



Chartered  
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**CLUB  
REPRESENTATIVES**

**President**

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Cora Kostka

**2nd Vice President**

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**Recording Secretary**

Theresa Bromm-Boesen

**Treasurer**

Kathleen Keohane

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**Parliamentarian**

**Sergeant-At-Arms**

**Publicity Chair**

Marjorie Murphy

**Newsletter Chair**

Jan Walton

**Hospitality Chairs**

Ruthann Richwine  
Karen Miracle

**Webmaster**

Polly Kraus

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING:**

Monday, February 26, 2024 at 12pm

Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.  
Snacks available

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

**Marva W. McWhite, President  
NAACP Clearwater/Upper Pinellas**

**Linda Brewton, Membership Chair  
NAACP Clearwater/Upper Pinellas**



**Marva Wingfield McWhite** was born in Leesburg Georgia, located on the outskirts of Albany. She moved to Clearwater as a teenager.

Marva's professional career includes a 30-year tenure at general telephone company GTE, now Verizon. With her tenacity to make equal rights a forum in the workforce, she was instrumental in

helping to set precedents by challenging GTE to include the realm of diversity in their day-to-day operations as well as management levels of the company.

After retiring from GTE, she traveled across country with her spouse as members of the National Association of Black Rvers. She later joined United Information Technology where she trained Verizon and other telecommunication personnel. Marva then worked for Ceridian in St. Petersburg, where she was a proud charter member of their Diversity Team, Community Volunteer Team, and Toastmasters Club serving as founder and Charter President.

Marva's community service includes Life member NAACP, District Directress, Civil Liberties, Region IV, Improved Benevolent Protective

## DWCUP Website

[DWCUP.org](http://DWCUP.org)

## Twitter

[@DWCUP727](https://twitter.com/DWCUP727)

## Instagram

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

## Facebook

[facebook.com/groups/DWCUP](https://facebook.com/groups/DWCUP)

## Email

[DWCUP727@gmail.com](mailto:DWCUP727@gmail.com)

## DWCF, Inc.

[DWCF.org](http://DWCF.org)

## Nation Federation of Democratic Women

[www.nfdw.com](http://www.nfdw.com)

## Florida Democratic Party

[Fladems.com](http://Fladems.com)

## Pinellas County Democratic Executive Committee

[Pinellasdemocrats.com](http://Pinellasdemocrats.com)

Order of Elk of The World, serving Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Puerto Rico. Member, (VP) Bee Happy Club, Worthy Matron, Goodloe Chapter #42 OES, and member of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Clearwater.

Marva has one favorite daughter, Yolanda Goodloe, and one favorite son, Sheldon Goodloe. She also has seven favorite grandchildren and ten favorite great grandchildren.



**Linda Brewton** has a lifetime of caring, sharing and giving to others.

She retired from Alliant Tech Systems after thirty-eight years as a Senior Acquisition Specialist. Linda organized and managed the Electronic Supply Chain Cost Reduction Management Group out of Salt Lake City Utah, and part of the NASA

Shuttle Program.

She is a graduate of Clearwater High School, attended St Petersburg Jr. College and the University of South Florida, and graduated from the University of Phoenix in Supply Chain Management.

Linda is the owner Of Grand Mond House of Fashions in Clearwater, and an event and wedding planner/designer.

She served as a Chaplain to Sunset Pointe Rehabilitation and Nursing Home for ten years, (now Sand Key Health Center). Linda was Youth Director for thirty-five years to The First South Florida Missionary Baptist Association, also President of Mission Society, and Church Musician.

Linda has one daughter, Terri, two awesome grandsons, and five great grands.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT FEBRUARY 2024



It's crunch time for our local municipal elections. Much of my time lately has been devoted to working with other club members and active Dems on the Clearwater election coming up on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Never in my memory has there been such a profound significance to the mayoral and city council elections.

Kathleen Beckman will make a truly positive change in the future of Clearwater as its mayor. She is a thoughtful, respectful leader with a track record of fiscally sound decisions. She devotes full-time attention to this part-time position. She speaks to every Clearwater voter she can and listens to them well.

