

February 2018



# MANATEE MATTERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## Florida Democrats Urged to Vote by Mail



*Voter outreach  
gets into full  
swing this month*

Manatee County Democratic  
Executive Committee

435 Cortez Road West  
Bradenton, FL 34207  
(941) 301-4336

[ManateeCountyDemocrats.com](http://ManateeCountyDemocrats.com)

### CALENDAR

[https://manateecountydemocrats.com/  
events](https://manateecountydemocrats.com/events)

Stop by the MCDP office any  
time from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
weekdays. A friendly volun-  
teer staff is there to help.

We welcome your comments  
and contributions to this news-  
letter. Please email:

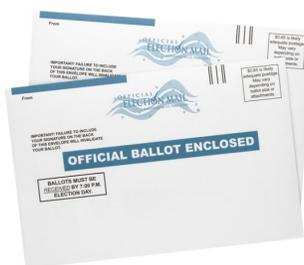
[HQManateeDems@gmail.com](mailto:HQManateeDems@gmail.com)

Absentee voting in Florida has been replaced with the Vote By Mail option. State law allows any registered voter to vote by mail in any election. The voter does not have to be absent or provide any other reason for requesting this convenience. The Manatee County Democratic Party encourages the use of Vote By Mail to increase voter turnout and to help Democrats win local, state and national elections.

Studies show that Vote By Mail increases voter participation in elections. For just the cost of one first class stamp to return the ballot, people don't have to miss work, drive to a polling location, or set aside time to wait in line to vote. A ballot is mailed to the voter's address of choice about 30 days before each election, giving ample time to consider the candidates and issues. Voting takes place in the comfort and privacy of the home. Furthermore, voters can track the processing of their Vote by Mail ballot on the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections (SOE) office web site.

Oregon, Washington and Colorado are exclusively Vote by Mail states, with no physical polling sites, and all have a proven record of success.

The Florida Democratic County Chairs Association observes that Vote by Mail increases participation especially among inconsistent voters, those who voted in only one of the last two general elections.



“Voters with mail ballots actually vote. Somehow, those who have a ballot on their dining room table are more likely to fill it out than folks who wait for Early Voting or Election Day,” said Terrie Rizzo, newly elected Chair of the Florida Democratic Party. “Vote By Mail will help us develop strong voting habits in the Democratic electorate,” she added, while emphasizing that voters must understand and follow the rules of Vote By Mail to ensure that each ballot mailed in is valid and counted.

## Build the Blue Wave on Saturday, February 17

Join us at IMG Academy Golf Club on February 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help the Manatee County Democratic Party implement our plans for 2018. Become part of making 2018 a winning year. All Democrats are welcome. Please RSVP by emailing [HQManateeDems@gmail.com](mailto:HQManateeDems@gmail.com), or by calling or stopping at the office.

More details are available at <https://manateecountydemocrats.com>

## How to Request a Vote by Mail Ballot and Important Things to Know

The SOE Office provides instructions on how to Vote By Mail, including the following ways in which registered voters may request a ballot:

1. Complete the online request form at [www.votemanatee.com/Vote-By-Mail-Early-Voting/Vote-By-Mail-Ballot-Request-Online](http://www.votemanatee.com/Vote-By-Mail-Early-Voting/Vote-By-Mail-Ballot-Request-Online). You will receive a confirmation email.
2. Access the Vote By Mail Ballot Request form at [www.votemanatee.com](http://www.votemanatee.com); click Vote by Mail & Early Voting in the red column at left, then select Vote By Mail Request Form (PDF). Follow the instructions to complete the form, and then return it by mail, email or fax.
3. Make your request in person at the SOE Office, [600 301 Blvd. W., Suite 108, Bradenton, FL 34205](http://www.votemanatee.com). (The SOE Office is next to the MCAT DeSoto Station at the far left end of the building complex that houses the Sheriff's Office.)
4. Call the SOE Office at [\(941\) 741-3823](tel:9417413823) and ask to sign up for Vote By Mail. This is quickly done, and a voter may make the request for a spouse or other immediate family member.

**All registered voters are eligible.** However, the voter must be able to receive mail at the address they have given in their ballot request.

**Requests are not permanent.** A request covers all elections through the end of the calendar year for the second regularly scheduled general election after the request is made. If in doubt about their Vote By Mail status, voters should contact the SOE Office to confirm and renew the request if needed.

**Vote By Mail ballots are neither held nor forwarded by the US Postal Service.** However, a voter may request that a ballot be sent to them where they are visiting. If a voter needs to request that a ballot be sent to an address other than one already in their voter record, the first use of the different address must be requested in writing, with the voter's signature. (Use the PDF form referenced in the left-hand column.)

**Completed Vote By Mail ballots are not accepted at the polls on Election Day.** They must be received by the SOE Office by mail or in person no later than 7:00 pm on Election Day. If voters wish to vote in person instead, they may surrender their Vote By Mail ballot (although this is not required) at the polls and receive a fresh ballot to complete and turn in while there.

For further details and information about the Vote By Mail option, call the Manatee County SOE Office at [\(941\) 741-3823](tel:9417413823).

### Be Part of the Solution



The Manatee County Democratic Party is a 100% volunteer organization with many dedicated people contributing their time and efforts. Keeping our office location and maintaining voter outreach require financial contributions from people like you. Please contribute on-line at:

<https://manateecountydemocrats.com/contribute>

...or by mailing a check to:

Manatee County Democratic Party  
PO Box 10605, Bradenton, FL 34282

(Please note your occupation, as required by federal election law.)

