or permit the installation or operation at state parks of campsites and cabins that meet certain requirements; prohibiting the division from authorizing certain uses or construction activities within a state park; prohibiting the division from installing or permitting the installation of any lodging establishment within the boundaries of a state park; requiring that individual management plans for parcels located within state parks be developed with input from an advisory group; requiring that the advisory group's required public hearings be</p>	<p>HB 913 - Condominium and Cooperative Associations;Prohibits a person whose community association manager license is revoked from having an indirect or direct ownership interest in, or being an employee, a partner, an officer, a director, or a trustee of, a community association management firm for a specified timeframe; requires a licensee to create and maintain an online licensure account with the Department of Business and Professional Regulation; requires a community association manager to identify on his or her online licensure account certain information; requires a licensee to provide specific information on his or her online licensure account; requires that such information be updated within a specified timeframe; requires a community association management firm to identify on its online licensure account the community association managers it employs to provide community association management services. Notes: changes to laws passed in 2022 that require condominium associations to maintain significant financial reserves for structural repairs. Provides additional flexibility in how associations manage those requirements.</p>
<p>SB 1286 - Harming or Neglecting Children;Revising the definition of the term "harm" as it relates to a child's health or welfare; revising the definition of the term "neglect of a child", etc. Notes: The bill considers independent, unsupervised activities as harm if the child is subjected to obvious danger of which the caregiver knew or should have known, or the child cannot exercise the reasonable judgment required to avoid serious harm upon responding to physical or emotional crises.</p>	<p>HB 6017 - Recovery of Damages for Medical Negligence Resulting in Death;Removes provision that precluded certain persons from recovering damages for medical negligence resulting in death. Notes: For example, a child older than 25 can receive damages.</p>	<p>SB 7000 - OGSR/Site-specific Location Information for Endangered and Threatened Species;Amending a provision which provides an exemption from public records requirements for site-specific location information for endangered and threatened species; removing the scheduled repeal of the exemption, etc.</p>
<p>SB 168 - Mental Health;Citing this act as the "Tristin Murphy Act"; expanding the programs and diversion initiatives supported by implementation or expansion grants to include training for 911 public safety telecommunicators and emergency medical technicians for certain purposes and to include veterans treatment court programs; encouraging communities to apply for specified grants to establish misdemeanor or ordinance violation mental health diversion programs; encouraging communities to apply for specified grants to establish pretrial felony mental health diversion programs; expanding eligibility for the Forensic Hospital Diversion Pilot Program to include Hillsborough County, etc. Notes: Enhance mental health interventions within the criminal justice system</p>	<p>SB 1228 - Spring Restoration;Authorizing certain domestic wastewater treatment facilities to request the incorporation of reclaimed water projects identified in Outstanding Florida Springs recovery or prevention strategies; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to approve such requests within a certain period of time if certain conditions are met, etc.</p>	<p>SB 1344 - Juvenile Justice;Providing for appointment of counsel in certain circumstances; providing for payment of counsel; revising provisions for a child's punishment for contempt of court; revising provisions related to case staffing and to services and treatment related to a family in need of services; authorizing that a child be taken into custody pursuant to a finding of contempt; providing for early truancy intervention; providing for additional services to be ordered if a student is found to be a truant status offender; specifying when a guardian ad litem may be appointed, etc.</p>
<p>HB 907 - Florida Institute for Pediatric Rare Diseases;Establishes Florida Institute for Pediatric Rare Diseases within FSU College of Medicine; & provides goals of institute; establishes Sunshine Genetics Pilot Program & Sunshine Genetics Consortium.</p>		

