

DWC

JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER



DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA

WWW.DWCManatee.com

Born and raised in the great state of Connecticut. Fourth-generation and lifelong Democrat. Brett is married to Kathleen Palis Thomas and proud father of Alexnder, Zachary and Jennie. He spent 40 years in production of staging, exhibits and theatrical scenery in a wide variety of venues including Broadway, television and major events. Brett worked on the 2008 Obama campaign. He also served on the Pas-saic County Democratic Committee. Brett worked on national, state and local campaigns of and including those of Governor Phil Murphy of New Jersey, Corey Booker and Congressman (and next New Jersey Governor) Mikie Sherrill. He moved to Manatee County 2023 and worked as a Field Organizer for the Harris for President campaign. Brett is the chair of the Manatee County Democratic Executive Committee and will be speaking about our local Democratic Party and how we can be more involved.



Guest Speaker
Brett Thomas



DWC Luncheon Is June 12, 2025

11:30 AM

Peridia Golf & Country Club

4950 Peridia Blvd E, Bradenton, FL 34203

***Please make your reservations
and meal choice by***

June 8, 3:00 p.m.

**Reservation Information and
Meal Choices Are On The Next Page**

Cost is \$20

President's Letter

Americans voted for Trump because they believed in his promise to improve economic prosperity. Nothing has happened to date that would support that promise. Florida represents the greatest number of residents that are dependent on Medicaid, which now faces drastic cuts and revisions. And, now we have tariffs, which threatens to raise the cost of everyday items, such as cars, clothing, and even food. These rising prices are pinching the pocketbooks of working people who live from paycheck to paycheck. After Walmart announced that the cost of many of its products would increase due to tariffs, Trump said Walmart should just eat the costs. When questioned, a spokesperson of Walmart said he doesn't listen to Trump; he only listens to the shareholders. Good for him. Is the Democratic Party dead in Florida? No. We have a message, and we need to start at the local level, recruiting qualified candidates that can win elections. If Omaha, Nebraska, (a deep Republican state) can elect a Black Democrat as its mayor, then we can we win elections in Florida.

Joanie LeBaron



PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION AND MEAL CHOICE FOR THE JUNE 12 DWC MEETING

Email, call, or text Marilyn Baiz for reservations

durf1211@gmail.com

or

734-776-6023

Deadline to register is Sunday, June 8, 3:00 p.m.

Please select one of these meal selections:

1. Chicken Caesar Wrap. Grilled chicken breast rolled in a flour tortilla with romaine lettuce, parmesan cheese and caesar dressing. Served with chips
2. French Dip. Roast beef, on a hoagie roll topped with melted provolone cheese with fries.
3. Tomato Feta Pasta. Bowtie pasta in creamy sauce with shallots, basil, feta cheese, poached grape tomatoes with garlic bread

All meals come with rolls and butter, a non-alcoholic beverage of your choice, and dessert.

Florida Gov. DeSantis just signed a huge bill into law. Here's what you should know

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has already signed off on over a dozen bills this Legislative session, though a newly signed bill packs plenty of big changes on its own.

That bill (SB 700) is an omnibus farming bill that's primarily aimed at amending state laws involving agriculture, though its impacts also have repercussions for state residents at large.

Most of these new rules are set to take effect on July 1. Below are six of the most notable changes that Florida residents can expect to see.

Psychedelic Mushrooms. One key change under this law is a prohibition against transporting, selling or giving away spores that can produce mushrooms that contain a controlled substance. In layman's terms, this means that residents may not sell spores of psychedelic mushrooms like psilocybin or psilocyn.

Fluoride Ban. Another big change that this law brings is the introduction of a new term under state law: "Water quality additive."

In short, this term refers to chemicals added to public water systems that aim to meet basic drinking water standards, remove contaminants or improve water quality.

As a result, the new law effectively bans fluoride from being added to any public water systems in the state.

Charity Prohibitions. SB 700 prevents charitable organizations from accepting contributions from a "foreign country of concern." Under state

law, this includes places like China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela and Syria.

Consumer Pricing. A massive shift under SB 700 is the repeal of Florida's Consumer Unit Pricing Act.

This rule required sellers to display the prices of consumer commodities by specific units, such as per square foot, pound, or fluid ounce.

