

Free Democrat

The Newsletter of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee

April 2014 Volume 1, Issue 2

Inside Washington: Report from Congressman James Moran

Let's End Inhumane Abuses of Animals

Last month, I introduced the Humane Cosmetics Act to end animal testing for cosmetics made in the U.S. and to phase out the sale of all cosmetics tested on animals overseas.

Every year, thousands of animals are subjected to inhumane abuses in the name of beauty. While cheaper and more effective alternatives to animal testing exist, the U.S. has failed to keep up with the rest of the world by continuing to allow animal testing.

This inherently cruel practice subjects them to extraordinary abuses. Skin and eye irritant tests include rubbing chemicals on shaved skin or dripping it into the eyes of restrained rabbits. Repeated force feedings are also employed. Widely condemned "lethal dose" tests force animals to swallow large amounts of chemicals to determine the fatal amount.

Even worse, these tests are unnecessary. They don't compute with modern science and ignore more functional, less expensive alternatives. Results from animal tests aren't always relevant to humans and can misstate the real-world hazards. Scientifically sound, non-animal alternatives, using human cell-based tests and sophisticated computer models to deliver human-relevant results, are a better path forward.

continued on page 2



Message from the FCDC Chair, Sue Langley

For the next few weeks I will be visiting my mother in Thailand. During my absence, the Fairfax County Democratic Committee First Vice Chair Matt Bell will be presiding over meetings and events.

Matt is a good example of a FCDC member who could see real change from the FCDC Red to Blue Program. Matt lives in the Springfield District where his FCPS School Board member is Republican, his Fairfax County Board member is Republican, his Virginia Delegate is Republican, and his U.S. Congressman is Republican. The FCDC Red to Blue program is intended to provide the resources to strengthen FCDC's infrastructure, by helping the 10th CD precincts in Sully, Springfield, Dranesville, and Hunter Mill, not only in 2014, but also in 2015 and future years.

continued on page 2

Deadlines for The Democrat

May 2014 Edition

Friday, April 25, 2014

June 2014 Edition

Friday, May 23, 2014

Articles/ photos must be submitted as attachments to [The Democrat](#). All submissions are subject to a word limit and editing. For more information, contact [The Democrat](#).

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2815 Hartland Road, Suite 110
Falls Church, VA 22043
Tel: (703) 573-6811
Fax: (703) 560-7004

<http://fairfaxdemocrats.org>

Editorial Team: Terry Matlaga Bell,
Michael Fruitman, Linda Waller

*Views expressed do not necessarily
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Correction to April 2014 Democrat

Sean Barnett was referred to as National Affairs, Mason, and should have been referred to as National Affairs Committee, Mason District Member. The article he authored was a product of the FCDC National Affairs Committee.

Inside Washington: Report from Congressman Jim Moran

(continued from page 1)

A growing number of countries have banned imports of animal-tested cosmetics. Last year, the European Union created the world's largest cruelty-free cosmetic marketplace by banning animal testing for cosmetics products while also banning the sale of any cosmetics tested on animals. Similar bans have already been enacted in Israel, India, and

Norway. Brazil is moving in that direction. The time has come for the U.S. to join this movement or be left behind.

I will continue to press my colleagues to support the Humane Cosmetics Act. It's the right thing to do for animals, science, and consumer safety.

Message from the FCDC Chair, Sue Langley

(continued from page 1)

Even though our 2014-2015 budget was not voted on at the FCDC March general membership meeting, we did have an excellent panel on fighting income inequality moderated by David Broder (President, SEIU Virginia 512). More than 100 people trekked through the snow to hear from panelists Senator Marsden, Kevin Pittman, Jeff Connor-Naylor, Guillermo Zamora, and Trevon Snead. [Watch the video on the Fairfax County Democratic Committee YouTube page.](#)

I will be calling a special meeting in April to approve the 2014-2015 FCDC budget. All members will be notified of the location and date as soon as it is determined. I want us to work together, to discuss issues, and to develop solutions for problematic areas. We are much

stronger as a team and when united, we are unstoppable. Most importantly, let us all remember that in spite of our differences we all share the same goal—to elect Democrats.

