

# *The* **DEMOCRAT**

*The Newsletter of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee*



March-April 2017: **The New Normal?**

**ICE Raids –  
the Local  
Impact**

*Page 2*

**Stepping Up  
the Resistance –  
What's Next**

*Page 4*

**Richmond –  
Democracy  
Under Attack**

*Page 6*

**Khizr Kahn to  
Speak FCDC  
Dinner**

*Page 5*

**Congressman  
Connolly on  
Trump**

*Page 7*

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## ICE Raids – Local Impacts

*By Michele Menapace, Lee District National Affairs Committee (NAC) Member*

With the sweep of a pen the President broadly expanded the number of raids executed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents nationwide. Without federal planning or consideration of the fiscal impacts of this policy, local communities across America are bearing the costs.

Regardless of your opinion about undocumented individuals or the need or type of immigration reform required to adequately address new arrivals or current populations, there is a stark fiscal reality to be reckoned with. Numerous county agencies have been impacted at county expense especially when families are affected\*:

Children born in the US are citizens under our Constitution. If/when their parents are detained or deported, the children remain and must be treated like any unattended minor. Your view may be from the perspective of a "bleeding-heart liberal," you simply *care* about the people involved in these ICE actions, or you may think undocumented immigrants must be deported immediately, regardless of their personal situation, since they've broken the law.

Regardless of where you stand on the means for addressing the millions of undocumented immigrants in our country, there are very real, and potentially very significant, costs being thrust upon our community without consideration by the White House or federal agencies involved.

We have to ask ourselves, and our elected officials:, Is there a better way to address undocumented immigrants today and immigration reform tomorrow? Are our communities going to be safer or operating more effectively?

*\* Several raids have been conducted in Northern Virginia, with reports of detentions in Alexandria, Falls Church, Annandale, Manassas and more. To learn more about Fairfax County services and FY2017 costs visit the Department of Family Services at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2017/adopted/volume1/67.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2017/adopted/volume1/67.pdf)*

## What Happens to the Children?

- *When parents are detained, resulting in an unaccompanied minor, Child Protective Services steps in. As the number of children impacted rises; so does the need for CPS officers at a cost to the county taxpayers.*
- *If no immediate family is available to care for the children, foster care must be utilized at a cost to the county taxpayers.*
- *Any child whose life is disrupted so dramatically (loss of a parent/family member) has difficulty coping, which impacts the child's academics, socialization, etc. The cost increases for remediation, counseling, social workers, school meals are borne by county taxpayers via the public school system.*
- *Unattended minors, especially preteens and teenagers, are ripe for gang recruitment as they seek protection, a sense of family and belonging, and understanding. This results in higher costs for public safety and associated budgets, borne by county taxpayers*







## Message from Sue Langley, *Chairman of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee*

Leading with an announcement: We are honored to have secured the commitment of Khizr Khan, the Gold Star parent who spoke so memorably at last summer's Democratic National Convention, to speak at the Fairfax County Jefferson-Obama dinner, celebrating 225 years of ever expanding freedoms under our democracy. The dinner this year will be held at the Sheraton Premiere on May 21, 2017.

With the bittersweet outcome of the 2016 Elections in our rear-view mirror, some of us are still grieving the election of Donald Trump as President. Though Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine suffered a painful loss by a razor thin margin, we must look forward and not backward.

The DNC just elected a stellar team to lead the party. Tom Perez and Keith Ellison will bring energy to the party in its efforts to rebuild for the future and resist the Trump agenda.

Tomorrow is another day in Virginia. The fall of 2017 presents the statewide elections for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General. In addition, all 100 members of the House of Delegates, including 17 Delegates here in Fairfax County, stand for election. Fourteen of the 17 Fairfax Delegates are incumbent Democrats. Some face primary challenges, others may face Republican challenges in the fall. The remaining three Delegate seats will each feature Democratic challenges to the Republican incumbents.

On the bright side, Fairfax County delivered a margin of 197,000 votes to our candidate Hillary Clinton, and she won Virginia's 13 Electoral votes by a margin of 212,000 [SOURCE: VA Board of Elections reports]. Since Mark Warner was elected Governor in 2001, the growth of the Northern Virginia economy and its population has dominated the changing demographics and politics of the entire state. Virginia is reliably blue except for the gerrymandered U.S. Congress, where Republicans hold a 7-4 advantage, and the House of Delegates, where they lead 66-34. All 5 statewide elected officials are Democrats, and our county government is also dominated by Democrats.

