

MANATEE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The DEC functions under rules established by Florida State Statute and the Florida Democratic Party (FDP). Details can be found at the FDP website, (<https://www.floridadems.org/our-party/party-affairs>) Our Manatee County DEC bylaws mirror the FDP by-laws.

The DEC is the business side of the Manatee Democratic Party. Ideally, the DEC is comprised of 1 Committeeman and 1 Committeewoman from each precinct in the county. You must live and vote in the precinct you represent. These are elected positions. Names of the elected Committee People are recorded with the FDP and the Manatee Supervisor of elections (SOE). The normal process calls for all DEC members to be certified during a mandatory reorganization meeting in January after a Presidential election year. If more than one person is interested in representing a precinct, their names are included on the official county election ballot. They run an election campaign and the SOE tallies the votes and determines the winner! In our case, most of the positions are filled in the interim, by votes at our monthly DEC meetings. In large precincts, over 1,000 registered Democrats, there are provisions to elect additional Committeepersons.

The basic responsibilities of Committeepersons are:

1. Attend regularly held DEC meetings
 - a. Vote on issues that are brought before the membership
 - b. Local bylaws state that a DEC member can be removed if have 3 unexcused absences
2. Serve as liaison between the DEC and the Democratic citizens of their precinct
3. Be active in all aspects of the Party
4. All prospective DEC members are asked to sign a loyalty oath prior to being presented to the general membership for a vote.

To encourage participation and coverage in precincts where no one stepped up to become an official DEC member, we made the decision to have Precinct Captains. The Precinct Captain responsibilities are essentially the same as the those of the Committeeperson, except they are non-voting representatives. This allowed people to "adopt" precincts they do not live in to act as the Precinct Captain. As a result, we've developed more super volunteers and enthusiasm than ever before.

In an ideal situation, we wouldn't need a separate "Precinct Captains". Each precinct would have an elected Committeewoman and Committeeman filling this responsibility.

Please contact the Precinct Coordinator if you'd like additional clarification. More information on what, why and how our local Democratic Party does things is available at our office.