

Summer 2018



# MANATEE MATTERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## Build the Blue Wave in 2018



Manatee County Democratic  
Executive Committee

435 Cortez Road West  
Bradenton, FL 34207  
(941) 301-4336

HQManateeDems@gmail.com

See our website for voting  
information, candidates, how to  
get involved, Democratic clubs  
and caucuses, calendar of  
events and more.

ManateeCountyDemocrats.com

The perfect wave for a surfer is based in part on three things: speed, duration, and geography. The Manatee County Democratic Party (MCDP) initiative to Build the Blue Wave in 2018 will take all of these elements and more.

Led by Chair Sheryl Wilson, Manatee Democrats have been developing specific, goal-oriented action plans that will ensure a strong Democratic turnout for this year's election cycle. They have strategized on ways to maintain momentum, recognizing the need for new volunteers and the importance of voter registration; and they have discussed openly and respectfully the issues facing the county, the state and the nation at large.

Key 2018 initiatives are:

**Precinct Development:** Voter outreach is organized around the 70 voting precincts in Manatee County. Our mission is to ensure that voters are informed and exercise their right to vote, neighborhood by neighborhood.

**Voter Registration:** Voter registration tables and canvassing are scheduled around the county.

**Headquarters Office:** Volunteer office staff greet visitors, make phone calls, prepare outreach materials and enter data.

**Fundraising:** Our annual dinner in April each year is our biggest fundraising event. Other events and fundraising initiatives happen year-round.

**Candidate Support:** Our Democratic candidates are looking for people to help promote their candidacies.

***Our Mission:*** *The Manatee County Democratic Party works to promote Democratic candidates and issues at the local, state and federal level. As a local extension of the Florida Democratic Party and the Democratic National Committee, we enlist Democratic volunteers to increase democratic voter registration, build and aid coalition partners, fundraise, canvass and help support Democratic candidates to win elections in Manatee County.*

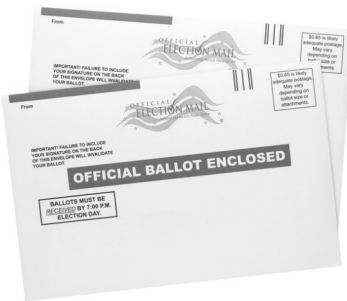
***We actively support diversity and we are a party that is greatly concerned about students, seniors, families, health care, the environment, civil rights, labor and main street businesses.***



## Florida Democrats Urged to Vote by Mail

Absentee voting in Florida has been replaced with the Vote By Mail option. The voter does not have to be absent or provide any other reason for requesting this convenience. The Manatee County Democratic Party encourages the use of Vote By Mail to increase voter turnout, and to help Democrats win local, state and national elections.

For just the cost of one first class stamp to return the ballot, people don't have to miss work, drive to a polling location, or set aside time to wait in line to vote. A ballot is mailed to the voter's address of choice about 30 days before each election, giving ample time to consider the candidates and issues. Voters can track the processing of their Vote By Mail ballot on the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections (SOE) Office web site.



Vote By Mail increases participation especially among those who have not voted consistently in every election. “Voters with mail ballots actually vote. Somehow, those who have a ballot on their dining room table are more likely to fill it out than folks who wait for Early Voting or Election Day,” said Terrie Rizzo, Chair of the Florida Democratic Party. “Vote By Mail will help us develop strong voting habits in the Democratic electorate”, she added, while emphasizing that voters must understand and follow the rules of Vote By Mail to ensure that each ballot mailed in is valid and counted.

## How to Request a Vote by Mail Ballot and Important Things to Know

The Manatee County Supervisor of Elections (SOE) Office provides instructions on how to Vote By Mail, including the following ways in which registered voters may request a ballot:

1. Complete the online request form at [www.votemanatee.com/Vote-By-Mail-Early-Voting/](http://www.votemanatee.com/Vote-By-Mail-Early-Voting/).
2. Access the Vote By Mail Ballot Request form at [www.votemanatee.com](http://www.votemanatee.com), select Vote By Mail Request Form (PDF). Follow the instructions to complete the form, and then return it by mail, email or fax.
3. Make your request in person at the SOE Office, [600 301 Blvd. W., Suite 108, Bradenton, FL 34205](http://600%20301%20Blvd.%20W.,%20Suite%20108,%20Bradenton,%20FL%2034205).
4. Call the SOE Office at [\(941\) 741-3823](tel:941-741-3823) and ask to sign up for Vote By Mail. A voter may make the request for a spouse or other immediate family member.