If something needs to be reinforced about the importance of holding the Governor's office in 2017, the decennial census will take place during that Governor's term, and regardless of who holds the state Senate or House of Delegates, the Governor must approve any map drawn to redistribute districts. The wide disparity in the House of Delegates is due more to gerrymandering than anything else.

The energy unleashed by the 2016 election is reflected in the Fairfax County Democratic Committee's (FCDC's) membership growth. From a base of 800 members last November, we added about 80 members at our November meeting and another new 130 members in January 2017. We expect growth to continue at this month's meeting, based on reports from some of our District Chairs.

The greater interest in County Committee membership is a nationwide phenomenon, not just a local one. Our stated goal is to turn our remarkable growth into more electoral power in upcoming elections. Excellent treatment of this topic appeared recently in the Huffington Post, "The Movement Resisting Donald Trump Has A Name: The (Local) Democratic Party"

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/democratic-party-rump\\_us\\_58ac7f3ce4b0c4d5105717e0?hpid=hp\\_hp-top-table-main-trump-resistance\\_6pm\\_sidebar\\_story\\_4p\\_1](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/democratic-party-rump_us_58ac7f3ce4b0c4d5105717e0?hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-trump-resistance_6pm_sidebar_story_4p_1)

To close, a hearty welcome to all our new members. We are better because of you. Thank you for your interest, your passion, your work.

Democratically yours [#Resist],  
Sue Langley, Chair, Fairfax County Democratic Committee

# Stepping Up *the Resistance*

Thank you to Arlington County Democrats for the use of this article. Original article can be found at [www.arlingtondemocrats.org/chairs-column-stepping-resistance/](http://www.arlingtondemocrats.org/chairs-column-stepping-resistance/). Permission to re-print given by Arlington County Democratic Committee Chair.

Despite record-breaking dishonesty as a candidate, it's clear that President Trump intends to deliver his most dangerous and destructive promises. Through executive orders alone Trump has demanded: Federal agencies to reduce enforcement of the Affordable Care Act, called for the expansion and acceleration of deportations and imposed a temporary travel ban on seven Muslim-majority countries. Furthermore he has ordered a federal hiring freeze and directed the Environmental Protection Agency to freeze all grants and contracts. This is utterly unacceptable. Democrats should not be tempted to try to give Trump a chance, to compromise, or to stay silent in the face of these actions. We are dealing with a presidential administration that is threatening our diversity, general welfare, and freedoms of speech, expression and religion. Resistance is now a responsibility of any citizen who cherishes longstanding American values. How do we step up our resistance?

**First**, we must be informed about what the administration is doing. George Orwell famously said, "To see what is in front of one's nose needs a constant struggle." This statement could not be more timely. Trump overwhelms the media with an avalanche of "alternative facts," outrages, and bewildering nonsense. To sort out smoke from the fire, I suggest reading the following daily: [Washington Post](#), [Vox](#), [Daily Kos](#), [ThinkProgress](#), [Talking Points Memo](#), and [Blue Virginia](#). On social media we will be posting resources and calls to action on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at @ArlingtonDems and on our website.

**Second**, we need to be calling and/or visiting our members of Congress at least once a week for the next few years. Leah Greenberg, one of the [Indivisible Guide](#) authors, told Arlington Democrats about the importance of focusing on our own members of Congress with a defensive strategy is critical. Indivisible is now posting weekly calls to action for both calls and office visits here: [indivisibleguide.com/action-calendar/](http://indivisibleguide.com/action-calendar/). If you want a more detailed script, the folks at [thesixtyfive.org](http://thesixtyfive.org) and [5calls.org](http://5calls.org) are also posting resources weekly. And it's best to call Senator Warner's office at 703-442-0670 and call Senator Kaine's office at 703-361-3192.



**Third**, we need to be calling and/or visiting our General Assembly members. Too often Democrats forget about politics at the state and local level. This must end. Every Virginia resident has one member of the House of Delegates and one State Senator. They must hear from us. Through the end of February, the General Assembly is voting on a host of crucial issues: Medicaid expansion, education, renewable energy, civil rights, voting rights, non-partisan redistricting, and the allocation of Virginia's presidential electoral votes. Find your members of the General Assembly: [whosmy.viriniageneralassembly.gov](http://whosmy.viriniageneralassembly.gov), then call and/or visit them.

