



April 2025

Membership Meeting

Monday, April 28, at 12PM

Door opens/Social time 11:30AM

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

Speaker



Kathleen Beckman Pinellas County Continuum of Care

Kathleen Beckman currently serves as the Chair of the Pinellas County Continuum of Care (CoC) which works to prevent and end homelessness in Pinellas County, as a regional planning body that coordinates the funding and delivery of housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The aim is to quickly rehouse people and promote long-term stability. Learn more about the CoC [here](#).

Originally from Michigan, Kathleen spent 14 years teaching high school English and Journalism in Antioch, Illinois, before moving to Florida in 2016. She became deeply involved in politics, grassroots advocacy, and community volunteering. She served as a precinct captain before successfully running for Clearwater City Council in 2020. During her four years on the Council, she played a pivotal role in revising the city's Sustainability Plan, updating Clearwater's Comprehensive Plan, and spearheading the equitable allocation of ARPA funds. In 2023, Kathleen ran for Mayor of Clearwater.

She volunteers weekly with Pinellas County Schools, is a Pinellas County Guardian ad Litem, and serves on the boards of Thrive by Five Tampa Bay and the Tampa Bay Community Foundation Pinellas Council. Kathleen is an engaged member of the Sierra Club, NAACP, CULC, League of Women Voters, DWCU, Pinellas County Hispanic Caucus, North Pinellas Democrats, and the Tarpon Justice League.

Note

The May Membership Meeting will be on Monday, May 19
(a week early due to Memorial Day)

Join us on **Monday, May 12**
for **Dem Women's Nite Out**
6:00 – 8:00PM
at Lucky Lobster, Dunedin

DWCUP President's Remarks



*"Do not go gentle into that Good Night,
Rage, rage against the lying of the Right."* (with apologies to Dylan Thomas)

That was on one of the many clever, moving and insightful signs at Saturday's Hands Off Rally in St. Pete. Over 20 corners in central St. Pete were filled with peaceful protesters who wanted to let the country and, certainly, the administration in Washington DC know that they're mad as hell and will use their voices to make their feelings known.

There were also lots of our members at the Clearwater/Safety Harbor Rally at the corner of 580 and MacMullen Booth. What an outstanding day! I know we wrestle with the question, "But does it help?" and I say YES. We give each other the strength and community to speak up and engage in Good Trouble. We are now the Resistance and will not be silenced. We will continue to call, text, rally, write postcards, send emails, and SPEAK OUT.

"What Cory Said." That was on a sign or two also. And yes, what Cory Booker did last week on the floor of the U.S. Senate was amazing. He told more truth in twenty-five hours than Fox News has in twenty-five years. (That was another rally meme.) I didn't listen to his entire speech, but his authentic passion, clarity, constituents' stories, and incredible STAMINA were a model for us all. These are **not** normal times!

I want to reiterate a point I made at our last meeting. The stress of these days can take a terrible toll on us as we cope with the actions of the current administration, as well as rising inflation and uncertainty about the future. Many are dealing with health and family issues as well. Please take care of your physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health. It's too easy to say, "Hang in there" when you've already reached the end of your rope. Tie a knot and hang on! And stay in touch with like-minded people who understand your stress level and anxieties. Ask for help and support. Take a walk in a beautiful, natural setting. Listen to music you love. Get enough sleep. Know that you are not alone. Together, we will overcome and endure these challenging times.

DWCUP Mourns Lacy Hollings

It is with great sadness that we observe the passing of Lacy Hollings, Democratic powerhouse, who served as President of the North Pinellas County Democratic Club, officer of the Pinellas County Democratic Executive Committee, and member of the DWCUP.

She was a mother, wife, Army veteran, and a role model badass Democratic woman leader. Many of our members regarded her as a friend and mentor. She was data-driven as well as passionate. She could analyze and present aggregated information clearly to large groups. Her clarity of vision was an inspiration.

Here's her official memorial: <https://everloved.com/life-of/lacy-zobel-hollings/obituary/>

DWCUP Recap of March Meeting

Monday, March 31, 2025

It was another full house for the March 31st meeting of the DWCUP. It's so gratifying to see so many people come out to share their concerns and find out what we can all do to show our resistance.

