



**Manatee County
Democratic Party**

Manatee Matters

August 15, 2022 Newsletter

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

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Newsletters**

Democrats on the August 23 Ballot

The August 23 primary and school board elections are just around the corner, and early voting in Manatee County is already underway (August 13 to August 20). All elections are important, including the primaries.



So, get out and vote! Democracy depends on you!

In the primary, voters can choose candidates for state and national offices who will run against Republicans in the general election November 8.

The school board race is different. It is non-partisan, and candidates are not officially identified by political party. A candidate in the August 23 school board election must get more than 50 percent of the vote to retain or gain a seat on the school board. If no candidate gets 50 percent or more in the August 23 election, the two top vote-getters have a run-off in the November 8 general election.

Here are the Democratic candidates running for state, national and local offices in the August 23 primary, listed in alphabetical order by last name:

Governor – Select the Democratic nominee who will run for governor in the general election:

Charlie Crist, Cadance Daniel, Nicole “Nikki” Fried, Robert L. Willis

Attorney General: Aramis Ayala, Jim Lewis, Daniel Uhfelder

Commissioner of Agriculture: Naomi Blemur, J.R. Gaillot, Ryan Morales

U.S. Senator: Ricardo De La Fuente, Val Demings, Brian Rush, William Sanchez

Manatee County Commission District 2: Reggie Bellamy (incumbent), Charles B. Smith

Local school board races are non-partisan. Here are the candidates who are registered to vote as Democrats:

Manatee County School Board District 5: James T. Golden (incumbent), Chantal Wilford

Manatee County School Board District 2: Harold E. Byrd

For more information on candidates, please visit:

[Florida Department of State - Candidates and Races](#)

[League of Women Voters - Vote411.org](#)

[Florida Department of State - Florida Division of Elections](#)

Most candidates for local, state and national offices have websites or Facebook pages. Just type the candidate’s name into your browser to search for a website.

For voting information in Manatee County, go to the [Supervisor of Elections website](#).

Say Gay Party Scheduled for September

The Manatee LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus is recognizing National Dance Day by having a *Say Gay Party* on Saturday, September 17, 7 to 11 p.m., at the Terra Ceia Golf and Country Club, 2802 Terra Ceia Bay Blvd in Palmetto.

Even though our Governor does not want to hear the word gay, members of the caucus are dialing it up! The party will feature appetizers, cash bar, silent auction and a DJ.

All in the LGBTQ+ community and its allies, especially fellow Democrats, are encouraged to attend. For more information and to purchase tickets at \$40 each through PayPal, [click here](#).

The Manatee LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus meets the third Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m. For more information, [visit the caucus website](#).



The Manatee LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus
presents the Say Gay Party 2022
Say it Loud and Proud!
Be yourself and join the frivolity!
Saturday September 17, 2022, 7pm to 11pm
Terra Ceia Golf and Country Club
2802 Terra Ceia Bay Blvd
Palmetto, FL 34221
- Appetizers - Cash bar -
- DJ-Entertainment -
- Silent Auction -
Limited Seating - Tickets \$40ea
Purchase tickets Online
<https://manateelgbta.wordpress.com>
or call (978) 995 - 8750

County Opens Five Early Voting Centers



Manatee County allows voters to cast their ballot prior to Election Day, August 23, at any of the five designated Early Voting Centers. The Early Voting Centers are now open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Saturday, August 20. Bring a valid and current photo and signature ID when you vote.

Vote-By-Mail ballots may be dropped into secure outside ballot boxes at all Early Voting sites during regular hours of operation.

The five Early Voting Centers and addresses:

Lakewood Ranch Town Hall, 8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd., Lakewood Ranch, 34202

Manatee County Utilities Administration Office, 4410 66th St W, Bradenton, 34210

Palmetto Library, 923 6th St W, Palmetto 34221

Rocky Bluff Library, 6750 US Hwy 301, Ellenton 34222

Supervisor of Elections Office, 600 301 Blvd W, Bradenton, 34205

Several Ways to Vote in the Upcoming Elections

Vote from Home: If you enrolled in the county's Vote-By-Mail system, you

should have received your ballot by late July. Your job now is to follow the instructions and complete your ballot. You can return it by mail to the Supervisor of Elections *so long as it will be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day, August 23*. You can track receipt of your ballot online [here](#).

Or, drop your Vote-By-Mail ballot into the convenient, outside drop box at an early voting site (during regular hours of operation) and up to 7 p.m. on election day at the Supervisor of Elections office, 600 301 Blvd. West, Bradenton.



As an alternative, take your Vote-By-Mail ballot to your polling place and surrender it to one of the clerks; you will be given a fresh ballot to vote in person.

Early Voting: Early voting sites opened August 13 and early voting continues through Saturday, August 20. Go to any Manatee County Early Voting site from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Find location details [here](#).

Election Day Aug. 23: Go to your voting precinct location, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Find your voting precinct and sample ballot [here](#). Be sure to check on your voting location, as some have changed.

Your vote is your power. Vote in the school board and primary elections. Election Day is August 23, but you can avoid the lines and traffic by voting from home or casting your ballot during Early Voting.

