

The **DEMOCRAT**

The Newsletter of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee

June/July 2017

The *Election* Issue

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The Democrat

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Message from Sue Langley,

Chairman of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee

With Memorial Day behind us, and community pools open for the season, we enter summer with tremendous options to activate Democratic energy for the primary election, and then again this fall. When we succeed this fall, we will elect Democrats to fill the three statewide offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, to replace those we elected in 2013.

Our success depends on volunteers. Concerned and active Democrats just like you fuel that success. Volunteers spend hours talking to neighbors, making phone calls, stuffing envelopes, and entering data. We command and support better voter databases than our adversaries, an edge which offsets their dark money advantages.

If you attended a Congressional District Convention this spring, when you checked in, volunteers were the first people you encountered. Volunteers counted the ballots, and it was a volunteer Temporary Chair who announced the results. Some incumbents were re-elected; some new members joined the committees. The reorganized committees will attend their first State Central Committee meeting on June 17th in Richmond. The committee members will vigorously support our 8th, 10th and 11th District Congressional candidates in the 2018 election cycle next year.

Two events, six days apart, capped a spring season with volunteers staffing each event. First was the NOVA Summit, a full day workshop with 450 Democrats from all over Virginia, namely Fairfax, Arlington, Falls Church, Prince William, Loudoun, and Alexandria, but also from Roanoke, Richmond, Tidewater, and assorted other jurisdictions including Fredericksburg, Frederick County, Clarke County and Fauquier.

Congressman Don Beyer kicked off the morning with an inspiring speech, followed by Committee Chairs, political professionals, and Democratic activists holding panel discussions and workshops on a variety of topics, all focused on making our voluntarism more effective. An appearance by Congressman Connolly was reassuring, in that the Democratic minority in Washington has not forgotten how to stand up and say “No” to Republican initiatives against the interests of the majority.

Six days later, a contingent of volunteers supported the first gubernatorial debate, featuring Channel 4 News reporter Tom Sherwood as Moderator and Channel 4 as primary broadcaster of the hour long debate. Supporters for both Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam and Tom Perriello filled the auditorium to capacity at Lanier Middle School for a spirited exchange. Volunteers cheered outside the school for their favorites, steered the attendees into waiting lines until the doors opened, checked in more than 400 participants, and ushered the eager supporters to their seats

The first annual Jefferson-Obama Dinner was a smashing success, with a separate article giving more thorough coverage elsewhere in this issue. Suffice this Report to note that four of the five statewide elected officials attended: Senator Kaine, Governor McAuliffe (accompanied by First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe), Lieutenant Governor Northam and Attorney General Herring. In addition, Congressmen Beyer and Connolly attended, and the Keynote Speaker, Khizr Khan, who gained national recognition with his speech at the Democratic National Convention last July. Both candidates for Governor in 2017, Ralph Northam and Tom Perriello, closed out the speaker program along with Delegate Rip Sullivan’s recap of state House of Delegate races. In addition to the unionized service personnel employed by the Sheraton Premiere Hotel, an army of FCDC volunteers was needed to execute the dinner behind the scenes. And in addition to raising funds, the dinner was our annual event to recognize the contributions of many committee volunteers.

Our greatness derives from the work of our volunteers, often serving without notice, without recognition, and always without compensation. Without volunteers, we would be insignificant. With them, we are not only the largest local Democratic Committee in Virginia, but also the most effective. We appreciate all of our volunteers, and we are grateful for all that you do.

Democratically yours [#Resist],

Sue Langley, Chair, Fairfax County Democratic Committee



FAIRFAX COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY CANDIDATES

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, JUNE 13

The Democrat has obtained exclusive statements from all primary candidates in Fairfax County and is pleased to present them so that voters can make an informed choice. We have a set of diverse, capable and experienced candidates. See for yourself.

Governor



RALPH NORTHAM

ralphnortham.com

Ralph Northam is running for governor because he wants every child in Virginia to enjoy the same advantages he had growing up on the Eastern Shore. That means building a Virginia that works for everyone—no matter who you are, no matter where you're from.

Ralph grew up on the Eastern Shore before attending the Virginia Military Institute. After graduating, he attended Eastern Virginia Medical School and served eight years active duty in the United States Army. Upon his return from treating soldiers injured in the Gulf War, Ralph began practicing pediatric neurology at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk. Ralph's also served for seventeen years as the volunteer medical director for Edmarc Hospice for Children in Portsmouth.

As a state senator from 2008-2013, Ralph made many major legislative accomplishments, including prohibiting smoking in restaurants, defending women's access to reproductive healthcare, and improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Elected lieutenant governor in 2013, Ralph has worked hard to make progress every day in Virginia. His top priorities have been economic development, strengthening early childhood education, implementing meaningful mental health reform, protecting women's healthcare access, fighting for commonsense gun reform, and carefully stewarding the commonwealth's environmental resources.

