

C'VILLE DEMS

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Newsletter



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News and Updates from the Cville Dems (10/5/2023)

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:

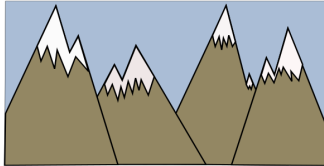
- Upcoming Events (mark your calendars!)
- Senate Race Update from Senator Creigh Deeds
- 4 Ways to Work for Victory in November
- Free Banned Books from MoveOn.org!
- Report: Full Committee Meeting (9/26/23)
- Environmental Groups (New and Old!)
- 5th District Extravaganza Report
- Help with Voter Protection
- Join the Voter Registration Team
- 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!

- **now - Nov 4** — Early Voting!
- **10/10** 5:30-7:30pm — Charlottesville NOW Candidate Meet & Greet + Postcard Party at The Center at Belvedere [RSVP](#)
- **10/15** 1:00-2:30pm – Senator Creigh Deeds and Katrina Callsen hold open "Office Hours" at C'ville Coffee
- **10/18** 4:00-6:30pm — [MoveOn.org Banned Book Bookmobile](#) event at the Free Speech Wall (see below)
- **10/19–10/21** — free *Democracy360* events (program sponsored by UVA's Karsh Institute of Democracy and *The Atlantic*, see [overview](#) + [speaker list](#))
- **10/23** 6:30pm — Executive Committee meeting via Zoom
- **10/29** 1:00-2:30pm – Senator Creigh Deeds and Katrina Callsen hold open "Office Hours" at C'ville Coffee



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Senate Race Update from Sen. Creigh Deeds: What's at Stake

Everything we care about is on the line in this election — abortion access, gun violence prevention, LGBTQ+ rights, environmental protections, criminal justice reform, affordable housing, etc. All the progress we've worked so hard to achieve could be gone in just one election cycle.

My Senate race is the only contested race in the City; to hold the Senate, City voters need to come out and vote, to knock doors and make phone calls, and to stay engaged. Our Republican Governor is funneling millions of dollars into Republican candidates state-wide in an effort to flip the Senate and maintain their control of the House of Delegates.

We're in Year 4 of Virginia's 4-year election cycle. In the first three years the President, the Governor, or Congressional seats are at the top of the ticket and drive turnout. In this fourth year, only General Assembly races drive voter turnout, and therefore it's usually low. 2019 City turnout reached an all-time high of 43%, largely due to the unpopularity of former President Trump. In 2015 and 2011 respectively, only 19.6% and 26.2% of all registered City voters came out to cast a ballot. We have to do better than that!

This is why it's critical that you get involved, if you haven't already, to

turn out the vote in Charlottesville, Albemarle, and throughout the Commonwealth.

Growing our majority in the Senate and regaining the House will allow us to send bills to the Governor's desk and force him to take a position. We can also get to work on enshrining abortion rights into the Constitution, repealing the same sex marriage ban, and providing for the automatic restoration of rights for felons.

We have less than five weeks to go! I look forward to seeing you on the campaign trail!

Work for Democratic Victories on November 7!



Local Option #1: Early In-Person Voting

It's happening now... so vote!

And... whether you're voting early or voting on Election Day, [check now to make sure you're registered!](#) See the articles in "Preaching Beyond the Choir" section below warning about botched Republican "voter security" efforts that mistakenly

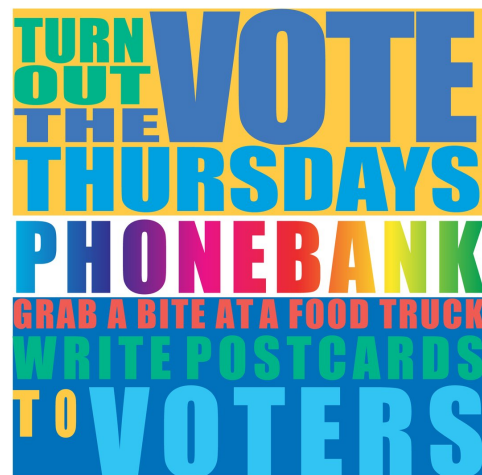
purged thousands of eligible voters. Check your own registration, and warn friends and family to check theirs!

