

# C'VILLE DEMS

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## News and Updates from the Cville Dems (9/14/2023)

### 3 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.
- Follow us on [Facebook](#), [X/Twitter](#), [Mastodon](#), and (currently offline) [Instagram](#), and like some of our posts!
- [Make a contribution](#) to cover the cost of postcards and stamps for new voter mailings

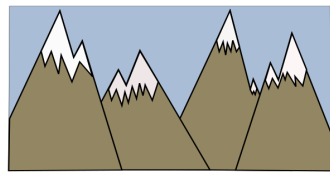
### In This Issue:

- Upcoming Events (mark your calendars!)
- 4 Ways to Work for Victory in November
- Sept 16: Day of Democracy & C'ville Sabroso
- Full Committee Meeting (New Date: 9/26)
- Extravaganza
- Volunteer Profile: Tyler Van Dyke
- Help with Voter Protection
- Preaching BEYOND the Choir

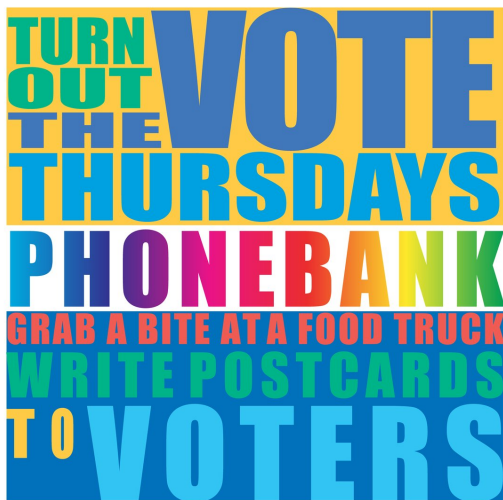
Note: if Gmail isn't showing you all of this newsletter, look near the bottom of the email for a link reading "[Message clipped] View entire message". Or... read the complete issue [on our website](#) once we upload it (usually within an hour of mailing).

## Upcoming Events!

- **9/14 4pm (TODAY)** — First public hearing on the consolidated Draft Zoning Ordinance (at City Hall or via [Zoom](#)) that will be a key to Charlottesville's future!
- **9/16 2:00-3:30pm** — [Democracy & Constitution Days Celebration](#) at the Free Speech Wall (coalition event, see below)
- **9/16 2-9pm** — [C'ville Sabroso Latin American Cultural Festival](#) at Washington Park (see below)
- **9/17 10:30am-5:30pm** — Charlottesville Pride at Ix Art Park
- **9/24 2-4pm** — [Allison Spillman fundraiser](#) at Greencroft, 575 Rodes Drive (see below)
- **9/26 6:30pm (new date)** — Full Committee meeting at Forest Hills Park (see below)
- **9/30 5-10pm** — [5th District Dems Extravaganza](#) in Lynchburg (see below)



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		



## Work for Democratic Victories on November 7!

### Local Option #1: "Turn Out the Vote Thursdays"

**Today** at Ix the group will be sending postcards to voters both local (City and County) and in nearby competitive districts (Rachel Levy in HD59 and Lily Franklin in HD41).

For the past three years, we've had many many dedicated people joining in. In 2022, we had 100+ volunteers who attended at least once to eat, drink, chat, and pitch in together to help our Democratic candidates win; many attended almost every week!

There'll be lots of different ways to help over the next few months; do what's most comfortable for you! For example:

- 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 people we've previously registered.
- Writing postcards and phoning for campaigns near Charlottesville.

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!

Questions? Please contact Mary Ann Harris: [harrisma49@gmail.com](mailto:harrisma49@gmail.com)

## Local Option #2: Canvassing

We're partnering with the Albemarle Dems to ensure we win all our local races; with several uncontested City races, it makes sense to shift some of our energy.



- State Senate: Incumbent Senator 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, Philip 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](#). And he favors schools outing gay students to their parents (see below in "Preaching Beyond the Choir"). This is *not* someone we want representing us; please donate to or canvass for (or both) the [Deeds campaign!](#)
- House of Delegates: [Amy Laufer](#) (our Albemarle County neighbor running in a competitive District #55 race, recently endorsed by Gabby Giffords's Gun Safety PAC) and [Katrina Callsen](#) (running unopposed in our District #54).
- Charlottesville City Council: Natalie Oschrin, Michael Payne, and Lloyd Snook (running unopposed).
- Charlottesville School Board: Amanda Burns, Shymora Cooper, Chris Meyer, and Nicole Richardson (four candidates running

unopposed for four open seats).

- Albemarle County Board of Supervisors: Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, Ann Mallek, and Michael Pruitt.
- Albemarle County School Board (ACSB): Rebecca Berlin, Judy Le, Ellen Moore Osborne, and [Allison Spillman](#). A few notes 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 (e.g. a fan of the Moms for Liberty book banners) start taking over our local schools (per [Forward Albemarle](#), all *her* kids attend private schools). Please help [Allison's campaign](#) any way you can, especially via donations and canvassing help.

