

C'VILLE DEMS

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Newsletter



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News and Updates from the Cville Dems (10/19/2023)

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](#), [Instagram](#), and [Mastodon](#), and like some of our posts!
- [Make a contribution](#) to cover the cost of postcards and stamps for new voter mailings

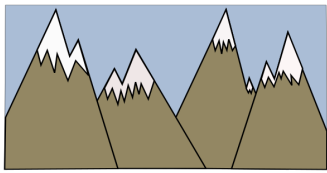
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Note: if Gmail isn't showing you all of this newsletter, look near the bottom of the email for a link reading "[Message clipped] View entire message". Or... read the complete issue [on our website](#) once we upload it (usually within an hour of mailing).

Upcoming Events!

- **now - Nov 4** — Early Voting!
- **10/19–10/21** — 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



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: Early In-Person Voting

Early Voting is happening now through November 4 at the Registrar's Office in the City Hall Annex, 120 7th St. NE, Room 142. Be sure to bring a valid-for-voting ID (see this [overview](#) and list of [acceptable forms of ID](#)). Hours of operation:

- Monday – Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm, (Thursdays until 7:00pm)
- Next Saturday, October 28, and also Saturday, November 4, from 8:30am – 5:00pm

Note: Curbside voting from a car is available to anyone with a disability, limited mobility, or who is over age 65; just call 434-970-3250 when you arrive at the Registrar's Office.

Whether you're voting early or voting on Election Day, [check now to make sure you're registered](#); botched Republican "voter security" efforts mistakenly purged thousands of eligible voters. Check your own registration, and warn friends and family to check theirs too!

Helpful website pages:

- [Voter Registration and Voting Information](#)
- City of Charlottesville's [Interactive Precinct Map](#) to find your polling place
- [Upcoming Local Elections](#)

Local Option #2: "Turn Out

the Vote Thursdays”

Today from 4-6:30pm, on the lawn in front of Brazos Tacos at Ix Art Park, the group will be finishing GOTV postcards for Virginia Beach's Michael Feggans and Montgomery County's Lily Franklin (both are House candidates). With your help (come when and for how long your schedule allows), we'll be able to get them in the mail by October 26! If you can, bring a chair or something to sit on and a clipboard or something to write on. If the weather's bad, we'll be inside Brazos Tacos.



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! Please contact Mary Ann Harris with any questions: harrisma49@gmail.com

If you can't come today but would like to write some cards at home, contact Mary Ann at harrisma49@gmail.com or Nancy at nancycdamon@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. Bryce (a) said on 10/15 at an NAACP forum **"not everybody agrees that there is systemic racism. And it has to be OK for people to disagree about that."** (She's also very [offended by the County's anti-racist curriculum](#)), and (b) is very concerned that the ACSB has been treating LGBTQ kids with respect and support. 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 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!



Below is a list of the hottest "battleground races" for Senate and House of Delegate seats. Please please please:

1. tell your friends and family who live in these districts how critical it is that they get out and vote for these Democratic candidates!
2. ask them to ask their friends and family too!

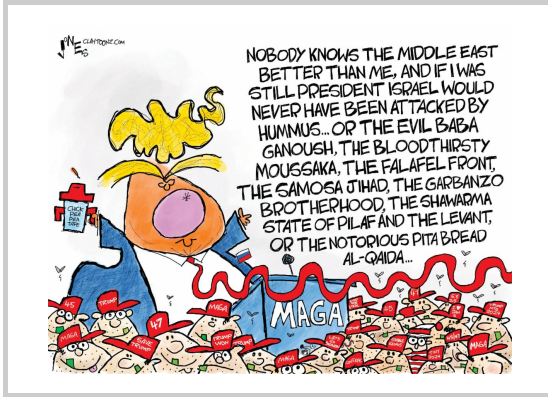
Seat	City/County	Dem Candidate	Notes
Richmond area			
SD 16	Henrico (western)	Schuyler VanValkenburg	Flip opportunity!
HD 57	Goochland/Henrico (parts of each)	Susanna Gibson	
HD 58	Henrico (western)	Del. Rod Willett	Incumbent Dem
Western Virginia			
HD 41	Montgomery/Roanoke (parts of each)	Lily Franklin	
Northern Virginia			
SD 30	Prince William (part), Manassas, Manassas City	Danica Roem	
HD 21	Prince William (western)	Josh Thomas	
HD 22	Prince William (part)	Travis Nembhard	
HD 30	Loudoun/Fauquier (parts of each)	Rob Banse	
SD 31	Loudoun/Fauquier (parts of each)	Russet Perry	
HD 29	Loudoun (Leesburg area)	Marty Martinez	
Fredericksburg			
SD 27	Fredericksburg/Stafford/Spotsylvania	Joel Griffin	
HD 65	Fredericksburg/Stafford/Spotsylvania	Joshua Cole	

