

Democrat

The Newsletter of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee

April 2016 Volume 3, Issue 2

Point/Counterpoint



Why I Support Bernie Sanders *Sean Barnett*

I support Senator Bernie Sanders for president because his entire political life, since he marched with Martin Luther King Jr. as a young man, he has fought for those without the power to protect themselves. I support him because we can count on him to fight for a progressive future for America, with jobs, rising wages, health care, and a clean environment for all.

Bernie Sanders has long defended American workers against unfair and harmful policies enacted on behalf of wealthy special interests. He believes we should have the economic security to care for our families, prosper, and provide futures for our children.

He would create 13 million jobs by investing \$1 trillion in rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure. He would increase the minimum wage to lift workers out of poverty. He would reverse trade policies like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that have depressed wages and cost us millions of jobs. He would make public universities tuition-free so young people could earn degrees without being buried in debt. He would do this by having the wealthy and large corporations pay their fair share in taxes. These are policies in the best tradition of the great Demo-

(continued on page 4)



Why I Support Hillary Clinton *Todd Smyth*

The last two Republican presidents wrecked our economy and left us in recessions. The last two Democrats have had record job growth and booming economies. To rebuild the middle class we have to skip the Republican crashes in between and keep a Democrat in the White House. To win in November, we need a Democrat who can brag about the fact that our economy does better with a Democrat in the White House and Hillary Clinton is the only one who can make that case.

Hillary can continue the progress President Obama has made, investing in the middle class to create a stronger, more stable economy that works better for everyone, rich and poor, and that is largely why I support her.

The Washington Post editorial board put it best in a recent article titled: ["Who is right in the Sanders-Clinton auto bailout brawl?"](#) where they said Bernie Sanders preserved his purity while Hillary helped save the country. That is the basic difference to me. Hillary understands the reality of what she will be up against when she gets to the White House and what it's going to take to get there. Barack Obama inspired me in 2008 with bold ideas, but he has governed more like Hillary campaigned. This is largely

(continued on page 5)



Deadlines for *The Democrat*

May 2016 Edition

Friday, April 29, 2016

June 2016 Edition

Friday, May 27, 2016

Articles/ photos must be submitted as attachments to thedemocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org. All submissions are subject to a word limit and editing. For more information, contact thedemocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org.



Message from the FCDC Chairman Sue Langley

On March 1, 2016, Hillary Clinton received 62.1 percent of Virginia votes in the Democratic Primary election; Bernie Sanders received 35.9 percent. Both candidates earned delegates to the state and national conventions due to the percentage of the vote they received.

During March, the Democratic Party of Virginia developed proportional allocations of delegates, based on the primary vote, for the magisterial district caucuses to be held throughout Fairfax County on April 16. The Congressional District conventions will follow on May 14, at designated locations. Pre-filing forms are due either online or by mail to FCDC headquarters no later than 5:00 pm on Saturday, April 9. These meetings take place to elect delegates to the state and national Democratic conventions. The delegates elected will ultimately determine the Democratic nominee to run for President in November. At the district conventions, delegates to the national convention will be elected to vote for their declared choice of Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders on the first ballot taken. This process is extensively documented on the fairfaxdemocrats.org website. Click on the rotating banner titled "Call to Caucus" to navigate to a page containing caucus locations and times, and additional links to caucus rules and pre-filing forms to be used to declare your candidacy for delegate to the congressional district and state conventions.

Save the date. Our 2016 Jefferson Jackson Dinner is Sunday, May 1, at the McLean Hilton. Come early for the cash bar pre-reception and the silent auction which start at 6:00 pm, dinner is at 7:00 pm .