Helpful website pages:

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

Local Option #2: "Turn Out the Vote Thursdays"

Today from 4-7pm on the lawn in front of Brazos Tacos at Ix Art Park the group will mainly be writing GOTV postcards to Charlottesville and Albemarle voters, but also writing some for [Rachel Levy](#) (Louisa County's new HD 59) and [Lily Franklin](#) (new District 41 near Blacksburg).



We're averaging between 10-20 people a week, and we need more to help reach all the people we want to reach with postcards pre-election!

There'll be lots of other ways to help in the push towards November 7; you can do what's most comfortable for you! For example:

- 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.

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



Local Option #3: 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](#). Although Allison has been closing the fundraising gap, Scalia Bryce is still ahead. 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.
2. On a weekend, use [SignUp Genius](#) to participate in one or more of these coordinated canvasses:

| Date | Start Time | City | Location |
|----------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 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 #4 Non-local: Help Key VA Races with Time and/or Cash

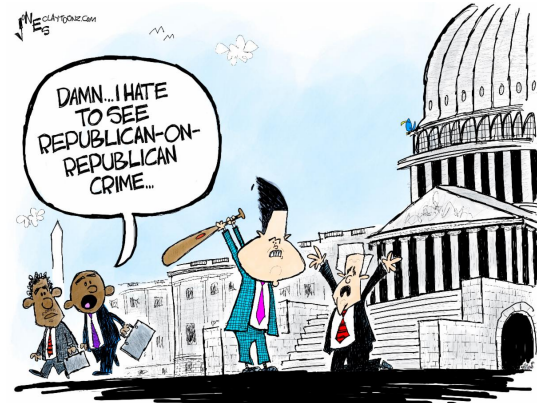
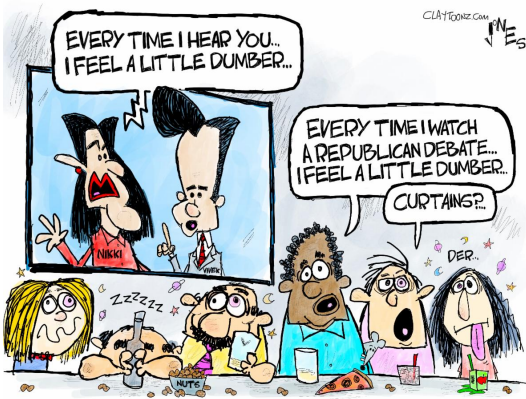
Republicans control the House of



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 Lily Franklin, whose HD-41 race Larry Sabato has said is very very close (it's a red-leaning district, but she's a terrific candidate, as we well know from her work on Josh Throneburg's campaign!). Check out her [website](#) and consider [donating here](#).

Note: [past newsletters](#) have highlighted other great candidates in close races, like teacher [Schuyler Vanvalkenburg](#), tech entrepreneur and veteran [Michael Feggans](#), and more!



RON DESANTIS AND MAGA REPUBLICANS HAVE BANNED HUNDREDS OF BOOKS...

SO WE'RE GIVING THEM OUT FOR FREE

FROM OUR BANNED BOOKMOBILE

[LEARN MORE](#)

[SIGN THE PETITION](#)

Free Banned Books from MoveOn.org!

Join us on Wednesday, October 18, from 4:00-6:30pm, at the Free Speech Wall (605 E Main Street on the Downtown Mall) to meet up with (and get free banned books from!!) the [MoveOn Banned Bookmobile](#) and hear from featured speakers like award-winning local author Jocelyn Nicole Johnson ("My Monticello") and a variety of officeholders and candidates.

The Banned Bookmobile is on a national tour to highlight the terribly frightening and undemocratic attempts by extremist Republicans to ban books in schools and libraries nationwide; per WVTF and the Virginia Education Association, there have been [400 attempted book bans](#) in Virginia this year as of September, and one public library almost closed due to efforts to ban LGBTQ content (but they fought and [won that battle!](#)).