2 - Bad - Passed Bills

<p>HB 1205 - Amendments to the State Constitution;Revises provisions relating to amendments to State Constitution including initiative petitions; handling petitions; sponsor & petition circulator registration; signature verification procedures; signature revocation; record retention; duties & responsibilities of supervisors of elections, Division of Elections, & DOS; Financial Impact Estimating Conference; certification of elections involving constitutional amendments; public funding; & criminal penalties. Notes: DWCF alert was generated - " limits initiative amendment sponsors to one amendment per election cycle, mandates financial reporting, and requires petition circulators to undergo training. It will require sponsors to post a \$1 million bond"</p>	<p>SB 700 - Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;Providing that certain positions in the department are exempt from the Career Service System; prohibiting a person from knowingly or willfully performing certain actions on lands classified as agricultural; requiring that certain lands acquired or owned by an electric utility by a certain date be offered for fee simple acquisition by the department before the land may be offered for sale or transfer to a private individual or entity; requiring local governmental entities to issue permits for electric vehicle charging stations based on specified standards and provisions of law; requiring, subject to appropriation of funds, the Cattle Enhancement Board, Inc., in coordination with the department, to establish a Florida beef marketing program, etc. Notes: Large bill with lots of parts. State preemption over housing for agriculture workers, less restrictive land use regulations, fluoride ban, don't call almond milk "milk", minstrel shows, bank can't use ESG factors to loan money.... lots of parts.</p>	<p>HB 549 - Gulf of America;Requires state agencies to update geographic materials to reflect new federal designation of "Gulf of Mexico" as "Gulf of America"; & requires instructional materials & library media center collections adopted or acquired by certain entities on or after specified date to reflect new federal designation of "Gulf of Mexico" as "Gulf of America".</p>
<p>HB 443 - Education;Provides that a charter school is a public facility for the purpose of concurrency; authorizes a charter school governing board to adopt its own code of student conduct; authorizes a student in a full-time virtual instruction program to participate on an interscholastic athletic team at a public school in the school district in which the student resides or to develop an agreement to participate at a private school, etc. Notes: Revises provisions relating to charter schools, charter school sponsors, DOE duties, & disposal of school district real property.</p>	<p>SB 118 - Regulation of Presidential Libraries;Preempting to the state all regulatory authority over the establishment, maintenance, activities, and operations of presidential libraries; defining the term "presidential library"; prohibiting counties, municipalities, or other political subdivisions from enacting or enforcing any ordinance, resolution, rule, or other measure regarding presidential libraries unless authorized by federal law, etc.</p>	<p>HB 6025 - Restrictions on Firearms and Ammunition During Emergencies;Repeals provisions relating to specified automatic restrictions on firearms & ammunition during certain declared emergencies. Notes: Ok to buy guns and ammo during emergencies whereas now there are restrictions</p>
<p>HB 1255 - Education;Revises provisions relating to critical teacher shortage areas, Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, Florida School for Competitive Academics, use of certain educational funds, emergency opioid antagonists, corporal punishment, background screening requirements for private schools, prekindergarten programs, students of military families, K-12 courses, instruction, standards, & benchmarks, New Worlds Tutoring Program, & educator certifications. Notes: Word changes, like changing "diversity" to "demographic makeup". Renaming "teacher shortage" to "high demand needs". Remove DEI considerations for putting people on advisory councils.</p>		