I'm also supporting Mark Bunker for Seat 2 and Javante Scott for Seat 3. I just watched the forum on Spectrum channel 638, and for those of you who are Clearwater voters, try to catch a rebroadcast of this forum (on the city YouTube channel). Thursday evening, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> is the mayoral forum at 6pm in the Main Library City Council Chamber. Attend or watch that as well. The differences between the candidates are so clear.

If you have time to help with our local and other elections, we need your help at the North Pinellas Democratic Outreach office (1402 MLK Ave, Clearwater). Kathleen Keohane, our club treasurer and the Chair of District 58, is overseeing the lit drops happening currently for our local races. I learned how to use the REACH app and was able to reach out to all the Dems and NPAs in my precinct. It's easier to use than any previous political contact method. And if I can do it, so can you. It's easy to learn and takes minimal effort.

We're also paying close attention to the outcome of today's arguments on the Abortion Referendum before the Florida Supreme Court. We won't get the decision until April, but we know that this issue is of paramount importance for women in Florida. When it's on the ballot, Democrats win, as well as all the women of child-bearing age!

This month is Black History Month. I find this particularly important this year, as the frontrunner for President in the Republican party has demonstrated his thinly veiled racism with dog whistles to his base. You don't need me to list his many ugly comments on the subject, but the vitriol is getting worse. We must defeat him! I'm looking forward to hearing representatives from the North Pinellas NAACP speak with us about working together this year to make this happen.

I want to take a moment of personal privilege to thank the new officers. They are already working diligently and learning the ropes of the DWCUP. I have to be on top of my game just to keep up! Let's all give our utmost to help Democrats at all levels be successful this year!

Donna Dennis

**The March Municipal Election is on March 19, 2024.**

**Mail ballots go out on February 15. Early voting runs from March 9-17. Find times and voting locations at [www.votepinellas.gov](http://www.votepinellas.gov)**

**Vote for these Candidates for Clearwater City Council:**



**Kathleen Beckman for Mayor of Clearwater  
(Seat 1)**

Phone: [\(727\) 437-2729](tel:(727)437-2729)  
Email: [info@BeckmanForMayor.com](mailto:info@BeckmanForMayor.com)  
Website: [BeckmanForMayor.com](http://BeckmanForMayor.com)



**Mark Bunker, Incumbent, for Clearwater City  
Council, Seat 2**

Email: [Info@markbunker2024.com](mailto:Info@markbunker2024.com)  
Website: [MarkBunker2024.com](http://MarkBunker2024.com)



**Javante Scott for Clearwater City Council, Seat 3**

Phone: [\(727\) 228-1931](tel:(727)228-1931)  
Email: [jmscott@preparedfornext.org](mailto:jmscott@preparedfornext.org)



## UPDATES

### DWCUP January 2024 Meeting Recap



Our January meeting was a great opportunity for us to hear from local Democrats running for office in Pinellas County.

We heard from two candidates for US Congress, District 13, Whitney Fox and Mark Weinkrantz. Their primary will be in August. Both have websites outlining their platforms.



Javante Scott is a candidate for Seat 3 on the Clearwater City Council. He outlined his vision for Clearwater. He was born and raised in Clearwater, received his B.S. in Public Policy and Administration from St. Petersburg College, and is an employee of the city in the Neighborhood Services Department.

Javante has put forth practical ideas addressing the issues of housing, economic development and diversity, infrastructure, youth opportunities, protecting our environment, and city employment. If elected, he will carry his understanding of the city into being a full-time council member serving Clearwater.



Beth Davis spoke on behalf of DWCUP member, Kathleen Beckman, candidate for Mayor of Clearwater, who was on official business at the time of the meeting. Elected to the City Council in 2020, Kathleen's work in the city and on the boards she serves on, represent her many passions including advocating for Clearwater residents and neighborhoods, our environment, small business innovation, housing solutions, and driving down costs for city operations,

businesses, and residents.

As the next Mayor of Clearwater, Kathleen is committed to bringing real results to residents. Whether it's reducing costs, improving neighborhoods, or ensuring transparency of tax dollar spending, she has shown that she can get things done and that's exactly who we need leading our city.

We are also urged to vote NO on the Clearwater Referendum.



Our keynote speaker was Charlie Justice, Pinellas County Commissioner. He discussed the functions of the county commission, which are far more complicated and diverse than most of us realize. In short, “We buy stuff and we build stuff,” overseeing a budget of \$3.8 million.

