

# C'VILLE DEMS

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## News and Updates from the Cville Dems (11/16/2023)

### 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](#)

### In This Issue:

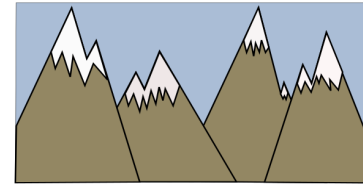
- Upcoming Events (mark your calendars!)
- Election Update (Results + "Donut Forget" event)
- Executive and Full Committee Meetings (both 11/27)
- 2024 Reorganization Meeting
- Help with Voter Protection (???)
- Preaching to a PASSIVE Choir

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).

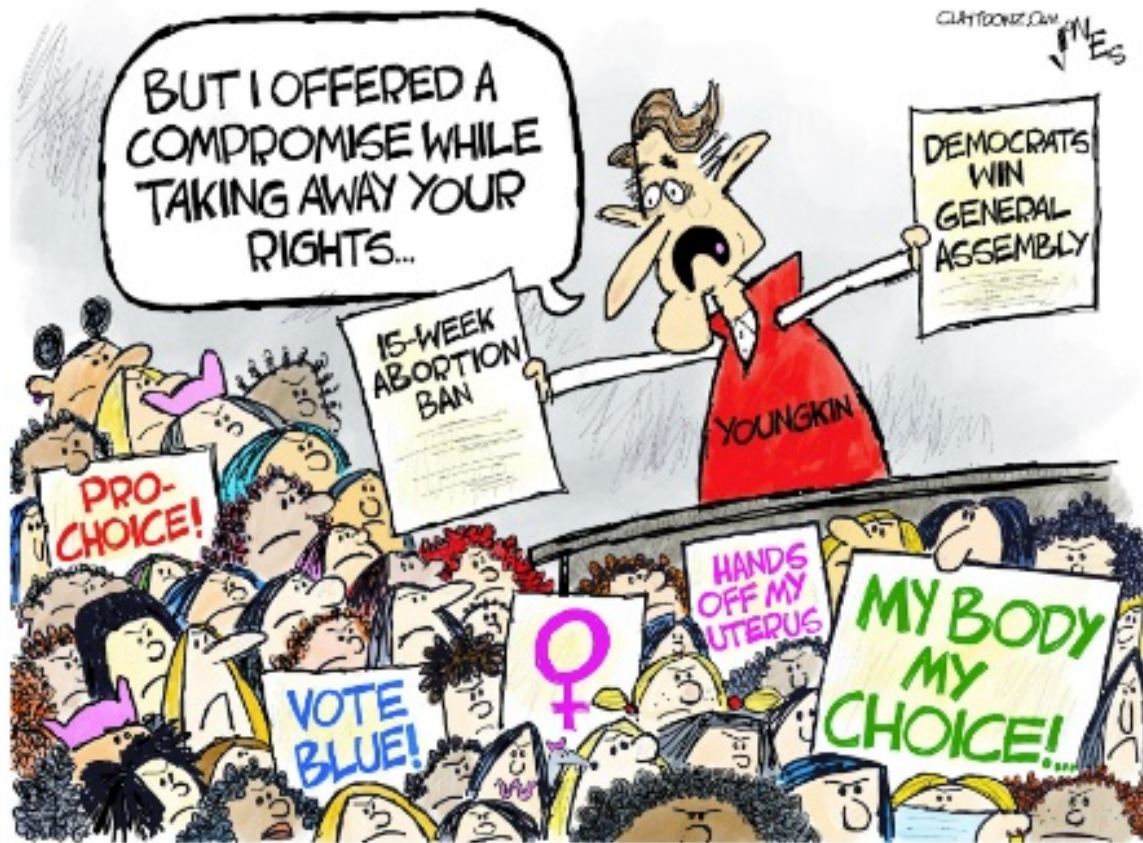
# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

## Upcoming Events!

- **11/23** — Thanksgiving
- **11/27** — 6:20pm Executive Committee Meeting (brief), 6:30pm Full Committee Meeting (see below)
- **1/6** 2pm (tentative) — Biennial Reorganization Meeting (see below)
- **1/10** — Virginia General Assembly Session begins
- **1/15** — Martin Luther King Jr. Day



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		



## Election Update

Democrats did really well this past November 7; a very big and sincere THANK YOU to everyone who knocked on doors, wrote postcards, volunteered, donated, and helped in any way (our string of victories across the Commonwealth was thanks to you!)



### Local (both Charlottesville and Albemarle)

Congratulations to Senator Creigh Deeds; Delegate-elect Katrina Callsen; our new Cville School Board members Amanda Burns, Shymora Cooper, Chris Meyer, and Nicole Richardson; newly-elected City Councilor Natalie Oschrin and returning Councilors Lloyd Snook and Michael

Payne; and Soil and Water Conservation Director Joseph Thomson.