Hampton Roads area			
SD 22	Virginia Beach (part)	Sen. Aaron Rouse	Incumbent Dem
HD 97	Virginia Beach (part)	Michael Feggans	Flip opportunity!
SD 24	Newport News (part), York, Williamsburg, Poquoson, James City (part)	Sen. Monty Mason	Incumbent Dem
HD 94	Norfolk (part)	Phil Hernandez	
Tidewater and Southside			
SD 17	See below	Clint Jenkins	
HD 89	Chesapeake/Suffolk	Karen Jenkins	
HD 84	Suffolk/Isle of Wight (Franklin City)/Chesapeake	Nadarius Clark	
HD 82	Petersburg/Dinwiddie/Prince George/Surry	Kimberly Pope Adams	Flip opportunity!

SD 17 is enormous: Suffolk, Isle of Wight (including Franklin City), Portsmouth (part), Southampton, Brunswick, Greenville, Dinwiddie (part), Emporia, Chesapeake (part).

Note: [past newsletters](#) have highlighted other great candidates in

close races, like teacher [Schuyler Vanvalkenburg](#), tech entrepreneur and veteran [Michael Feggans](#), long-time Democratic staffer [Lily Franklin](#) (for Delegate Sam Rasoul and Josh Throneburg), and more!



10/23 Executive Committee Meeting (Zoom only)

The Executive Committee will meet Monday, October 23, at 6:30 PM via Zoom (link to be sent out before the meeting). The only agenda item at present is last-minute election planning (e.g. promoting the last week of early voting, possibly via a

"Donut Forget to vote" mini-event and getting the word out about the importance of turnout for Creigh Deeds and other local elections we've been actively helping).

Note: The next Full Committee meeting will be on Monday 11/27 (Thanksgiving is 11/23). To suggest something to add to the agenda, please email cvilledemschair@gmail.com.



REPORT: MoveOn.org Banned Bookmobile Event

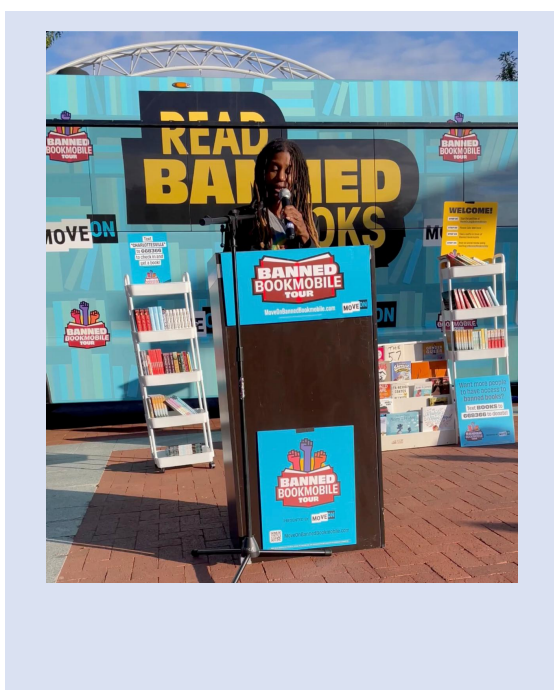
Yesterday's MoveOn "Banned Bookmobile" visit was very successful; dozens of people were on hand before the 4:30 program

began and the crowd grew steadily from there. Nancy Damon, MoveOn's local organizer/liaison, assembled a great group of speakers (and started the program off in great style herself!) and we got good coverage, including by [CBS19](#), [NBC29](#), and [WINA](#). Before leaving mid-way (to get this newsletter out!), we got to hear "My Monticello" author Jocelyn Nicole Johnson, Rabbi Dan Alexander, current HD-55 candidate/former Charlottesville School Board member [Amy Laufer](#) and Albemarle School Board candidate [Allison Spillman](#) (make sure your Albemarle County friends turn out to vote for these two!), Albemarle County School Board member [Katrina Callsen](#) (and our future Delegate, go vote for her!), and a surprise address by Greene County candidate [Sara Ratcliffe](#) (your Greene friends need to vote for her in HD-62). Still to come were [Mayor Lloyd Snook](#), [Senator Creigh Deeds](#), and [Judy Le](#) (all three of whom also need our votes, Judy is running for Albemarle County School Board).

