

# C'VILLE DEMS

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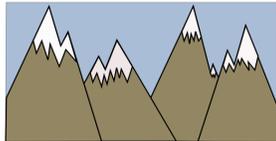
## News and Updates from the Cville Dems (7/30/2023)

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

- Come have fun at the July 30 Cville/Albemarle Dems Summer Picnic (below).
- 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!

- **7/29 10am-7pm** — 31st Annual [Chihamba African-American Cultural Arts Festival & Community Health Fair](#) at Washington Park
- **7/30 2pm** — Cville Dems/Albemarle Dems **RESCHEDULED** picnic at Darden Towe Park (see below)
- **8/2 6:30pm** (Wednesday) — Executive Committee meeting at Rives Park (see below)
- **9/16 2-9pm** — [C'ville Sabroso](#) Latinx Cultural Festival at Washington Park
- **9/16 2pm** — Day of Democracy (details TBA)



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- **9/17** — Charlottesville Pride Festival and Street Faire at Ix Art Park (details TBA)
  - **9/30 5-10pm** — [5th District Dems Extravaganza](#), 1501 Lakeside Dr., Lynchburg
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## "Summer Fun in the Sun" Picnic with Albemarle Dems (Sunday 7/30)

Come meet all our great candidates and help launch their November campaigns!

**Date & Time:** Sunday, July 30, 2pm-??

**Where:** Darden Towe Park Picnic Shelter. Enter the park, turn right at the T-intersection, then take the road to the end to reach the picnic shelter and Dog Park.

**We provide:** Hot dogs/burgers/vegan food options + games for adults and kids. We're bringing cornhole, balls for soccer/kickball, bocce/petanque, and bubbles for little ones; you can bring more of the above or your own favorite picnic games/activities!

**You bring:** Non-alcoholic beverages, a side dish or dessert, 1 chair per person, family and friends (kid-friendly!), and your Democratic Spirit!

Food, games, meet candidates, and lots of Dems... what's not to like?

**Bring family and friends** (especially those who aren't as politically engaged) and help spread the word!

**RSVPs (optional but helpful)** to: [karencombs6522@gmail.com](mailto:karencombs6522@gmail.com)

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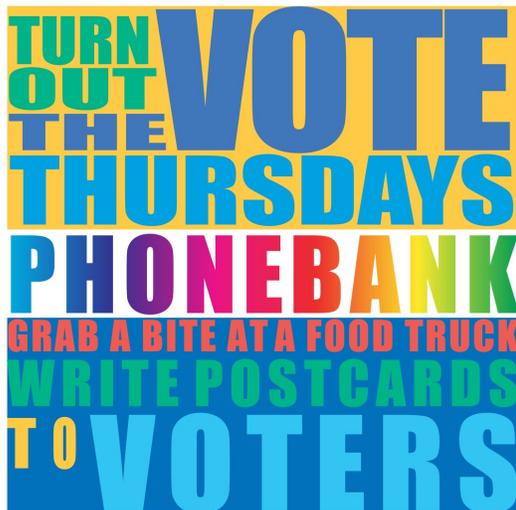
## 8/2 Executive Committee Meeting (Wednesday, *not Monday!*)

Due to scheduling conflicts, we **won't** have our regularly scheduled July 24 Full Committee meeting; instead, there'll be an Executive Committee meeting on **Wednesday, August 2**, 6:30pm at Rives Park. The agenda includes:



- plans for this year's "Turn Out the Vote" (Thursdays at Ix Art Park, see below)
- Summer Bash and Summer Picnic wrap-ups
- discussion of Primary results

If you have any topics to add to the agenda, please let John know:  
[cvilledemschair@gmail.com](mailto:cvilledemschair@gmail.com)



## Voter Outreach

**Turn-Out-the-Vote Thursdays** will resume on Thursday, August 10, 4-7pm, on the grass at Ix Art Park. It's a friendly group, with plenty of time to chat and catch up while we work, and we've added the extra hour (4pm start) to accommodate as many people's schedules as possible.

