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

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**Susan A. MacManus, Ph.D.**



Dr. Susan A. MacManus has served at numerous institutions and universities before retiring from the University of South Florida in 2018 as the Distinguished University Professor Emerita (political science) in the Department of Government and International Affairs, School of Interglobal Studies, University of South Florida.

She is currently the political analyst for Tampa's WFTS-TV (ABC Action News) where she breaks down the world of Florida politics for viewers. She has earned the title of "Florida's most quoted political scientist" and has been featured in the Who's Who in America over a dozen times.

Dr. MacManus received her M.A. from the University of Michigan and Ph.D. from Florida State University. Her work has primarily focused on elections, women and minorities, and redistricting in politics, with a special interest in Florida's politics, and changing demographics.

MacManus is author of *Florida's Minority Trailblazers: The Men and Women Who Changed the Face of Florida Government* (University Press of Florida, 2017), based on MacManus's personal interviews

**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)

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[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)

with each and descriptions of the challenging times in which they made history; *Young v. Old: Generational Combat in the 21st Century?* (Westview, 1996); and *Targeting Senior Voters* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2004).

She served as Chair of the Florida Elections Commission from 1999 to 2003 and helped the Collins Center For Public Policy, Inc. draft Florida's Help America Vote Act state plan required by Congress to qualify for federal funding under the Help America Vote Act.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARCH 2024



I'm writing this on Super Tuesday. How depressing! I'm sure the coverage later this evening will be all about Trump's sweep of eleven dozen delegates. Ugh. I don't know how much media coverage I'll be able to stomach. I'm still mystified at the number of Americans who support the twice-impeached former president facing 91 counts/indictments from several states and courts. I suspect it's a lot of people who have some grievance or other with "The Government." They look at Trump as the anti-government candidate, even though he's the one who has used all the loopholes of the system to enhance his empire and delay justice being meted out to him. He certainly has unleashed bigotry, anger, hatred, xenophobia, misogyny, racism and ugliness in general. He cares for no one but himself.

On the other hand, Joe Biden is old. So what? They're both old white men. They both make verbal *faux pas*. But one of them has worked tirelessly for the people of this country. Nothing has kept Biden from doing the job of President of the United States. Every day he has been seeking the passage of necessary legislation, such as the Infrastructure bill and now the border bill.

Throughout his presidency, he has worked to control inflation, lower taxes on the middle/lower classes, strengthen NATO, defend Ukraine, lower prescription drug prices, build ties with our allies, protect health care access, protect our environment, support unions, protect the civil rights of ALL citizens, no matter what their ethnic, religious, sexual orientation, and the list goes on. He believes in facts, history and books!

Joe Biden is not a glitzy guy. But he does the job. Every day. Support Joe Biden. I do and I will, with my vote, my voice and my money. We all need to do it for the America we love.

And on the local level, do whatever you can for the municipal elections this month. Our efforts matter. Every day.

What can you do? Every day.

Donna Dennis

## UPDATES

### DWCUP February 2024 Meeting Recap

It was a full house for the DWCUP on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>. We celebrated Black History Month with a stirring presentation from Linda Brewton, Membership Chair of the Clearwater/Upper Pinellas NAACP. “We have work to do!” She’s encouraging all of us to work as hard as possible in this election cycle by registering voters and getting out the vote. She talked about the upcoming NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet at Ruth Eckerd Hall on Saturday, June 29, 2024. Our club will try to fill a table. Tickets are \$100; please contact Donna Dennis if you want to attend. NAACP membership is \$30/yr. Details are available at [clearwaternaacp.com](http://clearwaternaacp.com).



We also celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of our member, Kathleen Beckman, who is also running for mayor of Clearwater. No one has worked harder for the residents of Clearwater than Kathleen, who has talked to voters in every precinct in Clearwater. Texting and phone banking efforts for her campaign, as well as those of Mark Bunker and Javante Scott, will continue until the March 19<sup>th</sup> election. We’re all asked to help in every way we can.

Sabrina Bousbar introduced herself to us. She is a candidate for Congress in District 13. Her website is [SabrinaforFlorida.com](http://SabrinaforFlorida.com). Mark Weinkrantz, also a candidate for District 13, spoke to us again. His website is <https://www.markweinkrantz4congress.com/>.

District Chairs Polly Kraus (59) and Kathleen Keohane (58) updated us on current activities. They represent real grassroots politics.

