

C'VILLE DEMS

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News and Updates from the Cville Dems (1/19/2023)

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- 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!)

Mark Your Calendars!

- 1/20 PVCC "I Am Not Your Negro" free 7:30pm movie screening
- 1/26 Paramount Theater [UVA Community MLK Celebration](#) free talk by Dr. Yaba Blay
- 2/01 rally in support of Swords into Plowshares (9am and 9:30 am, see below)
- 2/27 Executive Committee Meeting

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)



At our January Full Committee meeting, following Delegate Sally Hudson's introductory overview and Q&A, we passed a resolution recommending that the City adopt RCV for all City Council primary and general elections.

The City has yet to hold any public discussions about adoption of RCV, and the reality is that our software couldn't be

ready to handle RCV until this April, too late to try to safely use RCV for the June primary. If the City decides to adopt RCV, its earliest possible use would be for the November City Council elections.

Primary Races are Starting to Take Shape

Several prospective candidates (so far) have announced for the two upcoming November primary races, listed here in alphabetical order:

- **State Senate District 11** — Sen. Creigh Deeds (senatordeeds.com), Delegate Sally Hudson (sally4virginia.com)
- **House of Delegates District 54** (Sally's current seat) — David Brown (dbrownndc@gmail.com), Katrina Callsen (katrina@katrinacallsen.com), Dashad Cooper (cooperfordelegate@gmail.com) have filed their initial paperwork. Bellamy Brown is in the process of filing.



As a matter of policy, the Cville Dems can't take sides in primaries, but we do pass on information about candidates' public events as the candidates share them with us.



Comings and Goings

At our January Full Committee meeting we welcomed Laura Shea (see profile below) from Clark Precinct as a member of the Full Committee and also got to meet the UVA Dems' new President Vincent Kloes (kloes@virginia.edu); we're

looking forward to working with both of them!

Two significant changes to announce, much to our regret:

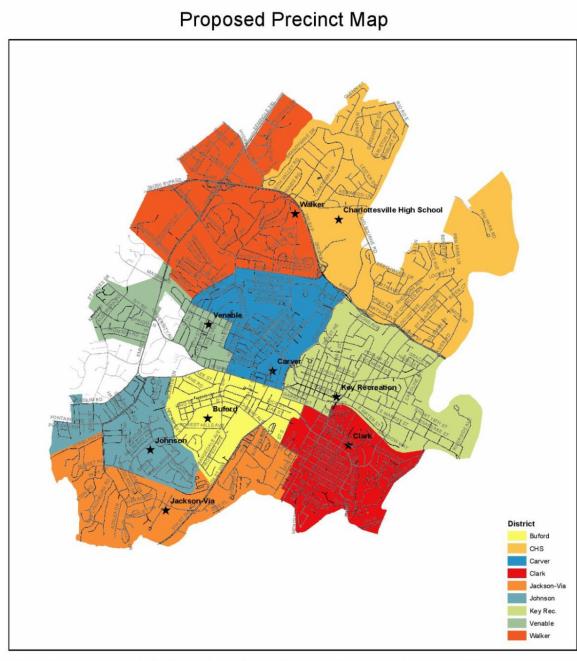
- This month Anne Hemenway announced her resignation from the Charlottesville Electoral Board. Anne has served with great distinction for eight years, tirelessly working with her Democratic and Republican colleagues alike to keep our electoral system working efficiently and fairly for all. We owe Anne a huge vote of thanks for this dedicated service. Jim Nix, who has finished his own 3-year term, will serve out the last year of Anne's term, after

which we'll need to nominate a new Democratic member to serve on the Board.

- Dashad Cooper announced his resignation as our Co-Chair in order to pursue elected office in the House of Delegates. We thank Dashad for his excellent service keeping things running smoothly, including handling most of the diplomatic outreach work needed to expand our party.

Help Wanted: Benevolent Co-Dictator Co-Chair

Dashad's departure means that we have an opening for a party Co-Chair! Good people skills (we always have bridges that need building!) and good organizational skills are two very desirable qualities. If you or someone you know might be a good candidate, please let us know by emailing John at cvilledemschair@gmail.com



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PREPARED DECEMBER 2022
CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

Proposed Changes to Cville Precincts (Update)

The [proposal](#) to replace polling places Alumni Hall and Tonsler with new polling places Charlottesville High School and Jackson-Via, and to redraw the lines of all current precincts in the City of Charlottesville, was presented to City Council on January 17th. The proposal will move through a discussion and public comment process before Council votes on it.

Jim Nix and Registrar Taylor Yowell explained at our

November meeting that these changes were motivated by issues like population shifts and problems with location, building size, and parking.



Dues are Due!

Treasurer Jason Vandever reminds us that 2023 dues (kept at the same affordable \$15 rate for many years) can be paid via [Act Blue](#) or by mailing a check payable to Cville Dems to PO Box 916, Cville 22902. If you're already set up in Act Blue for a monthly donation, that recurring donation covers you and you needn't do anything (convenient!).

