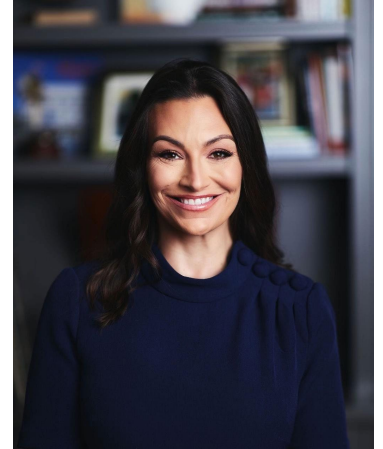




Dear Democrats,

As the 2023 Legislative Session kicked off last week, we were joined in Tallahassee by legislators and grassroots leaders for our annual Legislative Appreciation event. It was an honor to address our members as Chair, joined by our First Vice Chair Judy Mount to acknowledge the hard work ahead for our Democratic legislators. I want to extend a special thank you to everyone who attended and showed their support to our members.

As we embark on this 60-day session, I want to express my gratitude to the members of the House Democratic Caucus led by Leader Driskell, and the Senate Democratic Caucus led by Leader Book. Despite the challenges we face from across the aisle, I am confident that our shared commitment to progress and fairness will guide our Democratic legislators as they fight for the issues that matter most to Floridians.



In addition to the legislative session, we also celebrated recent municipal victories throughout the state. Tuesday was a great night for Democrats in Tampa, as we re-elected our Mayor and are guaranteed to have an all-Democratic city council once again. And in Putnam county, elected Kim Dugger to Welaka City Council. I want to thank all of our incredible candidates, DECs, Clubs, and Caucuses for the hard work done to get Democrats across the finish line. Let's keep up the momentum as we head into additional elections throughout Florida!

Forward,

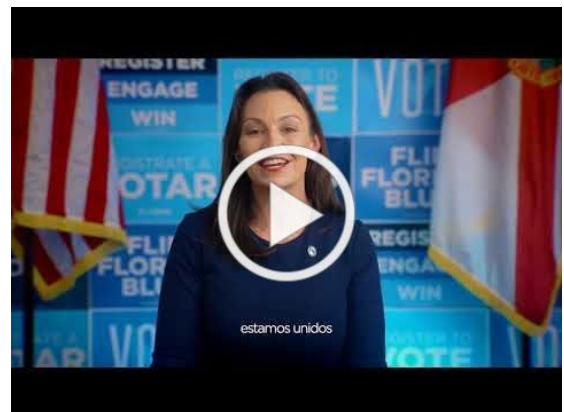
Nikki Fried
Chair
Florida Democratic Party

Thank You Message to Florida Democratic Legislators

Our Florida Democratic state lawmakers are in a 60-day fight for our freedoms against Gov. Ron DeSantis and his yes-men legislature.

Thank you to all of our Democratic Legislators who show up and fight for the great people in our state. We have your back!

[Click here to watch the chair's message >>>](#)



From the Office

As the 2023 Legislative Session kicked off, the FDP chair and staff were honored to welcome the Democratic Women's Club to our office during their trip

to the Capitol.

This incredible group of engaged women is dedicated to making Florida a better place for all, and it was an pleasure to host them at FDP headquarters in Tallahassee.



Affirmative Action Committee on Delegate Selection to the DNC

Below are the 19 members named to FDP's Affirmative Action Committee for the 2024 Democratic National Convention. These individuals will be tasked with developing the Affirmative Action Plan and Outreach and Inclusion Program as we begin to plan for delegate selection procedures.

Chair Judy Mount, Jackson
Vice-Chair Ricky Ly, Orange

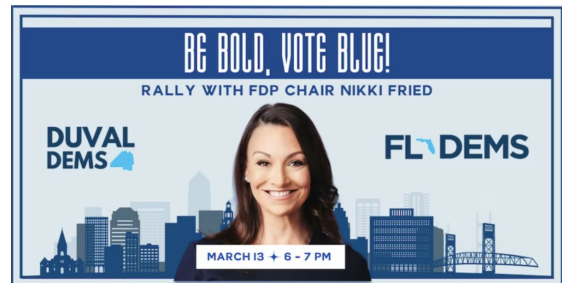
Members:

Vanessa Lester, Hillsborough
Junaid Akther, Palm Beach
Kyandra Darling, Pinellas
Phillip Dodderidge, Monroe
Nathan Breummer, Pinellas
Danny Fuqua, Volusia
Francine Garcia, Lake
Lucy Garner, Charlotte
Austin Harvey, Okeechobee
Daniel Henry, Duval
Margarita Hernandez, Broward
Jill Lewis-Daggs, Okaloosa
Maria-Elena Lopez, Miami-Dade
Cesar Ramirez, Polk
Ryan Ray, Leon
Vivian Rodriguez, Orange
Cramer Verde, Sarasota

GOTV in Jacksonville

To kick off the second week of Early Voting in Duval this Monday, FDP Chair Nikki Fried will join Duval Dems in Jacksonville on Monday.

[Sign up here to join us on Monday, March 13th at 6pm for our Be Bold, Vote Blue kickoff!](#) It will be a great opportunity to mingle with fellow Democrats and learn more information about our candidates on the March Ballot.



Municipal Races

This past Tuesday, Democrats won races around the state. We need to this momentum going into municipal races on the 14th!

Congratulations Kim Dugger on her election to Welaka City Council in Putnam County and to Tampa Mayor Jane Castor, City Councilman Bill Carlson and Councilwoman-Elect Gwendolyn Henderson on their outright wins.