According to the act, the rule was implemented to improve transparency for consumers, though sellers will no longer be forced to abide by these directives.

Concealed Carry. This law allows the state to issue a concealed carry license if an applicant has already demonstrated competence with firearm training in the U.S. military. But the law also lets the state temporarily suspend such a license if the per-

son has been arrested on a charge that would otherwise disqualify him/her from having that license.

However, this suspension ends if the arrestee is found not guilty or the charge is dropped.

Farmer ESG Scores. The law also prohibits financial institutions like banks from discriminating against farmers and other agricultural producers based on ESG scores.

"ESG" (short for "Environmental, Social and Governance") is typically used by some investors to better understand a company's ethical and sustainable practices, though critics argue that these scores don't actually reflect a company's effectiveness in the market and may actually hinder business. The move comes after another law in 2023 (HB 3) that restricts the use of ESG factors in state and local government investments.

By: Anthony Talcott, *Orlando Channel Six*



June is Pride Month

Throughout June, Pride Month commemorates the Stonewall riots in Manhattan in 1969 and rallies support for the LGBTQ community. The entire month of June is a time for remembering those who paved the way for the LGBTQ community and who continue to do so. It's a time for education and breaking down barriers, too. Look back at the changes and see what more work still needs to be done.

Communities across the country hold parades, workshops, celebrations, and concerts. Marches for civil rights and awareness take place.

One in two Americans knows someone who is gay or lesbian. Through education and support, and sharing their stories, it is hoped they may be more able to live openly and safely.

LGBTQ community centers provide services to everyone from youth to seniors. They provide an environment of advocacy, empowerment, and support. Through their services, the LGBTQ community find cultural events, wellness programs, career services, and more. In times of crisis, community centers often provide the first line of contact. However, they serve as a network, connecting people in the LGBTQ community together.

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The Stonewall Riots were sparked by the police raid of the Stonewall Inn in New York City on June 28, 1969. The bar had a reputation for being friendly to the LGBTQ community, but in the 1960s in New York, certain behavior was considered inappropriate and even illegal.

Once the raid began, it soon led to a riot that raged for six days.

While the riots weren't an organizing force for a civil rights movement, it was a rallying point.

Source: *National Calendar Day*

To learn more, watch this short documentary footage of the first Pride march, "Gay and Proud," a documentary by activist Lilli Vincenz.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH GAY AND PROUD](#)

GOP law reportedly causing 'absolute horror show' in Georgia

The body of a legally dead woman is being forced to carry her baby to term, and *Washington Post* columnist Monica Hesse wants everyone to know "the body of Adriana Smith is being put through hell."

Adriana Smith was a 30-year-old Atlanta nurse who died after an unsuccessful surgery to remove blood clots in her brain. She had one young child, but Hesse believes "what happened next turned the situation from a tragedy into an absolute horror show."

According to local reports, her family was told she was not allowed to actually die because she was nine weeks pregnant at the time. The hospital believes removing Smith's life support would violate



Georgia's antiabortion laws. "Georgia's law does have an exception to save the life of the mother, but it apparently doesn't apply to Smith's scenario because her life cannot be saved. It is already over," said Hesse.

"This is torture for me," Smith's mom, April Newkirk told the local television station. "I see my daughter breathing by the ventilator but she's not there."

The baby is now 21 weeks along and has fluid in his brain.

Republican state Senator Ed Setzler, who sponsored the 2019 abortion law, told the *Associated Press*, "The hospital is acting appropriately." He later added, "I think there's a valuable human life that we have an opportunity to save, and I think it's the right thing to save it."

By: Krystina Alarcon Carroll, *Raw Story*

'Not surprising': New poll explains why some voters still approve of Trump

According to a recent *poll conducted by The New York Times* and Siena College, people who were less engaged with prominent news coverage during President Donald Trump's first 100 days were more inclined to view his performance favorably.

Roughly one in three voters reported being largely unaware of at least one major development from Trump's first 100 days. These incidents include the erroneous deportation of Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia to El Salvador, market volatility, or budget cuts initiated by tech billionaire Elon Musk and his Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), per the *Times*.