Ralph lives in Norfolk with his wife Pam, a long-time elementary school teacher who currently works for the local conservation organization Lynnhaven River NOW. They have two children: Wes, a neurosurgical resident at the University of North Carolina, and Aubrey, a graduate of the University of Virginia, who works in communications in Hampton Roads.

TOM PERRIELLO

tomforvirginia.com

Tom Perriello is running for governor to create a stronger, more inclusive Virginia – so people from all walks of life have an equal opportunity to succeed.

Born and raised in Charlottesville, Tom has a track record of results fighting corruption and expanding economic fairness in conflict zones



abroad and in communities back home.

As a Congressman serving Virginia's red-leaning 5th District, Tom stuck to his convictions and stood with President Obama. His votes for progressive legislation like the Affordable Care Act – which made coverage available to 49,000 residents of his district – cost Tom his seat in 2010.

After Congress, Tom continued to fight for working families, championing solutions on income inequality, gun safety, women's rights, and racial reconciliation at the Center for American Progress and the State Department.

Through all of his experiences abroad, Virginia has always remained home for Tom. Virginia gave his family a shot at achieving the American dream – and Tom is fighting to make that dream attainable for all Virginia families.

Tom is the first major statewide candidate to run on a platform that includes a \$15 an hour living wage, two years of debt-free community college, and a refusal to accept contributions from state-regulated utilities like Dominion.

Tom knows that Virginia must not only resist Trump's hateful agenda but also build on the progress we've made. As governor, he'll focus on growing an inclusive economy, expanding health care and reproductive health services, and providing educational opportunities for every Virginian.

Lt. Governor

JUSTIN FAIRFAX

fairfaxforlg.com

Justin Fairfax is the bold, visionary leader Virginia needs right now. Facing new threats to our Virginia values coming from Washington, people need an advocate on the highest level to combat the Trump administration from taking us backwards. Justin's message of economic security and opportunity for all brings hope to Virginians in the face of today's insecurity.

Growing up in inner city Washington, DC and being raised by a single mother Justin knows how important it is to have access to capital and resources-- and he wants other people to have that opportunity as well. On June 13th, Virginia will be faced with a choice: do we continue down the same old path or do we push forward into a bright future?



The next administration to serve the Commonwealth will face redistricting, responding to climate change, voting rights, criminal justice reform and countless other issues that will impact Virginia for generations to come. We need new ideas and a leader that can take us into tomorrow. Justin Fairfax is that leader. Vote Justin Fairfax for the next Lieutenant Governor of Virginia on June 13th



SUSAN PLATT

susanplattforva.com

Thank you to Fairfax County Democrats for all your hard work over many years in turning us into a solidly blue county and delivering big margins for our candidates. My husband Ron, our five dogs, and I are proud to call Fairfax County home.

For years, I worked behind the scenes in politics and in business. I worked for good people like Chuck Robb, Don Beyer, and Joe Biden, and I started two organizations to train women candidates. After the election on November 8, I knew it was time to step up and run for

office myself.

I am running for lieutenant governor to be an advocate for women, children, and families in the Commonwealth. Our Democratic values are under attack every day by the bully that sits in the Oval Office.

Whether it's Trumpcare, hateful travel bans, or proposed cuts to federal jobs, Donald Trump's presidency threatens our families and our way of life. We must send leaders to Richmond who will fight tirelessly against his agenda.

Too many families across the Commonwealth are also struggling from addiction and mental health challenges. I have experienced these challenges up close, losing my own daughter to addiction. That's why I have pledged to create a Cabinet-level position focused on Virginia's children, so that we can help our kids before they go off track.

Virginia has had 40 lieutenant governors: six Johns, four Jameses, two Roberts, and one L. Douglas, but no Mary, Louise, or Susans. Help me become the first Susan.

GENE ROSSI

generossi.com

Gene Rossi is a father, husband and former twenty-seven-year career federal prosecutor, and lifelong Democrat who is running for Lieutenant Governor of Virginia.

When Gene was ten, his father passed away very suddenly--leaving his mother (Alma Gerolami Rossi) to raise Gene and his three older brothers. For more than fifteen years, Gene worked alongside his brothers in the family business as a machinist, forklift operator, truck driver, and plant manager.



After getting a second chance from a Jesuit priest at Fairfield University, he went on to earn law degrees from American (J.D.) and Georgetown (LL.M.) Universities, and went on to work for nearly 27 years as a federal prosecutor in Virginia, including leading the prosecutions of Virginia-based nationally renowned chronic pain doctor--who intentionally prescribed 1,200 oxycodone pills daily to just one patient, as part of Operation "Cotton Candy"--the largest investigation of prescription pill trafficking (over 235 convictions) in United States history.

