

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Manatee Dems Team Up With Teamsters For Voter Registration



Labor Day was first celebrated in 1882 and was declared a federal holiday in 1894. It is a creation of the labor movement, dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. Now, 125 years later we still have a responsibility to pursue policies that strengthen workers and their families, the backbone of our nation.

Happy Labor Day!

Manatee County Democratic Executive Committee

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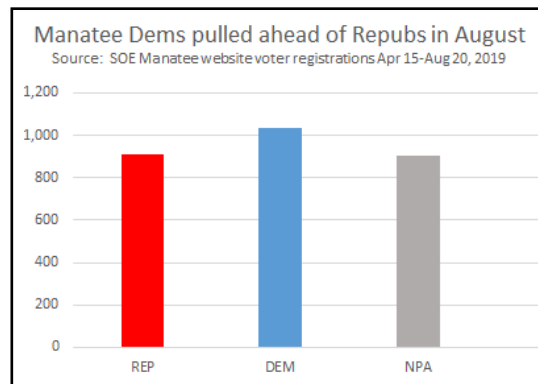
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We may think of the Teamsters Union as negotiating and enforcing contracts with employers, but they also organize and educate workers and get them involved in the political process. Their mission is to help people attain a higher standard of living and be treated with dignity, justice and respect. Teamsters Local #173 primarily serves workers from Tropicana, Sarasota County and Sarasota City.

Manatee Dems joined Teamsters Local #173 in an August 24 cookout and voter registration event at the union’s office location at 824 26th Ave. E, Bradenton. Democrats canvassed the surrounding area the month of the cookout, inviting people to the event, while collecting voter registrations (VR) and Vote By Mail (VBM) requests.



Manatee Democrats have broken ahead of Manatee Republicans in new voter registrations from April 15 to August 20, perhaps for the first time ever. Much of the driving force for this has been from Manatee County Democratic clubs/caucuses, precinct development leaders, Indivisible partners and a team of dedicated volunteers working throughout summer. The Black Caucus has provided leadership with VR collections every weekday at locations in Palmetto and Bradenton. They report registrations from 150 returning citizens to date.

VB and VBM canvassing leaves from headquarters most Saturdays at 10 am (with a training session at 9 am for those who haven't been through it yet). To confirm dates: manateecountydemocrats.com/get-involved.





If you want to get involved and are not sure where to start, contact our new Volunteer Coordinator, Cynthia Metzler at cammcdems@gmail.com. Your options are limitless: Have a Democratic meet-and-greet in your neighborhood, join the field team, do precinct outreach, help in the office, make phone calls, assist in planning and staffing an event, help fundraising grow, contribute to communications...or propose you own ideas. And please consider contributing financially as well. Our mailing address and on-line donations can be found at manateecountydemocrats.com/donate. Thank you!

Amendment Petitions - Will They Make it to a Vote in 2020?

Citizen initiatives for proposed amendments to the Florida constitution have long been a way to get laws where the Legislature won't act. To get on the ballot, a proposed amendment needs 766,200 validated signatures by February 1.

This task just got a lot harder with a new law that makes it illegal to pay petition gatherers based on the number of petitions they collect, requires that signed petitions be turned into county supervisors of elections within 30 days and imposes fines of up to \$50 for each late submission. A casualty of that law is the **Medicaid expansion petition**. The petition's backers, Florida Decides Healthcare, said that the new obstacles are creating confusion and uncertainty in the funding community. They are dropping their effort for now and will try again for the 2022 vote.



A handful of citizen initiatives have gotten enough signatures to trigger a review of the proposed ballot language by the Florida Supreme Court and may have resources needed to get the full required number of signatures.



Ban Assault Weapons Now (BAWN) is on track to get a legal review but still has a long way to go to get total required signatures. State Attorney General Ashley Moody has already voiced her opposition to the language in the petition, but BAWN says the language has gone through extensive review and is confident it will hold up in court.

A campaign to **increase Florida's minimum wage to \$15 per hour** already has over 360,000 verified signatures. It's financially backed almost completely by Orlando lawyer John Morgan.

Other ballot proposals in the works: **increasing competition among electric utilities, overhauling the primary election process and legalizing recreational marijuana.**

—Bev Pannee

Florida Phoenix articles for more information: <http://bit.ly/2yRpxTX> and <http://bit.ly/2Z0iBP9>

Download the BAWN petition: manateecountydemocrats.com/take-action



Margaret Good—Candidate for US Congress, District 16

State Rep. Margaret Good's first campaign appearance after announcing her run against incumbent Vern Buchanan (R-16) drew a standing ovation at the Aug. 13 meeting of the Lakewood Ranch Democratic Club. "We are not getting the representation we deserve," she said. "We need people to stand up and do what's right, and that's not happening."