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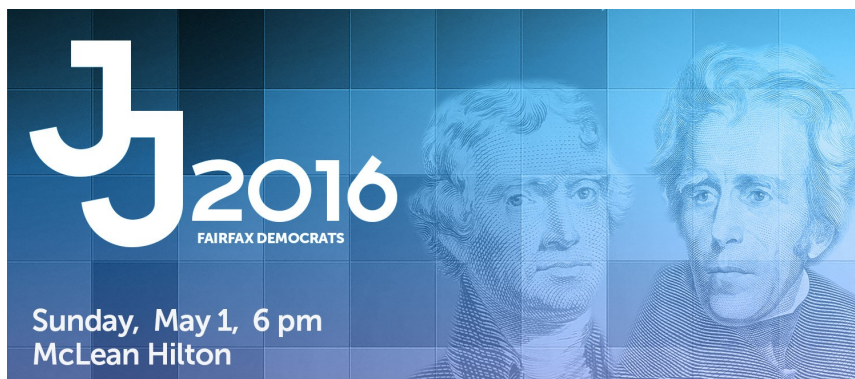
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committee resolution.*





Capitol Hill Update

Rep. Don Beyer(8th VA-D)

It is just about 15 months since I was sworn in, and there are just 7 months until the November election. Time moves quickly during a 2-year term of office. There is much to do and much to look back on already in my first congressional term.

I want to thank you for my new job. There are so many aspects of it that I enjoy. It is rewarding to interact with you, my constituents—some of the most educated constituents in the nation. (This is official U.S. census data, not just my bias.) It is fascinating and fulfilling to touch so many of the great concerns of our time, even if in very small ways. And, while detractors of Congress might scoff, I find constant hope that what we do might make a difference—if not today, then when the Democrats regain the majority.

With an ear to you, and also to my own internal compass I am focusing on climate change, women's economic empowerment, and invigorating

the new American economy. Other topics of great attention and interest include gun safety, local transportation issues, and concerns central to government employees and government contractors, the backbone of this congressional district.

Beyond these broad issues, we also chip away at other topics. Three bills I have co-led have passed the House of Representatives: a bill to increase federally funded prize competitions to spur public-private innovation, a bill to designate \$5 million at the National Science Foundation for dyslexia research, and a bill to return the regulation of towing companies to local governments, where it belongs. This last bill was incorporated into the highway reauthorization bill and became law.

There is so much to root for this political season. A few of Virginia's congressional races are exciting, and I know that many of you will volunteer to help my friend LuAnn Bennett in her quest to join me in Congress, as well as in this essential presidential election.

Thank you for all you do, and see you on the trail!

Saslaw Treasurer Convicted, Gets 56 Months in Prison For Embezzling \$653,000

Linda Diane Wallis, aka Lynn Wallis Miller, 51, of Fairfax, admitted to three separate fraud schemes that totaled \$1.4 million, including \$653,000 embezzled from Virginia Senate Minority Leader Dick Saslaw. Wallis was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,429,599 in addition to the prison term. From June 2013 to September 2014, Wallis served as the treasurer of the Saslaw for State Senate campaign.

Wallis also admitted, along with a co-conspirator, D.M., to taking \$368,400 from Company A, and to commingling with her and her co-conspirator's personal funds \$482,000 raised from colleges and a Hungarian businessman for a charity that they

founded to lobby for money for colleges serving those with autism and intellectual disabilities. Wallis and her co-conspirator, however, never applied for non-profit status for their organization. Wallis and her husband have two special-needs sons.

According to U.S. Attorney Dana J. Boente of the eastern district of Virginia, "those who abuse a position of public and private trust by engaging in sophisticated fraud schemes will be held accountable for their actions. This prosecution should serve as a deterrent to anyone contemplating similar theft for their own benefit."



CALL TO CAUCUS

ELECTING DELEGATES TO
STATE & NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC CONVENTIONS

On April 16, there will be caucuses at nine locations throughout the County to choose state and congressional district convention delegates. State delegates will elect delegates to the national convention in Philadelphia in July.

If fewer than the maximum number of delegates file, the county caucuses will be cancelled and all those who filed will be considered elected.

To file to be a State Delegate or Alternate for the Fairfax County Caucus, use the links below according to your Congressional District:

If you're not sure which Congressional District you live in, [click here](#) to look up your voter record.

[8th Congressional District Pre-Filing Form](#)

[10th Congressional District Pre-Filing Form](#)

[11th Congressional District Pre-Filing Form](#)

For the printable form, [click here](#).

For more information, including numbers of delegates and alternates to be elected from each magisterial district; filing and dates and locations of caucuses, [click here](#).

Why I Support Bernie Sanders

(continued from page 1)

cratic presidents, Lyndon Johnson, Harry Truman, and Franklin Roosevelt.

