



Manatee Matters

February 2022 Newsletter



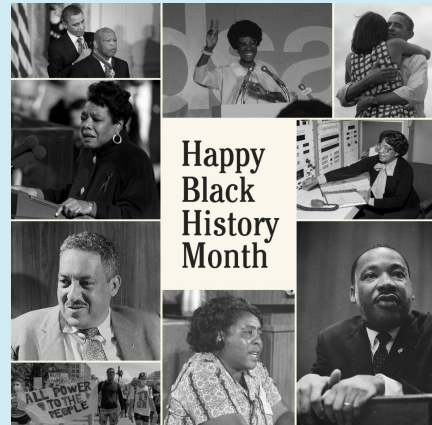
Check our website for event updates, current issues, how to get involved and how to donate.

Visit our website

Honoring Black Americans' Contributions

“This month not only recognizes our existence, but our contributions to history,” said Florence Shelton-Clark, state committeewoman for the Manatee County Democratic Party.

Manatee County Democratic Chair Tracy Pratt recognized the local contribution of Black leaders. “The Manatee County Democratic Party is excited to celebrate Black History Month, by not just highlighting the important discussions of racism and slavery, but to honor Black leaders and their accomplishments,” she said. “At a local level, we are honored to celebrate the many Black leaders that hold elected office in our county, and provide our party with strong, diverse leadership.”



[Story continued here](#)

Read more [here](#) about how the Biden-Harris Administration is delivering for Black Americans.

Legislative Session Halfway Through



By Nancy Hughes (Feb. 9, 2022) – The Florida State Legislature is about half-way through its 2022 session and some progress was made on redistricting and the budget. Most bills, however, are still in committee.

Both houses of the legislature passed maps that altered the districts in Manatee County. How that will affect Republican incumbents remains to be seen.

Democratic Rep. Michele Rayner, who represented an area that included Palmetto and Bradenton, had her district split and given to three other districts. The House map would keep the same number of minority-majority House seats, even though Florida’s minority population increased by two million people in the past 10 years.

[Story continued here](#)

By Patti Shannon (Feb. 2, 2022) – You can watch how laws are crafted and passed in our state – from the comfort of your home, office or even the beach. Stream live and prerecorded sessions of the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Senate, committee meetings (including public and lobbyist commentary), the Governor’s press conferences, and even state Supreme Court cases at <https://thefloridachannel.org/>.



It’s lawmaker “reality TV” without commercials. The Florida Channel is a public affairs programming service funded by the Florida Legislature, operated and produced by WFSU-TV (Florida State University).

[Story continued here](#)

Door-to-Door Voter Outreach With The Manatee Dems



February is packed with Door-to-Door Voter Outreach events from the Manatee County Democratic Party. The first event is Friday, Feb. 18, 2 pm, at the Democratic Headquarters, Orange Blossom Shopping Center, 435 Cortez Road W., Bradenton.

Outreach events will continue every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday to the end of February. To register and find a complete schedule, click [here](#).

[Story continued here](#)

Blue Wave Schedules Voter Outreach Event

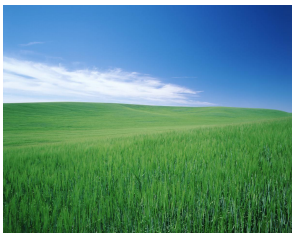
Manatee County’s Blue Wave Coalition is organizing a voter outreach event, Sunday, Feb. 20, 3 to 6:30 pm. Participants shall gather at Manatee County Democratic Party headquarters, 435 Cortez Road W., Bradenton, and pick up neighborhood lists at 2:45 pm.



We face the most crucial mid-term election of our lifetime. If Republicans gain control of Congress, our democracy and the will of the voters will be threatened. Republican legislators in Tallahassee are striving to further limit voting. With eight months to the general election, we are striving to register voters. Your vote is your power and the way to remove from office those who threaten and attack our democracy.

[Story continued here](#)

County Looking For Advisory Board Members



Manatee County is seeking to fill a number of positions on citizen advisory boards including the **Environmental Land Management and Acquisition Committee (ELMAC)**.

Advisory boards give Manatee County residents the opportunity to help guide the County’s decision-making process. Currently, the county is looking to fill 12 positions on the ELMAC. Online applications are due by Feb. 18. [Apply here](#) for the committee.

[Story continued here](#)

LGBTQ+ Caucus To Hear From State Senate Candidate

Janelle Perez, candidate for State Senate from the Miami area, will be the featured speaker at the Manatee LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus regular meeting Wednesday, Feb. 16, 6 pm.



Perez is a businesswoman, wife, and mother. When elected she will be the first lesbian in the Florida Senate. Contact manateeLGBTAdems@gmail.com to register for the event. The Manatee LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus meets the third Wednesday of the month at 6 pm via Zoom. Visit www.facebook.com/manateeLGBTQ+.

State Democrats Offer Candidate Bootcamp Program



Florida Dem Party Candidate Bootcamp

The Florida Democratic Party, is launching the 2022 State Party Campaign Bootcamp webinar training program Feb. 26 to March 3.

The bootcamp is a free, two-day virtual training program with supplemental small-group coaching sessions to encourage community building and collaborative learning among Democrats working on campaigns across Florida.

Candidates will learn critical aspects of launching and running a successful campaign, hear from guest speakers and have the opportunity to hone in on subjects with individualized attention through additional coaching sessions with experts. This training is open to Democratic candidates, potential candidates and campaign staff.

[Story continued here](#)

Seminar On How To Increase Voter Participation

By **William Clapper** (Feb. 3, 2022) – Manatee County School Board President, Rev. James T. Golden, is a featured speaker for a Zoom seminar on increasing voter participation, Monday, Feb. 14, noon.



The program focuses on what motivates voting and what can be done to increase voter participation through a variety of strategies. To register for this Zoom seminar, sponsored by the non-partisan League of Women Voters of Manatee County, click [here](#).

Rev. Golden will discuss legislation the school board initiated to include voter education in civics classes and other efforts to prepare graduates to be informed voters and engaged citizens.

Joining Rev. Golden will be Carolyn Sheets, Voter Services Chair of LWVMC. She will cover voter participation in Manatee County and compare the county with state and national voters.

Frank Alcock, professor of political science at New College, is scheduled to speak on pro-voter policies and practices that America can use to improve voter participation.

Volunteer Happy Hour A Success



Last month, the Manatee County Democratic Party successfully launched a live stream from Democratic Headquarters to communicate with voters and recruit volunteers.

The Volunteer Happy Hour featured a conversation with (L to R in photo) leader of the party's Inclusion and Diversification Committee Susie Copeland, MCDP chair Tracy Pratt, and president of the Hispanic Democratic Caucus of Manatee County

Graciela Greenberg.

"It was great engaging with new and experienced volunteers in this casual format," said Pratt. "We were able to highlight the voter contact goals of the party and the urgency with which we are trying to meet those goals."

[Story continued here](#)

April 24 Dem Gala - In Person And Online

The Gala team is excited to bring you an event to remember - that you can attend in person or from the comfort of your home. So, mark your calendar for Sunday, April 24.

Have an item to donate? Interested in being a team member? Email Gala co-chairs LucyLapides at lucy@lwrdems.com or [Robin Sathan](mailto:RobinSathan) at MCDPGala@gmail.com.



How To Get Involved



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](#)
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[Manatee County Board of Commissioners](#)
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Us

