



The 2019 Elections

by Susie Scott
Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

For those of us who live in town or city limits or the Asheboro City Schools District, elections are coming this fall. The only exception to this is the City of Archdale, which holds its elections during even-numbered years. Contrary to what many people believe, local elections are just as important as national and state elections. They usually have more of an effect on our everyday life because decisions at the local level immediately affect not only the services we receive, but also our ability to attract sustainable and thriving jobs, our access to healthcare services, the neighborhoods we live in, the success and well-being of our children, and our health and safety.

Do we want to live in a place that values and respects all of its citizens? Are we a welcoming place to live? Are we providing a quality education for all of our children? Are a variety of employment opportunities available in many sectors of the economy to keep our neighborhoods thriving? Do we provide the educational, healthcare, and recreational opportunities that lure high-paying jobs? Local office holders have the first and greatest impact on all of these matters.

Candidates for local office often pay a heavy price

for the hope of serving their community. As soon as they file for office in a contested election, they lose any hope of privacy and find that their every move is evaluated. Although the filing fee for these offices is small, the costs of a campaign can be high. Yard signs run \$300 or more. Newspaper ads and mailings often surpass that. The least we can do for a good candidate is show up to vote. When we find someone who has the best interests of our community at heart and is willing to work hard to improve our future, then we need to support their campaign in any way we can: through donations or volunteering. Candidates need help calling people, canvassing, and greeting voters at polling sites during early voting as well as on Election Day.

See page two for voting information. 

Additionally, a questionnaire was sent to the Democratic candidates running for municipal elections as well as those running for the Asheboro City Board of Education. We received three responses. You can read our questions and their answers on page four and five of this issue.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Phone: (336) 629-9003
- Email: randolphdem@gmail.com
- Newsletter email: rcdp.newsletter@gmail.com
- Website: randolphcountydems.org
- Facebook:
facebook.com/RandolphCountyDemocraticParty/
- Address: Democratic Headquarters, 114 Sunset Ave.,
Asheboro, NC 27203 (henceforth referred to as HQ)
- Mailing address: Randolph County Democratic Party, P.O.
Box 4814, Asheboro, NC 27204
- Hours: M,W, F 11 am-2 pm; T, 9 am-noon;
Th, 11 am-1 pm

Statement of Purpose

We are a diverse, inclusive community of resilient, respectful local citizens who are open-minded, compassionate, and courageous.

We are focused on facts, truth, accountability, justice, and the common good.

We work to promote democratic ideals.

We fight for the preservation of democracy, fair representation and governance, social justice, a healthy environment, economic opportunity, and a better future for all.

We encourage our community to be informed and involved and to elect Democrats who stand for these ideals.

Places, Dates and Times to Vote in 2019

Early/One-Stop Voting

Early voting will be held at the new Randolph County Board of Elections location at 1457 N. Fayetteville St., Asheboro, NC 27203

Dates and Times:

Wednesday, Oct. 16 – Friday, Oct. 18, 8 am–5 pm

Monday, Oct. 21 – Friday, Oct. 25, 8 am–5 pm

Monday, Oct. 28 – Friday, Nov. 1, 8 am–5 pm

Election Day: November 5, 2019

On Election Day, you should vote at your polling station to ensure that you will get the correct ballot. The polls will be open from 6:30 am until 7:30 pm.

City of Asheboro and/or Asheboro City School

District residents:

Asheboro East Precinct: Central United Methodist Church, 300 S. Main St, Asheboro, NC 27203

Asheboro North Precinct: Balfour Elementary School, 2097 N. Asheboro School Rd, Asheboro, NC 27203

Asheboro South Precinct: Guy B. Teachey Elementary School, 294 Newbern Ave, Asheboro, NC 27205

Asheboro West Precinct: Sunset Avenue Church of God, 900 Sunset Ave, Asheboro, NC 27203

Town of Franklinville residents:

Franklinville United Methodist Church, 227 W. Main St., Franklinville, NC 27248

Town of Liberty residents:

Liberty Town Hall, 239 S. Fayetteville St., Liberty, NC 27298

Town of Ramseur residents:

Southeastern Randolph Middle School, 5302 Foushee Road, Ramseur, NC 27316

City of Randleman residents:

First United Methodist Church, 301 S. Main St., Randleman, NC 27317

Town of Seagrove residents:

First Baptist Church of Seagrove, 7931 US Hwy 220 S, Seagrove, NC 27341

Town of Staley residents:

Staley Fire Station, 410 W. Railroad St., Staley, NC 27355

City of Trinity residents:

