



FROM THE MANATEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

**October 2024**

## **County-wide Loss of Power Delays Publication**

Our thoughts and prayers are with all Manatee County residents as we emerge from the aftermath of hurricane Milton. We hope everyone is safe and secure as power is restored and debris cleared.

The nearly week-long, loss of power caused by Milton is the reason the October edition of *Manatee Matters* is late. The stories in this edition were written before Milton struck and you may need to check on some of the events in case they have been canceled or rescheduled.

We hope the delay in publishing *Manatee Matters* hasn't caused any inconvenience. We will publish up-to-date information on the Manatee County Democratic Party website, <https://manateecountydemocrats.com/> as it becomes available.

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## **Get to Know Your Democratic Candidates**

The November General Election is fast approaching and there are a number of talented and qualified Democratic candidates asking for your vote. Democratic candidates up and down the ballot are dedicated to listening to you and making a difference for everyone.

[View Our Guide Here](#)

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## **Dems Stage Rallies All Across the County!**

Join Manatee Democrats at candidate rally events in Manatee County parks on Saturdays during October. There are rallies planned at Fort Hamer Park, Parrish, on Oct. 19, and Lincoln Park, Palmetto, on Oct. 26. The rallies begin at 10:30

a.m. and conclude at noon.

[Learn More](#)



Sari Lindroos-Valimaki speaks to enthusiastic voters during the first Democratic Candidate Rally at GT Bray Park, Bradenton, Saturday, Oct. 5

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## Meet & Greet Challenge Supports Candidates

The Manatee County Democratic Party is supporting our Democratic candidates this election season by promoting a county-wide Meet & Greet Challenge. The challenge goal is at least 30 neighborhood Meet & Greets, 1 per week in each district, between now and Election Day.

The Manatee Dems are ready to: arrange for the candidates to attend the Meet & Greets; prepare a Meet & Greet kit; have funds available for refreshments; and provide a list of Democrats in your area.

Anyone willing to participate in the Meet & Greet Challenge needs to set a date and location, such as a private home or community clubhouse; and send out invitations by phone, text, email or personal interaction. Meet & Greet hosts are responsible for set up and clean up.

For more information contact Robin at [ManateeDemPrecinct521@gmail.com](mailto:ManateeDemPrecinct521@gmail.com).

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## Voter Outreach Canvassing Team Seeks Volunteers

Get out the vote for Kamala Harris and all our local candidates by stepping up to become a canvassing volunteer.

Manatee Dems are reaching out with door-to-door, canvassing events Wednesday evenings, Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons.

Would you rather knock on doors on your own time? Or do you have a specific area you would like to canvass? When you sign up, canvassing coordinator Brett Thomas, will contact you to find out what you would like to do and how Manatee Dems can help. If you wish, Brett will even deliver canvassing materials to your door.

[Sign Up Here](#)

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# Canvassing – An Effective Way to Reach Voters

To win a political campaign, candidates need more votes than their opponents. That's a given.

To garner more votes, smart, effective political campaigns use modern canvassing strategies to identify, persuade and mobilize voters to support their candidates and issues.

[Read More](#)

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## Sign-Wavers Going Strong at Three Locations

A group of more than 50 residents showed their support for local and national Democratic candidates at the first sign-waving event of the election season, Saturday, Sept. 21. The event, next to the Westwood Shopping Center parking lot, corner of 43rd Street W and Manatee Ave., drew many Democratic activists who held up candidate signs, placards and flags to passing motorists.



Sign waving will continue every Saturday, 9:30 to 11 a.m., until Nov. 2, at the Bradenton location.

Other sign-waving events are planned for Tuesdays in Palmetto at the Riverside Boat Ramp, 899 Riverside Drive, starting Oct. 1; and Thursdays in Lakewood Ranch at 11505 State Road 70 E, beginning Oct. 3

Click on a button to join the sign-wavers:



Diana Shoemaker, Democratic candidate for the Manatee County District 3 commissioner seat, was on hand to visit with constituents. “This is the most important year ever for people to vote,” said Maggie Ozner, the event organizer. “We have to flip Manatee blue. It’s a wonderful experience. We’re building enthusiasm and support for our local candidates.”

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## Greet Voters at the Polling Places

Opportunities are available for outdoor greeters at polling places for the Early Voting period (Oct. 21 to Nov. 2) and on Election Day (Nov. 5). Democratic greeting tables will be staffed each day by volunteers from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

[Read More](#)

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## Review of 2024 Amendments on the Ballot

When you fill out your ballot for the upcoming election, you will find six proposed amendment questions that need to be answered with either a YES or a NO. To help you make a decision on the proposals, the Manatee County Democratic Party researched each amendment to let you know what each is about. The Manatee Dems also give recommendations on where the party stands on the amendments.

[Read More](#)

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## Postcards for Kamala!



Members of Our Bookclub came together for a special luncheon in Bradenton, where they showed their support for Kamala Harris while working on election information postcards. A great afternoon of camaraderie and civic engagement!

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## Poll Watchers Monitor Polling Place Irregularities

The Early Voting period for this year's election is Oct. 21 to Nov. 2. The Manatee County Democratic Party needs volunteers to serve as poll watchers inside polling places during those days.

Poll watchers provide a crucial service to protect the integrity of the vote, and each party may have a representative at the polling places. Poll watchers serve at all polling locations throughout the county during the Early Voting days and on Election Day.

[Learn More](#)

## Curing Ballots: Volunteers Make Sure Every Vote Counts

Doctors cure diseases. Chefs cure ham and salmon. But curing ballots? That's a job that can deliver hundreds or thousands more votes for Democrats in Manatee County—and you can help.



[Learn How!](#)



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

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

**Receive our newsletter!** Was this email forwarded to you? Would you like to keep hearing from us?

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## Resource Links

[Florida Democratic](#)

[The Florida Channel](#)

Party

National Democratic  
Party

Manatee County Board of  
Commissioners

## Headquarters Office

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## Hours

Monday thru Friday, Noon to 4 p.m.  
Saturdays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Contact us to schedule a meeting

Visit our  
Website

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

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