



Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas

Chartered September 9, 1940

Volume 82, Number 8

Club Representatives

President

Karen Mullins
727-222-0417
DWCUP727@gmail.com

1st Vice President

Donna Dennis
313-443-2587
Donnis802@gmail.com

2nd Vice President

Ruthann Richwine
727-734-7591
RuthanRichwine@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Diane Lebedeff
727-266-2911
DLebedeff@gmail.com

Treasurer

Karen Miracle
813-503-7777
Karen-MiracleLaw@hotmail.com

Regional Rep.

Cora Kostka
727-201-7863
CFKostka@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, September 26, 2022

St Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus Library
12 pm
No Lunch Available

GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker:



**Clearwater Councilmember
Kathleen Beckman**

**Florida Senate District 18
Candidate Eunic Ortiz**

**Issues, events and concerns in
Pinellas County.**

Dear Welcomed Warriors,

August brought us some good news. Most of our candidates won their primaries! President Biden has ordered that up to \$20k in student loans will be forgiven. While in Alaska, gave us Mary Peltola Congress in a special election.

Legislative Liaison
Karen Mullins
(Interim)

• Parliamentarian
Open

Sergeant-At-Arms
Jasmina Forcan
727-692-3472

Publicity Chair
Margie Murphy
727-281-2525
Margie@PurplePaw.
net

Newsletter Editor
Donna Dennis
Karen Mullins

DWCUP
DWCUP.org

Twitter
@DWCUP_727

Instagram:
@DWCUP_727

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DWCUP>

Email:
DWCUP727@gmail.com

DWCF, Inc.
DWCF.org

Nation Federation of
Democratic Women
www.nfdw.com

Florida Democratic Party
Fladems.com

Pinellas County
Democratic Executive
Committee
Pinellasdemocrats.com

Congratulations to
[Val Demings](#) US Senate,
[Kathy Castor](#), Congressional D14,
[Aramis Ayala](#), Attorney General;
[Naomi Ester Blemur](#), Commissioner of Agriculture;
[Adam Hattersley](#), Chief Financial Officer;
[Bernie Fensterwald](#), House District 58;
[Michele Rayner](#), House District 62;
[Keesha Benson](#) School Board;
[Brian Martin](#) School Board

President Biden's announcement of wiping out up to \$20k in student loan debt for a generation that became victim to predatory loans. This is not only good news for our college graduates, it is great news for our economy.

In Alaska, there was a welcomed victory for **Mary Peltola** in an election for an open Congressional seat. This election was special because it was to fill an open seat, but it was also special in that the election was a new system of ranked choice voting. This system was used in the election of the New York City Mayor, Eric Adams.

Ranked choice voting lets the voter rank each candidate on the ballot.

“Broadly speaking, the ranked-choice voting process unfolds as follows for single-winner elections:

1. Voters rank the candidates for a given office by preference on their ballots.
2. If a candidate wins an outright majority of first-preference votes (i.e., 50 percent plus one), he or she will be declared the winner.
3. If, on the other hand, no candidates win an outright majority of first-preference votes, the candidate with the fewest first-preference votes is eliminated.
4. All first-preference votes for the failed candidate are eliminated, lifting the second-preference choices indicated on those ballots.

5. A new tally is conducted to determine whether any candidate has won an outright majority of the adjusted voters.
6. The process is repeated until a candidate wins a majority of votes cast.”*

Florida outlawed Rank-Choice Voting (SB524, signed into law on April 25, 2022, barred the use of ranked-choice voting in any election; this preempted Sarasota's adoption of ranked-choice voting).[\[1\]](#)

While I am thrilled at all of this good news, we have the harsh reality that fascism is knocking on every Floridian's door.

We have a rigid Governor who needs to be stopped, and Charlie Crist can do it!

Please keep a lookout for candidate events. They are sprouting up faster than I can get the information out.

We have doors to knock and people to reach.

NOW LET'S GET TO WORK!



**Karen Mullins
(She/Her/Ella)**

~You are the change. You are the government. You are the power.

*[Ballotpedia](#)

August DWCUP Meeting



Nathan Bruemmer, our August meeting guest speaker. His speech was informative and moving.

Eric Lynn for Congress Meet and Greet!



