

DWC

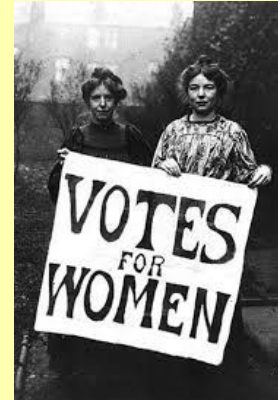
AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER



DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA

WWW.DWCManatee.com

August 26 is Women's Equality Day Celebrating Women's Right To Vote



President's Letter

I dread reading the news every morning because between Trump and DeSantis there seems to be no hope for fair treatment and democracy. The United States was the leader of the free world. Not so anymore, between Trump's constant threat on tariffs, his inability to recognize that Israel and Russia are busy bombing nearby regions, which they have no intention to stop. Not to mention his big, beautiful bill which cuts PBS and NPR, limits to Medicaid, and his relentless pursuit of illegal aliens, makes it obvious he is a person who cannot be trusted to do what's right for the American public. Now we have a governor who wants to be just like Trump. Police now stop cars, not because they are violating the laws, but because the color of their skin makes them possible illegal aliens. He erected Alligator Alcatraz, a filthy detention center in the Everglades, to house potential illegal aliens. It's one thing to deport criminals, but it's quite another to deport immigrants who have lived in this country for years, working, raising their kids here, and taking the jobs, that most white people don't want. The one thing that gives me hope is the thousands of people nationwide – and the hundreds of protestors in Sarasota and Manatee counties – that stood against this form of tyranny. Maybe, just maybe, there will be enough people to elect local and state legislators who will stand for the people.



Joanie LeBaron

DeSantis floats mid-decade redistricting for Florida congressional seats

Another red state may join Texas in trying to boost the GOP House majority ahead of the 2026 midterms.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, fresh off a win at the state Supreme Court over a congressional map he pushed through three years ago, said the state should consider overhauling its districts between censuses. The GOP governor claimed Florida's map is currently "malapportioned" due to its population surge and that there's "ample justification" for a mid-decade redistricting effort.

"Florida, you know, we got a raw deal on the census," DeSantis said during an event in Bradenton. "We only got one seat when some of these other states were getting more seats, when we've obviously had more growth. We should have gotten at least two."

The comments from DeSantis come as Democrats and Republicans spar over crucial congressional seats.



Texas Republicans recently called for a special session focused on redrawing their state's maps to more heavily favor their party ahead of the midterms, and other GOP-led states are expected to follow suit. Democrats, meanwhile, are pushing back through events like a planned fundraiser in Martha's Vineyard headlined by former President Barack Obama to fight Republican redistricting proposals in Texas and Ohio.

Florida picked up an extra seat in the last round of reapportionment and produced maps that triggered a lengthy legal battle only resolved this month by the state Supreme Court. The map pushed by the governor ultimately resulted in Republicans gaining four seats across the state, helping the GOP narrowly win the House back in 2022.

"They should award Texas and Florida for sure, at least one more seat, because when [Joe] Biden took over, we were supposed to get two seats in Florida, and we only got one," DeSantis said Thursday. "Rhode Island was supposed to lose a seat. And guess who the Commerce Secretary under Biden was? Former governor of Rhode Island [Gina Raimondo]. Did Rhode Island end up losing a seat? No, they kept both."

By: Andrew Atterbury, *Politico*

Florida Supreme Court upholds congressional map that eliminates a majority Black district

Florida's Supreme Court on July 17 upheld the state's current congressional redistricting map, rejecting a challenge over the elimination of a majority-Black district in north Florida that was pushed by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis.

The court, dominated by DeSantis appointees, ruled that restoration of the district that previously united Black communities from Jacksonville to west of Tallahassee, or across 200 miles (322 kilometers), would amount to impermissible racial gerrymandering. That, the majority ruled, violates the Constitution's equal protection guarantees.

"The record leaves no doubt that such a district would be race-predominant. The record also gives us no reasonable basis to think that further litigation would uncover a potentially viable remedy," said Chief Justice Carlos Muniz in the court's majority opinion.