There are over 100,000 jobs in Pinellas County in the hospitality industry and bed tax receipts of about \$100 million last year. This enables many of the projects the county undertakes. There was also discussion of the new county center, which will be on Ulmerton Road, east of 19. It will be interesting to see what decisions are made regarding the current county buildings in Clearwater.

At the meeting, the 2024 club officers were introduced and presented with their new nametags. The only downer was the inability to get the Zoom component working. My apologies to those of you who attempted to tune in. We are working to rectify this problem so you can join us in future meetings.

## **DWCF Annual Gala Fundraiser**



DWCUP was well-represented at the Cuban Club in Ybor City on January 20.

Left to right, Polly Kraus, Lorena Grizzle, Donna Dennis, Cora Kostka, Mary and Shelby Freeman.

## DISTRICT REPORTS/UPDATES

### DISTRICT 58

**We are in CRUNCH TIME.** Assembling 5,000 bags of candidate literature and election information and getting them on Clearwater doors by February 17 is a Herculean task, but I believe we are up to it. I've had more than a few challenges trying to organize this project and keep it on track. But as of this writing, we will have 2500 lit bags ready to go. I have not yet finished the walk lists to accompany them, but they will be done and ready to hand out on February 7 when lit drop will begin.

We are targeting our drops to areas where it will have the most impact, and we are collaborating with our candidates to do this. Obviously, they know best where they have concentrated their canvassing/mailing and where they would like us to concentrate our efforts.

**We need a lot of labor to complete this project. We need assemblers** to spend a few hours at the North County office stuffing bags. It's (almost) enjoyable work as you sit and chat with your colleagues. **Drop in any time this week to bag lit or assemble walk packets for lit droppers.**

**North County Office - 1402 N. MLK Ave, Clearwater, FL 33755.**

Office hours are:

Monday: 12:30-3:30 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 12-4 pm

Friday: 9-4 pm

**We need many lit droppers too! Please sign up for Lit Dropping on Mobilize.**

<https://www.mobilize.us/>

The dates run from February 7 through Saturday, February 17 when mail ballots will be in mailboxes.

Click on this link to sign up: [Lit drop in Clearwater for the March Municipals - Pinellas County Democrats \(mobilize.us\)](#) You will pick up a map with a list number for a turf of 75+/- doors - ideally, in your own precinct or one nearby.

**Since we will not be able to reach many hundreds of inaccessible homes - gated homes, condos, apartments and mobile home parks - we will use the phone app, REACH to send these voters prepared GOTV texts.**

Come into the office on Wednesday afternoon between noon and 4 PM to learn one-on-one from Beth Davis how to use this app. There is someone who can help you every day of the week. Using REACH is surprisingly simple- easier to use than MiniVAN or a virtual phone bank. We will be using it specifically for texting in the next six weeks. No manual message copying or entering phone numbers. If you would like to text your precinct, come into the office *this Wednesday afternoon* from noon - 4 when Beth is there. I promise you will leave knowing how to text using REACH!

**We will meet in person at the North County office for our February district meeting on Tuesday, February 13 at 6:30 PM. NOTE the time change. We will keep the meeting to one hour.**

**For those who cannot attend in person, here is the Zoom link:**

**Time: Feb 13, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3836071490?pwd=dktiRVVGdFRYMGRaTWNnbzcya0Y1dz09&omn=89532190219>**

**Meeting ID: 383 607 1490**

**Passcode: 635329**

Thank you!

Kathleen Keohane

District 58

610-348-6834

## DISTRICT 59

District 59 meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

This month the meeting is:

February 13th at 6 PM

at Seminole Community Library - 9200 113th St N, Seminole, FL 33772.

We will have at least two candidates speaking, Whitney Fox and Mark Weinkrantz, who are running for Congressional House Seat 13 to replace Anna Paulina Luna.

We will briefly go over MiniVan and Reach apps.

Please text me (727) 709-9469 if you'd like to help us canvass or phone bank for Pinellas Park Precincts 261 and 267, on Saturday February 10th from 2-4 PM.

Phone banking from your house will be available too! The more the merrier!

Dems Win When WE Show UP! Help get out the voters!

