

# C'VILLE DEMS

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News and Updates from the Cville Dems (12/01/2022)

## 2 easy ways you can support Cville Dems today:

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- Like/Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) (and like some of our posts!)

## Mark Your Calendars!

- 12/01 (tonight 6pm!!) David Toscano reads & discusses his well-received new book "Bellwether: Virginia's Political Transformation, 2006-2020" at The Center. [Save a seat here](#)
- 12/26 POSTPONED (until January) Full Committee Meeting



## Report: 11/28 Executive Committee Meeting

There are important discussions going on about where how we vote in the city that will impact a large fraction of the city's voters in 2023 and thereafter.

### • Precinct Redistricting

City of Charlottesville Registrar Taylor Yowell and Electoral

Board member Ann Hemenway shared the City's draft proposal for reformatting Charlottesville's precincts with the goals of evening out the number of voters in each precinct and increasing functionality, i.e. walkability, parking, etc. Around 40% of city voters would be in a new precinct. Alumni Hall (high-traffic accessibility problems) and Tonsler (inadequate space and parking) precincts would be replaced by Charlottesville High School and Jackson-Via.

### • **Update on Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)**

Delegate Hudson explained that, due to electronic voting equipment limitations, City Council won't have the ability to use RCV in the 6/2023 primary, but could authorize its use starting as soon as the 11/2023 general election. Sally asked the Executive Committee to consider having the Full Committee pass a resolution telling City Council whether we support or oppose an ordinance authorizing RCV for City Council elections.

It's likely that the Cville Dems will need to have additional meetings and/or communications re: RCV and regarding the process of nominating candidates soon.

Sally shared a document with some of her perspectives on RCV: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Fg3kC6MJ9Oy-UMCb7txPimSMnceHezVWotJJDXCu7F8/edit>

### • **Reflections on the November General Election**

Josh Throneburg reported that he and his team are doing an after-election report to analyze what worked well and what didn't; Josh is committed to staying involved to try to build in all of those areas for the future.

The campaign's budget was much smaller than it had been for the previous two Democratic campaigns in the district, and so the campaign couldn't reach as many voters as it needed to. Josh also indicated that the party needs to build up its infrastructure if we want to have success in the Fifth; some counties barely have a functioning Democratic committee, and the party's network in rural areas is weak. His team is creating some briefing materials and other infrastructure so our next 5th District candidate won't have to start from ground zero as his campaign did.

[As co-chairs Dashad and John previously posted on social media a million "thank yous" to Josh Throneburg, his staff, his family, volunteers & donors. We didn't win, but we put out a positive message of Democratic values, compassion, and common sense. Josh has our party's gratitude and great respect, and we salute him for leading our good fight!]

## • Post-Election Day Update

Electoral Board member Jim Nix reported that 53% of active voters voted in the past election, only down 3% from last year's gubernatorial race. The new electronic poll books worked very well. Same-day registration/voting on election day was a major change this year: 950 provisional ballots were cast (901 were certified and counted), nearly all were done on election day itself and, as expected, most were from students. This was even more provisional ballots than expected and led to a lot of stress on Carver and Venable poll workers, issues that will be addressed.

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## January 10th Special Election

Aaron Rouse, former Virginia Beach City Councilman (and Virginia Tech and NFL football player) is running for Virginia State Senate District 07. You can find out more about this excellent candidate, and support

him, at <https://rouseforsenate.com>

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## RIP Rep. Donald McEachin

Richmond's very highly-regarded and well-liked House of Representatives member Donald McEachin passed away on Monday 11/28. The *Richmond Times Dispatch* ran this [remembrance](#). Our sympathies to his family and friends.



If you volunteered at or visited the Cville Dems' voter registration tent at the Ix Market during the campaign season, you likely met Albemarle Dems' Earlysville Precinct Captain Zach Levy, a frequent and energetic volunteer there. He finds the Charlottesville Dems a warm and welcoming group of really nice people (he has that right, yes!?).