Representing State House District 72 since winning a special election in 2017 against Buchanan's son James, followed by another victory (over Ray Pilon) in the 2018 general election, Good noted she was sworn in on the day of the Parkland shooting. She is a strong supporter of background checks and banning assault weapons and is committed to solving gun violence. Other priorities include reducing health care costs and investing in public education. Over 2.5 million Floridians don't have access to health care, she said, and over 800,000 of these could be helped by Medicaid expansion in the state.



She is particularly passionate about protecting Florida's fragile environment "because both our health and our economy depend upon our environment," she said. A Florida native, she recounted that she can no longer swim in a lake as in her childhood because of pollution and also decried draining local springs for bottled water.

"We have a representative who votes with our interests when it's politically convenient but otherwise votes for oil drilling and fracking and dismantling environmental protections," she said. "We need to elect people with integrity so we don't end up with transactional politics." Good, a Sarasota lawyer, emphasized the importance of listening to constituents and vowed once elected to hold regular town halls.

The Good campaign received good news on Aug. 15 when the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), the organization that helps elect Democrats to Congress, named Florida's 16th congressional a battleground district. "This means they now see what we've known all along: our district is one of the most competitive in the country!" she said. "This is a milestone for our campaign — and represents our community's opportunity to create the change we want. If we stick to the issues and energize voters, we can turn out the people who care about our community. The key is organizing, and it's not too early to get started," she said. - *Barbara Hyde*

Margaret Good's team is requesting meet-and-greets in homes and neighborhoods. Contact her campaign manager, Kevin Lata, directly at kevin@margaretgood.com. For questions contact Cynthia Metzler at camcdems@gmail.com. Florida's 16th District for the US House of Representatives includes northern Sarasota County, southern Hillsborough County and all of Manatee County.



Join Democrats for a special evening. The **Manatee County Democratic Black Caucus** annual fundraiser is **Friday, October 25, 6:30 pm** at the River Strand Golf and Country Club, 7155 Grand Estuary Trail, Bradenton. - Powerful guest speaker, Kionne McGhee, Minority Leader of the Florida House of Representatives - Beautiful and soulful singing by local R&B artist Yvette - Exquisite hors d'oeuvres by Sean Murphy, owner of Beach Bistro

Reservations online at <https://manateedemblackcaucus.org>
For more information: F. Shelton-Clark at msdbcoutreach@gmail.com

Amanda Linton—Candidate for Florida Senate District 21

Democrat Amanda Linton, 32, has been the first person to file for the Senate District 21 seat currently held by Republican Bill Galvano, who is term limited. The District encompasses the southeastern part of Hillsborough and all of Manatee County. “I have been thinking about running for office since the 2016 election outcome,” she said, noting that she was also motivated by bills that found their way to the Florida legislature restricting women’s rights on abortion.

Linton, a high school English teacher in Dover, cites public education as one of her main issues and is particularly adamant against measures to arm teachers in schools. “As a public school teacher, I can’t even understand this,” she said. “None of us started teaching to be militarized.” She is an active teachers union member and committed to strengthening the public education system.

Environmental protection is another of her major concerns. “I definitely support a Task Force on red tide and blue-green algae research because they directly affect our economy,” she said. “We need to be getting real about climate change, pollution, and taking care of our waterways because we in Florida are definitely seeing the effects of ignoring these issues.”

She is strongly committed to fully supporting women’s rights and working hard in what she knows will be an uphill battle in the very Republican District. “I am in this campaign for working people and the middle class, and I am not a millionaire,” she emphasized.

Linton, originally from Mississippi, is the mother of three school-age children and has lived in Florida since 2013. She is also a swimming coach and owns a business with her husband servicing restaurant equipment.

“Having the experience of an everyday working person and business owner, I feel well-equipped to address the real-life impact of statewide and local policy,” she said. Find out more about Amanda and the campaign at amandafortflorida.com.—*Barbara Hyde*



Florida’s State Senate District 21 includes southern Hillsborough County and all of Manatee County. Bill Galvano, currently the Senate President, has represented the area as a State Senator since 2012, with redrawn district lines in the 2016 election. Galvano, who was uncontested in 2016, is not seeking re-election due to term limits. Republican Jim Boyd, previously in the Florida House, has recently filed to run for State Senate District 21. Elections are held every four years.



After the primary, the Presidential campaign staff will be coming to Manatee County from out of town. These are the college students and career campaigners who work 12-15 hours a day registering voters, dealing with statistics, working with volunteers, and helping to get out the vote.

Do you have a spare bedroom/bath and are willing to house staff members for the duration of the campaign? Meeting these staffers will be a worthwhile experience! Call Brenda Katz at 941-713-7980 if you are interested in learning more.