



**MARION COUNTY  
DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
*Democratic Party Newsletter*



**August 2020**

**August 3 General Meeting  
via Zoom Video Conference**

**Program: Voting By Mail by Mike Davis**

**DEC Officers**

**Chairwoman**

LaVonda McCandless

**Vice Chairman**

Mike Davis

**Secretary**

Bonnie Purdy

**Treasurer**

**State Committee**

Richard Perry

**State Committee**

Joyce Blake

**Appointed Members**

**Coordinated Campaign**

Mary Ann Lambert

**Diversity & Inclusion**

John Moxley

**Programs Coordinator**

Diana Williams

**Technology Coordinator**

John Hickey



**Important dates for Primary Election**

- August 8, last day to request VBM ballot for Primary
- August 8-15, Early Voting for Primary
- August 18 Primary Election Day. Vote by Mail ballot must be at Supervisor of elections by 7:00 PM.

**August 3, 2020 DEC General Meeting  
will be held via Zoom Video Conference**

All elected members of the DEC and Club Presidents will receive an email with a link to the meeting. If you know someone who would like to attend but are not a DEC member, please RSVP for the meeting at [lavonda@mariondems.org](mailto:lavonda@mariondems.org) and an email link will be sent. You can join the meeting on your cell phone, computer, or tablet.

Donate or contact us at:

[www.mariondems.org](http://www.mariondems.org)

or

352-402-9494



## **Voter Information for the Primary**

The listing of candidate on the Primary ballot will be different from the listing of candidates on the General Election ballot. You may not see any Democratic candidates listed for a particular race on the primary ballot, even though you know there is a Democrat who qualified to be on the ballot. A Democrat will appear on the Primary ballot only if two or more Democrats qualified in that race.

The Marion County Democratic Party does not support or recommend one Democratic candidate over another Democratic candidate in any race. Therefore we can only make the following recommendations for the Primary election.

Marion Co. Commissioner District 1  
Craig Curry, R

Marion County School Board District 1  
Lori Conrad, NPA

Circuit Court Judge, 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Pam Vergara

## **Early Voting sites in Marion County**

Early voting for the state Primary will be from Saturday, August 8 through Saturday, August 15 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM at the following locations:

Election Center  
981 NE 16th St

Freedom Public Library  
5870 SW 95th St

Belleview Public Library  
13145 SE HWY 484

Reddick Community Center  
4345 NW 152nd St

Deputy Brian Litz Building  
9048 SW HWY 200

Silver Springs Shores Community Center  
590 Silver Road

Dunnellon Public Library  
20351 Robinson Road

The Villages Mulberry Center  
8445 SE 165th Mulberry Lane

Forest Public Library  
905 S HWY 314A

You can drop off your VBM ballot at an early voting poll location. You can also vote in person by turning in your unused VBM ballot at the polling location.



## How Does Vote By Mail work?

### **How Do I Get a Vote By Mail (VBM) Ballot?**

It is very easy to sign up for VBM. Just call the Marion County Supervisor of Elections (SOE) at 352-620-3290, go online at [www.votemarion.gov](http://www.votemarion.gov) or sign up in person at the SOE office at 981 NE 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Ocala. You may request a VBM ballot up to 10 days before Election Day.

### **When Will I Receive my VBM Ballot?**

Vote by Mail ballots are mailed approximately five weeks before Election Day, or within a few days of signing up for VBM.

### **How Do I Vote On a VBM Ballot?**

Review the candidates and issues to know how you would like to vote. You may request a sample ballot from the SOE prior to voting.

Use a black or blue pen to clearly and fully color in the oval next to the candidate or issue for which you wish to vote.

Do not make any unnecessary marks on your ballot. If you make a mistake, you can request a replacement ballot from the SOE. Don't worry, only one ballot with your voter ID number will be counted.

After voting, place the ballot in the "security sleeve" that was included with your ballot, and place the ballot and the security sleeve in the return envelope.