**All registered voters are eligible.** However, you must be able to receive mail at the address you have given in your ballot request. **Requests are not permanent.** If you have used a Vote By Mail ballot for two regularly scheduled elections, it is probably time to renew. If in doubt, contact the SOE Office to confirm and renew the request if needed. **Vote By Mail ballots are neither held nor forwarded by the US Postal Service.** However, you may request that a ballot be sent to where you are visiting. If that address is different than the one already on your voter record, the first use of the different address must be requested in writing with your signature. **Completed Vote By Mail ballots are not accepted at the polls on Election Day.** They must be received by the SOE Office by mail or in person no later than 7:00 pm on Election Day. If you wish to vote in person instead, you may surrender your Vote By Mail ballot (although this is not required) at the polls and receive a fresh ballot to complete and turn in while there.



## Manatee County 2018 Election Dates

*July 30: Voter registration ends for Primary Election*

*August 18-25: Early voting for Primary Election*

*August 28: Primary Election*

*October 9: Voter registration ends for General Election*

*TBA: Early voting for General Election*

*November 6: General Election*

See <https://www.votemanatee.com/Vote-By-Mail-Early-Voting/Early-Voting> for early voting updates and details.



## How You Can Get Involved

The Manatee County Democratic Party is an entirely volunteer organization working to help elect Democratic candidates at the local, state and federal level. Opportunities are waiting for you to give a little or a lot of your time and apply your skills. A few options:

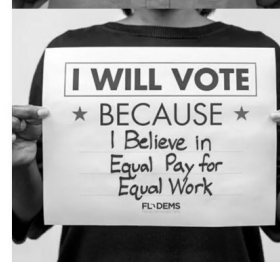
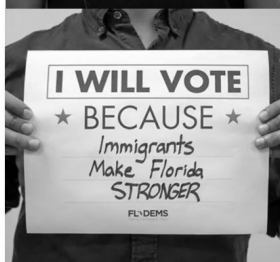
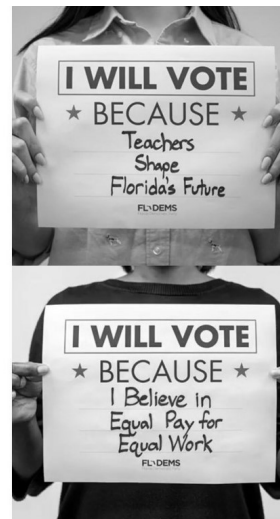
**Join a Precinct Team** – Help reach out to voters in your neighborhood to ensure that voters are registered and every Democrat votes. Meet other Democrats, distribute information, phone and canvass for Vote By Mail, host Democratic get-togethers and more.

**Help with Operations, Events or Fundraising** – Volunteer in the headquarters office, help create printed and electronic communications, or lend your time for events and fundraising activities.

**Work for a Candidate** – Offer your experience and skills to phone, canvass and generally promote a candidacy.

**Join a Club or Caucus** – Manatee Democratic Clubs and Caucuses meet monthly and take on a wide range of initiatives. Find a group that interests you on our website under “Clubs.”

To get started contact your precinct captain or Randi Sathan at [rmsmanateedems@gmail.com](mailto:rmsmanateedems@gmail.com).



## 2018 State and Local Democratic Candidates

**FLORIDA GOVERNOR:** Democratic candidates **Andrew Gillum, Gwen Graham, Chris King, Philip Levine** and **Jeff Greene**, along with several additional candidates.

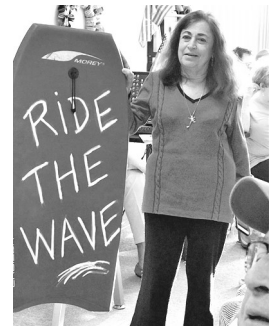
**U.S. SENATE:** Our current **Senator Bill Nelson** is up for re-election. Also running are **Tamika Lyles** and **Randy Alan White**.



**FLORIDA'S 16TH DISTRICT FOR THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:** Democratic candidates are **David Shapiro** and **Jan Schneider**. District 16 includes northern Sarasota County, all of Manatee County and southern Hillsborough County.

Democratic candi-

**OTHER DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES AT THE STATE LEVEL:**  
 Florida's Attorney General: **Ryan Torrens** and **Sean Michael Shaw**  
 Florida Chief Financial Officer: **Jeremy Ring**  
 Commissioner of Agriculture: **R. David Walker** and **Jeffrey Duane Porter**



**FLORIDA HOUSE DISTRICTS 70, 71 AND 73:** Manatee County voters are in one of three districts. Candidates are:



District 70: **Wengay Newton** (incumbent), **Keisha Bell** and **Vito Sheeley**

District 71: **Tracy Pratt**      District 73: **Liv Coleman**

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:** There are five County Commission districts with District 6 at large. Democratic candidates in 2018 are: District 2: **Charles Smith** (incumbent) and **Reginald Bellamy**; District 4: **Melton Little**.

**MANATEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD:** Districts have roughly the same boundaries as the County Commission, and elections are non-partisan. **Reverend James T. Golden** is a Democrat and a candidate for District 5.

If you are not sure of your voting districts, see the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections website at <https://www.votemanatee.com>. Find your voting precinct under "Where Do I Vote" and district boundaries under "Maps."