



<p>Chartered September 9, 1940</p>	<div>★</div> <p>Volume 85, Number 9 September 2024</p> <div>★</div>
<p>CLUB OFFICERS & CHAIRS</p> <p>President Donna Dennis 313-443-2587 DWCUP727@gmail.com</p> <p>1st Vice President Cora Kostka</p> <p>2nd Vice President Nancy Vellucci</p> <p>Recording Secretary Jan Walton</p> <p>Treasurer Kathleen Keohane</p> <p>Regional Rep. Donna Dennis</p> <p>Campaigns Coordinator Liz Dahan</p> <p>Hospitality Chairs Ruthann Richwine Karen Miracle</p> <p>Legislative Liaison Jean Greenawalt</p> <p>Newsletter Chair Jan Walton</p> <p>Publicity Chair Marjorie Murphy</p> <p>Webmaster Polly Kraus</p>	<p>MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Monday, September 23, 2024 at 12pm</p> <p>Door opens/Social time 11:30 Extended format with workshop, snacks available</p> <p>Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.</p> <p>Florida Amendments 2024 Ballot</p> <p>Discussion of the Issues</p> <p>Amendment 1 PARTISAN ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARDS Lee Bryant, President, Pinellas Classroom Teachers Association</p> <p>Amendment 3 ADULT PERSONAL USE OF MARIJUANA Jodi James, nationally known cannabis lobbyist and DWCF member</p> <p>Amendment 4 AMENDMENT TO LIMIT GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE WITH ABORTION Ali Schutz, Regional Organizing Manager of Tampa Bay for Yes on 4</p> <p>The General Election will be Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024. The deadline to register to vote in the general election is Monday, Oct. 7. The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot is Thursday, Oct. 24.</p>

DWCUP Website
DWCUP.org

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

Facebook
facebook.com/groups/DWCUP

Club 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

HOW TO DO SOMETHING

PINELLAS DEMOCRATS OFFICES – Drop in hours

South County: Mon-Friday 10-4 with phone bank set up.
2250 1st Ave. N., St Petersburg 727-327-279

North County: Monday 12:30-3:30, Tues Wed Thurs 12-4, Fri 9-4.
1402 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. N., Clearwater 727-230-1812

Check Mobilize regularly for District volunteer needs and events
<https://www.mobilize.us/PinellasCountyDEC/>

HARRIS-WALZ CAMPAIGN

Volunteer Welcome and Statewide Training:
https://go.kamalaharris.com/?utm_source=hfp_w_kh_menu

Take Action National
https://web.kamalaharris.com/forms/take-action-for-kamalaharris/?source=web_an_takeactionpage_20240726

Campaign jobs <https://kamalaharris.com/work-with-us/>

Store <https://store.kamalaharris.com/>

Donate <https://kamalaharris.com/>

Events Nationwide, training <https://events.democrats.org>

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF FLORIDA (DWCF)

Find Events and Volunteer: Mobilize.Us/2024FLVictory

Harris for Florida Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/harrisforfl>

Host an event with Women for Harris Walz
<https://bit.ly/WfHEventHost>

Tell us about an event you are holding: <https://bit.ly/WfHEventRequest>

Share your Story: <https://bit.ly/FLWfHStoryteller>

OUR 2024
CANDIDATES

NATIONAL
STATE
COUNTY

OUR FULL
BALLOT NEEDS
YOUR SUPPORT

Message from Liz Dahan, DWCUP Campaign Chair

As Campaign Chair for the Democratic Women's Club in Upper Pinellas, my mission is to coordinate and amplify our efforts to elect Democrats across Pinellas County, including Kamala Harris! Over the next two months, I will lead a comprehensive campaign strategy that leverages our club's strengths, from grassroots organizing to digital outreach. We'll focus on engaging key voter groups, raising awareness about crucial issues like women's reproductive rights with NPAs, and ensuring everyone is prepared to vote, especially through mail-in ballots. By uniting our members and collaborating with local campaigns, we'll work tirelessly to turn out the Blue vote and make a meaningful impact in this election

Take ACTION with
2024 FL Victory!



"DO something!" Michelle Obama

***ELECT Kamala Harris/Tim Walz!!**

kamalaharris.com

*Debbie Mucarsel-Powell - US Senate
debbieforflorida.com

*Whitney Fox - US Congress FL District 13
whitneyfoxforcongress.com

*Doris Carroll - Florida Senate District 21
doriscarrollforflsenate21.com

*Kelly Johnson - Florida State House D57
votekelly4florida.com

*Bryan Beckman - Florida State House D58
bryanbeckmanfl.com

*Dawn Douglas - Florida State House D59
electdawndouglas.com

*Lindsay Cross - Florida State House D60
lindsaycrossfl.com

*"Cookie" Kennedy - County Commissioner
kennedyforpinellas.com

*Charlie Justice - County Commissioner
charliejustice.com

**Pinellas County Schools Referendum
VOTE YES!! pcsb.org/referendum

Check each candidates site and SIGN-UP for emails!