Thank you!

Polly Kraus

District 59



# Sign Waving Events!

Bring a sign! Bring a friend!  
Pass it on!



\*Fri., Feb. 16th 4-6pm

Keene Rd./Gulf to Bay Blvd.

Parking: Walgreens, 1801 Gulf to Bay Blvd. (SE corner)

\*Wed., Feb. 21st 4-5:30pm

Sunset Pt Rd/Belcher Rd.

Parking: Walgreens, 1800 N. Belcher Rd. (SW corner)

\*Fri., Feb. 23rd 8:30am-10am

Memorial Causeway/Island Way

Parking: Publix, 200 Island Way

\*Sat., Feb. 24th 10am-noon

Countryside Mall-SR 580/East US 19 Frontage Rd.

Parking: Dick's Sporting Goods, 26583 US Hwy 19

\*Sat., March 9th 10am,-noon

Gulf to Bay/Belcher Rd.

Parking: Publix, 525 S. Belcher Rd. (SE corner)

\*Sat., March 16th 10-12pm

SR 580/Countryside Blvd.

Parking: Old Clearwater Library, 2741 SR 580 (East of fire station)

\*Mon., March 18th ELECTION EVE 4-5:30pm

US 19/Enterprise Pedestrian Overpass

Parking: Duff's Buffet 26111 US Hwy 19N

Sign up on [mobilize.us/pinellascountydec](https://mobilize.us/pinellascountydec)

Contact: Beth Davis

727/742-3197

[www.BeckmanForMayor.com](http://www.BeckmanForMayor.com)

Facebook: BeckmanForMayor

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Use these links to review all bills and analyses: [flsenate.gov](https://flsenate.gov), [myfloridahouse.gov](https://myfloridahouse.gov)

Use this link to view weekly update videos on Fridays, and videos of proceedings: [thefloridachannel.org](https://thefloridachannel.org)

DWCF legislative liaison zoom meetings every week. There are plenty of bills! The team has focused on the following:

	Title	Summary	Position
<b>▼ Civ_Human Rights &amp; Immigration</b>			
	Impeding, Threatening or Harassing First Responders	HB 75, SB 184: Specifies that peaceful recording, photographing, or observation is not harassment; prohibits approaching first responder or remaining within specified distance of such person with intent to impede, threaten, or harass person from performing lawful duties after receiving warning not to approach.	Oppose
	Gay and Transgender Panic Legal Defenses	HB 137, SB 156: Says someone who assaults an LGBT person can no longer use "gay or transgender panic" as a defense in court.	Support
	Display of Flags by Governmental Entities	HB 901, SB 1120: Prohibits certain governmental entities from erecting or displaying certain flags; requires governmental entity to remain neutral in certain circumstances; provides applicability; requires certain governmental entities to display United States flag in certain position.	Oppose
	Complaints Against Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers	HB 601, SB 576: Preempts regulation of complaints against law enforcement officers & correctional officers to state.	Oppose
	Gender Identity Employment Practices	HB 599, SB 1382: Specifies employment policy of state relating to person's sex; prohibits employees & contractors of certain employers from being required to use, from providing, & from being asked to provide certain titles & pronouns; prohibits employees & contractors from being penalized or subjected to certain actions for not providing certain titles & pronouns; prohibits adverse personnel action on basis of deeply held religious or biology-based beliefs; provides administrative & civil remedies; provides that it is unlawful employment practice for nonprofit organization to require certain training, instruction, or activity.	Oppose
<b>▼ Criminal Justice_Legal</b>			
	Defamation, False Light, and Unauthorized Publication of Name or Likenesses	HB 757, SB 1086: Provides venue for damages for defamation or privacy tort based on material broadcast over radio or television; provides venue for damages for defamation or privacy tort based on material published, exhibited, or uttered on Internet; provides rebuttable presumption that publisher of false statement acted with actual malice in certain circumstances; provides that person who uses artificial intelligence to create or edit any form of media in certain manner is subject to liability in certain circumstances; incorporates certain standards.	Oppose
	Air Conditioning in Inmate Housing	HB 181, SB 296: Mandates air conditioning in prisons. [Climate change has led to a record amount of heat related illness and death in FL's prisons.]	Support
<b>▼ Economy_Infrastructure</b>			
	Intentional Damage to Critical Infrastructure	HB 275, SB 340: The bill would impose criminal and civil penalties for anyone who "tamper" with "critical infrastructure" – which could include everything from gas pipelines to phosphate mines. The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, which tracks anti-protest legislation around the country, did an analysis of the bill. The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, which tracks anti-protest legislation around the country, did an analysis of the bill.	Oppose
<b>▼ Education</b>			
	Career and Technical Education	HB 917, SB 460: Revises requirements for employment of minors in specified occupations; repeals provision relating to journeyman reciprocity; revises state academic standards, specified graduation requirements, and mathematics courses; revises provisions relating DOE, BOG, & school district requirements for career & professional education; creates Career & Technical Education Task Force.	Oppose
	Education	HB 483, SB 460: Revises provisions & provides requirements for computer science in K-12 schools; revises provisions relating to weighted GPA calculations for certain courses; revises provisions relating to Bright Futures Scholarship Program; & establishes Artificial Intelligence in Education Task Force.	Oppose
	Career-themed Courses	HB 553, SB 460: Revises requirements for specified school district strategic plan to include certain information; requires DOE to include specified data in annual review of K-12 & postsecondary career & technical education offerings; & requires school districts to inform students & parents of specified information during middle school course selection	Oppose
	Employment & Curfew of Minors	CS/HB 49, SB 1596: Would remove all work guidelines for 16- & 17-year-olds, including the current requirements that that can't work more than eight hours on school nights and more than 30 hours a week during the school year. Would be allowed to work before 6:30 am and after 11pm. Work hours are provided for minors 15 years of age or younger as well.	Oppose
	Access to High School Sports	HB 139, SB 546: Seems to eliminate restrictions on private school students participating in public school sports - which may be a really big deal in the new context of universal vouchers.	Oppose
	Holocaust Remembrance Day	HB 387, SB 396: Requires the Governor to designate Holocaust Remembrance Day, the first day of Holocaust Remembrance Week, for suitable observances in all public schools and the State Capitol.	Support
	School Employees	HB 399, SB 394: Citing this act as "Stratton's Law"; requiring courts that issue risk protection orders to require that the petitioner immediately notify the respondent's employer or entity of service of the issuance of a risk protection order if the respondent meets specified criteria and to notify the respondent of such notice requirement if the court issues such an order; requiring instructional personnel to disclose to their employer any prior arrests, criminal convictions, guilty pleas, pleas of nolo contendere, and any criminal records that were expunged, etc.	Oppose