In addition, he is a trial advocacy instructor at Harvard Law School, a legal writing adjunct at American University Law School, and has taught criminal procedure at George Mason University. Gene also serves on the board of Friends of Guest House--an Alexandria-based reentry program that helps 100 Northern Virginia women transition from confinement to community.

Gene has a passion for basketball, as an All-State player in high school and still runs a local adult basketball league. He and his family live in Alexandria.

Attorney General



MARK HERRING

herringforag.com

Mark Herring was raised by a single mother in Loudoun County, Virginia. She instilled in him that when you see a problem in your community, you have an obligation to try and fix it. He worked construction and other jobs in order to help pay for college. And he's never forgotten where he came from, which is why he works every single day to make our families and communities safer. Read more about Mark's record on page 12 of this publication.

Delegate District 42



TILLY BLANDING

tillyfordelegate.org

I have been a fighter all of my life. Growing up in the Jim Crow segregated south during the Civil Rights movement shaped the person I am today. One day while picketing stores that wouldn't hire African Americans, a white man pulled a loaded gun on me. I was only 13, and I made the choice to go right back out on the picket line.

I knew then that we could not back down from the bullies sent to intimidate us – the same type of bullying that is happening today in Washington.

I have been fighting my entire life for what is right, and I plan to continue that fight down in Richmond. All politics is local, and as a social worker for 29 years with Fairfax County, I know firsthand the challenges our community is facing. Richmond isn't working, and it's time we start shaping policies at the community level.

Over the past few months, I have been honored to receive the endorsements of Congressman Gerry Connolly, Chairman Sharon Bulova, and my union – all because of the work I have done in the community for over three decades. I want to go to Richmond so that together we can change our Commonwealth for the better. I will fight for Medicaid expansion, stand up to cuts against Planned Parenthood, create opportunity for all by growing our economy, and invest in our infrastructure and transportation. Visit TillyforDelegate.org for more information, and I ask for your support on June 13th.

KATHY TRAN

kathyfordelegate.com

Kathy Tran and her family fled Vietnam as refugees before she was seven months old. They risked everything to come to America because this country has always represented hope, opportunity, and freedom. Now, Kathy's running for the Virginia House of Delegates because she couldn't just stand by while Donald Trump and Virginia Republicans dismantle the ideals that brought her family here.

Kathy has devoted her career to fighting for working families. During her 12 years at the U.S. Department of Labor, she worked to draft and implement legislation and build programs that helped expand pathways to prosperity for millions of workers and jobseekers every year. Kathy went on to work at the National Immigration Forum, where she advocated for immigrants in the workforce. As a mom of four and president of her local PTA, she is deeply committed to investing in our schools to ensure all of our kids receive the world-class education they deserve.



Kathy will never back down from fighting for our common progressive values, like defending women's access to health care, expanding Medicaid, advancing common-sense gun violence prevention measures, and protecting our environment. If elected, she will work to advance a positive Democratic vision for the future: by investing in our public education system, fully funding our transportation infrastructure, and growing our economy.

Delegate District 67



JOHN CAREY

johncareyfordelegate.com

I was born in Bangalore, India, where my twin brother and I were adopted by a former Peace Corps volunteer from Maine. My father was a single parent who worked for CARE for nearly 30 years. And I am the only life-long Democrat running in this race with a proven track record of results for issues that we care about.

I've mobilized Virginia People For the American Way members to fight efforts to undermine our public schools with voucher programs; opposed efforts to undermine a woman's right to make decisions about her own body by working with allies in Richmond to fight against legislation that would set us back; and helped to create the Election Protection program in Virginia, which increased turnout for a special election and informed voters about their rights. The program has since gone national with hundreds of volunteers.

I've also helped create America Votes, so our broad coalition of progressive allies can coordinate efforts better; rallied support for the passage of the Affordable Care Act by organizing grassroots actions in key targeted states and generating media coverage for voices in support of expanded health coverage; and helped to ensure that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has teeth to protect consumers from predatory lending by coordinating constituency phone calls and emails to members of Congress demanding accountability for the Great Recession and providing a counterweight to Wall Street lobbyists in media coverage. As Delegate, my priorities would be fair lending practices, paid family leave, and expanding Medicaid.

KARRIE DELANEY

karriedelaney.com

Karrie Delaney is running to represent the people of Virginia's 67th House District. Karrie started her career working at a group home for foster children - an experience that opened her eyes in many ways, including a lesson in how policy decisions can either serve or fail our most vulnerable. Later, as a crisis counselor, Karrie stood by women who were assaulted and employed community engagement to raise awareness of the abuse of women around the world. When Karrie became a mother, she turned her focus towards local issues as Gov. McAuliffe's appointee to the Virginia Commission on Youth, as well as former Chair of Fairfax County Citizens Corps Council and the current Chair of Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees.



She lives in Chantilly with her husband, Patrick, and their two children.