Bernie Sanders recognizes that our democracy is failing, that most Americans can no longer influence the major governmental decisions that affect them. Most of the political power is now held by the wealthy. Sanders wants to restore that power to the people. He wants to repair our corrupt campaign finance system by overturning the disastrous Supreme Court *Citizens United* decision and reestablish a government of, by, and for the people.

Bernie Sanders believes that health care is a right, not a privilege. Everyone should get the health care they need, regardless of income. We can achieve that, and afford it, with Medicare for all.

He believes that climate change is the greatest natural threat facing our planet. He would phase out fossil fuels and move to clean energy but also help workers learn the skills needed for that new economy.

Bernie Sanders understands that black lives matter. He supports police reform and ending the "War on Drugs" that has sent so many young black men to prison.

On foreign policy, Sanders believes in defending our country and its vital strategic interests, but doing so responsibly. He recognized that the Iraq War was unnecessary and voted against what became a disaster. In foreign policy, experience can be helpful but judgment is essential, and he has the judgment to keep us safe while keeping us out of costly foreign quagmires.

For this, Bernie Sanders has been called "unrealistic." On the contrary, we must strive for the things in which we believe. Women seeking the right to vote, African-Americans seeking civil rights, and gay people seeking the right to marry were all called "unrealistic," yet today they have those rights. We can achieve these goals if we work to enlist our fellow Americans in attaining them. That's why Bernie Sanders is running for president and that's why I support him.

What's on Your Mind?

The Democrat encourages content that goes beyond announcements and is more akin to "think pieces." Let's discuss and debate. If we have opposing views on the same subject, so much the better: we'll run a POINT/COUNTERPOINT column. Contact one of the editors (see masthead) to get involved or email thedemocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org.

Why I Support Hillary Clinton

(continued from page 1)

because he ran into Republicans in Congress willing to sabotage the American people to get what they want. Despite that, Obama has gotten more done than Bill and Hillary gave him credit for but much of what he has done was more along the lines of what Hillary was actually talking about in 2008.

[This led me to research and reconsider my opinion of Hillary Clinton.](#) I realize now I was repeating talking points that were being fed to me by Republicans such as Karl Rove. Just as Rove and others are feeding Sanders supporters with talking points about things like Hillary's Wall Street money, use of emails, the term "super predator" and Saudi Arabia buying U.S. fighter jets. First, most of Hillary's Wall Street money comes from progressives such as George Soros. There was no criminal intent involved in the emails and there will be no indictment. The term "super predator" was a reference to violent drug gangs, not young black people. And her

staff celebrated that Saudi Arabia didn't buy its fighter jets from Russia as Syria does. It's infuriating to listen to smart people I know repeat these ridiculous claims even when they know they are manufactured and promoted by Republicans.

Hillary is also getting beat up over past trade deals, but there are two parts to every trade deal. There are the terms and conditions and there is the enforcement of those agreements. When George Bush took over from Bill Clinton, enforcement disappeared so that Republicans could unleash the power of free markets. The same was true of the financial industry. After 9/11, regulators were put on the sideline and the American people were told to go shopping. Wall Street was left alone to run wild and they eventually ran our economy off a cliff.

Bush also took our taxes and handed them over to the rich and that was used to move millions of our jobs overseas. Other

jobs were lost to automation and many were lost to non-union workers from Mexico. All of the above hollowed out our middle class so that while the rich recovered from the Great Recession, most of us did not. Many of us are angry and looking for people to blame and Hillary seems like a pretty convenient target. I support Hillary because she has survived 25 years of Republicans trying to take her down. Her strength to keep fighting inspires me. I also support her because the elected officials I respect the most are also supporting her. Amy Klobuchar, John Lewis, Sherrod Brown, Al Franken, Kirsten Gillibrand, Elijah Cummings, Corey Booker, Sheldon Whitehouse, Don Beyer, and Tim Kaine have all endorsed Hillary as well as most of [Nation magazine's Most Valuable Progressives of last year.](#) These are the major reasons why I am supporting Hillary Clinton as our Democratic nominee. I hope you will too.

Join FCDC's Sustainer Society!

