



**Manatee County  
Democratic Party**

# ***Manatee Matters***

October 17, 2022 Newsletter

*Manatee Matters now publishes twice a month, on the first and third Mondays.*

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## **County Commission Incumbent Bellamy Pledges to “Work for You”**



**By Donna Hartman** – Incumbent Manatee County Commissioner Reggie Bellamy promotes qualities of “leadership, passion and perseverance” as the Democratic candidate for re-election in the November 8 General Election.

Bellamy has represented District 2 on the commission since 2018, and he vows to continue to “work for you” (his constituents).

Should he win re-election, Bellamy promises to make sure law enforcement and first responders continue to have needed resources for community safety. He will advocate for affordable veterans’ and workforce housing, and support economic diversification and job creation by working with public schools and investing in workforce development.

A vote for Bellamy is a vote for the only Democrat on the seven-member commission. Bellamy’s opponent is Republican Amanda Ballard, a supporter of Gov. Ron DeSantis and his policies.

Bellamy’s district was reshaped by a Republican-controlled county commission. The redistricting reduced the number of Black and Hispanic voters in a district that traditionally provided Black representation on the commission.

How does Bellamy differ from Ballard, a transplant from South Carolina?

“I am a fifth-generation Manatee County native and deeply entrenched in the community,” he said. “I have a lifetime of service here.”

When asked about being publicly perceived as a “voice of reason” on an often-controversial and contentious commission, Bellamy said, “It’s humbling. One of the core values I live by is to ‘do unto others as you would have them do unto you.’ Treating people with dignity and respect is how I choose to live.”

Regarding the future sale and redevelopment of the Manatee County Central Library in downtown Bradenton, Bellamy promotes building a ground floor library with housing above at the current library site.

“The library is a staple of our downtown community. It’s easily accessible to those who truly need the services the library provides,” he said.

Having built professional relationships with developers and builders during his career, Bellamy supports a

private-public coalition to tackle the affordable housing crisis and create long-term sustainable solutions.

Bellamy's long history of public service includes working with young people for more than 20 years. He served as dean of Buffalo Creek Middle School in Palmetto and executive director of the Palmetto Youth Center. A military veteran, he earned his B.S. in business administration from Bethune Cookman University.

District 2 Democrats: Vote for Bellamy and preserve your voice in local government! Visit [www.vote4reggiebellamy.com](http://www.vote4reggiebellamy.com) and [www.manateecountydemocrats.com](http://www.manateecountydemocrats.com) to learn more.

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## Candidate Landefeld Seeks Citizen Engagement for a Brighter City Future

**By Wil Clapper** – Kurt Landefeld cites two reasons why he is running for Bradenton City Council in Ward 4 in the November 8 General Election.

"I want to restore civility and effective representation for Ward 4. Those qualities have been sorely lacking in the past few years," said Landefeld, a city planning commission member since 2019. He criticized his incumbent opponent Bill Sanders for his "ineffective leadership" and "strained relations" with administrative staff, and frequent arguments with council members.



"We must understand the needs of those who live in neighborhoods outside our individual wards," said Landefeld. "For example, I want to work closely with (Councilwoman) Pam Coachman to bring more city resources into Ward 5."

Landefeld also wants to be part of the leadership that will make "big decisions" toward a brighter future for the city's downtown and its neighborhoods.

As a councilman, Landefeld would go into neighborhoods and get citizen input on what they want for the future. Decisions made today will have a decades-long impact and define the landscape for young adults living here, he said.

"Let's do the best we can for them," he said. "We can't afford to screw it up."

Landefeld is one of three candidates on the ballot for the council seat in the nonpartisan race. Sanders and political newcomer Lisa Gonzalez Moore, a real estate attorney, are also running. The voting for City Council is city-wide.

A top priority for Landefeld is affordable workforce housing. He believes the planned sale and redevelopment of the City Hall property can change the character of downtown Bradenton for the better.

"The City Hall and police department property is too valuable to sit there and not be taxed," he said. "Leaders have to create a city not only with a vibrant downtown but with vibrant neighborhoods. The project is likely to cost in the neighborhood of \$250 million and create thousands of jobs. It will generate millions of dollars annually for schools and city services and be the key component of a revitalized downtown."

Landefeld moved to River Isles in 2016 from Ohio where he served as a county parks commissioner, a role that included economic development. He worked with the county council, the mayor and local businesses in a "successful public-private partnership."