HANNAH RISHEQ

hannahfordelegate.com

On November 8th, 2016, I was one of the lucky few to be invited to the stage at Hillary Clinton's election night party. Unfortunately, hate won that night and in the days following the election, I continuously found myself asking "what can I do to fight back?" The answer: effect change from within. With that mindset, I decided to stand up as a candidate for VA 67's Delegate seat.

My family and I have seen this kind of hate before. Growing up in North Carolina as the daughter of a Muslim father and a Jewish mother, we faced threats from the Ku Klux Klan and discrimination from neighbors.

That changed when we moved to Northern Virginia, where we joined a diverse, accepting community. Now, with the rise of nationalism and hate rallies, like the one in Charlottesville, I know our community is under threat. In the Virginia House of Delegates, representatives are not fighting back. They are working to limit the rights of women, immigrants, and the LGBT community while completely ignoring the real issues facing Virginia families. I am stepping up to make sure all voices are heard and represented in Richmond.

People are ready for a new generation of politicians and it shows. My campaign has the momentum – and has been covered nationally in *Time*, *HuffPost*, *Fusion*, and more. Please join and support the movement to bring fresh perspectives to Virginia's legislature and fight with the resistance against intolerance in all forms. Let's continue writing Virginia's narrative together.

EARLY VOTING

Gives Fairfax Dems a Big Bump

By Janice Yohai

Does early voting boost Democratic turnout? You bet! But Virginia doesn't allow "early voting" per se. Instead, voters must qualify to vote "absentee, in-person," a confusing oxymoron.

No wonder early voting is poorly understood and grossly underutilized. We call it "the best kept secret" in Virginia.

FCDC's Voter Registration & Education Committee (VR&EC) saw the huge potential for boosting Democratic turnout by showing individual voters how easy it is to qualify to vote early.

In 2016, we engaged close to 40,000 voters one-on-one on voting basics, with gripcards and flyers, including in Spanish. RESULTS? Early voting in-person jumped 44% in Fairfax County over the 2012 Presidential.

Fairfax turnout reached a record 82.5% in 2016, but historically, turnout falls to half that amount in non-Presidential years (and Democrat voters fall off in greater numbers than Republicans). That's why FCDC gripcard has added the importance of voting in *every* election as a new voter education priority.

When we vote, we win.

For more information or to support our proven voter education/early voting campaign, e-mail Janice Yohai, FCDC's Vice Chair for VR&E: jayohai@cox.net or visit www.fairfaxdemocrats.org/voting.

Voting: What You Need to Know!

Register or Update your registration online by 5/22 for Primary, 10/16 for the General Election. Find assigned **polling place**, see your **ballot** at:

www.vote.virginia.gov (800-552-9745)

Vote Early – at a convenient time for you!

Vote "in-person absentee" *before* Election Day. Don't apply in advance, **just walk into** an Early Voting Office (over). State the last 4 of your social security #, and select a code that qualifies you, for example: (Vote early beginning 4/28 for Primary and 9/22 for General.)

- Work or Personal Business:** On Election Day, you plan to be outside your city/county of residence for any amount of time because of:
Code 1C – Work, job, business
Code 1D – Any personal reason (short trip or visit, meeting, appointment, vacation, class, errand, etc.)
Code 1E – 11-hr combined work-commute within county. Select only if **Code 1C** doesn't apply.
- College/Military/First Responder:**
Code 1A/1B – You or your spouse attend college outside your city/county of residence
Code 6A/6B – You, or dependent/spouse living with you, are active duty military/merchant marine
Code 1F – You are a first responder
- Health Issues or Caregiver:**
Code 2A – Disabled, ill, trouble waiting in line
Code 2B – Primary caregiver for disabled at home
Code 2C – You are pregnant

Vote on Election Day *only* at assigned polling place (verify at vote.virginia.gov). Voters can get **help** from family or friends. If in line by 7pm, you can vote.

Take Photo ID. No other voter card needed.

Valid Virginia driver's license (old address OK), govt-issued or employer ID, US passport, Virginia student ID. **Free ID** at Early Voting Offices (vote early same trip) -- no documents needed; just swear to identity.

Questions? More on **photo ID**, voting **absentee-by-mail**, **restoring voting rights**, tips for voters with **disabilities** (curbside voting) and **college students**, why **vote every election**: fairfaxdemocrats.org/voting.

We want every citizen to vote so
democracy works for all of us!



VOTE Virginia in 2017 for

- ✓ **Governor**
- ✓ **Lieutenant Governor**
- ✓ **Attorney General**
- ✓ **House of Delegates Member**

- **Primary: Tuesday, June 13, 2017**
- **General Election: Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017**

6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

VOTE EARLY (in-person absentee)
Mon-Fri 4/28 to 6/9, and Saturday 6/10
(It's easy to qualify—see other side)

VOTE EARLY at these Voting Offices
You must vote in city/county where you're registered
See websites for locations, days, times
(All offices closed May 29, Memorial Day)

Fairfax County fairfaxcounty.gov/elections Main Govt Ctr. 12000 Govt Ctr Pkwy, Rm 2/3, 703-222-0776.
Extended hours: Thursdays til 7pm, and Saturdays: 6/3, 6/10: 9am-5pm

OR **any** of these locations **Saturday, June 10 ONLY** 9am-5pm:
1. Franconia Govt Ctr, 6121 Franconia Rd
2. McLean Govt Ctr, 1437 Balls Hill Rd Community Rm
3. North City Govt Ctr, 1801 Cameron Glen Cmnty Rm
4. West Springfield Govt Ctr - 6140 Rolling Rd
5. Mason Govt Ctr - 6507 Columbia Pike
6. Mount Vernon Govt Ctr - 2511 Parkers Ln
7. Sully District Govt Ctr - 4900 Stonecroft Blvd
8. Providence Community Ctr - 3001 Vaden Dr – just a 5-minute walk from Vienna Metro
9. Lorton Library 9520 Richmond Hwy

Fairfax City fairfaxva.gov 703-385-7890

Alexandria City alexandriava.gov 703-746-4050

Arlington vote.arlingtonva.us 703-228-3456

Falls Church City fallschurchva.gov 703-248-5085

Loudoun Co loudoun.gov/vote 703-777-0380

Prince William Co pwcvotes.com 703-792-6470

**Vote early beginning Sept 22 for
November General Election.**
See websites in July, 2017 for dates and times.

**Stick on fridge or above car visor.
Share with family and friends!**

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Gubernatorial Candidates Northam, Perriello Race Toward June 13 Primary

By Michael Fruitman

Northam was asked about accepting contributions from Dominion Resources, the commonwealth's largest regulated utility. He responded that 90 percent of his donations, averaging under \$100 apiece, come from the grass roots, and that rather than focusing on just one source of funding, overall campaign financing should be examined. In contrast, Perriello has refused contributions from Dominion.

It seems apparent, from recent debates and forums, that the Democratic candidates for governor of Virginia are in a very tight race. While Lt. Governor Ralph Northam and former congressman Tom Perriello (VA-5, Charlottesville) seemed to agree on most issues of importance to progressives, there were differences—in substance and style. To this observer, both are tremendous talents with a lot to offer. I hope that not only will the loser endorse and work for the winner of the primary so that the party can unite to defeat the Republican nominee in November, but also that he will find a way to contribute to Virginia Democratic politics in the future.

The candidates appeared together at an April 29th debate sponsored by FCDC and moderated by NBC4's Tom Sherwood. Both men acquitted themselves well, and there were no fireworks.

Northam and Perriello also participated in a forum, "Virginia Progressives Engage with Democratic Candidates for Governor," in Arlington on May 2nd, which was organized and moderated by FCDC's Sandra Klassen and sponsored by 22 labor and progressive organizations from across Virginia. About 400 people attended – with another 400 or so watching online. The candidates spoke, sequentially, for about an hour—the bulk of it devoted to questions and answers. Both got thunderous ovations from the audience. While lacking the immediate back-and-forth of a debate format, the forum allowed a much deeper look at each candidate.

Self-identified (by T-shirts) audience members included those with *Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America* and *NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia*. The questions were challenging.

To Perriello: *I'm a member of the Alexandria Democratic Committee—and you're not. And why did you not vote absentee when you were overseas?* Perriello responded that he had expected to be back in time to vote but was delayed at the last minute. He was also challenged as to why his staff was disparaging on Twitter toward people commenting on his vote in Congress against abortion rights. He said that everyone needs to turn down the temperature on Twitter, and candidly admitted that his vote was a mistake, but explained that he was trying to balance the wishes of his conservative district.



To this reporter, there is a clear choice in this election.

To view the Lanier Middle School debate online go to: www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Virginians-Faced-Off-In-First-Gubernatorial-Debate-Saturday-420928803.html



The International Democrat

Homeward Looks from a Frequent Traveler

FIRST, GET THE PRINCIPLES RIGHT

In many years of doing business and diplomacy abroad, I've seen that political parties succeed when they express simple ideologies that motivate people. Diffuse messages don't inspire, especially in times of stress when the search for answers becomes passionate.

Our country is no different. Democrats lose because they stand for too many things, and too few essential ones. The party is in the wilderness today -- out of power in the White House, both houses of Congress, most governorships, and most state legislatures.

To regain primacy, Democrats will need to adopt some principles that clearly define us as the party of the center left, where durable majorities have resided for much of our history. To be remembered, the principles need to be concise. To be credible, they need to lead directly to actions, not just express sentiment. To convince doubters, they need to pay for themselves, as social improvements feed through to the economy.

Here are my 10 recommendations, any more would risk losing focus.

1. **Vigorous defense of civil rights.** The country is stronger in every sense when all Americans can exercise their Constitutional rights without harassment or prejudice.
2. **Higher taxes on the extremely rich.** Excessive income inequality slows the economy, traps people into poverty, and worsens social divisions.
3. **Universal health insurance.** We have the worst of both worlds today -- highest overall expenses and worst medical outcomes of any developed country. Insurance for all is the answer, as in other countries such as Switzerland.

4. **Universal background checks on gun sales.** Public safety and community development improve when loopholes that let potentially dangerous persons buy guns are closed.
5. **College debt repayment to be income-based.** Tying debt repayment to income will ease the burden on graduates, free up their career choices, and actually improve collection rates.
6. **High quality K-12 schools for all children.** Effective education for all children is essential to prosperity. Testing is required to ensure quality, but it should be non-intrusive -- test results should be the by-product of education, not the goal.
7. **Prisons that rehabilitate, not just punish.** Reducing recidivism saves both money and lives.
8. **Citizenship for deserving immigrants.** Bring those who contribute out of the shadows; send back those who cause harm.
9. **Cleaner energy.** Accelerating the transition to renewables will stimulate the economy with new technology and job creation, while reducing man-made climate change.
10. **Livable minimum wage.** Minimum wage earners should not need public assistance to survive. This is an unfair subsidy at public expense for low-wage employers, and it saps the will to work.

These are domestic principles only, as we all share the goals of strong defense and robust, but fair, trade -- even if we disagree on how to achieve them. Foreign policy differences are about means, not ends. When we talk about living together in this country, values drive the conversation, and that is what distinguishes our politics.

My hope is that a principle set such as this can serve as the foundation for a renewed Democratic Party, taking its rightful place as the voice of the center left. -- Brad Swanson

Inspirational and Energizing Evening at the JO

A crowd of some 450 Democrats gathered for the renamed FCDC Jefferson Obama Dinner at the Sheraton Tysons May 21st. We heard speeches addressing preservation of our values and Constitution, recounting Democratic successes in Richmond the past four years, and seizing the opportunity for big wins in November.

The event included a silent auction, as well as a live auction conducted by Delegate Paul Krizek. Because all items were donated, the auction is a profit center for the event. The 100+ items included a Donald Trump piñata, Obama 2012 and Clinton 2016 campaign memorabilia, Women's March souvenirs, and a framed Post front page from the day after the 2008 election.

FCDC Chair Sue Langley welcomed everyone with talk of a "grand slam year," noting that unity brings victory. Next were the presentation of the color guard, National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance, and introduction of elected officials and statewide candidates in attendance.

Congressman Gerry Connolly said that only once before in our lifetime have we seen such instability. He added that we are "fighting for the soul of America," and asked everyone to remain united "to fight the good fight." He encouraged us to talk to friends who voted for President Trump and try to win them over to our side, with empathy and without humiliation.

Congressman Don Beyer loves being a member of Congress. He noted that the battle against Trump's policies is bringing out the best in us, and that we are fighting back. Congressmen Connolly and Beyer then presented the FCDC awards

Senator Tim Kaine thanked us for supporting him over the years. He credited our generation of Virginia Democrats with our holding all five statewide offices and "going Democratic" in three straight Presidential elections.

Turning to the current situation in Washington, he noted that Virginian, and future President, James Madison added checks and balances to the Constitution, to limit the power of the Executive Branch. In addition, our federal system of government provides powers to the states (making Virginia statewide elections very important).

Although our checks and balances are being challenged, he believes our democracy will survive the test. He said the country is learning that no one can proclaim greatness without evidence of goodness. When introducing Keynote Speaker Khizr Khan, Mr. Kaine called the Khans a "shining example of goodness."

Charlottesville resident and Gold Star parent Khizr Khan first gained national prominence with an electrifying speech at the 2016 Democratic National Convention, during which he held up his copy of the US Constitution and asked Donald Trump if he had read it.

Mr. Khan thinks we are facing challenges to the Constitution, our values, and our fundamental rights. He restated Thomas Jefferson's warning, that the greatest danger to American liberty is a government that ignores the Constitution.

He and his wife, Ghazala, have received hundreds of letters from Americans supporting them. In one, a Jewish nurse who had served in World War II asked him to continue speaking, saying she wished people had spoken during WWII.

Mr. Kahn talked of patriots remaining standing and great leaders defending our values. He acknowledged the many elected officials who went to Dulles Airport after President Trump ordered the Muslim ban and encouraged us to support those leaders who stand for us, because our values are worth fighting for.