FCDC Sustainers are the backbone of our organization by making monthly or annual commitments to support the operations of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC). Sustainers' contributions pay the headquarters' office rent, utilities and office supplies so we can help get Democrats elected. They literally "keep the lights on" here at FCDC HQ. Please become an FCDC Sustainer today!

[To contribute at the annual rate, click here.](#)

[To download the printable Sustainer form, click here.](#)



Richmond Report: End of Session Elections Do Matter

Senior Delegate Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum, 36th District

The results of elections do matter, and seldom has there been stronger evidence of that fact than in the 2016 session of the General Assembly. In the first budget that he presented, Governor McAuliffe gave priority to education at all levels. For several years there had been an erosion in state funding for schools and colleges, but Governor McAuliffe reversed that trend. That meant more money for Fairfax County Public Schools and less need for steep college tuition increases. Likewise, as the super salesman for Virginia's economy, Governor McAuliffe proposed and got approved significant new dollars for economic development and job creation for the Commonwealth. His record in attracting new jobs to Virginia is unparalleled.

The outcomes of legislative elections matter as well. The governor proposed an expansion of Medicaid paid for by Virginia taxpayer dollars passed through the federal government that would have provided health insurance for 400,000 working Virginians and would have freed up at least \$150 million in state funds that could have been used for other priorities. The Republicans in the House and Senate

rejected his proposal, leaving Virginians with having turned down about 3.5 billion dollars in the last several years! Attempts to bring about significant reforms in the juvenile justice system were likewise thwarted by Republicans.

Attorney General Mark Herring continued to show his courageous leadership by enforcing a Virginia law that provided that out-of-state concealed weapons permits would be recognized only if the requirements for them were equal to or more stringent than Virginia's law. So upset was the National Rifle Association that they came to the governor with a deal for some limited gun safety bills in order to get relief from the AG's ruling. As modest as the bills were to take guns from persons against whom a permanent protection order had been issued and to establish a system for voluntary background checks, they were the first gun safety measures to pass the legislature in decades. But the bills passed only because the NRA told the Republicans that it was OK to pass them.

In the most serious affront to the separation of powers in anyone's memory, the Republicans

in both houses turned down an eminently qualified woman appointed to the Supreme Court by Governor McAuliffe and instead approved an ultra-conservative man to the Court. They were able to take such action because they won a majority in both houses of the General Assembly in the last election.

Any hopes to reform the system of drawing legislative district lines in a fairer manner were dashed when the several bills proposing nonpartisan redistricting reforms were defeated. The Republican majority passed for a second session a "Right to Work" amendment to the constitution that will appear on the ballot on November 8. We need to work hard this fall to ensure that voters do not approve this amendment.

Have questions about the fate of particular legislation? Go to <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?161+men+BIL>.

Don't like what happened in the General Assembly? Work hard next year to help elect more Democrats to the General Assembly. Election outcomes do matter.



A Day in the Life . . . Inside the Virginia House of Delegates

Delegate Jennifer Boysko, 86th District

While no two days were ever the same, I'd like to provide a snapshot of an average day during my first session as a delegate.

I typically arrived at the General Assembly building before 7:00 am, before the staff arrived, to study for the upcoming day.

People traveled from all corners of Virginia to share their concerns and perspectives in morning and afternoon receptions. One memorable example: Brain injury services advocates came and brought a human brain for us to see as we discussed the plight of people living with those injuries. Another day, Volkswagen and Audi representatives gave me a ride on the highway in a self-driving car.

The bulk of work vetting bills happened in committee meetings. Over 3,000 bills were introduced. I serve on Counties, Cities, & Towns (CC&T) and Privileges & Elections (P&E), which fit my background well because I worked in local government for years. Especially on CC&T, members worked well in a bipartisan manner. We considered concerns from simple town charter changes to the complex proffer bill that will change the way we consider local land use. On P&E, our outcomes were typically more partisan and the stakes higher as we considered changes to the Virginia Constitution and voting rights.

Daily at noon, session began, starting with the Morning Hour, during which members made speeches with no limit on what could be addressed. Some representatives focused on Governor McAuliffe's economic achievements. Members gave powerful personal speeches relating to legislation under consideration. Delegate Sam Rasoul, a Muslim representing the 11th District (Roanoke City), spoke beautifully about his concerns relating to prejudice faced by minorities. Delegate Jackson Miller, a former policeman representing the 50th District (Manassas/Prince William County), gave a 15-minute speech to justify bringing back the electric chair, so graphically recounting a grizzly murder that the young pages were removed from the gallery. I spoke for women's equality, an issue close to my heart.

