

# The Delray Democrat

## Flipping Florida Blue Runs Through Investing in Youth<sup>1</sup>

*Jayden D'Onofrio, Chairman of the Florida Future Leaders PAC*

It is no secret to all of us the extreme political tide-change we have experienced in the Sunshine State. From the election of Ron DeSantis as Governor to the complete stranglehold Republicans possess over the state's legislature, Florida has become a breeding ground for radical policy that provides no real solutions to the many issues everyday citizens face. Worse, the past few legislative sessions have showcased a concerted effort to attack one demographic in particular: Florida's youngest and most educated.

Despite the constant attacks on Florida's youth on matters of education, freedoms, and personal way of life, young voters have failed to turn out to vote in the state, a complete failure when compared to the successes of other vital battleground states in the most recent midterm election of 2022. Or even highlighted in an off-cycle year with the election of Janet Protasiewicz, a pro-choice Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice who won her election in 2023 simply because of the turnout and support exemplified by youth voters. The failure in our home state has highlighted a glaring issue: a complete lack of a strategic, dedicated effort to turn out youth voters, the very demographic that aligns with Democrats more than any other generation when turned out to vote en masse.

That is why, as a result of the devastation Florida Democrats experienced in the 2022 elections, I have made it my most important goal to create, develop, and establish a youth turnout machine that not only enacts major influence on the 2024 election, but for the many more elections to come. This path started with reforming the Florida High School Democrats and Florida College Democrats, ensuring that they are led by experienced youth leaders and building chapters of engaged students all across the state. Then it involved the formation of the Florida Democratic Party Youth Council, the first of its kind party structure that I was proud to act as the inaugural Chairman for to guarantee the involvement of youth perspectives in the party.

Now, it leads to the formation of the **Florida Future Leaders Political Action Committee (PAC)**, *the youngest-led* PAC in the State of Florida, which will act as the most critical piece to developing youth turnout. From hiring College Campus Organizing Directors for face-to-face voter engagement, to running digital advertisements on platforms such as Snapchat, Instagram, Tinder, and TikTok, the work of our PAC will ensure a new generation of leaders are actively involved and building the bench of candidates for tomorrow's Florida Democratic Party. Our goals are clear, and it functions by letting youth

---

<sup>1</sup> [The Delray Democrat](#), June 2024, page 1.

lead youth, the most efficient possible form of organizing for our generation.

As the Chairman of the Florida Future Leaders PAC, I am excited for the future of all youth organizing in Florida, but it only happens if people like you continue to amplify, support, and give a voice to those who have historically had the smallest voice in government. The road to flipping Florida blue runs through investing in our youth.