

Culpeper County Democratic Committee

Minutes

9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 6

- 1) Pledge of Allegiance
- 2) Chair Mary Jo Monahan welcomed six visitors.
- 3) The agenda was approved unanimously on a motion by Mike McClary, second by Carolyn Walker.
- 4) New members were accepted unanimously.: Lora McDonald, Erwin Lesh, Jayne Spence. (Alison Howard, Carolyn Walker). Joshua Nichols was accepted as the 200th member. (Alison Howard, Ed Dunphy)
- 5) The August minutes were accepted unanimously. (Ed Dunphy, Karen Baer)
- 6) The treasurer's report was accepted unanimously. (Alison Howard, Carolyn Walker)
- 7) Chair's comments, Mary Jo Monahan: We're out there educating the public!
 - i) The Farmers Market has been peaceful. Lots of new people are stopping by the CCDC tent.
 - ii) More than 150 people from seven committees attended the Aug. 16 Piedmont Rally at Prince Michel Winery and raised \$13,650 for Jac Bennington, Sara Ratcliffe, and Forrest Miller, House of Delegates candidates in 61, 62, and 63.
 - iii) Our Labor Day Rally drew about 160 protesters, a good turnout for a holiday weekend.
 - iv) The Combined Campaign is paying rent to CCDC.
 - v) Zann Nelson is having a meet-and-greet for Sara, 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25.
 - vi) Get to know your local candidates – Board of Supervisors, Town Council, and School Board – at Speed-Dating With the Candidates, 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27.
- 8) Communications, Marysa Mullen: Marysa invited members to HQ to be videoed explaining why voting matters to them.
- 9) Ratcliffe Campaign, Marysa for Sara: She's grateful for the Piedmont Rally, reminds us about phone-banking at 6 p.m. Thursdays and her Community Conversations series. She's looking for a coordinator in Culpeper. She invites everyone to Zann Nelson's meet-and-greet; every dime is also welcome because every bit goes a long way.
- 10) Office, Laura Adler: Watch the website for details about No Kings II on Oct. 18.
- 11) Rapid Response Team, Randy Dunn: The focus is now on getting people elected. Visibility is important. Vote early to check your registration!

- 12) Events, Marilyn Dunphy: Marilyn urged members to sign up to bring snacks to the Reva meet-and-greet, which is also a food drive for the Culpeper Food Closet.
- 13) Jenn Ward asks us to collaborate with the Culpeper Persisters, now the Piedmont Persisters.
- 14) No Kings II is scheduled Oct. 18.
- 15) Community Outreach, Ed Dunphy:
 - i) The sign team has been at work, and the highway signs are up. He encouraged members to pick up yard signs and display them. Triple signs displaying the statewide ticket are coming.
 - ii) Search the sofa cushions for spare change for Sara.
 - iii) Postcards have been mailed to early voters with voting dates on the front, candidate information on the back. A second mailing is planned to Election Day voters. We're blanketing Culpeper, sending cards to all but strong Republicans.
 - iv) The Speed-Dating event is a great way to get to know local candidates.
 - v) CCDC has a booth at Mad Jazz today.
- 16) Intraparty, Joseph Smith for Dan Else: Dan's report is attached as Addendum 1.
- 17) Canvassing, Joseph Smith: Canvassers have knocked on 1,300 doors across Culpeper with many more planned. Last year, the total was 10,000 doors. He singled out Larry Giesting, Randy Dunn, Beth Perrow, and David Perrow as the top door-knockers.
- 18) Precinct Operations, Joseph Smith
 - i) Please come canvass.
 - ii) Please sign up to poll-sit on Election Day. It's important to be the last person someone sees on their way in the door to vote.
 - iii) We'll crowd canvass at the Registrar's office on Fridays and the last two Saturdays before Election Day. In agreement with the Registrar, CCRC and CCDC will have only two canvassers each near the door.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m. (Carolyn Walker, Joseph Smith)

Joseph Smith was the guest speaker. He discussed ways to avoid and de-escalate contentious conversations with voters.

Addendum 1

Piedmont Region Democratic News

Links to committee websites are embedded in the county titles. Times and locations of monthly committee meetings are listed at the end of this newsletter.

EARLY VOTING BEGAN ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19! THIS IS IT, FOLKS! LET'S PUT THE HAMMER DOWN! One citizen told a committee chair that she was too old to vote. She didn't think she'd make it to election day. Remember, President Carter voted four weeks into his 101st year.

The next nationwide protest, *No Kings 2*, is scheduled for October 18.

Culpeper County

The Committee is putting together a community video on *Why Does Voting Matter to You*. It will consist of 30-second vignettes that will be stitched together to deliver a powerful message. All members of the community are welcome declare their views by videoing themselves or arranging for a session at HQ.

Sara Ratcliffe appeared at the 2025 Culpeper County Candidate Forum at Germanna's Daniel Technology Center in Culpeper on September 23.

CCDC's *Speed Dating with the Candidates* featured all local office seekers at the Culpeper County Library for informal conversations with citizens.

Fauquier County

FCDC supported Fauquier Indivisible's Candidates' Forum 2025 on September 14 in Warrenton's John Barton Payne Building. Invited were HoD 30 candidates John McAuliff and Geary Higgins and HoD 61 candidates Jac Bennington and Michael Webert.

