



Manatee County
Democratic Party

Manatee Matters

June 6, 2022 Newsletter

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

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Newsletters

Democratic Black Caucus of Florida Endorses Nikki Fried for Governor



By Donna Hartman – The Democratic Black Caucus of Florida (DBCF) endorsed Nikki Fried, Florida Agricultural Commissioner, for Florida governor at its 39th Annual State Conference May 22.

DBCF's endorsement of Fried could help her capture a majority of the 1.5 million Black voters represented by the DBCF in the upcoming Democratic gubernatorial primary. Fried, U.S. Rep.

Charlie Crist and state Sen. Annette Taddeo are running for the Democratic nomination.

"This endorsement means everything to me, my team, and our supporters fighting to beat (incumbent Republican governor) Ron DeSantis," Fried said.

During her participation at the DBCF's conference, Commissioner Fried convinced the DBCF executive committee that she knows how important the Black vote is to get her elected. She got 67 percent of the committee's vote, beating Crist and Taddeo to win the endorsement.

"Black voters are the backbone of our party and too many candidates think they can phone it in and call it a day," Fried said. "But that is not how this works. From day one of my administration, I have broadened the power and influence of Black farmers, business owners and advocates. And that is exactly what I'm going to do as the next governor of Florida."

DBCF President Trevor Mallory said the DBCF and its 27 local chapters "have been diligently working to let the state know that the Black vote is very important, deciding what candidates may win or lose in November 2022 and 2024. And we will not be taken for granted."

"Ain't No Stopping Us Now," said Mallory, citing the theme of the 2022 DBCF Conference. "We are going to do the grass roots work, partner with other organizations, churches, community leaders to register, educate and get voters to the polls to elect a Democratic governor and more Democrats throughout the state in November."

"This is just the beginning of a concerted effort by DBCF and our partners and supporters to stop the attacks by the DeSantis Administration and improve the lives of communities," Mallory said.

Manatee County Democratic Black Caucus (MCDBC) members attending the conference included Michelle Grimsley, president, Glenn Pearson, first vice-president, Florence Shelton-Clark, second vice-president and the Rev. Joreatha Capers, member.

In addition, MCDBC was recognized as the local chapter with the greatest number of new members.

2022 Democratic Black Caucus of Florida Conference



Florence Shelton-Clark, MCDDBC second vice-president, with Florida Democratic Party Chair Manny Diaz



MCDDBC president Michelle Grimsley, member Rev. Joreatha Capers, Glenn Pearson first vice-president



Michelle Grimsley, gubernatorial candidate Nikki Fried, Florence Shelton-Clark.

Celebrate Juneteenth at Bradenton Dream Center

The annual Manatee County Juneteenth Festival returns to the 13th Avenue Dream Center Saturday, June 18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Bradenton Dream Center is located at 922 24th St. East in Bradenton.

There is no admission charge for this family-friendly event. A DJ and live entertainment will entertain guests. Other activities include:

- Games and crafts
- Health screenings
- Children's activities
- Multicultural foods
- Career exploration

Sponsorships and vendor opportunities are available. Click [here](#) to register as a vendor or sponsor

Juneteenth is a federal holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans and is observed as a celebration of African-American culture.

Originating in Galveston, Texas, it has been celebrated annually on June 19 in various parts of the United States since 1865. The day was recognized as a federal holiday on June 17, 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law.

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union Army general Gordon Granger, proclaimed freedom for enslaved people in Texas.



Longboat Key Dem Club Hosts Political Analyst on Democratic Messaging June 7 via Zoom

An esteemed political analyst, Jonathan Alter, explains where the Democrats have botched their messaging to voters – and how they can fix it and win elections. This promises to be an insightful and captivating talk by one of LBKDC's favorite past speakers. "Democrats Are Losing Voters: The

Messaging Mess and How To Fix It" will be presented via Zoom on Tuesday, June 7 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Alter is an award-winning author, political analyst, documentary filmmaker, columnist, television producer and radio host. The author of three New York Times bestsellers, Alter is a former senior editor of Newsweek and a longtime contributing correspondent and political analyst for NBC News and MSNBC. <https://jonathanalter.com>



[REGISTER HERE](#)

Manatee Dems Schedule a Phone Bank Party!



Let's have some fun with phone calling....and help get an important and big job done.

The Manatee County Democratic Party invites you to a Phone Bank Party on Thursday, June 16 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The party is at the Manatee County Democratic Party Headquarters, Orange Blossom Plaza, 435 Cortez Road West, Bradenton.

Our goal is to make as many calls as possible during this time to spread the word about Vote by Mail and the importance of the August school board elections and primaries.

You can make phone bank calls from Manatee Dems HQ or from home. If you come to the office, we will supply pizza and soft drinks to keep you going! Newcomers are welcome. If you would like to participate from home, we are hosting a Zoom phone bank at the same time. Join the online meeting for a welcome and instructions, mute your mic and make phone calls, then reconvene online to share your results. We will train you on phone banking and supply a phone list to get you started. Call as long (or as little) as you like however it fits your schedule.

Join us for this energizing and fun event on June 16 and continue to phone bank all summer. Help Democrats win in August!

Please R.S.V.P. to Tina Shope, Volunteer Coordinator, (239)-940-5519, anntinashope@gmail.com.

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday Voter Registration with MCDBC

The Manatee County Democratic Black Caucus (MCDBC) is having great success registering voters at area venues in our county. Recent registration events have been held at The Tree and Looking Good men's clothing store.

The MCDBC invites you to join them every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for voter registration. Phone banking has flexible hours. They have been so successful in their voter registration efforts and signing up people to vote by mail that they were awarded the Bill McGrath Memorial Award at our April annual Gala event.



If you would like to volunteer for voter registration or phone banking, contact the MCDBC second vice-chair Florence Shelton-Clark at msdbc Outreach@gmail.com.

Democrats Celebrate with Haitian Community



Manatee County Democrats had a strong presence and received a warm welcome at the Haitian Flag Day Festival at Sutton Park in Palmetto, recently. Democrats set up a voter registration table and shared in the celebration of Haitian culture. Charles Smith, Democratic candidate for County Commissioner and Junior Salazar, Democratic candidate for the state legislature, attended the festival.



County Seeks Affordable Housing Advisors



Soaring home prices and steep rental rate hikes in Manatee County have pushed the lack of affordable housing for many residents to a critical stage.

Democrats can make an impact on this important issue by applying for one of seven openings for a citizens advisory committee that makes recommendations to the County Commission on Affordable Housing Incentives.

You must be a Manatee County resident and meet specific qualifications for each of the seven seats. Applications are due June 10. To see qualifications for each seat and to apply online, go to <https://www.mymanatee.org/>, click on All News Stories and then click on Affordable Housing Advisory Board Openings (7).

The advisory group meets at 3 p.m. on select Mondays six times a year (or as needed) in the Honorable

Patricia M. Glass Chambers in the County Administration Building, [1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton](#). Meetings will resume August 22.

For more information, contact advisory board liaison Deborah Ash at (941) 749-3029, ext. 3478, or email her at deborah.ash@mymanatee.org.



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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