

# C'VILLE DEMS

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## News and Updates from the Cville Dems (1/5/2023)

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

- Forward this to friends who aren't politically engaged but might want to know what the Cville Dems do and stand for
- Like/Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Mastodon](#), and [Instagram](#) (and like some of our posts!)

We hope 2023 is off to a good start for everyone. Let's start the year off right by working for Democratic candidates, getting our Covid booster shots, and being kind to each other!

### Mark Your Calendars!

- 1/07 VA-35 Special Election (see below)
- 1/09 6:30pm Zoom-only Full Committee meeting (see below)
- 1/09 Swords into Plowshares Court Appearance (see below)
- 1/7-1/10 Special Election push for HD-24 (see below)
- 1/10 VA-07 Special Election (see below)
- 1/16 Gun Violence Prevention rally (see below)

**Full Committee Meeting:  
This Monday 1/09, Zoom-only**

**UPDATE: This meeting, the only one we're**



**having in January, will only be on Zoom,** not also in person as previously announced; look for the Zoom link in an email a day or two pre-meeting. Here are the agenda highlights:

- **Voter Protection**

DPVA is eliminating its statewide Voter Protection Department, so we and other local committees need to meet and establish our own VoPro committees. Priority #1 is to recruit an army of volunteers to help voters who have Election Day problems, including any voters whose eligibility is challenged. These people need to be in place for this November's election so we can use that experience to prepare for the November 2024 presidential election, where it could really matter! Kristin Clarens will brief us on the evolving voter protection strategy.

- **2023 Primaries**

There will likely be primaries in June 2023 for City Council, House of Delegates, and State Senate elections. We'll share what we know about the primaries at this meeting.

- **Update on Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)**

Delegate Hudson told the Executive Committee last month that, due to electronic voting equipment limitations, City Council won't have the ability to use RCV in a 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.

Sally shared a document with some of her perspectives on RCV (please look it over before the meeting):

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Fg3kC6MJ9Oy-UMCb7txPimSMnceHezVWotJDXCu7F8/edit>

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## **Three VA Early-January Must-Win Special Elections**

The three races below are critical to protect the progress we've made and for the upcoming legislative session. We have just a few days left to elect candidates who will support reproductive and voting rights, environmental protection, rule of law, etc. These aren't our districts, but Democrats are all on one team and we need to show up for each other!





Our friends at [Rural GroundGame](#) need our help for the final 4 days of District 24's 1/10 Special Election that will helpfully see [Jade Harris](#) win a seat in the House of Delegates!

Jade is the only candidate in the race with solid, local, political experience (she was Vice Mayor of Glasgow, VA) and has worked on funding for community infrastructure and gun violence prevention.

At this point she really needs physical and virtual "boots on the ground" for the final GOTV:

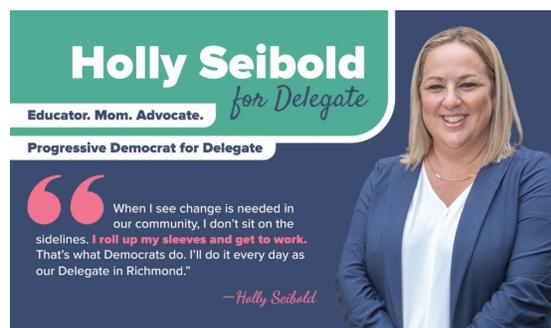
- January 7, 8, & 9 — In-person AND virtual at 10am/Noon/3pm
- Election Day 1/10 — In-person AND virtual at 9am/Noon/3pm

In-person meet-up locations:

**Lexington:** 11 S. Jefferson St. Lexington, VA 24450

**Amherst:** (location TBA)

For more details, please reach out to [harris4va@gmail.com](mailto:harris4va@gmail.com)





VA-35 (Fairfax County) has a January 7th Special Election. Holly Siebold is a progressive Dem (and Mom and Educator), and this is an important seat for us to keep blue! Visit [hollyseibold.com](https://hollyseibold.com) for info about this excellent candidate, and donate [here](#).

