What is the Polk County “DEC”?

It is . . . the Democratic Executive Committee of Polk County. This group is the administrative, decision-making body for the Democratic Party in the Polk County.
Democratic National Committee (DNC)

Florida Democratic Party (FDP)

County Democratic Executive Committees (DECs)

- Local Dem Club Presidents
- Precinct Captains
  Polk - 167 Precincts
- Democratic Elected Officials

State Level Caucuses

- Local Dem Caucus Presidents

Note: The Democratic Womens Club is considered a caucus. But they have a separate structure.
We have six DEC/FDP (Florida Democratic Party) Certified Clubs in Polk County:

1) The Lakeland Democratic Club
2) The Democratic Club of Greater Winter Haven
3) The Lake Wales Democratic Club
4) The Lake Ashton Democratic Club
5) The Solivita Democratic Club
6) The NE Polk Democratic Club

We have eleven Democratic Caucuses operating in Polk County:

1) Progressive Caucus
2) Environmental Caucus
3) Black Caucus
4) Hispanic Caucus
5) Rainbow Ridge LBGTQ Caucus
6) Disability Caucus
7) Jewish Caucus
8) Lakeland Democratic Women’s Club
9) East Ridge Democratic Women’ Club
10) Public Education Caucus
11) Senior Caucus
Elected Officers:

- Chair, - Catherine Price
- 1st Vice Chair - Veysel Dokur
- 2nd Vice Chair - Barbara Harris
- Treasurer - Cesar Ramirez
- Secretary, Polly Burkhart
- Sergeant at Arm - Norman Wilderson
- FDP State Committeewoman - Michelle Bradley
- FDP State Committeeman - Alan Harris
Mission Statement for the Polk County Democratic Party is to recruit, train and elect excellent leaders for Polk County, Florida.
Let’s start our discussion by looking at what we are dealing with as Democrats working on politics in Polk County . . .
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polk County 2020</th>
<th>Total Reg Voters Polk County</th>
<th>DEMS</th>
<th>REPS</th>
<th>NPAs/Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020 Presidential Election</td>
<td>474,884</td>
<td>162,684 (34%)</td>
<td>174,311 (37%)</td>
<td>137,889 (29%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 Election Turnout as % of Electorate</td>
<td>73.40%</td>
<td>73.30%</td>
<td>83.60%</td>
<td>59.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As of April 20, 2022</td>
<td>452,358</td>
<td>149,280 (33%)</td>
<td>170,293 (38%)</td>
<td>132,785 (29%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the 2020 election: 131,000 registered Polk voters DID NOT VOTE!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Dem</th>
<th>Rep</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Total Turnout</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Kerry/Bush</td>
<td>86,009</td>
<td>123,559</td>
<td>1,262</td>
<td>210,830</td>
<td>37,550</td>
<td>17.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Obama/McCain</td>
<td>113,865</td>
<td>128,878</td>
<td>2,090</td>
<td>244,833</td>
<td>15,013</td>
<td>6.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Obama/Romney</td>
<td>114,622</td>
<td>131,577</td>
<td>2,482</td>
<td>248,681</td>
<td>16,955</td>
<td>6.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Clinton/Trump</td>
<td>117,422</td>
<td>157,418</td>
<td>12,106</td>
<td>286,946</td>
<td>39,996</td>
<td>13.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Biden/Trump</td>
<td>145,049</td>
<td>194,586</td>
<td>4,391</td>
<td>344,026</td>
<td>49,537</td>
<td>14.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2020 Biden/Trump</td>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Total Turnout</td>
<td>Difference Dem/Rep</td>
<td>% of Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>4391</td>
<td>344,026</td>
<td>49,537</td>
<td>14.40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>5,297,045</td>
<td>5,668,731</td>
<td>101,680</td>
<td>11,067,056</td>
<td>371,686</td>
<td>3.36%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Note: This US Senate race was the most expensive in the history of U.S. Senate races. Rick Scott spent $120 Million and Nelson spent $85 Million. Nelson was really a better fundraiser than Scott because Scott used $64 Million of his own money. These 10,033 winning votes cost Scott about $3500/vote.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mid-Term Gubernatorial Races FL</th>
<th>Dem</th>
<th>Rep</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>Votes to Win</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010 Sink / Scott</td>
<td>2,557,785</td>
<td>2,619,335</td>
<td>182,615</td>
<td>5,359,735</td>
<td>61,550</td>
<td>1.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 Crist / Scott</td>
<td>2,801,198</td>
<td>2,865,343</td>
<td>285,020</td>
<td>5,951,561</td>
<td>64,145</td>
<td>1.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 Gillum / DeSantis</td>
<td>4,043,723</td>
<td>4,076,186</td>
<td>101,585</td>
<td>8,221,494</td>
<td>32,463</td>
<td>0.39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| US Senate                     |      |      |       |         |              |      |
| 2018 Nelson / Scott          | 4,089,472 | 4,099,505 | 1028  | 8,190,005 | 10,033       | 0.12% |
Statewide Democrats are losing the voter registration battle with Republicans.