The Manatee County Democratic Party has endorsed Landefeld and he has picked up support from Gulf Coast Builders Exchange and Building Industry Association.

In addition, he has gained endorsements from the Florida Professional Firefighters and Suncoast Firefighters & Paramedics Local 2546. "They (firefighters) have been critical in helping me campaign

door-to-door. We got to nearly 8,000 homes with their help."

With his considerable experience in public policy, and his solid relationships with other council members and the mayor, Landefeld deserves your vote. More information about candidate Landefeld can be found on the Manatee Dems' website [www.manateecountydemocrats.com](http://www.manateecountydemocrats.com).

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## Schneider to Serve ALL People in Manatee



Called a “wunk” and a “wunk with heart,” Jan Schneider pledges to serve all people of Florida’s 16th Congressional District with intelligence, dedication and compassion.

She is actively involved in law and politics locally, state-wide and internationally. A practicing attorney, Schneider is the author of books and articles on politics, domestic and international environmental law as well as baby boomer law.

Particularly active in fighting for reproductive freedom, Schneider has served on the boards of the Suncoast Commission on the Status of Women and the Sarasota-Manatee National Organization for Women.

She actively supports preserving Medicare without converting to a voucher system and without cuts in benefits. She agrees with the Affordable Care Act as a vital step forward, but wants to move to a more efficient and less-costly single-payer, Medicare-for-all insurance program. She promises to fight for healthcare for veterans and military families, including protecting and improving the Veterans Health Administration.

Schneider is fervent about other issues that touch the lives of all residents in Manatee County. Go to [Jan’s Opinion Pieces](#) and her website, <https://www.votejan.com/>, for a complete picture of where she stands.

Schneider is a graduate of Yale Law School and earned a Ph.D. in political science from Yale University. She has served on numerous boards, including the American Society of International Law, International Law Association, Protect Our Waters, Inc., Gulf Coast Marine Institute South and Seniors for Pets.

Contact Schneider at 941-955-6595 or [info@votejan.com](mailto:info@votejan.com). Visit [www.manateecountydemocrats.com](http://www.manateecountydemocrats.com) for more information.

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## Byrd the Wise Choice for District 2 School Board

**By Diana Hines** – At the heart of the District 2 school board run-off in Manatee County lies an ideological divide between former Bradenton City Councilman Harold Byrd and Cindy Spray.

Byrd has received the endorsement of the Manatee County Democratic Party and Florida Democratic Party. Spray, along with two other Manatee school board candidates, received a stamp of approval from Republican Governor DeSantis, after they agreed to the Governor’s agenda.

Reflecting on a highly-politicized climate for a non-partisan school board race, Byrd states: “I want to make clear my independence from right-wing extremists and their endorsements (such as those) received by my opponent.”



Even when Byrd is working with people whose ideologies he does not share, he has “a reputation for civil debate,” said Dennis “Mitch” Maley, editor of The Bradenton Times.

Byrd is clearly distinguished from his opponent through his formidable record as a five-time Bradenton City Council member. He gave up his seat in an unsuccessful run for mayor in 2020. Byrd is also a long-time volunteer for multiple community agencies. As a Manatee native and son of educators, he is intimately aware of the needs of students, parents and teachers in District 2.

For residents in District 2, a vote for Byrd is a vote for a highly-qualified, independent, and civil voice on the Manatee County School Board. For more information about Byrd, volunteer opportunities, and campaign donations, visit [www.voteharoldbyrd.com](http://www.voteharoldbyrd.com). Information about candidate Byrd can be found on the Manatee Dems' website [www.manateecountydemocrats.com](http://www.manateecountydemocrats.com).

Byrd was recently a guest on The Bradenton Times podcast. That episode can be accessed [here](#). Spray did not accept their invitation to be a guest.