3 - Good - Dead Bill Groups That We Opposed

Elections and State-issued Identification;Revises requirements for the uniform statewide voter registration application; requires DOS & SOE verify certain information relating to citizenship status; requires certain voter registration applicants provide certain identification before voting; requires DHSMV to provide voter registration records to certain individuals; requires certain electors be given provisional ballots; requires certain licenses and ID cards denote individual noncitizens; revises certain instructions & certificates.	Elections;Requires write-in candidates to pay certain fees; prohibits write-in candidate from being considered opponent for certain purposes; requires DOS to adopt rules for security of voting systems; requires such rules to prohibit connection to internet; authorizes counties to count ballots by hand at precinct level.	Elections;Revising provisions related to elections including voter registration, data sharing, voter applications, verification of citizenship, qualifications of candidates, maintenance of voter rolls, ballots, automated independent validation of votes, county canvassing boards, supervisors of elections, the Department of State, system validation reviews, & driver licenses & identification cards.	Term Limits for Members of County Commissions and District School Boards;Proposes amendments to Constitution to provide term limits for members of boards of county commissioners & district school boards; provides applicability.
Elections;Revises provisions relating to elections including election systems, election security, reconciliation, vote-by-mail, poll watchers, hotline, canvassing of votes, audits, ballots, identification, eligibility, secure ballot intake stations, early voting, & election crimes.	Term Limits Applicable to State Representatives and State Senators	Materials Harmful to Minors;Defines "harmful to minors"; revises list of materials used in classroom which are subject to objection process by parents or residents.	Prosecuting Children as Adults
Education;Authorizing certain entities to report their students directly to the Department of Education; authorizing schools of hope in certain counties to colocate with other public schools in certain facilities; requiring that students enrolled in schools of hope be included in specified school district calculations; prohibiting a rental or leasing fee from being charged to a school of hope, etc.	Postsecondary Education;Prohibiting Florida College System institutions and state universities that meet specified criteria from accepting the application of or admitting an individual who is undocumented for federal immigration purposes; deleting provisions relating to the waiver of out-of-state fees for certain students, etc.	Education;Revises provisions relating to conversion schools; authorizes municipality to apply for job engine charter under certain conditions; prohibits school districts from charging specified fees for conversion school; & requires specified property to remain at conversion school.	Employment of Minors;Deleting certain restrictions on minors 16 and 17 years of age being employed, permitted, or suffered to work; revising the exceptions to such restrictions for certain minors; deleting a provision authorizing the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to grant a waiver of such restrictions, etc.
Carrying concealed weapons...	Minimum Age for Firearm Purchase or Transfer	Gender Identity Employment Practices	Admission To Practice Law by Unauthorized Alien;Provides that certain licenses to practice law will be revoked on specified date under certain circumstances.
Minimum Wage Requirements - These bills allow employees engaged in work-study, internship, preapprenticeship, apprenticeship, or similar work-based learning programs to opt out of state minimum wage requirements by signing a waiver acknowledging their choice to receive a lower wage. For employees under 18 years old, a parent or guardian must sign the waiver on their behalf. Unconstitutional?	Liability for Defamatory Statements;Requires that certain articles or broadcasts be removed from specified websites within specified period to limit damages for defamation; provides persons in certain positions relating to newspapers with immunity for defamation if such persons exercise due care to prevent publication of defamatory statement.	Verification of Reemployment Assistance Benefit Eligibility	Community and Economic Development;Revising, providing and deleting provisions related to community redevelopment agencies, agriculture, industries and professions, professional licensure and registration, & insurance regulations.
Former Phosphate Mining Lands;Provides conditions for cause of action against certain former phosphate mine sites; provides for certain notice of former phosphate mines; requires DOH to conduct surveys of former phosphate land parcels upon petition; requires that specified documentation of radiation levels be submitted in certain civil actions related to phosphate mining.	Waste Incineration;Prohibits local government or DEP, respectively, from issuing construction permit for certain new solid waste disposal facility or waste-to-energy facility in specified areas. (state preemption issue)	Local Business Taxes (state preemption)	Revenue Administration...state preemption issues
Community Redevelopment Agencies;Revising the structure of community redevelopment agencies to require a governing body to declare itself to be an agency; prohibiting a governing body from adopting any modification to a community redevelopment plan which expands the boundaries of the community redevelopment area or extends the time certain set forth in the redevelopment plan; revising the authorized activities of community redevelopment agencies; prohibiting community redevelopment agencies from paying for or financing by increment revenues certain projects; revising the date on which community redevelopment agencies must terminate, etc.	Parental Rights;Requiring parental consent for a minor's treatment for certain diseases; requiring a school district to provide parents with specified information before the district administers certain questionnaires or forms to students; revising exceptions for certain parental rights; creating the parental right to consent in writing to the use of a biofeedback device on a parent's minor child, etc.	Prohibition of Guaranteed Income Programs;Prohibits local government from adopting or enforcing certain regulations relating to guaranteed income programs; provides powers & duties of Attorney General.	Prohibited Preferences in Government Contracting;Prohibiting an awarding body from giving preference to a vendor on the basis of race or ethnicity; repealing provisions relating to minority participation for lottery retailers; deleting duties and responsibilities of the Office of Supplier Diversity to conform to its repeal by the act; repealing provisions relating to the procurement of personal property and services from funds set aside for minority business enterprises; repealing provisions relating to the Office of Supplier Diversity, etc.
Regulation of Auxiliary Containers;Defines "auxiliary container"; requires DEP to review & update specified report; prohibits local regulation of auxiliary containers; preempts such regulation to state.	Display of Flags by Governmental Entities	Land Use and Development Regulations ... includes if pockets of development are around the land then local government can't prohibit development	Office of Faith and Community