[Click Here to Find Election Dates in Your Community](#)

Call to Action

Please see below for more information on House and Senate Bills that are ready for floor votes next week.

Contact Representatives regarding:

- **VOTE NO on HB 543**, the permitless carry gun bill that is falsely named and will harm public safety;
- **VOTE NO on HB 1 the expanded School Voucher program**, will move money from public schools to private schools with little oversight;
- **VOTE NO on HB 837 Civil Remedies**, the expansive tort reform bill that will make it harder for victims to seek justice;
- **VOTE NO on HB 225 Interscholastic and Intrasccholastic Activities**, the bill that wants to give the governor total control over the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA);
- **VOTE NO on HB 477 Term Limits for District School Board Members**, would reduce term limits of school board members from 12 years to 8 years;
- **VOTE YES on HB 19 Individual Education Plans**, the bill that would include ways in which students with IEPs could provide informed consent to allow parents to continue to participate in educational decisions;

Contact Senators regarding:

- **VOTE NO on SB 150 Public Safety**, the permitless carry gun bill that is falsely named and will harm public safety;
 - **VOTE NO on SB 360 Causes of Action Based on Improvements to Real Property**, revises time in which action founded on design, planning, or construction of improvement to real property must be commenced;
 - **VOTE YES on SB 144 Lactation Space in Courthouses**, requires at least one lactation space in each county courthouse for breastfeeding mothers to pump or feed their babies.
-

Legislative Member Highlights

This week marked the start of the Florida Legislative Session, and our Democratic members of the Florida House and Senate are hard at work, striving to pass legislation that will provide much-needed assistance to everyday working families. Their focus ranges from initiatives to guarantee access to healthy food for low-income Floridians, to proposals to grant well-deserved raises to our outstanding teachers. With an unwavering commitment to the well-being of their constituents, the Florida Democratic Legislators are fighting tirelessly for us. Below, we've highlighted just a few of the bills that have been filed by our exceptional State Senators.

SB 114: Tax Exemption for Diapers and Incontinence Products by Leader Book

SB 114 exempts the sale of diapers, incontinence undergarments, incontinence pads, and incontinence liners from the sales and use tax. Please click the button above to read more about the bill.



SB 342: Minimum Base Salary for Full-time Classroom Teachers by Sen. Berman

The "Save Our Teachers Act" will increase the minimum salary for teachers to \$65,000 per year. Please click the button above to read more about the bill.



SB 292: Healthy Food Financing Initiative Program by Sen. Jones

The bill directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to establish a Healthy Food Financing Initiative program that provides grants and loans, for the construction, rehabilitation, or expansion of independent grocery stores, supermarkets, community facilities, or other retail outlets to increase access to affordable fresh produce and other nutritious food in underserved communities. Please click the button above to read more about the bill.



Upcoming Events

Don't forget to share Party Affairs on your DEC, Club or Caucus upcoming events. If you would like to request the chair as a speaker, please use the form below to submit your request.



Annual DEC Compliance

We kindly remind you that in order to maintain compliance with Florida Statutes and FDP Bylaws, your DEC needs to submit documents to both your county Supervisor of Elections (SOE) office and the Florida Democratic Party. Everyone should have already turned in a completed a list of your local DEC Officers, Membership Roster, and Current Bylaws. If you have not submitted that information, please do so ASAP.

Below is a list of due dates for the rest of the compliance documents to be submitted to FDP. Please email partyaffairs@floridadems.org if you have any questions.

March 31, 2023: Your County Democratic Executive Committee EIN Number.

*Note: We are going to compile a spreadsheet with the EIN numbers from all the DECs in case they are lost or forgotten. If you do not know your number, we will help you obtain that information.

April 1, 2023: Audit of DEC income and expenses for the previous year.

April 1, 2023: Remit 20% of clubs' annual Party contribution to FDP, 201 S. Monroe St., Suite 300, Tallahassee, FL 32301 with "Club Party Contribution" noted in the memo field.

April 10, 2023; July 10, 2023; October 10, 2023; and January 10, 2024; and the Friday immediately preceding each election: Financial reports of all contributions received, including in-kind contributions, and all expenditures made during the previous quarter. Please contact your SOE to inquire about your county's specific submission process.

A huge shoutout to the Collier, Bradford, Charlotte, Lee, Martin, St. Lucie, and Okeechobee DECs for sending in all the required compliance documents early.

FDP is Hiring

FDP is hiring a Communications Director and Finance Director. [Job descriptions and applications can be found here.](#) We also have a resume bank open for those interested in other positions once they become available.

[Job Postings and Resume Bank](#)

FDP Communications

This week, Florida Democratic Party Chair Nikki Fried kicked off the legislative session with a [video](#) encouraging Democratic lawmakers to stand united in the fight against Ron DeSantis' extremism, while working to deliver results on the things Floridians care about most. As DeSantis delivered his State of the State address, we pushed back against his narrative by highlighting his real Florida blueprint and sending out fact checks of his record, including; his opposition to [local law enforcement funding](#), his support for [extreme abortion bans](#), his failure on [affordable housing](#), and his support for [dangerous gun laws](#). We also amplified the voices of our Democratic leaders, [Leader Book](#) and [Leader Driskell](#), who detailed ways they were going to fight back against Republicans in the House and Senate doing the bidding of Ron DeSantis. We also spoke out about DeSantis' doubling down on his book ban and stoking culture wars instead of working to fix the major educator shortage in Florida that has left [thousands of our students](#) without full-time teachers.

FDP News Digest

You can find the latest news clips covering the Florida Democratic Party below: