

C'VILLE DEMS

Join our
Newsletter



Visit
our
Website

News and Updates from the Cville Dems (2/13/25)

In This Issue

- Links for Your Convenience
- Message from the Co-chairs
- Make Calls to Capitol Hill
- Nationwide Economic Boycotts called for February
- Let's Pay Some Visits to Rep. McGuire!
- Volunteers Needed to Process Primary Candidate Paperwork
- New Leadership for Dems, VA and National!
- Trump's War on Higher Ed: What's Next?
- Thank You, Will Evans, For All of Your Help!
- Full Committee Meeting March 25
- Upcoming Events

Links for Your Convenience

DONATE TO
CVILLE DEMS

VOLUNTEER

CHECK VOTER
REGISTRATION

Dear Dems,

Let's be clear: We're facing a constitutional crisis of previously unseen proportions.

Donald Trump and his unelected co-conspirators are ripping apart the US government with no regard to the legality of their actions. What's to be done?

Below are some actions you can take. If you have others to suggest, please share them with us by contacting our newsletter editor, Mary Jane Gore, at communications@cville Dems.org.

Thank you for all you do,
Nancy Damon and Josh Throneburg

Make Calls to Capitol Hill

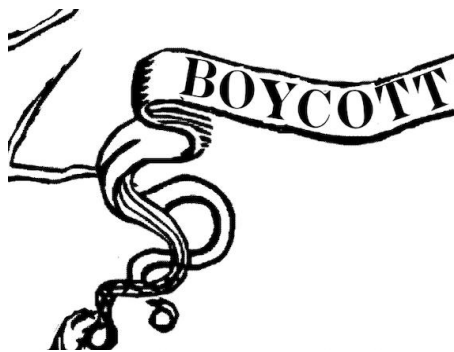
If you're angry, frightened, fed up, and want to get politicians' attention, NY Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (aka AOC) emphasizes the effectiveness of phone calls to your congressional representatives, no matter which side of the aisle. From her [Instagram account](#):



"For the first few years that I was in office, Republicans flooded my phones. Do you think they really thought they were going to change my mind? No. But they constantly and consistently [called]. Republicans flood the phones far more than people who are not Republicans flood the phones. And it does have an effect, because you really start to understand the strength and the scale of what you are up against.

Republicans need to get that message too, because it skews our whole environment to the right when the constant pressure comes from one place. Like, I'm sorry to burst your bubble, but people who watch Fox News all day and right-wing media all day call their members of Congress, and they tend to call members far more, and far more consistently and regularly than everybody else does. And that really matters because phone calls are one of the biggest ways that members measure, not just it's not just numbers, it's how they measure enthusiasm, it's how they measure how much people are mobilizing around a certain issue. And the more they see them mobilizing, the more careful they will be in terms of not making those people more upset. And they will get pressured into acting, or hedging, what have you."

If you want to pick up a script quickly for a call to representatives in DC, take a look at [5 Calls](#), a progressive issue website that provides



Nationwide Economic Boycotts Feb. 17-19 and Feb. 28

We're hearing about various boycotts this month, and perhaps more to come as protests swell against GOP's questionable and outright unconstitutional policies and orders. Here are two we know of, but please

understand:

- **a listing here is not an endorsement**
- we don't know more about these events/organizers than you do if you've visited their links.