In the meantime, we will continue to raise money to fulfill our primary mission of electing Democrats. Please buy a ticket to the FCDC Jefferson-Jackson Dinner that will be held on May 4. With hard work, a positive attitude, and strong commitment from our membership, we have been very successful in our fundraising efforts thus far and I see no reason why we would not continue to be successful.

To that end, I look forward to continuing our work to elect Democrats and making this committee the best in the Commonwealth!



State Senator Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum, Member, House of Delegates, 36th District, Longest Serving Member of the Virginia House of Delegates

"An "I" will soon turn into an "F," however, because of the impasse brought about by House Republicans who refuse to extend health care"

Inside Richmond: Report from Delegate Kenneth Plum

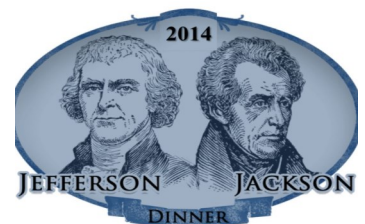
The 2014 General Assembly session gets an "I" for incomplete from this former school teacher because we have not yet completed the basic requirement of passing a biennial budget. Otherwise, I would give the session a "B" because some important work got done. Mental health laws were strengthened. Reform of ethics laws expanded reporting to twice yearly, with more reporting required to make the process more transparent. In the area of education, the General Assembly delayed for a couple of years the idea of giving each school a grade and the state takeover of failing schools. SOL (Standards of Learning) testing was reduced from 22 to 17 in K-8.

The hybrid car tax was repealed, but efforts to roll back other provisions of last year's transportation bill were rejected. The sodomy law was repealed, as court action had already effectively done. A small step forward on bike safety increased from two to three feet the distance cars must leave to pass bicycles. Posting pornography on social media with-

out a person's consent was made an offense. Sunday hunting will be legal on private lands.

An "I" will soon turn into an "F," however, because of the impasse brought about by House Republicans who refuse to extend health care to as many as a quarter million working poor Virginians by bringing back to Virginia the tax dollars that have already been paid by Virginia taxpayers. We are losing \$5 million a day—a loss of more than \$400 million already—because of the dislike of a system the Republicans refer to as "Obamacare." They continue to take their direction from Americans for Prosperity and the Koch brothers, rather than from their constituents.

The Governor and House and Senate Democrats are committed to doing what is right for Virginians in expanding Medicaid to close the coverage gap. We want this legislative session to have a good grade for all Virginians, not for out-of-state interests.



FCDC's 2014 JEFFERSON JACKSON DINNER May 4, 2014, 5:30 – 9:00 PM

FCDC's, largest fundraiser, the Jefferson Jackson Dinner, will be held Sunday, May 4, at the McLean Hilton (7920 Jones Branch Drive).

The VIP Reception begins at 5:30 PM. This is a great opportunity for you to talk with our elected officials and chat with other Democrats while enjoying cocktails and light hors d'oeuvres. The Silent Auction

runs from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM and all event attendees can bid on the numerous items up for auction. Dinner begins at 7:00 PM with an exhilarating and moving program that will include special guest speakers and recognition of our outstanding volunteers. In addition, a special tribute will be presented to Congressman Jim Moran by his constituents, in recognition of his years of

dedicated service.

If you've been to other events at the McLean Hilton, you know the food will be delicious and the service impeccable. Please note that the price of an individual ticket is \$160 this year, a 9-percent reduction from last year. [So click here to reserve your seat \(s\) today, become a sponsor and/or attend the VIP Reception.](#)

The Fairfax Report : Supervisor, Jeff McKay, Lee District

Fairfax County's Legislative Priorities

Many of the services that Fairfax County provides to its residents depend on the Virginia General Assembly—and are critically important for K-12 education and human services. Every December, our County Board adopts a legislative package and sends it to the General Assembly. Some of our basic principles include: the state must fully fund K-12 education, refrain from infringing on our land-use and taxing authority, and provide Northern Virginia with its fair share of statewide revenues from last year's landmark transportation bill.

We reiterated that as state revenues continue to improve, funding must be restored to programs and services slashed over the past several years. State funding for schools declined dramatically during the recession. In FY2009, state support for K-12 was 35 percent of the state's General Fund; today it is less than 30 percent.

