

Fall 2020



NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SAVE THE DATES

**WEEKENDS
OF ACTION**



OCTOBER 3 & 4
OCTOBER 17 & 18

Save the weekends of
October 3-4 & 17-18 for
**Manatee Democratic
Weekends of Action!**

Participate where you can:

- ⇒ information drops
- ⇒ phone banking
- ⇒ texting
- ⇒ sign-waving
- ⇒ car caravans
- ⇒ helping candidates

Let's cover Manatee with a **Blue
Tsunami!** Details coming soon at
ManateeCountyDemocrats.com.

**Manatee County Democratic
Executive Committee**

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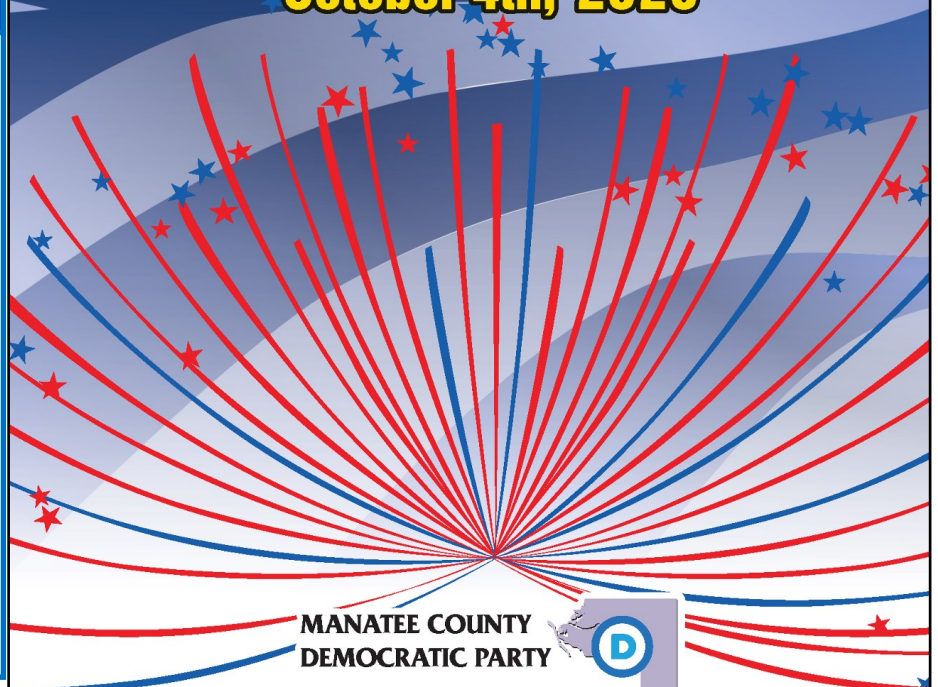
ManateeCountyDemocrats.com



#ManateeTogether

Manatee County Democratic Party

**2020 Manatee Democrats
Annual Gala Goes VIRTUAL
October 4th, 2020**



The 2020 Manatee Democrats Annual Gala is going virtual on Oct. 4 at 5 p.m.! This premier fundraising event has been traditionally held in April with an anticipated silent auction, exciting live auction, well-known state and national speakers and a packed room of up to 400 dinner guests. The virtual gala planners are working to create the same fun and excitement with online and live auctions, a fine art auction that starts one week before the event, entertainment, and political star and celebrity cameos. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join in, including friends, family and out-of-state supporters. Register for the event with optional donation at event.gives/manateedems.

Anthony Eldon, Candidate for State Senate District 21



Manatee and Hillsborough County Democratic leaders selected Anthony Eldon to replace Amanda Linton, who was the only Democratic candidate to qualify for the State Senate District 21 seat, but withdrew from the race. Eldon is a teacher at Buffalo Creek Middle School. He is also a social media influencer, running the Instagram account [Blk.Thought](#) with more than 70,000 followers, as well as writing a book, 50 Inspiring Black Stories: That Aren't Taught in School.

"I am honored to have the nomination of the Democratic Party and I am ready to make some noise about protecting public education, addressing the COVID-19 crisis and access to healthcare, and policing and criminal justice reform," said Eldon. Contact Anthony at TonyforFlorida@gmail.com.

Manatee Dems Find New Ways to Reach Voters

In the peak of election season, Manatee County Democrats would normally be knocking on thousands of doors, knowing that canvassing is a proven way to win elections. But to remain safe and responsible during COVID-19, the Florida Democratic Party has continued a policy of no canvassing or in-person events, challenging Democrats to find new ways to reach voters. Thanks to generous donations, Manatee Dems have been able to move into print media, radio, digital and social media advertising.

