# MARION COUNTY
# DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Democratic Party Newsletter*

**October 2020**
**Monday, October 5, 2020 General Meeting**
**via Zoom Video Conference**
**Program: Amendments on November ballot**

**DEC Officers**

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**Vice Chairman**
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**State Committee**
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**State Committee**
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**Coordinated Campaign**
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**Programs Coordinator**
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**Technology Coordinator**
John Hickey

Donate or contact us at:
www.mariondems.org
or
352-402-9494

**Monday, October 5, 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.

**Vote by Mail ballots mailed September 24**

Vote by Mail ballot have been mailed. If your ballot has not arrived, or if you would like to sign up to Vote by Mail, call the Supervisor of Elections at 352-620-3290. It is important to fill out your ballot, **sign the envelope, date it, and return it to the Supervisor of Elections as soon as possible.**

# *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?

Making a Plan toVote starts with registering to vote. October 5 is the last day to Register to Vote for the general election. Here's how to register to vote:

- Online at www.registertovoteflorida.gov
- At the Supervisor of Elections office, 981 NE 16th St , Ocala,
- At any Public Library or Marion County Tax Collector's office, or
- At the Marion County Democratic Office, 970 SW 6th Ave

Once registered to vote, plan how and when you will vote. In Marion County you have the following voting options for the general election.

**Vote by Mail** from the safety of your own home. To sign up to Vote by Mail, call the Supervisor of Elections at 352-620-3290. When your Vote by Mail ballot arrives, it is vital that you vote and return it to the Supervisor of Elections a**s soon as possible**. 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:

- Mail it as soon as possible after voting, best if mailed before October 1,
- Take it to the drop box at the Supervisor of Elections, 981 NE 16th Street,
- Take it to the drop box at one of 9 Early Voting locations from October 19-31,

All Vote by Mail ballots must arrive at the Supervisor of Elections by 7:00 PM, on November 3 in order to be counted.

**Early Voting** will be available at nine Early Voting poll locations from October 19-31. 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.

# 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 or sign up in person at the SOE office at 981 NE 16th Street, in Ocala You may request a VBM ballot up to 10 days prior to 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 all the candidates and amendments 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 amendment 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 back to the SOE, best if it is mailed before October 1,
- Drop it off at one of nine Early Voting polling locations between Oct. 19-31, or
- Drop it off at the SOE office at 981 NE 16th 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 click Ways To Vote; Track Your Mail Ballot; and enter your name and date of birth and the information will be displayed.

# VOTE!

## 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**
Melina Farley-Barrett

**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 Cubbage,** Dunnellon City Council Seat 5 YES

**Suzanne Sindledecker,** 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.

# Marion County Democratic Party Poster Billboards

Have you seen all 9 of our poster billboards? Here is a little help.

| | |
|---|---|
| **RESTORE LEADERSHIP**<br>Vote for Biden 2020 | On 20th St. and 27th Ave, across from ABC Wine & Spirits |
| **RESTORE INTEGRITY**<br>Vote for Biden | On US 27, north side, 1/3 mile W of US 441 above Auto Mart |
| **Your HEALTHCARE MATTERS**<br>Vote for Democrats | On US 27, north side, 125 ft. west of US 441 |
| **SAVE DEMOCRACY**<br>Vote for Biden 2020 | ON SR 200 at MKL, south side |
| **LEADERSHIP TO UNIT U.S.**<br>Vote for Biden 2020 | ON SR 40, north side, just E of SW 80 Ave |
| **EQUAL RIGHTS, EQUAL JUSTICE**<br>Vote for Democrats | On 27 Ave, west side, just S. of SR 40 above & behind Mattress Warehouse |
| **ESTABLISH A LIVING WAGE**<br>Vote for Democrats | On US 441/301, west side, south of CR 326 |
| **SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION**<br>Vote for Democrats | On CR 464 Maricamp Rd, north side, 1200' west of Pine Rd. in Silver Springs Shores |
| **PROTECT MEDICARE & SS**<br>Vote for Democrats | On SR 200, south side, east of 90 St, across from Lowe's |

## Three more Billboards

Katy and Alan Brown privately funded three additional billboards making a total of 12 posters or billboards in Marion County.
Katy Brown is a former Republican and a very concerned citizen. Her digital billboard shown above can be found on SR 200, facing west, across from the Heathbrook Publix. The digital board reads Biden Harris. Moral, Ethical, Truthful.
Alan Brown, long time Florida Democrat, purchased two billboards. One is similar to the Marion County poster to Protect Medicare and Social Security, Vote for Democrats and is located on SR 40 and SE 12 Ave, by the Citgo station. The other billboard also states Protect Medicare and Social Security Vote Biden Harris and is located on SR 200 across from the Deputy Brian Litz Sheriff Station.

## Meet the Local Candidates Town Hall
## October 3, 2020, 10:00

Marion County Coordinated Campaign will host a Meet the Local Candidates Virtual Town Hall. Florida Minority Leader Senator Audrey Gibson will be the guest speaker.