**Fourth**, we must march again. Protest marches in support of women, immigrants, refugees, Black Lives Matter and scientists have galvanized the national spotlight on critical issues. Already the Women's March has distracted Trump from pursuing his agenda, while building enthusiasm and a hunger for action on our side. We need to regularly remind the media that Trump is an illegitimate and incredibly unpopular president. Big protests have a way of emboldening an often easily cowed press. There will be many more marches. In the works are: April 15 [Tax Day protest](#), April 29 [Climate March](#), May 6 [Immigrants' March](#), June 15 [National Pride March](#), and a [Science March](#) (date TBD).

**Finally**, as always, we need to win elections. We won't have our Democratic nominees until June 13, but we don't have to wait until then. There will be another special election in the House of Delegates to replace Jennifer McClellan which we will be making calls into. And by the end of February we are going to be knocking on the doors of first-time voters asking them to commit to vote in November.

Let us commit to action. Let's get on the phones, visit congressional offices, march in the streets and knock on doors. Trump's agenda can be defeated. Let's make it happen.

**Connolly's St. Patrick's Day Fete March 17.** Since his first run for Providence District Supervisor in 1995, Congressman Gerry Connolly has hosted an annual St. Patrick's Day Fete. The event has grown from a small gathering of friends at his home to one of the highlights of the Democratic political season. This year is a gubernatorial election year in Virginia. Come prepared to express your preference in our Straw Polls for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Tickets start at \$40 each and can be purchased here: <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/2017fete>. For questions, email [meaghan@gerryconnolly.com](mailto:meaghan@gerryconnolly.com) or call (703)375-9374.

**Virginia Primary Candidates Deadline March 30.** Candidates interested in running in Virginia's June primary must file petitions, declaration of candidacy and receipt showing payment of filing fee to the Legislative Nominating Chair by 5pm on March 30, 2017. For more information contact (703) 573-6811 or go to [www.elections.virginia.gov/candidatepac-info/becoming-a-candidate/index.html](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/candidatepac-info/becoming-a-candidate/index.html).

## Around the Districts - News & Events



### Hunter Mill Lasagna Dinner April

**8.** The Hunter Mill 42nd Annual Lasagna Dinner to be held on April 8, 2017 from 5pm to 8pm at the Reston Community Center - Hunters Woods - 2310 Colts Neck Road, 20191. The event includes straw polls and special VIP guests running for state offices. Starting cost for the event is \$50 \$55 at the door. For more information please email Sarah Jane Brady at [1sjbrady@gmail.com](mailto:1sjbrady@gmail.com).

### Springfield Democratic Comm.

**Panel April 13 (& More!).** On April 13<sup>th</sup> the Springfield Democrats will feature a special legislative panel updating members on the recent Virginia Assembly Session that took place in Richmond, VA. This meeting is also requesting donations of boxtops that will be donated to a local school which can then turn them in for cash to use towards educational programs. Ongoing park cleanups continue to take place around the region and Springfield Democrats will be holding a cleanup of Burke Road in April. For sponsorship opportunities or for more information email [springfieldvadems@gmail.com](mailto:springfieldvadems@gmail.com).

### FCDC Jefferson/Obama Dinner: Keynote Speaker Goldstar

**Father Khizr Khan: May 21.** FCDC's largest annual fundraiser, the first ever Jefferson Obama Dinner, is Sunday, May 21, 2017 at Sheraton Tysons Hotel, 6pm-9pm. General Reception starts at 6pm and dinner at 7pm. This year the keynote speaker will be Gold Star Father Khizr Khan, who received national attention for his impassioned speech at the Democratic National Convention. For more information or to purchase tickets go to [http://www.fairfaxdemocrats.org/event/fairfax-spring-dinner-a-k-a-jj-dinner/?instance\\_id=30282](http://www.fairfaxdemocrats.org/event/fairfax-spring-dinner-a-k-a-jj-dinner/?instance_id=30282) or visit <https://act.myngp.com/Forms/-6305472085518579712>



## Changes

@ The  
Democrat

Avid readers will notice that The Democrat has been on hiatus since the 2016 election. With a new year we at The Democrat we have a new editorial board. Our new team is headed by Editor-In-Chief Mary Paulet, an award-winning digital journalist.

We wish to thank the previous editor Michael Fruitman for his dedication to The Democrat. We also want to thank our readers and encourage you to keep reading and sharing stories that resonate friends and family so that we can remain a voice for hope and change in these turbulent times.

As JFK once proclaimed, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country!"