REACH: The Democrats - HWVDJ3

WE WON'T GO BACK!!



DWCUP PRESIDENT'S REMARKS SEPTEMBER 2024



TWO MONTHS! That's all the time we have left in this election cycle. And we're still so excited about the Democratic candidates!

We can't take our foot off the gas pedal for a moment for the next two months. Excitement isn't enough to win. That takes WORK! So we're including lots of opportunities and links to activities for you, so that we can all DO SOMETHING! Every day!

Who have you spoken with today? What calls have you made? Have you made any contributions to candidates or campaigns? For those of you who walk with ease, have you gone canvassing? All of these actions tell Kamala Harris and Tim Walz, "Put me in Coach!" Let's all help them win!

Last Monday's meeting was terrific! We had more than double our usual attendance, and that's with being in a different location. I'm grateful to all of you who were there and on Zoom.

This month we'll be back in the usual library meeting room and discuss the issues on the ballot. We'll have speakers who can answer your questions about them. Within days of our September meeting, the vote by mail ballots will arrive in your mailbox!

We've got more events coming up as well. This Thursday, we'll gather at the home of Gary Baker to hear more from Bryan Beckman, our State House candidate.

Next Monday, September 9th, we'll gather at 6pm at Lucky Lobster in Dunedin for a Democratic Women's Nite Out. And yes, men can attend too.

The following night is the big debate between the prosecutor and the felon. C'mon over to my place and we'll watch it together! Please check out all the event flyers in this newsletter.

See you on the campaign trail!

Catching up

Recap for DWCUP Meeting of Aug. 26, 2024



Everyone was welcomed to a celebration of **Women's Equality Day**. It's been 104 years since the 19th Amendment was enacted to grant many women the right to vote in America. **Mary Freeman** and **Cora Kostka** wore suffragist white to commemorate the occasion.

The momentum from last week's Democratic National Convention could be felt throughout the room. The Harris/Walz campaign has returned excitement and enthusiasm to this presidential election! **Karen Mullins** was a delegate to the convention and described the activities, speeches, special guests, media coverage and more.

Part of our election **Liz Dahan**, former candidate for Congress, is gun at the new Campaign Chair. She'll ~~We'll do as much as we can~~ in the 70ish days left!

Mary Lou Ambrose, President of the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club, briefed us on a problem coming up in several states that could harm the national vote count. Election deniers have been installed in positions that are usually just clerical, certifying election results. Please see Mary Lou's article in this newsletter!



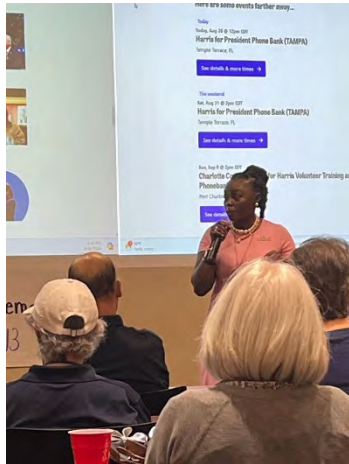
Candidates spoke to us. **Bryan Beckman**, candidate for State House Rep, District 58, talked about his goals and hopes for our district. The DWCUP presented him with a donation from our club. **Doris Carroll**, candidate for Florida Senate district 21, introduced herself to us. And we were fortunate to hear from our candidate for US Congress, District 13, **Whitney Fox**. She won a tough

primary and will keep up the good work reaching out to as many people as possible.



Catching up

Our main speaker was **Kylie Couture** of the LaFemme Institute of Palm Harbor. LaFemme serves women of Pinellas County by offering technology training, arts and crafts, learning new skills and reimagining one's future. It's located on CR 1 in Palm Harbor. Tours and volunteer opportunities are also available. The website is lafemmeinstitute.org



Our members got an extra boost of “do something” momentum from **Andrea Evans-Dixon**, Pinellas staff for the Harris-Walz campaign. She is a business strategist from Clearwater and used her talents as the campaign manager for Javante Scott's Clearwater city council run. Now she has the awesome task of mobilizing Pinellas for Harris-Walz. Andrea recounted her experience so far in analyzing the voter data, and told us there are people out there who, if contacted, can be moved toward Harris. See the links on page 3 of this newsletter for Harris-Walz outreach efforts.

