



**Manatee County
Democratic Party**

Manatee Matters

July 18, 2022 Newsletter

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

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2022 & YOU Expo & Workshop – Where Freedom Starts!

**This event is at capacity.
SOLD OUT!**



The 2022 EXPO & WORKSHOP is Saturday July 23,
9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Manatee Performing Arts
Center, 502 3rd Avenue West in Bradenton.

Attendees will be able to connect with Democratic clubs, caucuses, and team leaders and engage with local candidates. They can learn what each organization and team is doing to make sure we hold onto our democracy, and ways to contribute to those efforts. Contact Robin Sathan for more information, ManateeDemPrecinct521@gmail.com.

See you there!

Take A Stand Against Gun Violence in Manatee

Manatee County residents are poised to protest a potential escalation of gun violence by demonstrating against a proposal that would arm county employees during working hours.



Manatee County's commissioners are scheduled to consider Commissioner James Satcher's proposal allowing county employees to carry firearms while working. The topic is on the agenda for the Tuesday, July 26 meeting.

"This is yet another stupid move by James Satcher. Once again, he fails to represent his community in favor of a personal extremist position that endangers residents and wastes taxpayer money," said Manatee County Democratic Party Chair Tracy Pratt.

"An overwhelming majority of Americans support common-sense gun policy, including the majority of gun owners," Pratt continued. "This attempt to arm county employees will result in unnecessary deaths and injuries and may subject the county to expensive lawsuits and insurance premiums."

County residents against the proposal will peacefully demonstrate on July 26 from 8 to 9 a.m. outside the Manatee County Administration building, 1112 Manatee Ave West, Bradenton. Demonstrators are encouraged to wear a red shirt. The organization, Moms Demand Action, will distribute red shirts at the

demonstration.

Manatee Democrats join with other organizations to urge residents to contact the County Commissioners and demand they reject Satcher's proposal. Commissioners' email addresses are available [here](#). Residents may submit a written comment into the public record for an upcoming meeting [here](#). The general phone number is (941) 745-3700. During the meeting, residents may offer comments by phoning (888) 788-0099 or (877) 853-5247.

Writing an opinion column in Sarasota's Herald-Tribune, Ginger McCallum and Carol Rescigno said, "This is a dangerous idea that would irreparably harm Manatee County, its employees, its citizens and its reputation. If adopted, this policy would create a hostile workplace fraught with the threat of accidental or intentional injury or death from gun violence."

McCallum is the local volunteer lead for Moms Demand Action Manasota. Rescigno is the president of Brady United Against Gun Violence, Sarasota.

Gun violence in America is a public safety issue and a public health disaster. Some statistics that demonstrate the magnitude of the crisis:

- More than 110 people are killed with guns and 200 are shot and wounded daily in the U.S.
- Each year, 40,000 people die and 73,000 suffer injuries from gun violence.
- Florida has the 27th-highest rate of gun deaths in the country at more than 2,800 each year.
- A Stanford University study found a 13 to 15 percent increase in violent crime in states that approved right-to-carry concealed handgun laws.

Use Your Freedom and Vote on August 23



Freedom Starts Here is more than a catchy slogan. It's a call to action.

If you are among the many voters who want to see a change in direction for Manatee County, the state and nation, be prepared to vote in the August 23 elections for school board and party primaries.

Your vote could very well determine who will be seated on our county school board.

School board candidates are not officially identified by political party. A candidate needs to receive "50 percent plus one" of the votes to retain or gain a seat on the school board. If no candidate reaches that threshold in the August election, the top two vote getters move to the general election in November.

These registered Democrats are running in the non-partisan school board elections:

- District 2: Harold Byrd
- District 5: Current School Board Chair James Golden
- District 5: Chantal Wilford

Locally, there are primary races for county commission and city positions. There are also primary races for state and national legislative seats, a race for U.S. senator and the governor's race. There are no such things as wasted votes or canceled out votes because all votes count.

Sample ballots and voting locations are available on the [Supervisor of Elections website](#).

Hispanic Caucus Hosts Nikki Fried

Nikki Fried, current Florida Secretary of Agriculture and candidate for Florida governor, will speak at the Hispanic Democratic Caucus of Manatee County meeting on Thursday, July 28 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.



Fried will outline her vision for Florida and attendees will be able to ask her questions.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. To register contact Graciela Greenberg, graciela2@aol.com, gracielagreenberg13@gmail.com, or (914) 325-0560 before July 21. You will receive the agenda and zoom meeting information a few days before July 28.

Ways to Vote in the August 23 Elections



Vote from Home. If you are enrolled in the county's Vote By Mail system, watch the mail this week for your ballot. The office of the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) began mailing ballots on July 14. Complete your ballot according to the instructions. Mail your ballot to the SOE so it is received before Election Day, August 23, at 7 p.m. You will be able to track receipt of your ballot online. **Enroll in Vote By Mail** [on the SOE website](#). Or call (941) 741-3823.