Mary Ann Harris, Nancy Damon, Suzanne Michels, Noemi Paz, and John Shepherd have been

planning goals and volunteer opportunities for November's election (less than four months away!).

As in the previous election cycles, the group will be:

- **Writing postcards** and making follow-up phone calls to the newly Charlottesville registered voters signed up by our Voter Registration Team. That combination has been very successful, resulting in voting at an 80% rate in 2020 and 2022, and at a 75% rate in 2021.
- **Distributing "walk sheet"** name and address lists of Dem-leaning people for our campaign canvassers to visit.
- **Sending some specific issue-message postcards** (a new idea we're considering).
- **Writing postcards** and phoning Albemarle residents we've registered.
- **Writing postcards** and phoning for campaigns near Charlottesville; we really want to win control of the House of Delegates and hold the Senate!
- **Perhaps organizing** a canvassing trip or two!

Consider one or more of these options and hopefully join in on whichever one(s) sound good to you! Please contact Mary Ann Harris with any questions: [harrisma49@gmail.com](mailto:harrisma49@gmail.com)

## We Have a New Voter Protection Head!

Jeremy Jones (see our Volunteer Profile of him below) is taking the reins from Bekah Saxon and Kristin Clarens after two election cycles of their good and gracious tutelage (and his prior 2020 experience working as an election official on Election Day). Jeremy really enjoys helping people on Election Day, when everyone's excited about casting their ballots and having their say in who governs.

Jeremy is looking to expand the VoPro Team to not only cover all the Charlottesville precincts in November, but also hopefully to help out in some other key VA races across the state, so everyone who's eligible to vote gets to do so. Voter protection requires a lot of behind-the-scenes work, so there are many ways you can pitch in. The main three:

1. **Observe polling place operations** and use an online system to file reports of any problems with the State Democratic Party's boiler room of lawyers ready to handle them. You **don't** have to be a lawyer to do this! The only prerequisites are:
  - Taking a 2-hour training session before Election Day (since it's all about making sure the rules are followed, step #1 is having lawyers explain what the rules are!).

### Voting in Virginia is: **PROTECTED**

- The Virginia Voting Rights Act provides comprehensive protections against voter suppression, discrimination or intimidation.
- You can't be denied the right to vote if you're legally qualified.
- You may ask an election officer for help to cast your ballot.
- You may ask for a new ballot if you want to change your vote before you cast it.
- You can vote a provisional ballot.
- You can vote if you are in line by 7pm when polls close.



- On Election Day you must work either the entire long exhilarating day (5am to 8pm!) or a more moderately thrilling half-day shift, either 5am-1pm or Noon-8pm.
- Being able to keep your cool and speak diplomatically if any problem(s) should arise.

Two examples of issues last year's team helped with:

- Explaining the new same-day registration and provisional voting rules to make sure that all such votes could be validated and counted.
- Dealing with a traffic accident in front of Tonsler Precinct that temporarily blocked voter access.

**2. "Chase and cure"** (remote work, flexible schedule over the six weeks of early voting) — after a bit of training, help voters fix problems with their mail-in absentee ballots so those ballots can be counted (e.g. when someone gives a PO Box mailing address rather than the required street address).

**3. Help staff the Voter Protection Hotline** (also remote) — answer problem report phone calls and then try to resolve those problems. This also requires training.

If you might be willing to get involved in these kinds of efforts, please contact Jeremy: [hijeremyjones@gmail.com](mailto:hijeremyjones@gmail.com)

NOTE: Threats to our elections are not hypothetical... VA counties not so far from us are under attack and we need to stay vigilant! For example:

"Allegations of misconduct and incompetence have bombarded the Buckingham County election office since last November .... after the entire office chose to resign rather than tolerate the accusations, a staff of four has been replaced by a staff of two .... The chairwoman of the Buckingham County Republican Committee who is now trying to assuage voter concerns may be the very reason voters had concerns in the first place ... two sources told *The Daily Progress* that [Republican Committee chairwoman Ramona] Christian emailed an unsubstantiated document to the local Republican Party that claimed absentee ballots in the county's 2022 General Election came from nonresidents." [Daily Progress, 7/11/23](#)





## Voter Registration News

The Team is mostly taking the summer off, but...

