



**MARION COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**



Democratic Party Newsletter

November 2020

**Monday, November 2, 2020 General Meeting
via Zoom Video Conference
Program: Election Day**

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

VOTE



Monday, November 2, 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 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

or

352-402-9494

FL Senate District 5

Melina Farley Barratt was the Democratic candidate for FL Senate District 5. We were notified on October 15 that Ms. Barratt had died. Members of the five county DEC's within SD 5 conferenced on October 19 and voted for Stacey Peters, Levy County State Committeewoman, to run in the vacant SD 5 position. All votes cast for Ms. Barratt will be awarded to Ms. Peters.

Statement from FDP Chair Terri Rizzo on the death of Melina Farley Barratt

"We at the Florida Democratic Party send our deepest condolences to the friends and family of Melina Rayna Svanhild Farley-Barratt. She was a trailblazer and a constant advocate for equality. As the legislative director for the National Organization for Women (NOW) Florida and president of Gainesville Area NOW, she always worked to improve the lives of others and ensure equality for women and transgender people. We feel very fortunate that Melina chose to be a part of the Sunshine Slate this election cycle, and are greatly saddened by this loss."

Notice of Marion County Democratic Party Organizational Meeting December 7, 2020

Florida Democratic Party Bylaws and Marion County Democratic Party Bylaws require an Organizational meeting in December following the November general election. The purpose of this Organizational meeting will be to elect Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer) and State Committeeman and State Committeewoman.

Only Precinct Committeepersons who submitted to the Supervisor of Elections a notarized Candidate Oath prior to June 12, 2020 will be eligible to run for an Officer or State Committeeperson position. Only Precinct Committeepersons who submitted the above Candidate Oath and Certified Club/Caucus Presidents can vote for a candidate during the Organizational meeting. The agenda for the Organizational meeting is set by the Bylaws and no other business may be conducted during the Organizational meeting.

If you would like to run for an open Officer or State Committeeperson position, please contact Joyce Blake, blakejag90@embarqmail.com

From the DEC Nominating Committee

The Chair of the DEC has appointed the 2020 Nominating Committee to consist of Joyce Blake, Chair, Gene Blomquist, Jacqueline Gary and Kathleen Davis. It is the intention of the Nominating Committee to build a leadership team for the DEC that is supportive of the goals of the DEC, is self-motivated, and has good working relations with others. To familiarize yourself with the details of the DEC, I encourage you to read the DEC Bylaws which may be found on our website,

www.mariondems.org, click About Us, and then click Bylaws. We look forward to a diplomatic election and transfer of officers. All questions and recommendation regarding nominations and elections should be directed to Joyce Blake at blakejag90@embarqmail.com. Below is some basic background information on who and how the nominations will move forward.

The Nominating Committee has been established under the Marion County DEC Bylaws Article I. B. 10. The term "Special Committee" shall mean a committee assigned to complete a specific task and is dissolved upon completion of the task or a date otherwise specified. It is not a permanent committee.

Article II, A, 4. The DEC shall make party nomination when required by law. See Fla. Stat. § 103.121(a)5.

Article III A.1. The DEC shall consist of four types of members, a. Elected, Appointed, Automatic, and Emeritus.

Article III B.1. Elected members of the DEC shall consist of a man and a woman from each precinct in Marion County, Florida, who are registered Democrats and who reside in, are registered to vote in, and are elected from the precinct they are to represent. They shall be elected by a plurality vote on the First Primary Ballot of each Presidential election year.

Article III B.4. Elected Members shall qualify and be elected to office at such time and in such manner as provided by the Florida Statutes. See Fla. Stat. § 103.091(4); and, FDP Bylaws art. V § 1.1.5.

Article III B.5. Elected members shall take office on the first day of the month following each presidential election and shall serve for a term of 4 years as provided by FDP Bylaws art. V § 1.1.6. See Fa. Stat. § 103.091(4). What this means is only those people that presented their documents to our DEC or Supervisor of Election for the primary election of 2020 are members of the DEC as of November 4, 2020 and will serve a four year term. Additional members may be elected after the December Organizational meeting (election of officers).

Article III D.2. Automatic Members are defined as those registered Democrats who reside in Marion County, Florida and: a. Hold office as president of a duly chartered Democratic club in Marion County, Florida or b. Hold office a president of a duly charted Democratic Caucus chapter.

Article III D.4. Automatic members shall enjoy complete voting privileges. See FDP Bylaws art. V § 1.2.1.

Article III D. 5. Automatic Members shall not serve as Elected Officers of the DEC. See FDP Bylaws art. V § 1.3.1.

Elected officers as prescribed by the FDP are: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer (serving two year terms), State Committeeman and State Committeewoman (serving four year terms)

Article VI.B. 1. No vote shall be taken by secret ballot. See FDP Charter art. I § .4.1.1 For questions regarding proxy voting please read DEC Bylaws Article VI.B. 1.3a –d i.-vi and c.

All nomination to the Nominating Committee will be vetted to ensure all qualification are met and we will recommend a slate of candidates for December elections. Also, if someone has not been recommended by the Nominating Committee they may seek nomination from the floor on the night of election. REMEMBER ONLY DEC members are eligible to be nominated!!!



Make a Plan to Vote

Did you make a Plan to Vote?

Do the members of your family have a Plan to Vote?

Do your friends and neighbors have a Plan to Vote?