Look on Page 4 for sponsorship opportunities at the Annual Dinner. Thank you!

## Candidates Corner - Jan Schneider, Congressional District 16

"I am issue based, that's why I'm running," said Jan Schneider, Democratic Congressional Candidate for District 16. Interviewed at Manatee County Democratic Party headquarters, Schneider stated her top issues are healthcare, Medicare, Social Security, and "good jobs that people can live on." She was born into the Democratic Party in New York City, where her baby carriage was pushed around the park accompanied by her famous neighbor, Eleanor Roosevelt. With a smile, she said she attributes her "voice" to Eleanor. Her college days during the Vietnam War were a very formative time for her where her Democratic roots grew deeper.

An international civil servant, policy advisor, attorney and businesswoman, Schneider attended Brown University, received a master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University, and was a classmate of Bill and Hillary Clinton at Yale, where she received her JD and PhD in law. She has authored two books on environmental law.

"The Democratic Party is the party of pluralism." Schneider said, citing equality, protecting the vulnerable and addressing the inequality of wealth. "Democracy does not exist without the middle class and inequality is a danger to democracy." A self-proclaimed progressive and economic conservative, she believes these values can be aligned.

Schneider views Vern Buchanan as vulnerable in the 2018 race because he has voted in lock step with President Trump and has not represented the people of District 16. In contrast to Buchanan, Schneider touts her laser sharp knowledge of the issues, including healthcare, the environment, the economy, women's rights, foreign affairs, the military, infrastructure and, of course, the Constitution.

She cares deeply about the country, stating we need to be a kinder, gentler nation. Schneider said she has no problem reaching across the aisle for the greater good and feels the best way to achieve this is to work out details that each side can agree on, one step at a time. If elected, she wants to have person-to-person contact with the people of District 16, perhaps through a mobile office so all people can voice their opinions and concerns. She will focus on solving the problems of the uninsured, offshore drilling, and teen pregnancy, and be a watch dog to make sure Medicare and Social Security remain in place.

As we wrapped up we asked how Jan puts her heart and intellect to work outside of politics. She describes herself as a life-long learner and loves to figure out how things work. She loves animals, builds fountains, likes chocolate ice cream, and enjoys reading mysteries, *SRQ*, *Newsweek* and foreign affairs periodicals.

For more information: <http://votejan.com>



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*Florida's 16th District for the US House of Representatives includes northern Sarasota County, all of Manatee County and southern Hillsborough County. The next election for this district is November 6, 2018, and the current Representative is Vern Buchanan. David Shapiro is the other Democratic candidate for District 16.*

*For more information on Democratic candidates: <https://manateecountydemocrats.com/candidates>*

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## Democrats Around the County

The Manatee/Sarasota Black Caucus assisted in the collection and shipment of items to the US Virgin Islands, such as personal essentials, clothing and water, and raised a \$1,000 check.



Manatee County “Travelling Dems” went all-out with our booth at the county fair in January. Helping to staff the booth and talk with visitors were Lakewood Ranch Democratic Club, Manatee Democratic Club, Democratic Women’s Club, Manatee/Sarasota Black Caucus and Progressive Caucus.



## SAVE THE DATE! April 20 Democratic Dinner

Mark your calendars for the annual Manatee County Democratic Dinner, April 20, 6 pm, at the Polo Grill, Lakewood Ranch. This is our major fundraising event of the year, which supports our office and outreach activities. Last year’s event was sold out. We’ve added more space, but because of the high level of activism among Democrats, we’re expecting a record-breaking crowd, so reserve early.

In addition to exciting speakers, we will have both live and silent auctions and lots of opportunities to mingle with your fellow Democrats. Reservations made online/by mail are \$88/\$85 per person if received by March 1, and \$93/\$90 thereafter. For more information, see <https://manateecountydemocrats.com/demdinner>.

We are looking for silent and live auction items. If you or a business you know would like to donate items, please contact Peggie Ward, [peggiewardphd@gmail.com](mailto:peggiewardphd@gmail.com), or Mary Jo Kline, [mjkline@visi.com](mailto:mjkline@visi.com).

We are also seeking advertisers for our dinner program book. Attendees often take this book home and refer to it when seeking businesses that support our Democratic values. If you or a business you know would like to advertise, please contact Barbara Hyde, [bhyde@bhyde.net](mailto:bhyde@bhyde.net), for additional information.

## Up Close & Personal: Our Volunteer Office Operations Manager

Gloria Carme grew up in a Democratic household in a small town in Western Massachusetts. She was a registered Democrat by 18 and working for the local Democratic Party by 24. There she learned about grassroots politicking and working with volunteers.

Gloria has always found organizing to be relatively easy for her. One thing that helps her is planning her day out the night before. Gloria's organizational skills were put to the task when she set about staffing the new office. Thanks to her hard work the office now has 50 volunteers to work shifts and keep the office open every weekday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Always having supportive and hard-working people working with her has helped Gloria be organized.



Gloria believes staffing the office is integral to building a strong base for the Manatee County Democratic Party. She is pleased that visitors are finding the energy in the office positive and infectious. Gloria is “in it to win it” and knows that getting neighborhood contacts for every precinct is key in order to “build the blue wave.”

To that end, she hopes more precinct volunteers will come to the office often, whether they use it for meetings or to make phone calls. She believes that they will be more motivated and energized if they do and that will translate to more enthusiasm when they speak to their registered voters.