The General Assembly is in Session!

A lot is happening between now and February 27th! If you want, you can follow things (play along!) from home by watching the House and Senate floor and committee livestreams

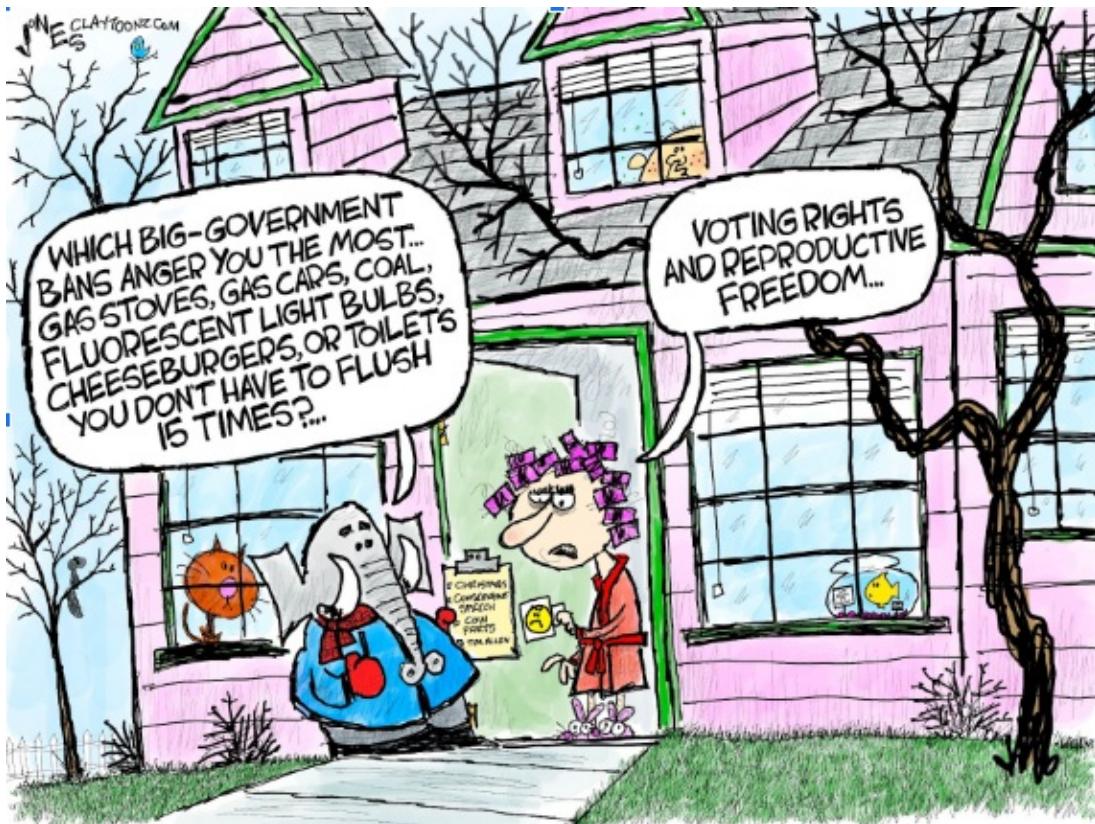


through the links given on this [General Assembly website page](#). And to understand how the VA legislative system works, check out the Albemarle Dems' wonderful 9-pager "What Do Your Elected Officials Actually Vote For?" (aka [LIS 101](#)).

Voter Protection Update

Now that DPVA has suspended its voter protection work, that work falls to us locals! Kristin Clarens, Jeremy Jones, and Bekah Saxon are spearheading this very important work; if you'd like more information, or might

want to volunteer to help with voter protection, please contact Bekah at bekah.saxon@gmail.com



Court Support for Swords into Plowshares

The Jefferson School African American Heritage Center (JSAAHC) 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 Wed. February 1, 2023 at Charlottesville Circuit Court, 315 E. High Street to show our support for the project:

- **9:00 am for a rally** in front of the courthouse, for the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, and for Dr. Andrea

Douglas.

- **9:30 am for the beginning of the actual court proceeding**
(stay and show your support by attending if you can!)
-

Dems Do Well in VA Special Elections

Congratulations to all three of these great candidates:

- Closest to home, Jade Harris ran a great though unsuccessful race in the very heavily Republican-leaning District 24
- Aaron Rouse flipped the Virginia Beach State Senate District 7 for the Dems. This is a very important victory for protecting reproductive rights in Virginia!
- Holly Seibold won the District 35 House of Delegates race in NoVa.



State Senator Aaron Rouse



Delegate Holly Seibold

Volunteer Profile: Laura Shea

Laura is the newest member of the Full Committee, coming on board in January. Like many of us, she felt the need to get involved after Trump was elected, and Nancy Damon encouraged

her to participate in local Dem organizing: first doing phone banking, then voter registration, and most recently working at the Clark polling location on Election Day.