### Questions?

thedemocrat@f  
airfax  
democrats.org



On February 9<sup>th</sup>

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) adopted its FY 2018 Advertised Budget totaling 2.8 billion dollars.

According to FCPS the total amount approved was an increase of \$135.1 million dollars and dedicates forty million to a "step increase" of 2.5 percent for eligible employees. A second aspect of this budget continues with the ongoing focus on improving teacher pay parity compared with other school districts in neighboring counties. Also, budgeted is a forty-four million projected increase to employee pension and health insurance costs.

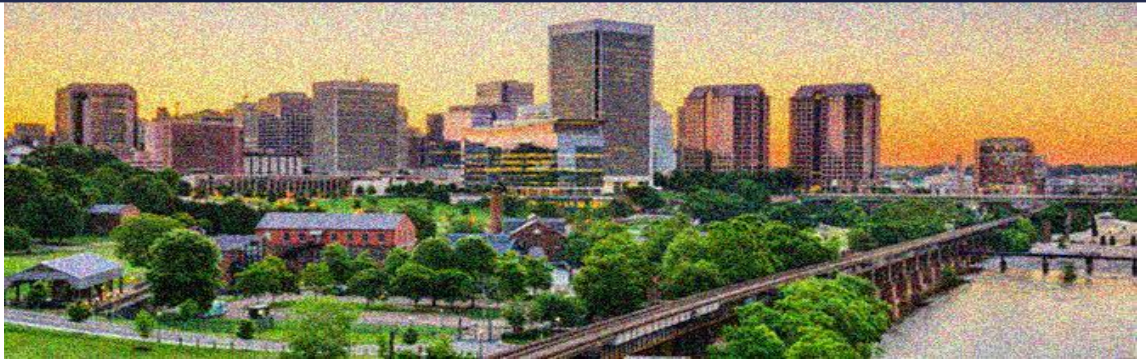
FCPS is the 10th largest school system in the US and serves over 186,000 students. Fifty-two thousand of these students qualify for reduced or free meals and 28,000 students receive English for Speakers of Other Languages services.

The next steps in the budget approval plan include FCPS work sessions to be held on March 13 followed by formally presenting the budget to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, who must approve the FCPS Budget. This meeting will take place April 4.

Public hearings by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will be held between April 4 and April 6. On May 2 the Board of Supervisors adopts the overall FY 2018 budget including the FY 2018 FCPS budget.

More info on the FCPS Budget may be found at FY 2018 Budget Information | Fairfax County Public Schools. This document may also be accessed at <https://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/budget>.

## Fairfax County Schools Adopt FY 2018 Budget



### Eyes on Richmond -

*A Personal Reflection by Judith Shamir*

It may be hard to pull our eyes away from the current president, whose antics continue to suck up all the air in the room and the airtime on television, but Republican behavior in Richmond demands our attention as well. Attacks on democratic values and processes are alive and thriving in the State capital. Our chances of preserving democracy and pushing back against the growing tide of autocracy, bigotry, and injustice depend on a strong, unified campaign to win elections across Virginia this November.

During the 2017 state legislative session that just concluded, I traveled to Richmond several times on behalf of NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia. We were there to lobby individuals and attend committee meetings in support of legislation to protect women's health and reproductive rights as well as to oppose bills that would impose further restrictions. One such bill, the Whole Woman's Health Act, would have eliminated many of Virginia's anti-abortion laws by bringing statutes into alignment with the 2016 US Supreme Court decision in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, which reaffirmed that such restrictions represent an undue burden and are, therefore, unconstitutional. This bill, as well as a similar one that would restore truth and dignity to "informed consent," did not even get committee hearings in the House and were killed in committee on the Senate side.

Setting aside our differences on the policy issues, I found it eye-opening to see Republican committee leaders ride rough-shod over established procedures and norms designed to allow expression of different viewpoints, information-sharing, and thoughtful consideration before action is taken. At the opening of one hearing, the committee chair stated explicitly that testimony on controversial measures would be limited and that it didn't matter as no minds would be changed based on these comments anyway! In other instances, scheduled hearings on controversial bills were postponed when it was obvious that many citizens were there to testify -- often having traveled great distances. Some bills were killed in committee without a vote, allowing members to avoid being on record for their opposition.

One bill that made it through the House and Senate would "prohibit the Virginia Department of Health from entering into contracts or providing funds to any entity that performs non-federally qualified abortions".

