



Manatee County
Democratic Party

Manatee Matters

December 2021 Newsletter

*Check our website for event updates, current issues,
how to get involved and how to donate.*

**Visit our
website**

Abortion Clinic Ban News



By William Clapper – The Manatee County Democratic Party joins other reproductive rights organizations in applauding the Florida Attorney General's opinion that the county cannot pass a law that bans abortion clinics and further regulates a woman's right to make her own reproductive health care decisions.

Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody's office said Manatee County is "not authorized to adopt an ordinance regulating or banning such clinics because such an ordinance would be preempted by Florida law."

"The Manatee County Democratic Party is delighted that the BoCC can finally get back to doing the job they were elected to do, rather than spending county resources attempting to violate a woman's constitutional rights over their own bodies," said MCDP Chair Tracy Pratt.

[Full story here](#)

County Commissioners Propose Gerrymandered Redistricting Plan

Four Manatee County Commissioners successfully placed a thoroughly gerrymandered redistricting plan before the board while rejecting all other maps. The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) is scheduled to discuss and possibly vote on the map, designated B2, at its Dec. 14 meeting.

The gang of four, Vanessa Baugh, George Kruse, James Satcher and Kevin Van Ostenbridge, ignored and rejected comments from the public, plans drawn by a hired consultant and maps prepared by their own colleagues during a contentious meeting, Dec. 7. Commissioners voted 4-3 to reject Plan A1, the map prepared by their own paid consultant and advocated by Manatee Democrats. The four also dismissed a map proposed by Commissioner Reggie Bellamy, the only Democrat on the seven-member board. Voting against Map B2 were commissioners



Bellamy, Misty Servia and Carol Whitmore.

Plan A1 and Bellamy's plan both retained the integrity of District 2 and a coastal district. District 2 is a minority-majority district represented by Bellamy. Kruse proposed B2, which was not reviewed by the rest of the board, had no input from the consultant and ignored public comments.

Full story [here](#). ACT NOW!! [Here are 4 things you can do](#).

Read the Manatee County Democratic Party's official redistricting statement [here](#).

Pop-up Online Holiday Auction Open for Bids



Here's a great way to support the Manatee Democratic Party and get a special gift.

You can make a donation of any size. Or become a sponsor of our new, monthly live-streaming program, *Community Conversations*, featuring Tracy Pratt and guests on issues Democrats care about. It's another important way we can

get the word out to Manatee voters that Democrats deliver.

Have something to donate for the auction? Contact Robin Sathan at manateedemprecinct521@gmail.com.

View the auction catalog [here](#).

Reverend James Golden Elected School Board Chairman

Congratulations to Rev. James Golden on his election as chairman of the Manatee County School Board.

Golden, the board's vice chair this past year, was first elected to the board in 2018. He is the first Black man to lead the Manatee County School Board. Two Black women, Ruby Byrd and Barbara Harvey, headed the board in past years.

Gina Messenger, a board member since 2016, was elected vice chair. In a statement after his unanimous election, Golden spoke of his educator parents, and the people who made it possible for him to ascend to the chairmanship.



Full story [here](#)

Commissioner Bellamy Appointed to State-Wide Council

Manatee County District 2 Commissioner Reggie Bellamy was appointed to



a four-year term as a member of the Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys. The Council was established by the Florida Legislature in 2006 to study conditions negatively affecting black males.

"It is an honor to be selected from a pool of very highly qualified candidates. I look forward to the opportunity I have been given to impact the lives of so many black males in the State of Florida," said Commissioner Bellamy, the only Democrat on the seven-member Board of County Commissioners.

The Council concentrates on developing programs and services that will improve the lives of black males such as reducing high dropout rates in schools, reducing violent crime rates and reducing incarceration rates among black males.

Read more [here](#).

Piney Point Injection Well Plan Moves Forward



By Mary Moretto - After a public meeting in October and the review of over 7,300 public comments and other information, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) issued a letter of intent to approve Manatee County's permit for deep well injection and storage at Piney Point. Manatee County Commissioners applied for the permit in April after the near catastrophic leak in a stack pond liner.

The 3,300-foot deep well will pump contaminated wastewater from Piney Point's phosphogypsum stack ponds below Florida's aquifer, at a rate of up to 1 million gallons per day.

Full story [here](#)

News Briefs

Democratic Day At the Capitol Jan. 11, 2022

A Democratic Day at the Capitol is planned in conjunction with the Democratic Women's Club for Jan. 11, 2022, the first day of the legislative session. Any Democratic affiliated club, caucus or individual interested in traveling and joining the Democratic Women's Club in Tallahassee, email Rep. Angie Nixon, Political Coalitions Director at angie@floridadems.org.



Running for Local Office Workshop Scheduled

The Manatee County League of Women Voters will conduct a *Running for Local Office* workshop on Saturday, Jan. 22, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the State College of Florida

Library. The workshop is for prospective candidates and citizens interested in working with a political

campaign.

The workshop includes:

- Preparing yourself to be a candidate
- Working with press and social media
- Working with your political party
- Completing necessary paperwork
- Running a successful campaign

There will be opportunities to brainstorm and to question former political candidates. There is a \$35 fee to attend the workshop and a *How To Run For Public Office* handbook is available to registered attendees.

Register for the workshop [here](#). Learn more on the [website](#) for the League of Women Voters of Manatee County.

Contact Senators to Help Pass Equality Act

The Manatee County LGBTQA Democratic Caucus is asking county residents to contact Florida's Senators and urge them to pass the Equality Act. The Equality Act would provide consistent and explicit anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ persons.



For more information, contact Kent Noel, LGBTQA Caucus president at ManateeLGBTADems@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/manateelgbta/, <https://manateelgbta.wordpress.com>.

You can Text* "Equality Act" to 472-472 and you will be connected with your legislator's office. Use [this tool](#) to send your senator an email with your own message about why they should pass the Equality Act. [Read about the Equality Act.](#)

Manatee Dems April Gala



April 2022 is coming faster than you think. Make sure our Gala Spectacular is on your calendar, April 24. The Gala team will be juggling a lot of fun things to get ready. Reach out to [Lucy Lapidus](#) or [Robin Sathan](#) to join the team! Planning get-togethers start in January.

How to Get Involved



The Manatee County Democratic

Meet like-minded people
at fun events!

Click for Events
List

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.

Donate Now

Links to State and National Democratic Websites

[Florida Democratic Party](#)

[National Democratic Party](#)

Manatee County Democratic Party
435 Cortez Road West
Bradenton, Florida 34207
(941) 301-4336

Contact
Us

