

Turn the Tide!

- ✓ Defeat bigotry & intolerance.
- ✓ Advance issues important to LGBT community.
- ✓ Elect fair-minded candidates.

Stonewall Democrats of Pinellas



Who are the Pinellas Stonewall Democrats?

The Stonewall Democrats of Pinellas County is a newly-formed group committed to organizing the Pinellas County's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Democrats. The chapter is an affiliate of the National Stonewall Democrats (NSD) and the Florida GLBT Democratic Caucus.

NSD is America's only grassroots Democratic LGBT organization. It has more than 90 local chapters across the nation and is committed to working through the Democratic Party to advance the rights of all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Members of the Pinellas Stonewall Democrats automatically become members of the National Stonewall Democrats.

The Florida GLBT Democratic Caucus represents the GLBT arm of the Florida Democratic Party and has 10 chapters across the state. It is building a statewide grassroots effort to organize the state's large population of GLBT voters.

What is important about Pinellas County?

Unlike most Florida counties that are either solidly Democratic or Republican, Pinellas is considered a "swing" county. There is only a 1% difference in the number of registered Democrats and Republicans in the county. However, there is also a large block of unaffiliated voters in the county who we need to educate and motivate to support our candidates and issues.

Pinellas County is seen as a progressive county and county voters generally support Democrats in national elections. In the 2004 presidential election, George Bush received only 226 more votes than John Kerry. In 2000, Al Gore beat George Bush by 15,805 votes.

However, the local prospect is not as good for the LGBT community. Pinellas County tends to vote Republican in local, state and congressional elections. While Betty Castor received over 36,000 more votes in Pinellas than Mel Martinez in the 2004 Senate election, local voters also gave strong support to two Republicans in the three congressional districts that are part of this county. Of four state senate districts in the county, only one is held by a Democrat. Of eight state house districts, only two are held by Democrats. Today, the tide is against us – but not for long.

There is a strong LGBT community in Pinellas

We know there is a strong LGBT community in Pinellas. We see it at St. Pete Pride, at the film festival, in the business community, and by the outraged voices from this side of Tampa Bay when the Hillsborough County Commission banned recognition of Gay Pride.

Based on analysis of the 2000 Census, Pinellas has a large number of same sex households in our area communities. Clearwater, Dunedin, East Lake, Gulfport, Largo, Palm Harbor, Pinellas Park and St. Petersburg all rank high on the "gay index" of same sex households.

When the LGBT community and our progressive partners are organized, we make a difference in elections. The Pinellas Stonewall Democrats are anxious to:

- ▼ Educate our community and our allies about issues that affect our lives;
- ▼ Mobilize voters to support fair-minded Democratic candidates; and
- ▼ Stand up to Republican attacks on us, our families, and our rights.

Together, we can have a real impact on who represents us -- locally, in Tallahassee and in Washington.

Why it is important to get involved

There are major differences between Democrats and Republicans. Every day, elected officials and party leaders make decisions and develop strategies that directly impact our lives.

We must elect leaders who understand our community and who will represent us on such issues as: equality and protection from discrimination, legal recognition of LGBT families, and access to healthcare. We need leaders who will: protect the environment, ensure fair treatment of workers, and safeguard a woman's right to choose.

As Floridians, we know how important it is to make sure every vote counts, and the Pinellas Stonewall Democrats know how important it is to increase the number of registered Democrats, and increase the visibility of LGBT Democrats as elected officials and as appointed members of local and state boards and commissions.

If you also believe these things are important, then join the Pinellas Stonewall Democrats to Turn the Tide!

How to be a part of the Pinellas Stonewall Democrats

Any Democrat registered to vote in Pinellas County who is supportive of the mission of the Pinellas Stonewall Democrats can become a member or associate member.

Activities are being planned in conjunction with Democratic Party needs, elections, and chapter business. In November, the chapter joined with other Stonewall groups across the nation to raise money to help retire Pennsylvania's homophobic senator, Rick Santorum, in the 2006 election.

Pinellas Stonewall Democrats meet the third Thursday of each month from 7:00-8:30 pm at the Pinellas Democratic Party Headquarters at 2250 First Ave., N., in St. Petersburg (location may change). Try a meeting and become aware of how you can help Turn the Tide.

For more information about the Stonewall Democrats of Pinellas and our meetings, check out our website at www.stonewallpinellas.org or contact Rick Boylan by e-mail at RQBoylan@gmail.com or call him at 727-363-6727.

February 10, 2006

Mission Statement of the Pinellas County Stonewall Democrats

Stonewall Democrats of Pinellas County is devoted to advancing equal rights for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. As a Democratic organization, SDPC will work with the Democratic Party and support fair-minded Democratic leaders and candidates who support our mission. Our organization's strength comes from Pinellas County lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT), and allied Democrats working together to achieve the following goals:

1. Stimulating active interest in political and governmental affairs among the LGBT community and our allies;
2. Educating the LGBT community about issues that directly affect the quality of our lives. In addition, we want to educate the gay community and our allies about the vast differences between the two major parties on issues of concern to the LGBT community;
3. Supporting and participating in Democratic Party activities and working within the Party to help strengthen its record on issues important to the LGBT community - including standing against bigotry and intolerance, and advancing the prominence of openly LGBT people within the Democratic Party;
4. Supporting and electing Democratic candidates and Party

nominees who are committed to defeating homophobia and prejudice at the local, state and national levels.

5. Electing qualified openly LGBT people to public office, and as convention delegates, and to achieve appointments of openly LGBT people to city and county boards and commissions in Pinellas County;
6. Fostering good will, cooperation, and collaboration between LGBT Democrats, our allies, the Democratic Party, other progressive organizations in the area, and with the community at large;
7. Registering voters who support the mission of our organization and encouraging their participation in the electoral process;
8. Achieving diversity in our Chapter's membership and its governing bodies; and
9. Providing support to the National Stonewall Democrats, the Florida GLBT Democratic Caucus, and to the Pinellas County Democratic Executive Committee.



Membership Application

Member Information

Name					
Mailing Address					
City				State	Zip
Phone(s)			<input type="checkbox"/> -W <input type="checkbox"/> -H <input type="checkbox"/> -C		
E-mail					
Party Affiliation					
Occupation*					

* As a registered Florida political committee, Stonewall Democrats of Pinellas County is required by law to report contributions over \$100 (individual or aggregate within an election cycle) to the Division of Elections. To comply with this requirement, please include full name, address and occupation. All contributions, including membership fees, are not tax deductible.

Membership Level

- Individual . . . \$40 Entitles member to participate as voting member in organization. Must be a Democrat registered to vote in Pinellas.
- Founding . . . \$100 Limited to members joining within the first year of the organization. Founders shall be entitled to all benefits of membership and additional recognition by the Chapter. Must be a Democrat registered to vote in Pinellas.
- Associate . . . \$25 Associate members may participate in Chapter activities but are not eligible to vote on Chapter business.

Individual and Founding memberships include a \$10 individual annual voting membership in the National Stonewall Democrats. Members are also recognized as "associate" (non-voting) members of the Florida GLBT Democratic Caucus.

- Enclosed is an additional \$25 to become a voting member of the Florida GLBT Democratic Caucus (encouraged).

Payment Method

- Cash
- Check (please make check payable to the Stonewall Democrats of Pinellas County)

Please give this application and payment to an officer of the Stonewall Democrats of Pinellas County or mail your application along with your check to:

Stonewall Democrats of Pinellas County
 5319 21st Avenue, North
 St. Petersburg, FL 33710

For more information, visit the chapter website at www.StonewallPinellas.org.