But despite these gaps in awareness, a majority of Americans say they are paying close attention to news from the Trump administration — a higher level of engagement than was seen during the initial phase of former President Joe Biden’s term.

Immigration was the issue on which Trump received his highest approval ratings, although a majority of Americans still viewed his approach negatively, according to the poll.



Support for Trump's immigration policies was notably stronger among voters who were unaware of the wrongful deportation of Abrego Garcia, a Maryland man who was deported to El Salvador due to what the administration said was an "administrative error." Trump officials appeared to ignore the Supreme Court ruling against their decision to deport the man.

Those unfamiliar with this case and similar immigration incidents were more likely to believe Trump's actions on immigration were appropriate or even too restrained, per the poll.

“Trump has traditionally done well with lower-information voters, so it is perhaps not surprising that they are more inclined to support his presidency. These voters are also notoriously difficult for pollsters to

reach, making it challenging to track their exact impact,” the *Times* report said.

Although the majority of Americans were aware of recent stock market swings, around 20 percent said they had heard little to nothing about them. This less-informed group was considerably more likely to express approval of how Trump was managing the economy, the poll showed.

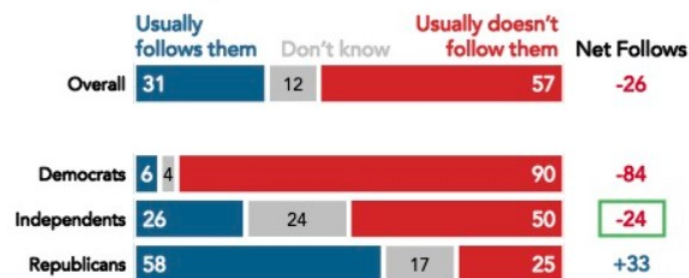
By: Ailia Zehra, *AlterNet*

Majorities Say Trump Does Not Follow Supreme Court Rulings, Court Rulings More Generally

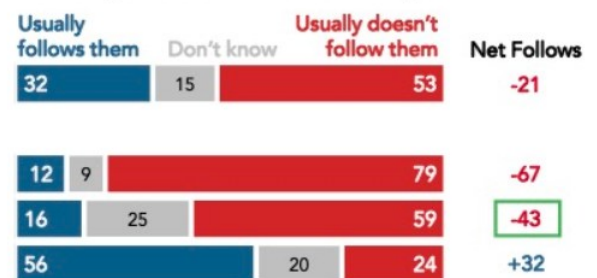
Majorities say both that Trump usually doesn't follow court rulings generally (57%) and specifically, Supreme Court rulings (53%).

- More independents say Trump doesn't follow Supreme Court rulings (net -43 follows) than court rulings more generally (net -24).

[Split Sample] When it comes to **court rulings**, which do you think best describes Trump?



[Split Sample] When it comes to **Supreme Court rulings**, which do you think best describes Trump?



MAGA Republicans are Republicans who identify as "a supporter of the MAGA movement" on a separate question, while *non-MAGA Republicans* are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure.
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted April 24-April 28, 2025.
For more info, visit [navigatortoresearch.org](https://www.navigatortoresearch.org).

navigator.

Donald Trump supporter 'disappointed' by 'Rump' typo on \$640 limited edition watch

A Rhode Island man is "disappointed" with a Donald Trump-themed gift he purchased for his wife.

Tim Petit told local NBC affiliate WJAR that he spent \$640 purchasing his wife, Melanie, a "limited edition" watch from GetTrumpWatches.com.

However, when the timepiece arrived, the word "Trump" on the watch's face was missing its important "T," leaving the pink watch emblazoned with the word "Rump."

"I'm very disappointed. I wanted to do a special thing for her," Petit told the station. "And we expected that it would have the integrity of the president of the United States and good follow-through."

The watch was the pink "Inauguration First Lady" model — which is now sold out, per the website, along with most of the women's watches.

Melanie said she cried as a result of the mishap. "How could they process this and go through something without checking their work?" she told the outlet.

GetTrumpWatches.com announces in a disclaimer on their site that the watches are not "designed, manufactured, distributed or sold by Donald J. Trump, The Trump Organization

or any of their respective affiliates or principals."

However, the president's likeness is used in video and radio ads, according to *The Independent*.