Aaron Rouse, former Virginia Beach City Councilman (and Hokie/NFL football player) is running for VA-07 State Senate (Virginia Beach area). The election is Jan. 10th. Visit <https://rouseforsenate.com> to find out more about this excellent candidate, and donate [here](#).

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## New Year Departures

Two significant and regretful changes to announce: ,

1. Sena Magill will be stepping down from City Council effective January 11th for family reasons (here's the *Daily Progress* story). Thank you Sena for your excellent service in one of the toughest jobs we know of! And we fondly remember Sena's generosity, positive outlook, and hard work as a Precinct Captain (as well as her homemade cookies!); Sena is one of a kind! [Note: City Council must appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of her term (through the end of 2023), and the City's website has a link for people interested in applying for consideration here.]
  2. Ray Dueser has to step down as Co-chair of Walker Precinct because of his many other obligations. Ray has a long record of service beyond the call of duty, including many years of work to increase volunteer participation in his precinct, well-measured (and often pithy!) comments in committee meetings, and most recently helping with the Bylaws update. You will be missed at Executive Committee meetings, Ray!
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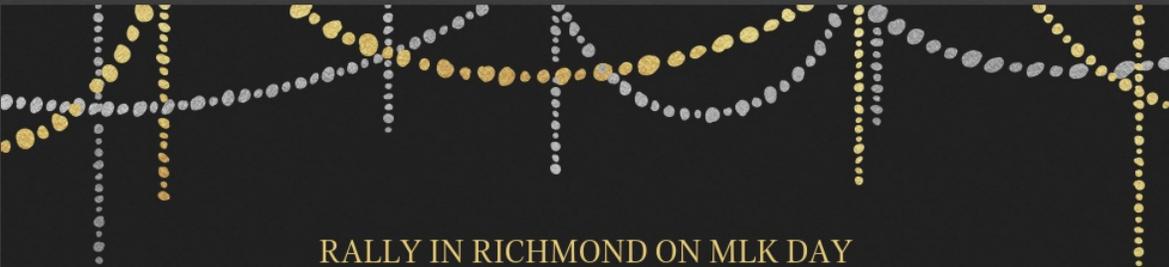
## Court Support for the Jefferson School

The Jefferson School African American Heritage Center continues to be harassed by Confederate-sympathizing plaintiffs suing it to try to further delay the Swords into Plowshares repurposing of the Lee statue into inclusive art (an already City Council-approved project). Please join us on Monday, January 9 at 3pm at Charlottesville Circuit Court, 315 E High St., to show our support for Dr. Andrea Douglas and the JSAAHC as she answers some questions in advance of the February 1st (9am) trial date.



Despite the on-going legal harassment, the Swords into Plowshares team has completed the community engagement phase and will soon begin the search for an artist to create new art in collaboration with the community.

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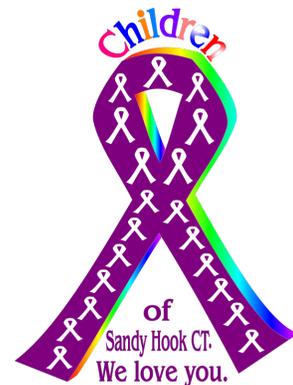


**RALLY IN RICHMOND ON MLK DAY**  
Host: Charlottesville Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention (434) 409-3324  
When: Monday, January 16, 2023 from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
Where: For loading the Bus: Meadows Presbyterian Church 2200 Angus Road Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

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## 1/16 Richmond Rally against Gun Violence

The Charlottesville Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention (CCGVP) has chartered a bus at Noon on Monday 1/16 to go to an MLK Day rally in Richmond to demand passage of sensible, common sense Gun Violence Prevention laws. For more information visit <http://evite.me/DUfpPftc93>.



The rally was announced last month on the 10th anniversary of the horrific Sandy Hook shootings.



## Taking Effect

Here are a few highlights Del. Sally Hudson flagged last week:

- Thousands of Virginia workers got a raise as our minimum wage went up to \$12/hr. Just two years ago, Virginia ranked dead last among Oxfam America's worst states for workers.

