



FROM THE MANATEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

May 2024

Democratic Candidates Vie for National, State and Local Offices

Ten Democrats have announced they will run for local, state and national offices in Manatee in the 2024 elections. Many of these candidates are up against a well-funded and organized Republican Party machine that has dominated local politics for decades.

The Manatee County Democratic Party Candidate Support Committee congratulates these individuals for stepping up to run and has been working to advise and assist as requested.

Here are the local Democratic candidates who have announced so far.

U.S. House of Representatives, Congressional District 16

Jan Schneider, <https://votejan.com/>.

Trent Miller, <https://www.trent4congress.com/>

Florida House of Representatives

District 70: Luther Wilkins, luthertherealtor@gmail.com

District 71: pending

District 72: Lesa Miller, www.votelesa.com

Manatee County Commission

District 7 (at-large): Sari Lindroos-Valimaki, <https://sari4manatee.com/>

District 1: Glenn Pearson, <https://glennformanatee.com/>

District 3: Diana Shoemaker, <https://www.electshoemaker.com/>

Manatee County School Board (nonpartisan)

District 1: Heather Felton, <https://heatherformanatee.com/>

Bradenton City Council (nonpartisan)

Ward 5: Pam Coachman, incumbent, <https://www.votepamward5.com/>

Palmetto Commission (nonpartisan)

District 1 (at-large): Sheldon Jones, incumbent, sheldonpostal@live.com

Pearson To Run For District 1 Commission Seat

With the Board of County Commission election less than seven months away, Glenn Pearson has filed for the District 1 seat vacated by James Satcher, newly appointed Supervisor of Elections for Manatee County. District 1 is comprised of parts of Palmetto, Ellenton, Parrish and Myakka City.



[Read the Rest on Our Blog](#)

Local Delegates To Represent District 16 At Convention

Congressional District 16 will send five delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, August 19 to 22. District 16 includes all of Manatee County and part of Hillsborough County.

**Democratic
National
Convention**

AUGUST 19-22 • CHICAGO

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Impact of Court's Abortion Amendment Ruling



On April 1, the Florida Supreme Court released two important rulings on abortion rights. In the first ruling, the court allowed a ban on abortion procedures after six weeks gestation to go into effect on May 1.

[Read the Rest on Our Blog](#)

Be Aware of Constitutional Amendments on the Ballot

Six amendments to the state Constitution will appear on the ballot for all Florida voters this November. To be adopted as law, each amendment must receive 60% of

the vote.

[Read the Rest on Our Blog](#)

Haitian Community Celebrates Flag Day

The third annual **Manasota Haitian Flag Day Festival**, Saturday, May 11, at the Manatee County Fairgrounds in Palmetto, promises to be a celebration of Haitian freedom, culture, music, laughter and food.

[Read the Rest on Our Blog](#)



Take Action Meeting Stressed Resident Involvement



During the Take Action event last month at the Palmetto Library more than 80 people heard from the candidates for local offices and the Manatee County Democratic Party (MCDP) executives about how to become involved and make a difference in our community this election year.

“Our goal was to recruit volunteers and provide opportunities to meet candidates,” said Tim Eiseler, District 3 Team leader. “It’s very important to engage and educate new participants in the Democratic process who may not have been involved before.”

Eiseler reported that attendees found the Take Action meeting helpful in finding out which precinct they live in, who their candidates are and their positions on local issues and what volunteers can do to take action and boost voter turnout.

“Now that potential volunteers have come to meetings and received information, the challenge is to get them to commit to a specific task of their interest to develop a much broader base of volunteer support, importantly to include long term positions as precinct captains,” said Eiseler. “The district

coordinators and precinct captains will be following up with attendees to secure their ongoing involvement.”



Eiseler offered a special thank you to the District 3 Team who organized and planned the event. He also thanked the MCDP data and communications teams.

Democratic candidates present at the meeting included: Diana Shoemaker, candidate, District 3, Manatee County commissioner; Sari Lindroos-Valimaki, candidate, District 7, at large, Manatee County commissioner; Glenn Pearson, candidate District 1, Manatee County commissioner; and Jan Schneider, candidate, U.S. House of Representatives, District 16.

Holmes Beach Mayor Judy Titsworth spoke about the current erosion of home rule for Anna Marie Island. Pam Coachman, Bradenton city councilwoman for Ward 5, Sheldon Jones, Palmetto city commissioner, and Heather Felton, school board candidate for District 1, were also present.

By Wil Clapper

Districts 4 and 5 Dems Urge Neighborhood Participation

The brand-new Lakewood Ranch Library was the site for the April meeting of District 4 and 5 Manatee Democrats, Saturday, April 27.