Karl Cieslak, Vice-chair of the PCDEC, let us know about the Voters' Registration activities of April 5-6. He also told us about the May 4th Pinellas Democrats' special event. Check upcoming events and sign up on Mobilize.us/pinellascountydec/ or Pinellasdemocrats.org.



Upcoming DWCUP events include **Tally Days**, April 7-10, during which club members meet with legislators, attend legislative hearings, and make their presence known in the state legislature. We were called to a day of action on Saturday, April 5th, to rally in St Pete, Tampa or Clearwater. In fact, we made signs in the workshop portion of the meeting.

May 15-18th will be the **DWCF State Convention** in Orlando. It's fun, exciting and inspiring to meet with Democratic women leaders from all over the state! That's also where the business of the state Democratic women is conducted. There will be great speakers, workshops, shared meals, raffles, entertainment and more. Let Donna Dennis know if you'd be interested in going.

The club will also hold another **Democratic Women's Nite Out** at the Lucky Lobster on Monday, May 12th from 6-8 pm. Please join us!

Our featured speaker was **Dr. Alayne Unterberger**, Director of Immigration Services for the Florida Institute for Community Studies. She gave a powerful presentation focusing on the facts of immigration. For instance, there is no line for those seeking entrance to the United States, there is only the seeking of asylum. She explained the differences between the responsibilities of the Border Patrol and ICE, which are two arms of Homeland Security.

Most importantly, Alayne talked about the economic impact of the immigrant population on Florida. Immigrant workers fill 27% of all jobs in Florida and contribute 24% of the state's economic output. In addition, 35% of the state's entrepreneurs are immigrants. Florida could not even provide basic services without the contributions of immigrant labor! Alayne encourages immigrants to know their rights, and for all of us, we're asked not to spread disinformation from entities such as Fox News, the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), and Joe Rogan.

The next DWCUP meeting will be Monday, April 28, 2025, featuring **Kathleen Beckman**, who will speak about the Pinellas County Continuum of Care.



What you need to know about the Florida economy and immigrant workers

5 million immigrants reside in Florida, comprising 22.1% of the total population in the state. That’s nearly 2 out of every 9 Floridians. 57% of immigrants in Florida are naturalized citizens. 1.8 million U.S.-born Floridians live with at least one immigrant parent, accounting for 10.3% of the total U.S.-born resident population in the state.

Immigrant workers fill 27% of all jobs in Florida and contribute 24.4% of the state’s economic output.

The industries in Florida with the highest share of immigrant workers are:

1. Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	45%
2. Construction	36%
3. Transportation and utilities	33%
4. Other services	33%
5. Manufacturing	29%

The occupations in Florida with the highest share of immigrant workers are:

1. Manicurists and pedicurists	81%
2. Maids and housekeeping cleaners	65%
3. Miscellaneous agricultural workers	64%
4. Roofers	62%
5. Taxi drivers	61%

Immigrants are not just workers but also entrepreneurs and business owners who are vital to the Florida economy and workforce.

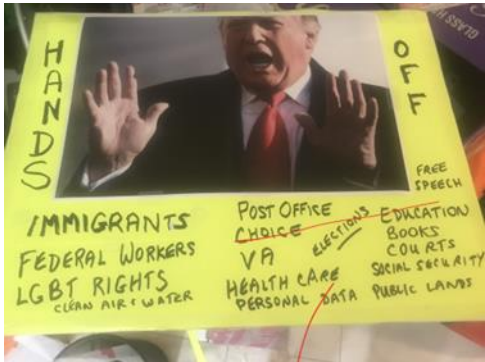
- 476,000 immigrants in Florida are entrepreneurs, 35.8% of the state’s entrepreneurs.

Immigrant household income in Florida is \$183.3 billion, nearly all of which is funneled directly back into the Florida economy through consumer spending.

Deporting Floridian workers will rob city and state coffers of more than \$1.8 billion in tax revenue, making it more difficult to provide basic services to all residents, harming all workers and families in our state.