Nancy Damon is organizing the event (thank you Nancy!). If you'd like to be a speaker, please contact her at nancycdamon@gmail.com.



REPORT: 9/26 Full Committee Meeting

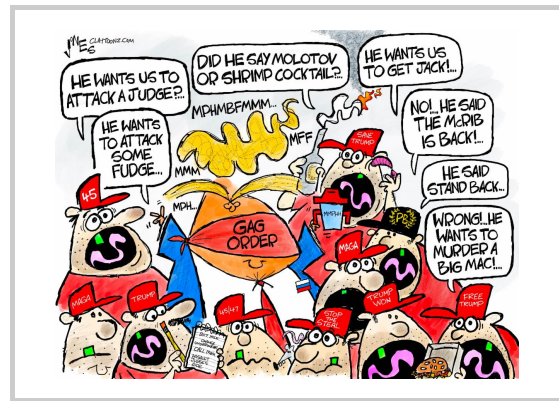
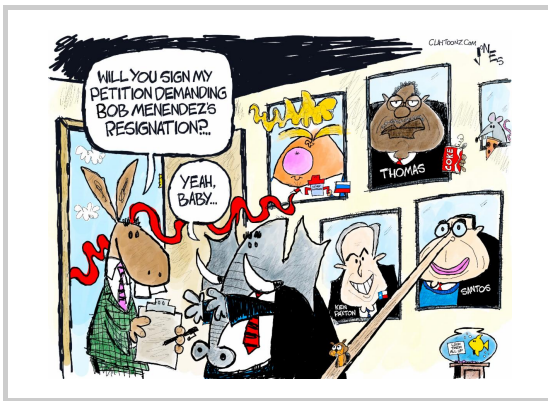
Some highlights of our Forest Hills Park meeting:

- Creigh Deeds, reporting on the state of his District 11 VA Senate campaign against a far-right MAGA opponent (see his Race Update above!), expressed serious worries about low turnout in Charlottesville during Early Voting and on Nov 7. Our City-only races are uncontested, but there are contested races driving turnout in most, if not all, of the redder parts of his district. One or two seats will be the difference in which party controls the Senate, so losing his strongly-leaning Dem seat could allow Republicans to gain control of the VA Senate! Bottom line: we must all raise awareness of this contested race and drum up turnout!
- Albemarle County School Board candidate Allison Spillman's campaign manager, Will Parmeczek, reported on the state of that race against far-right candidate Meg Scalia Bryce.
- University Democrats president Vincent Kloes reported on his thriving group's very impressive activities, including coordinated actions with campaigns such as Allison Spillman's!
- Vernon Liechti and Mary McIntyre of the Albemarle Education Association (AEA) reported on their union's efforts to secure a collective bargaining arrangement with the Albemarle County School Board, and their frustration with the most recent offer from the Board. As we didn't get a quorum at the meeting, the proposed resolution addressing this matter couldn't be voted on,

but everyone in attendance expressed their gratitude and support to the AEA representatives with big applause and cheers and expressed a fervent hope that the Albemarle School Board and the AEA will work this out soon.

- Erin Monaghan reminded everyone of the 9/30 Fifth Congressional District Extravaganza (report below), and Albemarle County Democratic Committee's representative Madison Cummings reminded everyone of its 10/1 barbecue fundraiser.
- The "dusky" meeting concluded in nearly total darkness; we forgot to check the sunset schedules before scheduling the meeting time! Everyone learned something.

Note: The Executive Committee will meet via Zoom on Monday 10/23. To suggest something to add to the agenda, please email cvilledemschair@gmail.com



Local Environmental Groups (New and Old!)

Many of us in Charlottesville cherish the rich natural landscape surrounding our city. But protecting that beauty—and ensuring that we live on a survivable planet—takes dedication from countless volunteers and organizations. If you've ever thought about getting involved but didn't know where to start, check out some of these local and national groups.