We recorded the remarks of Jocelyn Nicole Johnson, [Katrina Callsen](#), and [Allison Spillman](#) and will have those videos posted at 12:15 today on our [YouTube channel](#) (subscribe to see past and future videos like these!). Photos will also be posted on our website.

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've 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!](#)).

Thanks also to Barbara Shenefield for making the great event poster (below)!



A public event to decry the Banning of Books in Schools and Libraries



Wednesday, October 18 4:30-6:30

<https://www.mobilize.us/moveon/event/586465/>

On the
Downtown Mall
near the
Free Speech Wall
next to City Hall

Judy Le,
Katrina Callsen,
Dan Alexander,
Jocelyn Nicole Johnson,
Allison Spillman,
Rebecca Berlin,
Lloyd Snook,
Creigh Deeds

and other local officials and candidates
will testify as to why it is a BAD idea to
ban books.

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 and his Voter Protection Team are gearing up for our imminent election and have *two* big needs:

1. There are 2 more virtual (Zoom) training sessions for poll observers, Oct. 24 and Oct. 31. To sign up use this Mobilize.us link
2. Poll Observers are also needed both before and after the election (on Oct. 26, 27, Nov. 2, 3 & 13, generally from 9am to 5pm) to observe the processing of absentee ballots. If you're interested in working on those days, you can use the same sign-up process as above.

If you might be willing to get involved in these very important election security efforts, send any questions to Jeremy: hijeremyjones@gmail.com

Join the Voter Registration Team

Our wonderful voter registration team, led by Suzanne Michels and Barbara Shenefield, 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!



Virginia Film Festival Relevant Movies

The 2023 [Virginia Film Festival](#) (next Wednesday 10/25 until Sunday 10/29) features more than 100 films at the Paramount Theater, the Violet Crown, UVA's Culbreth Theater, and the CODE Building.

The films are organized into different [series and themes](#) centered on important issues ranging from Black excellence and indigenous cinema to the environment and critical conversations.

Here are a few of the films we're excited about — the first one about Charlottesville from a local director!

Sometime, Somewhere (Algún Día, En Algún Lugar)

Series and themes: Latinidades, Virginia filmmakers, critical conversations, nature & environment

Directed and produced by Charlottesville local Ricardo "Rick" Preve, this black and white film explores the unique journeys and shared



struggles of Latino immigrants in Charlottesville. It explores some of the many factors behind immigration, from climate change and poverty to drug-related violence. Set against the backdrop of two historical traumas—9/11 and the Jan 6 Capitol assault—the film features firsthand accounts and stories of resilience. The viewing features a discussion with Preve. Showtime: [Saturday, 10/28, 3:00 PM. Culbreth Theater](#). 97 minutes.

American Fiction

Series and themes: Black excellence, page to film, critical conversations, Gala screenings, LGBTQIA+

American Fiction tells the story of Thelonious "Monk" Ellison (Jeffrey Wright), a writer whose works get little attention until he writes a satirical memoir about Black representation in pop culture—"Black stuff," as his book agent put it—that quickly becomes a smash hit. With a star-studded cast that includes Tracee Ellis Ross, Issa Rae, and Sterling K. Brown, the comedy drama that unfolds as Ellison endures the consequences of his fabricated persona earned *American Fiction* the People's Choice Award at the Toronto Film Festival. The viewing features a discussion with director, producer, and writer Cord Jefferson. Showtime: [Thursday, 10/26, 8:00 PM. The Paramount Theater](#). 117 minutes.

