

C'VILLE DEMS

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Newsletter



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News and Updates from the Cville Dems (1/4/24)

4 easy ways you can support Cville Dems today:

- Help us publicize the Jan 6 event (see below)!!
- 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!)
- January 6 Reorganization Meeting (with music and food!)
- Help us Publicize the January 6 Meeting
- 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 sending this mail).

Upcoming Events!

1/6 1pm — Cville Dems Reorganization Meeting at Carver Rec Center (see below)

1/10 — Virginia General Assembly Session begins

1/15 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day

1/15 — Richmond [rally + lobbying](#) for sensible gun laws (free bus transportation from Charlottesville Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention)

1/27 7pm & 9:30pm — [24/7 Fundraiser](#) for Jefferson School (7 new plays written in 24 hours)

Our best wishes to everyone for a great 2024!





Jan. 6 Reorganization Meeting (with music and food!) Opportunities for New People with New Ideas!

Date/Time: January 6 at 1pm (*you must arrive before 2pm to vote!!*)

Location: Carver Recreation Center, 233 4th Street, NW,
Charlottesville, VA 22902

NOTE: some snow is forecast, but we don't expect it will be severe enough to force a rescheduling; if we do need to cancel we'll send out an email by 11am (and post the cancellation on our website and Facebook).

Schedule:

- During the 1-2pm registration hour we'll be chatting with attendees and signing up volunteers. We'll have light food (fresh apple juice, coffee, and homemade scones) and live acoustic music. Current precinct committee members should arrive early to greet attendees, especially those new to us, and help them find the volunteer signup table(s) that match their interest(s) such as GOTV, event planning, helping with petitions, media, etc.
- At 2pm sharp, the doors close (no one arriving after 2pm will be allowed in) and we switch over to election business (should only take about an hour):
 1. Attendees who we've signed in by 2pm will elect Precinct Representatives, who then choose either a chair or two co-chairs for each precinct. Anyone who lives in and is registered to vote in Charlottesville is eligible to stand for election to become a member of our committee and have a voice in shaping our local party's actions and positions on issues.
 2. The Precinct Representatives and ex officio members, who together make up the Charlottesville Democratic Committee ("The Full Committee"), will then elect candidates for the following offices (listed with all candidates who have so far generously offered to run for them):

Co-Chairs: Josh Throneburg and Nancy Damon

Vice-Chair: still seeking candidate(s)

Treasurer: Jason Vandever is willing to stay on

Secretary: still seeking candidate(s)

Note that we have four other positions on the Executive Committee that are appointed, not elected:

Communications: Mary Jane Gore has volunteered to serve.

Voter Registration: Suzanne Michels is willing to stay on,

Voter Protection: Jeremy Jones is willing to stay on.

Fundraising: still seeking candidate(s).

Layperson descriptions of these various offices are [on our website](#); full descriptions of the precinct roles (and officer roles) are in our [bylaws](#).

These "changing of the guard" elections are critically important for every organization, including ours; it's always important to have fresh faces and new ideas in the leadership mix.

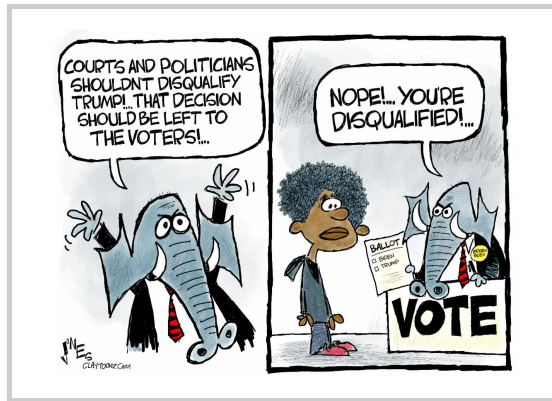
To put it bluntly, we need you! We all know that the 2024 election will be a struggle for the future of this country. If we don't grow the party (bring in new people with new energy and ideas), we'll have to live with a re-elected President Trump and more MAGA extremists in all branches of government. If that's not an acceptable future to you, then please rise to the challenge and play a part!

