

C'VILLE DEMS

Join our
Newsletter



Visit
our
Website

News and Updates from the Cville Dems (8/10/2023)

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, X/Twitter, Mastodon, and Instagram (and like some of our posts!).

Mark Your Calendars!

8/10 (4pm today!) — "Turn Out The Vote Thursdays at Ix Art Park" resumes (see below)

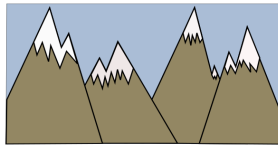
• **8/11-8/13 (times vary)** — [Soul of Cville Festival](#) at Ix Art Park

• **8/12 2pm** — "Moving Beyond August 12 Together" at Carver Recreation Center, sponsored by Charlottesville Clergy Collective

• **9/4 Labor Day**

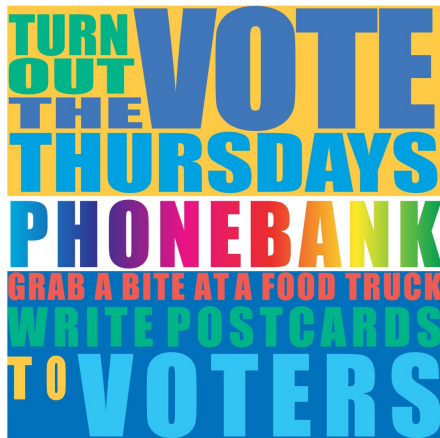
• **9/16 2-9pm** — [C'ville Sabroso](#) Latinx Cultural Festival at Washington Park

• **9/16 2pm** — [Democracy & Constitution Days Celebration](#) at the Free Speech Wall (coalition event)



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 at Ix Art Park (details TBA)
- 9/25 6:30pm — Dems Full Committee meeting (location TBA)
- 9/30 5-10pm — [5th District Dems Extravaganza](#) in Lynchburg



Work to Win on November 7!

Local Elections: Thursdays at Ix Art Park

Starting this Thursday 8/10, we'll be meeting every Thursday 4-7pm for "Turn Out the Vote Thursdays" at the Ix Art Park on the Brazos Tacos lawn, weather permitting. Come when and for how long your schedule and mood dictate; it needn't be every week or

the entire three hours! This week we'll be writing postcards to newly registered City and County voters; if you can, bring a chair to sit on and a clipboard or something similar to write on.

There are lots of different ways to help over the next few months, do what's most comfortable for you: door knocking, phone calling, voter registration, postcard writing, etc. For questions, please contact Mary Ann Harris: harrisma49@gmail.com.

For the past three years, we've been fortunate to have so many dedicated people join us at Ix Art Park to eat, drink, chat, and pitch in together to help our Democratic candidates win. In 2022, we had 100+ volunteers who attended at least one time, with many attending almost every week. If you've joined us before, please join us again. If you haven't tried it yet, come on down and meet fellow Dems and enjoy yourself while working for a big win on November 7!

Mary Ann Harris, Nancy Damon, Suzanne Michels, Noemi Paz, and John Shepherd have been planning goals and volunteer opportunities to help hold the Senate and win back control of the House of

Delegates! As in the previous years, the group will be:

- **Writing postcards** and making follow-up phone calls to newly registered voters. That combination has been very successful, resulting in this group voting at a consistent 75-80% rate in 2021-2023.
- **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.

Local Elections: Canvassing with the Albemarle Dems

We're partnering to ensure we win our local races (with several uncontested City races, it makes sense to shift our efforts!):

- **State Senate:** Creigh Deeds is favored to win our crucial Senate District 11, but the district has some very conservative areas, and we can't be complacent if we're going to keep this seat. His opponent, Phillip Andrew Hamilton, is quite a piece of work; among other claims to fame, he's publicly misgendered his own 12-year-old, claiming that school teachers had [poisoned his child's mind into being non-binary](#). This is not someone we want representing us; please donate to or canvass for the [Deeds campaign!](#)
- **House of Delegates:** Amy Laufer (our Albemarle County neighbor running in a competitive District #55 race) and Katrina Callsen (running unopposed in our District #54)
- **Charlottesville City Council:** Natalie Oschrin, Michael Payne, and Lloyd Snook
- **Charlottesville School Board:** Amanda Burn, Shymora Cooper, Chris Meyer, and Nicole Richardson
- **Albemarle County Board of Supervisors:** Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, Ann Mallek, and Michael Pruitt
- **Albemarle County School Board:** Rebecca Berlin, Judy Le, Ellen Moore Osborne, and Allison Spillman. A special note about