## Manatee County Democratic Party's Sample Ballot Available at HQ and on Website

SAMPLE BALLOT		
November 8, 2022 Election		
Recommendations by the Manatee County Democratic Party		
United States Senator (Vote for One)	Justice of the Supreme Court	No. 1 Constitutional Amendment Article VII, Section 4; Article XII, Section 42
● Val Demings DEM	Shall Justice Charles T. Canady of the Florida State Supreme Court be retained in office?	Limitation on the Assessment of Real Property Used for Residential Purposes
	● No	● No
Representative in Congress, District 16 (Vote for One)	Shall Justice John D. Court of the Florida State Supreme Court be retained in office?	No. 3 Constitutional Amendment Article II, Section 5; Article XII, Sections 2 and 5
● Jan Schneider DEM	● No	Abolishing the Constitution Revision Commission
	● Yes	● No
Governor and Lieutenant Governor (Vote for One)	Shall Justice Jannie Grosshans of the Florida State Supreme Court be retained in office?	No. 3 Constitutional Amendment Article VII, Section 6; Article XII
● Charlie Crist DEM	● No	
● Karli Hernandez	● Yes	
Attorney General (Vote for One)	Shall Justice Jorge Labarga of the Florida State Supreme Court be retained in office?	
● Aramis Ayala DEM	● No	
	● Yes	
	Shall Justice Ricki Probert of the Florida	

Sample ballots that list Democratic candidates with recommendations for the amendment questions, county resolution and judges are available on the Party's website, <https://manateecountydemocrats.com/vote>.

Copies of the sample ballot can be picked up at Manatee Dems Headquarters.

## Tell Us Why You Vote Democrat



“I’m voting for **every Democrat on the ticket** because I know they will **protect reproductive rights**, as well as our Democracy overall.”

Laurie, Age 56  
Anna Maria Island, FL

The Manatee Dems launched a campaign that gives individual reasons and insights on why Manatee voters decide to vote for Democrats. Dramatic graphics accompany the text to make a compelling argument that Democrats are the ones who will protect and preserve all of our rights.

Multiple voices are encouraged to send one-sentence statements to Delany Kirk, [delaney@22maher.com](mailto:delaney@22maher.com). She is compiling the statements and getting them on the Manatee Dems Twitter feed. The Manatee Dems Twitter account is available at <https://mobile.twitter.com/democratmanatee>.

Some examples of Tweets she has received:

I'm voting for every Democrat on the ticket because I'm just plain tired of lies, racism, and obfuscation from Republicans and White Christian Nationalists.  
Deb, Age 72, Lakewood Ranch, FL

I'm voting for every Democrat on the ticket because I know they will protect reproductive rights, as well as our Democracy overall.

Laurie, Age 56, Anna Maria Island, FL

My wife and I are voting Democratic because we worked hard for 50 years and are counting on our Social Security and Medicare now that we are retired. We know Democrats will protect us.

Jim, age 70, Bradenton

I'm voting for every Democrat on the ticket so my daughter and granddaughters will have the right to make their own family planning decisions without interference by politicians.

DJ, Age 69, Bradenton

## Early Voting Is Quick, Convenient and Easy

**By Donna Hartman** – Early voting expands voting choices beyond traveling to the polls on Election Day or voting by mail.

Registered voters can take advantage of 14 days of early voting in Manatee County by voting from October 24 through November 6, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The dates include weekends to give people with work obligations or other responsibilities the chance to vote at their convenience.

Early voters can vote at **any** of the five early voting locations throughout the county regardless of their designated polling place. Be sure to bring a valid current photo and a signature ID.

Click [HERE](#) for early voting locations, addresses, directions and wait times, shown on the Supervisor of Elections website.

Early voting benefits working people with less flexible schedules. In states where early voting is allowed on Sundays, some Black churches have “souls to the polls” voting drives, urging congregants to vote on the last Sunday before the election. This year, the last day of early voting in Manatee County is Sunday, November 6.

### Early Voting FAQs

#### What is Early Voting?

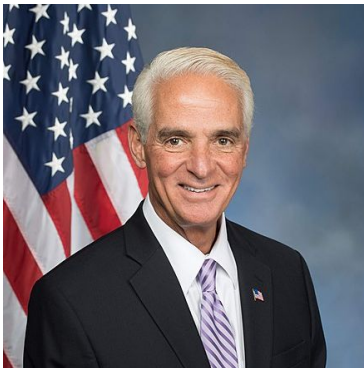
The opportunity for registered voters to vote in person from

MONDAY <b>OCT</b> 24 <sup>th</sup>	thru	SUNDAY <b>NOV</b> 6 <sup>th</sup>
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8:30 am - 6:00 pm

For more information, including polling locations, visit:  
[www.votemanatee.com](http://www.votemanatee.com)

## Join Manatee Dems and Cheer on Charlie



Come to the Manatee Dems' Debate Watch Party when Charlie Crist, Democratic candidate for governor, squares off in a televised debate with current Gov. Ron DeSantis, 7 p.m., Monday, October 24.

