



FROM THE MANATEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

**June 2024**

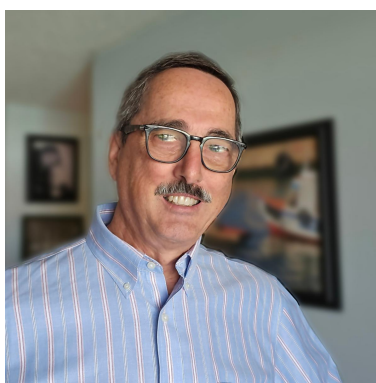
## Three Democrats Running for State Rep. Seats

Manatee County voters will have a choice this November when they look at their ballots and see Democrats running for the three local district seats. The three Democrats, Luther Wilkins, District 70, Adriaan DeVilliers, District 71, and Lesa Miller, District 72, announce their candidacies below.



**Luther Wilkins**  
District 70

[Learn More](#)



**Adriaan DeVilliers**  
District 71

[Learn More](#)



**Lesa Miller**  
District 72

[Learn More](#)

## Get Jubilant for Manatee's Juneteenth Festival

Manatee County's annual Juneteenth Community Festival will take place on Saturday, June 22, from 2 to 7 p.m. at the 13th Ave. Dream Center, 922 24th St. E, Bradenton.

Juneteenth celebrates the ending of slavery in the United States, highlighting the struggle



for liberation that African Americans have attained and celebrating their enduring spirit. Through music, food and arts and crafts, the event will honor black cultures and provide an opportunity to reflect on the evolving meaning of freedom in this country.

HONORING  
**JUNETEENTH**  
FREEDOM DAY

Annual Juneteenth  
Community Festival  
Saturday June 22, 2024  
2:00 pm- 7:00 pm  
13th Avenue Dream Center  
922 -24th Street East  
Bradenton, FL 34208

FOOD VENDORS  
BOUNCE HOUSES  
ARTS AND CRAFTS  
CHILDREN'S PARADE  
YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR  
CORRIDOR

Battle of the  
DJs  
Featuring:  
"DJ Rico"  
"DJ JT"  
"DJ Big Dawg  
Carley"

Old School  
vs  
New School  
Music

VENDORS SCAN QR CODE  
TO REGISTER.

DEADLINE FOR VENDOR REGISTRATION: JUNE 15, 2024

Critical to the ongoing work of freedom is the enforcement of voting rights. The Manatee County NAACP and the Manatee County Democratic Black Caucus will be available at the festival to assist with voter registration.

Glenn Pearson, president of the caucus, said, "Our mission will be to make sure that eligible voters are registered, ensure that registrations are current, re-enroll or enroll in the Vote-By-Mail program and persuade voters to VOTE in 2024."

The significance of Juneteenth includes bringing up strong future generations. Festival organizer, The Rosalyn Walton Education and Enrichment Services, will participate in the event by offering a children's parade and a youth entrepreneur corridor. On the actual day of the holiday (June 19), the organization will offer a reading conference that includes author visits and financial literacy games. The event is free and open to everyone.

*By Diana Hines*

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## Vote-By-Mail Emphasized at Districts 4-5 Meeting

Addressing a crowd approaching 70 volunteers, District 5 coordinator and Precinct 507 Captain Rob Usher emphasized the need for enrolling in the Vote-By-Mail (VBM) program during the May Districts 4 and 5 meeting at the Lakewood Ranch Library.

Usher reminded attendees that all voters must register for the VBM program, even if they received their ballots in the mail for previous elections. He stressed careful navigation of the Supervisor of Elections website, <https://www.votemanatee.com/Vote-By-Mail-Early-Voting/Vote-By-Mail-Ballot-Request-Online>, in order to re-enroll in the program.

Democratic candidate for the County Commission District 7 (at-large) seat, Sari Lindroos-Valimaki gave a brief but impassioned request to get behind her candidacy and put a "D" on the county commission. Lindroos-Valimaki will face Aliyah Hurt in the Democratic Primary, Aug. 20.

Laurie Cusick delivered a phone banking presentation, noting that she supervises 30 phone bank volunteers. The volunteers make phone calls to Democrats with three messages: registering new Democrats; enrolling in VBM; and reminding voters of the Aug. 20 Democratic Primary.

Details as to how to approach calling were discussed. She provided templates as part of a video presentation that provided the dos and don'ts of call bank protocol. The discussion was informative, brief and concise.

For more information about volunteering as a phone bank operative, email [vpd.mcdp@gmail.com](mailto:vpd.mcdp@gmail.com). To participate in the phone bank to remind Democrats to re-enroll in vote by mail, visit: <https://www.mobilize.us/manateecountydec/event/603742/>

*By David Krasnoff*

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## Democracy Alive and Well At State Black Caucus Gala



The Democratic Black Caucus of Florida (DBCF) is hosting its 41st annual conference and gala, Democracy Will Not Die on Our Watch, June 7 to 9, at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando. The conference features a presidential reception, the State of the Caucus report and workshops.

[Learn More](#)

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## Consider Running for an Elected Community Office

Much of the local attention during this election year is focused on candidates running for the state legislature, Board of County Commissioners (BoCC), county office holders and county school board. But there are many more city and community offices up for election this November. These positions are specific to geographic areas or governmental function.

Standing for an elected community position is an excellent way to dip your toe into running for a political office and becoming involved in local issues. A list of positions up for election in 2024 can be found on the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections (SOE) website at <https://www.votemanatee.com/Candidate-Information/Offices-Up-For-Election>.

Filing fees for candidates running for city offices in Manatee County range from \$48 for Bradenton Beach city commissioner to \$757.65 for candidates running for Mayor of the City of Bradenton. Special taxing districts, such as community development districts (CDD) and fire districts, only require a filing fee of \$25. All candidates must also submit required documents outlined in the County Candidate Qualifying Handbook located on the SOE website at <https://www.votemanatee.com/Portals/Manatee/2024%20Candidate%20Qualifying%20Handbook%20Rev.%202004-23-24.pdf>.

The deadline to qualify for office is noon on Friday, June 14.

*By Nancy Hughes*

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## LGBTQ+ Caucus Attend Oscura's Friendly City Pride

Members of the Manatee LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus were out in full force for Friendly City Pride on Sunday, May 26, at Oscura, 816 Manatee Ave. E, Bradenton. Caucus members invited anyone coming to Oscura's Friendly City Flea marketplace to register to vote and sign petitions."



[Learn More](#)

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## Picnic In The Park Unifies Dems and Candidates



Picnic in the Park drew approximately 50 residents of all political persuasions to a quiet, tree-shaded city park in Bradenton on Sunday May 5 to meet one another and some of the candidates who are vying for positions in the November elections.

[Learn More](#)

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## Hundreds Rally on AMI to Save Home Rule

More than 300 concerned citizens braved the mid-day sun in Holmes Beach on an early May morning to rally in support of maintaining home

rule for Anna Maria Island cities and by extension, all other municipalities in Florida.

[Learn More](#)



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!

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## Resource Links

[Florida Democratic Party](#)

[The Florida Channel](#)

[National Democratic Party](#)

[Manatee County Board of Commissioners](#)

## Headquarters Office

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

## Hours

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, Noon to 4 p.m.  
Thursdays Noon to 2 p.m.  
Saturdays 10 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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