We've since climbed to the middle of the pack, as we've modernized the laws protecting workers' wages and basic bargaining rights. There's an awful lot of work still left to do, but this step is something to celebrate.

- With wages going up, Virginia also cut taxes on the things we all buy most. The state's grocery tax has ended, another step long overdue. Virginia was one of just 13 states left in the country that still taxed grocery sales, and those days are finally done. We still have local governments that rely on grocery taxes for revenue, so there's more we can do to ease taxes on working families.
- If you're shopping in either Charlottesville or Albemarle County, be sure to bring a bag; there's now a five cent tax on plastic bags.

[We got an update from the Sierra Club on this last one: you can donate your extra reusable grocery bags at Refill Renew, 171-B Allied Lane (off of McIntire Road) --or-- at Dogwood Refillery, 190 Zan Road (off of Hillsdale Drive). More sites are being lined up. For info about the tax see the [City of Charlottesville website](#).]

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## Senator Deeds on Mental Health Funding

State Senator Creigh Deeds got a nice year-end Op-Ed piece in the [Richmond Times-Dispatch](#), here's an excerpt:

"Gov. Glenn Youngkin has proposed significant investments to begin to catch up after decades of underfunding critical mental health care programs. While I applaud the governor for his intentions, I'd be remiss if I didn't remind him and my colleagues in the General Assembly that these proposed investments should be viewed as the floor, not the ceiling. If our goal is to keep people out of crisis, then we have more work to



do. The governor's plan is a crisis-first response, closely resembling that of Arizona's. The premise of the plan is centered around regional crisis centers with the idea that these centers would service individuals in need faster, get police officers out of emergency rooms, and take pressure off of ERs and hospitals — all policies that we can agree on and ultimately support. There's no question that we need this response, but instead of having a "crisis-first mentality" we can do more to fix our broken system now."

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## **Inflation Reduction Act Benefits Start Kicking In**

It's easy to forget the many significant

benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act that the Dems pushed through way back in... August (seems like forever ago, no!?). Senator Warner put out a [media release](#) reminding us about the provisions that took effect January 1st:

- Penalties on drug manufacturers that increase prices
- Free vaccines for Medicare recipients
- \$35 cap on the cost of insulin
- Extension of ACA subsidies

With more helpful provisions kicking in on both April 1st (potential inflation protection for some Medicare Part B drugs) and October 1st (free vaccines for Medicaid recipients).

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## **Preaching BEYOND the Choir** (Why electing Dems matters!)

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"The US Food and Drug Administration is allowing certified pharmacies to dispense the abortion medication mifepristone to people who have a prescription...this modification is critically important to expanding access to medication abortion services...The FDA's move comes days after a new Justice Department legal

opinion declared that federal law allows the US Postal Service to deliver the abortion drugs – a move the Biden Administration believes could help protect access to abortion in states that have

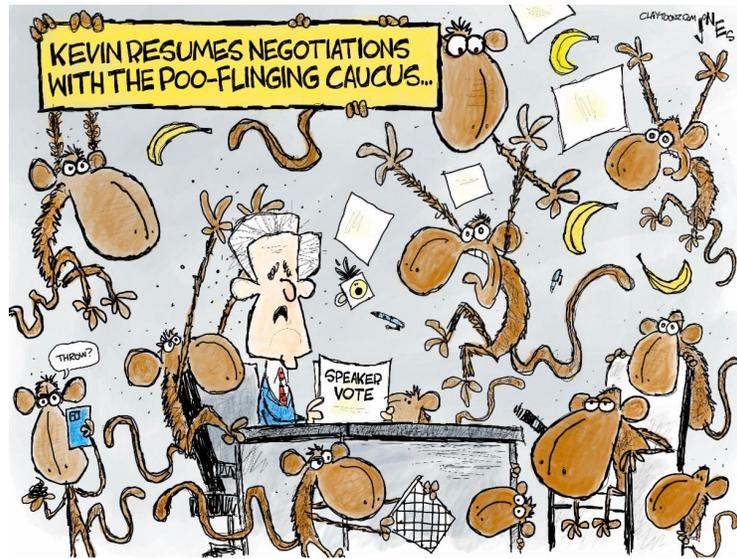
enacted bans following the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade." [CNN, 1/03/2023](#)

