



**Manatee County  
Democratic Party**

# *Manatee Matters*

August 1, 2022 Newsletter

*Manatee Matters now publishes twice a month, on the first and third Mondays.*

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## **Expo Stresses Messaging, Volunteer Engagement, Inclusion, Diversity**

More than 150 Democrats learned about the everyday issues facing Manatee County residents and heard solutions during the Democratic Party's 2022 & You Expo & Workshop at the Manatee Performing Arts Center, Saturday, July 23.



Manatee County Democratic Party Chair Tracy Pratt set the tone of the gathering with her rousing opening remarks, "Our freedom and democracy are on the line. Let me remind you that we Democrats are 80,000 strong in Manatee. You are not alone."

Expo attendees connected with Democratic clubs, caucuses, team leaders and engaged with local candidates during the event. The Expo is an opportunity for concerned citizens to volunteer and work with the Democratic Party on issues that face everyone in the county.

The general session focused on Democratic messaging for the August and November elections in areas such as women's reproductive health, education, the environment, gun safety and the economy. Mini breakout sessions helped volunteers become engaged with the actions of their choice and discover ways to amplify the Democratic messages.

"Everyone was energized, excited and ready to get to work to get Democrats elected," said Pratt. "I love seeing faces I've never seen before. Diversity is our strength, and we are the last rampart for democracy in Manatee County."

Information on what you can do this election season, and if you want to have more events like this, go to our website, [ManateeCountyDemocrats.com](https://www.ManateeCountyDemocrats.com) and click [Take Action](#) and/or [Donate](#).



*Dan Coppinger, Second Vice Chair, External Operations, leads one of the three breakout*



*District 5 Precinct Coordinators Rob and Lisa Usher attended this sold-out event.*



*Glenn Pearson, vice president of the Manatee County Democratic Black Caucus, and Florence*

## Elections Have Consequences: Vote This Month

**FREEDOM  
STARTS HERE!**

*Democrats take note! Your vote matters in all elections and the upcoming August 23 School Board and Primary elections are no exception. Every election is important and we urge you to act responsibly and vote.*

### Who Are the Democratic Candidates on the August Ballot?

**Manatee County School Board.** This non-partisan race could decide who remains or becomes a school board member. If no candidate gets more than 50 percent of the vote on August 23, the top two vote-getters will have a run-off in the November General Election.

Registered Democratic candidates in the non-partisan school board elections are:

**District 5** - Current School Board Chair James T. Golden, Chantal Wilford

**District 2** - Harold Byrd

**Manatee County Board of County Commissioners.** Registered Democratic candidates in the County Commissioner primary race are:

**District 2** - Incumbent Reggie Bellamy, Charles Smith

**Bradenton City Council Ward 4.** Registered Democratic candidate in the election - Kurt Landefeld

#### Democrats in state and national primary races

**Governor** – Charlie Crist, Nikki Fried, Cadance Daniel, Robert Willis

**U.S. Senator** – Val Demings, Ricardo De La Fuente, Brian Rush, William Jose Sanchez

**U.S. House District 16** – Jan Schneider

**Florida Attorney General** – Aramis Ayala, Jim Lewis, Daniel Uhlfelder

**Florida Commissioner of Agriculture** – Naomi Blemur, J. R. Gaillot, Ryan Morales

#### Informational websites for candidates:

<https://www.vote411.org/florida>. Compiled by the non-partisan League of Women Voters, it is a source for county and municipal candidates. Click on "Find What's on Your Ballot."

[https://ballotpedia.org/Florida\\_elections,\\_2022](https://ballotpedia.org/Florida_elections,_2022). A source for state and federal candidates

<https://www.votemanatee.gov/Candidate-Information/Local-Candidates-Committees>

<https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/candidates/Index.asp>

## Where to Vote in the August 23 Elections?

**Vote from Home.** If you signed-up for Vote By Mail, you should have received your ballot. Follow instructions and fill out your ballot. Return your completed ballot early and track it online.

Your ballot must be received by the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections before 7 p.m. on August 23. You can request a Vote-By-Mail ballot by visiting the Supervisor of Elections website, [VoteManatee.gov](http://VoteManatee.gov), or call 941-741-3823. You must request your Vote-By-Mail ballot before August 13.



**Early Voting.** You can go to any Manatee County Early Voting site from Saturday, August 13, through Saturday, August 20, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. to vote in person or drop off your ballot in the secure box outside the polls during the Early Voting period. For Early Voting sites [click here](#).

**Election Day August 23.** Go to your precinct voting location, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to cast your vote. If you received a Vote-By-Mail ballot, bring it with you to the poll on Election Day. You must surrender your Vote- By-Mail ballot and you will be issued a fresh ballot. Find your voting precinct and sample ballot [here](#).

Some polling locations have temporarily changed. [Click here to learn more](#).

## Manasota Education Caucus Endorses Golden, Byrd

The Democratic Public Education Caucus of Manasota recently endorsed Harold Byrd and Rev. James Golden for the Manatee County School Board.

Byrd is the lone registered Democrat in the District 2 race. Rev. Golden, the current school board president, is seeking another term for District 5.

For more information and to engage with the Democratic Public Education Caucus of Manasota, contact [dpecm@gmail.com](mailto:dpecm@gmail.com).



## Back to School Block Party Comes to Oneco



The League of Women Voters of Manatee County and Bold Voter Action are sponsoring a Back to School Block Party, Saturday, August 6, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Full Gospel Church, 4955 15th Street East, Bradenton.

The event will benefit the community with social services, health services, education and fun activities. Meals-on-Wheels is providing food bags and a food drive effort will be in operation for the entire block party.

School supplies and backpacks for children will be distributed during the block party. Volunteer help and contributions from the community are welcome. To donate or volunteer, [click here](#).

For more information, contact the League of Women Voters, [info@lwvmanatee.org](mailto:info@lwvmanatee.org).

## Bradenton City Candidate Hosts Meet and Greet

Kurt Landefeld, the only registered Democrat running in the Bradenton City Council Ward 4 race, is hosting a pizza meet and greet Saturday, August 6, from 2 to 4 p.m. at 3 Keys Brewery and Eatery, 2505 Manatee Avenue East, Bradenton.

"City Council races are non-partisan. I pledge to represent all the people in Ward 4. I will work with the Mayor and other members of Council as a team able to take on the complex challenges ahead," said Landefeld.

"The themes of non-partisanship and teamwork have been critical in enlisting the broad support I have to date," Landefeld said. For more information,





**Get involved!** Check out the many area Democratic Clubs and Caucuses. Meet like-minded people at fun events!

[Click for Events List](#)



*The Manatee County Democratic Party is a 100% **volunteer organization**. All contributions of any size are appreciated; \$22/month goes a long way to help elect Democrats in the 2022 elections.*

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### Resource Links

[Manatee County Democratic Party](#)

[Florida Democratic Party](#)

[National Democratic Party](#)

[Manatee County Board of Commissioners](#)

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