Manatee Democrat newsprint ads in the Bradenton Herald, Anna Maria Islander, AMI Sun, Parrish Village News and East County Observer have promoted awareness of the party, provided voting information and paid tribute to Democratic leadership.

In coordination with the Hispanic Democratic Caucus, Manatee Democrats are working with a local Hispanic radio station, La Numero Uno (99.1 FM and 1280 AM), airing ads professionally recorded in Spanish, as well as corresponding short videos for social media. Ads direct people to the Hispanic Caucus' website floridavota.com.

Manatee Democrats are also delving into digital ads on a wide range of national news sites, where voting messages are targeted to specific local voter groups. The ads direct people to manateecountydemocrats.com and the new Black Caucus' website manateedemblackcaucus.org. Social media has been a political mainstay, and now Manatee Dems are using it much more aggressively for paid ads promoting voter information on facebook.com/manateedems and instagram.com/manateedems. - *Bev Pannee*

VOTE FROM HOME

Vote By Mail is safe and secure.
Mail ballot back early and track it online.

FIND OUT MORE & SIGN UP

John R. Lewis

FOUGHT so you could vote

Protect your vote
Vote From Home

START HERE

3 Ways to Vote
in the August 18th Primary Elections

Good Election Day - August 18, 7 am to 7 pm. Make a plan! You must go to the polling location where you are registered. Some sites have moved. Check yours and see sample ballot at VoteManatee.com.

Better Early Voting - August 8 to 15, 8 am to 6 pm. Six Manatee sites, including Rocky Bluff Library! If you have a mail-in ballot, you can drop it off, too.

Best Vote By Mail - Hurry! Deadline to request your mailed ballot for the Primary is August 8. Go online to VoteManatee.com or call the Manatee Supervisor of Elections at 941-741-3823.

Learn more at
ManateeCountyDemocrats.com
or call us: 941-301-4336

Paid for by the Manatee County Democratic Party

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CONGRESSMAN
John R. Lewis
1940-2020

"Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble. Voting and participating in the democratic process are key. The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it." - John Lewis

With admiration and respect from the diverse and inclusive Caucuses and Clubs of the Manatee County Democratic Party: Black Caucus, Hispanic Caucus, LGBTQ Caucus, Environmental Caucus, Progressive Caucus, Democratic Women's Club, Manatee Young Democrats and the Anna Maria Island/West Manatee, Lakewood Ranch, Longboat Key, North River and Manatee Democratic Clubs.

www.ManateeCountyDemocrats.com
Paid for by the Manatee County Democratic Party

VOTE POR SU FUTURO.

Regístrate, pide votar e inscribete para votar por correo. La Junta, Hispana y la Unión.

Contáctenos

Protect your health. Protect your vote.
VOTE BY MAIL

Learn more at
www.ManateeCountyDemocrats.com

#ManateeTogether
941-301-4336

We can do this. Together. With you.

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Sign Waving Team Generates Excitement for Democratic Candidates



Waving to passing motorists and holding signs aloft alongside a busy highway is a tried and true method to create enthusiasm and name recognition for candidates running for office, from Joe Biden and Kamala Harris down ballot to local Democrats. You can join that enthusiastic team Saturday mornings in September from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on the corner of Manatee Avenue W. and 43rd Street W., Bradenton.

On the last Saturday in August, 32 volunteers enjoyed the positive energy from many Biden/Harris supporters who drove by the corner returning waves, giving thumbs up and honking their horns. "I can't believe it. Is this really Manatee County?" said Maureen Dardinski, coordinator of sign waving events in the area. "We had so many people wave and honk to show support for our candidates. There were some comments and thumbs down from Trump supporters but we expected much more than we saw."

Dardinski is currently looking for more volunteers and alternate sites to conduct sign waving events during the week at different times of day. "I really want to have a Sign and Wave event in an area with lots of Democrats and low voter turnout," she said. - *Wil Clapper*

Candidate Quiz

Here's a fun way to brush up on your candidate knowledge and maybe learn something in the process. Each person below is running for office. Match each name with the statement that applies. Click [here](#) for answers.