4 - Bad - Dead Bill Groups that We Supported

Emergencies;Revises provisions relating to emergencies including tenant rights, elections held after emergency, planning & preparedness for election emergencies, emergency management plans, training, government offices, National Flood Insurance Program participation, replacement structures, reporting, assessment of property, shelters, medical care, comprehensive plans, powers & duties of DEM, notification, financial assistance & funding, grant programs, contracts for emergency services, hurricane recovery, transportation of essentials, debris management, & hoisting equipment. Note - covered elsewhere?	Construction Disruption Assistance;Establishes Construction Impact Relief Program within Department of Commerce pursuant to Florida Job Growth Grant Fund; requires department to provide specified financial assistance to eligible small businesses within construction zones; requires department to develop public awareness & marketing campaign to promote program; requires applicants to submit specified information with their applications; directs department to establish hotline to provide information about program; establishes annual reporting requirement.	Insurance Regulations; addresses the "profit hiding" problem. Key Provisions: Requires insurers to disclose affiliate fees to the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) Must explain how litigation, reinsurance, and affiliate fees affect policyholder rates	Insurance;Provides procedures & timelines for objecting, & responding to objections, to sufficiency of evidence submitted by claimants to insurers; requires FDLE to accept certain fingerprints; specifies that certain criminal records must be used by OIR for certain purposes; establishes standards for compensation arrangements & oversight of affiliate transactions involving insurers, managing general agents, & attorneys in fact; requires certain rate filings with OIR from residential property insurers to include rate transparency reports; provides reporting requirements relating to universal life insurance policies; provides authority of OIR over affiliate dividends; authorizes assessable & nonassessable reciprocal insurers, rather than domestic reciprocal insurers, to transact insurance if they maintain specified amounts of surplus funds; provides that attorneys in fact of reciprocal insurers are affiliated entities; authorizes reciprocal insurers to require subscriber contributions; authorizes reciprocal insurers to establish subscriber savings accounts; specifies manner in which impaired reciprocal insurers are proceeded against if they cannot make up deficiencies in assets; specifies manner in which assessments are levied upon subscribers if reciprocal insurers are liquidated; requires reciprocal insurers to maintain unearned premium reserves at all times.
Carbon Sequestration;Creates Carbon Sequestration Task Force adjunct to DEP; requires task force to submit specified reports to Secretary of Environmental Protection, Governor, & Legislature; provides that participation in certain programs or activities is voluntary; requires certain frameworks or enforcement mechanisms to have explicit legislative approval.	Housing;Authorizing a landlord to accept reusable tenant screening reports and require a specified statement; requiring, rather than authorizing, local governments to adopt, by a specified date, an ordinance to allow accessory dwelling units in certain areas; authorizing a local government to provide a density bonus incentive to landowners who make certain real property donations to assist in the provision of affordable housing for military families; requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to evaluate the efficacy of using mezzanine finance and the potential of tiny homes for specified purposes, etc.		
Storage of Handguns in Private Conveyances and Vessels	Firearms;Revising the definition of the term "machine gun"; ranking certain offenses related to bump-fire stocks on level 5 of the offense severity ranking chart of the Criminal Punishment Code, etc.	Weapons and Firearms;Citing this act as the "Responsible Gun Ownership Act"; requiring background checks on all persons involved in a firearm sale or other transfer; specifying requirements for firearm sales or transfers through licensed dealers; providing criminal penalties; prohibiting certain actions leading to the manufacture or assembly, sale, importing, purchasing, offering for sale, or transfer of a firearm not imprinted with a valid serial number, etc.	Sale or Transfer of Ammunition;Citing this act as "Jaime's Law"; requiring background checks for the sale or transfer of ammunition, etc.
Student Elopement;Requires public schools to create School Staff Assistance for Emergencies (SAFE) Team & school elopement plan; provides requirements for SAFE Teams, elopement plans, & schools.	Family Empowerment Scholarship Program;Requires private schools participating in Family Empowerment Scholarship Program to provide specified information in writing to parents before student enrollment in school.	Student Absences;Requiring a student's primary teacher to report to the principal, or his or her designee, if a student is chronically absent; requiring the State Board of Education to create guidelines relating to student absences, etc.	Statewide, Standardized Assessments
Education - promote DEI; freedom in classroom libraries; "Freedom to Learn Act"; reverse restrictive laws like the "stop woke act" and "don't say gay".	Florida Museum of Black History	Grandparent Visitation Rights	Pregnant Women in Custody
Designation of the State Birds	Awareness Program for Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia-related Disorders	Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote	Health Care, Immigration and State-issued identification, Termination of Pregnancies - Democrat sponsored bills