And Polk County is no exception.
Polk County Voter Registration (last 10 years)
Polk County Voter Registration Last 10 Years (by race/ethnicity)
## 2018 to Present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>DHSMV¹</th>
<th>MAIL²</th>
<th>ASST³</th>
<th>DIS⁴</th>
<th>REC⁵</th>
<th>LIB⁶</th>
<th>3PVRO⁷</th>
<th>OVR⁸</th>
<th>SOE⁹</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>195,109</td>
<td>6,134</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>9,735</td>
<td>12,559</td>
<td>14,274</td>
<td>238,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>595,452</td>
<td>19,774</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>16,615</td>
<td>29,680</td>
<td>17,748</td>
<td>680,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>418,877</td>
<td>148,646</td>
<td>1,390</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>5,421</td>
<td>59,805</td>
<td>458,197</td>
<td>83,916</td>
<td>1,176,509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>466,633</td>
<td>41,158</td>
<td>3,195</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2,403</td>
<td>63,212</td>
<td>61,424</td>
<td>73,864</td>
<td>712,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>443,744</td>
<td>58,412</td>
<td>3,352</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>4,912</td>
<td>96,516</td>
<td>142,918</td>
<td>93,985</td>
<td>844,119</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Legend

1. **DHSMV**: Registrations submitted through Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or County Tax Collectors' Office
2. **MAIL**: Registrations submitted by mail
3. **ASST**: Registrations submitted through public assistance offices
4. **DIS/CIL**: Registrations submitted through offices serving persons with disabilities or centers for independent living
5. **REC**: Registrations submitted through armed forces recruitment offices
6. **LIB**: Registrations submitted through public libraries
7. **3PVRO**: Registrations collected and submitted by 3rd party voter registration organizations
8. **OVR**: Registrations submitted through RegistertoVoteFlorida.gov (Online Voter Registration launched October 1, 2017)
9. **SOE**: Registrations submitted directly to Supervisor of Elections office
Polk County
Located in Central Florida on the now “infamous” I-4 Corridor.

Size: 1797 Square Miles
Population (2019): 724,777
Rapid Growth: 20.4% increase in a ten year period!

Race: White 79%
    Black 16%
    Other 5%
Ethnicity: Hispanic 24.6% (increasing)
Median Household Income: $50,584
Per Capita Income: $24,864
This leads us to another topic: REDISTRICTING

What is Redistricting and how will it impact Polk County?
In the State of Florida there are currently:

- 2 US Senate Seats (will remain unchanged)
- 27 US Congressional Seats (+1) will = 28 (435 total)
- 40 State Senate Seats
- 120 State House Seats
In 2010 Florida voters passed the Fair Districts Amendments to establish constitutional limits on political gerrymandering. Our Constitution now contains standards for the legislature to follow when redrawing district lines:

• Districts must not be drawn with intent to favor incumbents or political parties. Districts must be compact and must respect county and city lines.

• Districts must not be drawn to diminish voting rights of racial and language voters.

• Districts must be compact, follow local boundaries and be as equal in population as feasible.
Florida State House Districts (Polk Co) . . .