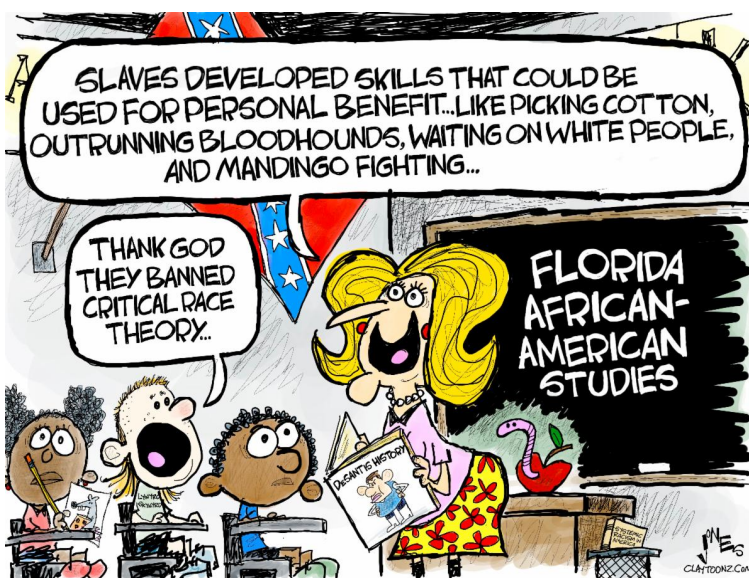


Allison's race: she's running against Meg Scalia Bryce, the daughter of the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Scalia-Bryce is (a) very concerned that the ACSB has been treating LGBTQ kids with respect and support, and (b) is very [offended by its anti-racist curriculum](#). Scalia-Bryce has been winning the fundraising race by a wide margin, and we can't let extremists like her start taking over our local schools. Please help [Allison's campaign](#) any way you can, especially via donations and canvassing help.

If you'd like to canvass locally (figure roughly 3 hours):

1. On a weekday, please email karencombs6522@gmail.com .
2. On a weekend, use [SignUp Genius](#) to participate in one or more of the coordinated canvasses we're doing with the Albemarle Dems, see the table below.

Date	Start Time	City	Location
Saturday, August 12	10:00 AM	Crozet	Mudhouse Crozet
Saturday, August 19	2:00 PM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Saturday, August 26	10:00 AM	Crozet	Mudhouse Crozet
Saturday, September 2	10:00 AM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Saturday, September 9	10:00 AM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Saturday, September 9	2:00 PM	Crozet	Mudhouse Crozet
Saturday, September 16	10:00 AM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Saturday, September 16	2:00 PM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Saturday, September 23	10:00 AM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Saturday, September 23	2:00 PM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Saturday, September 30	10:00 AM	Crozet	Mudhouse Crozet
Saturday, September 30	2:00 PM	Crozet	Mudhouse Crozet
Sunday, October 1	12:00 PM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Sunday, October 1	2:30 PM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Saturday, October 7	10:00 AM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Saturday, October 7	2:00 PM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Saturday, October 14	10:00 AM	Crozet	Mudhouse Crozet
Saturday, October 14	2:00 PM	Crozet	Mudhouse Crozet
Sunday, October 15	12:00 PM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Sunday, October 15	2:30 PM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Saturday, October 21st	10:00 AM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Saturday, October 21st	2:00 PM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Saturday, October 28	10:00 AM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
<u>Saturday, October 28</u>	2:00 PM	<u>Charlottesville</u>	<u>Combs Office</u>
<u>Saturday, November 4</u>	10:00 AM	<u>Crozet</u>	<u>Mudhouse Crozet</u>
<u>Saturday, November 4</u>	2:00 PM	<u>Crozet</u>	<u>Mudhouse Crozet</u>
<u>Sunday, November 5</u>	12:00 PM	<u>Charlottesville</u>	<u>Combs Office</u>
<u>Sunday, November 5</u>	2:30 PM	<u>Charlottesville</u>	<u>Combs Office</u>



Big Picture: Winning Locally Is NOT Enough

Republicans control the House of Delegates and the Governor's mansion, and Dems barely hold the Senate; if Republicans take the Senate, then Virginia will become Florida, which means forced

childbirth laws, schools teaching whitewashed history, “don’t-say-gay” laws, and other measures to erase LGBTQ youth.