Following Morning Hour, we considered bills passed out of committee. The pace often moved at lighting speed. When the speaker asked, "Shall the bill be passed?" there were only seconds to cast your vote and you'd better have made a decision. It was imperative to be prepared, as we might consider as many as 50 bills in one day that would affect the lives of some 8.3 million Virginians. We had some significant losses that we, as Democrats, feel passionately about, dealing with health care, the ability to protect the rights of LGBTQ community

members, workers' rights, the environment, and gun safety, not to mention the fiasco dealing with the Virginia Supreme Court, where the governor was ultimately unsuccessful in keeping Fairfax Judge Jane Marum Roush on the court.

Throughout the day, constituents, stakeholders, and groups wished to meet individually, and I made it a priority to listen and work to find consensus to solve the problems presented. I also participated in the caucus groups for Northern Virginia, Women's Health, New Americans, Fire Fighters, the Arts, and Alternative Energy.

On the positive side, working with Republicans and other Democrats, we passed the biennium budget, brought back money for our schools, provided raises for our teachers, and made compromises on I-66. With my colleagues, I've never worked harder. We fought some painful battles, built new working relationships and learned an enormous amount. I look forward to continuing to serve our community in the 86th District. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the oldest governing body in North America.

To sign up for Delegate Boysko's weekly email reports, send an email to

deljboysko@house.virginia.gov.

FCDC's Central Region

Morgan Jameson, Vice Chair, Central

The Braddock, Mason, and Providence districts comprise the FCDC central region. This region is distinctly different from the north and south regions in that politically, geographically, and economically, it has a little bit of everything. As with North and South, Central includes precincts that are both inside and outside of the Capital Beltway.

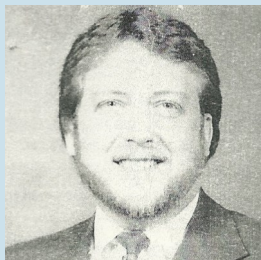
Homes in the eastern part of the region date back to the 1940s and 1950s, in dense, compact neighborhoods. In contrast, the lots and houses in the western side of the region are larger and farther apart. Each district within Central has solid Demo-

cratic turnout areas, with pockets of Republican neighborhoods. While only one precinct each in Braddock and Providence voted (by a small margin) for Romney in 2012, off-election years since have witnessed the typical drop-off in Democratic. Braddock, therefore, has a Republican supervisor on the County Board.

Going forward, we need to look at the precinct neighborhood levels to determine where help is most needed for get-out-the-vote efforts in our strongholds, and likewise for long-term persuasion in our more moderate areas.

People in the News

Condolences



David Collins (1959–2016)

Condolences to the family of David Collins who passed away March 14 after a brief illness. David moved to Fairfax (Springfield District, Silverbrook Precinct) from North Texas in 1992. He worked for the Cotton Council International and traveled the world representing the U.S.

More than 15 years ago, David suggested that Springfield host a barbeque as its signature fundraising event, and the Springfield District Elephant Roast (now the Smoke 'n Roast) was born. In the first years, he personally smoked the briskets that

formed the core of the event.

In 2001 he ran for the House of Delegates against entrenched incumbent David Albo (District 42). David Collins was a major bridge to the sub-continental community in Fairfax (Indians, Bangladeshis, and Pakistanis) with whom he worked internationally. He held a BA from Texas A&M and a Masters in Science and Technology Policy from GWU.

David had a keen political mind behind his quiet, self-effacing Texas façade. He was someone who really cared about justice as well as winning. He leaves an unfillable hole in the Springfield Democratic Committee.

David leaves behind three children, Shannon, Meghan, and Bailey; and two sisters, Elise Shields of Tucson and Martha Frances of Houston. Donations in David Collins' name may be made to the [Lorton Community Action Center](#) (LCAC), P.O. Box 154, Lorton, Virginia 22199-0154.

