

Culpeper County Democratic Committee

Membership Meeting

ASWB Conference Room

9 – 11 a.m. Saturday, May 3, 2025

1. Guest: Dr. Babur Lateef, Democratic candidate for Va. Lt. Governor, introduced himself and outlined his priorities. [For more information.](#)

2. Call to Order: 9:15 a.m.

3. Two first-time attendees were invited to stand and be welcomed.

4. The agenda was approved unanimously (on a motion by Jim Restel, second by Joseph Smith)

5. Membership report – Ed Dunphy

- Current membership = 172. Eleven new members were accepted (Steven Jones, Jr., Joseph Smith): Kerry Romesberg, Erin Rickard, James Hensley, Debra Davidson, Brian Cotton, Jennifer Mitchell, Vita Castellana, Joan Byrnes, John Vocino, Thomas Konopka, Valerie File. This brings the total to 183.
- Members paid through 2025 = 145 of 183; 79%

6. The April minutes were approved unanimously. (Carolyn Walker, Steven Jones, Jr.)

7. A summary of the treasurer's report was accepted. (Steven Jones, Jr., Erin Restel)

8. Chair's report – Ed Dunphy

- The CCDC had a good turnout for the "May Day" rally at the office on Thursday, May 1 and was generally well received by the community again.
- The CCDC will have a tent at CulpeperPride on June 1 at Mountain Run Winery and needs volunteers. Watch for the SignupGenius in the newsletter.
- The CCDC will be rallying again on June 14, "No Kings Day." Watch for details.
- The Spanberger campaign has many volunteer opportunities on her Mobilize site; including canvassing after the meeting starting at 1 p.m.
- The CCDC has ordered seven signs highlighting the destructiveness of MAGA, which should arrive by late May and cost \$10 for those who did not order early.
- Major fundraisers are being held May 10 for Spanberger and May 31 for Sara Ratcliffe. Please participate if you are able.

9. Communications Update – Marysa Mullen

- The CCDC is now very active on all the major social media platforms

10. Website and Office Update – Laura Adler

- Turnout for petitions signing was great.
- Yard signs: Spanberger and Ratcliffe signs are available free at the office. The link for purchasing MAGA-push-back yard signs @ \$10/ea. is now active.
- Attendees were encouraged to participate in canvassing after the meeting to spread the word on Spanberger's values and encourage voting in the primary.
- For those who do not want to door knock, there are other ways to get involved.
- The Word Clouds featuring feedback to our April 5 "Hands Off" rally are now on our website. The largest feedback was "GREAT!"
- The CCDC awarded Laura with a signed poster thanking her for incredible work organizing the "Hands Off" rally. She, in turn, noted there were many helpers also deserving of appreciation; and she would, therefore, mount it in the office.

11. Rapid Response Team – Erin Restel and Randy Dunn

- The formation of the team was an outgrowth of the Wednesday Coffee and Conversation meetings where participants asked for ideas to become more active in ways befitting their talents and interests.
- The team strives to educate through social media and vet what's true and what's not.
- Planning is in the early stages for the June 14 national rally.
- The team encouraged members to regularly contact Congress (the 5Calls app is a good tool); contribute to the Culpeper community; and follow the CCDC on Facebook, Bluesky, and our website.

12. Events Update – Marilyn Dunphy

- May 22 is the Culpeper Fireman's Parade; and if the CCDC is to participate, we need a volunteer to organize it.
- The third CulpeperPride festival is June 1 at Mountain Run Winery where the CCDC will have a tent and needs volunteers. This is a fun, family-friendly event for all to enjoy and support our LGBTQ+ community. Funds raised will provide scholarships for local students. G. Nicholson added further comments on what a great event is being planned and noted the fundraising also supports an emergency fund for those who may find themselves in immediate need of help. Watch for the SignupGenius page.
- Planning is in the early stages for the June 14 "No Kings Day" rally.
- CulpeperFest is June 13 from 4 – 8 p.m. at Germanna Community College where the CCDC will have a tent and needs volunteers. Watch for the SignupGenius page.

13. Precinct Ops Update – Steven Jones, Jr. and Joseph Smith

- The CCDC will have a tent opposite the Culpeper Farmers' Market this summer. This is a popular stop for the community coming to shop and great fun to work.
- There will be many Spanberger and Ratcliffe GOTV initiatives. Spanberger's May 3 canvassing will focus on gathering voters' concerns.
- Early voting has begun for the June 17 primary. Vote!
- The CCDC will need members to man the June 17 primary and November 4 polls, both inside and outside. Volunteer!

14. Engaging with fellow Piedmont Democratic Committees – Dan Else

- He has been attending our neighboring counties' Democratic Committees and cross-pollinating what we and they are doing to spread our values and win elections. See the Addendum.

