

## Culpeper County Democratic Committee

Culpeper Police Dept. Community Room

9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025

1. Call to Order: 9:30 a.m.
2. Welcome and Introduction of Visitors: Mayor Frank Reaves Jr.
3. The agenda was approved on a motion by Alison Howard, second by Matt Borja.
4. Joseph Smith was elected unanimously as the 2025 Vice Chair of Precinct Operations (Jan Fitts, Steve Jones).
5. Kristin Colucci, Joy Harnage, Laura Sharp, and Richard White were accepted as new members; Carol Shirey was accepted as an associate member. (Ed Dunphy, Carolyn Walker) Membership is now 141
6. The December minutes were approved unanimously. (Ed Dunphy, Roger Gorg)
7. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously (Ed Dunphy, Dan Else)
8. Report on 2024 Election Debrief – Jan Fitts: Here's a [link](#) to the debrief minutes.

### Comments and Report from Chair Mary Jo Monahan – 90 Days Ahead.

- Mary Jo is calling this the Year of Engagement. At each meeting, she plans to show a calendar of what's ahead and what needs doing in the next 90 days.
- She paid tribute to Jimmy Carter, whom she called the president of peace (and Habitat for Humanity).
- Regular office hours resume next week, weather permitting, and may be expanded. Laura Adler will serve as office manager for 2025.
- Our Warming Shelter roster is full. If it snows too much for safe travel, stay home. The staff can cope.
- Please write a letter to Biden urging him to reintroduce the ERA. It's more effective than simply signing a petition.
- The Bylaws Committee is reviewing suggestions for revisions. They'll be available later this month for a vote in February.
- The Freitas Town Hall last Thursday drew 60 percent Democrats. He was polite and unsurprising. He proudly announced that he'll vote against all three constitutional amendments coming up this term: protecting reproductive rights, extending same-sex marriage protections, and restoring voting rights. He is dedicated to getting school vouchers out for each student and to the Second Amendment. (Guns don't kill people;

people kill people.) He is opposed to government helping the mentally ill and homeless; families and churches should do that.

- Matt Borja will chair the 2025 Engaging Younger Voters Task Force. Matt: We're losing ground to younger voters.

9. Committee Chair Reports

- Vice Chair of Community Operations – Ed Dunphy: Phase 1 of the 2025 Election involves signing petitions to get candidates on the ballot and a training session in February for people interested in running for office.
- Chair, Events/Social Committee – Marilyn Dunphy: We'll participate in all the usual community events this year– BIE Day, CulpeperFest etc. We partied on Dec. 27. We gather on Wednesday mornings for coffee and chat. The NAACP will mark MLK's birthday 12-1 p.m. Jan. 20 at Germanna, a better way to spend Inauguration Day this year.
- Vice Chair of Precinct Operations & Chair of Precinct Operations Subcommittee – Joseph Smith & Steven A. Jones: Campaign signs were collected, and election items were disposed of. Now we're in the Preparedness Phase. Sara Ratcliffe, candidate in HD-62, cited the benefit of starting early and collaborating with candidates in neighboring districts, sharing research and possibly staff.
- Carolyn's 2025 Membership Report. Anita Street has made name tags for future meetings!

10. Poli-Talk Report – The next one will be held 1-3 p.m. Jan. 22 at the library.

11. Adjourn: 10:32 a.m.

**10:30 a.m. Guest Speakers – CCDC members Marysa Mullen graphic designer and Joshua Pieper program manager IT spoke about deeper engagement. The bottom line: We need to mount a PR campaign and learn to use social media better so we can control the narrative.**

**Next Meeting: 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at the Culpeper Police Dept.**