Vote Early Aug. 13 to Aug. 20 Go to any Manatee County Early Voting site from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can vote in person or drop off your mailed ballot in the secure box outside the polls. [See location details](#).

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.

Get Involved! Join Voter Outreach Efforts



Knock on Doors Every Saturday

Join other Democrats on Saturdays for Door-To-Door canvassing in nearby neighborhoods. Teams go out between 4 and 6 p.m. from Manatee Democratic Headquarters, 435 Cortez Road West in Bradenton. Contact Dan Coppinger, dancopp@yaho.com. Stop by Democratic headquarters for your materials, walk lists and instructions.

Reach Voters with Blue Wave Manatee

Join the Blue Wave as we cover low voter-turnout neighborhoods to obtain voter registrations. You will go in teams of two for a couple of hours before returning to Democratic headquarters, 435 Cortez Road West in Bradenton. [SIGN UP HERE](#). Questions? Contact: BlueWaveManatee@gmail.com.

Help the Hispanic Caucus Register Voters at Area Events

Do you speak Spanish? We need your help to register voters at some upcoming community events. The next one is July 30. Contact Graciela Greenberg, co-president of the Hispanic Democratic Caucus of Manatee County, at graciela2@aol.com.

Black Caucus Schedules Voter Registration

The Manatee County Democratic Black Caucus invites you to join them every Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and/or 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. for voter registration, or Friday/Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can also volunteer for phone calling. Contact the MCDBC second vice-chair Florence Shelton-Clark at msdbcoutreach@gmail.com.

Phone Banking Efforts increase

Can you help making phone calls to get out the vote for the August primary and School Board elections? You can call from your home or from the Manatee Democrats' office Monday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m. Contact Tina Shope, anntinashope@gmail.com.

Special Quilt Raises Funds for Ukrainian Relief



A local Democrat was very concerned about the Ukrainian people and their suffering as a result of the unprovoked war initiated against them by the Russian government.

To show her support, she designed and handmade a very special quilt. The message was “Stand With Ukraine” on a background based on the Ukrainian flag.

She gave this quilt to the Manatee County Democratic Party at the **2022 And You** gala to help raise funds for the party’s efforts to elect Democrats. Manatee Dems in turn wanted to pay it forward and show support for the Ukrainian people.

The Manatee County Democratic Party committed to giving 100 percent of the winning bid for this special quilt to the World Central Kitchen’s Ukrainian effort. The winning bid, \$555, is on its way!

State Environmental Caucus Endorses Fried

The Democratic Environmental Caucus of Florida endorsed Agricultural Commissioner Nikki Fried for governor. Fried is the only elected Democrat in the administration. The caucus also endorsed Adam Hattersley for CFO.



“Nikki offers us the best path to ensure that Ron DeSantis is a one term governor and have witnessed her work on environmental justice in communities of color and has been vocal about holding accountable polluters who will not act responsibly on their own,” said DECF President Russ Conn.

“A Fried administration is the best chance to reduce red tide and blue-green algae when the Republican led legislature refuses to act,” Conn continued. “Democrats are known to stand up and fight for Environmental Protection.”

LGBTQ+ Caucus Hosts Local Candidates



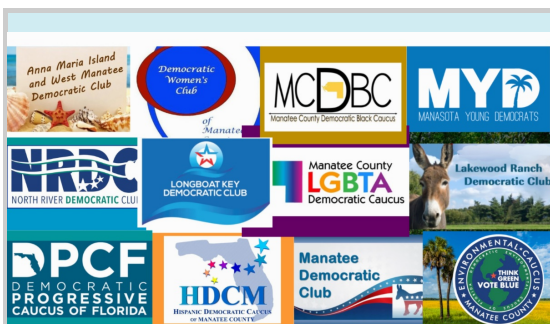
Candidates for local offices are scheduled to speak during the hybrid meeting of the **Manatee LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus**. Candidates invited are County Commissioner candidates Reggie Bellamy and Charles Smith, as well as County School Board candidates Chantal Wilford and Harold Byrd Jr.

The live and Zoom meeting is Wednesday, July 20, 6 p.m., at Manatee Democratic headquarters, 435 Cortez Road, Bradenton. Caucus members as well as non-members may request the Zoom link from Kent Noel, ManateeLGBTADems@gmail.com.

Members of the caucus will have an informal "First Sunday" social gathering August 7, 4 to 6 p.m., at Motorworks Brewing, 1014 9th Street West, Bradenton. For more information, contact Kent Noel, ManateeLGBTADems@gmail.com.



Florida Democratic Party Chair Manny Diaz addresses volunteers during his visit to the Manatee County Democratic Headquarters in Bradenton, Wednesday, July 13.



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.

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