



We'll Make it Through Together

by Susie Scott
Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

Who would have guessed two months ago that we would be sheltering in our homes to avoid a raging pandemic? Schools, conventions, sports events, church services, and so much more have been canceled, rescheduled, or moved to online meetings or conference calls. We're using phones and computers to check on family and friends even though they may live close by. Restaurants are open for delivery or takeout only, and so many other businesses have completely closed. When we do venture outside, we maintain six feet of distance between us and anyone we happen to meet. Washing our hands has taken on a new urgency. But we are going to make it through this. And we're going to stay home as long as needed to protect the rest of our community.

Inside, you'll find some resources to help you get through the Coronavirus epidemic as well as updates on changes to party conventions and hours. Stay strong Randolph County. We'll make it through this together!

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
- Headquarter closed until further notice (as of March 30)

(Paid for by the Randolph County Democratic Executive Committee and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. c 2020)

Critical Steps to Slow COVID-19

From the Raleigh News & Observer, March 21, 2020.

1. Stay home! Limit contact with others by going out only for food, medicines, to exercise, or to take care of essential concerns.

2. Stay informed from reliable sources like *ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus* and *cdc.gov*.

Listen to your public health leaders at the state, local, and national levels, and your health care providers.

3. Don't seek testing for COVID-19 if you have a mild illness. The vast number of people who get COVID-19 will have a mild illness and recover at home. When people leave home for testing, they could expose themselves to COVID-19 if they do not already have the infection. If they are infected, they can expose someone in the community, including people who are at high risk, or a health care worker.

We need to reduce the chances for further spread and protect our health care system, so it is there when people need it most. If you're not sick enough to need medical care, a positive COVID-19 test will not change what you or your doctor do. Anyone who has fever and signs of respiratory illness including cough should stay home until at least 7 days after the first day of illness *and* until they have been without fever for three days and other symptoms are improving. People who have been in close contact with an ill person are urged to stay home as much as possible and monitor themselves for signs of illness.

During this phase of the outbreak, testing is most important for severely ill patients, health care workers, and persons in nursing homes and other vulnerable populations. Testing also places significant strain on supplies like masks and gowns that we will need to meet the expected rise in COVID-19 patients requiring hospitalization. We have a deep gratitude to the health care workers, first responders, and public health workforce who are working around the clock to keep others well. We need to do our part by not adding to the overwhelming caseloads they are beginning to face by taking these three critical steps: stay home, stay informed, and seek medical care and testing only if you have significant symptoms.

Statement from Jane Ledwell-Gant

Jane Ledwell-Gant is running for NC Senate, District 26 against Jerry W. Tillman. Here is her message:

As a resident of Randolph County and having grown up in this community, I have a personal investment in ensuring that the concerns of this county are addressed daily in our state offices.

I promise this community that I will respond to your calls and concerns as they are directed to me daily. Our educational, medical, and social needs must be at the top of our agenda.

As we watch this administration address our current virus crisis, can you not see the lack of leadership that is at the head of our country? Where is the concern for the loss of lives or the destruction of family lives as we face this epidemic?

This is the time for this country to work together and provide our communities with truth and honesty. We are living in a society where our leaders are only concerned with their own personal wealth. We all share a responsibility for the lesser of our community. Come November, you have a choice. Please allow me to fight for all of God's people.

We are still looking to see what is going to happen to our local hospital. If we are granted the 20 million loans, is this fair to the hard working tax payers in our community? Have any of our representatives attempted to get federal or state funds so needed to keep us afloat?

As a representative of Randolph County I promise to always fight for the people of this county and demonstrate transparency in my daily responsibility to the people whom I represent. I will offer facts pertaining to the overall governing of our community. If elected, I will represent this entire community and not just a chosen few.



Sign Up for Email Releases

Go to the website (randolphcountydems.org) and click on the "subscribe" button to sign up for email releases to help keep you up-to-date with all that is happening regarding our local Democratic party.