Governor McAuliffe -- in his role as "brick wall" -- vetoed the legislation, stating: *"This bill, aimed at Planned Parenthood, would harm tens of thousands of Virginians who rely on the health care services and programs provided by Planned Parenthood health centers, by denying them access to affordable care. Virginians, and particularly low-income Virginians, need more access to health care, not less."*

A veto override was narrowly averted, allowing funds to continue flowing for now. We have seen the power of the Governor's veto to prevent implementation of many draconian measures adopted by the Republican legislature. The state elections in November -- governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and all 100 seats in the House of Delegates -- could not be more

important. Too often it seems that democracy is taken for granted. Perhaps it is due to a belief that the character of American exceptionalism will protect our way of life. In his book *It Can't Happen Here*, written as Hitler rose to power, Sinclair Lewis presented a chilling picture of how it can, in fact, happen if people are complacent – if they ignore the slow erosion of values and institutions, adopting a “wait and see” attitude. In our current reality, the greatest threat is the loss of voting rights and voting equity, opening the door to an autocratic takeover of government and impacting every other issue. Typically, district lines have been drawn by whichever party is in power to lock in their continued dominance to the extent possible – giving

a growing advantage to the Republicans in recent years. As long as redistricting remains in the hands of legislators, it will inevitably be subject to political bias. A series of bills

introduced in the Virginia legislature, including a GOP-sponsored attempt, sought to create an independent redistricting commission. They were summarily dismissed without vote. Governor McAuliffe favors a nonpartisan approach and is being petitioned by groups such as OneVirginia2021 and League of Women Voters to require the legislature to vote on this proposal when they return for the special session in April. For the long-term protection of voting equity, Virginia Democrats should be vocal in their support of this action.

For the immediate election year, we need the strongest possible campaigns across the state. Currently, Republicans have a 64-34 majority in the House. We need to hold all 34 Democratic seats and flip as many of the others as possible; a gain of 17 seats would flip control to the Democrats. It's critical for the three statewide offices to also remain in Democratic hands. Coordination with and robust support for Democratic campaigns in red parts of the state must be a high priority for all of us. I will return to Richmond in the 2018 legislative session and I look forward to enjoying a very different experience.



## **Congressman Connolly** *Fairfax Democrat*

It's hard to believe it's only been a month since President Trump took office. From his bizarre press conferences, to his live-tweets of cable news, to his flagrantly unconstitutional Muslim travel ban, this is the most divisive start to a Presidency in modern history. He's appointed a cabinet of horrors. It is the least qualified Cabinet in American history, stocked with ethically-challenged people committed to undermining the core missions of their agencies.

But for all of the damage inflicted in the past few weeks by the Trump administration, I'm heartened by the incredible grassroots energy we're seeing from progressives both here in Fairfax and around the country.

Before Trump was even sworn in, Senator Warner, Congressman Beyer and I held a health care rally with over 600 people to send Trump and the Republicans a clear message: hands off our health care. We heard from one of my constituents who has a chronic health condition. Without the Affordable Care Act, she feared losing her job and becoming uninsurable. Now she knows she will never again be denied health insurance because she has a pre-existing condition.

Along with my wife and daughter, I joined tens of thousands of you at the Women's Rally on the Mall the day after the inauguration. When Trump's travel ban came down, I went out to Dulles Airport to join the protesters and demand the release of my constituents who were being unlawfully detained. On the Oversight Committee, I'm demanding we hold Trump accountable and investigate Russia's interference in our election.

Since the Election, my office has been inundated with calls asking how to get involved. Here's the good news: in Virginia we have elections every year, so you don't have to wait until 2018 to make your voice heard. In Fairfax, there are three Republicans in the House of Delegates on the ballot in November whose districts voted overwhelmingly for Hillary Clinton. Keeping a Democratic Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General is more important than ever with Trump in the White House, which means it's critical we deliver a big margin out of Fairfax. So I encourage everyone to get involved on a campaign now, put a bumper sticker on your car, make phone calls, or go knock doors. And of course, I'd be remiss if I didn't remind you that the Holiest Day of the year, St. Patrick's Day, is right around the corner. My 23rd St. Patrick's Day Fete is on March 17th and I'd love for your support. It'll be a great way for hundreds of democrats from Northern Virginia to come together and share our ideas in how to resist this administration, not to mention the great Irish food, drink and music! We also will have straw polls for Governor and Lieutenant Governor so come prepared to vote. You can purchase tickets at [gerryconnolly.com](http://gerryconnolly.com).