5 - Good - DWCF Bill Alerts - Died

Gun Safety: HB 759 reduces the minimum age from 21 years old to 18 at which a person may purchase a firearm.
HB 1225/SB 918 removes certain and significant employment restrictions to the state's child labor laws for minors aged 16 and 17.
HB 1505 would make it impossible for minors to get healthcare without parental consent.

6 - Neutral

SB 56 - Geoengineering and Weather Modification Activities	passed
Use of Artificial Intelligence by Governmental Agencies to Detect Concealed Firearms	dead
SB 296: Middle School and High School Start Times; Providing that district school boards and charter schools, respectively, are in compliance with certain provisions relating to middle school and high school start times upon submission of a specified report to the Department of Education, etc.	passed

7 - Being Worked on in Extended Session

SB 110 - Rural Communities	HB 1455 - Sexual Offenses by Persons Previously Convicted of Sexual Offenses	HB 5013 - State-funded Property Reinsurance Programs	HB 5015 - State Group Insurance
HB 5203 - Capitol Center	HB 5501 - Documentary Stamp Tax Distributions	SB 2500 - Appropriations	SB 2502 - Implementing the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act
SB 2504 - State Employees	SB 2506 - Natural Resources	SB 2508 - Judges	SB 2510 - Prekindergarten Through Grade 12 Education
SB 2514 - Health and Human Services	SB 7022 - Retirement	SB 7030 - Educational Scholarship Programs	SB 7031 - Sales Tax Rate Reductions
HB 7033 - Taxation			

DWCUP Announcements and Action Alerts

1. Keep informed about upcoming events. In Pinellas, <https://mobilize.us/dashboard/pinellascountydec/events/>
Indivisible events: <https://www.mobilize.us/indivisible/>
50501 Movement rallies: www.fiftyfifty.one/ to subscribe to emails.
2. Use 5 Calls - <https://5calls.org/>. With 5 Calls it's easy to reach your members of Congress and make your voice heard. The issues, scripts, and phone numbers for their offices are ready for you to select and call.
3. Participation in past Dem Women's Nite Out events tell us the evenings are enjoyed as a good time to get to know like-minded women and spread awareness about the club. Some have suggested we try a different location. What places do you recommend? We need a large enough space for 30 people or

more, depending on the RSVPs. Thinking about a date in September, where should we gather? Send suggestions to Hospitality Chair Ruthann Richwine (ruthannrichwine@gmail.com) by July 11.