**If you'd like to canvass locally (it takes about 3 hours):**

1. On a weekday, please email [karencombs6522@gmail.com](mailto:karencombs6522@gmail.com).
2. On a weekend, use [SignUp Genius](#) to participate in one or more of these coordinated canvasses:

Date	Start Time	City	Location
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 21	10:00 AM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Saturday, October 21	2:00 PM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Saturday, October 28	10:00 AM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Saturday, October 28	2:00 PM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Saturday, November 4	10:00 AM	Crozet	Mudhouse Crozet
Saturday, November 4	2:00 PM	Crozet	Mudhouse Crozet
Sunday, November 5	12:00 PM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Sunday, November 5	2:30 PM	Charlottesville	Combs Office

[Combs' Office map](#) [Mudhouse Crozet map](#) yellow=Weekends of Action emphasis

Please tell your friends and social media connections how important it is to vote (and maybe even volunteer!); we need to hit high vote counts in our area to offset more conservative areas!



### Option #3 Non-local: Help Key VA Races with Time and/or Cash

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!

Today we're highlighting [Schuyler VanValkenburg](#)'s important race trying to flip SD16 (just an hour's drive from us!) from red to blue, which would be a very big win. Schuyler is a high school Civics and Government teacher who's been serving in the VA House for the past six years. He just held a great Charlottesville fundraiser with our own

Senator Deeds, but his race is an expensive one and some added support from us could make the difference! Donate [here](#).

## Local Option #4: Help with Voter Registration

Our wonderful voter registration team, led by Suzanne Michels, is very active in the lead-up to Election Day: registering new voters (including those who've recently moved to or within our area), helping voters figure out where they can vote, and helping folks who need to have their voting rights restored file the necessary paperwork. At last week's 1x Saturday Market they got 14 new signups (and 1x Saturday markets are *not* impacted by the 1x financial challenges you may have heard about).



There are few things more satisfying than signing up a new voter! You can visit this [online signup form](#) to see what dates we need people. We'd love to have more folks pitch in, and if you're even a little bit of an extrovert, you'll enjoy it! Or email [suzemichels@gmail.com](mailto:suzemichels@gmail.com) if you might be interested.

PS— we recently updated these pages on our website:

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



## Two September 16 Local Events to Take In!

As summer draws to a close, we'd like to flag two events worthy of your time and support (we and the Albemarle Dems are cosponsors of the first one).

# WE WANT YOU...



## ... TO SUPPORT OUR DEMOCRACY!

A non-partisan, non-political, pro-democracy rally will be held at the [Free Speech Wall](#) to recognize and support our American Democracy.

Please join the rally on **September 16th** to celebrate our democracy and honor our Constitution.

Event sponsored by League of Women Voters, Piedmont Group Sierra Club, Charlottesville and Albemarle Democratic Parties, Charlottesville Center for Peace & Justice, Quaker Social Concerns Committee.

★ ★ ★ **MUSIC!** ★ ★ ★ **SPEAKERS!** ★ ★ ★

**Democracy & Constitution Days Celebration**  
◀ **Saturday, September 16 at 2 p.m.** ▶  
**Free Speech Wall on the Downtown Mall**



## Event #1: Democracy & Constitution Days Celebration

When: Sept. 16, 2:00–3:30pm  
Where: Downtown Mall Free  
Speech Wall

As Republicans nationwide disenfranchise vulnerable populations with voter suppression laws, and online platforms polarize our politics and sow distrust in our institutions, voters are recognizing the urgent threat to our democracy and are looking to push back... hence this event!

Speakers at this pro-democracy rally include our own Josh Throneburg, Meg Heubeck, Chair of the League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area and Director of Instruction at UVA's Center for Politics, and Prof. Bruce Williams from UVA Media Studies Department. Local musicians Theocles, Jon Nafziger, and the Green Grannies will also participate. The League of Women Voters will register voters and provide important voting information.

For more information, check out:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1479365319505121>

And before or after this short but very important event, check out at least part of this second fun and celebratory event:

## Event #2: C'Ville Sabroso Cultural Festival

# LATINX FESTIVAL

CULTURE, MUSIC, DANCE, ART & FOOD



C'ville  
sabroso



Ramona & The Holy Smokes  
2:35-3:05pm



Sonora Dinamita  
7:30-9pm



Tinkuy  
4:20-4:55pm



Villa Sabrosa  
4:55-5:20pm



Panamanian  
Traditional Dance  
3:10-3:40pm

**SATURDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 16, 2023**  
**2PM-9PM**

WASHINGTON PARK, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA  
FOR MORE INFO: 434-531-0104

organized by  
Sin Barreras Volunteers



When: Sept. 16, 2-9pm

Where: Washington Park, 1001 Preston Ave

As the region's only Latin American music, dance, and culture festival, C'ville Sabroso has become a treasured regional celebration over its 11-year run; attendance should approach 5,000! It's a safe space for [our diverse Latin American community](#) to showcase and share the rich cultures of their countries of origin and of Latin America generally.