Expanding Medicaid is a key part of our package. Virginia's eligibility requirements are so strict that although it is the 11th largest state in terms of population and 7th in per-capita personal income, it ranked 43rd in Medicaid enrollment as a proportion of the state's population and 47th in per-capita Medicaid spending. Medicaid expansion could dramatically increase health care coverage for 25,000-30,000 low-income Fairfax County residents, who would become eligible through the expansion.

Human services have also seen significant cuts. These programs have been underfunded while needs have grown, exacerbated by the recent recession. Other County priorities include early childhood education, child care assistance for low-income working families, early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities, and increased state support to assist with community placements for individuals transitioning from the Northern Virginia Training Center.

To review the full legislative package, [click here](#). Supervisor Jeff McKay has chaired the Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's Legislative Committee since 2009.



*Jeff McKay, Supervisor,
Lee District, Fairfax
County Board of
Supervisors*

People in the News

Hunter Mill District—Congratulations to Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins, Hunter Mill District Supervisor and a Board member of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority for being recognized by the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) as one of our nation's most influential women in the transportation industry.

Lee District—Congratulations Linda Waller for receiving the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce's Herb Hunter Citizen of the Year award ("given to an individual who has significantly contributed to improving the quality of life over a sustained number of years for the betterment of the Greater Springfield Community").

Providence District—You will be missed. Long-time Providence Dems Jean and Gil Conrad are soon moving to Richmond. Jean was a former Technology Vice Chair, and Gil was the Vice Chair for Precinct Operations until last December.

Fairfax County Young Democrats—Congratulations for being recognized for the first time in 83 years as *Club of the Year* by the Virginia Young Democrats.



National Affairs Committee

Fast Track and the Trans-Pacific Partnership

by Guest Author, Lori Wallach,
Director, Public Citizen Global Trade Watch

Why is President Obama pushing for a massive 12-nation NAFTA expansion agreement called the [Trans-Pacific Partnership \(TPP\)](#), favored by the corporations that worked against his re-election? Why is he asking for the Nixon-concocted [Fast Track](#) authority to railroad TPP through Congress? These are questions Democratic base groups and members of Congress are asking.

The TPP includes the same investor protections as NAFTA that promote U.S. job offshoring. [Twenty years after NAFTA](#), it not only failed to create the one million new U.S. jobs promised, but has resulted in [845,000 American workers](#) certified as having lost their jobs to NAFTA.

Economists agree that our NAFTA-style trade policy is a [major contributor to growing income inequality](#). And, more than [\\$400 million in taxpayer funds](#) have been paid to foreign corporations that used NAFTA's corporate tribunals to attack toxics bans, land use, water, timber, and

other policies.

[NAFTA's damage was not a fluke](#): U.S. export growth to countries with which we have NAFTA-style Free-Trade agreements is [30 percent slower](#) than with those with which we don't. Consider the U.S.-Korea Free Trade agreement, the most recent such pact. After 2 years, U.S. exports to Korea are down 11 percent, the trade deficit is up 47 percent, and we have [lost another 60,000 jobs](#).

And now the TPP—NAFTA on steroids, with 50-cents-an-hour-minimum-wage in Vietnam and 10 other Asian and Latin American nations. While TPP is branded as a trade agreement, only five of its 29 chapters cover trade. The rest function as a [delivery mechanism](#) for policies that contradict Democrats' agenda: rolling back [financial reforms](#), jacking up [medicine](#) prices, [banning Buy American](#) procurement, and weakening [food safety](#) and [environmental](#) safeguards. Existing and

future U.S. laws would be required to meet TPP rules or the U.S. would face attack in [TPP tribunals](#) authorized to impose trade sanctions or cash compensation to foreign firms.

A massive corporate campaign is underway to pass Fast Track. Fast Track would gut the check and balance the Founders wisely included that gives Congress exclusive constitutional authority over trade policy. Fast Track would allow the TPP to be signed before Congress votes on it and then force a post-facto vote in 90 days, with no amendments allowed and limited debate.