MaryLou Ambrose spoke about the meetings of the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club, and Lacey Hollings talked about the North Pinellas Democratic Club. That club will host a forum for all the Democratic candidates for Congress in District 13 on May 16<sup>th</sup>. We’ll include more details next month.

# From the March newsletter of the Pinellas Democratic Party

Subscribe to this newsletter by registering at the [Pinellas County Democratic Party website](#); arrow to the bottom of the home page to find the sign-up form.



Dear Members and Friends of the Pinellas Democratic Party,

As we honor Women's History Month, and continue to push for a more just and equitable society, it's important to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of Democratic women. From the pioneering advocacy of Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to the United States Congress, to the tireless environmental activism of Winona LaDuke, an Indigenous American leader, the humanity of Eleanor Roosevelt, and the groundbreaking legal work of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, these women have not only shaped the course of our party but have also laid the groundwork for a more inclusive and fair world. Their diverse backgrounds and relentless commitment remind us of the strength found in unity and the power of dedicated individuals to effect real change.

Our journey is far from over, and your active participation is more crucial now than ever.

**We are urgently calling for volunteers to become phone bankers.** This is a crucial moment for Pinellas as we approach local elections in seven



municipalities. Our candidates are counting on your support to ensure a strong turnout. Whether through volunteering your time for phone banking, canvassing or contributing financially, YOU are influencing the outcome of these critical elections.

We have two phone banking options for you to hop on right away, and be sure to check our [Mobilize](#) for even more events:

- [Florida Democratic Party's Take Back Local, Pinellas Phone Bank](#)
  - Calling for the FDP's Two Pinellas Supported Candidates, Mark Bunker & Javante Scott
  - **Tuesday, March 5th, 6:30-7:30pm**
- [Pinellas Dems March Municipal Mailer Chase Phone Bank](#)
  - Calling for ALL our Pinellas Democratic Party Supported Candidates
  - **Daily from 10am-7pm, through 3/17/24**

Below are our candidates who are standing up to make a difference in our community:

- [Kathleen Beckman, Mayor, Clearwater](#)
- [Mark Bunker, Seat 2, Clearwater City Council](#)
- [Javante Scott, Seat 3, Clearwater City Council](#)
- [April Thanos, Ward 1, Gulfport City Council](#)
- Megan Zematis, Mayor, Kenneth City ([Facebook page](#) and [Donation page](#))
- [Steve Graber, Seat 1, Oldsmar City Council](#)
- [Andrew Knapp, Seat 3, Oldsmar City Council](#)
- [Valerie Tatarzewski, Seat 3, Oldsmar City Council](#)
- [Tim Caddell, Seat 4, Pinellas Park City Council](#)
- [Hayley Rae, Seat 2, Safety Harbor City Council](#)

We have elections in: [Oldsmar](#), [Safety Harbor](#), [Clearwater](#), [Gulfport](#), [Indian Rocks Beach](#), [Kenneth City](#), and [Pinellas Park](#). If you would like to help with our efforts in these areas, please click on the city of interest above and connect with the District Chair who will be able to get you involved.

Your engagement can help set the tone for the rest of the year. ***This is a call to action.*** Now is the time to step up, to be the change you wish to see, and to ensure our voices are heard loud and clear.

In addition to your support in the upcoming elections, we invite you to take your time and delve into the rest of our monthly magazine. It's packed with the latest updates from the Florida Democratic Party, insights into our candidates' campaigns, and the events happening around the county. Stay informed, stay engaged, and let's continue to work together for the betterment of our community and society at large.

Together, we can make a difference. Let's make it count.