Attorney General Mark Herring spoke of ways he has been standing up and fighting for us Virginians and our families:

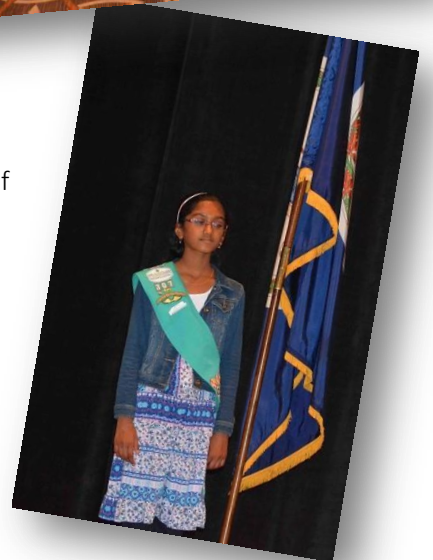
- Leading among states on opioid epidemic education and prevention.
- Reducing the backlog of sexual assault kits by accelerating testing.
- Noting Virginia's status as the best state in the nation for recovering losses from frauds.
- Filing an amicus curiae brief on marriage equality with the U. S. Supreme Court.
- Supporting in-state tuition for Dream Act students.
- Challenging the Muslim ban.

FCDC Chair Sue Langley introduced **Governor Terry McAuliffe** and surprised him with the **FCDC Outstanding Executive Achievement Award** for creating jobs, and restoring voting rights to over 156,000 felons who have completed their sentences. The Governor reviewed other accomplishments, including

- Virginia being the first state to keep President Obama's Clean Power Plan.
- Support for women's rights, LGBT employment rights, and same sex marriage.
- Most vetoes of any governor in Virginia history (120), none overridden.
- Chair of the National Governors Association.
- The great work First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe has done in expanding availability of school breakfasts.

The next speakers were gubernatorial primary candidates: **Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam** and **former Congressman Tom Perriello**. For more information on their campaigns, see their statements in this issue.

Delegate Rip Sullivan closed the program with news of potentially historic gains in the House of Delegates. All three Republican Delegates in Fairfax County have Democratic challengers, as do 54 out of 66 delegate races statewide, far more than usual. Among our 78 candidates are 42 women, 19 people of color, 6 LGBT candidates, and 15 millennials. He ended by encouraging us to help people running for the House of Delegates, so we can pick up seats "big time".





Ginny Peters accepting her award with Sue Langley and Don Beyer

JO AWARD WINNERS

Member of the Year:

Jane Barker, Springfield

Volunteer of the Year:

Ruth Mott, Braddock

District of the Year:

Lee

Linda J. Robb Community Service Award:

Steven Bloom, Dranesville

Special Recognition:

Ginny Peters, Mount Vernon

Unsung Heroes Awards:

- Mike Burke Kirby, Mason
- Les Halpern, Dranesville
- Bob Mansker, Providence

Charles S. Robb Young Leaders Award:

Abby Wax, Mason and J E B Stuart H. S

- Bruce Neilson, Braddock
- Todd Smyth, Lee
- Steven Spitz, Mason

Why We Are Supporting FCDC

By Burma and Rick Bochner

It is not easy to think of a subject more unpleasant than the behavior of our current president, but death is definitely on the short list.

However, unlike Trump, there is one upside to one's passing. You have a chance to help people and organizations about whom you care through your will. In our case, we have left money to FCDC. One can leave a fixed amount; also, it is possible to specify a percentage of the total estate.

We have been members of FCDC for many years, decades in Burma's case, and we have not only given money to the committee, we have spent some of it too! We do not hesitate to state that the money is always well used. We are in the office frequently, and we pay attention. We protect the money for the absentee program, as you can imagine. That gives us insight into all the budgeting and expenditures. The care given to our dollars is impressive. The Federal Election Commission watches too, of course.

We chose not to specify how the money would be used, but that would be up to the individual. As we are not moribund, we feel we do not know what would be needed so far down the road.

We hope you will join us by putting FCDC in your wills. After all, the more funds FCDC has to work with, the sooner we can elect politicians who will help put the brakes on the aforementioned current resident of the White House.

To learn more about donating money to FCDC visit <http://www.fairfaxdemocrats.org/contribute/>.





The Real Health Policy Issue

By National Affairs Standing Committee, Contributing Author
Douglas A. Samuelson, Braddock District

Democrats are still missing the most important aspect of the health policy debate.

We're distracted by the question of whether universal access to affordable health care should be a right for everyone, or limited to those who earn access through employment or some other action.

Meanwhile, our worst enemies are sneaking up on us. No, not the Russians or ISIS: Bacteria and viruses, both naturally evolving and human-assisted. Consider this: In 2011, we had an outbreak of a new strain of flu. But only about 11,300 people died from it in the US, so no big deal, right? Here's the big deal: According to CDC's best estimates, it infected between 65 million and 82 million people in the US. If it had had the 7 percent lethality of the 1918 "Spanish" flu, we'd have had about five million dead. That's probably more than anyone could kill with one H-bomb.