All of Us Strangers

Series and themes: LGBTQIA+, from page to screen

An existential depression confines screenwriter Adam (Andrew Scott) to his London flat until he meets Harry (Paul Mescal), a neighbor. The romance that blossoms between them inspires Adam to write a screenplay about his parents, who died in a car accident 30 years ago. Upon returning to his childhood home for inspiration, he finds himself re-meeting his parents just as they were before they died—asking them the questions he's held onto since he was 12 years old. This dream-like ghost tale, based loosely on Taichi Yamada's novel *Strangers*, is directed by Andrew Haigh. Showtime: [Thursday, 10/26, 8:00pm. Culbreth Theater](#). 105 minutes.

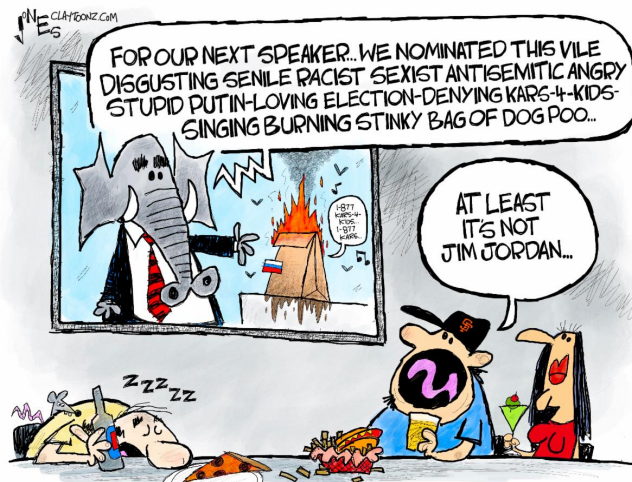
King Coal

Series and themes: Nature and Environment

King Coal comprises a collection of poetic vignettes that depict daily life in Appalachia, primarily exploring how coal became deeply intertwined with the region's communities even after its economic dominance waned. A young girl learning the region's history serves as a narrative pathway for this documentary, while poetic narration and archival footage provide historical context for the complex legacy of coal in the area. Showtime: [Thursday, 10/ 26, 5:30pm. Violet Crown](#). 80 minutes.

Preaching BEYOND the Choir (Why electing Dems matters!)

This section of our last issue began "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!)." The past two weeks have seen more and more and more evidence of this; as war breaks out in the Middle East and continues in Ukraine, and a November government shutdown looms, the Republicans' internal power struggle over who will be Speaker has the House of Representatives completely paralyzed!



'In a historically fraught time marked not only by partisan gridlock but also a remarkably incohesive Republican Party, the House GOP could soon elect a speaker with a remarkably thin legislative track record and precious little experience building the bipartisan consensus he would soon need. Critics of

Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) have increasingly pointed to this — most notably the fact that he has yet to get a bill signed into law since being elected in 2006. "House Republicans have just elected a speaker nominee who in 16 years in this Congress hasn't passed a single bill," House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) said Friday, "because his focus has not been on the American people."

[Washington Post, 10-16-23](#)

"Refusing to drop out, Republican Rep. Jim Jordan told GOP colleagues Thursday he will back a temporary U.S. House speaker as he works to shore up support to win the gavel himself. Jordan delivered the message at a closed door meeting at the Capitol as the Republican majority



considered an extraordinary plan to give the interim Speaker Pro-tempore Rep. Patrick McHenry more powers to reopen the House and



It should surprise no one that our own Republican extremist, Rep. Bob Good, has voted for Jordan to be Speaker twice; Good is an ideologue with no legislative interest or skills.

Ex-Republican Congressman Denver Riggleman, the incumbent Good primaried, is increasingly outspoken about his unhinged former GOP colleagues:

"MSNBC's Joy Reid pointed out to Riggleman that the Donald Trump-endorsed Jordan — who supported Trump's failed efforts to flip the 2020 election result and still voted to overturn it even after the violent Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection — would be responsible for security and safety at the Capitol if he wins the role... "It's terrifying to the sane, and it's terrifying to the rational," replied the former congressman, who quit the GOP last year over its devotion to Trump." Riggleman slammed House Republicans who aren't standing up to Jordan and 2024 Republican front-runner Trump as the "coward caucus." [Huffington Post, 10/18/23](#)

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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Contact us: cvilledemschair@gmail.com

Add me to the [mailing list](#)

Thank you for your support!

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