Message from Ruth Scanlan, RCDP Volunteer Coordinator

The November election is extremely important for the future of our nation. The rules of our law-ordered democracy are challenged every day. The health of our water and air are in jeopardy. The relationship with our allies has been weakened. People everywhere are treated as pawns in a game of big money acquisition.

We now have a very legal and very orderly method to reverse this course, free and open elections. However, we must guarantee that every voter has full access to the voting system, and that every voter has full and accurate access to the truth. In this election every vote will count.

We have a strong slate of candidates at the county, state and federal level. They have the courage to step forward to bring a more equitable society for you. We must step up to support them.

In Randolph County, we must bring this message to our community. In order to do that, we need boots on the ground. To all of you, you are reading this newsletter because you care. Every one of you has at least one skill that can help bring the message of hope to the citizens of this county. So, I am appealing to each of you to volunteer for at least one of the activities listed in the enclosed Volunteer Information Form (of course more would be helpful). These efforts will make a difference in voter turnout and voter education.

Please complete the enclosed volunteer form and return it today. You may drop it off at HQ (when it is open again), snail mail it to the address on the form, send a picture of the completed form by text to 336-587-4485 or as an email attachment to ruthiescanlan@gmail.com. Even if you are already a registered member of the party, fill out the volunteer form so that we know you are ready to participate in this election. If today, however, you can only fill in your name and contact information to indicate your willingness to participate in this effort, you will be contacted later to see what fits your time and skills.

Please sign up for as much as possible. If your schedule or available time changes between now and when I contact you, I will not be offended.

Thank you,

Ruth Scanlan, Volunteer Coordinator

My Opinion Feature

Send your opinion piece to rcdp.newsletter@gmail.com. There is a 300 word limit. We will publish as many as space allows. Please be aware that articles will be edited if necessary for space and clarity. Thank you.

My Opinion — from Bob Williams:

Resolution 2020: There should be no jail time before trial for those charged with misdemeanors except those involving domestic violence and DWIs.

Whereas, in America everyone is innocent until proven guilty, there should be no jail time before trial or a guilty plea for those charged with misdemeanors.

Whereas, On November 12, 2019 a significant civil rights action arising under 42 U. S. C. § 1983 and 28 U. S.C. § 2201, et seq., and the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was filed against the Resident Superior Court Judge, the Chief District Court Judge, the Sheriff and magistrates of Alamance County in the Middle District Court of North Carolina.

Whereas, many citizens are confined in jail cells solely because they do not have enough money to purchase their freedom. Because they cannot make the payment that Defendants require for their release, these presumptively innocent individuals will be detained in the jail until their cases reach a disposition by trial or guilty pleas; conversely, wealthier individuals are released from custody almost

immediately because they can pay the monetary condition of release.

Whereas, our courts systematically violate defendants' rights to equal protection under the law, substantive and procedural due process, and to be represented by counsel regarding the early bond process;

Whereas, the courts unconstitutional policies and practices result in widespread wealth-based detention, pretrial detention not only subjects these individuals to the overcrowded conditions in jail, and it also negatively impacts their personal lives and jeopardizes their legal defense.

Whereas, the consequences of pretrial incarceration are severe: people who are detained pretrial routinely suffer losses in employment, child custody, and housing, and barriers to participation in one's own defense;

Whereas, people detained pretrial experience worse trial and sentencing outcomes than people who are charged with the same offense but are released before trial.

Whereas, these harms are inflicted on people living in poverty who cannot pay money bail despite compelling evidence that alternatives to monetary release conditions are more effective in ensuring appearance for trial and reduce the risk of re-arrest before trial.

Therefore, we seek laws directing substantial changes to the cash bond pretrial release practices in North Carolina except those involving domestic violence and DWIs.



