



We'll Make it Through Together, Part II

by Susie Scott
Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

Inside this issue, you'll find messages from candidates, information about voting in November, and other news. Following the guidelines set by our state party, and to protect our community and volunteers, our headquarters will remain closed until further notice and no in-person events will be held. But you can still get in touch with us by emailing RandolphDem@gmail.com or leaving a message at (336) 629-9003. And you can find the latest party news on our website and Facebook page. Stay safe, stay strong, and stay healthy as we navigate the latest phase of reopening.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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- Address: Democratic Headquarters, 114 Sunset Ave., Asheboro, NC 27203 (henceforth referred to as HQ)
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- 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)

Absentee Voting to Increase

Due to the pandemic, we should see an increase in mail-in ballots for the November election. Absentee ballots make up 3.5% of the vote during a normal year. This year they're expected to increase to 20-50% of the vote. We need to spread the word that if voters are concerned about voting in person, they can mail in an absentee ballot request beginning now for the November election. Earlier will be better than later this year.

Any registered Randolph County voter may request an absentee ballot. At <http://www.randolphcountync.gov/Departments/Elections/Absentee-Voting> you will find all the information you need, including the paperwork that must be filled out and mailed back in order to receive an absentee ballot.

The ballots are not printed yet, but you can get on the list to receive one. Proposed legislation may make the process easier as the November election approaches.

Support the U.S. Postal Service

Recently, the United States Postal Service has come under attack by the current administration in Washington, D.C. Now more than ever it is important that the post office be able to function seamlessly and without interference. Please contact your representatives in Congress to tell them it is imperative for them to support the post office.



Senator Richard Burr
(202) 224-3154



Senator Thom Tillis
(202) 224-6342



Representative Mark Walker
(202) 225-3065

Statement from Scott Huffman

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

The Money Side of this Pandemic

I have talked with voters in the 13th Congressional District since this pandemic started, many from Randolph County. I appreciate every single Democrat, Republican, and unaffiliated voter who has given me suggestions and feedback.

As we enter phase two of Gov. Cooper's outlined response to the pandemic, I understand the stress and anxiety many of you are facing and the economic impact this pandemic has caused. As a small business owner with a wife and three kids, I feel your stress because it is the stress my family and I live with every day. These are uncertain times.

I would like to share a few facts about my opponent, Ted Budd, as we approach the November election. Mr. Budd voted against the first CARE stimulus package. He thought it was wasteful spending. And, he said he voted against the HEROES ACT because he thought it was a "bad idea."

Randolph County is on the verge of losing a hospital; a hospital that would have significantly benefited from Medicaid expansion. Mr. Budd's vote against the HEROES ACT was a vote against all those on the frontlines of this pandemic.

Mr. Budd does not mind sending billions of dollars to Israel. Nor does he mind sponsoring and supporting economic incentives for Wall Street and his top five corporate bank donors. I do not support big corporate bailouts when so many in my district are in financial straits. And perhaps, in these stressful times of financial uncertainty, it would be better to keep our money here at home. I do not think we should be sending billions of dollars overseas when we have hungry children right here in North Carolina.

We are at a crossroads. It is imperative that we vote for representatives who will serve the interests of working-class men and women. We need to stop electing millionaires to Congress who do not understand working-class issues. I am not a millionaire. I am a middle-class small business owner and a Navy veteran with a family who understands working-class issues.

If you will help and support my campaign and elect me to Congress, I promise that I will work every single day to help the working-class men and women of the 13th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Statement from Jane Ledwell-Gant

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

There has been a lot of discussion concerning the opening of local industries, religious sites and the wearing of masks. I can appreciate everyone wanting to get back to life as it was. The truth is that life will be very difficult to get back to without knowing exactly what we are dealing with. This is where we must listen to the experts.

I personally miss my church family, but not to the extent of possibly carrying a dreadful disease that could harm others. This is when we must leave it to the scientists to lead us through this difficult time. There are times in our lives when we must accept changes and be willing to sacrifice some of our conveniences to protect others. That brings me to the wearing of a mask. It is not the most comfortable item, but I wear one not only to protect myself but also to protect others. Is that too much to ask of our community? Each time I read the daily count of those infected, I wonder if someone I see without a mask may be carrying the coronavirus.

They say patience is a virtue. I think each of us could practice a little of this. Please be patient and do the right thing. The mask you wear could save a life. We can get through this if we all work together. I would like to live to see my church family and to know I did all I could to ensure that I am practicing safety measures in public and at home.

As our local industries reopen, we should make it a point to patronize those businesses. They are the heart of our community and we want them all to succeed. Please be safe and do wear your mask. If not for yourself, do it for your loved ones.

Volunteers Needed

Currently we are seeking volunteers who are Notary Publics in the event that someone wishing to vote with an absentee ballot needs a witness to their vote. If you are interested, please get in touch with us soon.

Additionally, if you are interested in working at the polls in November, please contact Melissa Johnson at the Randolph County Board of Elections: (336) 318-6900.

Statement from Susie Scott

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

As we gradually open up, we need to protect each other. When I'm out of my home and car, I carry hand sanitizer, wear a mask, and stay six feet away from others. Our county and state health departments and the CDC agree that we protect each other by staying home when possible and following the three W's when we are out and about: wear a mask, wait six feet back, and wash your hands often. We should also consider people working during this pandemic. They are working to put food on their table (and often yours). Protect them by respecting guidelines on their signs and websites in addition to the three W's.

