



The Upcoming Election

by Susie Scott
Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

Imagine if you will, that you are going to your polling place to vote. When you arrive, you have to wait outside at the end of a long line stretching along two sides of a city block. The line creeps along because voters have to wait for someone to exit before they can enter. You see a few people leave the line because they have to go to work or pick up their kids. It's Election Day, so there is no other day or place to vote. And due to the pandemic, your polling place has been moved to a new location that you've never been to before. No, it's not *The Twilight Zone*. That is exactly what happened in Georgia, Kentucky and Wisconsin during the primaries this year. In Atlanta, some voters had to wait in line for over four hours to vote. And a lot of voters in those states never got a chance to cast their ballots.

It's something that could happen in Randolph County in November's election if we have a second coronavirus outbreak this fall. But there is no reason to put your health or the health of your family and friends at risk. And there is no reason to take the chance that you won't get to vote.

North Carolina has had mail-in absentee voting, for anyone who chooses to use it, for years. All you have to do is request an absentee ballot from your County Office of Elections. Once your request is received, Elections staff will mail your ballot to you starting in September. Requests for mail-in absentee ballots must be received by the Randolph County Board of Elections before 5 pm on October 27.

To make the process easier, we've included a request form with this newsletter. You can return your completed request form by mail, taking it to the Elections Office, by FAX, or by email.

Inside the rest of this issue, you'll find messages from candidates, information about this year's Gala (we're going virtual!), and other news. Stay safe, stay strong, and stay healthy as we prepare for the most important election of our age in November.

How to Request a Mail-in Ballot

To request a mail-in ballot in Randolph County:

 Mail your completed ballot request form in a stamped envelope to:

Randolph County Board of Elections
1457 N. Fayetteville St.
Asheboro, NC 27203

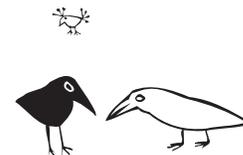
You or your near relative (spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent, or stepchild) or legal guardian may drop off your absentee ballot request form in person at the Board of Elections Office (1457 N Fayetteville St in Asheboro). Please call ahead to be sure the office is open.

 FAX your completed request form to:
(336) 318-6903

 Email a copy of your form to:
elections@RandolphCountyNC.gov.

Get help filling out your request form and more information about mail-in voting by calling the Randolph County Elections Office at (336) 318-6900 or online at ncsbe.gov/Voting-Options/Absentee-Voting.

NOTE: Please do not place your ballot request form in the RCDEMS donation envelope included with this newsletter – it will be mailed to the wrong location!



Statement from Susie Scott

Susie Scott is running for NC House, District 70, against Pat Hurley. Here is her message:

Health care is on the ballot this November. Before the coronavirus hit, over 13 percent of Randolph County residents had no health insurance. Since then, the number of uninsured in our county has likely gone up. That's because many of our workers have been laid off or had their hours reduced and their health insurance was tied to their jobs.

Adequate health insurance should be available to our working families – this includes those people who earn between 80-130 percent of the poverty line. These are the same people that we ask to work in our processing plants. They are our contract and temporary workers. They sometimes hold down multiple part-time jobs to pay their rent and buy food for their families. But they receive no health insurance because they do not qualify as full-time at any one of their jobs. They are our restaurant and grocery store workers. They are the ones who earn too much to qualify for the ACA in North Carolina, but not enough to purchase a health insurance policy. In the middle of an epidemic, they are the ones who are most likely to suffer the worst effects from the virus because they have no paid sick leave. They must go to work to make ends meet.

If you send me to Raleigh, I will vote to expand Medicaid. My opponent has voted against it every time it's come up since she took office in 2007. Even though the federal government will pay 90 percent of the cost, she stated those funds are "not free. It's taxpayer dollars period." We've already paid for the expansion in federal taxes, but my opponent refuses to let us benefit from it. She believes it's OK to send that money to other states when we desperately need it in Randolph County.

Medicaid Expansion would also help our struggling hospital. Many of the patients who come to the emergency room have no insurance and cannot pay their bills. With no insurance, they cannot afford to see a regular doctor, so they end up at the hospital after their health takes a serious turn for the worse. Randolph Health has a moral and legal obligation to treat everyone. That's why they find themselves in debt today. Medicaid Expansion would provide health insurance for workers who are struggling to get by. It

also would ensure our hospital receives some payment for its services. That's much better than getting nothing back after treating a patient who cannot pay.

We need to expand Medicaid now to improve healthcare for our families and improve finances for Randolph Health. This is even more important during a pandemic that has taken lives, health, and livelihoods. Our family and friends should not have to wait for treatment during a medical emergency because our only hospital disappeared.