New groups and initiatives that have recently come to our attention:

- [Resilient Together](#) is a City, County, and UVA collaboration created to develop goals for Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plans that address the problems associated with our warming planet—like longer and hotter summers, more destructive storms, and invasive pests. Resilient Together just kicked off an 18-month initiative to draft plans that would be adopted by Charlottesville and Albemarle County. [Click](#)

[here to register](#) if you're interested in getting involved, or [sign up for email updates here](#).

- [Citizens Climate Lobby](#) (CCL) is an international organization that advocates for climate solutions and an empowered citizenry to ensure a livable world. Ellie Syverud, the leader of the local Charlottesville chapter, sends out a "Weekly 5 Minute Action" email that encourages people to contact their representatives in Congress regarding relevant climate legislation. Contact Ellie at charlottesvilleccl@gmail.com for more information.

And don't forget about some of our longer-established favorites:

- The [Community Climate Collaborative](#) (3C) is a Charlottesville-based organization that takes a local-first approach to climate policy. It's active across the state and advocates for community-led solutions to catalyze climate action. [Join the 3C mailing list here](#) or [follow this link to contact 3C](#).

- The [Piedmont Group](#) is the local chapter of the Sierra Club, one of the oldest climate activism groups in the United States. It sponsors a range of programs each year to educate the public about environmental issues and the natural world. [Check out its activities calendar here](#), and [sign up for the Piedmont Group's mailing list here](#).

- The [Rivanna Conservation Alliance](#) is a local nonprofit organized to clean and protect the Rivanna River and its tributaries. It offers programs for monitoring and restoring the river as well as educational and advocacy events. [Sign up for the Alliance's newsletter here](#), and consider [volunteering at some of their events](#).

- [The Nature Conservancy](#) is a global environmental nonprofit with an active presence across Virginia, from the Allegheny Highlands to the Chesapeake Bay. [Contact the Conservancy here for more information](#), and [check out some of their volunteering opportunities](#) across the state.

- If you've ever enjoyed walking, running, or biking a portion (or all) of the Rivanna Trails, you've got the [Rivanna Trails Foundation](#) (RFT) to thank. The organization maintains all 20 miles of the trail, which encircles the city. It's working on other initiatives as well, like a [shared-use path](#) from Charlottesville through Ivy, Crozet, and Afton, all the way to Waynesboro. [Join the RFT here](#), or reach out to info@rivannatrails.org to learn more.

- The [Botanical Garden of the Piedmont](#) is tucked away in the northeast corner of McIntire Park. A \$1.5 million gift last year has enabled the garden to begin architectural and design work in the park—adding a visitor center, amphitheater, children's garden, and other gardens. [Click here to volunteer](#), and [click here to sign up for the newsletter](#).

• The [Ivy Creek Foundation's](#) vision is "to inspire and engage our community in the stewardship of our natural resources and our rich African American cultural history." The foundation is the steward of what was once known as the River View Farm, a community of African American farmers, pastors, craftspeople, and businessmen from the late 19th century. [Follow this link for volunteer information](#), and email Executive Director Sue Erhardt at sue@ivycreekfoundation.com for general information.

REPORT: VA 5th District Extravaganza (9/30)

Our 5th District rep Erin Monaghan gave us this report and shared a few photos (more will on our website soon).

John McLaren, Alev Erisir, Nancy Damon, Erin Monaghan, Creigh Deeds, Josh Throneburg, and Cameron Webb made up the Charlottesville contingent.

Senator Deeds kicked off the evening's program with an energetic reminder of the importance of this year's state legislative elections, a theme reinforced in video greetings from Senator Tim Kaine, Mayor Levar Stoney, DPVA Chair Susan Swecker, and by several candidates for 5th District House and Senate seats.

Josh offered a lovely invocation, and Cameron gave a rousing speech with lessons from his recent service to President Biden as the White House Senior Policy Advisor for COVID-19 Equity.

Charlottesville Dems contributed two "baskets" (crates actually!) to the Extravaganza's silent auction: a "crafty" crate (Alev submitting the winning bid) and a "create and contemplate" crate (Fluvanna County's Mozell Booker took that one home).