The good news is that almost all [House Democrats](#), including Virginia Representative "Bobby" Scott, oppose authorizing Fast Track trade authority to steamroll TPP through Congress. So do a sizable bloc of the House GOP. Virginia Representatives Connolly and Moran are among the seven House Democrats who do not oppose Fast Track.

2014 Dems Dine Out Program

The 2014 **Dems Dine Out Program** is getting ready to kick off later this month. This new FCDC-wide approach to local gatherings will allow Democrats from all over Northern Virginia to meet, have some fun and engage in substantive discussions in months when FCDC does not hold a general membership meeting.

At the April event, a guest speaker and/or panel will highlight and discuss a key Democratic policy or current event issue. Details will be available soon on the [FCDC website](#).

If you have an idea for a future program and can help put it together, please contact Finance Chair, Sue Thomas, at suethomas@gmail.com.

Question to The Democrat

Why Volume 1, Issue 1?

Volume numbers are used to refer to the number of the year of a publication's life. A publication which starts in the middle of the year would publish Volume 1 until it begins its second year.

Since we are unsure as to when the first *The Democrat* was first published, the volume number refers to the redesigned *The Democrat* beginning in March 2014. Within volume numbers, the issue number refers to its sequence within the year. March 2014 was our first issue of the year.

Unions for the 21st Century

Virginia Diamond, Chair, Labor Committee

The goals of the FCDC Labor Committee are to raise awareness about labor issues within FCDC; to help mobilize for candidates and issues; and to hold grass-roots, labor-themed fundraisers for FCDC. Our current project is to canvass to close the health coverage gap for hundreds of thousands of Virginia workers.

Many believe that unions were important in the past but not today. We believe that unionization remains the most effective anti-poverty program, offering a path to the middle class for low-wage workers.

We are proud of the unions our grandparents built, but today's unions are not our grandparents' unions. Unions are changing dramatically to meet current challenges. Building trades unions support comprehensive immigration reform and invest hundreds of millions of dollars in training facilities that invite low-income youth to "earn while they learn" to become skilled craft workers. Manufacturing unions such as the United Auto Workers embrace innovation and flexibility, viewing employers as partners rather than adversaries. Public-sector unions are essential

advocates for investing in quality public services.

Our committee's message is: unions are not quaint relics of the past that "brought you the weekend." When unions constituted 35 percent of the American workforce, we had a strong middle class; now, only 11 percent of the workforce is organized. To restore our middle class, workers must be free to organize and participate in unions without fear of retaliation.

We hope that all Democrats will join us in supporting strong and growing unions.

Inside FCDC: Technology Committee — Todd Smyth

So far this year the Technology Committee is working on getting an estimate on a new phone system at FCDC and redesigning and rebuilding the website to work with mobile devices and work better for people with disabilities. We should also be coming out with a survey to ask members what they think about possible new banner designs for the website. In addition, we are working on doing an updated technology inventory of computers, monitors, printers, etc., and will be taking donations

of fairly new technology where people have upgraded to more current hardware. And we hope to buy a couple of new laptop computers to be used at events to check ticket sales and allow people to buy tickets at events, as well as help with training at FCDC.

We held our first Google Groups and Docs Training, and hope to do more soon; further, we will be looking for and training Votebuilder power users in each district to help support members with our voter database tool that we use to

pull lists to recruit volunteers, new members, and invite people to events. We also plan to work with the Central Communications Committee to develop a plan for how to better handle secure information, define requirements, identify best practices, and devise an implementation plan. Such a plan should align with our existing processes but better organize, and formalize, how we manage items such as Google Docs, along with training people on how to use these tools.

10th Congressional District Report — Charlie Jackson

With your help, Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust will become our next Congressman from VA10. Foust will be the Democratic standard-bearer this November as we fight to turn from red to blue one of the most highly targeted open seats in the country. Foust was the only Democrat to file to seek the Party's nomination earlier this

month, giving him an almost two months' head start on the GOP's eventual nominee.

With Foust locked in as the Party's nominee, the 10th District Democratic Committee was able to cancel its nominating convention and Fairfax County's unassembled caucuses that were scheduled for early

April. The early nomination for Foust also has worked to open up fundraising doors. With a primary behind him, Foust was able to bring in Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi to help raise money for November's election.