The decision means Florida's current congressional districts that give Republicans a 20-8 advantage over Democrats will remain in place for the 2026 midterm elections and beyond. The former north Florida district was most recently represented by a Black Democrat, former Rep. Al Lawson. The new districts divide that area among three Republicans.

A panel of three federal judges previously upheld the current congressional districts.

"This was always the constitutionally correct map — and now both the federal courts and the Florida Supreme Court have upheld it," DeSantis said on X.

One of the plaintiffs, the National Redistricting Foundation, called the new ruling "alarming" because it "diminishes the voting power of Black

Floridians" by upholding the GOP-drawn map.

"The court is abandoning the

most basic role of the judiciary: to provide justice for the people," said Marina Jenkins, executive director of the foundation.

Earlier redistricting efforts by the state Legislature included versions of the north Florida district that preserved Black voting power. But after a veto by DeSantis, the governor pushed through the current map that eliminated it.

In its ruling, the Supreme Court said one problem for the plaintiffs was they did not propose a viable alternative map but only pointed out potential problems with the current one.

"It is not enough in the redistricting context for challengers to identify a flaw in an enacted districting plan and demand that the court send the Legislature back to the drawing board," the decision said.

Justice Jorge Labarga was the lone dissenter, contending the lawsuit should be sent back to a lower court for further proceedings to allow the challengers a chance to produce different districts.

"By foreclosing further litigation, the majority's decision now allows to remain in place a congressional redistricting plan that is unconstitutional under the Florida Constitution," Labarga wrote.

By: Curt Anderson, *Associated Press*



August is International Water Quality month

What Trump has done

"I must admit, there's a part of Trump that's kind of impressive.

He convinced the party of Reagan to advocate for tariffs and market intervention.

He convinced the party of law and order to celebrate the first convicted felon President, and the pardoning of violent insurrectionists.

He convinced the party of family values that it didn't matter if he cheated on his pregnant wife with a pornstar.

He convinced millions of women to vote for him even when they've heard him brag about sexually assaulting them.

He's convinced Epstein conspiracy theorists to somehow accuse anybody but him, despite mounting circumstantial evidence of his complicity.

He's convinced evangelical Christians to vote in the least religious President in US history.

...and now he's convinced isolationists, who called Obama a "neocon" and cheered the "end of foreign wars", to now openly support yet another foreign war.



But he's not a salesman. A salesman actually gives you what he's selling. Trump is a conman, someone who promises big but never comes through with the goods.

What has Trump promised that he's actually delivered?

Did he build the wall? And did Mexico pay for it? Did he lock her up? Did he enact a "Muslim Ban"? Did he repeal Obamacare? Did he eliminate national debt? Or add to it? Did he end the war in Ukraine or Gaza? Did he decrease the cost of groceries? Did he keep the US out of foreign wars?

Did he make America great again?
...or a global pariah?

I've done a lot of fraud investigations in my time, and there's almost always a devastating moment when someone realizes with horror they've been conned. But there's also always a few that just don't want to believe it... no matter how much evidence you show them.

...and the conman usually just continues to con them, until they've fleeced them of everything that they've got."

- Ryan Carrick, *Reddit*

Alligator Alcatraz: when political theater costs millions

When the Florida Legislature passed a budget last month that cut spending by 3 percent, elected leaders crowed. "Floridians," said Senate President Ben Albritton, "expect us to spend their tax dollars wisely."

And we sure do. But what about "Alligator Alcatraz"?

In fact, the immigrant detention center built on an old airstrip in the heart of Big Cypress National Preserve is pricey and getting even pricier. It's reportedly going to cost \$450 million annually, but internal FEMA documents suggest it might cost more than \$600 million. Florida will use tax dollars to fund it, theoretically being reimbursed by the federal government. But in fact, both federal and state officials have stated in court filings that there is no deal; the federal government has not paid anything yet, and Florida hasn't formally asked.