It was a really wonderful chance to meet and talk with Democrats from all over the District, and to rev each other up to keep the Senate in Democratic hands and bring the House of Delegates back to a Democratic majority this November!



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

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 contact Jeremy: hijeremyjones@gmail.com

Join the Voter Registration Team

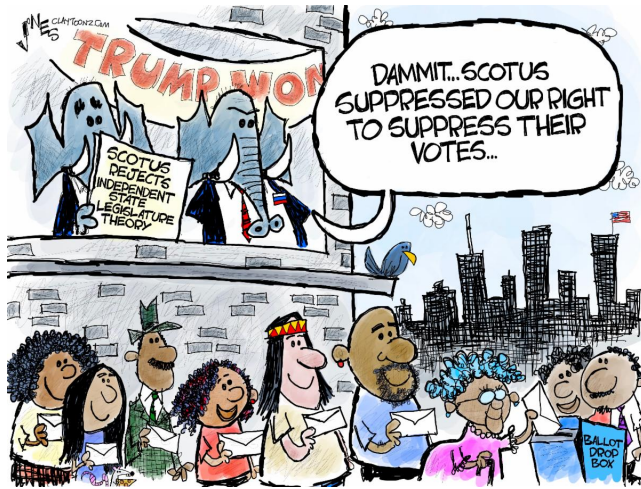
Our wonderful voter registration team, led by Suzanne Michels, is very active in the lead-up to Election Day: registering new voters (including those who've recently moved to or within our area), helping voters figure out where they can vote, and helping folks who need to have their voting rights restored file the necessary paperwork.

There are few things more satisfying than signing up a new voter! We'd love to have more folks pitch in, and if you're even a little bit of an extrovert, you'll enjoy it! Email suzemichels@gmail.com if you might be interested or have questions!



Preaching BEYOND the Choir (Why electing Dems matters!)

Virginia



"Virginia election officials acknowledge voters mistakenly removed from rolls...the state is working to resolve an issue that caused an unknown number of eligible voters to be removed from the state's rolls. The move follows [VPM News reporting](#) that found people with probation violations lost their eligibility to vote under

changes the department instituted over the last year." [VPM, 10/3/23](#)

Note 1: Ben Pavior flagged such concerns in a [9/20/23 article](#) about the Youngkin Administration withdrawing from the historically bipartisan ERIC voter data system and adopting alarming alternatives.

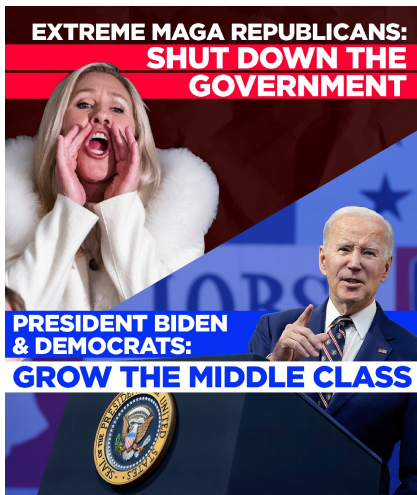
Note 2: Check your voter registration on the [VA State website](#), especially if you have a moderately common first and last name; the more cobbled-together these "security checks" of our voter registration rolls become, the more possible that your registration could be erroneously canceled!]

Our extremist Republican congressman Bob Good was one of only seven Republicans joining Rep. Matt Gaetz in ousting Speaker Kevin McCarthy for working with Democrats to avoid a government shutdown: "Good criticized McCarthy for accepting the budget continuing resolution, which kept the government open Saturday. That motion received bipartisan support in the Senate. 'The American people need a Speaker who will fight to keep the promises Republicans made to get the majority, not someone who cuts fiscally irresponsible deals that get more Democrat votes than Republican votes'" [The Hill, 10/3/23](#)



National

We're seeing time and again that today's Republicans can't be trusted to govern (and/or are just incapable or not interested in doing so!).