The watch party is scheduled for Manatee Democratic Party Headquarters, 435 Cortez Rd. W. The office will open from 6:30 p.m. until after the debate. Popcorn and soft drinks will be provided.

Sign up [HERE](#) for the watch party.

## CFO Candidate Hattersley Promises Insurance Fix

**By Donna Hartman** – Adam Hattersley's top priority as Democratic candidate for Florida's Chief Financial Officer will be tackling the property insurance crisis – an issue Republican state legislators and state officials have ignored at the expense of consumers.

Property insurance rates skyrocketed months before Hurricane Ian hit Florida last month. In the wake of an estimated \$63 billion in privately insured losses caused by Ian, rates will rise higher if the state doesn't act.

"If elected CFO, I will begin work on property insurance on day one," Hattersley told the Anna Maria Island/West Manatee Democratic Club. "But it's going to take years to fix."

Hattersley is scheduled to speak before the Manatee LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus at 6 p.m., October 19, at Manatee County Democratic Party headquarters, 435 Cortez Road W., Bradenton. For Zoom access, email a request to [ManateeLGBTADems@gmail.com](mailto:ManateeLGBTADems@gmail.com).



As CFO and overseer of the state Department of Insurance, Hattersley will work to close loopholes in state law that result in higher rates for consumers.

One loophole allows roofers to accept assignment from homeowners to bill an insurance company for a new roof, even if the roof only needed repair work.

In addition, some insurance companies operating in Florida do not have the capital to pay claims because they are allowed to place premiums collected in the state in out-of-state banking subsidiaries. Hattersley said other states have laws that require insurance companies to hold capital to pay claims.

Florida has the highest insurance rates in the nation. Homeowners here pay an average of \$4,231 a year. Compounding the crisis, many insurers have failed or stopped writing policies in Florida, driving homeowners to Citizens Property Insurance, the state-run insurer of last resort.

"Republicans are costing you money. So, don't vote with your party or your heart, vote with your wallet," Hattersley said.

The CFO also serves on the state board of administration, which manages the pension funds for teachers, firefighters, and other state employees. Hattersley contends that his opponent, Republican CFO Jimmy Patronis, has mismanaged pension fund investments and has cost the state millions, threatening retirement benefits.

A Navy veteran, small business owner and former state legislator, Hattersley supports coastal hardening projects, all methods of renewable energy, the reproductive health rights of women, the right to vote and the rights of the LGBTQ community. To support his campaign, visit [www.adamforflorida.com](http://www.adamforflorida.com).

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## ***The Manatee Dems Billboard Team Delivers!***

The Manatee Dems Billboard team created two billboards that focus on the positive. Look for Manatee Democratic billboards as you drive in Palmetto at SR 301 and 16th Avenue East, near Detwiler's Farm Market, and at 301 Boulevard and 15th Street East in Bradenton.

The billboards highlight the great things Democrats have delivered during the Biden administration. The team included Barbara Somma, Peggy Klimek, Jan Bilson, Randi Sathan, Phyl Myers, Karen Curlin, Robin Sathan and Joni West from Hillsborough.

**Lower Medicare  
Rx Costs!**

**Expanded Veteran  
Benefits!**

**Roads, Bridges,  
Schools & Jobs!**

**DEMOCRATS  
DELIVER**



Pd. pol. ad paid for by the Manatee County  
Democratic Party; PO Box 10605, Bradenton,  
FL 34282. ManateeCountyDemocrats.com



## Manatee Dems Launch Get-Out-the-Vote Campaign in Manatee County



**By Diana Hines** - Given tight races and gerrymandering in Manatee County a huge Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) Initiative is underway to bring voters to the polls on November 8th.

Beverly Pannee, Manatee County Democratic Party Second Vice Chair, Internal Operations, outlined a GOTV plan designed to inform and motivate voters to get to the polls. The plan shifts messaging as the election season progresses through voter registration, Vote-By-Mail enrollment, mailed ballot returns, Early Voting and Election Day. It incorporates door-knocking, literature drop-offs, phonebanks, texting, bulk-mailed postcards, hand-written postcards, digital ads and paid social media ads.

During the first phase, volunteers are knocking on doors and assisting residents in checking their registration, informing them about the candidates, and encouraging them to request mail-in ballots.

In the early voting phase, October 24 to November 6, volunteers will emphasize Manatee's five Early Voting sites. Volunteers will also track Vote-by-Mail ballots that have not been received at the Supervisor of Elections office and remind voters to mail in their ballots.