Hopewell Elementary School, 6294 Welborn Road, Trinity, NC 27370

Cheri Beasley at RCC

North Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice, Cheri Beasley, was the featured speaker at an event celebrating the 200th anniversary of the State Supreme Court. She was introduced by District Court Justice, Brooke Schmidly. Chief Justice Beasley spoke on several topics, including a basic introduction to the three branches of government. She also addressed some new initiatives that are needed in North Carolina, including: a unified state judicial computing system, reactivating the State Judicial Council, expanding substance abuse recovery courts, community alliances with law enforcement and faith communities to improve access, and school justice partnerships. In response to questions from the audience, she also touched on veterans' courts, fees that further punish people who live in poverty, and inflated costs levied on inmates by private prison systems and providers for simple things like phone calls, email, and items from the canteen. Justice Beasley spoke with wisdom, thoughtfulness, and grace. Our judicial system is in good hands while she is at the helm.



Reviews

The Grapes of Wrath, by John Steinbeck

A powerful book set during the depression but so appropriate for today. Discrimination, corporate greed, lack of respect for the poor, and importance of family are just some of themes of the book. It's in the library. A must read for everyone.

—reviewed by Lois Bohnsack

Trumpcast, a podcast from Slate, features conversations with experts who help us understand what's happening in the Trump administration. It features John Di Domenico, the best Trump impersonator ever, reading Trump's tweets. Very entertaining and informative.

—reviewed by Ruth Held

Homegoing, by Yaa Gyasi

Historical fiction, the terrible cost of slavery. Sad and depressing, but beautifully written.

—reviewed by Martha Crotty

Blue Jean Gala a Great Success

Six candidates spoke in front of a sold-out house at the Randolph County Democratic Party's 11th Annual Blue Jean Gala August 10 at The Exchange. The event also featured music, a silent auction, and dinner catered by Magnolia 23. A total of \$4,468.44 was raised at this year's Gala.

Five Superintendent of Public Instruction candidates — **James Barrett, Amy Jablonski, Constance Lav Johnson, Michael Maher, and Jen Mangrum** — and U.S. Senate candidate **Trevor Fuller** inspired the crowd, reminding everyone to vote in the primaries.

Barrett, who owns tech firms MyBetterWeb and WAV, has spent eight years on the Chapel Hill Carrboro Public Schools Board. He stressed giving students and teachers the support they need and a focus on community development as well as economic development. "We need to make sure that our measurements are reflecting the hard work that's going on by our teachers, the innovative work that's going on by our teachers, the relationships that are being built by our teachers, and the support that everybody is giving our students." He closed his remarks by stressing mental health support in schools.

Johnson received a bachelor's degree in psychology/sociology and a Master's of Education in guidance and counseling. She was a school counselor in Chicago and worked with EC students as school administrators in New York. She studied at the Lutheran School of Theology and worked with the Black Political Caucus of Charlotte-Mecklenburg. She is also the publisher of CityPolitical News. "We really have to get in there, overcome the political inspirations or influence, overcome the racial influences, the economic influences, and find the geniuses in our school system. Just because you're a poor child doesn't mean you don't have great interests and passion."

Jablonski, who currently works with SWIFT — a national technical assistance program — served on the NDCPI committee that recommended the State remain with Amplify, the program that has classroom teachers individually evaluate each student's reading ability rather than adopt a program that uses a computer for evaluation. Jablonski, the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor and the daughter of an immigrant, stressed her background as an education professional — she has a masters in school administration and a doctorate in educational leadership with a specific focus on social justice. "I am a proud, gay woman

running for a statewide office in a state that does not protect my community from discrimination. I believe that our educational system needs to be equitable and accessible to all of our students."

Maher is currently the Assistant Dean of Professional Education at North Carolina State University. He is President of the North Carolina Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators. Maher's platform focuses on three themes: Educational Equity, Educational Excellence, and Educational Innovation. "I am committed to the development of a comprehensive system to ensure that the academic success or failure of our children is not predictable based on race or socio-economic status. I will lead the charge to restore funding for professional development in North Carolina as well as increased base salary for all of our professional educators, and restore pay for advanced degrees as well as pay for mentors."

Mangrum is a professor in teacher preparation at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and took on Phil Berger in 2018 in a hotly-contested race for his state Senate seat. "Teachers have to take care of students' personal, social, emotional needs — they also have to teach them and give them the academic skills they need to be critical thinkers and have abundant lives. Our current regime is about privatization, resegregation, and schools that are for profit. North Carolina is a diverse state and when we embrace our diversity, and when our schools reflect our diversity, we grow tolerant, compassionate, informed citizens."