Dominique Brown	Harold Byrd	Pamela Coachman	Anthony Eldon
David Fairey	Chris Gilbert	Margaret Good	Sheldon Jones
Andy Mele	Charles Smith	Betsy Young	

- Currently serving in the Florida House of Representatives, this candidate for U.S. Congressional District 16 is known for "reaching across the aisle" to find solutions to help Florida's working families.
- With twenty years of experience as a prosecutor and criminal defense attorney, this highly qualified candidate is running for State Attorney District 12. She is a graduate of FSU College of Law.
- This teacher was selected by Dem leaders to replace Amanda Linton to run for State Senate District 21.
- "The Environment IS The Economy" says this published environmental scientist running for Florida House of Representatives, District 71.
- Running for Florida House of Representatives District 73, this family man is a CPA and holds a master's degree in administration and accounting.
- For Manatee County Board of Commissioners District 1, this U.S. Air Force Veteran has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, master's in applied social science-criminal justice, and a Juris Doctor degree.
- This write-in candidate for the Manatee County Board of Commissioners has served on the City of Bradenton's Tree and Land Preservation Board for five years.
- Twice Vice Mayor of Bradenton, this candidate holds a master's in public administration and a Juris Doctor degree. Running for City of Bradenton Mayor (non-partisan election).
- From 2004-2010 this candidate was deeply engaged in the Teen Court program for the Manatee County Clerk of Courts and has a master's in speech pathology. Running for Bradenton City Council, Ward 5.
- A graduate of the Florida Redevelopment Academy and Doctor of Divinity, this once Vice Mayor of Palmetto is running for City of Palmetto Mayor (non-partisan election).
- This U.S. Army Veteran got to know the community well by working for the U.S. Postal Service for over 20 years. Running for City of Palmetto Commission.

Ridin' With Biden Caravans Travel on a Wave of Support

Ridin' With Biden started a wave of excitement for the Democratic Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates when the car caravans rolled through Bradenton neighborhoods last month. Cars decorated with Biden/Harris banners, American Flags, home-made signs, and blue garland covered downtown Bradenton as well as neighborhoods south and north of Cortez Road in a series of Ridin' With Biden/Harris caravans. Caravans continue until Election Day.



The Bradenton caravans roll out of the Orange Blossom Plaza parking lot, Cortez Road and 5thth Street W., Wednesdays and Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. Another caravan rides through University Town Center on Mondays at 12:30 p.m. Caravans in other Manatee County neighborhoods are in the planning stages.

"We wanted to do something to get out the vote, something we could commit to," said Deborah Jewett of northwest Bradenton. She and her husband, Chuck, are regulars for the Wednesday and Saturday caravans. "We were concerned that there might be negativity, but

we've seen little of that. I'd say, the response (to the caravans) has been 90 percent positive, 10 percent negative. People wave, smile, give us the thumbs up. It feels like Manatee County has more Democrats than some people lead us to believe."

For Pat and Ray Halperin of southwest Bradenton, Ridin' With Biden/Harris is a way to get involved in the campaign while following COVID precautions. "We were looking for ways to be helpful for the Biden campaign," said Pat. "For a couple like us, in our 70s, it's safe, we're having fun, and we're visible in the community." -Wil Clapper

How-To Videos Will Help Voters Fill Out Their Ballots



For most American 18-year-olds, the first opportunity to vote is a milestone on their journey to responsible citizenship and adulthood. But for some 18-year-olds, and for some returning citizens, that important first voting experience is delayed.

Florence Shelton-Clark helped a returning citizen successfully register to vote. At the next election, she requested the voter send a selfie with a prominent *I Voted* button; instead, the voter included a picture of her completed ballot. "The voter put X next to the selections," said Shelton-Clark. "It was the first time voting and no one ever showed the voter to shade in the bubble. It was something the voter never had to do."

That experience led her, as a board member of the Manatee County Democratic Black Caucus (MCDBC), in conjunction with the Manatee County Democratic Party, to create instructional videos. "The goal (of the videos) is to increase voter turnout and to educate," she said. "We reached out to all demographics and all communities because we wanted to be very diverse."

The two, 3-minute videos highlight the importance of voting and show how to fill out a ballot. The Manatee County Democratic Party sponsored the video project (in English and Spanish), along with the MCDBC and Hispanic Caucus. Plans are to distribute the videos throughout the Democratic Party, to Democratic clubs and caucuses, social media outlets, Facebook, YouTube, churches, social and political organizations. Shelton-Clark says, "If enough people see the videos, learn how to fill out their ballots and vote, election officials will not reject ballots and you are safe in the understanding that your vote counts." -Wil Clapper