In solidarity,

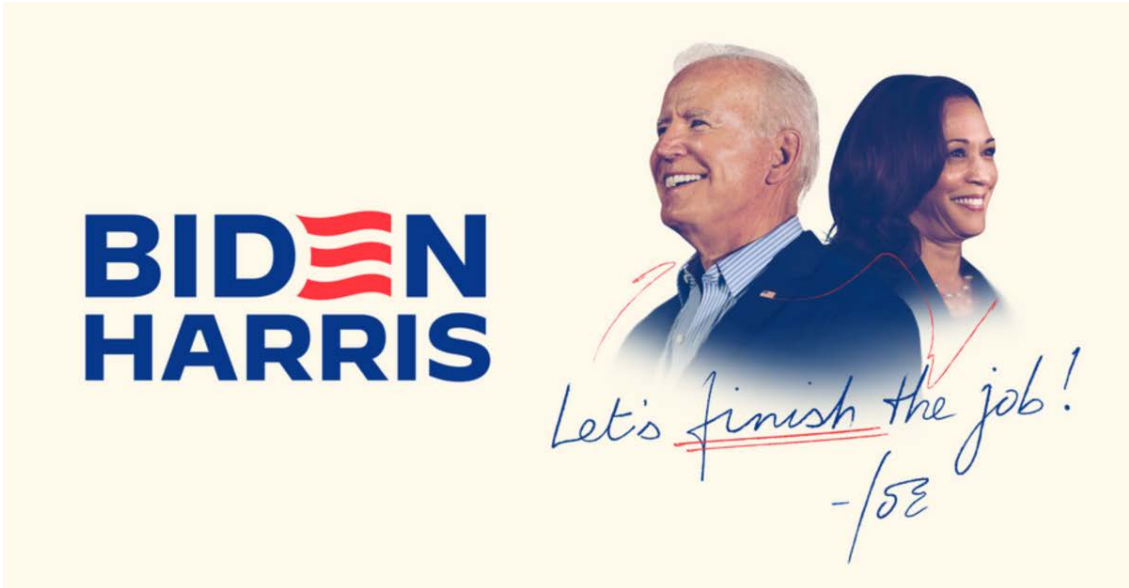
Jennifer Griffith

Chair, Pinellas Democratic Party

## Our Pinellas Candidates

Beginning this month we are adding all our Pinellas Democratic Candidates, for you to learn about and get involved with. Some candidates have sent us events to register for, some are linked to their websites. Please sign up to receive their emails so you can stay up to date on the latest from each candidate.

Filing for our Federal races closes in April, and for our State and some November municipal races, closes in June. More candidates may enter.



Top of the ticket! Learn and stay in touch with the [Biden Campaign 2024](#) here!







## **Our fantastic Congressional Candidates!**

For Congressional District 14, we have our long serving and dedicated [Congresswoman, Kathy Castor](#).

For Congressional District 13, we have four outstanding and passionate candidates vying to take on Anna Paulina Luna. They are, in alphabetical order:

- [Sabrina Bousbar](#)
- [Whitney Fox](#)

- [Peter Owen](#)
- [Mark Weinkrantz](#)

Click on their image above to check out their upcoming events. Not all have events at this time, so please be sure to check out their websites and sign up to receive their emails!



## **Our fantastic State Candidates!**

Next up we have our phenomenal State House Representatives!

- [House District 60, Representative Lindsay Cross](#)
- [House District 62, Representative Michele Rayner](#)

Please be sure to check out their websites and sign up to receive their emails! These two powerhouses have been fighting the good fight in Tallahassee through some of the roughest legislative sessions in recent Florida history. They have more than earned our support and we hope you'll join us!



## **Our fantastic County Commission Candidates!**

How important is the Pinellas County Commission? ***Crucially!*** When a hurricane is coming, who manages the preparation and recovery for the county? The County Commission. When we're looking for more affordable housing, who can have some of the largest impact? The County Commission. Transportation? You guessed it, the Pinellas County Commission. They do all this and much more, and it is CRUCIAL that we keep our Democratic County Commission seats.

- [County Commissioner District 3, Charlie Justice](#)

- [County Commissioner District 7, Rene Flowers](#)
- [County Commission, District 1 \(At-Large\), Joanne “Cookie” Kennedy](#)

Please be sure to check out their websites and sign up to receive their emails! We are so proud of our sitting Commissioners and thrilled to have Cookie Kennedy running for the seat vacated by long serving commissioner, Janet Long. They have absolutely earned our support and we hope you'll join us!

*As we progress through the year we will be adding more non-partisan races and the candidates we're supporting for Pinellas County School Board as well as the November municipal elections in Largo and St. Petersburg.*

## DISTRICT REPORTS/UPDATES

**Check Mobilize regularly for volunteer needs and events.**

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

### DISTRICT 58

**North County Outreach Center - 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

Drop in any time to help.

Kathleen Keohane

District 58

610-348-6834

### DISTRICT 59

District 59 meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6 PM at Seminole Community Library- 9200

113th St N, Seminole, FL 33772. Next meeting: March 12.