In our workshop, **Beth Davis** led a presentation on using REACH as a campaign tool to reach voters. This training is ongoing (see page 3) and available online and at the North Pinellas Democratic Outreach Office, 4052 MLK Jr. Blvd., Suite 100, Clearwater, FL 34616, there daily, along with opportunities for all to work on the election. The workshop included writing postcards and texting.

Donna Dennis and Gary & Karen Baker invite You to

Meet 'n Greet

BRYAN
BECKMAN



Candidate For Florida House of Representatives District 58

Join us Thursday, **September 5 th** @ 6:00 pm
Gary & Karen's Condo
55 Rogers Street #406, Clearwater
Please **RSVP:** dennis802@gmail.com
or text: 313-443-2587

Invite your Friends and Neighbors to Join Us
Refreshments will be served

Talk with Bryan about his vision for Florida:

- Combating Rising Insurance, Healthcare and Housing Costs
- Protecting Women's Reproductive Freedoms
- Advocating for Protection of Our Environment
- Providing Adequate Compensation for Our Teachers



Democratic
Women's Fun Night
Monday
Sept 9, 2024
6:00-8:00PM
Lucky Lobster, Dunedin

No agenda, no speakers, just a fun
night out for laughter and
camaraderie. Dutch treat - order
from the menu.

Join us! Bring a friend.

RSVP to

ruthannrichwine@gmail.com

or sign up on Mobilize.

Lucky Lobster 941 Huntley Ave. Dunedin
Free parking in the lot to the west and the parking structure
just east of the Pinellas Trail.



Legislative Report

As legislative liaison, my job is to participate in Democratic Women's Club Florida (DWCF) Zoom meetings. The purpose of the zoom meetings is to discuss the bills and generate alerts for contacting legislators for those bills requiring action.

Although some bills are being filed for the 2025 session, the Zoom meetings will probably not be held just yet.

I wrote software to scrape bill data from the [flsenate.gov](https://www.flsenate.gov) and [myfloridahouse.gov](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov) websites.

My spreadsheet for 2025 can be found at the following link:

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

The 2024 spreadsheet, merged with DWCF data, can be found at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1P8b8nXWzsfccuRBvjJnpZ9z28muhdM/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=105103654553308080498&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Some of our members have expressed an interest in reviewing bills. That would be great! I will pass information on when the Zoom meetings start.

Jean Greenawalt
Legislative Liaison
September 1, 2024

C. A. Bridges, USA TODAY NETWORK – Florida, Tallahassee Democrat, Aug. 21, 2024

Voting yes means anyone 21 years old and older would be able to use and possess up to 3

ounces of marijuana with not more than 5 grams in a concentrated form (with assorted restrictions). Pot could be sold through marijuana dispensaries without the need for a medical marijuana card.

Voting no keeps recreational marijuana illegal.

Smart & Safe Florida proposed this amendment and nearly \$55 million from the state's largest medical marijuana operator Trulieve launched it. Attorney John Morgan, who was instrumental in getting medical marijuana legalized, has endorsed the amendment. If it passes, Florida would become the 25th state to legalize marijuana for fun rather than just medical use.

In a recent survey of likely Florida voters from the University of North Florida's Public Opinion Research Lab, 64% were in favor of recreational marijuana. But Gov. Ron DeSantis, other GOP leaders, police groups around the state and the Association all oppose it. DeSantis launched Florida Freedom Fund, a group partly devoted to funding opposition to Amendment 3, chaired by the governor's chief of staff, Uthmeier.

Supporters say making it legal would remove some of the power of Central American drug cartels, decrease gang violence, ease the workloads and expense

of law enforcement and the justice system, ensure that marijuana users have a safe, regulated product, and bring in potentially hundreds of millions in tax revenue for the state.

Critics say it would increase criminal activity, unless two physicians are willing to state that the pregnant person would die without one. accidents, homelessness and hospitalizations. DeSantis has said the measure would be "bad for quality of life" because "this state will start to smell like marijuana in our cities and towns."

Amendment 4 - Abortion Access

"AMENDMENT TO LIMIT GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE WITH ABORTION: No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's healthcare provider. This amendment does not change the Legislature's constitutional authority to require notification of a guardian before a minor has an abortion." Florida Sheriffs Association

This is likely to be the biggest fight and the one to get national attention. In the same year the state limited abortion, before many people even know they're pregnant, this amendment would void that law.