Pursuing the mass deportation agenda will tank economic growth, lead to massive job losses, disrupt key industries, spike inflation, separate families, and create a culture of fear in our workplaces and communities.

DWCUP Scenes from April 5 Hands Off! Rallies



DWCUP Presence at the DWCF State Convention

The DWCF Convention, May 15-17 in Orlando, will welcome the 68 clubs from across Florida. DWCUP's delegation will include Donna Dennis, Nancy Vellucci, Cora Kostka, and Mary & Shelby Freeman.

69th Annual State Convention
May 15 - 18
Programming

LUNCH
FRIDAY, MAY 16
12:30 PM

LUNCH
SATURDAY, MAY 17
12:30 PM

DINNER
SATURDAY, MAY 17
7:00 PM

Workshop #2
Friday May 16
3:15 PM

Workshop #2
Saturday May 17
3:15 PM

Theresa King
President Florida Building & Construction Trades

THE FLORIDA HOTEL
1500 Sandlike Road
Orlando, Florida 32809

Alan Cohn

Christine Hunschofsky
Minority Leader
Pro Tempore

Sadie Holzmeyer
Digital Democracy

Karen Perez
Certified Traumatologist

More Info
www.DWCF.org

Friday Night

PERSISTER RALLY

Floridian Buffet

Honorable Judy Mount

Kissimmee Mayor Jackie Espinosa

Special Guests

MUSIC

NEVER THE LESS SHE PERSISTED

Disobey

KNOW YOUR WORTH

DWCUP Florida Legislative Report

Jean Greenawalt

As Legislative Liaison to the Democratic Women's Club of Florida (dwcf.org) my task is to attend weekly Zoom meetings, report to you what the positions are on the bills, and pass on any alerts asking for us to contact our senators and representatives. These meetings are held during the regular session, which runs March 4 through May 2.

I find it very useful to watch a weekly Capitol update every Friday at the following link:

<https://thefloridachannel.org/programs/capitol-update/>

Per DWCF Zoom training sessions, other good information sources are:

Bill Track 50: www.billtrack50.com

Digital Democracy Project: <https://digitaldemocracyproject.org>

Fast Democracy: <https://fastdemocracy.com>

Florida Education Association - (FEA): <https://feaweb.org>
with legislative updates: fewer.org/session or text edaactivist to 22394

The Bill Tracker worksheet that the group has developed and is discussed in the weekly Zoom meeting lists the bills that have been deemed “hot,” and describes the Alerts that have been published so far:

Opposing HB 1205 Initiative Petitions for Constitutional Amendment (making it harder to gather petitions), and
opposing HB 759 Minimum Age for Firearm Purchases or Transfer (lowers age from 21 to 18).
Alerts are sent to members with instructions as to which representatives/senators to contact to express our position.

We are encouraged to share/send the link to this worksheet in order to get the word out and collect any comments. The **following link to the group’s Bill Tracker worksheet** provides in-depth information, comments, and positions on the “hot” bills:

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

The group has selected about 80 “hot” topics in the Bill Tracker worksheet. The group’s worksheet is divided into categories, such as Civil/Human Rights & Immigration, Gun Safety, etc. Our oppositions:

DOGE-ing, limiting free speech, more DEI elimination, exploiting child labor, paying less than minimum wage (like for interns), making it harder to sue phosphate mines, banning water fluoridation, and reducing the age for gun purchase from 21 to 18. No local control over presidential libraries, auxiliary containers, local government flag displays, land use, or some local taxes. Making it harder to petition for state constitutional amendments, and many other voting-related provisions.

Our support: expanding abortion access, supporting trans care, disabled student school safety, spring restoration, water management, state park preservation, private school information transparency. Gun purchase, storage, and bump stock regulation. Wrongful death damage recovery. Affordable housing incentives for accessory dwelling units, local government density bonus, and others. Alzheimer’s Disease awareness, Florida Museum of Black History. Other focus areas are rural communities, property insurance, and condominium assessments.