P.S. Please wear a mask. It's the best way to stamp out COVID-19 in Randolph County.

Statement from Dale Bennett

Dale Bennett is running for Randolph County Commissioner, District 1, against Kenny Kidd. Here is his message:

Hi, voters of this great county of ours. I hope everyone reading is safe and well. We are in turbulent times as a county as well as a nation. My prayer is that these times will soon get much better, but until then we must band together as a family. We are so divided right now and that isn't helping anything. We need leaders in office to help this banding together, not to continue to divide. Now isn't the time for petty politics but the time for unity. I believe that we can overcome anything set before us if we are together. I'm not one to make false promises and commitments. But I am one who believes we the people can unite for the well-being of our community. I will stand for the people. *All* people. Thank you and God bless.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Phone: (336) 629-9003
- Email: randolphdem@gmail.com
- Newsletter email: rcdp.newsletter@gmail.com
- Website: randolphcountydems.org
- Facebook: [facebook.com/RandolphCountyDemocraticParty/](https://www.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 (see updated information on page 6)

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

Statement from Jane Ledwell-Gant

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

I want to address the current conversation between “Black Lives Matter” and “All Lives Matter.” I agree with both, as most of us do. Our country has reached a boiling point in this conversation today. We are more divided today than at any time in the past 50 years. I ask myself, “What has happened that has caused this division?” We know our current President has escalated this divide with support from both the media and Senate. I did appreciate how the Asheboro Police Department responded to the marches and how it addressed the younger generation in hearing their concerns. I am hopeful that others will join in.

In trying to digest these divisions, one must ask, “How does this affect you as an individual?” As a person that is currently running for a Senate seat, I must constantly see today’s events through two lenses. I have listened to opinions from both sides. I have listened to those that state you are trying to destroy our history and others that state the history that is written is not the true history of our country. I myself must admit there was very little Black history taught

in our school systems. I sometimes wonder, “Would we be more open-minded about the conversations that are being heard today if all the history of our country had been provided to us as students?”

As parents and grandparents, we are all concerned about how this virus will affect the re-opening of our schools. Currently we are awaiting our Governor’s guidelines for directions on school openings. I feel positive that he will follow the directions of our experts and scientists on how and when we should move forward.

I believe this will be one of the most important elections in the history of our country. It is imperative that we make sure we get everyone registered and out to the polls for this election. Not only do we need to address the Office of the President, but we must also address the Senate and other races up and down the ballot.

As a potential State Senator, I am willing to speak and listen to concerns from all sides. It is my responsibility to speak truth to power. Not only will I stand for justice for all, but I also will address your concerns. My concerns have not changed. I will continue to fight for Medicaid Expansion, support for our educators, transparency, and fairness in government.

Statement from Scott Huffman

Scott Huffman is running for US House District 13, against Ted Budd. Here is his message:

Hello, Randolph County. With this being the last newsletter before mail-in voting, I just wanted to share some quick comments.

My friends, you know what the issues are. At every one of our Zoom meetings, we have talked about how the Republicans’ Machiavellian ideology hurts all of us. From COVID-19, to schools, healthcare and Medicaid, jobs and unemployment, and our environment.

I’m here to tell you that it’s not enough to simply chastise Donald Trump, his administration, my Republican opponent, or the Republican Party in general. We must vote.

This election cycle is undoubtedly one of the most important in our history. The 2020 Census will redraw congressional, state, and local maps throughout our great state for the next decade. If we do not get out the vote, we will face another decade of Republican rubbish.

We have great candidates. Cal Cunningham, Roy Cooper, Yvonne Holley, Jen Mangrum, myself, and a host of down ballot candidates who want to serve our communities and North Carolina. We have judicial candidates who will uphold the rule of law, not tear it down. And we have candidates who understand the importance of a good public education to help the dreams of our children come true.

As a candidate for the 13th Congressional District, I am so humbled by the outpouring of support from each and every one of you. During the primary we stood with our candidates. Now, it’s game time. It is paramount that you get out the vote early. My campaign is encouraging early voting and mail-in ballots. I implore you to socially canvas your neighborhood and work with your neighbors while wearing a mask. Make phone calls, send emails and postcards, and help us get the vote out. Word-of-mouth is still the best communication regardless of the technology we have at our disposal. We need a North Carolina working class voice in Washington, D.C.

Please stay safe during these troubling times. Thank you and God bless.