On Election Day, the Manatee Dems will undertake a media blitz including digital ads, texting, and flyers, reminding voters to get to the polls. As a result of redistricting, about 40,000 Democrat voters will have new polling places. Volunteers are engaged in an aggressive campaign to ensure they know how and where to vote.

The county's District 2, roughly the center of Bradenton and parts of Palmetto, looms as one of the key areas to target in GOTV. Another effect of redistricting lands new constituents into incumbent Commissioner Reggie Bellamy's district as well as candidate Harold Byrd's school district, so conveying the candidates' records and values to these voters is critical. The GOTV plan also emphasizes candidates Jan Schneider for US Representative District 16 and Kurt Landefeld for Bradenton City Council Ward 4, whose voters overlap with District 2.

Volunteer canvasser Liza Gorin said, "It's so important to establish that personal connection with a voter." She knocked on doors and dropped off literature with veteran Democratic organizer Bob McCaa. Together, they join dozens of other volunteers in sending a message of confidence that voting is easy, convenient and important.

*Photo: Volunteers Liza Gorin and Bob McCaa assist Yolanda Sims with critical voter information.*

## Sign and Wave Expands to Three Locations

There are now three opportunities each week to participate in Sign and Wave events in Manatee County. Events take place

in Palmetto, Lakewood Ranch and Bradenton.

Sign and Wave volunteers stand on the side of a busy road to hold up Democratic candidate signs and wave to passing motorists. Signs are provided by the Manatee County Democratic Party and the organizers do not permit displaying anti-Republican or inflammatory slogans.



The events show support for local Democratic candidates Reggie Bellamy, (Manatee County Commission), Harold Byrd (Manatee County School Board), and Kurt Landefeld (Bradenton City Council).

Additionally, Sign and Wave participants promote Charlie Crist (Governor), Val Demings (US Senate), Jan Schneider (US House of Representatives) and other Democratic candidates who will be on the ballot this election day.

A Sign and Wave team will be near the seahorse statue on the north end of the Green Bridge in Palmetto every Tuesday, from 8 to 9 a.m. Contact Maggie Ozner, 941-357-6510, [mozner1214@gmail.com](mailto:mozner1214@gmail.com) for more information. Sign up for Palmetto Sign and Wave [HERE](#).

Thursdays, Sign and Wave happens at the corner of SR 64 and Lakewood Ranch Boulevard, 8 to 9 a.m. Sign up [HERE](#) or contact Maureen Dardinski, [sparechang1@gmail.com](mailto:sparechang1@gmail.com) for more information.

Sign and Wave in Bradenton continues every Saturday, 8 to 10 a.m., at the corner of 43rd Street West and Manatee Avenue. Contact Maureen Dardinski, [sparechang1@gmail.com](mailto:sparechang1@gmail.com) for more information. Sign up for Bradenton Sign and Wave [HERE](#).

“The sign and Wave is very popular and people enjoy coming out and participating,” said Dardinski. “It’s easy and it’s something anyone can do.”

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## Hurricane Ian Disaster Aid Available for Manatee



Individuals and families in Manatee County needing financial, legal, housing or other disaster-related assistance for damages and expenses incurred due to Hurricane Ian, can apply for federal, state and local help. If you or someone you know needs help, here are several resources available:

**Federal.** You can apply for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov), or by calling 1-800-621-3362 from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. You can also apply with the FEMA mobile app. Visit [FEMA Mobile Products | FEMA.gov](http://FEMAMobileProducts.com).

FEMA suggests taking photos to document damage. Begin cleanup and repairs as soon as possible to prevent further damage. Keep receipts for all purchases related to cleanup or repairs to your home or property.

FEMA can connect you to financial and housing assistance, mental health counseling, disability services and services for those in the military and veterans. Visit <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4673> for more information.

For federal legal aid resources including on how to replace lost documents, visit the Legal Aid Disaster Resource Center at <http://ladrc.org/>.

**State.** Florida Eviction Tool (to help respond to an eviction), visit <http://floridaevictionhelp.org>.

**County.** Manasota Legal Aid is income-based assistance for housing, family, domestic violence, consumer issues and disaster-related legal issues. Visit <https://legalaidofmanasota.org/>.

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

[Click for Events List](#)



*The Manatee County Democratic Party is a 100% **volunteer organization**. All contributions of any size are appreciated; \$22/month goes a long way to help elect Democrats in the 2022 elections.*

[Donate Now](#)

### Resource Links

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