

A PATHWAY FORWARD FOR LOCAL DEMOCRATS: PLEASE READ!!

Thanks to all who participated in our activity at the January 11th City Dems meeting. The bubbling up of new ideas about issues we have long been grappling with was most welcome and provides us with a hopeful path forward. If you missed it, you can still comment and volunteer!

We have categorized the ideas generated into action groups. Below are the priorities that came from the “More Effective Operations and Tactics” and “Values/Missions/Goals” brainstorming groups. Please comment on these priorities, make additional suggestions, and **sign up to get involved** here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GFXSR2W>. Make SURE to **include your contact info** at the end of the SHORT survey!!!

More Effective Operations and Tactics:

Events:

- Vary event times (e.g. Dem Breakfasts) to accommodate varying schedules.
- Provide baby sitting and transportation to events.
- Plan, with precinct chairs, precinct level activities (parties, pot-lucks.)
- Develop new activities (book club? periodic speakers?).

Outreach:

- Collaborate with progressive groups (e.g., OneVirginia2021; Together Cville) through joint activities, posting events and links on our website, sending city Dems’ representation to meetings.
- Send reps to meetings of wider range of constituents to broaden and deepen base (e.g., PHAR, NAACP).
- Partner with nearby county party organizations to build a stronger institutional base.
- Maintain contact with city residents in “off years” (e.g., setting up “listening sessions,” sending representatives to n’hood meetings, going door to door).
- Mentor new residents, UVA/PVCC/CHS students, and others who wish to engage in party activities (for example, create “Charlottesville Democrats 1.01” primer).

Media and Communications (currently Communication)

- Make party processes and activities more transparent (e.g., use of YouTube, streaming meetings on Facebook, increased social media).
- Organize a speakers’ bureau of local democrats to speak to non-political civic groups.
- Develop “**Charlottesville Democrats 1.01**” document to explain our organization (post on website).

- Share our events with local newspapers, websites, radio announcements.

Data (currently Records)

- Keep the VAN (Voter Action Network) updated with registered voter details and contacts from event sign-in sheets.
- “Mine” our data to refine our outreach to likely sympathetic voters and fallen-away Democrats.

Issue Tracking (new)

- Inform local Democrats of pending legislation and representatives’ contact information.
- Hold phone banking, letter-writing, and e-mailing sessions to coalesce efforts for social engagement.

Executive Committee:

- Bring younger members into party leadership positions.

Values/Missions/Goals

Organize study groups, book groups and forums and invite speakers who can address priorities, including those below. If you would like to participate in and/or organize such events, please indicate so.

The priorities you identified:

- Institute universal Pre-K education in Charlottesville.
- Broaden the active base of the party.
- Field a more diverse population of Democratic candidates.
- Explore and promote more affordable and inclusive housing and transportation.
- Increase equal opportunity, reduce unfair disparities (e.g., in housing, education, criminal justice).

Again, the link to the short survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GFXSR2W>