Statement from Brooke Schmidly

Brooke Schmidly is running to retain her seat as District Court Judge. Her opponent is Barron Thompson. Here is her message:

I was appointed by Governor Cooper to the district court bench in May 2019 and I am running to retain my seat. I have 20 years of legal experience, am a former federal prosecutor, have defended criminal cases in NC, and practiced for 10 years with a focus on civil and family law. I am also a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force Reserves, having served six years on active duty and 14 years in the reserves. In short, I have varied experience in all areas of the law, and, before seeking this job, I worked in every type of legal case that I am now called upon to decide. Before my appointment, I litigated cases nearly every week before judges and juries in Randolph County, and prior to that in courts in the Air Force.

My opponent cannot say the same. He has no criminal experience and almost no experience in cases involving children and families. I don't believe he has ever tried a jury trial. In over a year on the bench, I have never seen him handle any case other than to announce that another lawyer was coming to handle it or to pass up uncontested paperwork. You can ask court staff, lawyers, and other judges ... I am certain they will confirm this information. Court records verify it easily. In short, while I have worked for two decades to prepare for this job, my opponent apparently believes that his political party affiliation needs to be his only qualification.

My question is this: If your child were sick and needed surgery, would you pick a surgeon with no experience who was a member of your political party? Or would you pick the most qualified and experienced person to operate on your child without a care in the world as to their party affiliation? District Court judges are the only elected officials who can limit your rights as a parent, who can tell you when you can see your children, and what decisions you get to make for them. And they are the only elected official who can sever the relationship between parent and child. It is just too important to learn on the job.

After my appointment I was encouraged to change party affiliations so that I could be elected more easily. I refused to do so for a number of reasons, one important one being that I am going to tell the truth. I will

not deceive people to keep this job. However, in order to have any chance at keeping this job, I need your help. How can you help? Let me put yard or large signs on property you own in the county. Many visible signs send a message of support that is so important. It would be particularly helpful to have those of you in the Liberty, Archdale, Trinity, and Ramseur allow me to put up signs. Next, please talk to your friends and family about me and my opponent. Many people have gone through a custody action and know how important it is to have a good judge. Talk to those people, regardless of their party affiliation. Third, work with the party and all of the candidates to ensure that every single Democrat in Randolph County votes! Last, if you are willing to volunteer in any way, donate to my campaign, or if you want to learn more about me, please get in touch with me at electbrooke-schmidly@gmail.com. And, check out my website ElectBrooke.com and my candidate Facebook page, *Committee to Elect Brooke Schmidly*.



The Blue Wave Gala — Quarantine Edition

The Blue Wave Gala will happen on August 22 ... on Zoom! Since this year's fundraiser is a virtual event, the individual ticket price is only \$25. Participants will receive a Zoom link invitation to a social hour, from 6-7 pm, and the main event, from 7-8:30 pm. Our two keynote speakers will be Jessica Holmes, Candidate for Commissioner of Labor, and Judge Chris Brook, NC Court of Appeals. Judge Brook was appointed by Governor Cooper and is running to keep his seat on the Court of Appeals this year.

Music will be performed by Megan Crotty, Ed Bunch, Mike Hardeman, Jamal Moore, and LeAnna Eden. Auction participants will use the chat box to make bids. If you wish to purchase a sponsorship or donate an item for the auction, please contact (336) 629-9003 or RCDPfund@gmail.com. Watch your mailbox and check out the RCDP website or Facebook page for more information as the date approaches. This is going to be a fun and unique event in support of the Randolph Democratic Party and the values we hold dear.

Racial Justice Statement from Randolph County Democratic Party Leadership

When a Black person can be brutally murdered by law enforcement, there is something horribly wrong in our nation. When a Black mother has to have “the talk” with her adolescent children because they could be killed for one wrongly-perceived move, there is something wrong in our nation. When Black suspects are given higher bail rates and longer sentences than their white counterparts, there is something wrong in our nation. When a Black patient is not given the same care and respect as a white patient, there is something wrong in our nation. When Black children are not encouraged or given the tools they need to flourish in school, there is something wrong in our nation.

Centuries of overt and systemic racism have stained our nation and created a mountainous barrier to justice. Although there have been some improvements, we have a steep path to climb to truly achieve an America that works for everyone with opportunity and justice for all.

Black Lives Matter to us. We pledge to you that we will continue that fight and support the reforms needed. We expect our candidates to do the same.

Thanks to the valiant efforts of protesters nationwide, we are finally seeing the first steps toward change. Locally, those protesters held their own and kept their calm, even in the face of racist taunts by militant neo-Confederates and armed business owners. The Black Lives Matter protesters were dedicated, resilient, and focused on needed changes. Our protests in Asheboro were nonviolent and there was no property damage despite rumors being spread by irresponsible Facebook groups and other instigators.