15. New business: Carolyn Walker made a pitch encouraging members on the value of buying the CCDC's yard signs to push back on MAGA.

16. Adjourn: 10:18 a.m. (John Dyess, Jim Restel)

Guest Speaker

Debbie Siday, Secretary, Culpeper Humane Society

Next Meeting: Saturday, June 7, 2025

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Walker
CCDC Membership Chair

Addendums: Intraparty – Piedmont Democratic Committees
Precinct Ops
Membership

Intraparty Coordination Report, May 2025

During March and April, we established a presence with fellow Democratic committees in Spotsylvania, Madison, Orange, Rappahannock, Greene, and Fauquier counties and the Lake of the Woods Democratic Club.

While it is apparent that the organization, environment (urban/rural), number of members, and finances are unique to each of the committees, there are many matters that are common to all. For example, all engage in voter registration, member and candidate recruitment, candidate forums, social and community engagement, and discussion of local, state, and national issues.

Our intraparty outreach has proven quite popular with the other organizations. This has been demonstrated by their members' participation in Culpeper's April 5 Hands Off! demonstration, orders placed for our yard sign production project, and Fauquier County taking the regional lead in organizing a similar project to produce 4'x4' and 4'x8' roadside signs for the upcoming campaign season.

Precinct Operations Report

MAY 3, 2025 CCDC Members Meeting

• Who We've Heard From

- HANNAH FOWLER; Field Organizer of the Abigail Spanberger for Governor Team: I'M ENCOURAGING YOU TO LOOK AT ABIGAIL'S "WHAT MATTERS MOST", A LESS THAN 3 MINUTE YOUTUBE VIDEO;
<https://abigailspanberger.com>
- Sara Ratcliffe, "The Right Choice" for the 62nd District for Virginia House of Delegates;
<https://saraforva.com/>
- Jay Jones, as Virginia Attorney General, "Fighting for Virginia Families"
- Mayor Frank Reaves Jr., for the Town of Culpeper

• What We've Done and are Doing

- Conducted Canvassing Training
- BETTER KNOWN VOTING CARDS; Voter's Values/Voter's Concerns/Abigail Support Level
- INAUGURAL CULPEPER CANVASSING STARTS TODAY, 1:00PM AT CCDC HQ

• Early Voting Dates for the Primaries

• **IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES: 2025 JUNE PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

- FRIDAY, MAY 2 - **Early Voting** begins

Takes place at Registrar's office only, Monday through Friday, for 45 days prior to Election Day (plus two Saturdays)

- MONDAY, MAY 26 - Registrar's office is closed for Memorial Day (not open for Early Voting)
- TUESDAY, MAY 27 - Deadline to register to vote or update your existing voter registration
- FRIDAY, JUNE 6, at 5:00 p.m. - Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot to be mailed to you
- SATURDAY, JUNE 7 - Saturday Early Voting

Takes place at the Registrar's office only

- SATURDAY, JUNE 14 - Saturday Early Voting

Takes place at the Registrar's office only

- SATURDAY, JUNE 14 - Deadline to vote before Election Day (last day of Early Voting)

Early Voting is not available the day before Election Day.

- TUESDAY, JUNE 17 – **"Election Day"**

You must vote at your precinct/polling place on Election Day (not at the Registrar's office).

All precincts/polling places are open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

- TUESDAY, JUNE 17 - Deadline for a mailed absentee ballot to be postmarked (if returning your absentee ballot by mail)

Absentee ballots with a late postmark will not be counted.

- TUESDAY, JUNE 17, at 7:00 p.m. - Deadline to drop off your mailed absentee ballot at the Registrar's office or your polling place (if returning your absentee ballot in person)

An absentee ballot drop box is available at the Registrar's office throughout the duration of Early Voting until 7:00 p.m. on Election Day (including the day before Election Day).

All precincts/polling places have an absentee ballot drop box available from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day only.

- FRIDAY, JUNE 20, at 12:00 p.m. - Deadline for the Registrar's office to receive mailed absentee ballots (if returning your absentee ballot by mail)

Absentee ballots received after noon on this day are considered late and will not be counted.

- <https://web.culpepercounty.gov/registrar/page/election-dates-deadlines>

Membership Committee ExComm Report
April 2025

Current membership = 172. Six applications pending for May 3, 2025.

2024 members' dues renewals = 85 of 136; 62%.

Members paid through 2025 = 133 of 172; 77%.

Old Business:

- Carolyn Walker is a participant in the Marketing/Strategy committee.

New Business:

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Walker
CCDC Membership Subcommittee Chair
April 11, 2025