Voting yes would make abortion legal until fetal viability, which is generally considered to be

around 23-24 weeks. It would also allow abortions when necessary to protect a patient's health, as determined by a health care provider.

Voting no would leave abortions illegal in Florida after 6 weeks unless two physicians are willing to state that the pregnant person would die without one.

DeSantis, Florida Republicans and anti-abortion groups are strongly against this amendment, claiming it is too vague and will lead to an unregulated abortion industry. Supporters say it will put control over the pregnant person's body back where it belongs, with the person and their healthcare provider.

In the UNF poll, 69% of those surveyed said they'd vote yes compared to only 23% saying no.

The group behind the amendment, Floridians Protecting Freedom, almost certainly will challenge this week to the state's Supreme Court. The group's financial impact statement attached to the amendment which warns of increased abortions and fewer live births and says the total impact is indeterminate. The group retained that Senate President of Kathleen Passidomo and House Speaker Paul Renner did not have the authority to reconvene the panel to write another statement, but the Florida Supreme Court turned it down.

Amendment 5 - Homestead

Ç Z Ç
"ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT TO
HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION
VALUE: Proposing an
amendment to the State
Constitution to require an annual
a d u s t m e n t f o r i n
value of current or future
homestead exemptions that
apply solely to levies other than
school district levies and for
which every person who has
legal or equitable title to real
estate and maintains thereon
the permanent residence of the
owner, or another person legally
or naturally dependent upon the
owner is eligible. This
a m e n d m e n t t a e s e f
1, 2025."

This one, HJR 7017, came from
the Florida Legislature and
would tie a portion of homestead
property tax exemptions to
i n a t i o n r a t e s .

Voting yes could mean savings
for homeowners who apply for
homestead exemptions.

Voting no would leave
homestead exemption rates as
they are now.

Supporters say that tying the
homestead exemption to

i n a t i o n r a t e s c o u
homeowners money. Critics say
that this could seriously hurt
local government revenues by
draining non-school government
property taxes by nearly \$23
million in the 2025-2 s c a l
and \$112 million within a few
years, according to a legislative
analysis.

Amendment 6 - Public Campaign Financing

"REPEAL OF PUBLIC CAMPAIGN
FINANCING REQUIREMENT:
Proposing the repeal of the
provision in the State
Constitution which requires
p u b l i c f a n c i n g f o r c a m p a i g n s
for candidates for elective
s t a t e w i d e o f f i c e w h o
campaign spending limits."

Voting yes means there would be
no more public funding for
candidates for
governor/lieutenant governor,
a t t o r n e y g e n e r a l , t h e
o f f i c e r a n d a g r i c u l t u r a l
commissioner.

Voting no leaves things as they
are.

Currently, candidates for those
o f f i c e s c a n r e c e i v e p u b l i c
funding once they raise a certain
amount themselves — \$150,000

for governor and \$100,000 for
cabinet positions — from state
residents. They must also abide
b y s t a t e c a m p a i g n
as well as certain contribution
limits.

y e a r

Supporters say the amendment
would save taxpayer money and
help fund other government
services. Critics say this
amendment from the Florida
L e g i s l a t u r e w o u l d
wealthy candidates and
candidates getting big-donor
cash by keeping other
candidates from competing on a
more equal level.

Florida voters added public
funding to the state constitution
in 1998. A previous
constitutional amendment that
t r i e d t o r e p e a l t h
2010 failed, getting less than
53% of the vote.

The State General Election will l
be Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024. The
deadline to register to vote in the
general election is Monday, Oct.
7. The deadline to request a
vote-by-mail ballot is Thursday,
Oct. 24.



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LET'S WATCH THE DEBATE TOGETHER!

Tuesday, September 10th, 7:30pm on,

Debate is at 9pm.

POTLUCK/BYOB

Location: 223 Island Way — Community Center

Clearwater, FL 33767

More information: Call Donna Dennis, 313-443-2587

H a r/rWad z S i g n Wa

Bring a sign! Bring a sign!