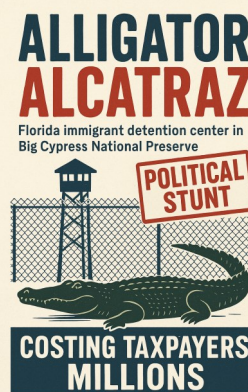
Lawsuit costs are mounting. Gov. Ron DeSantis has

doled out millions of dollars in no-bid contracts, and waived procurement rules. The state is supposed to be auditing these expenditures; it isn't.

And then there's the site itself, remote, requiring all supplies to be trucked in and all waste to be trucked out. The state apparently had to build a new road to the tune of \$11 million. Florida's Attorney General James Uthmeier has called it an "efficient" location; but it's about as inefficient — and ultimately, expensive — a spot as anyone could devise.

Bottom line: Floridians may want their tax dollars spent wisely — but Alligator Alcatraz is a prime example of the opposite.

Source: *Vote Water*



National Women's Equality Day

Every year on August 26, we commemorate this right with National Women's Equality Day. The United States Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution granting women full and equal voting rights on this day in 1920.

While in London at the World Anti-Slavery Convention 1840, several women were denied access to the convention floor planting the seeds for a women's rights movement. Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, along with Martha Wright, Mary Ann McClintock, and Jane Hunt, set in motion plans for the first woman's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. Held at Wesleyan Chapel on July 19-20, 1848, the conference drew 200 women on the first day. On the second day, the convention opened to men, and some did attend.

During the convention, leaders presented 12 resolutions. They enumerated in the rights that women should be equal to men socially, economically, legally and representatively. Of the resolutions, all but the 9th were approved unanimously. The right to vote created concern. Many women felt it would cause large numbers of their backers to withdraw their support. However, after much debate and the support of abolitionist Fred-



erick Douglass, the 9th resolution also passed.

Woman's suffrage began in earnest in the United States then. Another advocate, Susan B. Anthony, joined Stanton in 1869 to create the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA). Through nearly 10 years of persistence and lobbying, the NWSA introduced an amendment in 1878. Despite years of debate, the amendment finally made it to the floor of Congress in 1886, only to be defeated.

Ultimately, it would take another 34 years before a new amendment made it to Congress. For several years, advocates continued passing the batons. New states entered the union. Their constitutions included rights for women that states before them never had — the right to vote.

Civil disobedience ensued. Eventually, with women gaining equality, Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.

Want to learn more about the struggles of women to obtain the right to vote?

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH WOMEN VOTE AFTER 19TH AMENDMENT PASSES](#)

Gun dealers in the United States

The US has nearly 78,000 licensed gun dealers, more than the number of McDonald's, Burger King, Subway, and Wendy's locations combined.

- Over half of gun dealers are located in residential — many in private homes — including more than 9,000 dealers licensed to manufacture firearms and ammunition, from handguns and shotguns to silencers and other accessories.
- At current rates, Federal Firearms Licenses can expect to be inspected less than once per decade. That is in stark contrast to federal regulations on elevators (annually) and restaurants (every six months).

- One in five public elementary schools is within half a mile of a gun dealer.



- Just 2.5 percent of gun dealers sell over 50 percent of all guns in the United States.
- There are roughly five incidents per day where firearms go missing from gun dealers through robbery, burglary, larceny, or other loss. Too often, these guns are diverted to the illegal market.

Source: Every Town for Gun Safety

City paints over Pride crosswalk on orders from Trump & Ron DeSantis

In a literal erasure of LGBTQ+ identity in South Florida, the city of Boynton Beach has complied with recent orders from Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) and the Trump administration to eliminate a rainbow crosswalk in the beachside city.

Video reveals a road crew painting over the once colorful intersection at East Ocean Avenue and Southeast First Street. It's now painted black.

Boynton Beach has "removed the inclusionary-painted intersection on the 100 block of East Ocean Avenue to ensure full compliance with state and federal transportation mandates and address safety concerns," a statement from the city read. "The decision follows recent guidance from the U.S. Transportation Secretary and the Florida Department of Transportation."

The Pride commemoration was first unveiled in June 2021.

The rainbow intersection has been vandalized before. During Pride month in 2023, surveillance video captured a motorcyclist burning out over the mural, leaving black tread marks across it. He then stopped to record the damage he caused.