But, not to worry, US agencies and their various partners have things under control. Like in Brazil at the Olympics, where the Obama Administration hastily reprogrammed over \$1 billion from other health programs to help combat the spread of Zika, after Congress repeatedly refused the requested appropriation. Result: Within two months after the Olympics, Zika had spread to 47 states and was dangerously pandemic in Puerto Rico and around Brownsville, Texas.

Our best defense against pandemics, either naturally evolving or man-made, is early detection in the health care system, so that a response can be organized promptly. That means everyone who's affected, regardless of citizenship or employment status, needs to be able and encouraged to seek help quickly from a clinic or doctor who will report to the national system. In short, *universal access to affordable, in-system health care is a national security imperative*. And that's how we should be advocating it.



New Prescription Drug Law Saves Lives

By Delegate Kathleen Murphy, Sponsor of Bill HB 2046

There are many aspects of drug control policy that we as Democrats care about – prescription drug abuse, opioid addiction, drug education for school children, among other issues. In the last House of Delegates session, I sponsored successful legislation on the proper disposal of prescription medications that requires the Virginia Board of Pharmacy to create guidelines to increase patient awareness and encourage pharmacies to participate in disposal programs. I want to share why this bill, which has now been signed into law by Governor McAuliffe, is important and what lies ahead.

This bill, HB 2046, addresses three major problems caused by improper prescription drug disposal.

First is the serious threat of pollution of our water supply. This is an issue for our region. Tests conducted on Virginia water near the Washington Aqueduct show it containing six common pharmaceuticals, including antibiotics. **Second**, we are all at risk, most especially children, from unneeded medications that remain in our homes. Too many children die from accidentally ingesting medication. Nationally, because of pharmaceutical poisoning, tens of thousands of children are seen in emergency rooms and hundreds of thousands reported to poison control centers annually. **Finally**, and critically, improper medication disposal contributes to the opioid epidemic, which kills over one thousand Virginians every year. The sad fact is that the majority of prescription drug abusers get their drugs from the homes of family and friends.

My bill is a start, but efforts to address this problem must continue. The public has to be educated and proper disposal must become a convenient and routine part of life. Let's all take this challenge seriously.

White Trash. The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America - By Nancy Isenberg

Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis - By J.D. Vance

Book-of-the-Month Recommendations by the National Affairs Standing Committee (NAC) - Review by Mount Vernon member Beverly Bacon

In the aftermath of November's election results, attention has been drawn to the plight of lower-income white voters. These two books focus on the culture of poor, primarily southern, white folk, taking very different approaches and complementary perspectives.

White Trash is an academic history of class in this country, from the initial settlers to the present. Though many people think of the settlers as people attempting to escape the class restrictions of England, Isenberg describes how the traditional class structure was imported to the New World from the beginning, and persisted, despite theories that the land of opportunity would result in a leveling of the classes. The advantage that wealthy founders had in claiming the best land, and using slavery and indentured servitude to work it, ensured a persistent lower class through most of our history. But her descriptions of the country's "white trash", from the writings of the more well-to-do of various eras, left me wanting the perspective of those in the lower class.

This second perspective is precisely what Vance provides in *Hillbilly Elegy* – a personal story of his own journey from "white trash" to a Yale law degree and the upper class, that helps provide a "why" to Isenberg's "what". Though he identifies himself as a conservative, his story is not particularly partisan and his lessons focus on individual responsibility while recognizing the difficulty of overcoming the culture of poverty. He complains about neighbors he saw "living off the government largesse [who] enjoyed trinkets that I only dreamed about". But his comments on education are reminiscent of Diane Ravitch in *Reign of Error*, laying the blame for low performing schools on the environment rather than the teachers: "...the constant moving and fighting, the seemingly endless carousel of new people I had to meet, learn to love, and then forget – this, and not my subpar public school, was the real barrier to opportunity." His story, though based on the hillbilly/Appalachian culture, is not so different from similar stories from disadvantaged people everywhere in the country.

In looking for solutions, Vance cites an un-named friend: "...you probably can't fix these things. They'll always be around. But maybe you can put your thumb on the scale a little for the people at the margins."

I agree with Vance that a government program will not solve all the problems of the working (or non-working) poor, but the "visible hand" of the government can put a thumb on the scale: a livable minimum wage, affordable access to health care that includes substance abuse treatment and mental health, support for our schools that helps teachers and administrators deal with students who come from difficult home environments. Together these two books shed light on the personal and political challenges we face as we strive to improve opportunity for all.

Vance: "We talk about the value of hard work, but tell ourselves that the reason we're not working is some perceived unfairness: Obama shut down the coal mines, or all the jobs went to the Chinese. These are the lies we tell ourselves to solve the cognitive dissonance – the broken connection between the world we see and the values we preach."

Isenberg: "Without a visible hand, markets did not at any time, and do not now, magically pave the way for the most talented to be rewarded; the well-connected were and are preferentially treated."