There were five districts in Polk County:

- FL HD 39
- FL HD 40
- FL HD 41
- FL HD 42
- FL HD 56
New Florida State House Districts:

There are now four districts in Polk County:

- FL HD 48
- FL HD 49
- FL HD 50
- FL HD 51
There were three Florida Senate districts that came into Polk

- FL SD 20
- FL SD 22
- FL SD 26
New Florida State Senate Districts:

There are now two districts in Polk County:

- FL SD 12
- FL SD 27
These are the old Polk County Congressional district lines:

- FL CD 9
- FL CD 15
- FL CD 17
New US Congressional districts coming into Polk County:

There are now four districts in Polk County:

- FL CD 9
- FL CD 11
- FL CD 15
- FL CD 18
The next logical questions are...
Can Democrats make a difference by working in Polk County?
Can we break this Republican grip on Polk County?

We believe the answer is “Yes.”
But...
We have to build for the long haul
not just the next election.
There are basically two ways to increase votes...

❖ Register new voters
❖ Turn out more existing voters
  ❖ Sign people up to Vote by Mail (VBM)
  ❖ Have candidates that fire up the voters
  ❖ Run Get Out the Vote (GOTV) campaigns
Registering new voters requires diligent effort over time as is evidenced by the hard work Stacey Abrams has been doing in Georgia over the past ten years.

No quick fixes here.
There is, however, immediate opportunity to be gained by signing up Democrats to Vote By Mail (VBM)
As of June 2021, 53% (82,002) of all Democrats in Polk County were NOT signed up to Vote By Mail.
How can we sign Democrats up to Vote By Mail (VBM)?

- **E-mails**
- **Texting**
- **Phone Banking (volunteers call)**
- **Canvassing (volunteers knock on doors)**
- **Robodialing calls that connect to the Supervisor of Election’s Office (SOE) by pressing 1**
- **Mailings (this is very expensive!)**
Of the 81,002 Polk County Democrats that are not signed up to Vote by Mail...

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>52,036</td>
<td>Textable Numbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45,480</td>
<td>Landlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,296</td>
<td>E-mails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14,444</td>
<td>None of the Above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This is a timeline of what we will be doing from now until November 8th, 2022.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>What needs to be done</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Nov 2 - Jan 31</td>
<td>First Major Vote by Mail/Voter Registration Campaign (Completed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Feb 1 - June 30</td>
<td>Second Major Vote by Mail/Voter Registration Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>July 1 - Aug 23 (Primary)</td>
<td>Focus on the Primaries and Important Local Races</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Aug 23 - Nov 8 Election</td>
<td>1) Third Major Vote by Mail/Voter Registration Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2) Get slate cards in the hands of Dem voters through texting, website and literature drops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3) Run GOTV Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4) Set up and implement Voter Protection program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Nov 9 -</td>
<td>Start over</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This is what the Polk DEC has been doing:

1) Providing competent and consistent administration of ongoing DEC meetings
2) Providing financial oversight and coordination of DEC fundraising efforts
3) Working to recruit Precinct Captains and Committee Chairs
4) Created an innovative Digital Office Committee that does the following:
   A) Answers the office phone
   B) Answers e-mails and online inquiries
   C) Contacts all new volunteers and works to connect them with committees, clubs, caucuses and volunteer jobs
   D) Maintains a volunteer/donor database in NGP
   E) Provides equipment and materials for Voter Registration efforts and other community events
5) Built a new website with an online merchandise store and volunteer training portal
6) Ran Get Out the Vote (GOTV) campaigns during municipal elections
7) Are developing a community outreach process to recruit candidates
8) Running ongoing Voter Registration training and events
9) Working on major Vote by Mail sign up campaigns
This is where YOU come in. And how YOU can Help!
1) Sign up for our Weekly Digest
2) Sign up to come to a DEC Meeting
3) Check out our upcoming events (Mobilize) on our website [www.polkdemocrats.org](http://www.polkdemocrats.org)
4) Sign up to volunteer
5) Join the Polk DEC and become a Precinct Captain
6) Make an online contribution
TOGETHER WE WIN!!!

Donations can be made online at www.polkdemocrats.org

Or by Check made out to the Polk County Democratic Party And Mailed to:
Democratic Party of Polk County
6039 Cypress Gardens Boulevard, Suite 328
Winter Haven, FL 33884
PolkCountyDemocrats@gmail.com
(863) 668-7199