	Conversion Charter Schools	HB 109, SB 246: Makes it easy for a municipality to convert a public school to a charter school. Allows a municipality to apply for a charter conversion. Allows Charter School Review Commission to approve them. Eliminates requirement that 50 percent of the teachers at a school approve a conversion.	Oppose
	Single-sex Student Organizations	HB 1027, SB 1728: Creates Single-Sex Student Organizations' Bill of Rights; provides requirements for institutions of higher education & single-sex student organizations; providing penalties.	Oppose
	Deregulation of Public Schools/Instructional, Administrative, and Support Personnel	HB 7039, SB 7000: Deregulation of Public Schools/Instructional, Administrative, and Support Personnel; Requiring innovation schools of technology to comply with specified provisions of law relating to instructional multiyear contracts for instructional personnel in addition to annual contracts; requiring newly hired prekindergarten instructors to complete specified training within a specified timeframe; requiring the State Board of Education to develop written strategies to address critical teacher shortages; revising requirements for school bus drivers; revising requirements for individuals to participate in the Teacher Apprenticeship Program; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules to provide for the transition to or renewal of a 10-year professional certificate in certain situations, etc.	
	Deregulation of Public Schools/School District Finance and Budgets, Facilities, and Administration and Oversight	SB 7002: Providing that district school boards are not subject to certain rule requirements under certain circumstances; requiring a district school board to advertise its intent to adopt a tentative budget on a publicly available website if it does not advertise such intent in a newspaper of general circulation; requiring district school boards to provide personnel access to facilities for emergency management, rather than staffing such facilities, or perform other specified duties as may be required in the county emergency management plan; revising requirements for signage that must be posted on certain school buses; requiring the Department of Education to annually inform district school superintendents that they may petition to receive a specified declaratory statement, etc.	
	Florida High School Athletic Association Student Eligibility Requirements	HB 545, SB 530: Requires FHSAA to adopt bylaws prohibiting students who are sentenced as adults for specified offenses from participating in certain competitions; & provides applicability.	
<b>▼ Environment</b>			
	Renewable Energy Goals	HB 193, SB 144: Prohibits new projects for drilling or production of oil & gas. Mandates a Renewable Energy Advisory Committee composed of union, industry, and environmental advocates, to set renewable energy and carbon reduction goals, and report annually to Legislature.	Support
	Electric and Hybrid Vehicle License Fees	HB 107, SB 28: \$200 annual license fee for electric vehicles and \$100 for hybrids. This is because highway maintenance is funded by the gasoline tax. [Advocates feel \$150 annual, just for EVs, is more equitable.]	
	Land Acquisition Trust Fund	SB 566: Requiring an annual appropriation from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection to implement the Florida Keys Stewardship Act or to acquire land within the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern for specified purposes; prohibiting the department from using the appropriated funds to implement wastewater management projects or programs, etc. APPROPRIATION: Indeterminate	Support
	Wind Energy Facility Siting	HB 1493, SB 1718: Prohibiting construction, operation, or expansion of wind energy facilities and offshore wind energy facilities in this state, etc.	Oppose
<b>▼ Gun Safety</b>			
	Expiration of the Mandatory Waiting Period for Firearms Purchases	HB 17, SB 1124: Shortens waiting period for firearm purchases to end before 3-day minimum if required background checks are complete.	Oppose
	Sales of Ammunition/ Jaime's Law	HB 145, SB 180: Requires background checks for the sale or transfer of ammunition; providing exceptions, other than at a shooting range or for the purpose of hunting or fishing.	Support
	Assault Weapons and Large-Capacity Magazines	HB 279, SB 150: Prohibits the sale of assault weapons, large-capacity magazines, bayonet mounts and grenades except to sworn law enforcement officials. Prohibits possession of these weapons by non-law enforcement civilians if purchased after 10/24.	Support
	Discharging a Firearm in Residential Areas	HB 259, SB 270: Prohibits shooting bullets that travel onto a neighbors' property.	Support
	Representation by Counsel in Hearings on Petitions for Risk Protection Orders	HB 365, SB 1034: If law enforcement petitions a judge to remove the firearms of a person at risk for self-harm or harm to others, that person can get a court appointed attorney. Guarantees a right to counsel in cases where someone might have their gun taken away from them because they are a danger.	Oppose
<b>▼ Health &amp; Safety</b>			
	Termination of Pregnancies	HB 111, SB 34: Clarifies that someone who terminates their own pregnancy outside the law is not subject to criminal penalties. [Currently, helping someone get an abortion outside that law is subject to criminal penalties.]	Support
	Exposures of First Responders to Fentanyl	HB 231, SB 718: Provides criminal penalties for persons who recklessly expose first responders to fentanyl. Requires minimum sentences of at least 15 years for anyone who possesses fentanyl and exposes it to a First Responder, leading to serious injury, and 30-year minimums if the First Responder Dies.	Oppose
	Pregnancy Support and Wellness Services	HB 343, SB 256: Regulates state funded "crisis pregnancy centers" (those not offering abortion,) saying they must give referrals to rape and sexual assault treatment centers, offer only medically accurate information, and be audited.	Support

	Pregnancy and Parenting Resources Website	HB 415, SB 436: Requires DOH, in consultation with DCF & AHCA, to maintain website that provides pregnancy & parenting resources & provide clear & conspicuous link to such website on official website of respective departments & agency; requires DOH to contract with third party to develop such website by specified date.	Support
	Civil Liability	HB 651, SB 476: Recognizes a fetus as a person in civil damage suits.	Oppose
	Medicaid Coverage for Prescribed Foods for Disease Treatment and Prevention."	HB 253, SB 488: Sets up a Food Is Medicine Pilot Program for Medicaid recipients with prescribed diets to get nutritional counseling and fresh foods. [Originally filed by Rep. Waldron]	Support
	Declarations of a Public Health Emergency	HB 459, SB 402: Says that vaccines are not considered "treatment" in a public health emergency. Forbids closing churches, government offices, schools and public domains or altering election procedures in response to a public health emergency. Senate Bill 402 only has the vaccine part.	Oppose
	Exemptions from Immunization Requirements	SB 636: Allows people to refuse to take a vaccine mandated by an employer, school, etc. if the vaccine has not been in head-to-head clinical trials for a year or more. Parents may refuse on behalf of their children. The state must publish vaccine related side effects [not head-to-head with effects of the disease!] on its website. Vaccine manufacturers may be sued.	Oppose
<b>▼ State Preemption</b>			
	County Commissioner Term Limits	HB 57, SB 438: Preempts local ordinances to impose an 8 year term limit on County Commissioners, with a 2 year gap until they run again.	Oppose
	Landlords and Tenants	HB 31, SB 64: Limiting rent increases of certain residential tenancies to a specified amount and frequency; requires certain landlords to provide functioning facilities for air conditioning	Support
	Coverage by Citizens Insurance	HB 565, SB 604: Makes property owners eligible for Citizens in places where other insurance is not available.	Support
	Residential Building Permits	HB 267, SB 684: Forces cities with more than 30,000 people to develop "expedited" building permits for homebuilders by August 2024. Makes a bunch of other changes that seem to give local governments less time to review development plans and force them to issue approvals more often and more quickly. The bill almost certainly comes from the Florida Home Builders Association and/or Associated Builders and Contractors.	Neutral
	Landlord's Obligation to Maintain Premises	HB 423, SB 64: Requires certain landlords to provide functioning facilities for air-conditioning.	Support
	Aircraft Taxes	HB 269, SB 264: Aircraft Taxes; Providing the maximum tax that may be collected on each sale and use of an aircraft (Sales tax break for people who buy private planes); expanding a tax exemption on aircraft sales and leases, etc.	Oppose
	Sales Tax on Aircraft Sales and Leases	SB 230: Sales Tax on Aircraft Sales and Leases; Limiting the tax imposed on the sale or use of an aircraft; revising the applicability of the sales tax exemption on sales or leases of aircraft; defining the term "aircraft", etc.	Oppose
	Limitation on Property Tax Assessments	HJR 331, SJR 1060: Proposes amendment to State Constitution to eliminate an exception for school district levies from the constitutional limitations on real property assessment increases on specified nonhomestead real property.	Oppose
	School District Levies	HB 333, SB 1062: Proposed constitutional amendment and implementing bill that would apply all of the property tax breaks in the constitution to school property taxes, too.	Oppose
	Complaints Against Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers	HB 601, SB 576: Preempts regulation of complaints against law enforcement officers & correctional officers to state.	Oppose
<b>▼ Voting &amp; Elections</b>			
	Voting Systems	HB 359, SB 1752: This bill essentially reverts our Vote-by-Mail (VBM) system back to the "absentee ballot" days. If you don't remember, that means that you have to be: 1. Absent from the county or residence; 2. Unable to appear personally at the voting site or polling place (illness or physical disability or duties related to the primary care of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled, or that you will be a patient in a hospital); 3. A resident or patient of a United States Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility; or 4. In jail "You will have to submit your justification in writing AND An absent voter must submit a separate request for a VBM ballot for EACH election. A primary election and the subsequent general election are separate elections. It further restricts VBM drop off locations, striking out everything other than the Supervisor of Elections Office.	Oppose
	Requiring Broader Public Support for Constitutional Amendments or Revisions	HJR 335: Proposes to raise the threshold for approval of amendments to the State Constitution to from 60% - 66.67%.	Oppose
<b>▼ Women, Children, &amp; Family</b>			
	Termination of Pregnancies	HB 111, SB 34: Clarifies that someone who terminates their own pregnancy outside the law is not subject to criminal penalties. [Curently, helping someone get an abortion outside that law is subject to criminal prenalites.]	Support

Jean Greenawalt  
As of February 1, 2024





## MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS!

All members of the DWCU are also members of the DWCF (Democratic Women's Club of Florida). Please go to the website, [www.dwcf.org](http://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!**

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NEXT **MONTH'S** MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Monday, **March 25**, 2024 at 12pm  
Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.