To support the liaison task, I have written a program to scrape the websites and create a spreadsheet of all of the bills. These are the websites: flsenate.gov flhouse.gov

For those of you who don’t mind information overload, this is my spreadsheet:

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

As of this writing, March 30, there are 1876 total bills. Given that bills are related, especially because senate and representative bills are companions, there are 698 bill groupings/topics all together.

DWCUP Announcements and Action Alerts

1. You're Invited – May the 4th Be With You: A Pinellas Democratic Celebration

Fellow Members of the Resistance,

We're excited to invite you to a very special community event on Sunday, May 4th, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Walsingham Park – Pavilion #1 in the Largo/Seminole area!

May the 4th Be With You: A Star Wars–Themed Community Celebration is a fun and family-friendly way to connect with fellow Democrats, enjoy some Star Wars–inspired treats, and meet all of the amazing Democratic clubs and caucuses in Pinellas County.

Whether you're new to the area or have been part of our movement for years, this is a great opportunity to find your place in the local Democratic community.

Event Details: Date: Sunday, May 4th, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Walsingham Park – Pavilion #1

Address: 12615 102nd Ave N, Largo, FL 33778

RSVP here: <https://www.mobilize.us/pinellascountydec/event/771819/>

What to Expect:

A silent auction with fun and unique items

Star Wars–themed appetizer and dessert contests

Games and activities for all ages

A chance to meet your local Democratic clubs and caucuses

Clubs from across Pinellas County will be there, ready to connect with you and help you plug into the movement. Whether you're interested in women's rights, environmental issues, LGBTQ+ equality, veteran advocacy, or engaging younger voters — there's a place for you in this resistance. We hope to see you there!

Pinellas County Democratic Party

2. RSVP for **The Reality of Project 2025 with Heather Cox Richardson and Representative Jasmine Crockett hosted by Red, Wine & Blue. Monday, April 14, at 7:00PM ET!**

Two years ago, when extremists dropped Project most Americans hadn't heard of it. Donald Trump did everything possible to distance himself from Project 2025 before the election but began implementing the plan on his very first day in office. So how far has Project 2025 come in Trump's term? And what can we do to stop it?

Heather Cox Richardson is so influential in the 2025 political conversation that she has 3 million followers on Facebook – and Meta has evidently tried to censor her more than once recently. And Rep. Crockett is the superstar Congresswoman from Texas who is not afraid to tell the truth about how our rights and families' wellbeing are being trampled on by the Trump administration. When Trump tried to deny any connection to Project 2025, Rep. Crockett pointed out that Trump's administration is mentioned over 300 times in the plan. RSVP at this [link](#).

3. 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.
4. 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>
5. District Chairs welcome volunteers.
D58 Chair Kathleen Keohane kathleen.keohane@pinellsdemocrats.com. D59 Chair Greta Finney (great.finney@pinellademocrats.com). District 57 Chair is not yet elected.
Find events and sign up on Mobilize.
 - **Tue, Apr 8 @ 7pm**
[House District 58 April General Meeting ›](#)
 - **Tue, Apr 8 @ 5pm**
[Monthly Meeting- District 59 - Democracy in Action ›](#)
6. 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.

DWCUP Connections

DWCUP Website
DWCUP.org

Club Email
DWCUP727@gmail.com

Instagram
[@DWCUP727](https://www.instagram.com/DWCUP727)

Facebook
facebook.com/groups/DWCUP

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

National Federation of Democratic Women
www.nfdw.com

Florida Democratic Party
Fladems.com

Pinellas County Democratic Executive Committee
Pinellademocrats.com

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

Your DWCUP membership includes becoming a member of the Democratic Women's Club of Florida. Go to the DWCF website, www.dwcf.org, and register, create a password and review the activities of the state organization, what's going on with other clubs in the state, the Florida Democratic Party, and so much more!

Get the best deals 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

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Cora Kostka

Vice President Membership
Nancy Vellucci

Secretary & Newsletter
Jan Walton

Treasurer
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DonnaDennis

Fundraising Coordinator
LizDahan

Webmaster Polly
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Hospitality Chairs
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Legislative Liaison Jean
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