



Now it's up to us

by Susie Scott
Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

This year began with one of the most ominous threats to our democracy that we have faced since the Civil War. On January 6, former President Trump hit a new low in a career built on lies, misdirection, and fear when he incited an attack on the Capitol. It was an attempt to retain his power by disrupting the process of certifying the Electoral College votes. Even after legislators had to barricade in place for hours until the ransacking mob was dispersed (by a joint effort from the Capitol Police, the Metropolitan Police Department, and the National Guard), Trump's more brazen GOP supporters in Congress furthered his lies by objecting to the certification of the 2020 Election. Despite their unconstitutional and treasonous efforts, Biden's victory was finally certified after hours of debate that lasted until 3 am. Trump's siege on the Capitol has now resulted in six deaths as one more law enforcement officer who responded to the scene that day has committed suicide.

Check our Facebook page and website often for updates!

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
- Headquarters is currently open by appointment only.

(Paid for by the Randolph County Democratic Executive Committee and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. c 2021)

Contrast that with the messages of hope and calls for unity during the Inauguration on January 20.

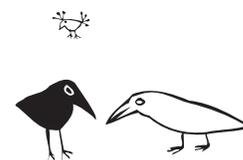
It started with Senator Amy Klobuchar: "We pledge today never to take our democracy for granted. As we celebrate its remarkable strength, we celebrate its resilience, its grit. We celebrate the ordinary people in our nation who do extraordinary things."

We heard messages of unity from President Joe Biden: "Today, on this January day, my whole soul is in this: Bringing America together. Uniting our people. And uniting our nation. I ask every American to join me in this cause."

Amanda Gorman closed the midday ceremony with her poem "The Hill We Climb." Her poem was the one our nation needed to hear. It encouraged us to "leave behind a country better than the one we were left with" and ended with a message of hope and action, "the new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."

Later that evening, we heard from Vice President Kamala Harris during the "Celebrate America" special: "This is what President Joe Biden has called upon us to summon now. The courage to see beyond crisis. To do what is hard, to do what is good, to unite, to believe in ourselves, believe in our country, believe in what we can do together."

They were all messages of perseverance, messages of hope, messages of unity. They were messages of a new day. Now it's up to us.



Precinct Meetings – how you can make a difference in the next election!

In last year's election, Chief Judge Cheri Beasley lost her seat by 401 votes. We have 100 counties in N.C., so that's just a bit more than four votes per county that would have put her over the top. "I feel like I could have found four more votes in Randolph County and wish I had made just a couple more phone calls or left material at a few more doors," said Susie Scott, RCDP President. "We need your help to ensure we never lose a close race like this again, and it all begins in your precinct."

Precincts are the foundation that our county party is built on — it's where our volunteers come from and where elections take place. The precinct meeting is where you can meet other people in your community who care about the same issues that you do. This year, we need all Randolph County Democrats to attend their precinct meeting to elect your precinct officers and map out the direction our party will take over the next two years.

How will the meetings be held? Due to COVID-19, the meetings will be held on Zoom this year. Attendance on your computer is the easiest way to participate, but you also can call in using a phone.

What should you expect at the meeting? The meetings usually last about an hour. We are still scheduling each precinct, but all of the meetings will take place between Saturday, March 6 and Saturday, March 20. You can sign up for your meeting at tinyurl.com/y3hpgf2m or by calling (336) 629-9003. Each precinct must have at least five people present to elect officers for 2021-2023, so we need everyone on deck. You also can present and vote on resolutions that will then go to the County Convention.

Who can serve as a precinct officer? Any registered Democrat living in the precinct can be a precinct officer. Precinct officers are elected at the organizing meeting by the other precinct members. The only exception is that poll workers paid by the Randolph County Board of Elections cannot also be Democratic Party precinct officers. (But they can be delegates to their precinct meeting as well as county, district, and state conventions.)