Some highlights from this year's event:

- Continuous music and dance on the main stage—including the festival's first-ever band from South America



- A kid's area with face painting, the JMRL bookmobile, and supplies for making traditional paper flowers and garlands.
- Cultural representation from Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, and Uruguay.
- Food, food, food!! Twice as many vendors as last year and a new adult-only beer garden.

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/cvillesabroso>



Appeared first in the FXBG Advance, used with permission

## Full Committee Meeting 6:30pm September 26

We'll meet in Forest Hills Park, 6:30-8:00pm on Tuesday, September 26. The preliminary agenda:

- Hear from candidates and local organizers about opportunities to help as we make a focused push toward Election Day.
- Discuss, and hopefully have a quorum to be able to pass, one or more formal resolutions about current policy issues (e.g. abortion rights and Republican proposals for a “forced outing” law attacking LGBTQ+ kids in our school system, which Creigh Deeds' opponent Philip Andrew Hamilton and many other Republicans endorse).
- Hear from UVA Democrats (UDems) about what they're doing to energize the youth vote.



- Discuss, time permitting, Bob Good's "report card" (see "Preaching to the Choir" section below). Spoiler alert: it's not a report card he'd want to bring home to his parents!

To suggest something to add to the agenda, please email [cvilledemchair@gmail.com](mailto:cvilledemchair@gmail.com)

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**Senator Deeds & Dr. Webb Headline  
5th District Committee Extravaganza**

The 5th Congressional District Democratic Committee's annual regional blowout party is Saturday, Sept. 30, from 5-10pm in Lynchburg, and we're all invited! The Committee just announced a great speakers lineup: Senator Creigh Deeds and Dr. Cameron Webb. The ActBlue ticket link is <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/2023-extravaganza> . For more information please contact [5thcdchair.vadems@gmail.com](mailto:5thcdchair.vadems@gmail.com) or phone 434-253-0824.

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## Volunteer Profile: Tyler Van Dyke

Tyler and his partner, Amrita, moved here from Baltimore, MD, in July so she could start her general surgery residency at UVA. It was her top program, and they're excited to call Charlottesville home. They care for 30+ houseplants, 3 cats, and 1 dog; living within walking distance of McIntire Park (Carver Precinct) is a great joy to Tyler's dog, Puca, who gets there twice a day without fail. They also like to hike, kayak, camp, and do a bit of baking and

cooking; Tyler has become something of an amateur mixologist. Most Sundays they attempt the New York Times crossword, with varying degrees of success.

He calls himself "a true hayseed", growing up outside of Biglerville, PA, home of the one and only National Apple Harvest Festival. It was a town with two stoplights and, until 2013, no gas stations. He studied English and Philosophy at McDaniel College, a small liberal arts college in the small town of Westminster, MD.

He's currently working remotely as an editor overseeing financial services coverage at *Insider Intelligence*, but he's held a wide variety of jobs: farm hand, fruit research assistant, detective librarian, barista, substitute teacher, copyeditor, and economics reporter. [Ed—anyone want to guess what fruit research assistants or detective librarians do??]

He's been a registered Democrat since he was old enough to vote, but this is his first time participating with the organized party [Ed—here's to that!] and he's volunteered to offer his professional expertise to this newsletter; "I love the written word and think it's important for an organization to get its message out...and it keeps me on top of what's

going on in my new community."

A few tidbits to know about Tyler:

- He loves gardening but is horribly impatient ("Parsley seeds take *two weeks* to germinate?!")
- His maternal grandmother is a New York Italian, so he likes all the classics—pasta with gravy, aglio e oio, chicken piccata, eggplant parm, and fish, fish, fish!
- His favorite book? "Galway Kinnell's *Book of Nightmares*. It's a slim collection of poems that I keep on my nightstand and read a few times every year. It's also one of the most profound expressions of regret, grief, and parental love that I've ever read."
- His favorite movie? "Far and away the 1987 masterpiece *Moonstruck* starring Cher and Nicolas Cage. It's absurd, it's touching, it doesn't take itself too seriously, and it's wholly and entirely New York."

Join me in welcoming Tyler to Charlottesville and to the Cville Dems... look for him and Puca the next time you're at McIntire Park!