We invite you all to attend to learn about the candidates. please sign up with the link below.
https://www.mobilize.us/ourflorida2020/event/326062/

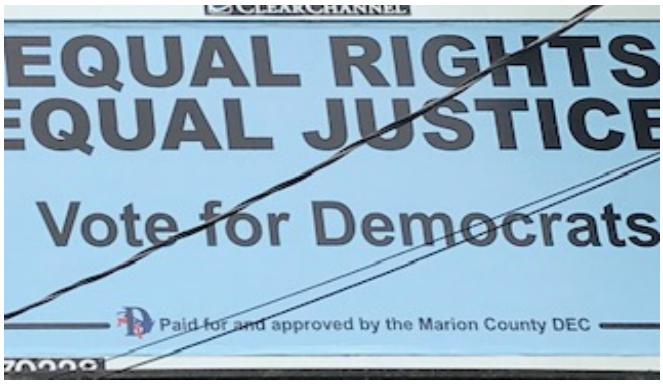
Candidates who will participate include
Adam Christensen, US Congressional District 3,
Dana Cottrell, US Congressional District 11,
Barbara Byram, FL House District 22
Cynthia dela Rosa, FL House District 23, and
Dee Melvin, FL House District 33.
Yvonne Hinson, Representative-Elect FL House District 20 will also attend the Town Hall.

**Volunteers Needed:**
**Poll Watchers for Early Voting**
**And outside Greeters for**
**Early Voting and Election Day**

Poll Watchers are inside the polling location and observe the voting process. Greeters are 150 feet outside the polling location doors and assist voters with voting information.

We are still in need of Poll Watchers for Early Voting locations from October 19-October 31. Volunteer Poll Watchers will be assigned 4 hour shifts and volunteers can be assigned to multiple shifts on multiple days. Poll Watchers will receive training on voter eligibility and identification required to vote a regular ballot, not a provisional ballot. Poll Watchers are not decision makers, they are our eyes and ears and if a Poll Watcher see something, they notify the Biden Campaign legal team. Poll Watchers must receive training and be certified by the Marion County Supervisor of Election prior to working at a polling location.

We also need outside Greeters during Early Voting and on Election Day. Greeters will be distributing voting information and answering questions. If you are interested in volunteering to be a Poll Watcher or a Greeter, please contact our Volunteer Intake person, Kathy Davis at kathyqdavis@earthlink.net




**Funny Thing Happened**
**When I Took This Picture**

My cell phone is not a professional camera and I am not a photographer, but I have tried to take pictures of our posters. The one above in on SW 27th Ave. near SR 40, above the Mattress Warehouse. I parked my care with 3 Biden stickers next to the warehouse and started taking pictures. A man came out, leaned over the railing and asked me if I "could believe people would put us such trash?" With a big proud smile I said "Yes, I paid for it and I put it up". My use of the word "I" referred to the generous, patriotic Democrats of Marion County who made our presence visible for all to see. Here is one more bad pictures of our wonderful posters.

# 2020 Marion County Coordinated Campaign

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Coordinated Campaign has been conducted differently form other years. That does not mean that we have been lacking in volunteers or activities to register voters, sign voters up to Vote by Mail , or contact voters to make sure every eligible voter casts a ballot.

Our Vote by Mail campaign has been very successful with Marion County Democratic VBM outnumbering Republicans by over 3,000 voters. As of September 21, there were 34,439 Democratic VBM requests compared to 31,131 Republican VBM requests. Those numbers are meaningless if the VBM ballots are not returned with a signature and date on the return envelope and arrive at the Supervisor of Elections office by 7:00 PM on Nov. 3.

A minority of voters during the August Primary submitted an ineligible VBM ballot. Reasons that the ballots were ineligible to be counted include missing signature, mismatch signature (did the wife sign the husband's ballot?), arrived after 7:00 PM on election day, or appropriate ID was not provided when asked to "cure" the ineligible ballot. We have obtained a list of those voters and the reason their ballot was found to be ineligible. We will be sending each voter with an ineligible Primary VBM ballot specific instructions for correctly submitting their VBM ballot for the General election.

We are also working with the Biden Voter Protection team to recruit, train, and credential Poll Watchers for Early Voting and on Election Day. So far, we have 97 Poll Watcher volunteers. We also will have at least one DEC member who will be present to observe all ballot counting and Canvassing Board activities.

Vote by Mail ballots have been mailed and Early Voting begins on Monday, October 19. Our final coordinated campaign effort will be to get out the vote. Volunteers will be calling and texting voters and urging them to return their VBM ballot or vote in person. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Kathy Davis at kathyqdavis@earthlink.net

## 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!!!

**Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

Our country has lost a tireless defender of justice with the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Justice Ginsburg was an exceptional jurist and an unsurpassed role model of grace, dignity, fairness, and wisdom. Justice Ginsberg gained respect not only for her Majority opinions but also for her Dissenting opinions. By striving to understand the opposing views in order to write an opinion respectful of the other position, she demonstrated that one can disagree without being disagreeable. Our country would be so much more united if we could all follow her example.