The Pride erasure comes just days after a coordinated campaign by the Florida governor and the federal Transportation Department to remove rainbow intersections across the state.

On July 1, former *Road Rules* reality star and current Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy issued a social media edict to all U.S. governors to remove the crosswalk art.

"Taxpayers expect their dollars to fund safe streets, not rainbow crosswalks," Duffy declared. "Political banners have no place on public roads. I'm reminding recipients of @USDOT roadway funding that it's limited to features advancing safety, and nothing else. It's that simple."

In the order and subsequent interviews, Duffy implies the Pride crosswalks are causing chaos on

the roads and have led to traffic fatalities.

"Far too many Americans die each year to traffic fatalities to take our eye off the ball," Duffy told the far-right *Daily Signal*.

"Roads are for safety," he said somewhat incongruously, "not political messages or artwork."

Duffy didn't specify what percentage of the 39,345 traffic deaths in the U.S. in 2024 were caused by rainbow crosswalks.

Other cities in South Florida with rainbow intersections, including Delray Beach, Fort Lauderdale, and West Palm Beach, face the same state and federal mandates. It wasn't immediately clear whether or how they would comply.



Other Pride crosswalks in the state have also been subject to vandalism, some repeatedly.

Florida Transportation Secretary Jared Perdue enthusiastically endorsed the federal mandate the day after it was issued.

"Florida's proactive efforts to ensure we keep our transportation facilities free and clear of political ideologies were cemented into law by @GovRonDeSantis," Perdue posted to socials. "Great to now have our federal partners also aligned behind this same common-sense policy."

Rand Hoch, president of the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council, called the orders "blackmail."

"This is just another example of the president and the governor blackmailing local governments by telling them they're going to withhold funding so they can try to publicly erase the LGBTQ+ community," he told the *Sun-Sentinel*. "This seems to be a priority of these administrations."

Despite the public erasure, Hoch, who was present at the 2021 unveiling of the Boynton Beach Pride intersection, said LGBTQ+ people "are not going to disappear."

By: Greg Owen, *LGBTQ Nation*

DeSantis vetoes target black history and minority scholarships

A Black history museum, minority teacher scholarships and a mentorship program for Black students all fell to Gov. Ron DeSantis' veto pen.

As the Governor continues to decry diversity, equity and inclusion efforts in the private and public sector, the Republican Governor killed several line items in the state budget directed at elevating the marginalized.

He nixed \$750,000 that the Legislature had set aside for a development fund for the Florida Museum of Black History. The Legislature set that money aside to establish a space in Opa-locka to promote awareness and appreciation of Black heritage in the state.

Sen. Shevrin Jones, a Miami Gardens Democrat, had requested the money.

"This initiative aims to create a space dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich history, culture, and contributions of the Black community in Florida, while also serving as a hub for education, community engagement, and cultural enrichment, reads an application from Willie Logan, founder of Ten North Group and himself a former Democratic lawmaker once in line for House Speaker.

Jones also fought for the budget to include \$200,000 for One Hundred Black Men of South Florida at the Dr. Harold Guinyard Leadership Academy, a program focused on preparing middle and high school boys to be "successful men and mentors in their communities."

The veto upset Jones, but he said killing the funding was something to anticipate based on the governor's past policies.

"I'm not the least bit surprised. Look at the name of the organization — 100 Black Men. Look at the track record of this governor," Jones said.

"That alone should tell you everything you need to know. This veto is consistent with an admin-



istration that has shown us time and again exactly what it thinks about investing in Black communities. It's disappointing, but sadly, it's not out of character."

He said the same goes for killing the Black History museum funding.

Of note, \$1 million for a Florida Museum of Black History in Northeast Florida appears to have been spared the veto pen.

"I am very grateful," said Sen. Tom Leek, an Ormond Beach Republican who backed the funding for the St. Augustine area museum.

However, the governor did eliminate \$1.5 million in grants and aid budgeted by lawmakers for the Minority Teacher Scholarship Program. That effort, managed by the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, aims to attract more minority professionals into the teaching field.