We can't let this happen; all Dems need to help in some way. Here are four non-local races where our help can make a difference:

- The state party's political staff say that two must-win races are Senate District 17 ([Delegate Clint Jenkins](#) looking to move up) and Senate District 24 (incumbent [Senator Monty Mason](#) running in a redrawn district). These races aren't in the neighborhood, but if you can send a few bucks, it can help us retain the Senate!
- In not-too-distant HD-57, Western Henrico/Eastern Goochland, Charlottesville native [Susanna Gibson](#) is running in a no-incumbent, competitive district; we *need* to win this seat to have a chance at a House of Delegates Democratic majority. January 6 insurrectionist John McGuire represented about 55% of current HD57 voters in the old HD56, so we have MAGA voters to beat!
- [Lily Franklin](#) is running for the HD-41 seat, around Blacksburg. Charlottesville Dems know her well from her excellent work on the Josh Throneburg campaign, and she's exactly the sort of person we need in the House! She's in a right-leaning district, but we believe Lily has a fighting chance if we pull together. The "Turn Out the Vote Thursdays" group will be helping her campaign, possibly including a road trip to knock on doors there.

Whatever you choose to do, please do something to help the good guys hold the Senate and regain the House! Thank you!

And re: bad guys (elections matter!): our former 5th District Representative, Republican Tom Garrett, now running unopposed for VA House of Delegates District 56, was back in the [news yesterday](#) re: his bitter divorce proceedings with allegations of spousal abuse, attempted suicide, and thoughts of having his chief of staff killed.

PS— we've updated these website pages:

- [Charlottesville Precinct Maps](#)
- [Upcoming Local Elections](#)
- [Voter Registration and Voting Information](#)



REPORT: Executive Committee Meeting (Aug. 2)



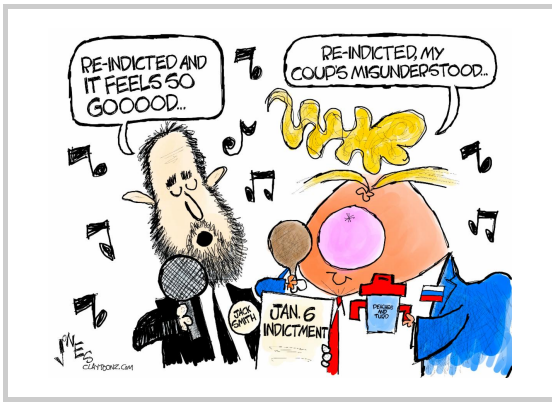
Highlights of the meeting at Rives Park:

- We reviewed the successful June 2 fundraiser (which netted \$296 over our \$8,000 goal) and agreed that the choice of [Rural GroundGame's](#) Lynlee Thorne as featured speaker worked beautifully.
- We also reviewed June 20 primary logistics. The main difficulty was that some voters turned up to the old (no longer exist!) polling stations at Tonsler and Alumni Hall, so we'll need to address that.
- We also reviewed the July 29 joint picnic with the Albemarle Dems, which everyone agreed was a great and unifying event. Big thanks to Albemarle Dems' Karen Combs for doing/overseeing most of the organizing work!
- Tom Vandever, a deeply committed Democrat who served numerous terms as Party Chair, talked with us about the Creigh Deeds campaign. He urged us to convey to local voters that we can't take the Senate campaign for granted, because the District has many conservative voters. Tom discussed coordination with our "Turn Out the Vote Thursdays" group to help all of our candidates in contested City and County races.
- Jim Nix updated us on a few election issues: (1) Roughly 8000 people voted in the June 20 primary, half during early voting and half on Election Day. (2) On August 21 he and Registrar/Director of Elections Taylor Yowell will be reporting to City Council about ranked choice voting, including how it works and how the state's first ranked choice election in Arlington went.



Time for Voter Registration Certifications

Everyone on the Voter Registration (VR) Team, and anyone who'd like to join, needs to be certified each July 1-June 30 by taking a training course from the Virginia Department of Elections. You can do online self-study or take an instructor-led online class; both options are explained [here](#). The earlier you sign up the better; the VR Team is gearing up again after a short summer break to register new voters for the November election!



Voter Protection for the November Election

Jeremy Jones 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, 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 ([details in our last issue](#)). If you might be willing to get involved in these efforts, please contact Jeremy: hijeremyjones@gmail.com

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.