Democratic Poll Greeters Needed for Primary

ACTION ALERT. Democratic volunteers are needed to help at Early Voting Sites, August 13-20, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The stakes are high for this election. Republicans will be at the voting sites; Democrats **MUST** be there, too.

Duties:

- Sit at a shaded table and greet Democratic voters.
- Report problems to our Voter Protection Team.
- Reach out and identify future volunteers.
- Have fun engaging with voters!



We need two to four people per 2-hour shift. We're especially looking for greeters first thing in the morning and at the end of the day. Please volunteer for more than one shift, especially on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Click on the links below to sign up at any of these early voting sites.

- [Lakewood Ranch Town Hall](#), 8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd, Lakewood Ranch
- [Manatee County Utilities Office](#), 4410 66th St W, Bradenton
- [Palmetto Library](#), 923 6th St W, Palmetto, FL

See you at the polls.

Get Social and Get the Message Out!



Learn about getting the message out via social media with marketing professional and Manatee County Democratic Party communications team member, Janet Raines, at the final session of the **Anna Maria Island and West Manatee Democratic Club's** Summer Chat Series.

Join us at this event on Wednesday, August 17, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

Raines will provide guidance on messaging, especially using social media, for the important, ongoing work of reaching as many people as possible. Those attending will also discuss short, catchy, attention-getting messages to reach voters.

For information about this event, contact Barbara Ehren, president of the AMI and West Manatee Democratic Club, at Barbara.Ehren@gmail.com.

Environmental Caucus Hosts Fall Picnic

The **Manatee Democratic Environmental Caucus** is hosting a Fall Picnic, Sunday, September 11, 1 to 4 p.m., at GT Bray Park, off 51st St. West in Bradenton.

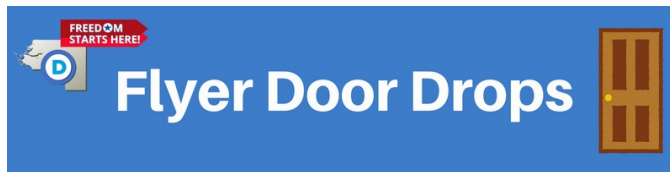
Charlie Hunsicker, Director of Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources, will speak at Meadow View Pavilion #4. Hunsicker is expected to address environmental issues facing Manatee County during his 32-year career in county government.



The picnic is an opportunity to meet environmentally conscious neighbors, learn what Manatee County has accomplished, what issues are coming and find out how you can become involved with the environment.

For more information about the Environmental caucus, visit its listing on the Manatee County Democratic Party [website](#).

Lit Drops, Postcards Help Get Out the Vote



By Tim Eiseler – I want to remind everyone that the Manatee County Democratic Party office is well organized with literature drop information for the District 2 School Board race and postcards for Get Out the Vote.

Kate and I did both and it's all pretty easy. The lit drops and postcard mailing is going on now in preparation of the August 23 school board and primary elections. As you know, Vote-by-Mail ballots have been sent and many have already been returned.

You can pick up literature and postcards at the Manatee Democratic Headquarters, 435 Cortez Road West, Bradenton, Monday through Friday, noon to 4 p.m.

For lit drops, the office staff have bags filled with literature. They provide an address list of registered Democrats and two information cards. You go out in teams of two, a driver and runner. The team drives to the designated neighborhood and the runner leaves the literature bag on doorsteps. No door knocking. Not like canvassing. The process took us about an hour.

Mailing Democratic postcards is easy. You receive an address list and a packet of blank postcards. You are asked to donate the postage at 44 cents per card and that comes out to \$13.20 a pack. Sign a form saying you are making the donation of postage. You hand write the address, a salutation and short personal message on the cards and drop them in the mail.

Drop Off Literature for School Board Candidate

Engaged Democrats are dropping literature for Harold Byrd, candidate for the School Board in District 2, and encouraging Democrats to vote whether by mail, during early voting or on Primary Election Day, August 23.

Stop by Democratic headquarters, 435 Cortez Road, Bradenton, and pick up a

walk list and drop-off literature. Manatee Dems' HQ office is open Monday through Friday, noon to 4 p.m. and Saturdays, 4 to 6 p.m.

The walk lists are in School Board District 2, which is located in Palmetto and Bradenton. We suggest leaving the literature at each address on the walk list and no knocking on doors.

[Click here](#) to register for a walk list and bags of literature.



Landefeld Meets and Greets Voters

Kurt Landefeld, the only registered Democrat running in the Bradenton City Council Ward 4 race, chats with constituents during his August 6 meet and greet at 3 Keys Brewing and Eatery, 2505 Manatee Ave. East, Bradenton. For more information on the campaign, contact kurtolandefeld@gmail.com.



Kurt Landefeld outlines his campaign to constituents at 3 Keys.



Kurt Landefeld chats with constituents at 3 Keys.



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

[Manatee County Democratic Party](#)

[Florida Democratic Party](#)

[Manatee County Board of Commissioners](#)

[The Florida Channel](#)

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435 Cortez Road West
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(941) 301-4336



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