Ghazala Hashmi, Democratic candidate for Lieutenant Governor, joined the committee's September meeting via Zoom.

Greene County

The September 19 committee potluck launched its Volunteer Initiative to recruit citizens to canvass, phone bank, and turn to in other vote-supporting ways.

The League of Women Voters (Charlottesville) sponsors "Listening Tables," an opportunity for the community to sit together and share concerns, talk to candidates, and engage in quiet conversation at the Greene Library in Stanardsville. The next opportunity happens on October 20 between 6:00 and 7:30 pm.

GCDC suggests that anyone who cannot or does not want to attend a protest or campaign activity can: Offer transportation to others; drive canvassers to their routes; pet sit or babysit for others; share information social media or word of mouth; or drive voters to the polls – starting on September 19.

[Lake of the Woods Club](#)

Denis Kaufman presented a talk on the history of immigration law in the U.S. at the September 11 LOW meeting. His slides and a video he and others recorded at a meeting of the Orange County Democratic Committee recently can be seen [here](#). The LOW Dems' website has links to other useful information setting context for Denis's presentation.

[Madison County](#)

The Madison County Electoral Board held a non-partisan Board of Supervisors and school board candidate forum on September 22 at the Madison County High School. The candidates responded to emailed questions.

MCDC is sponsoring the NAACP Culpeper Branch Freedom Fund Banquet (Peppers Grill, Culpeper, October 4 at noon).

[Orange County](#)

Nancy Morgan, coordinator of BigMoneyOutVA, a nonpartisan group championing good governance and transparency, spoke to the September OCDC meeting. Her remarks centered on the impact of large corporate and dark money political contributions on Virginia's public policies.

Orange door knocking shifts are scheduled for every Sunday, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm and 1:00 – 4:00 pm.

OCDC volunteers will set up tables at the *Gordonsville Fried Chicken Festival* (October 4) and will march in the *Gordonsville Veterans Parade* (November 8) and the *Orange Christmas Parade* (December 6).

[Rappahannock County](#)

The committee is promoting the [New Rural Virginia](#) newsletter and podcast. Their *Candidate Spotlight*, hosted by Ambassador Larry Wohlers, is a series of interviews with candidates for the House of Delegates from across the northern Virginia.

RCDC held a *Build the House Bash* fundraiser at a private home on September 14. HoD candidates present included Josn Thomas (HoD 21), Elizabeth Guzman (HoD 22), Sara Ratcliffe (HoD 62), Jess Anderson (HoD 71), and Leslie Mehta (HoD 73).

Jac Bennington (HoD 61) sat on a panel discussing affordable housing at the Rappahannock Library on September 30. Other panelists included Michelle McKinney, Bruce Geisert, and Selina Nebitt.

[Spotsylvania County](#)

Spotsy Dems moved their September monthly meeting back to the Salem Church Branch Library.

LGBT Democrats of Virginia have set up at the Virginia State Fair. SCDC solicited its members for volunteers to help staff the booth.

The old SCDC Facebook page has become inoperable. The committee is reminding anyone following that page to transition to the new FB page that can be found by searching “Spotsy Democrats” in the app.

Meetings

Culpeper County: Culpeper meets 9:00 – 11:00 am on the 1st Saturday of each month at the Association of Social Work Boards, 17126 Mountain Vista Ct, Culpeper. NOTE: McDevitt Dr, which may provide the GPS-preferred access to the building, is closed until December. VDOT provides information on routing around the detour [here](#). However, the easiest route lies along E Chandler St from downtown past the new section of the National Cemetery. ASWB will be the large brick building on your left. The committee’s office at 411 S Main St, Culpeper, is open Monday 10:00 – 4:00, Tuesday through Friday 10:00 – 2:00 and Saturday 10:00 – 12:00. Weekly informal Meetups convene as 10:00 every Wednesday at HQ.

Fauquier County: Fauquier Dems meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Warren Green Building, 10 Hotel St, Warrenton. Their Spring office hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm (20 Ashby St, Warrenton).

Greene County: The Greene Democrats hold a coffee every 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am in the Stanardsville Town Office, 19 Celt Rd, Stanardsville. The general meeting (and potluck dinner) goes down on the third Friday at the parish hall of Grace Episcopal Church, 97 Main St, Stanardsville, between 5:30 and 8:00 pm.

Lake of the Woods Club: The LOW Club meetings are usually held at 1:00 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the LOW Community Center, 110 Sweetbriar Park Rd, Locust Grove.

Madison County: Madison Dems meet on the 4th Saturday of the month at Antioch Baptist Church, 1165 Mud Rd, Madison, at 9:30 am.

Orange County: Orange County Democrats meet in their Orange, VA, office, 111 Chapman St, Orange, on the 2nd Saturday of the month, 9:45 – 11:00 am.

Rappahannock County: Rappahannock also holds its meetings on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:00 am (9:30 for coffee). These convene in the Washington Town Hall, 485 Gay St, Washington. The RCDC office is located at 1047 Zachary Taylor Hwy, Huntly.

Spotsylvania County: The SCDC meets on the 3rd Monday of each month between 5:30 and 8:00 at the Salem Church Branch of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, 2607 Salem Church Rd, Fredericksburg.