**On the back of the return envelope, sign your name as it appears on the ballot and add the date.**

### **How Do I Return my VBM Ballot?**

After signing and dating the back of the return envelope, you may return your ballot several ways:

- Stamp it and mail it at the Post Office, allow enough time for delivery before the deadline,
- Drop it off at an Early Voting polling locations, or
- Drop it off at the SOE office at 981 NE 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Ocala before 7:00 PM on election day.

### **How Do I Know my Vote was Counted**

You can find out where to vote, check your voter registration status, request a sample ballot, or check the status of your VBM ballot at

[www.votemarion.gov](http://www.votemarion.gov)

Click Ways To Vote; Track your mail ballot; and enter your name and date of birth and the information will be displayed.

## 5 Reasons to Vote By Mail

This November's election is so very important and every single vote counts! Here are 5 reasons to Vote By Mail.

First, voters who receive VBM ballots are more likely to actually vote. Voters have more time to study the candidates and the issue and make their decisions.

Second, it also removes deterrents to voting like long lines at the polls, taking time off work to vote, or arranging for childcare in order to go to the poll.

Third, voters who VBM are more likely to vote for down ballot candidates. The increase number of votes for down ballot candidates can be the winning margins in close elections.

Forth, voting from the comfort and safety of your own home reduces voter suppression tactics at polling locations.

Fifth, when voters who seldom vote register to VBM, they frequently become recurring voters.



## What Can I Do To Support Democratic Candidates?

Maybe you cannot volunteer to work with the Coordinated Campaign on a regular basis, but you still want to show your support for the Democratic Party and Democratic candidates. Here are some simple things that you can do to show your support.

Register to Vote By Mail and ask all of your Democratic family members and friends to:

- register to Vote,
- to sign up for Vote by Mail, and
- vote in the Primary and encourage others to also vote in the Primary.

Be A Proud Marion County Democrat by wearing a campaign pin, T-shirt, or mask to the grocery store, retail store, restaurant food pick up, gas station, post office, or coffee shop. You may be surprised at the smiles you receive. If your community allows, put up BIDEN window or yard sign, or put a BIDEN bumper stickers on your car. By showing that we are Proud Marion County Democrat, we will encourage and invigorate other like- minded voters.

BIDEN pins, bumper stickers, yard signs, and flags are available at the DEC office, 970 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave open on Wednesdays from 12-6, and Thursdays from 12-4.

## **Felony Conviction? Yes, You can Vote – If**

- The conviction was not for murder or a sexual offense
- You have completed your prison sentence, probation, and/or parole
- You do not owe money, such as fees or fines, as a result of your conviction\*

If you lost your right to vote after a felony conviction, you must register again in order to vote.

### **In November we vote for President**

**Don't miss your chance to vote.  
Voter Registration deadline is  
October 5, 2020**

Here's how you can register to vote:

- By mail, print registration form at [www.votemarion.gov](http://www.votemarion.gov) and return it to the Supervisor of Election office,
- Online at <https://registertovoteflorida.gov>
- At any tax collector's office or public library,
- At the Supervisor of Election office at 981 NE 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Ocala

\* The recent Supreme court ruling said that prior felons can register to vote only if all fees and fines have been paid. It is unknown if any further rulings will be made prior to the November election.

## **We Need 60 Pool Watchers for the General Election**

Did you know that the Republican Party is publicizing that they have recruited and trained over 50,000 poll watchers nationwide for the General election? Those poll watchers will be deployed strategically to challenge voter's rights to vote when they go to their polling location.

The Florida Voter Protection Program has asked Marion County to recruit at least 60 volunteer Poll Watchers to be assigned to polling locations during early voting and on election day. Poll watchers must receive training and be approved by the Marion County Supervisor of Election prior to assignment. If you are interested in volunteering to be a Poll Watcher, please contact our Volunteer Intake person, Linda Hill at [queringhill@gmail.com](mailto:queringhill@gmail.com) or Voter Protection Team lead Stan Saint Louis at [stansaintlouis@gmail.com](mailto:stansaintlouis@gmail.com).