DeSantis also stripped out \$124,000 for the José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant Fund, which funds need-based scholarships for students of Hispanic ethnicity to attend public or private educational institutions. Those scholarships in the past have been administered through the state Department of Education.

The Fund has offered scholarships for the last 20 years.

Source: flaglerlive.com



"Feminism has never been about getting a job for one woman. It's about making life more fair for women everywhere. It's not about a piece of the existing pie; there are too many of us for that. It's about baking a new pie."

— Gloria Steinem



Microplastics, which are tiny pieces of plastic, are everywhere and nearly impossible to avoid. Yet studies have found them present in humans. This can cause many health issues, so we should reduce our exposure as much as possible to microplastics. Never microwave food in a plastic container; instead use glass or ceramic containers. It is better to store foods in glass, ceramic or metal.

Avoid drinking water from plastic bottles, use glass or metal refillable bottles. Tap water is actually less hazardous than water in plastic bottles, preferably filtered. Eat organic foods and lower on the food chain (fruits, vegetables, grains, bean, etc.). Microplastics accumulate in animals and animal fat, which we should avoid or reduce our consumption.

Ruth Lawler, Environmental Chair



Our regular meetings will resume on September 11, 2025, so save the date! We will be meeting at the Peridia Golf and Country Club. More information will be available in the September DWC newsletter.



Things women could NOT do before 1970:

- Have credit cards under their own name
- Lease property in their name
- Attend military academies
- Be astronauts
- Serve on juries in all states
- Receive any paid maternity leave
- Serve as the CEO of a Fortune 500 company
- Adopt a baby as a single person
- Wear pants to school in many states

WE'RE NOT GOING BACK!!!

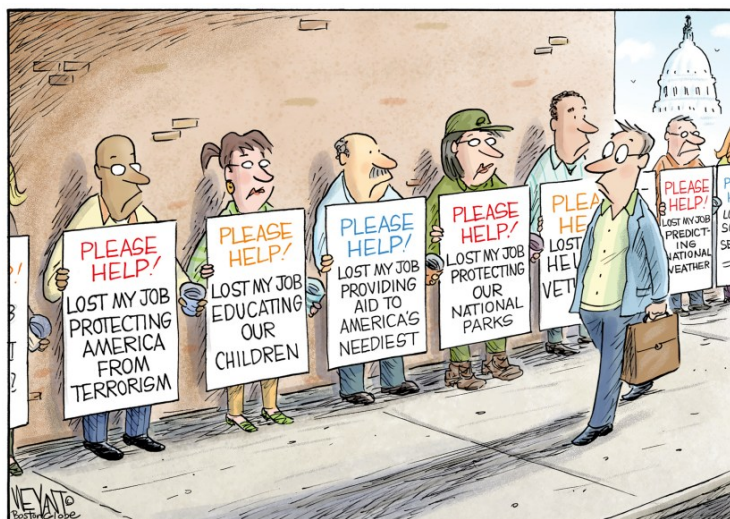


**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
BARACK OBAMA
AUGUST 4, 1961**

Bad Romance: Women's Suffrage is a parody music video paying homage to Alice Paul and the generations of brave women who joined together in the fight to pass the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote in 1920. The video was created and produced by Soomo Publishing. Diaper Diplomacy produced and created the parody video "The Whole Thing Is a Con Job" – Trump's Windmill Rant at EU Presser. It depicts Donald Trump, sitting next to Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, while Trump turned a joint press conference into a full-blown rant against wind energy. Wouldn't it be great to know what was going through Ursula von der Leyen's mind while Trump was rambling?

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH
BAD ROMANCE](#)

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH
TRUMP'S WINDMILL
RANT](#)



DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF MANATEE COUNTY OFFICERS/LEADERS 2024 - 2025

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[Manatee County Democratic Website](#)
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PLACE
STAMP
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The Manatee County Democratic weekday office hours are Tue 10 - 4, Wed 12 - 4, Fri 10 - 2, Sat 11 - 3. To check status, times, dates of events and club meetings, please visit our Manatee County Democratic website at www.ManateeDemocrats.com.

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