Learn more about secure elections:
Vote.Virginia.gov

VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS



Report: Successful "Summer Fun in the Sun" Picnic with the Albemarle Dems

75 people turned out on July 30 and did have a lot of fun... and got to

hear good, short speeches from most of our local candidates!

The Albemarle Dems were super well-organized and had everything running smoothly and brought plenty of good food; thank you Karen Combs and crew! John McLaren coordinated getting gas grills (thanks to Rodney Beard and Jules Tatum for providing the equipment and transportation) and Martha Donnelly (game buyer extraordinaire), Emily Little, and Dan Doernberg organized the games, with cornhole provided by Josh Throneburg and Jason and Tom Vandever. Erin Monaghan took the games and miscellaneous other things to our storage locker for the next picnic (everyone said we should do this again, and hold more joint events with Albemarle!).

A few more photos are on our website!





Preaching BEYOND the Choir

(Why electing Dems matters!)

Republicans act like the rules only apply to others, and they cheat wherever they can: it's how they practice their "ends justify the means" philosophy.

We all remember their hypocrisy about confirming Supreme Court Justices (a year pre-presidential election was not enough time to have a hearing on Pres. Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland's, but a month pre-presidential election was plenty of time to replace Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg with a Trump nominee)...also overhauling North Carolina's constitution right before they lost the governorship...egregious gerrymandering everywhere...etc. etc.



Their "do whatever it takes" cheating continues:



"Ohio Republicans had placed the question on the ballot in hopes of thwarting the abortion-rights measure that will be put to voters in November....' [URGE coalition head Kimberly Inez McGuire said] Today, the power of the people prevailed... 'Ohio voters defended democracy against a cowardly and cynical attack. Young people are on the frontlines of building a new future for Ohio. And in November, we'll win again by securing abortion access.'" [MSN, 8/9/23](#)

"When you do everything you can to rig an election and still lose, you have a problem. Voters in Ohio told the state's Republican Party on Tuesday that it has a big problem, and they sent that message to the GOP nationwide." [Washington Post, 8/9/23](#)

"A week after deciding not to open two satellite locations for early voting for this fall's elections due to cost concerns, the three-person [Republican-controlled Richmond Electoral Board--Ed.] voted unanimously to reverse itself Friday morning following a public outcry that led other state and local officials to point out the move appeared to violate state law...Local activists and Democratic officials strongly objected to the planned



closure of the two sites, saying it would needlessly restrict voting access for majority-Black neighborhoods and lower-income Richmonders who rely on public transportation... [but] the board voted 2-1 not to offer early voting on Sundays. That's a relatively new option available for local election officials, inspired largely by Sunday voter drives organized by Black churches..." [Virginia Mercury, 8/4/23](#)



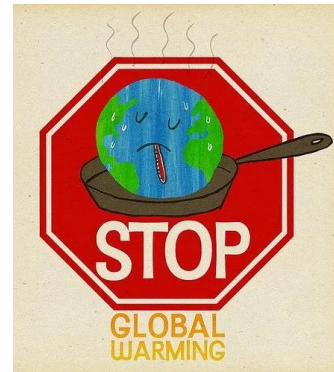
And a late-breaking allegation of cheating by a familiar VA Republican:

"[Republican Nick Freitas is] now running against Democratic challenger Sara Ratcliffe to represent the new House District 62. Tax records show he owns a home just north of the town of Culpeper — but that property is in House District 61. WMRA obtained the certificate of candidate qualification Freitas filed with the Virginia Department of Elections this year, and it lists a different address from

the home he's owned since 2010. Instead, it lists an address just southeast of town, which is in House District 62. That property is owned by Robin McMichael — who, according to a 2019 Virginia Mercury article, is Freitas' mother." [VPM Radio, 8/8/23](#)

Another timely theme: climate change.

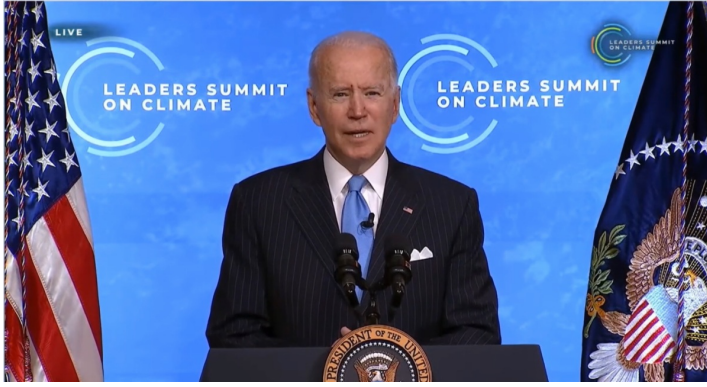
In the last three weeks, our country has suffered through oppressive smoke and poor air quality due to Canadian forest fires, wildfires yesterday in Hawaii, brutal weeks-long heat in much of the country (Phoenix, AZ has been the poster child), and severe East Coast thunderstorms that luckily bypassed Charlottesville.