In fact, it was those ads that led Petit to purchase one for his wife. He told WJAR he liked the idea of a limited-edition gift, especially one endorsed by Trump.

"With the president's voice hawking the watches, I was curious, so I went on to the website," he recalled. "I just thought it was really nice. It was beautiful. And I knew it would be something that she'd like."

Ironically, in a video ad for the watches, Trump specifically touts the quality of the timepieces. "We're doing quite a number with watches," the president, 78, says in the ad, per *The Independent*. "And the quality, to me, is very important."

The couple took their story to WJAR after their initial complaint to GetTrumpWatches.com went unanswered. After the news outlet reached out, the company offered the Petits an \$800 coupon and an apology.

However, the only women's watch the website currently has in stock is the "First Lady Royal Amethyst," which costs \$899.

By: Meridth Kile, *People Magazine*



Boater Freedom Act

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the "Boater Freedom Act" into law during a news conference in Panama City Beach on Monday.

He said the new legislation will protect boaters from government overreach and preserve Florida's reputation as the "boating and fishing capital of the world."

The measure, also known as Senate Bill 1388, blocks local governments from banning gas-powered boats and bars law enforcement from stopping vessels for random safety checks without probable cause.

It also tasks the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission with launching a five-year vessel safety decal program tied to boat registration.

Supporters of the bill say it safeguards the rights of boaters who prefer gas-powered vessels and prevents restrictions pushed by local environmental groups. Statewide protections for wake zones, manatees, and seagrass beds remain unchanged.

Under the new law, FWC and county tax collectors will issue a "Florida Freedom Boater" decal when boaters register their vessels and confirm they meet safety requirements.

The decal will serve as a signal to officers that no stop is needed, allowing law-abiding boaters to enjoy the water without disruption.

DeSantis also signed House Bill 735, which provides funding to expand public access to waterways by improving boat ramps, marina facilities, and parking through FWC programs.

By: Ryan Mackay, *Channel 10 News*

Juneteenth National Independence Day

Juneteenth (June 19) is the one of the oldest known commemorations related to the abolition of slavery in the United States. **Juneteenth National Independence Day** was signed into law as a national holiday on June 17, 2021. The word "Juneteenth" is a Black English contraction, or portmanteau, of the month "June" and the date



"Nineteenth." Juneteenth celebrates the date of June 19, 1865, when enslaved people of African descent located in Galveston,

Texas, finally learned of their freedom from the slavery system in the United States.

Freedom was granted through the Emancipation Proclamation signed on January 1, 1863, by President Abraham Lincoln. Texas was the farthest of the Confederate states, and slaveholders there made no attempt to free the enslaved African Americans they held in bondage. This meant that President Lincoln's proclamation was unenforceable without military intervention, which eventually came nearly 2.5 years later.

From 1865 forward, the day has held special meaning for people of African descent in the United States. Juneteenth continues to



be celebrated in cities with Black populations through a series of parades, family reunions, speeches, and consuming of specific foods with a red color including barbeque, watermelon (an African fruit), and "red soda water" (primarily strawberry soda). The use of the color red in ceremonies is a practice that enslaved West Africans



brought to the United States. Contemporary food items that maintain this cultural connection include kola nut tea and hibiscus

tea, also known as bissap in the Caribbean or Jamaica (ha-MY-kah) in Latin America; large numbers of kidnapped and enslaved West Africans were sent to both areas. Strawberry soda is the contemporary replacement of these teas in US Juneteenth celebrations.

Source: *National Park Services*



*** One thing about my marriage is it's never involved paying hush money to a porn star after cheating on my spouse. So if they wanna debate family values? Let's debate family values. I'm ready.**

-Pete Buttigieg

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) has introduced a budget that cuts \$880 billion from MEDICAID, \$300 billion from SNAP, adds \$3.7 TRILLION to the national DEBT, all to help fund a \$4.5 TRILLION TAX BREAK for the RICH.



Mike calls himself a CHRISTIAN. But, he's literally taking FOOD and HEALTHCARE from those who can LEAST afford it, to GIVE more money to those who don't need it.

Maybe it's just me, Mikey, but sounds like you're SERVING THE OTHER MASTER!



We have a new DWC Environmental Chair!