Her personal experience with employment gender bias made her a fierce champion of equal rights for all Americans. As a young lawyer, she was denied a position as a Supreme Court Law Clerk because she was a woman. How fitting that she became one of the most esteemed Justices on the Supreme Court.

Justice Ginsberg died at the beginning of the Jewish high holiday of Rosh Hashanah. There is a Jewish teaching that if someone dies at the dawn of Rosh Hashanah that God waited till the last minute to bring them home because they were needed the most. How true of Justice Ginsberg, she was truly needed on the United States Supreme Court to be an advocate for women, equality, and justice.

## *"This Is My Now"*

A song by E. E. Darling

Now, this is my now, my time to be and do;
Time to make my dreams come true.
Now, this is my now, the only chance I get.
I want to live with no regret.

Now, this is my now.
This is my now!

This is my time to make a difference;
To make the world a better place.
I'll work for peace; I'll fight for justice;
I'll spread the word of my God's grace.

I'll sing the songs of love and hope;
I'll foster freedom and liberty;
I'll share my gifts through acts of kindness;
I'll show the world how great we can be!

This is my now, the clock is ticking;
This is my now, my time to shine.
What happens now will shape the future;
What happens now is mine to define.

This is my now!
This is my now!

© 2008

The Great Kindness Challenge

## Hispanic Voter Outreach

Mary Ann Lambert, Guille Mejia, Jeanette Ortega, as well as members of the Latino Club are organizing a Hispanic Voter Outreach as part of the Marion County Coordinated Campaign. The Outreach Team is available for voter registration and voter education events for the Hispanic community. If you would be interested in helping with the Hispanic Voter Outreach, please contact Guille at gem624@gmail.com

## Biden Field of Dreams

On Sunday, October 4 at 10:00 AM a coalition of North Marion and Alachua Democrats will create a Democratic Field of Dreams at the corner of Hwy 441 and 234 in Micanopy. American flags and candidate signs will also be planted. Adam Christensen, Candidate for CD 3 has been invited to the event.
At 1:00 PM there will be a ribbon cutting to inaugurate the first ever Democratic Field of Dreams Sign Park in North Marion and South Alachua Counties. We will also plant signs on another Democrat's property a bit farther south on Hwy 441 on the opposite side of the highway. The events will be live streamed to the Marion County Democratic Party and the Marion County Patriot FaceBook pages. Micanopy Precinct Captains Cindy Pelz and Jonathan Ward are very excited to see this project galvanize the otherwise quiet North Marion Democrats.

Ed Explores the Issues: *Hope*

Hope is not really audacious. It is an essential underpinning of our nation and its enduring spirit. It is what unites our dreams and what sustains us in our never-ending struggle to craft a more perfect union.

As we give this final push to get out the vote and restore the heart and soul of our nation in this most consequential election, we set our sights on what the advancement of our hope-filled agenda will mean for all of our citizens, future generations and our planet.

We look forward to sharing the blessings of collective liberty. In our pursuits of self-worth and happiness, we visualize a playing field that has been leveled and the disadvantages caused by injustices of our past resolved. We look for the arrogance of privilege and greed to be replaced by compassion and unity of purpose for the general welfare and the common good. We envision justice that is just and accountability that is impartial.

We look forward to leadership that is virtuous and uplifting, and to policies that promote universal health and well-being. We envision education and opportunities that empower achievement to wherever talent, energy and imagination can carry us.

We are hopeful for domestic tranquility. In our world we envision just peace, restoration of our value-driven leadership-by-example, and renewal of our enriching contributions to the community of nations. And critically, we see full engagement in astute and equitable stewardship of our planet such that its ability to nurture healthy and productive habitation might be sustained for generations to come.

We look forward to peace of mind for all our citizens, from our elders to our infants, that comes when they can truly live each day in a spirit of hopefulness for their own futures.

# October 2020

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| **Oct. 3** | Meet the Candidates Town Hall | 10:00 AM | Mobilize link https://www.mobilize.us/ourflorida2020/event/326062/ |
| **Oct. 5** | Marion County DEC meeting | 7:00 PM | Via Zoom, link to all DEC members, others RSVP lavonda@mariondems.org get the meeting link |
| **Oct. 5** | Last day to register to vote | | www.registovoteflorida.gov At any Public Library or tax collector office, or Supervisor of Elections, 981 NE 16 St |
| **Oct. 15** | Veteran's Caucus meeting | 7:00 PM | Video meeting, email Bill Sullivan, Bill_as@mail.com |
| **Oct. 24** | Last day to request Vote by Mail ballot | | Request by calling SOE at 352-620-3290 |
| **Oct. 19-31** | Early voting at nine Locations | 10:00-6:00 | See page 5 for Early Voting locations |

**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).