- If you're on our mailing list but haven't ever gotten formally involved, this pivotal election year would be a really good time to give engagement a small try! Two of the ways you might do this (neither a big time commitment):
 - become a precinct representative, which gives you a voice in shaping the party, and plugs you into our volunteer network and all the practical ways you can work for good.
 - join one of our teams (Communications, Voter Registration, Voter Protection, etc.).
- If you're already a little bit involved, contribute just a bit more by joining a precinct committee or taking on one of our open leadership positions.
- If you know people who you think could make good contributions to the Cville Dems, encourage them to come check us out (all of our meetings are public, including January 6).

If you'd like more information or have a question about a role you might consider taking, please contact John McLaren as soon as possible at cville Dems chair@gmail.com, and he'll be happy to explain all.

"We get the government we want and deserve... We can blame poor

political leadership, a corrupt right-wing media and voting restrictions, to name a few, for the rise of a right-wing, authoritarian movement. However, ultimately, democracy is our collective responsibility. Republican primary voters know exactly who Trump is and what he plans for a second term (tyranny); we can blame them if they nevertheless imperil our democracy again by nominating him... So, yes, reform the system and vote for better people, but the only real solution to what ails us is a surge of democratic activism, civic involvement and collective rededication to our constitutional system. If that happens, the rest will follow." [Washington Post, 12/28/23](#)



NOW...Help us Publicize the Jan 6 Event!

Reaching new people and getting a big turnout is so important that we ran this *C-Ville Weekly* display ad (page 23):

What Do We Want?

The collage includes several images: a group of people holding leaves over a globe labeled "Environment"; a woman walking with a briefcase and a large upward-pointing arrow labeled "Economic Opportunity !!"; a group of diverse people labeled "Diversity"; the word "EQUITY" in large letters held up by hands; and a globe with various icons labeled "EDUCATION".

How Will We Get It?



Images: <https://www.freepik.com>



The Charlottesville Democrats are gearing up for the 2024 election, organizing at the precinct level and electing officers; help us in the fight to save our democracy!

Saturday, Jan. 6 at 1pm

Carver Recreation Center, 233 4th St NW

1-2pm Socializing with Food

Enjoy music and drinks/snacks, meet new people,
& sign up to VOLUNTEER in 2024!

2-4pm Voting

Precinct Rep and Officer elections
You must arrive before 2pm to vote!

Who's invited?

Any City of Charlottesville resident who's a registered voter, supports the Democratic Party, and is willing to do a bit of organizing work to help us win in November (especially newcomers!).

More info: www.cvilledems.org

Email cvilledemschair@gmail.com with questions or if you're interested but can't attend.

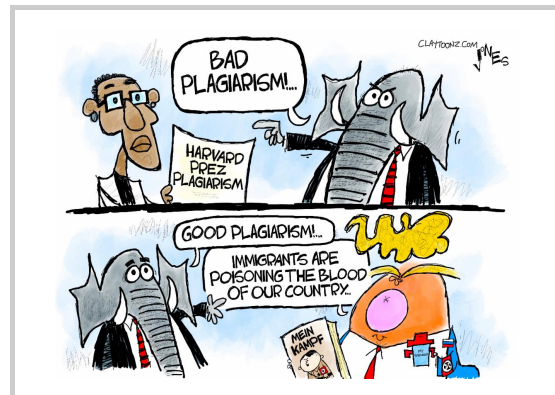
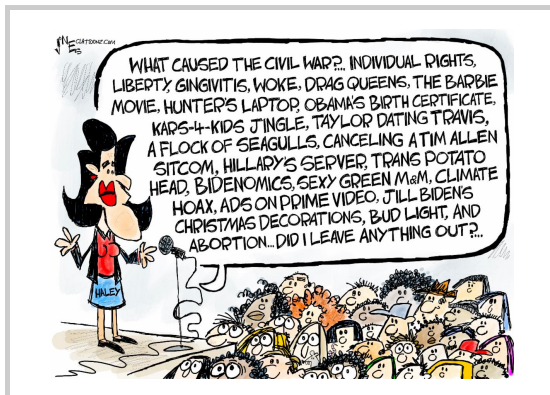