* Sat Sept. 14th 10-11:30a

Curl ew Rd / US 19 N

Parking: Walgreens S.W. Corn

30280 US 19 N, Clearwater



* Sat., Sept. 28th 10-11:30

Gulfayd - Belcher Rd

Parking: Publix SE Corner 525

* Sat., Oct. 5th 10-11:30a

Keene Rd / 580 - Main Street

Parking: Publix SE Corner 149



* Sat., Oct. 19th 10-11:30

Curl ew Rd / US 19 N

Parking: Walgreens S.W. Corn

30280 US 19 N, Clearwater



* Sat., Oct. 26th 10-11:30

Gulfayd - Belcher Rd

Parking: Publix SE Corner 525

* Sat., Nov. 2nd 10-11:30a

Keene Rd / 580 - Main Street

Parking: Publix SE Corner 149



* Mon., Nov. 4th ELEC N EVE

US 19 / Edersptrian Overpass #

Parking: Duff's Buffet 2611

Tentative: US 19 / Harn Blvd Pe



* Check Mobilize & Facebook f

* Sign ups: <https://www.mobilize.us/northpinellascountyclub>

* Facebook: North Pinellas C

Club, Indivisible North Pine

* go.kamalaharris.com & event



THE REPUBLICAN PLAN TO STEAL THE ELECTION

By Mary Lou Ambrose, President, Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club

Kamala Harris is moving quickly toward defeating Donald Trump. My concern is that winning the most votes of the people in the General election (the total of all the votes if the people), is subject to the rules for the Certification of Presidential elections.

Most of us know, but have forgotten, that when we vote for President of the United States, we actually vote for an "Electors" who represents the candidate we voted for. Electors are appointed by the Parties. These are positions with historically little to do. Through all the elections prior to Donald Trump's arrival on the political horizon, the named Electors have been appointed in recognition of their good work for their political party. They are honored to be chosen. The task of the Electors is to receive the ballots, verify that all ballots cast have been accounted for and to Certify those ballots. They then pass the ballots on to their State for the next step - State Certification. That is all they do!

Once an election is held, it is subject to being filtered through the Electoral College based on each state's census of their Representatives in the House and Senate - two votes for Senators and one vote for each representative. The fact that the political Party chooses the Electors is very important to the Republican plan. The first task for the Certification of the Election is the Certification of the ballots by the Counties, then the States, and finally at the joint meeting of the House and Senate at the Capitol (which last took place on January 6, 2020.)

If the Ballots are not Certified by the Counties, they cannot be passed off to the State. As a result, refusal at the State level stops the Certification of the ballots by the State and the Congress. (It would have been easier if we could simply vote our choice of Candidates. It has not been a concern until Trump made his appearance as a candidate.)

For 2024 the illegal Republican plan can stop the Certification to choose the President. The plan is then to use the chaos resulting in the refusal to Certify the election results to put the Election into chaos and work to destroy the system. Right now, the very basis of the Elector system is being put into the hands of criminals who are willing to destroy the American system of elections in order to allow Trump to become President again.

If they succeed, it will be next to impossible to return to what has made this country strong. More important, the Republicans are working in the background to weaken the system followed by a plan for the destruction of the system and American Democracy. The ultimate plan is to put in place Project 2025. They have been planning what they now call Project 2025 for years and have found their criminal Candidate.

Mark Elias is the attorney whose firm, Democracy Docket, was responsible for fighting this Republican plan in 2020 and 2022. He and his group of attorneys won all 60 cases regarding Donald Trump's invalid electors attempting to stop the election system in its tracks in 2020. But that was when there were just 60 cases. We can expect many more. Many cases against fraudulent electors cannot be decided in the time allotted if the Republicans succeed with their plan.

Fortunately, Mark's firm is not working alone in 2024. Many Democratic states realize the threat and are planning to use the Legislatures to stop the Republicans from their plan to destroy the Electoral College. Some states have passed or are passing rules that do not allow an Elector to refuse to Certify an Election. Many have included prison time for any Elector found guilty. Obviously, Republican states are not going to cooperate.

We need to talk about this and make sure everyone knows what Republicans are doing. We can send letters to the Editor; find out where and when Electors will meet; attend the meeting; and ask questions. We need to do our best to stop the Republicans from undermining the election results. It is important that we act now and continue through until we win. The fate of the future of this country is in the hands of those who fight for a system that has been in place for centuries. Democracy must continue to prevail in the United States of America.



MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS!

All members of the DWCUP are also members of the DWCF (Democratic Women's Club of Florida). Please go to the website, www.dwcf.org, and get registered, create a password and take a look at all the features of the organization. There is a special members section as well. Get an idea of what's going on with other clubs in the state, the Florida Democratic Party, and so much more!

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

● **PLATINUM MEMBERS:**
3 Years for \$70

● **SILVER MEMBERS:**
5 Years for \$100

● **GOLD MEMBERS:**
Member for Life \$250

Pay your membership dues here:
dwcup.com/donate

NEXT 0216 **MEMBERSHIP MEETING:**

Monday, 2REH **, 202** **at 12pm**
Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.