Polly Kraus

District 59

text (727) 709-9469



# 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)

The session ends on March 8.

In addition to the weekly legislative liaison zoom meetings, I attended several “this week in Tallahassee” zoom webinars since my last report:

2/5 Dotie Joseph - Florida representative

2/12 Kara Gross - ACLU

2/19 Quinn Diaz - Equality FL policy chair

2/26 Judy Mount - Democratic party caucus affairs staff director

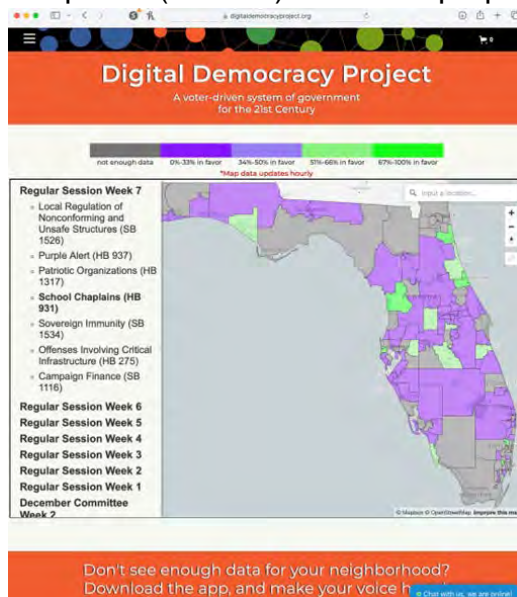
3/4 Sadie Holzmeyer - Digital Democracy Project coordinator

There has been a flurry of activity in the last days of the session. In general, many “culture war” bills have not been moving, which is good. I plan to report status of our bills of interest in my next report.

For this report, I would like to focus on Digital Democracy Project. See <https://digitaldemocracyproject.org>

They are partnered with an app called **Voatz** which you can download. Navigate to “Vote” on their menu. Once you download it, you input their verification key 142184 and create a PIN. This way, the real you can be voting yay or nay on bills and robots won’t be skewing the results.

If you don’t feel comfortable with downloading an app, you can still visit the website and navigate to the “Tally” on their menu to see results. The following shows results for the School Chaplains (HB 931) bill where purple shows that most people don’t like it.



You can select other items of interest from their menu, such as bill descriptions, and scoring how well our representatives and senators are voting the way the people voting with the app want them to.

The Digital Democracy Project is relatively new. Granted, not many “voters” have signed up yet. It is intended to be non-partisan. I would like to see this project take off so that we can show the legislators how we feel about these bills.

Jean Greenawalt  
March 5, 2024

# How To Tell What's True On the Internet

by Dave Dockery, doc@synergypublishing.com, 2/9/2024

**How do you know what you read on the internet is true?**

**Best Answer imho:** The same way you know anything is true, you check the facts and do your research. Always check multiple sources for important information.

“Remember that as passionately as you believe that you have carefully evaluated “the facts” and come to the proper conclusions, other intelligent people have also carefully evaluated the same facts and come to opposite conclusions.” ~ **Doc (Dave Dockery)**

## Resources:

- **mediabiasfactcheck.com** They adhere to Fact Check Principles:
  - A commitment to nonpartisanship and fairness
  - A commitment to transparency of sources
  - A commitment to transparency of funding & organization
  - A commitment to transparency of methodology
  - A commitment to open and honest corrections
- **Snopes** – definitive Internet reference source for urban legends, folklore, myths, rumors, and misinformation for a long time. Snopes is also usually the first to report the facts.
- **www.allsides.com** I use this site a lot. **One of the best!**
- **Truth or Fiction** – similar to Snopes. Focus on political rumors & hoaxes.
- **Hoax Slayer** – debunks or validates internet rumors and hoaxes.
- **QuackWatch** - guide to quackery and health fraud
- **The Sunlight Foundation** – national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that uses the tools of civic tech, open data, policy analysis and journalism to make our government and politics more accountable and transparent to all. Sunlight primarily focuses on money's role in politics.
- **Wikipedia.org** - Largest online dictionary. There is a **Talk** page for alternate points of view for many subjects.
- **PolitiFact**– PolitiFact is a Pulitzer Prize winning fact-checking website that rates the accuracy of claims by those who speak up in American politics. PolitiFact is run by editors and reporters from the Tampa Bay Times, and is considered by many to be the best source for political fact checking.
- **Fact Check**– FactCheck.org is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania. They are a nonpartisan, nonprofit “consumer advocate” for voters that aims to reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics. They monitor the factual accuracy of what is said by major U.S. political players in the form of TV ads, debates, speeches, interviews and news releases. They are similar to Politifact in their coverage, and they provide excellent details.
- **Open Secrets**– Open Secrets is a nonpartisan, independent, and nonprofit, run by the Center for Responsive Politics, which is the nation's premier research group tracking money in U.S. politics and its effect on elections and public policy. Open Secrets are by far the best source for discovering how much and where candidates get their money.
- **Poynter Institute**– The Poynter Institute is not a true fact-checking service. They are, however, a leader in distinguished journalism and produce nothing but credible and evidence based content. If Poynter reports it, you can count on it being true.