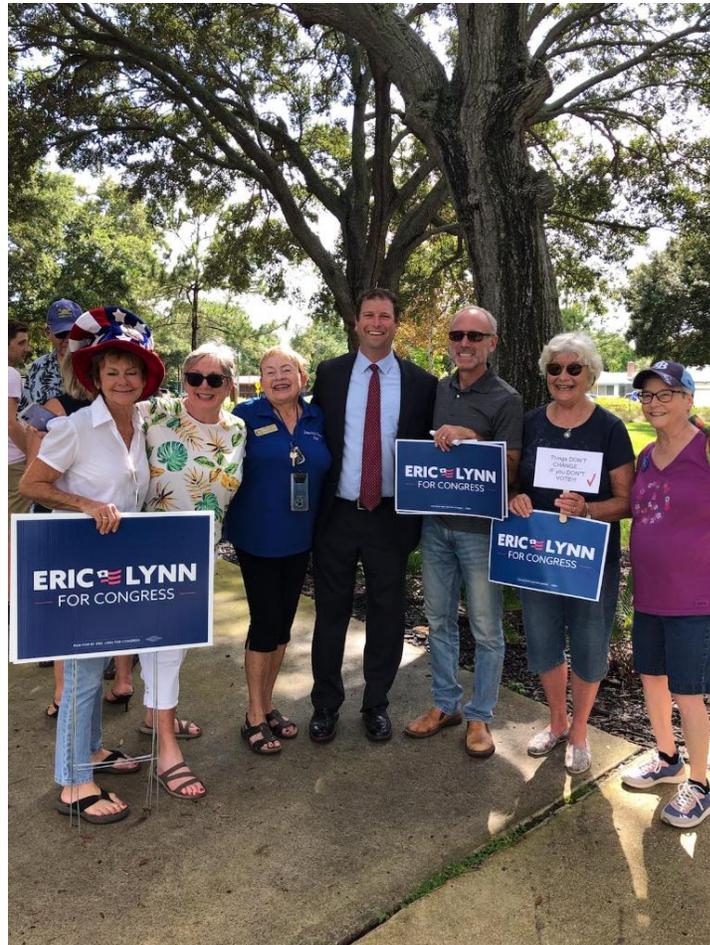
This afternoon, September 1st, Eric Lynn, candidate for Congress in District 13, spoke at Crest Lake Park in Clearwater. He was first introduced by Cookie Kennedy, Mayor of Indian Rocks Beach and Vice-Mayor Kathleen Beckman of Clearwater. Several club members were present showing their support. There were also several local media outlets present.

Eric laid out his key concerns in this election, including protection of the environment, Increased support for education, support for a woman's right to choose, and the need

for a moderate voice in the Congress who can work with all. In addition, he challenged his opponent, Anna Luna, to three debates before the Nov. 8th election. Eric emphasized the need for Pinellas County voters to listen to the positions and differences between the candidates and choose who's best for Pinellas County.

He encouraged anyone not currently registered to vote to get involved and get registered.

District 13 runs all the way from the top of Pinellas County to the bottom, excluding a portion of St Petersburg. His website is EricLynnforCongress.com. He will need our support and help to keep this seat blue!



~Donna Dennis, 1st Vice President

DWCUP Words of Inspiration
September, 2022

One month ago, we observed **National Women's Equality Day**, commemorating the 1920 grant of the right to vote to American women. Notably, in 1923, just three years later, a constitutional provision granting **Equal Rights To Women** was drafted and then first introduced in Congress. Women have waited for 99 years and we still wait for the ERA's constitutional recognition. The waiting is dangerous – many across the nation propose fetus “personhood” – giving a fetus a legal status still denied to existing adult women, while denying women control over their own bodies and lives and treating them as the same as animal breeding stock by forced birth policies.

Let's do a brief ERA political recap. Many of us remember the anti-ERA rhetoric urging “**dangers**” to women – the **threats** of unisex bathrooms, drafting women for combat, and same-sex marriage – all these have lost the force they once held. Labor no longer opposes the **ERA**; indeed, the argument that women would lose labor laws protection seems ludicrous in light of Congress' failure to pass pregnancy fairness provisions. And, among real people, there is no apparent partisan opposition with a 2016 poll documenting 90 percent of identified Republicans support the ERA.