We have seen the beginning of policy change at the local and state levels. The Asheboro Police Department has ordered body cameras and is training its officers on methods compliant with “Eight Can’t Wait.” Governor Cooper has formed the North Carolina Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice and given it the task of eliminating racial bias in our criminal justice system. N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Cheri Beasley launched the Faith and Justice Alliance to address the legal needs of underserved communities. The North Carolina Supreme

Court recently struck down the NC Legislature’s attempt to retroactively repeal Racial Justice Act decisions that would have affected nearly 140 cases where race had been a factor in a death penalty sentence.

Our local Democratic Party supports all of these reforms. But they are only the first of many steps our nation must take to achieve justice. Black Lives Matter to us. We pledge to you that we will continue that fight and support the reforms needed. We expect our candidates to do the same. As we remember our national hero Rep. John Lewis, let us get in “good trouble” and do our part “to create an even more fair, more just society.”



Calendar

(All meetings and events will be conducted online due to COVID-19.)

August 4 at 7 pm — **Randolph County Democratic Party Executive Committee Meeting:** Committee members (which include precinct chairs and vice-chairs) should have received an email or phone call with the links for this meeting. The meeting is also open to other registered Democrats in Randolph County. To attend, email rcdp.CountyChair@gmail.com or leave a message at (336) 629-9003.

August 22 from 6 - 8:30 pm — **12th Annual Defending Democracy Blue Wave Gala** (see article on page 4).

TBD — **Randolph County Democratic Women** will have a meeting in August at a date to be determined. For more information, contact democraticwomenrc@gmail.com.

September 1 at 7 pm — **Randolph County Democratic Party Executive Committee Meeting** (see details for August 4, above).

September 26 at 10:30 am — Meeting of **Randolph County Democratic Women**. To attend, contact democraticwomenrc@gmail.com.

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:

On June 9, Gov. Roy Cooper established the Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice. Attorney General Josh Stein will co-lead this task force alongside North Carolina Supreme Court Associate Justice Anita Earls. The Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice will consider and implement measures that can bring about meaningful change in the criminal justice system. They will review law enforcement recruitment, training, and accountability, as well as court issues including pre-trial release and use of fines and fees.

They will identify ways to build genuine trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve and protect. In the coming months, they will submit a report to Governor Cooper with concrete actions our state needs to take to confront racial bias in criminal justice. People across our state and our nation are joining together to say these acts of unlawful police violence and these inequities can no longer stand. We must ensure that this task force harnesses this widespread energy into meaningful, lasting change that helps us heal, because Black lives matter.

North Carolina can, and must, be a leader in identifying and overcoming the systemic racism in our criminal justice system that kills Black people. Stein looks forward to continuing to share more information about his office's work to improve policing and racial equity in our state.



Volunteers Needed

The Coordinated Campaign (Biden-Cunningham-Cooper) is looking for phone bank volunteers to call Randolph County voters. If you want to help, sign up on Mobilize at mobilize.us/ncdp/event/288104/.

Note from Treasurer Lois Bohnsack

Many, many thanks for everyone who has supported the party financially over the past three years that I have been treasurer. Each year, our revenue exceeded our expenses, and we developed a healthy reserve (\$6,088 on June 30, 2020). Our funds are used to promote the vital role that the Randolph County Democratic Party plays in the community. In addition, this year the Executive Board was able to approve financial support for our 2020 candidates, much to their delight! The pandemic has impacted all of us personally and also the party's fundraising ability. In analyzing our finances through the end of the year, I project that our expenses will exceed our revenue.

Projected Revenue	\$ 6,905
Projected Expenses	(\$11,360)
Deficit	(\$ 4,455)

The Executive Board has taken steps to reduce expenses, and we do have the reserve to draw upon. In past years, we have netted almost \$5,000 on the annual Gala. This year our usual Gala had to be cancelled; instead we will have a virtual Blue Wave Gala on August 22. (See details on page 4.) As your treasurer, I encourage everyone to support the Gala as a sponsor, participant, and/or as a bidder for one of the auction baskets. Your participation will help us maintain a healthy reserve.

In-person Meetings at HQ

Because we want to protect our RCDP family from COVID-19, our HQ will be open on a "By Appointment Only" basis until further notice. If you need to visit HQ in person, set up a meeting by calling (336) 629-9003, emailing RandolphDem@gmail.com, or sending us a Facebook message.

Please note that masks will be required for in-person meetings.

We look forward to seeing everyone in person again, so please wear your masks, wash your hands, and let's get safely to the other side of this pandemic. Thank you for your support!