District 4 encompasses the extreme southern portion of Manatee County while District 5 is the eastern part of the county.

Led by Rob Usher, the meeting focused on neighborhood networking and the ongoing effort to recruit more precinct volunteers. Precinct volunteers play an important role in developing a neighborhood Democratic presence. This effort provides information and support to Democratic voters and helps in Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) activities in election years.

Usher discussed the need to encourage Democratic voters to re-enroll in the Vote-By-Mail program every election year. Receiving your ballot and voting by mail is convenient and safe as it gives voters the comfort of voting from home. It's important for voters to fill out their ballot carefully and to make sure their signature matches what is on file with the Supervisor of Election (SOE) office. Voters can verify their vote-by mail status by visiting the site. <https://www.votemanatee.com/Vote-By-Mail-Early-Voting/Vote-By-Mail-Ballot-Request-Online>.

Acknowledging that Michael Bennett, long time Supervisor of the Board of Elections

for Manatee, has been replaced by the gubernatorial appointment of former County Commissioner, James Satcher, Usher warned that Satcher is not only highly partisan, but also highly inexperienced in running an election. This appointment of an inexperienced and partisan person has generated concern amongst citizens and political leaders alike.

The changes within the SOE administration have prompted the Manatee County Democratic Party to inform all voters of the need to verify their voter registration and Vote-By-Mail status. Manatee Democratic leaders expect signature challenges for early and mail-in voters.

The meeting was an example of a textbook precinct call for grassroots participation. A lengthy Q and A session outlined the process to recruit, inform and expand party participation.

For further information about volunteer work for Manatee County Districts 4 and 5, contact Rob and Lisa Usher at, ManateeDems507@gmail.com.

By David Krasnoff

Hands Across the Sand Draws 300 to Save Home Rule



The non-partisan group Save Florida Home Rule hosted a lively demonstration on Anna Maria Island. **Hands Across the Sand** drew residents from Anna Maria, Holmes Beach and Bradenton Beach to oppose county and state government attacks on home rule. Currently, state and county legislators are considering usurping local control of these cities and placing them under the control of Bradenton city or Manatee County.

[Read the Rest on Our Blog](#)

Make A Difference: Step Up with the Manatee Dems

We hear every day that this year's election may be the most important one in our lifetimes if we care about our democracy.

It's time to step up and do what you can to help rid the community of its current radical conservative office holders and end the corruption that is negatively impacting our way of life in Manatee County. It's time to give Democrats a chance to shift these radical policies.

Opportunities abound to become involved with the Manatee County Democratic Party this election year. Doing so will bring a vitality and exuberance to Manatee's

politics that has not been seen in decades.

Here are some of the volunteer positions the Manatee Dems need to fill to succeed:
Voter Registration: In this election year, it is critical that we are present in the community encouraging people to register to vote and showing them how it is done. Increasing the number of registered Democrats is essential for election success. Training is provided for proper registration procedures at events and effective canvassing techniques for neighborhoods.

Join The Voter Registration and Event Canvassing Team

Office work: A variety of volunteer opportunities are available at our party headquarters for only a few hours a week. There is phone work, greeting walk-ins, doing data entry, helping with petition drives and preparing packets for table events and distribution. Contact the Manatee County Democratic Party headquarters at 941-301-4336 or info@manateecountydemocrats.com

Phone calling: Make calls from home or the Manatee Dems office. All you need for home phoning is a phone and a laptop, tablet or PC. Headquarters has all required equipment. Training, scripts and vetted phone lists are provided.

Join The Phone Banking Team

Manatee Democratic committees, caucuses and clubs offer many volunteer opportunities. Join like-minded neighbors and friends working for an inclusive and democratic Manatee. Clubs and caucuses affiliated with the Manatee Dems touch many aspects of Manatee County. Check out the Clubs and Caucus page on the Manatee Democrats' website: <https://manateecountydemocrats.com/>.



The Manatee County Democratic Party is a **100% volunteer organization**. All contributions of any size are appreciated.

Donate
Now



Get involved! Check out the many area Democratic clubs and caucuses. Meet like-minded people at fun events!

Upcoming
Events



Receive our newsletter! Was this email forwarded to you? Would you like to keep hearing from us?

Sign
Up



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

Resource Links

**Florida Democratic
Party**

The Florida Channel

**National Democratic
Party**

**Manatee County Board of
Commissioners**

Headquarters Office

435 Cortez Road W, Bradenton, Florida
34207, United States
(941) 301-4336
info@manateecountydemocrats.com



Hours

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays,
Noon to 4 p.m.
Thursdays Noon to 2 p.m.
Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Contact us to schedule a meeting

**Visit our
Website**

Manatee County Democratic Party | 435 Cortez Road W, Bradenton, FL 34207

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