**“LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD COMMUNITY FORUM” POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS INFO**

1. **Orange County Democratic Party**

[**http://orangefldemocrats.com/**](http://orangefldemocrats.com/)

# GET INVOLVED

## Ways you can get involved with the Democratic Party in Orange County!

* **Register to vote** as (or change your party affiliation to) a Democrat in Orange County
* Sign up below to receive Orange DEC news and announcements via email.
* Attend our monthly meetings held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 pm. **Check our**[**calendar**](http://orangefldemocrats.com/get-involved/) for the meeting location.
* Volunteer on a committee by signing up below — just scroll down this page.
* **Become a Precinct Captain** — organize a precinct, your own or one very close to you, for the upcoming Election. You can make the job easier by recruiting Neighborhood Leaders in the precinct. They will be responsible for specific lists of voters close to their homes until the Election Day. Just check the Precinct Captain box below!
* **Become a Neighborhood Leader** — You get your own short list of Democratic voters in your neighborhood who sometimes forget to vote and work with and encourage them until November to either go to the polls or vote by mail! It’s an opportunity to make new friends! It’s fun and easy, close to home, and you’ll be doing a great service for your country! Just check the Neighborhood Leader box below!
* Young Democrats “Speak Easy” Social — Monthly series of casual socials featuring a short speech by a prominent Democrat followed by a social hour–a different speaker every month. Held on the second Friday of each month at a location to be announced. Check the calendar for further details.
* Attend our occasional social events, held at various establishments around the County. It’s a great opportunity to socialize with like-minded folks, make new friends, and reconnect with old friends. Check the calendar for further details.
* Donate to the party by [**contributing online**](http://orangefldemocrats.com/donate/) or by sending a check by mail:
Payable to: OCDEC
P. O. Box 1648
Orlando, FL 32802-1648
1. **City Council Meetings**

<http://www.cityoforlando.net/council/>

Members of the Orlando City Council are the Mayor, elected at-large, and six City Commissioners who are elected from respective districts. All are elected for four-year terms.

Unless otherwise announced, all Council meetings are held in Council Chambers on the 2nd floor of City Hall, 400 South Orange Avenue. Council meetings are televised live on Channel 488 Orange TV and online at[cityoforlando.net/council/watch](http://www.cityoforlando.net/council/watch).

Special meetings may be held at the call of the Mayor.

Anyone addressing the Orlando City Council must complete an Appearance Request form.  The form is available  in the City Clerk’s Office during regular business hours, and at the City Clerk’s location on the dais in the Council Chambers.  If you have any questions, please call the City Clerk’s Office at 407.246.2251.

1. **Orange County Democratic Black Caucus**

[**http://www.orangecountydbc.org/**](http://www.orangecountydbc.org/)

At **Physiatrist Fitness Center**

708 E. Colonial Dr  Suite 101

Orlando, FL 32803

(Near corner of Colonial & Summerlin Ave)

**MISSION**
The mission of the Orange County Democratic Black Caucus shall be to raise overall social and political awareness in the Orange County Metropolitan area, be an Advocate for Blacks, support the elected and appointed Black officials in the County and offer outreach to all demographics and classifications of Blacks

**OBJECTIVES**

* STAND UP for the voiceless and bring their issues to the forefront
* Spread Awareness to the Black Community at Large
* Get Black issues addressed to the Orange County Democratic Party
* Establish LOYALTY amongst Democrats; especially Black Democrats
* Get more Democratic Party Registered Voters
* Support initiative for Voter Restoration
* Get all LOCAL Black elected officials involved and on the same agenda
* Get more Blacks active and vocal with local Democratic Executive Committee (D.E.C.)
* Groom potential future leaders for office – work on succession plans
* Use latest technology to spread messages and bolster activism

**MEMBERSHIP**

All registered Black Democrats in the County are automatic GENERAL members. However, to become an ACTIVE voting member and enjoy the privileges of full participation in programming and decision-making, a $55/$30 annual assessment is required with fiscal year beginning at the end of February. The Black Caucus is not exclusionary by means of race, ethnicity, gender, preference nor religion. All registered Democrats who subscribe to Caucus objectives are invited to join. Membership Dues can be paid online, or by mail with application (below) and check/money order

1. **Citizens’ Police Review Board**

[**http://www.cityoforlando.net/cityclerk/citizens-police-review-board/**](http://www.cityoforlando.net/cityclerk/citizens-police-review-board/)

The mission of the Citizens’ Police Review Board is to be an independent, citizen-run oversight committee of the Orlando Police Department’s Internal Affairs and determine whether or not Internal Affairs has properly investigated cases brought to its attention. Additionally, the Board fulfills its mission by reviewing policies, procedures, rules, regulations and general or special orders pertaining to the use of force and police conduct toward citizens.

1. **Orange County Board of County Commissioners**

[**http://orangecountyfl.net/BoardofCommissioners.aspx**](http://orangecountyfl.net/BoardofCommissioners.aspx)

**The Board Appearance Request shall be used for requesting appearances before the Orange County Board of County Commissioners. Note: Appearances are limited to up to three (3) minutes.

If you are requesting to speak in less than 24 hours, please do not submit your request online; instead,**[**please bring the paper form**](http://www.orangecountyfl.net/Portals/0/resource%20library/open%20government/Board%20Appearance%20Request%20Form%20-%20BOARD%20OF%20COUNTY%20COMMISSIONERS.pdf)**to the meeting along with any corresponding attachments.**

1. **Orange County School Board Meetings**

[**https://www.ocps.net/ES/CR/VIDEOS/Pages/SchoolBoardMeetings.aspx**](https://www.ocps.net/ES/CR/VIDEOS/Pages/SchoolBoardMeetings.aspx)

School board meetings usually are held twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. All meetings are held in the School Board Meeting Room of the Ronald Blocker Educational Leadership Center, 445 W. Amelia St., in downtown Orlando.

In accordance with Florida's Sunshine Law, all meetings are open to the public, except those dealing with collective bargaining and other such executive sessions as authorized by law.

In addition to regular meetings, the board holds work sessions as needed to study and discuss specific issues. Work sessions are open to the public, but the public may not participate in discussions. No formal action is taken at work sessions.

The board also may schedule public hearings as needed to discuss specific issues. Public hearings give community members the opportunity to participate in the discussion of issues before formal action is taken at a board meeting.

School board meeting notices are published in The Orlando Sentinel at least seven days before regular meetings and work sessions, at least 21 days before public hearings, and 48 hours before emergency meetings.

If you wish to speak to the board about an action item on the agenda, you must submit a request form during the meeting. Forms are available at the board table in the School Board Meeting Room.

Members of the public can address the School Board on non-agenda topics during its Public Comment Period which is held at the beginning of any regularly scheduled school board meeting. The Public Comment Period begins promptly at 4:30 and ends at 5:00 p.m. If you wish to address the board, sign up is available in the board room with the School Board Clerk from 4:15 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. Speakers are allowed three (3) minutes to address the board.