

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

May 17, 2023



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**MEMO: FLORIDA DEMOCRATS ON THE RISE**

*Success is measured in election wins. In the first elections of the 2024 election cycle, Florida Democrats continue their ascent with massive victories in Florida's largest city.*

In the first test of the 2024 election cycle, Florida Democrats posted a huge win with Mayor-elect Donna Deegan's win in Republican controlled Jacksonville – Florida's largest city.

***In addition to Democratic Mayor-elect Donna Deegan's victory in an R +3 city, Florida Democrats also won 6 of the 9 elections on the ballot.***

The Jacksonville elections are the most significant data point among many – accounting for a rapid rise of Florida Democrats in recent months. Including:

- **Democrats were able to recruit a Chair with the strongest statewide and national profile in decades.** In 2018, Chair Nikki Fried was the [first Democrat to be elected to the statewide Florida Cabinet office](#) in 20+ years. She made a name for herself on the state and national stage as a fierce advocate for Democratic issues and as a statewide elected leader who had a unique ability to point a spotlight on Governor Ron DeSantis' shortcomings and failures as a leader.
- **Resources are already flowing to Florida:** The DNC has provided the Florida Democratic Party with a significant early cycle grant totaling \$100,000+ and commitments for more support in short order.
- **The Biden for President Campaign [included Florida](#) in their Battleground Ad Buy:** The campaign began airing ads in Florida earlier this month, indicating the campaign intends to invest in Florida.
- **Fried's election brought national Democratic support back to the State.** Within one month of Nikki Fried's ascendancy to

Chair of the Florida Democratic Party, DNC Chair Jaime Harrison toured the state with the Chairwoman – signaling that Florida will be a priority for Democrats in 2023 and 2024.

- Vice President **Kamala Harris** also made a recent stop in FL.
- **Newsom raises funds for FDP:** In addition, national Democrats have made [visits to the state including Governor Gavin Newsom](#). Newsom also paired his visit with a fundraising effort for the Florida Democratic Party raising tens of thousands of dollars for FDP.
- **The White House prominently featured Florida in their [Investing in America Tour](#).** The inclusion of Florida in the President and administration's upcoming tour signals that Florida is a priority for national Democrats and they are once again committing support to the Florida Democratic Party and Florida Democrats.
- **Democrats are Making National Headlines Standing Up for Democratic Issues Bringing Money and National Attention to the Florida Democratic Party:** Last month Senate Minority Leader Lauren Book and Chair Fried made [national headlines for standing up for women's rights](#) and against Florida's near universal abortion ban. She was arrested, alongside Minority Leader Senator Lauren Book and others during a peaceful protest in a public park outside the Florida Capitol Building.

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