Fuller is serving his third term on the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners and in his first elected office. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Mecklenburg County Bar Association and currently serves on its Audit Committee. He is also a member of Mecklenburg County Bar Association Foundation, the John S. Leary Bar Association, the North Carolina Advocates for Justice, and is a former member of the Board of Directors of Community Link. Fuller advocated for Medicare for all and universal pre-kindergarten, which he helped implement in Mecklenburg County. "I believe every person deserves a fair shot to make it in America, to have a safe, decent, and affordable house to live in; a wage that you can live on, that you can support your family with; health care for all Americans as a right and not a privilege; and the right to a sustainable planet that we can all live on."

Candidate Questionnaire

The following questionnaire was sent to each of the candidates running for municipal office as well as those running for the Asheboro City Schools Board of Education:

1. Why should people vote for you and what skills will you bring to the office?
2. What is the biggest challenge for (your town/city-government/the Board of Education) and how will you address it?
3. How will you ensure that (your town/city government/the Board of Education) remains open and accountable to its constituents?
4. If you had a magic wand, what one thing would you use it for (in your city/town/at Asheboro City Schools)?

The following Democratic candidates were sent the questionnaire: Linda Cranford and Gus Agudelo, running for Asheboro City Board of Education; Mac Whatley, running for Franklinville Town Commissioner; Norv Kraft, running for Ramseur Town Commissioner; Kathy Fernandez, running for Seagrove Town Commissioner; and Jack Carico, running for Trinity City Council Ward 03.

We received replies from Gustavo Agudelo, Linda Cranford, and Mac Whatley. Here are their replies:

From Gustavo Agudelo:

1. Besides the fact that I have eight years of experience with the Board of Education, I present a point of view of a parent with two children that have been educated through Asheboro City Schools. I also possess the ability to connect and communicate with the growing Latino/Hispanic community.
2. One of our biggest challenges that we as a Board face would have to be funding. Due to the significant budget cuts that the public schools are receiving, our students are limited from potential opportunities for future success.
3. The Board of Education plays a vital role in providing leadership for our district. This would be unachievable without the input of our community. Citizens should know that on any Asheboro City Schools website our emails and phone numbers are provided for public usage. I encourage everyone to take this opportunity to communicate with us. On top of that, every member of our community are invited to attend our monthly meetings. These are always open to the public. With everyone's support, we want to establish

a clear vision and high expectations for a quality education that will support and sustain the future generations of our beloved community.

4. The magic wand would be used to make every parent/ legal guardian, with a child within Asheboro City Schools, 100% involved with their children's education.

From Linda Cranford:

1. First and foremost, I believe in public education. Every child has the right to a sound, basic education that is free and accessible. The opportunity for every single child, regardless of where they live or what they look like, to have a safe and welcoming place to learn and grow and tap into their own potential is a moral responsibility as well as a legal one, and is what sets our educational system apart from others.

I believe in Asheboro City Schools. My mother taught fourth grade here forever, and both my husband and I, and our two children, are AHS grads. I am a Blue Comet through and through. We are doing amazing things and providing extraordinary opportunities for kids and are, in many cases, the envy of other districts. I serve on our Board of Education because I love our schools and their students and teachers, and I love this community. The two are interwoven. I believe we have enormous potential to bring new opportunities to kids, and if I can help make that happen, I want to.

Experience is a great teacher, and I've learned a lot in my years on the board. In addition to experience, I bring institutional history and a broad perspective. I know how we have evolved through the years as our community and the needs of our students have changed. I understand how important it is for the board to work as a team itself, and to work as a team with the superintendent and share ownership of our vision, our successes, and our stumbles. I try to build consensus and see the big picture. I listen. I believe in trying new things and giving our staff permission to take risks. That's how we grow. I'm a huge fan of board member training, just as I am of staff development.

Serving at the state and national levels have helped me see and understand national trends in education, and how they might impact us locally for better or worse. For years, I have lobbied our legislators in Raleigh and on Capitol Hill, trying to get them to make decisions based on what's best for the child rather

continued on page 5



than on what's politically expedient. I feel like being a board member is a large part of who I am, and after raising my family, has been the most satisfying experience I have ever had.

2. The biggest challenge we face is a combination of three smaller but tightly interwoven challenges: adequate funding, attracting and retaining quality teachers who love their profession, and increasing public and legislative support for our schools. We are being asked to do more with less, teachers are woefully underappreciated, and every message coming out of Raleigh is telling parents to get their kids out of our failing public schools if they can. I will keep pushing for us to go on the offensive and be proactive rather than reactive. We need to do a better job of telling our story and highlighting student growth and success. We have to be relentless with our legislators. We have to do everything we can to support our teachers and make them feel appreciated. We need to get rid of the emphasis on test scores, which do not even begin to reflect what is really going on in the classroom. We need to continue pulling the community into our schools as partners with us. We have to get the word out, and I am on a mission to see that happen.

