



## FROM THE MANATEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

**March 2025**

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### **Come to Dem Expo 2025 and Make A Difference**

Now is the time to step up and get in the game. None of us can afford to sit on the sidelines any longer as our American way of life is taken away.



Working with the Democratic Party is an effective way to fight back against Republican dominance of our political system. To bring about changes in our government, the Manatee County Democratic Party (MCDP) presents Dem Expo 2025, an information-packed, volunteer recruitment and fundraising event, Saturday, March 29, from 1:30 to 5 p.m. at the Manatee Performing Arts Center, 502 3rd Ave W, Bradenton.

Want to know how to advocate for issues important to you and help Democrats win in the 2026 midterm elections? Dem Expo 2025 will feature action-oriented breakout sessions on topics that are vital for success in upcoming elections. In addition, there will be opportunities to interact with social and activist clubs and caucuses and chat with MCDP leaders.

Topics for the breakout sessions include social media techniques; registering new voters; enrolling voters in the Vote-By-Mail program; information about phoning, texting and emailing potential voters; and what is required to be a candidate for local elected offices.

The purpose of Dem Expo 2025 is to attract volunteers and help local Democrats turn Manatee blue. From clubs and caucuses to committees to phone callers, there are positions in the organization for everyone who is concerned about the Republican dominance of our local, state and national politics. Remember, democracy is not a spectator sport.

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### **Manatee Dems Schedule DEC Orientation**

The Democratic Executive Committee (DEC) of the Manatee County Democratic Party (MCDP) is working to make DEC responsibilities easier and more fun. All DEC members are invited to join MCDP leaders for a live training session, Sunday, March 9 at 1p.m.

This training will provide valuable tools for outreach, messaging and Get Out The Vote programs in specific precincts and the community at large. After the training, we expect you'll feel empowered to make a difference at the precinct level.

Led by DEC structure experts, you'll get the rundown on how to build the party using toolkits, best practices and gain an understanding of the required essential rules. DEC members new to the committee will have the opportunity to learn tried and true techniques for organizing from experienced members.

Training is scheduled at the MCDP headquarters, 435 Cortez Road W, Bradenton, and on Zoom. We encourage you to attend in person to get the maximum benefit.

**Reserve Your  
Spot**

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## **Demonstrate at Rep. Buchanan's Office**

Republicans recently sent a budget bill to the House floor that would further escalate their war on the middle class. Every Republican voted for it. For the budget to pass into law, the House and Senate must agree on a single budget resolution.

The bill contains cuts to social safety net programs, including Medicaid and SNAP. These programs subsidize healthcare and food for people who cannot afford it. To protest the actions of Republican lawmakers, Indivisible Manatee is staging demonstrations every other Thursday at Congressman Vern Buchanan's Lakewood Ranch office. The next demonstration is March 20 from 9 to 10 a.m.

The office address is 8433 Enterprise Circle, near the intersection of University Parkway and Lakewood Ranch Blvd. Register for the demonstration:

**HERE**

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## **LGBTQ+ Caucus Hosts Humanists Forum**



Humanists of Sarasota Bay members will be guest speakers at the regular monthly meeting of the Manatee LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus, Wednesday, March 19, 6 to 7 p.m., at Manatee County Democratic Party (MCDP)

The Humanists will address the threat to the principle of separation of church and state posed by the rise of Christian Nationalism and authoritarianism. Special guest that evening will be Brett Thomas, MCDP chair.

**Sign  
Up**

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## **Water Keepers Featured at Women's Club Meeting**

A representative from the Suncoast Water Keepers, a grassroots organization that aims to protect and restore the waterways of the Florida Suncoast, will be the featured speaker during the Democratic Women's Club of Manatee County monthly meeting, Thursday, March 13, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Women's Club meets at the Peridia Golf and Country Club, 4950 Peridia Blvd E, Bradenton. Cost of the luncheon is \$20 per person payable by cash or check at the door. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Joanie Lebaron, [joanielebaron0108@gmail.com](mailto:joanielebaron0108@gmail.com).

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## **Environmental Caucus Plans Water Issues Forum**

Bradenton Mayor Gene Brown and his staff will make a presentation and answer questions about the issues, progress and plans in Bradenton concerning water and sewer, Wednesday, March 26, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., at the Bradenton Woman's Club, **1705 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton**.



Mayor Brown served three terms on the Bradenton City Council as Ward Two Councilman. He was successful in his first bid to become mayor and has served since January 2021.

The event is sponsored by the Manatee Democratic Environmental Caucus, which invites all citizens to ask questions and offer ideas.

**Register Here**

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# LGBTQ+ Caucus Active at Friendly City Pride event



The Manatee LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus will have a booth at the Friendly City Pride event with voter registration and Vote-By-Mail information along with clean water and Medicaid petitions.

Friendly City Pride is scheduled for Sunday, March 23, 2 to 7 p.m., at Oscura, 816 Manatee Ave E, Bradenton. The event will feature artists, bands, performers, vendors, food trucks and speakers to help spread love in our community.

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## Black Caucus Presents Panel on Democratic Values

In recognition of Women's History Month, the Manatee County Democratic Black Caucus will feature a panel discussion on the topic, *Under Siege - Protecting Democratic Values*, during its monthly Zoom meeting on March 27th at 6 p.m. Three women leaders in their respective fields will speak and answer questions covering DEI, Immigration and Education. You can access the meeting here:

[Join Meeting](#)

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## Manatee Dems at the Food Bank of Manatee

The Manatee Dems are moving forward to serve our community. Volunteers will make produce packets that will be delivered to needy families through the Mobile Produce Pantry. These packets will go to the [First Baptist Church of Ellenton](#), Pride Park and Produce Distribution in Samoset. The produce packing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 8:30 to 11 a.m. at Meals on Wheels Plus, 811 23rd Avenue E, Bradenton.



[Sign Up](#)

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# Districts 4, 5 Meeting Scheduled

Districts 4 and 5 precinct team will meet Saturday, March 22, 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the Lakewood Ranch Public Library, 16410 Rangeland Pkwy, Lakewood Ranch. The open meeting will cover neighborhood networking strategies, goals and action items to prepare for the 2026 election.

[Sign Up](#)

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## Hogg, Whitehouse Featured at Sarasota Event

U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and activist David Hogg, are the headline speakers for the Sarasota County Democratic Party's Kennedy-King Dinner, Sunday, March 23, 5:30 p.m., at The Ora in Sarasota.

Hogg is a survivor of the Parkland school shooting and one of the most compelling voices of his generation. He co-founded March For Our Lives, an influential youth-led movement. He was recently elected as an At-Large Vice President of the Democratic National Committee (DNC).

Sen. Whitehouse, from Rhode Island, is a ranking member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, and a leading voice in the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts.

[Dinner Tickets](#)

[Sponsorship](#)



The Manatee County Democratic Party is a **100% volunteer organization**. All contributions of any size are appreciated.

[Donate Now](#)



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

[Upcoming Events](#)



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## Resource Links

**Florida Democratic  
Party**

**The Florida Channel**

**National Democratic  
Party**

**Manatee County Board of  
Commissioners**

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## Headquarters Office

435 Cortez Road W, Bradenton, Florida  
34207, United States  
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[info@manateecountydemocrats.com](mailto:info@manateecountydemocrats.com)



## Hours

Tuesdays 10 AM - 4 PM  
Wednesdays 12 PM - 4 PM  
Fridays 10 AM - 2 PM  
Contact us to schedule a meeting

**Visit our  
Website**

Manatee County Democratic Party | 435 Cortez Road W, Bradenton, FL 34207

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