Yet Republicans continue to deny climate change is happening and block Democratic efforts to act (e.g. here in VA, Gov. Youngkin reversed a bi-partisan consensus and withdrew from the RGGI).

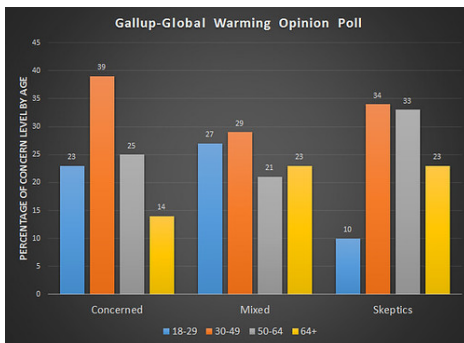
Though Republicans control of the House of Representatives and can filibuster the Dem's razor-thin Senate majority, the Biden Administration and Congressional Democrats have nevertheless accomplished a tremendous amount despite Republican obstructionism:

"Under President Obama (yes, Obama), [the EPA] shrunk from



about 17,000 to 15,000, and under Trump, it bottomed out at 14,172. And during Trump's term, many of the agency's top scientists fled due to political interference in their work. In fiscal year 2023, the EPA is back to

15,115 staff and still growing. Its **budget** has increased one billion dollars to over 10 billion since Biden took office....Joe Biden and his team have put together a stunning record of environmental success.... President Biden was able to win extraordinary amounts of environmental funding for energy, water, and other key programs because he understands that incentives for building a green economy are easier to sell than punishments for pollution. No elected official has a perfect environmental record, but *Biden has the best environmental record of any president in American history.*" [Columbia Climate School "State of the Planet", 6/5/23](#)



"The latest heat wave is fueled by human-caused climate change from burning fossil fuels, but despite the settled science, the overwhelming evidence and the billions of dollars in increases for disaster preparation and recovery that climate change is costing the country, Republicans have grown more skeptical of the need to prioritize

fixing it, according to the latest NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll ... almost three-quarters of Republicans (72%) said the economy should be given priority, even at the risk of ignoring climate change. That is up 13 points since 2018 – despite the increases in climate-change-related weather disasters." [NPR, 8/3/2023](#)

"Former Vice President Mike Pence on Wednesday released an economic proposal to tackle high inflation that includes cutting government programs, the Environmental Protection Agency and President Joe Biden's incentives aimed at curbing impacts of climate change." [CNN, 7/26/23](#)



"Declaring it good 'not only for Arizona but



for the planet,' President Joe Biden on Tuesday signed a national monument designation for the greater Grand Canyon, turning the decades-long visions of Native American tribes and environmentalists into reality." [Associated Press, 8/8/23](#)

"[The Biden] administration has been pursuing the promise he made when he first took office to protect 30% of all the nation's lands and waters by 2030. He noted that the administration has protected 9 million acres in Alaska, 225,000 acres in Minnesota, 50,000 acres in Colorado, 500,000 acres in Nevada, and 6,600 acres in Texas. It has restored protections for three national monuments the previous administration had gutted: Grand Staircase–Escalante and Bears Ears in Utah and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts off the New England coast.



Interior Secretary Deb Haaland is working on creating a maritime sanctuary by protecting 770,000 square miles in the Pacific Ocean southwest of Hawaii." [Prof. Heather Cox Richardson, 8/8/23](#)

Partner Organizations

Our friends the [UVA Dems](#), [Albemarle Dems](#), [Greene County Dems](#), [Nelson County Dems](#), and (the relatively 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

Add me to the [mailing list](#)

Thank you for your support!

Co-chair: John McLaren

Co-chair: vacant

Newsletter Editor: Dan Doernberg

Newsletter Production: Bo Sacks

Paid for and authorized by the Charlottesville Democratic Committee

Charlottesville Democratic Committee ("Cville Dems") | PO Box 916, Charlottesville, VA 22902
<https://cvilledems.org>

[Unsubscribe bosacks@aol.com](mailto:bosacks@aol.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by bosacks@aol.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!