4. The club is looking for people to form the "Hospitality Committee." This group will take charge of bringing in the snacks for the monthly membership meetings. This can be accomplished several ways and those working on it can decide what works best. Email Hospitality Chair Ruthann Richwine (ruthannrichwine@gmail.com) to participate. Thanks for your support!!!
5. Many North County Dems have answered the need for contributions to keep the North County office open by making dedicated contributions earmarked for the rent. You can donate at this link. <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/pcdecnorthoffice>
6. District Chairs need and welcome volunteers. Find district meetings and events on Mobilize.
D58 Chair Kathleen Keohane (kathleen.keohane@pinellsdeomocrats.com)
D59 Chair Greta Finney (greta.finney@pinellasdemocrats.com).

DWCUP Connections

Website
DWCUP.org

Democratic Women's Club of Florida, Inc.
DWCF.org

Club Email
DWCUP727@gmail.com

National Federation of Democratic Women
www.nfdw.com

Instagram
@DWCUP727

Florida Democratic Party
Fladems.com

Facebook
facebook.com/groups/DWCUP

Pinellas County Democratic Executive Committee
Pinellasdemocrats.com

Get all your benefits!

Your DWCUP membership includes being a member of the Democratic Women's Club of Florida.

Go to the DWCF website, www.dwcf.org, and register and create a password. Review the activities of the state organization, what's going on with other clubs in the state, and so much more!

DWCUP Who We Are

The DWCUP is one of 68 Democratic Women's Clubs of Florida, begun by women in Pinellas County on September 9, 1940, forming the Democratic Club of Upper Pinellas County. Today, DWCUP carries on their goals.

The Democratic Women's Club of Florida, Inc. (DWCF, Inc.) began in 1956, on May 24, the day chosen by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt as Democratic Women's Day, with the aim to unite all Democratic Women's Clubs in Florida by providing a forum for discussion of public matters, supporting qualified candidates for public office, and encouraging qualified Democratic women to seek elected positions. In the 1980's, DWCF became a full member of the National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW). DWCF is a separate entity from the Florida Democratic Party but DWCF is recognized as the Florida Democratic Women's Caucus because DWCF maintains full membership in the NFDW.

DWCF members and clubs support campaign activities. The DWCF recruits women to run for political offices. The DWCF Political Committee which disseminates money to DWCF-endorsed candidates. The Legislative Chair and Legislative Liaisons of the DWCF, Inc. serve as the grassroots legislative advocacy arm of the DWCF, to monitor and lobby for or against legislation that has a dramatic impact on the lives of the citizens of Florida.

DWCUP MEMBERSHIP

Registered Democrats, become a DWCUP member! Why? Membership dues allow the club to take actions throughout the year that enable our candidates to compete in local, state, and national elections and promote our positions on issues. Collectively, we are a Democratic presence and a vehicle for activism. Your DWCUP membership includes becoming a member of the Democratic Women's Club of Florida. Once you join, go to the DWCF website, www.dwcf.org, and register and create a password.

Get the best deal with a tiered membership! **DWCUP Annual Membership Dues: \$25**

PLATINUM MEMBER: 3 Years for \$70
SILVER MEMBER: 5 Years for \$100
GOLD MEMBER: Member for Life \$250

Pay your membership dues
here:
dwcup.com/donate

DWCUP OFFICERS & CHAIRS

President
Donna Dennis
313-443-2587
DWCUP727@gmail.com

VicePresident Program
Cora Kostka

Vice President Membership
Nancy Vellucci

Secretary & Newsletter
Jan Walton

Treasurer
Kathleen Keohane

Regional Rep.
DonnaDennis

Fundraising Coordinator
LizDahan

Webmaster Polly
Kraus

Hospitality Chairs
Ruthann Richwine, Karen
Miracle

Legislative Liaison Jean
Greenawalt

Bylaws Revision Chair
Karen Mullins

Publicity Chair
MarjorieMurphy