Tragically, extremist MAGA followers advance forced birth and “**anti-woke**” policies slating for extinction the rights of women, with a handful of GOP candidates saying women should not have the right to vote.

Democratic women, it is time to fight extremist MAGA candidates and demand the ERA be published and that American women be granted “personhood” status at long last. The wait is too long! **Vote Blue!**

~Diane Lebedeff, Recording Secretary

EVENTS:

★ Region 8 Board Meeting

- September 3, 2022
- 10:30 am

★ Pinellas Democratic Labor Day Unity Picnic

- September 3, 2022
- 12 pm
- Philippe Park
- Tickets are just \$20 each and children are free!
- **Purchase Tickets [HERE](#)**

★ DWCUP Executive Board Meeting

- **September 21st**
- 11 am
- Contact Karen at DWCUP727@gmail.com for location

★ DWCUP Membership Meeting

- **September 26, 2022**
- St Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus Library
- Zoom
- 12 pm

★ DWCUP Night Out

- **October 12, 2022**
- TBA (Looking for a venue in **Seminole or Pinellas Park**)

★ 2022 GENERAL ELECTION

- **NOVEMBER 8, 2022**
 - **Voter Registration Deadline:**
 - October 11, 2022
 - **Ballot Mailing Schedule:**
 - Military & Overseas Voters: September 24, 2022
 - Domestic voters: October 6, 2022
 - **Request a Mail Ballot:**
 - MailBallot@VotePinellas.gov (727) 464-VOTE (8683)
 - **Deadline to request a ballot to be mailed:**
 - 5:00 p.m., October 29, 2022
 - **[Early Voting:](#)**
 - October 24, 2022 - November 6, 2022 (7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.)
 - **Polling Places:**
 - Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Election Day

★ Democratic Women's Club of Florida, 67th Convention

- April 27-30, 2023
- The Rosen Center, Orlando, FL

★ MORE EVENTS:

- **Click Here:** <https://www.mobilize.us/>

What President Biden Has Accomplished:



Executive Order on Protecting Access to Reproductive Healthcare Services:

President Joe Biden has signed an executive order to protect access to abortion and reproductive health services in the U.S.

Student Loan Debt Relief Plan

A Proclamation on Women's Equality Day, 2022

Biden **enacted** an action plan to alleviate supply chain problems at ports and waterways

Biden **ordered** the EPA and the Department of Transportation to rollout increased fuel emission standards that will lead to 40-50 percent of US cars being electric by 2030

Biden **allocated** \$5 billion from FEMA for communities affected by climate-related disasters

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/>

Your Slate

Governor ~ Charlie Crist
Senator ~ Val Demings
Congress, District 13 ~ Eric Lynn
Congress, District 14 ~ Kathy Castor
Attorney General ~ Aramis Ayala
Commissioner of Agriculture ~ Naomi Ester Blemur
Chief Financial Officer ~ Adam Hattersley
Senate District 16- Amaro Lionheart
Senate District 18 ~ Eunic Ortiz
Senate District 19~Darryl Rouson
House District 58 ~ Bernie Fensterwald
House District 60 ~ Lindsay Cross
House District 61 ~ Janet Varnell Warwick
House District 62 ~ Michele Rayner
State Attorney ~ Allison Miller
Commission~ Pat Gerard
School Board ~ Keesha Benson

**DWCUP Annual Membership Dues:
\$25.00**

Get the best deals here:

TIERED MEMBERSHIPS:

- PLATINUM Member:**
3 years for \$70.00 ✓
- SILVER Member:**
5 years for \$100.00 ✓
- GOLD Member:**
Member for Life
\$250.00 ✓

Make your dues payment here:

<https://dwcup.com/donate>

Your membership is valid through January 31, 2023.

DWCUP TUESDAYS

@ North Pinellas Democratic Outreach Center
Sign Up to Join Us @
1402 North MLK Ave. Clearwater
Come in and volunteer!
Open Mon-Fri
12-4pm
Sat
10am-12pm.
Info:
Office@pinellasdemocrats.com
727-327-2796

Toiletries: DWCUP collects unused toiletries at each in person meeting for local charities. Please look for the PINK basket to drop off your donations.

Household Batteries: DWCUP's Jessie Forcan takes household batteries (not rechargeable) to recycle in Pasco County.



Next Meeting

Monday, September 26, 2022
St Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus Library
12pm-1:30pm