Over the past month, Randolph County has seen an increase in cases. First, let me commend those businesses who are requiring their employees to wear masks and enforcing safe distancing. As a customer, I appreciate that. Thank you! But some businesses are not providing personal protective equipment. Others are not requiring that their employees wear it. If they, or members of their family, gets sick, many employees here cannot afford health insurance, and it is not offered for some jobs.

Our legislature has failed to expand Medicaid coverage even for those affected by COVID-19. This hurts our workers and it also hurts our local hospital forcing them to absorb the cost for uninsured patients who cannot pay for their treatment. Our working families who earn between 80% and 130% of the poverty level deserve access to affordable medical insurance. And our taxpayers have already paid for that coverage even though our current legislators will not let us benefit from it. That they would deny that coverage in the middle of a pandemic speaks volumes about their priorities.

In conclusion, I would like to give a shout out to Our Daily Bread, our school systems, the Randolph County Senior Center, and other nonprofits who have been providing meals for people in need during the pandemic. Stay safe out there, be kind, and look out for each other.

Reviews

Gaslighting, Recognize Manipulative and Emotionally Abusive People – and Break Free by Stephanie Moulton Sarkis, Ph.D.

Sarkis writes, “gaslighters use your own words against you, plot against you, lie to your face, deny your needs, show excessive displays of power, try to convince you of ‘alternate facts’, turn family and friends against you — all with the goal of watching you suffer, consolidating their power, and increasing your dependence on them.” We should oppose Trump for his gaslighting tactics.

—reviewed by Bob Williams



District Convention News

The NC 13th District Convention took place on May 16, at 10 am, on Zoom. Delegates to the convention cast their votes for the District 13 delegates to the National Convention. Videos statements by the candidates for state and federal office were shown. These included Scott Huffman, who is running against Ted Budd for U.S. Representative in District 13. Other candidates were:

Roy Cooper, Governor
 Yvonne Lewis Holley, Lt. Governor
 Cal Cunningham, U.S. Senate
 Elaine Marshall, Secretary of State
 Ronnie Chatterji, State Treasurer
 Dr. Jen Mangrum, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
 Beth Wood, State Auditor
 Jenna Wadsworth, Commissioner of Agriculture
 Jessica Holmes, Commissioner of Labor
 Wayne Goodwin, Insurance Commissioner
 Cheri Beasley, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
 Mark Davis, Supreme Court
 Lucy Inman, Supreme Court
 Chris Brook, Court of Appeals
 Tricia Shields, Court of Appeals

Remembering Frank Wells

We lost a dear friend and party supporter recently. Frank Wells Jr. passed away suddenly on April 12. Frank was known for his compassion, his humility, and his never-ending quest for justice and mercy. He served on the Center for Death Penalty Litigation Board for many years. In 2018, he and his law partner Jon Megerian were awarded the J. Kirk Osborn Award for their work advocating for death penalty defendants. Frank was also an advocate for racial justice. This February, he argued before the NC State Supreme Court, urging them to acknowledge and confront racial discrimination against African-American jurors. Frank is greatly missed. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. If you would like to honor Frank's work, you may send a donation to the Center for Death Penalty Litigation at 123 West Main Street, Suite 700, Durham, NC 27701. Please indicate that your donation is "in memory of Franklin E. Wells Jr." All donations to CDPL are tax-deductible.

Scholarship Winners Announced

The scholarship committee of the Democratic Women of Randolph County is pleased to announce that **Sophia Zheng** of Archdale, a Trinity High School senior, and **Marlene Deloya-Jaimes** of Ramseur, an Eastern Randolph High School senior, are winners of its 2019-20 scholarship competition. Zheng and Deloya-Jaimes were chosen based on the quality of their essays, their political and/or elections involvement, their experience as volunteers, and their other public engagement or employment. Zheng will attend UNC-Chapel Hill in the fall, and Deloya-Jaimes will attend UNC Greensboro. Interested people can follow "Democratic Women of Randolph County, NC" on Facebook.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Judge Brooke Schmidly and family on the arrival of a baby boy!

Calendar (*All meetings will be conducted online due to COVID-19.*)

June 2 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.

June 6 at 10 am — **NCDP State Executive Committee Meeting:** SEC members should have received an email or card with a link to register from Lorenzo Pedro.

June 6 at 1 pm — **State Convention:** Randolph County Democrats who were delegates to the District Convention were also voted in as delegates to the State Convention. Check your email and look for a postcard for registration information.

June 8 at noon — **Soil and Water Candidate filing begins.**

TBD — **The Randolph County Democratic Women** will have a meeting in June at a date to be determined. In the meantime, you can reach us at democraticwomenrc@gmail.com.

July 6 at noon — **Soil and Water Candidate filing ends.**

July 7 at 7 pm — **Randolph County Democratic Executive Committee Meeting**

Survey Results

A poll published on RCDP's Facebook page on May 19th asked: "Who do you trust to phase in reopening in Randolph County? Governor Cooper or the Randolph County Commissioners?" There were 37 responses to the question. Of the 37 responses, only one person, identifying as a "progressive Democrat," indicated they would trust the Randolph County Commissioners rather than Governor Cooper. Twenty of those responding identified as "progressive Democrats," eight as "moderate Democrats," one as "middle of the road," two as "unaffiliated," two as "having nothing in common with either Democrats or Republicans," and one as a "health professional." Three did not comment.