We have a leadership change within our organization. After many years of dedicated service, our current Environmental Chair, Mary Bass has decided to step down. While we will greatly miss her monthly articles, we are excited to announce that Ruth Lawler will be stepping into the role. President of the Manatee Democratic Environmental Caucus, Ruth is passionate about saving our environment and leading the cause of safeguarding our ecosystem. Being an environmental leader is not easy. It requires knowledge, skills, values, and habits that go beyond recycling, using reusable bags, and turning off lights. It demands a deep understanding of the root causes of environmental issues, and these are the qualities that Ruth possesses. We welcome Ruth to her new position and we extend thanks to Mary Bass for her heartfelt dedication she has shown over the years.



Ruth Lawler's environmental tip of the month

Recycle responsibly! Over 35 million tons of plastics are generated in the USA every year, yet only 8.4% are recycled. Do your part with clean recycling. Not just plastics, also glass, metal, paper, cardboard. Every Publix market has recycling bins in front for plastic bags and Styrofoam. Bring your own reusable bags to the store as well.



The position of Recording Secretary is open beginning in 2026

Recording secretary's primary duty is to maintain accurate records of meetings, including taking and distributing minutes and is a board member. To volunteer or get more information contact Joanie LeBaron at (941)243-0169 or joanielebaron0108@gmail.com.

We are taking a look at what many countries are saying about the United States now that Trump is in power. "This is what many of us in other countries are feeling about the situation in the US right now. Yes, the Don won, but we know so many of you are as disgusted as we are, and concerned for your country. This song is to encourage you. We see you and know you are not him," said Shirley Serban. Shirley composed and performed "Hey, Sane America — from the rest of the world." With June being Pride Month the second video is entitled "With Love and Pride from France," produced by Paint. This short video shows support to the LGBTQ community in Trump's presidency.

**[CLICK HERE TO WATCH
HEY, SANE AMERICA](#)**

**[CLICK HERE TO
WATCH WITH LOVE
AND PRIDE](#)**



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

ELECTED OFFICERS

President

Joanie LeBaron joanielebaron0108@gmail.com

1st VP (Programs)

Brian Heavrin blh3011@gmail.com

2nd VP (Membership)

Nancy Hadley hadley1@me.com

Recording Secretary

Lori Rogge lrogge52@icloud.com

Treasurer

Wini Meier Oakes winimo3@gmail.com

Regional Representative

Patty Benson PattyBeeNutty@gmail.com

OTHER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Fund-Raising

Pat Benson
pattybeenutty@gmail.com

Hospitality/ Calling

Marilyn Baiz
durf1211@gmail.com

Candidate Search

Vicki Waters
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Parliamentarian

Joanie LeBaron
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Web Master

Jeanne Yeagle
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Newsletter and Directory

Brian Heavrin
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Environmental

Ruth Lawler
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Legislative Liaison

Joanie LeBaron
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Corresponding Secretary

Open

Bylaws Chair

Joanie LeBaron
joanielebaron0108@gmail.com

Website Links

[DWC of Manatee County Website](#)
[Manatee County Democratic Website](#)
[Democratic Women's Club of Florida](#)

Manatee County Democratic Women's Club
6403 Heritage Lane
Bradenton, FL 34209



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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.

Elected Officials

CONTACT OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT

Donald Trump (switchboard) (202) 456-1111
www.whitehouse.gov

U.S. SENATORS

Rick Scott (R)
help@rickscott.senate.gov (202) 224-5274

Ashley Moody (R) (202) 224-3041
www.moody.senate.gov

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

Vern Buchanan (R-Distr. 16) (202) 225-5015
www.Buchanan.house.gov (941) 747-9081

GOVERNOR

Ron DeSantis (R) (850) 717-9337
www.flgov.com/email-the-governor

OUR FLORIDA SENATORS

Jim Boyd (R-Distr. 21) (850) 487-5026
Boyd.Jim.web@flsenate.gov

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Mike Beltran (D-Distr. 70) (813) 653-7097
mike.beltran@myfloridahouse.gov

Will Robinson (R-Distr. 71)
Will.robinson@myfloridahouse.gov (941) 744-5097

Tommy Gregory (R-Distr. 73) (941) 893-5434
Tommy.gregory@myfloridahouse.gov