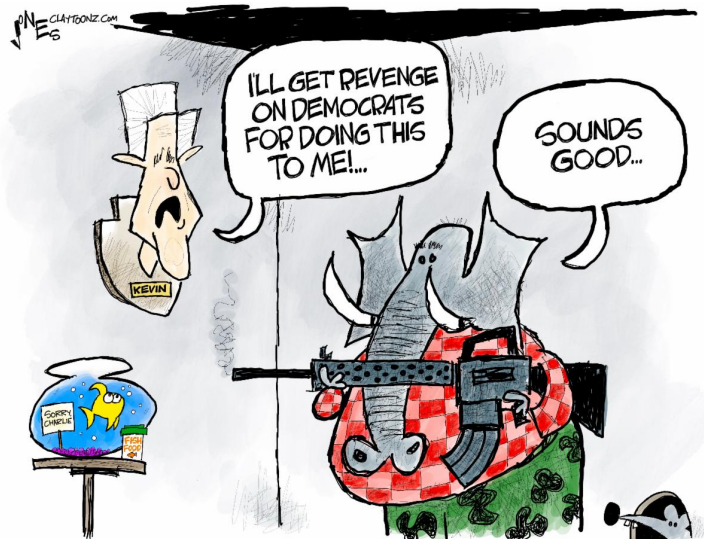
We were hours away from a crippling government shutdown due to internal Republican strife within the House of Representatives:

"House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's last-ditch plan to keep the federal government temporarily open collapsed on Friday as hard-right holdouts rejected the package, making a shutdown almost certain." *Daily Progress*, 9-29-23

And then McCarthy working out a plan with Democrats to avoid the shutdown led to his ouster as House Speaker:

"The stunning removal of Kevin McCarthy as speaker left the House effectively paralyzed Wednesday as Republicans struggled to bring order to their fractured majority and begin the difficult and potentially prolonged process of uniting around a new leader..."

At the White House, President Joe Biden said the American people still expected the government to get its work done in a timely fashion. McCarthy was ousted because he worked with Democrats to keep the government open and avoid a shutdown, and the Democratic president said: "We need to stop seeing each other as enemies." *Fortune*, 10/4/23



Instead of governing, their focus is on meaningless political theater and political payback, e.g. an impeachment fishing inquiry that all agree is not justified by any existing evidence:

"One of the House Republicans' [Ed-own] witnesses in their impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden doesn't believe enough evidence has been presented...'I do not believe that the evidence currently meets the standard of a high crime and misdemeanor needed for an article of

impeachment," Turley wrote in his written statement" [Newsweek, 9/30/23](#)



Meanwhile, Republicans remain united in supporting ex-Pres. Trump despite the mounting mass of evidence of his guilt on many fronts. Recent developments (you can keep up [here](#)):

"One of Donald Trump's co-defendants in the Georgia election racketeering case, Scott Hall, became the first to plead guilty Friday to five misdemeanors....had been charged with racketeering and a half-dozen conspiracy charges related to the alleged tampering with election equipment in Coffee County." [USA Today, 10/3/23](#)

"Judge Arthur Engoron, ruling Tuesday in a civil lawsuit brought by New York's attorney general, found that the former president and his company deceived banks, insurers and others by massively overvaluing his assets and exaggerating his net worth on paperwork used in making deals and securing financing...Beyond mere bragging about his riches, Trump, his company and key executives repeatedly lied about them on his annual financial statements, reaping rewards such as favorable loan terms and lower insurance premiums" [Daily Progress, 9/26/23](#)

BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION
APPROVES

**\$9 Billion in Student
Loan Relief for
125,000 Borrowers**

Thanks to Fixes to Income-Driven Repayment
And Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Meanwhile, the Biden Administration remains focused on governing for the common good!

"More help is on the way for overburdened student loan holders. President Joe Biden on Wednesday announced another \$9 billion in federal student loan relief for roughly 125,000 borrowers, adding to a

larger plan that has so far forgiven \$127 billion owed by millions of Americans. The new initiative follows the restart of student loan payments as of October 1, after a pandemic-induced multiyear pause." [Forbes, 10/4/23](#)

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>

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Add me to the [mailing list](#)

Thank you for your support!

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