John McLaren flagged this [Jack Tueting](#) tweet showing Creigh Deeds' incredible performance last Tuesday, overperforming Pres. Biden in 2020 in fact:

Albemarle: Biden +33.5, Deeds +40.5  
Charlottesville: Biden +72.7, Deeds +79.6  
Nelson: Trump +5.3, Deeds +2.1  
Amherst: Trump +31.5, Hamilton +37.0

Congratulatory high fives also to the Albemarle candidates we worked hard to get elected through our donations and joint canvasses: Delegate-elect Amy Laufer and Albemarle School Board members Allison Spillman and Rebecca Berlin.

## Non-Local

Dems kept control of the Virginia Senate and regained control of the House of Delegates, despite Governor Youngkin and the Republicans pouring enormous resources into their attempt to capture the General Assembly and enact their right-wing agenda (e.g. a proposed 15-week abortion ban, presented as a sensible compromise).



Voters across the Commonwealth saw through that ruse, and realized that it would generate hardship and unnecessary tragedy — and Republican politicians couldn't keep from admitting in unguarded moments that it was only a stepping stone to a total abortion ban. Voters spoke out loud and clear in opposition.

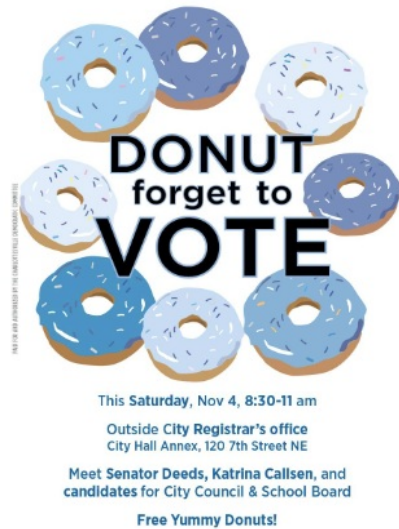
The Virginia House Democratic Caucus elected Delegate Don Scott as Speaker-designee, Delegate Charniele Herring as Majority Leader, and Delegate Kathy Tran as Caucus Chair.

When elected by the House of Delegates on the first day of the 2024 Session (January 10), Scott will be the first African-American Speaker in Virginia history. Herring became the first African-American majority leader in 2020, and will reprise that role. Tran is the first Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) legislator to serve as a caucus chair. Thanks to Erin Monaghan for sharing this blurb and photo with us.

We salute all the Democratic candidates statewide who gave it their best but were not successful; thank you for admirably representing and promoting good government and Democratic values! Some of those races were really close, e.g. our good friend Lily Franklin lost in the difficult HD41 district by only 183 votes.

PS— as thrilled as we are about the victories in VA (and Ohio abortion referendum and KY Governor's race!), we can't be complacent. The margins of victory in VA were not huge (see this [Washington Post](#) Republican perspective), and Rural GroundGame's [Lynlee Thorne](#) noted that there were many successful MAGA extremist School Board

victories throughout the state and hate groups stirring up trouble wherever they can.



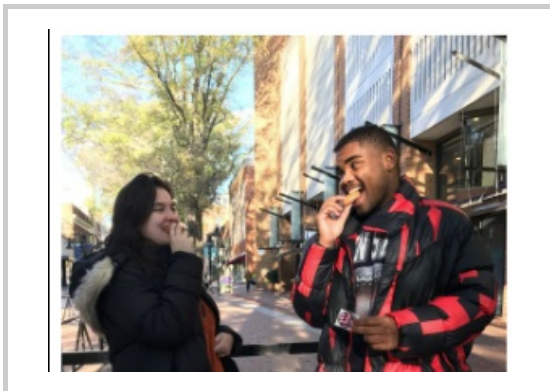
## REPORT: "Donut Forget to Vote" Event (11/4)

Our November 4 "Donut Forget to Vote" event on the Downtown Mall, by the Registrar's office, was a very big success!! Coincidentally (not), the event coincided with the last day of Early Voting, and the Registrar's Office said that a lot more people took advantage of Early Voting that day than on the previous Saturday or previous days that week (368 on our Saturday vs. an average of 100).

This event looks to be a keeper! Many thanks to Suzanne Michels for organizing it and to the eight volunteers who combed the Downtown Mall and Ix Market holding up Barbara Shenefield's lovely poster and asking everyone "Have you voted yet?" They were asked lots of questions and directed folks to both the City and the County Registrars' offices.

In addition to those hardworking volunteers, a baker's dozen VIPs attended: Senator Creigh Deeds (elected to State Senate), Nicole Richardson (elected to Cville School Board), Shymora Cooper (elected to Cville School Board), Lloyd Snook (reelected to City Council), Amanda Burns (elected to Cville School Board), John McLaren (Cville Dems co-Chair), Natalie Oschrein (elected to City Council), Katrina Callsen (elected to House of Delegates), Suzanne Michels (former Cville Dems co-Chair), Kathy Galvin (former City Councilor), Chris Meyer (elected to Cville School Board), Juandiego Wade (City Councilor), and Bekah Saxon (former Cville Dems co-Chair).

Many VIP and voter photos are on our website, below are two.