**Complements of the Tampa Bay Technology Center on 2079 Range Road (3 blocks east of Hercules)  
A \$50 yearly membership gets you a free IBM style computer repair.**

**Brookings Institute: <https://www.brookings.edu/>**

The **Brookings Institution** is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to conduct in-depth, nonpartisan research to improve policy and governance at local, national, and global levels.

At the core of our mission is the quality, independence, and impact of our research. We are dedicated to finding bold, pragmatic solutions for societal challenges through open-minded inquiry, diverse perspectives, and holding ourselves to the highest standards of scholastic rigor. Because of this, Brookings has been at the forefront of public policy for more than a century. Learn more about the history and impact of our work.

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# AllSides Media Bias Chart 2/9/24

The AllSides Media Bias Chart™ helps you to easily identify different perspectives and political leanings in the news so you can get the full picture and think for yourself.

Knowing the political bias of media outlets allows you to consume a balanced news diet and avoid manipulation and fake news. Everyone is biased, but hidden media bias misleads and divides us. Learn about the different types of media bias, or view the AllSides Fact Check Bias Chart™.

The AllSides Media Bias Chart™ is more comprehensive in its methodology than any other media bias chart on the Web. While other media bias charts show you the subjective opinion of the one person who made it, our ratings are based on bipartisan, scientific analysis. We use multiple methodologies to rate bias.

<https://www.allsides.com/media-bias/media-bias-chart>

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## Here's how we differ from other media bias charts on the web:

- Data is gathered from **people across the political spectrum** — not just one biased individual. We have a patent on rating bias and use multiple methodologies, not a homogenous group or an algorithm. We use Blind Bias Surveys, Editorial Reviews, independent reviews, and third party data to assess bias.
- Our research spans years — we started rating media bias back in 2012.
- We give **separate bias ratings for the news and opinion sections** for some media outlets, giving you a more comprehensive view.
- **Transparent methodology:** we tell you how we arrived at the bias rating for each outlet. Search for any media outlet here.
- We consider and review **data and research conducted by third parties**, like universities and other groups.
- Your opinion matters: we take into account **hundreds of thousands of community votes** on our ratings. Votes don't determine our ratings, but are valuable feedback that may prompt more research. We know that a mixed group of experts and non-experts will provide a more accurate result, so we solicit and consider opinions of average people.
- **We don't rate accuracy or facts — just bias.** Our ratings help readers to understand that certain perspectives may be missing if they read only one outlet, or outlets from only one side of the political spectrum.

**Americans are more polarized than ever — if you're like us, you see it in the news and on your social media feeds every day.** Bias is natural, but hidden bias and fake news misleads and divides us. That's why AllSides has rated the media bias of over 800 media outlets and writers. The AllSides Media Bias Chart™ shows the political bias of some of the most-read sources in America.

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Compiled by **Tampa Bay Technology Center: 2079 Range Road** in Clearwater (3 blocks east of Hercules).

A \$50 yearly membership entitles you to one free repair of an IBM style computer per year.  
Subsequent repairs are only \$20 each.

Repair is only performed on **Wednesday & Friday** from 8:30am-12:30pm.



# AllSides Media Bias Chart™

Ratings based on online, U.S. political content only – not TV, print, or radio.  
Ratings do not reflect accuracy or credibility; they reflect perspective only.



**L** LEFT

**L** LEAN LEFT

**C** CENTER

**R** LEAN RIGHT

**R** RIGHT





## 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](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!**

- **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](http://dwcup.com/donate)

NEXT **MONTH'S** MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Monday, **April 29**, 2024 at 12pm  
Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.