Zach, his wife Brandi (they met in Nashville and have been married for 16 years), their middle school children Fletch and Lennon, and their two Australian shepherd dogs moved here in November 2020. Charlottesville came on their radar after making multiple

getaway trips here from Virginia Beach when the pandemic was first hitting hard. For fun the family enjoys camping and hiking (Zach is also an avid trail runner) and generally taking advantage of all that Charlottesville offers.

Zach grew up in Manhattan, and Democratic politics was a major topic of conversation when he got together with his mom's Texas-based family, but there wasn't a lot of corresponding action. Over time that disconnect troubled him; people need to be involved as part of the solution, even if it's just sending a postcard a week. His "Aha" moment/impetus to action came a few years ago when he and Fletch were at a VA Beach rally against gun violence where Missy Cotter Smasal (Dem who lost a Virginia Beach election for VA08 State Senate in 2019) and other activists (largely mothers) were holding and imploring people to mobilize for change. He was really moved by that experience... and here he is.

By day he runs his own business remotely managing out-of-town commercial real estate. Before that, he was in the music business, including jobs with John Scher (a big-time East Coast concert promoter) and for a time putting on his own music festival (promotion, building stages, and everything in between!).

A big "thank you" to Zach for all he has contributed in his short time here, and a big welcome to him and Brandi and Fletch and Lennon!

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## Preaching BEYOND the Choir

(Why electing Dems matters!)

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The U.S. Senate passed a bill on Tuesday that would protect federal recognition of same-sex marriage, a measure taken up in response to worries the Supreme Court could overturn a 2015 decision that legalized it nationwide....[only!!!--Ed.] Twelve Republicans joined 49 Democrats in supporting the bill. [Reuters, 11/29/2022](#)

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Thanks to courageous and persistent Democratic pressure, the House January 6th Committee and Biden's DOJ have made great progress restoring the rule of law:

- Oath Keepers head Stewart Rhodes has been convicted of sedition. [CNN, 11/29/2022](#)



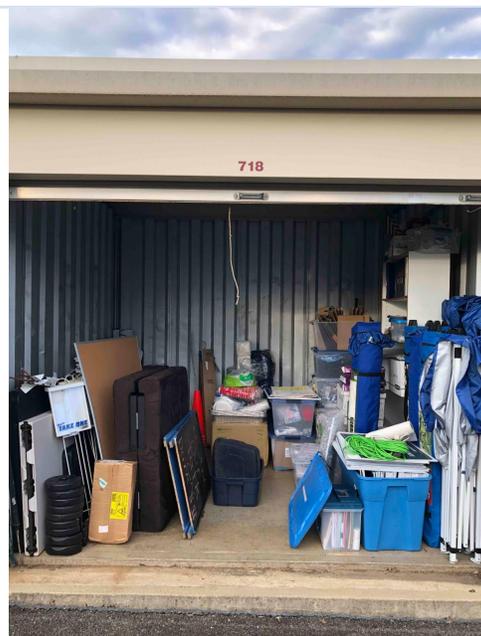
- Atty General Merrick Garland appointed a special counsel for the investigations into ex-President Trump's attempts to [overturn the 2020 election](#) and his [removal of national security documents](#) from the White House.
- The [January 6th Committee report](#) will be out before Christmas!

Speaking of Christmas... DC insiders say that ex-Pres. Trump will only be getting a lump of coal this year, and that's only because of fossil fuel industry support for every Republican.

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## BEFORE and AFTER Dept.

Saving our biggest news for last... we took some time after the election to clear out our storage unit! Masses of accumulated lawn signs (the wire frames that hold up lawn signs cost campaigns about three dollars each, so we have them available for the next campaign), campaign materials, office equipment, and.... stuff... were sorted, organized, and recycled or donated (e.g. a box of old campaign materials to the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society). Now we're ready for 2023! Thanks to everyone who helped make this magic happen: Bekah Saxon, Dashad Cooper, John McLaren, Mary Ann and Mark Harris, Mary Jane Gore, Nancy Damon, and Suzanne Michels. Note: local politics is fun and rewarding, but not (always) as glamorous as people think. 😊



**Partner Organizations**

Our friends the [UVA Dems](#), [Albemarle Dems](#), [Greene County Dems](#), [Nelson County Dems](#), and (the new!) [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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**Thank you for your support!**

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