National Affairs Committee Book Review

Game Changers: Going Local to Defeat Violent Extremists

(D. Scott Mann, Tribal Analysis Publishing , September 1, 2015)

Reviewed by Douglas A. Samuelson, Braddock NAC Member

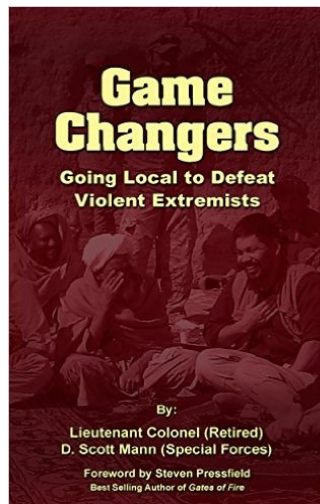
A retired U.S. Army Special Forces officer presents a new perspective on the political debate raging over how to defeat terrorism: “They’re all wrong.” What we need, he explains, is a change in focus from conventional force, applied in support of national governments, to village stability operations (VSO), emphasizing developing local leadership and building from there.

Lt. Col. (ret.) Scott Mann should know. In his 22 years of service, he led VSOs in Iraq, Afghanistan, Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador. Leading U.S. experts labeled his accomplishments and those of his Special Forces colleagues, the “game changer” in Afghanistan 2010–2012. In his new book, “Game Changers: Going Local to Defeat Violent Extremists,” he outlines the VSO approach in four steps:

1. Get yourself surrounded. Move in with the locals, get to know their concerns first-hand and on a day-to-day basis, let them get to know you.
2. Meet them where they are. As Mann explains, “We have to work with what is already there, and not with what we want to be there.” It takes a while to ad-

dress local grievances, but only after that could the locals be persuaded to stand up for themselves.

3. Connect through extreme collaboration. “It takes more than a village. It takes a network to empower that village,” he writes.



“Let’s not forget our own organizational complexity, tensions and self-induced feuding as our second enemy in defeating violent extremism.”

4. Tell a story that sticks. “The side that tells the most compelling story, and backs it up with meaningful action, is the side that wins,” he asserts. In Nangahar, for instance, it took about

two years for the “master narrative of local clans standing up for themselves, supported by their government, against an oppressive and unwanted group of violent extremists” to take hold.

In a recent magazine interview, Mann described his efforts as modeled on a coordinated program called FID, foreign internal defense, to apply all our instruments of power in fragile countries. It worked in several places, but since 9/11 the U.S. has shifted back to the more conventional counterinsurgency approach that didn't work in Vietnam.

He cautions, “It takes a long time. At this point we’ll have to punch our way back in, but then we need to conduct long-term FID, position our talent at both bottom-up and top-down, looking for stability inhospitable to violent extremists at the local and national levels. In these places where violent extremists set up shop, 80 percent of the land is tribal, outside national control.” Hence, he adds, “we have to learn to exploit an honor-based society to create the opportunities we want.”

Letter to the Editor

What to Emphasize in Addressing Gun Violence

In the March issue of *The Democrat*, Professor Richard Rubenstein raised an important issue: the rising level of gun violence in America is cause for concern—and action.

We disagree, however, with his conflating “militarism” and pride in our military. Honoring our men and women in uniform and our veterans is a core Democratic Party value and has little if anything to do with gun violence inside the U.S.

In our view, many people want guns for self-protection. The huge increase in homicides in

the U.S. in the 1980s coincided with the explosive expansion of the drug trade. The decrease in homicides (by about half since the late 1980s) coincided, in turn, with President Clinton's initiative to put many more police on patrol and to train and equip them better.

Serious mental illness has also been a contributing factor in many of the most prominent recent mass shootings.

Therefore, we contend that our most effective course of action against gun violence is (1) better policing and improved community engagement; (2) thorough and effective background checks, based on a comprehensive data-

base of known prior offenders; (3) requiring gun owners to be trained to use and store their guns safely (accidental shootings are alarmingly frequent); and (4) easier access to high-quality in- and outpatient drug treatment and mental health facilities, and assistance to families.

These are all solidly established Democratic Party values often opposed by Republicans for various reasons. And these are the values we should be emphasizing in addressing the issue of gun violence.

—Douglas A. Samuelson
(Braddock District) and Ricardo E. Coleman (Mason District)

