

# C'VILLE DEMS

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## News and Updates from the Cville Dems (4/02/25)

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### Links for Your Convenience

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## Our Mission This Year

Cville Dems, as an organization, has one main mission this year: get our Virginia candidates elected up and down the ballot.

In the coming months, you'll hear lots about:

- our productive Ix Park "Turn Out the Vote Thursdays" where volunteers send postcards, make phone calls, canvass, and create community with fellow Dems
- voter registration at community events
- candidate events
- and other election efforts!

Please join in! Our governor's race is the first big election since Trump (and Elon) took over. Virginia needs to turn out in big numbers to show how angry we are.

Our weekly *Call to Action*, emailed every Monday, will list things to do locally and regionally, ranging from local community events to all-out protests.



### From the *Spanberger for Governor Campaign*

The *Abigail Spanberger for Governor* campaign will hold a strategy event for volunteers on Wednesday, April 9, 5-6pm in the Central Downtown Library's Madison Room. To sign up, go to:

<https://www.mobilize.us/spanbergerforgovernor/event/769910/>

Volunteers will learn about campaign plans, including 10am & 1pm canvasses on Saturday, April 12 (location TBA).

### About Our Absent VA-05 Representative...

Since he's not coming to Charlottesville to hear from his constituents, Kristin Szakos is helping to organize trips his nearest office in Lynchburg so he does hear from us! Consider coming along some time; contact [kszakos@gmail.com](mailto:kszakos@gmail.com) for information.



You can also write or call McGuire's office to share your concerns:

- D.C. Office: (202) 225-4711
- Lynchburg Office: (434) 791-2596
- Email: <https://mcguire.house.gov/contact/email-me>

## April Recess Town Hall in Charlottesville!

McGuire's feeble telephone town hall last month won't do; he needs to face his constituents and answer their questions in person. Indivisible Charlottesville is organizing a town hall during his April recess (April 14-27). Stay tuned for time and place; we'll have all the details in our weekly *Call to Action* email.

He's been invited to attend, but if he doesn't, Democrats and others will still hold the town hall to make our demands for "redress of grievances," as the Constitution's First Amendment guarantees.



## “HANDS OFF 2025” Mass Mobilization Protest This Saturday!

Join us at the Hands Off 2025 April 5, 1-2 pm at the northwest corner of Hwy 29 and Hydraulic Road (on the sidewalks surrounding Stonefield Mall) to voice your outrage at Trump, Musk, and this incompetent, destructive, and law-breaking Administration!

There are literally a thousand American cities and town holding mass Hands Off demonstrations on that day, and a very big turnout is needed to send a very loud and clear message; issue-specific images

for social media graphics and/or signs can be found [here](#). Thanks to Indivisible Charlottesville for organizing this.

A huge national version will be in Washington, DC, on the same day co-sponsored by Planned Parenthood, Indivisible, Sierra Club, and dozens of other national groups.

Go to whichever rally works best for you, but please do attend one!

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## Cville Dems Register Voters

Volunteers began at a well-attended event for high school seniors at PVCC (above), where many future voters registered. And last week we began our every Saturday voter registration at the Ix Market (come visit us at our voter registration tent!). Cville residents vote around 87% blue, so registering folks in our area helps elect Abigail Spanberger and other statewide candidates! To contact Suzanne to become part of the team, click [here](#).

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## Lamont Bagby Wins as Interim DPVA Leader

As you read in our mid-February newsletter, Democratic Party of Virginia (DPVA) Chair Susan Swecker decided to step down after 10 years in the post. Three people ran to complete her term: state Senator Lamont Bagby, 10th Congressional District Democratic Committee chair Zachary Pruckowski, and 1st Congressional District Democratic Committee member Josh Stanfield.



On March 22, the DPVA Central Committee elected Sen. Bagby. He's committed to electing Democrats to every office in November -- not only the statewide offices, but also to the House of Delegates and local government positions all across Virginia.

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**Ranked-Choice Voting will  
Decide City Council**



## Candidates

For the first time, ranked-choice voting will decide who wins the Charlottesville City Council Primary Election on June 17. For more on ranked-choice voting, click [here](#).

Ranked-choice voting has been used to select candidates since the 1850s, and is used in 62 jurisdictions across 24 states, according to FairVote, a nonpartisan organization.

The League of Women Voters is conducting informational meetings on ranked-choice:

- Sunday, April 6, 3:00pm, Central Library's Swanson Room, 201 E. Market Street Charlottesville
- Wednesday, May 7, online, 1:30pm; register in advance at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1254496846839>.

Democratic primary City Council candidates now include [Juandiego Wade \(mayor\)](#) and [Bryan Pinkston \(vice mayor\)](#) and [Jen Fleisher](#). Two Democratic nominees will be elected at the June 17 primary to run in the November general election.

We were fortunate to have two council primary candidates speak at our March 25 Jefferson School meeting, Wade and Pinkston (Fleisher was invited as well). We also heard from Jason Vandever for Treasurer, James Brown for Sheriff, and Todd Divers for Commissioner of the Revenue. Attendees who wished to add them to the June 17 Democratic primary ballot signed their petitions.



## Greet Our New Co-Secretary

Kushaan Soodan stepped up in our time of need to replace Will Evans as our new co-secretary. Kushaan is a second year UVA student, looking to major in Public Policy and Economics at UVA's Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy.

He's deeply interested in learning about youth engagement in politics and community organizing. Kushaan (very successfully!) served as a Cville Dems intern during the presidential election season, registering tons of UVA students on Grounds.

Kushaan is also involved with UVA's International Relations Organization, where he helped staff and organize Model United

Nations conferences for high school, university students, and the broader community.

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## Your Voices Are Heard!

Hundreds of people have been joining area protests (see above for one this Saturday!) organized or co-organized by Indivisible Charlottesville.



- Hundreds gathered for a March 15 [“Tesla Takedown” rally](#) at Tesla’s planned store (expected to open sometime April-June) at Stonefield Mall on Route 29. The Mall’s owner/developer told *The Daily Progress* that there are no plans to back out of a lease put together three years ago and executed last fall. If you feel strongly, call the number in the photo below to ask Stonefield to consider not opening the showroom or shopping at Stonefield (as some protestors noted).
- A [“Stand Up for Science” rally](#) took place March 7 at the Free Speech Wall. Scientists and medical professionals addressed rally-goers in response to the recent executive orders, funding freezes, and federal firings. Organizers said they want the Trump administration “to leave science to the experts.”
- March 4 was a [“Stand With Ukraine” rally](#) at the Federal Building on Main Street.

The goal of rallies is to encourage people to “Raise their voices, vote when the next elections come, and stand up for democracy and the kind of world we want to live,” Dan Doernberg (Indivisible Charlottesville and Charlottesville Dem member) said in an NBC29 interview.

Think protests don’t make an impact? [Check out this now-classic article](#) on the power of nonviolent protest movements. (Note: 3.5% of the US adult population is about 9 million people).



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## Reminders of Upcoming Events

- **4/05** - Hands Off 2025 protest, Hwy 29 at Hydraulic Road, 1-2pm (see article above)
- **4/06** - Informational meeting about ranked-choice voting (see article above)
- **4/09** - Volunteer event for Abigail Spanberger (see article above)
- **4/12** - Spanberger for Governor Campaign Canvass Launch (see article above)

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## 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!

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### Charlottesville Democratic Party ("Cville Dems")

<https://cvilledems.org>

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Contact us: [cvilledemschair@gmail.com](mailto:cvilledemschair@gmail.com)

Add me to the [mailing list](#)

**Thank you for your support!**

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