County and District Conventions Postponed

Due to COVID-19, the North Carolina Democratic Party Executive Council voted to postpone the dates of County and District conventions and to change all county conventions to virtual conventions. These changes have now been approved by the DNC, and the state party is moving ahead with their proposed changes:

The Randolph County Democratic Party Convention originally scheduled for March 28, 2020 will be held April 25, 2020 as a "virtual county convention" with access by NCDP telecommunications tools. The state party is working on details for this (including the time for our convention), and we will pass those on as soon as we have them.

The 13th District Democratic Party Convention originally scheduled for April 25, 2020 will be held on May 15, 2020 as a "virtual district convention." As with the county conventions, details about the district convention have not yet been determined.

If you are interested in serving as a delegate to either the 13th District and/or the State convention (this is not the DNC convention), please email RCDP.CountyChair@gmail.com

COVID-19 and My Job/Business

COVID-19 restrictions have resulted in many businesses shutting down or changing the way they operate in order to prevent the spread of the pandemic. In turn, this has had a profound effect on both employees and small businesses who do not have large reserves of money to get them through the crisis. But lifelines have been rapidly assembled to help people in need.

If you have become unemployed or had your hours drastically cut back due to COVID-19, the following changes have been made to NC unemployment rules during the state of emergency.

- The one-week waiting period for benefits has been waived.
- The “able to work” and “available to work” requirements have been waived.
- Applicants no longer have to prove that they have been trying to find work.
- Applicants can apply for benefits online at des.nc.gov/. That is the quickest way to apply. If you do not have access to the internet, you can apply by phone at 888-737-0259. Be aware that there is a long wait time when filing over the phone due to the high volume of calls.
- Employers will not be charged for unemployment benefits paid by the state due to COVID-19.

(Note: The Federal CARES act provides unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks beyond what the state provides. North Carolina only provides for 12 weeks of unemployment. We rank 49th in the nation on this—most other states provide up to 26 weeks of unemployment. The NC General Assembly is the only body that can make a change to this law, so this is the time to call your legislators.)

If you have a small business that has been affected by the pandemic, the following resources are available.

- The Golden Leaf Foundation is providing low-interest loans to small businesses and farmers affected by COVID-19. These loans will be interest-free for 6 months and will serve as a bridge until the federal Small Business Association (SBA) starts sending relief checks. You can apply for a loan at NCRapidRecovery.org.
- The CARES act was recently passed. Loans are available through the SBA for small businesses that

have been affected. There are two types of loans available. The Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) help qualified businesses meet capital needs or normal business operating expenses through the recovery period. The CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program will provide up to 250% of average monthly payroll expenses and is also available to 501c(3)s as well as independent contractors and self-employed trade and business owners. More resources on both of these are available at sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources.

Dial 2-1-1

NC 2-1-1 is an information and referral service provided by the United Way of North Carolina. Families and individuals can call to obtain free and confidential information on health and human services and resources within their community, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Dialing 2-1-1 is available in most languages. NC 2-1-1 maintains a database with information on thousands of programs and services in North Carolina. Callers are referred to organizations in their local community best equipped to address their specific health and human services needs including food, shelter, energy assistance, housing, parenting resources, healthcare, substance abuse, as well as specific resources for older adults and for persons with disabilities, and much more.

When an individual calls NC 2-1-1, a trained call specialist will conduct a search based on the caller's geographic location and to identify resources to address the caller's needs. In addition to contact information for the community resource, the call specialist will provide eligibility requirements, the intake process for a program, hours of operation, any requirements for appointments, and accessibility information, when available.

NC 2-1-1 is a member of the State Emergency Response Team and is part of the State's Emergency Plan. In the event of a natural or public disaster, NC 2-1-1 is a public information portal for residents to obtain real-time communications and resources related to the disaster. The online database, nc211.org, is the same database used by the call specialists. However, call specialists are trained to search using specific keywords which may provide additional resources. If you don't find what you need online, you are encouraged to dial 2-1-1. Call specialists are available 24/7/365 to help.