11th Congressional District Report — George Burke

Nearly every day, I or another of our 11th CD Committee members is asked when we will be holding our annual 11th CD Sturdivant Brunch.

The answer is we don't have a date yet, but expect to see it in May at the usual location - Cooking and Co. Restaurant on Fairfax Blvd. in Fairfax City. We have postponed it until later in the spring so we can enjoy the outdoor patio as well as the fine food and company.

Each year, our brunch honors Democrats from Fairfax County, Prince William County, and the City of Fairfax, for their service to the Party and to the community. We also present the John Sturdivant Award, named

after the late former AFGE National President and Fairfax Democratic activist, to a worthy member of labor.

This year, we will be honoring three worthy Fairfax Democrats:

Former Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman and former Secretary of the Commonwealth Kate Hanley;

Long-time Fairfax County Democratic activist and former 11th CD Committee member Peg Kugler;

And a labor activist whose name remains secret until announced at the brunch.

Former Delegate David Brickley of

Prince William County and Democratic Activist Curt Chandler of the City of Fairfax will also be honored.

We hope that Fairfax Democrats will join us at this year's brunch. We promise good food and good company and you can join us in honoring some very worthy Democrats.

So keep your eyes out for our invitation in your inbox in the next several weeks. We waited to hold this year's brunch because we didn't want to conflict with the many other party and candidate fundraisers taking place in the coming weeks (or weigh too heavily on your pocket-books).

FCDC Central Regional Report — Tom Johnson

Greetings to all Providence, Mason, and Braddock members. Since starting in the role of Vice Chair, I've been focusing most of my attention on internal matters such as budget and sub-committee reorganizations, etc. I have had the opportunity to meet with each of the District Committees and have been impressed

with the attendance and interaction at those meetings.

The Central is solid!

As we move forward, I will work with the Committee Chairs and Precinct Ops. Vice Chairs in Central to strengthen the volunteer base in the April and May time frame. Fundamentally, I would like to see each

Committee leverage the existing volunteers in each precinct (starting with our Precinct Captains) to identify and recruit additional volunteers. I will work to provide a process for recruitment and mechanisms for keeping the volunteers engaged while we prepare for the fall election season.

FCDC South Regional Report — Matthew Bell

Want to see Fairfax Democrats in action turning a district Red to Blue? Join the Springfield District Democratic Committee for its first 2014 Day of Action on Saturday, April 5 from 10:00 AM to noon. The Springfield Dems will be launching from Chair Ed Deitsch's house (525 Wilderness Way Fairfax Station, VA 22039). The Springfield Dems will inform voters about the 2014 10th Congressional District election in order to increase volunteers, committee members, and

ensure that Democrats win the 10th District Congressional seat for the first time since 1978.

The Nationals just beat the Mets on MLB Opening Day. You know what that means? *The Lee District Democratic Committee's Opening Day is coming up.* Join fellow Democrats on Sunday, April 6, from 3:00-6:00 PM at the home of Susie Warner (6229 Edison Drive Alexandria, VA 22310) and enjoy hot dogs, cold refreshments, and chat with candidates and your

local officials. Tickets start at just \$25. [Click here to purchase.](#)

Who will replace Congressman Jim Moran? *Hear from the candidates running in the 8th Congressional District Democratic Primary at the first public candidate forum.* The forum will take place on Saturday, April 12, from 4:00-6:00 PM at the Little Theatre at Mount Vernon High School (8515 Old Mt. Vernon Rd, Alexandria, VA 22309). For more information, visit www.mvdemocrats.org.

FCDC Sustainers Honor Roll

Thank you to our donors who have made a commitment to support the operation of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee with ongoing monthly or annual contributions.

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and make a commitment to support the ongoing operation of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee with monthly or annual contributions. FCDC needs you as a long term sustainer to assure future Democratic victories. Take a moment today and pledge your financial support. [Click here to join today.](#)

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\$2,000 per year

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\$50 per month/
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\$25 per month/
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\$10 per month/
\$120 per year

(Please note FCDC membership is not included in sustainer contribution.)