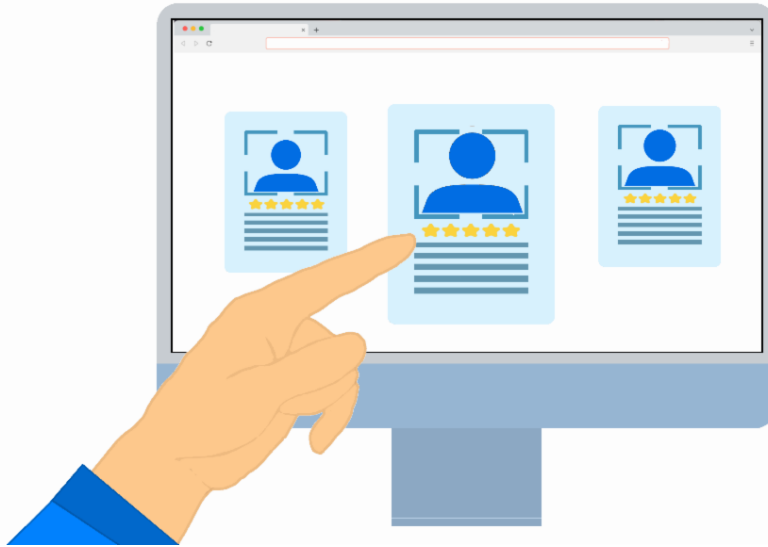
1. The [People's Union USA](#) originated from grassroots efforts of Americans looking to regain control over corporate influence. They've come up with a way to respond to the GOP backlash against DEI: a "no-buy" day on **Friday, Feb. 28**. According to Newsweek's article about the planned boycott, "When President Donald Trump reentered office last month, one of his first calls to action was to end several of the DEI initiatives in the federal government. He mandated in an executive order that funds could be frozen for companies that do not comply. He also outlawed any messaging that promotes [inclusion-based language](#)." Thus, many companies have taken steps to dissolve their DEI offices, including PBS, Amazon, Target, and Google. So a day when many US residents aren't buying goods or services should get corporate attention. If you'd like to learn more or join the boycott, scroll down the homepage: [People's Union](#).
2. Some Indivisible members (not the [local Charlottesville chapter](#)) are planning a two-day shopping [boycott](#) nationwide, from early 12:01 am on Feb. 17 through 11:59pm on Feb. 18. The link notes: "No one spends money on ANYTHING: food, clothes, gas; pull money from banks (they can put it back later if they want) but for THOSE TWO DAYS nothing!! This is the only way we are going to make them take notice of anything!!!! Money is their language!"

Let's Pay Some Visits to Rep. McGuire!



We do have representation in Congress, and as constituents we can visit Rep. John McGuire at his nearest

local office, Lynchburg. Kristin Szakos is helping organize a trip next Wednesday, others are encouraged to keep the pressure on by organizing trips too! For more information about trips there, contact kszakos@gmail.com.



Volunteers Needed for Committee to Process Paperwork for Primary Candidates

With the primary elections coming in June, we're looking for volunteers to serve on a special committee to receive and review candidates' official Declarations of Candidacy and Petitions of Qualified Voters.

The Special Committee needs to form soon, since it will start receiving paperwork from candidates on Monday March 17. The candidate filing period closes on April 3, and the committee must finish its work by April 8.

The Special Committee needs to name a time and place when and where it will begin accepting candidates' paperwork, and then check that the paperwork is complete (including verification that each candidate has met the minimum number of qualified signatures on their Petitions of Qualified Voters) before the April 8 deadline.

(Candidates are listed on the ballots in the order of filing, so filing first is a big advantage! If multiple candidates file at the same time, the Electoral Board will draw names to establish the order of names on ballots.)

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Josh Throneburg (joshuathroneburg@gmail.com) or Nancy Damon (nancycdamon@gmail.com).

Big Changes in the Democratic Party Leadership, Statewide and Nationally!



Outgoing DPVA Chair Susan Swecker
(from DPVA website)



Incoming DNC Chair Ken Martin
(from DNC website)

Virginia

Susan Swecker, chair of the Democratic Party of Virginia (DPVA) Central Committee, is resigning before her current term expires (after serving for 10 years), so there will be an election to fill out the rest of her term. There's about a year left to go before the next reorganization of the DPVA Central Committee and election of DPVA's officers.

The DPVA Steering Committee will be meeting soon to set the rules for electing the next chair. Cville Dems will not be voting in this state leadership election. Members of the DPVA Central Committee will vote to fill the chair's seat at its March 22, 2025 regular quarterly meeting.