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"Norman Eisen, who served as ethics counsel in the Obama administration, observed, 'When there is a change of control in a branch of our government, incoming leaders usually like to signal their commitment to ethics as the first order of business. But the new House GOP majority is doing the exact opposite.' They might see the tactic as a short-term solution to shield Republican members from ethics investigations, but, as Eisen notes, 'the Republican caucus is inviting more corruption in their ranks.'" [Washington Post, 1/04/2023](#)

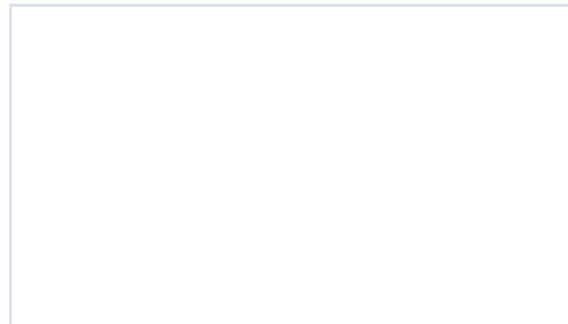
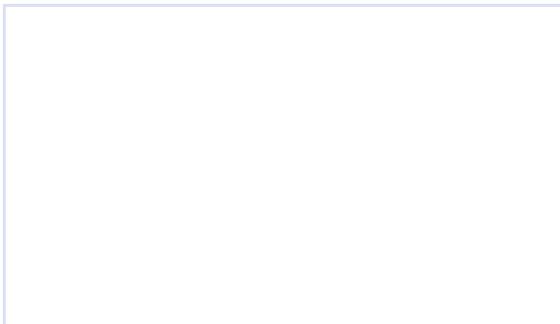


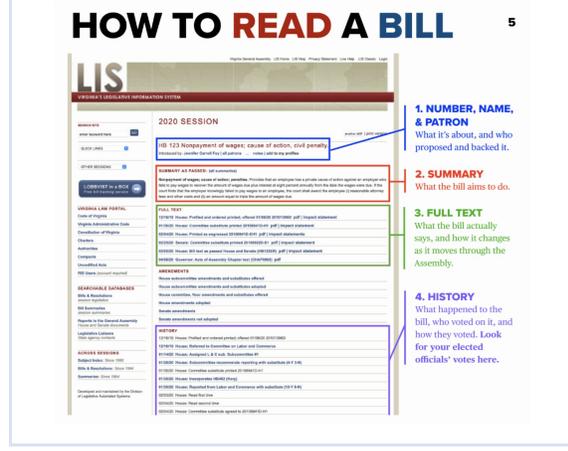
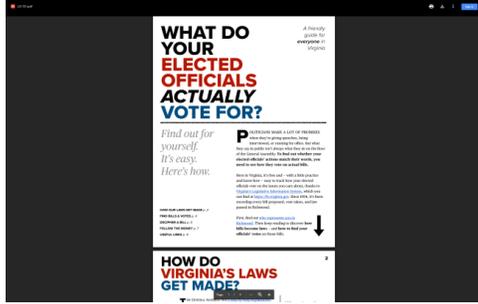
As for Republican efforts in the House of Representatives to settle on a Speaker, maybe this cartoon works where words fail...



## Want to Know How Virginia Laws Get Made??

With the 2023 legislative session about to start, we'd like to remind everyone about the beautiful and easy-to-follow [layperson's guide](#) to Virginia's [Legislative Information System \(LIS\)](#) put out by Nathan Alderman and his Albemarle Dems colleagues. If you've ever been curious about VA's legislative process but found (or assumed) it to be impenetrable, a few minutes with this 9-pager will make it all clear!





## 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!

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

<https://cvilledems.org>

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Add me to the [mailing list](#)

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