## 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](https://Vote.Virginia.gov)



• VIRGINIA •  
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

## 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 July 23 issue](#)). If you might be willing to get involved in these efforts, please

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

### Virginia



"Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's Political Future Hinges on Banning Abortion...Youngkin is running hard to deliver Republican majorities in the Virginia House of Delegates and Senate that could then tee up the legislation to make good on

his promise to sign a 15-week abortion ban." [The Daily Beast, 9-2-23](#)

New research from The Batten School of Leadership, available through [The Center for Effective Lawmaking](#), ranks Bob Good's as the least effective member of the Virginia delegation. This is completely in line with his 2022 report card from the nonpartisan [GovTrack](#), which found among other things that he wrote the fewest laws compared to Virginia delegation (tied with 1 other), joined bipartisan bills the 5th least often compared to House Republicans, and was 4th most absent in votes compared to House freshmen (tied with 1 other).



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### National



There's been lots of important national news beyond the headline-grabbing unhinged stuff, e.g. Trump finally being held accountable for his crimes, Republican House members threatening to shut down the government despite a funding deal negotiated by their supposed leader Rep. McCarthy, Republican Senator

Tommy Tuberville blocking all military promotions over funding for military abortion travel, COVID masking as a political issue, and of

course Republican House members moving to impeach Pres. Biden on admittedly no evidence of any offense he committed:

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"Democrats in Congress are pushing for a new round of money to keep the nation's child care industry afloat, saying thousands of programs are at risk of closing when federal pandemic relief runs out this month. Legislation introduced in both chambers on Wednesday would provide \$16 billion a year over the next five years, awarded as grants to help child care programs cover everyday costs. It's meant to replace \$24 billion in relief that was passed in 2021 in the American Rescue Plan and is set to expire Sept. 30. With no Republican support, the bill faces an uphill battle in Congress." [Daily Progress, 9-12-23](#)



"Sen. Cory Booker on the child poverty rate doubling after Republicans let the expanded child tax credit expire: 'We have now proved something pretty phenomenal and at the same time, pretty obscene. And what we've proved is that poverty for children in America is not some accident. It's a policy choice.'" [Yahoo News, 9-13-23](#)

"Former President Donald Trump said Wednesday he wants to close the Department of Education and have state governments 'run the education of our children,' pushing for a long-held Republican goal that has been endorsed by several other 2024 GOP candidates....But eliminating the US Department of Education would not necessarily give any more power to states over K-12 schools. While the federal agency helps the president execute education policies, the power to set curriculum, establish schools and determine enrollment eligibility already lies with the states and local school boards." [CNN, 9/14/23](#)



"[Biden Administration official are] working to develop a broader



student loan forgiveness plan designed to replace the one that was rejected by the Supreme Court earlier this summer...At least four million borrowers have already enrolled in SAVE, according to Education Department data

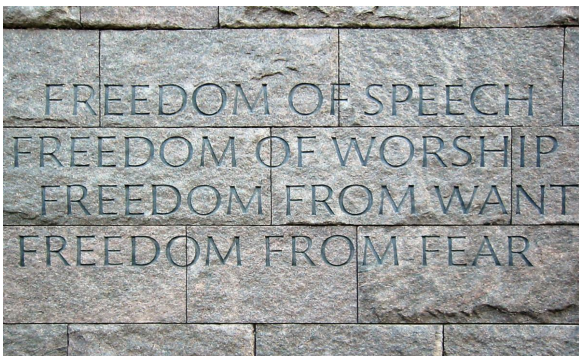
released last week...While the Biden administration is rolling out the new SAVE plan, congressional Republicans will try to repeal it."

[Forbes, 9-11-23](#)

"The IRS announced on Friday it is launching an effort to aggressively pursue 1,600 millionaires and 75 large business partnerships that owe hundreds of millions of dollars in past due taxes....Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron



Wyden, D-Ore., said the IRS' new plan is a 'big deal' that 'represents a fresh approach to taking on sophisticated tax cheats....This action goes to the heart of Democrats' effort to ensure the wealthiest are paying their fair share'" [ABC News, 9/8/23](#)



Finally... I continue to think a lot about a Jamelle Bouie [5/19/23 NY Times column](#) that discusses Pres. Franklin Roosevelt's famous 1941 elaboration of his Four Freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

Bouie calls these "building blocks of a humane society — a social democratic aspiration for egalitarians then and now" and then contrasts them with the four freedoms he discerns in the current Republican agenda:

1. There is the freedom to control — to restrict the bodily autonomy of women and repress the existence of anyone who does not conform to traditional gender roles.

2. There is the freedom to exploit — to allow the owners of business and capital to weaken labor and take advantage of workers as they

see fit.

3. There is the freedom to censor — to suppress ideas that challenge and threaten the ideologies of the ruling class.

4. And there is the freedom to menace — to carry weapons wherever you please, to brandish them in public, to turn the right of self-defense into a right to threaten other people."

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## 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!

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

<https://cvilledems.org>

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

Add me to the [mailing list](#)

**Thank you for your support!**

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Co-chair: vacant

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