

Culpeper County Democratic Committee
Minutes
9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 4

Welcome, Call to Order

1. Chair Mary Jo Monahan welcomed three visitors.
2. She introduced Parliamentarian Randy Dunn and today's A/V operator, Jim Restel.
3. The agenda was approved unanimously on a motion by Jim Restel, seconded by Roger Gorg.
4. Instead of the Pledge of Allegiance, "I Am a Democrat" was read by Suzanne Ross.
5. The agenda was approved unanimously (Jim Restel, Roger Gorg).
6. Two new members – Ruthmarie "Ruth" Irving-Carroll and Catherine "Cat" Ramsey – were accepted unanimously, bringing the total to 202 (Debbie Davidson, Jan Fitts).
7. September minutes were unanimously approved.
8. Treasurer's report was approved (Jim Restel, Roger Gorg).
9. Chair's comments:
 - i. Busy September, putting energy into the community, educating Culpeper about the importance of civic engagement, peacefully rallying around our concerns about current government overreach and MAGA chaos, maintaining our voting rights and, most importantly, showing up to vote.
 - ii. As of Friday 10/3, 2,155 people had voted in the first two weeks of early voting.
 - iii. We resumed weekends at Farmer's Market 8-11 a.m. Saturdays There has been a very positive response. We'll continue until the end of October. The agreed-upon schedule of who sets up a tent on the corner has been going smoothly. CCDC has gone so far as to help the GOP to set up their tent.
 - iv. Randy and Mary Jo spent two weeks negotiating a joint statement with the Republicans about avoiding problems at early voting. Two members of each party can be posted on each of the four corners. She said volunteers are needed on Wednesday and Friday mornings and Saturdays 10/25 and 11/1.
 - v. We have a statement on our website condemning political violence, particularly regarding the vandalism of Charlie Kirk sign.

- vi. Speed Dating with Voters & Candidates was a success last Saturday. Eighteen candidates were invited and 15 participated. 45 voters spent time with candidates and there is enthusiasm to make this a new CCDC tradition.
- vii. The NAACP banquet happens today.
- viii. CCDC has a contract with DPVA/Abigail's coordinated campaign to have Colton Moriarity and HOD candidates use our offices.
- ix. "Popcorn Debate, Abigail & Winsome" is tentatively scheduled for 6 p.m. Oct. 9 at Mountain Run Winery. Help is needed with a TV set-up. If none is available, the watch party will be held at HQ.
- x. A Bennington fundraiser is scheduled Friday, Oct. 10.
- xi. Thanks to Ed Dunphy for his creative voting precincts map at the Speed Dating event.
- xii. Dan Else's Intraparty Coordination Report is attached.

11. Randy gave a tongue-in-cheek report on plans for the CCDC Ballroom.

12. Carolyn Walker gave a report on the Biennial 2026-2027 Reorganization.

- i. Legally, the CCDC dissolves on Dec. 31, 2025; including officers and membership per the Virginia Department of Elections.
- ii. Legally, the CCDC must reorganize and elect new officers via caucus by Jan. 15, 2026.
- iii. Legally, the Caucus must be open to the public but participation/voting is limited to new members who are present and "certified."
- iv. Membership Biennial 2026-2027 renewals begin Nov. 1, 2025
- v. Watch upcoming newsletters for more details: caucus date, time, and rules.

13. Joseph Smith reported that canvassing continues.

14. A member asked whether inside poll observers will be needed. It's up to election officials and the chief election officer in each polling place. Contact Mary Jo for details.

15. Carolyn led the group in a rousing countdown-to-election song.

Adjourn: 10:30 a.m. (Jim Restel, Roger Gorg).

Guest Speakers were Sheriff Tim Chilton and Chief Deputy Chad McKnight, who spoke about the positive changes that have been made in the Sheriff's Office and how they serve the community.