But to really get the word out, we're asking every local Dem (including you!) to post our meeting announcement on your own social media pages:

1. Please go to our [Facebook event](#). If you can attend the Jan. 6 meeting, please click "Going"; if you can't attend, please click "Interested." Then, VERY IMPORTANT, click on the "Invite" button and *invite every non-Republican Cville resident who's in your Facebook list*. Then go to our [Facebook page](#) and "Like" and "Share our post about the event." These two things will increase our visibility a lot.

2. Download our *C-Ville Weekly* display ad above (or make a screenshot of it, or [email us](#) and we'll email it to you!) and then post to whatever social media platforms you're active on:

- Nextdoor — click [here](#), then comment, like, and share.
- Reddit — click [here](#), comment, and upvote.
- Twitter/X — click [here](#) and reply/retweet.



Preaching BEYOND the Choir (Why electing Dems matters!)

"The first House of Delegates and Senate bills Democrats filed seek to increase the minimum wage to \$13.50 per hour as of Jan. 1, 2025, and to \$15 per hour as of Jan. 1, 2026. Currently, minimum wage is \$12 per hour in Virginia, and the federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour — a number that has not changed in over a decade....In 2021, Democratic legislators passed a bill to put the brakes on some pollution from tailpipe

emissions by hitching Virginia to California's emissions standards... Some Virginia Republicans are [trying again](#) to undo this after unsuccessful attempts in 2023... Democrats are trying again to pass a proposal to ban future sales of assault-style weapons... Democrats put forth a proposed [constitutional amendment](#) that would make restoration of rights constitutionally guaranteed for felons who have completed their sentences... Since Democrats retained control of the Senate and flipped the House, Republican lawmakers are unlikely to pass the proposal Youngkin backed to bar most abortions after 15 weeks with exceptions for rape, incest and the life of the pregnant person. In 2024, Democrats will attempt to [enshrine protections into the state's constitution.](#)" *Richmond Times-Dispatch, 1/2/24*

"Major drug companies massively cut insulin prices... Sanofi, Eli Lilly and Novo Nordisk have all cut insulin prices starting January 1, 2024, after raising prices in recent years. Starting today, all three major insulin manufacturers are offering \$35/mo caps on out-of-pocket costs. Also today, they're cutting list prices by 70% or more - a move that's expected to *save* them hundreds of millions of dollars a year."



"Pretty big win for Biden and the Democrats - and yet most Americans don't know about it and those who do probably won't credit Biden and the Democrats for it." *Mehdi Hasan (MSNBC) on CNN quote, 1/2/24*



"A federal appeals court on Tuesday ruled that Texas hospitals and doctors are not obligated to perform abortions under a long-standing national emergency-care law, dealing a blow to the White House's strategy to ensure access to the procedure after the Supreme Court overturned the

constitutional right to abortion in 2022...all three judges on the 5th Circuit's panel were appointed by Republican presidents. Judge Leslie H. Southwick is a George W. Bush appointee, and Judges Kurt D. Engelhardt and Cory T. Wilson are Trump appointees." *Washington Post, 1/3/24*

"The Texas Supreme Court has overturned a court order that would have allowed a Dallas woman to get an abortion. The ruling came down hours after Kate Cox's lawyers announced she was leaving the state to terminate her non-viable



pregnancy. Last Tuesday, Cox, 31, filed a historic lawsuit, asking the courts to allow her to terminate her pregnancy after she learned her fetus had full trisomy 18, a lethal fetal anomaly. The lawsuit, brought by the Center for Reproductive Rights, said continuing the pregnancy posed a threat to Cox's health and future fertility, but her doctors refused to perform an abortion due to the state's near-total ban on the procedure." [The Texas Tribune, 12/11/23](#)

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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