Laura was born in Ithaca, NY in 1961. Her father was in school there working towards a PhD in philosophy. The family wound up in NoVA where he took a teaching position at George Mason University. Growing up she remembers the family house as a student hangout for anti-Vietnam War activists, Black Panthers, gay rights activists, and others; it gave her interesting perspectives on life!



She came to Charlottesville with her infant son in 1990 to be closer to her father and Brenda and to get a nursing degree at PVCC. She worked as a nurse for 16 years in Charlottesville and bought the house in Belmont where she still lives and raised a son and daughter there, now both out of the house.

At some point she realized she wanted to do something other than nursing, and in 2006 she started Night n Day Cleaning Service that she still owns. She employed a lot of people who had recently left prison or other institutions; she got a lot of satisfaction working with Nadine Brooks (ex-OAR) and Cherry Henley (Lending Hands) to help coach employees in re-establishing themselves in society. Over time it grew to be a pretty large and successful local business, but she's pulled back and now runs it as a small operation out of her home. More of her working time these days is spent assisting a few seniors to maintain independence by personally assisting them, very hands-on, with home management, errands, social activities, and activities of daily living. This too she finds very satisfying (as a nurse she was certified in gerontology).

When not working she enjoys gardening, beading jewelry, reading, kayaking, and hiking.



Preaching BEYOND the Choir (Why electing Dems matters!)

"Gov. Glenn Youngkin's decision to halt plans for a \$3.5 billion Ford Motor Co. battery plant over his concerns about Chinese influence cost one of the poorest areas of Virginia a reported 2,500 jobs with potential for more....Democratic state lawmakers slammed Youngkin, saying he put national politics in front of thousands of jobs in Southside Virginia. (Youngkin is considering a run for president in

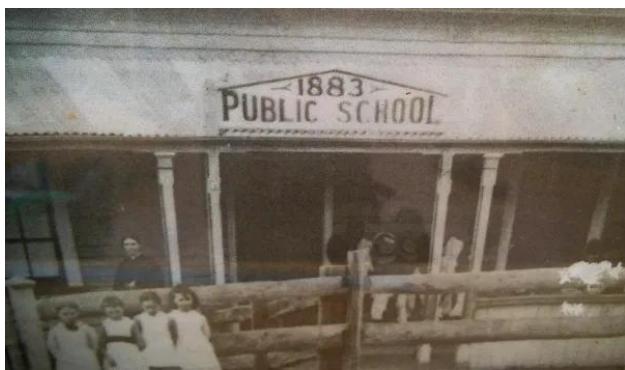
"Ford Motor Co. notified Virginia that it had selected the [Southern Virginia Mega Site at Berry Hill](#) for an electric battery plant prior to Gov. Glenn Youngkin scuttling the plan, according to two people with knowledge of the situation who spoke on the condition of anonymity. [Ford was also working on the site.](#) Youngkin said those facts are "fundamentally wrong," but repeatedly refused to answer whether anyone had told him Ford had decided on Virginia. *Daily Progress*, 1/19/23

"On Wednesday, Virginia Republicans introduced a bill to criminalize abortion in the commonwealth after 15 weeks of pregnancy. The party is framing the ban as a moderate compromise: GOP Gov. Glenn Youngkin praised it as a 'bipartisan consensus,' while the Senate Republican caucus described it as 'practical, sensible, and reasonable.' But these descriptions do not align with the actual text of the law.



In addition to outlawing abortion long before viability, the proposal shares several features with the extreme abortion bans adopted by states like Louisiana and Texas. It contains extremely limited exceptions while exposing doctors to criminal liability for performing emergency abortions, including up to 10 years' imprisonment. In short, the ban would ensure that reproductive health care in Virginia is dictated by criminal law rather than patients and their physicians."

Slate, 1/11/23



"Virginia is one of the richest states in the nation in median household income, often among the top ten. State legislators, however, consistently fail to meet the funding standards set by the Virginia Board of Education for students in K-12 public

schools. We rank near the bottom in per-pupil spending for public education, at a stingy 40th among the states....So naturally, Republicans in the General Assembly want to pass voucher legislation that would deplete public education of vital state dollars and direct that

"Lawmakers in Virginia are joining a national trend by introducing harmful legislation targeting transgender and nonbinary youth....Among others, Equality Virginia strongly opposes the following bills: [HB1387](#) – Transgender Athlete Ban, [HB1399](#) – Transgender Athlete Ban, [SB 911](#) – Transgender Athlete Ban, [SB 960](#) – Transgender Healthcare Ban, [SB 962](#) – Transgender Athlete Ban, [SB791](#) – Transgender Healthcare Ban"

Augusta Free Press, 1/11/23



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](#)

Thank you for your support!

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