The proposed rules for this election indicate that candidates for chair will need to submit paperwork to DPVA by March 8. At this time, there are no "official" candidates to succeed Swecker as chair and finish the rest of her term -- but that could change very soon. There are rumors about who may run, see this [Blue Virginia](#) article.

National

Ken Martin won election as the new Democratic National Committee (DNC) head, replacing current chair Jaime Harrison. Martin, currently the chair of the Minnesota Democratic Party, won the race with 112 more votes more than the second place candidate, Wisconsin Democratic Party Chairman Ben Wikler.

Martin offered little on his plans to confront President Donald Trump, saying his "war room" will combat misinformation and that the party will also conduct a review to learn why Democrats lost ground with Latino, female, young, working-class, and other voter demographics last November.



Trump's War on Higher Ed: What's Next?

78% of 100 college presidents surveyed agreed with the statement "Donald Trump is going to war with higher education"; that's a chilling prospect for the nation, and will have huge impacts on Charlottesville generally as well as UVA and PVCC specifically.

The Chronicle is holding a free online interview with its lead Higher Ed reporter on Thursday, February 20, 1pm titled "Donald Trump and Higher Ed: What's Next?" to tackle questions like "What will become of various streams of federal funding for higher ed? Will Immigration and Customs Enforcement show up on campuses? Will the Department of Education be shuttered...how would that impact colleges?"

You can register to watch the interview on the [Chronicle website](#).

Thank You, Will Evans, For All of Your Help!

Will Evans, our co-secretary, is moving away to take a new position in the Nation's Capital. We thank him for all his above-and-beyond efforts in the year he served us: helping to train and place interns into effective roles during the election cycle and performing data analysis, in addition to duties as secretary. Good luck, Will!



We'll be filling in the co-secretary vacancy, so let us know if you would be interested. Contact Josh Throneburg (joshuathroneburg@gmail.com) or Nancy Damon (nancycdamon@gmail.com) if you have interest. We particularly need help with data analysis.



Full Committee Meeting on Tuesday March 25

Welcome, Cville Democrats, veterans and newbies! Join us as we continue to energize and make plans for 2025 and the important

elections ahead of us!

We'll be having a Full Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 25, at 6:30pm at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center.

Reminders of Upcoming Events

- **2/13 (today!)** - Spanberger Campaign Valentine's Day Tea Party 3-5pm @ Grit Coffee on the Corner, Charlottesville, VA
 - **2/14** - How to Get Involved with Spanberger Campaign 5pm-6pm @ Panera in Barracks Shopping Center
 - **2/15** - Spanberger Campaign 9:00-10:30am tabling at IX Art Park Farmers Market, 11:30am-1:30pm Valentine's Day Signature Collection outside UVA Women's Lacrosse and Softball Games @ Entrance Gates to UVA's Palmer Park on Copeley Road, Charlottesville, VA
 - **3/20-3/23** - Virginia Festival of the Book
 - **3/25** - Full Committee Meeting, 6:30pm, Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, 233 4th St NW.
-

Partner Organizations

Our friends the [UVA Dems](#), [Albemarle Dems](#), [Greene County Dems](#), [Nelson County Dems](#), and the [Charlottesville Area Young Democrats](#) are doing good things too, check them out!

Charlottesville Democratic Party ("Cville Dems")

<https://cvilledems.org>

PO Box 916, Charlottesville, VA 22902

Contact us: cvilledemschair@gmail.com

Add me to the [mailing list](#)

Thank you for your support!

Co-chairs: Nancy Damon and Josh Throneburg

Newsletter Editor: Mary Jane Gore

Newsletter Production: Dan Doernberg

Paid for and authorized by the Charlottesville Democratic Committee

© Copyright 2025, Charlottesville Democratic Committee. All rights reserved.



Try email marketing for free today!