## **Veterans Caucus meetings**

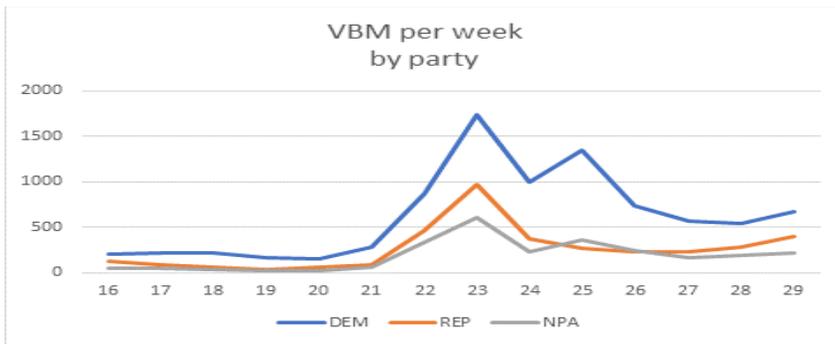
The Marion County Democratic Veterans Caucus meets online Thursday, Aug. 20, 7-9 p.m. Topic: "**Amendment 4: An Update On Florida Voting Rights Restoration**". For more information, call Mary Savage 352-870-2267 or email Bill Sullivan at [Bill\\_as@mail.com](mailto:Bill_as@mail.com)





# 2020 Marion County Coordinated Campaign

From April 12 to July 24, our dedicated volunteers have made 30,124 calls and spoken to 3,407 voters in Marion County. We are so grateful to have a wonderful volunteer team. Here are the number of calls made by some of our Volunteer: Carmel Kessler 5,698; Daphne Gideon 2573; Joyce Carta 2356; Kathy Heid 2326; Jacqueline Gary 2253; Bill Freeman 1964; Erwin Fluss 1235; Don Mossa 1224; Deborah Erlick 1214; and Kathy Davis 909. The graph below shows the increase in Democrats who have signed up to VBM.



On July 22, Phase 1 of our campaign ended and we began Phase 2. Phase 2 is targeted at Democrats in CD-3, HD-20, HD-23 who tend not to vote regularly. We are targeting those 3 districts because those are the only districts that have a competitive Democratic races. Phase 2 will focus on virtual phone calls and texting and will continue until August 17th. We will be calling and texting VBM voters from August 13th to August 18th to make sure ballots have been returned.

Our Digital Communications efforts include building our new website [www.mariondems.org](http://www.mariondems.org) by posting activities involving Marion County Democrats. Please send photos of yourselves and your friends with Biden yard signs, bumper stickers, wearing pins, t-shirts and masks to [vickimattingly@verizon.net](mailto:vickimattingly@verizon.net) We are growing Twitter so please follow us @MarionDemsFL. You can also follow us on FaceBook at Maron County Democratic Party.

We need more volunteers, if you can volunteer please contact Linda Hill at [queringhill@gmail.com](mailto:queringhill@gmail.com)





# August 2020

<b>August 1</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Virtual Volunteer Town Hall <a href="https://www.mobilize.us/ourflorida2020/event/289699/">https://www.mobilize.us/ourflorida2020/event/289699/</a>	10:00 AM	Register at Mobilize
<b>August 3</b>	Marion County DEC meeting	7:00 PM	Via Zoom, link to all DEC members, others RSVP <a href="mailto:lavonda@mariondems.org">lavonda@mariondems.org</a> get the meeting link
<b>August 8-15</b>	Early voting for the Primary	10:00 AM-6:00 PM	
<b>August 18</b>	Primary Election Day	7:00 AM-7:00 PM	



## Florida Voter Protection Program

Every vote counts and we want to count every vote. Every effort should be made to vote on a “regular” ballot and avoid voting on a provisional ballot. Best way to do this is to present the correct voter identification when voting at the polls. Voters are required to show current and valid photo ID and signature, usually on a driver’s license or state or federal issued ID card. Two forms of ID may be used if one has a photo and one has a signature. If you see or encounter issues when voting, please call the Florida Voter Protection hotline at 1-833-Vote Fla (1-833-968-3352).