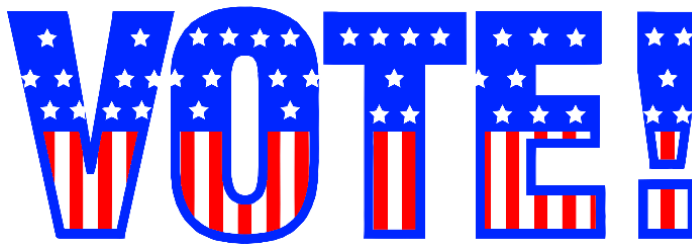
Time is running out, Election Day is Tuesday, November 3.

Vote by Mail from the safety of your own home. Vote for one candidate in each of the election races listed, **place your completed ballot in the return envelope, and sign and date the return envelope.** Your signed and dated Vote by Mail ballot can be returned to the Supervisor of Elections in any of the following ways:

- Take it to the drop box at the Supervisor of Elections, 981 NE 16th Street.
- Take it to the drop box at one of there nine Early Voting locations through Saturday, October 31, polls are open between 8:00 AM-6:00 PM.
- From November 1-3, all VBM ballots must be taken to the Supervisor of Elections, 981 NE 16th Street.
- On Election Day, you cannot turn in your VBM ballot at your regular precinct polling location, unless you are going to vote in person.
- Election Day, all VBM ballots must arrive at the Supervisor of Elections by 7:00 PM in order to be counted.
- **It is now too late to mail your ballot, please take it to a ballot dropbox.**

Early Voting will be available at nine Early Voting poll locations through Saturday, October 31. Early voting polls are open from 8:00 AM-6:00 PM.

Election Day voting on November 3 in your assigned precinct will be from 7:00 AM-7:00 PM.



Democratic Candidates on Nov. Ballot

Everyone knows Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are on the November ballot but there are also important “down ballot” races that we also need to win. Please be sure to vote for candidates in all of the races listed on your ballot. Here are the Democratic candidates who may be on your ballot depending on the district where you live.

President/Vice President

Joe Biden/Kamala Harris

Congressional District 3

Adam Christensen

Congressional District 11

Dana Cottrell

Florida Senate District 5

Stacey Peters

Florida House District 22

Barbara Byram

Florida House District 23

Cynthia Dela Rosa

Florida House District 33

Dee Melvin

Amendments on the Nov. Ballot

There will be six Amendments to the Florida State Constitution on the November ballot. Amendments with voting recommendations are listed below.

Amendment 1 (No) would change the language from the current “every” citizen of the US... can register to vote, to “only” a citizen of the US...can register to vote.

Amendment 2 (Yes) would increase the minimum wage to \$15/hour by 2026.

Amendment 3 (No) would establish a top two open primary system for state offices.

Amendment 4 (No) would require 60% of voters to approve state constitutional amendments in two successive elections.

Amendment 5 (Yes) would increase the time period from 2 years to 3 years to transfer Save Our Home benefits to a new homestead.

Amendment 6 (Yes) would allow a homestead property tax discount to transfer to the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran.

Judicial and Municipal Candidates On November Ballot

Carlos G. Muniz, Supreme Court, appointed by Gov. DeSantis, on Trumps list for Supreme court vacancy, no Bar rating for retention. NO

Kerry I. Evander, 5th District Court of Appeals, appointed in 2006 by Gov. Jeb Bush, Bar rating for retention 90%. YES

John M. Harris, 5th District Court of Appeals, appointed b y Gov. Rick Scott, no Bar rating for retention. YES

Richard Orfinger, 5th District Court of Appeals, appointed in 2000 by Gov. Jeb Bush, Bar rating for retention 91%. YES

Meredith Sasso, 5th District Court of Appeals, appointed in 2009 by Gov. Scott, no Bar rating for retention. NO

F. Rand Wallis, 5th District Court of Appeals, appointed in 2013 by Gov. Scott, Bar rating for retention 86%. YES

Jan Cabbage, Dunnellon City Council Seat 5 YES

Suzanne Sindlecker, McIntosh Town Council YES



Early Voting sites in Marion County

Early voting for the General election will be from Monday, October 19 through Saturday, October 31 from 8:00 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 Comm. 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.

REBUILD WITH BIDEN



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2020 Marion County Coordinated Campaign

Last minute get out the vote efforts continue with volunteers calling registered Democrats who have not yet voted in person or by returning their VBM ballot. Coordinated Campaign staff and volunteers are working on VBM ballots that could not be delivered or counted. Biden Campaign staff are contacting voters who need to “cure” their ballot. If those voters cannot be contacted, Marion County volunteer teams will go to the voter’s home to assist in “curing” the problematic ballot.

Volunteer Poll Watchers and Greeters have been assigned shifts at the nine Early Voting locations throughout Marion County. For Election Day, we have trained and certified 150 Poll Watcher volunteers. Election Day Poll Watchers have been assigned shifts at 19 high priority precincts around Marion County. Volunteer Greeters will be outside at those 19 precinct polling locations to provide information to voters and report any unusual issues.

Joyce Blake is the DEC representative to monitor all Canvassing Board activities as the Supervisor of Elections office processes and verifies VBM ballots.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Kathy Davis at kathyqdavis@earthlink.net



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November 2020

Nov. 2	Marion County DEC meeting	7:00 PM	Via Zoom, link to all DEC members, others RSVP lavonda@mariondems.org get the meeting link
Nov. 3	Election Day	7 AM-7 PM	Precinct polling location
Nov. 19	Veteran's Caucus meeting	7:00 PM	Video meeting, email Bill Sullivan, Bill_as@mail.com
Dec. 7	Organizational Meeting	7:00 PM	Via Zoom, link to all DEC members, others RSVP lavonda@mariondems.org get the meeting link



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).