Everyone on the Voter Registration Team (and anyone who'd like to join!) needs to be certified each year, defined as July 1-June 30; even folks who've done it for years still need to recertify. The two online options, self-study or instructor-led online sessions, are explained on the [VA Dept of Elections website](#). The earlier people sign up the better!

## Draft Zoning Ordinance

After discussions with lots of folks, we decided not to pursue holding an informational forum on this topic.

There was a feeling that since the process is nearing its end, it made sense to leave any such educational events to groups that have been doing that work and accumulated considerable expertise over these many months (in some cases years).



## Volunteer Profile: Jeremy Jones

Jeremy is a California native. He was born in Fresno and attended USC as a theater major, where he met his wife Lisa and volunteered on Bill Clinton's presidential campaign. After graduation he did what he loved, working in nonprofit theater in-state for five years.

When he tired of that work, he decided an MBA was a good way to try some new things, and he enrolled in Darden in 2000...

and then 9-11 happened during his first month of classes. He and Lisa did not want to be separated during those uncertain times, and they decided Lisa would join him here ASAP (it turned out to be within weeks!).

After graduating from Darden, Jeremy took a marketing gig with Pfizer in suburban New Jersey (ask him anything about Visine), but they soon decided that Charlottesville was their preferred home, and within a few years they found a way to come back. They now live in Key Rec precinct.

Jeremy became politically aware at a young age:

- His family was a big consumer of political news, and politics was frequently and civilly discussed over the dinner table by his mother (a Democratic) and his father (a solid Republican then, no more!).
- Michael J. Fox modeled political engagement to him on "Family Ties"; luckily for us, Fox's involvement rather than his conservative views was the greater influence!

In addition to enjoying his local voter protection work (he's very grateful to Kristin and Bekah for teaching him so much!), Jeremy finds it very rewarding to help Sister Districts, a San Francisco-based organization that pairs Dems living in non-competitive blue areas with phone bank work for competitive races elsewhere (could be Virginia races, Wisconsin races, etc.).

Jeremy works in marketing, helping a variety of corporations and nonprofits over the past 20 years. When not busy with work and Cville Dems organizing, Jeremy enjoys doing hot yoga and spending time with Lisa and with their pointer mix rescue dog Olive.

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

Having more indictments handed down against ex-Pres. Trump is nothing new (we live in strange times), so today's spotlight is on another regressive Republican, Gov. Youngkin and the latest atrocious policies announced by his Administration:



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"Youngkin has vowed to use the new revenue numbers for the fiscal year that ended June 30 to prod Senate Democrats to accept his \$1 billion tax cut package — on top of \$4 billion in one-time and ongoing cuts lawmakers approved last year



— and end an impasse that marks the second time in 50 years that the state has ended a fiscal year without a revised budget." *Daily Progress*, 7/20/23

"[VA Dept. of Education] under the Youngkin administration halted the dissemination of grants intended to help provisionally licensed teachers of color receive their full teaching license, despite funding from the state legislature." *Daily Progress*, 7/18/23



"The Youngkin administration on Tuesday implemented a finalized K-12 transgender policy that emphasizes parents' rights and rolls back some of the protections afforded to transgender students under the previous administration's model policies....require students to use school bathrooms that match the sex they were assigned at birth... refer to each student using only the pronouns "appropriate to the sex appearing in the student's official record." *Daily Progress*, 7/18/23

## 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>

PO Box 916, Charlottesville, VA 22902

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

Add me to the [mailing list](#)

**Thank you for your support!**

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