## Executive Committee & Full Committee Meetings Monday 11/27 (In-person or Zoom)

There'll be a very brief Executive Committee meeting at 6:20pm on Monday, November 27 followed by a Full Committee meeting at 6:30pm.

Both are hybrid meetings, in-person at the Downtown Library on Market Street (Swanson Case Room) or via Zoom.

### The main agenda items:

- Preparing for our biennial Reorganizational Mass Meeting (tentatively Saturday, January 6 at 2pm) to elect precinct representatives, who will then elect the precinct chairs and the Cville Dems executive officers (Chair or Co-Chairs, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer... information about these and other positions is [here](#)). The precinct representatives and *ex officio* members make up the Charlottesville Democratic Committee, often referred to as the Full Committee. 2024 is going to be a struggle for the future of this country, as we all well know; if we and Dems nationwide don't rise to the challenge we will have to live with a re-elected Pres. Trump and more MAGA extremists in all branches of government.

So... we're looking to grow the party with new people who bring new ideas and new energy! If you're not already involved, please think about joining us! Anyone who lives and is registered to vote in Charlottesville is eligible to become a member of our committee and have a voice in what the local party does. And if you know people you think would make good contributions to the committee, encourage them to come check us out (all of our meetings are public, including this one!). Anyone who would like to know more about what's involved can email [cville Dems chair@gmail.com](mailto:cville Dems chair@gmail.com) and John McLaren will be happy to explain all.

- After-action report on the election.
- Initial thoughts about voter protection for the 2024 election.
- IF we have a quorum, consider approving resolutions on issues like the Governor's forced outing policy, collective bargaining for teachers, and abortion rights (if there are proposed resolutions, the language will be shared in advance).

To suggest something to add to the Full Committee agenda, please

email [cvilledemschair@gmail.com](mailto:cvilledemschair@gmail.com) . A Zoom link with the final agenda will be sent out to all committee members before that meeting.

## Kudos to the Voter Protection Team!

Jeremy Jones and his Voter Protection Team did a great job making sure voters in our heavily Democratic districts were able to cast their ballots from sunup to sundown. Having fewer competitive local races than in most other surrounding areas, members of our C'ville-based team were able to help out in Goochland, Fluvanna, and Henrico. We're already collecting our learnings from these experiences to make sure we're even more effective in 2024.

If you might be willing to get involved in these very important voter empowerment efforts, or have any questions, please reach out to Jeremy: [hijeremyjones@gmail.com](mailto: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.



## Preaching to a SEMI-PASSIVE Choir (Why electing Dems matters!)

This section has a new title, just for this issue.

Election 2023 is over, but an existential 2024 election is almost

upon us that will determine whether or not America's democracy will survive (not to mention action on climate change, abortion rights, voting rights, LGBTQ+ rights, corrupt Supreme Court Justices, etc.).

Too many Americans, including many Dems, are "looking away", either unwilling to acknowledge the current reality or hoping others will do the work to keep that from happening. The more people who hold this mindset, the more likely our nightmares will come true.

Please read these few short news clips... ponder for a moment... decide if you should be one of the people who actively works to

preserve our democracy in the coming year. If yes... a good option is to become empowered and energized and activated by becoming more involved with other local Dems in 2024... perhaps by taking a role at the January Reorganization Meeting!?

- "Former president Donald Trump has crossed a red line into championing what we'd recognize as full-flung fascism if it came from the mouth of a foreign leader. It demonstrates just how inured we've become to Trump's despicable despotic rhetoric that he's not ostracized or treated like a renegade to the US Constitution and American democracy. Instead, he remains the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination." [Boston Globe, 11/14/23](#)
- "The press must get across to American citizens the crucial importance of this election and the dangers of a Trump win. They don't need to surrender their journalistic independence to do so or be "in the tank" for Biden or anyone else. It's now clearer than ever that Trump, if elected, will use the federal government to go after his political rivals and critics, even deploying the military toward that end. His allies are hatching plans to invoke the Insurrection Act on day one. The US then "would resemble a banana republic", a University of Virginia law professor [Ed-Saikrishna Prakash] told the Washington Post when it revealed these schemes. Almost as troubling, two New York Times stories outlined Trump's autocratic plans to put loyal lawyers in key posts and limit the independence of federal agencies. The press generally is not doing an adequate job of communicating those realities." [The Guardian, 11/09/23](#)
- "In Ohio, after voters on Tuesday approved an amendment to the state constitution protecting abortion rights, Republicans are calling the amendment "ambiguous" and trying to remove it from the jurisdiction of the courts. They want to make the legislature—which they dominate thanks to gerrymandering—the only body that can decide what the measure means. They are openly trying to override the decision of the voters. In Washington, Republicans have empowered Christian extremist Mike Johnson (R-LA) to lead the House of Representatives as speaker, and today we learned that outside his office he displays a flag associated with the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) network that wants to place the United States government under the control of right-wing Christians." [Prof. Heather Cox Richardson, 11/10/2023](#)

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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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