3. The Board of Education is, and will always be, open and accountable. Our meetings are open to the public, any action we take is recorded in the minutes and the minutes are public record, our audit information is public, we adhere to all the state laws regarding public meetings. Each board member's email and phone number is published on the Asheboro City Schools website and we can all be emailed via that website. Except for two members, all of us are employed full time, but we try to attend as many school functions as we can and be visible and easily accessible throughout the community. We want the community to know what we are doing and what is going on in our schools, so we welcome interest and involvement from our community. Many conversations with parents and teachers take place in the grocery store, at church, or at a football game. That's the beauty of a small town!



4. Geez. That's a tough one, because there is so much I would like to see us be able to do and to have. I believe I would use it for our students and teachers: to make sure our teachers have everything they needed and wanted to help them professionally, and to ensure that every one of our students comes to school ready to learn and be successful. That means they are from loving homes where they are safe, where they are loved and encouraged, where parents value education and have high expectations, where they have enough to eat, are rested, warmly clothed, and are healthy physically and emotionally.

From Mac Whatley:

1. I am the most experienced current commissioner. I was first elected Mayor in 1983, and served six terms as Mayor and now three terms as commissioner. I was responsible for buying and rebuilding the mill sewer system which now serves much of the town. I was also responsible for annexing the area on US 64 that will be our future business district. I am also very much involved with preserving the 19th century mill village which is at the core of our community.

2. We need to obtain grant funding to build water and sewer service lines from where they currently stop at the Kubota dealership all the way up to Trogon Hill. Now that the "Southern Loop" is almost complete, Franklinville will be the first and last stop for visitors going and coming to the Zoo from the Raleigh Durham Chapel Hill area. We have already annexed the gas stations at Blue Mist; we need to provide services that will support commercial development.

3. Our meetings are open to everyone; we rarely have any type of closed session. We have revamped our website over the past year. We receive positive audits from the Local Government Commission and have a fund balance which is more than enough to cover any emergency.

4. I would cause the state legislature to establish the North Carolina Industrial Museum and Historic Site in Franklinville and Cedar Falls, with enough funding to make it a successful and highly visited tourist attraction.

Festival Time

It's festival time! As you can see, October will be a busy month. We have all talked about how we need a change. This is the time to put boots on the ground and be a presence to our community. How many times have you heard someone say, "I thought I was the only Democrat in Randolph County." Remember, each Democrat that we get to the polls affects not only county offices, but also state and federal legislatures and the state and federal executive offices. If we want to see our principles guide the next decade of policy, we must not only vote, but inform and encourage others to vote. Of course, our smiles and polite discourse will encourage people to listen.



Asheboro Fall Festival

October 5, 10 am–6 pm

October 6, noon–6 pm

We need volunteers at our booth and in HQ selling baked goods. Including an hour for setting up the booth, we are looking for folks to volunteer for at least 3-4 hours. We also want at least 2 people serving each shift. Therefore, we have 22 slots to fill. Please let us know what days and times you can be there. If you want to work more than one shift, we would not refuse your offer! To sign up, please contact HQ at (336) 629-9003.

Randleman Nascar Day

October 12, 9 am–6 pm

Ramseur Day on Main Street

October 19, 9 am–6 pm

Calendar

Oct. 1 — Executive Committee Meeting at HQ, 7 pm

Oct. 5 and 6 — Asheboro Fall Festival and Democratic Women's Bake Sale inside HQ,
Saturday, 10 am–6 pm; Sunday, noon–6 pm

Oct. 12 — Visit our booth at Randleman's NASCAR Day Festival, 9 am–6 pm

Oct. 16 — Early Voting begins for municipal elections in Randolph County (see page two)

Oct. 19 — Visit our booth at Ramseur's A Day on Main Street, 9 am–5 pm

Oct. 26 — Democratic Women's Breakfast meeting, 9:30 am

Oct. 31 — We'll be handing out candy at HQ for Asheboro's Trick or Treat in the Park, 6:30–8:30 pm

Nov. 1 — Last Day of Early Voting (see page two)

Nov. 5 — Municipal Election Day (see page two)

Nov. 12 — Executive Committee Meeting, 7 pm (rescheduled due to Election Day)

Nov. 15 — Dec./Jan. newsletter deadline

Nov. 23 — Democratic Women's Breakfast meeting, 9:30 am

Other Events of Interest

Oct. 12 — Randolph County NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, 6 pm

Oct. 22 — Habitat for Humanity Celebrity Breakfast, Pinewood Country Club 8–9 am