The precinct officer positions are:

- *Chair*: Builds relationships with community members and leaders from other local coalitions. Encourages other local people to get involved with the party. Also connects the precinct to the county party and represents them at County Executive Committee meetings.
- *Vice Chair*: Supports the Chair in recruiting, retaining, and mobilizing Democratic support in the community. Also represents the precinct at County Executive Committee meetings.
- *Secretary/Treasurer*: Keeps records of precinct meetings and files them with the county party. If money is collected by the precinct, records donor information and transfers money to the county party which will deposit and disburse funds according to State Election Finance Law.

Will I be asked for a donation? We usually ask for a voluntary donation to help with our sustaining fund fees. Sustaining fund "dues" are paid to the state party to purchase access to their voter database and help pay for training, materials, and other support provided to us. The amount we owe is based on the number of registered voters in our county. We are waiting to find out the exact amount due after the February State Executive Committee (SEC) meeting, but it usually runs somewhere between \$1,500 and \$2,000. Any donations we collect over our sustaining fund fees will remain in our general fund where it will be used for rent and utilities, communications and outreach, programs, or candidate support. Because we're not meeting in person, we'll take voluntary donations online and by mail this year. An envelope for that purpose is included in this newsletter.



All precinct meetings will take place between Saturday, March 6 and Saturday, March 20. You can sign up for your meeting at tinyurl.com/y3hpgf2m or by calling (336) 629-9003.

Democratic Women organization changes

The Democratic Women of Randolph County met on January 23 on Zoom. The attending membership voted to dissolve this Democratic Women's chapter. Because membership and participation have been declining in recent years, we believe that we can be more effective and inclusive by evolving into a committee under the umbrella of the Randolph County Democratic Party, which welcomes the participation of all genders.

This new outreach committee will work in tandem with the RCDP Fundraising Committee so that we may continue offering scholarships to college-bound high school seniors, as well as offer financial help to the Randolph County Democratic Party when needed. We still plan to hold our annual bake sale fundraiser, though due to COVID-19 safety concerns, it may be necessary to change the way we market our products. We also plan to continue in-person fellowship breakfast meetings as soon as we are safely able to do so.

Thank you all for your help over the years. We will keep everyone updated on new developments. We look forward to continuing to work with all our old friends and hopefully some new ones. Our next meeting will be at 10:30 am, April 24, on Zoom.



Reviews

The Yellow House by Sarah M. Broom

This is a unforgettable memoir, about a Black family, their home, the history of New Orleans, and so much more. It reads like a mystery story, but you know the heartbreaking ending.

— reviewed by Martha Crotty

Share a review or an opinion

Send your review or opinion piece to rcdp.newsletter@gmail.com. There is a 50 word limit for reviews, and a 300 word limit for opinions. We will publish as many as space allows. Please be aware that articles will be edited if necessary for space and clarity. Thank you.

Seven voted to overturn election results

Seven of North Carolina's Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives voted to overturn the election results showing Joe Biden's presidential victory. Trump, before and after Election Day, repeatedly claimed that the election was fraudulent. These seven individuals are not fit to represent the people of North Carolina. They have attacked democracy and violated the U.S. Constitution, as well as their commitment to the people of our state, and should be held accountable. You may wish to contact them to express your outrage/disappointment at their behavior:

Representative Gregory Murphy

North Carolina 3rd Congressional District
313 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3415 gregmurphy.house.gov

Representative Virginia Foxx

North Carolina 5th Congressional District
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-2071 foxx.house.gov

Representative David Rouzer

North Carolina 7th Congressional District
2439 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-2731 rouzer.house.gov

Representative Richard Hudson

North Carolina 8th Congressional District
Rayburn House Office Building
45 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3715 HUDSON.house.gov

Representative Dan Bishop

North Carolina 9th Congressional District
132 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-1976 danbishop.house.gov

Representative Madison Cawthorn

North Carolina 11th Congressional District
102 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-6401 cawthorn.house.gov

Representative Ted Budd

North Carolina 13th Congressional District
103 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4531 budd.house.gov

Randolph County COVID-19 Report

In her January 26 press briefing, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Secretary Mandy Cohen, MD, stated that COVID-19 vaccine providers in North Carolina had exhausted 95% of the state's supply of first doses. Federal vaccine arrives each week, but is extremely limited. Also, providers may have only 48 hours notice of the amount of vaccine they will receive and when it will arrive, making it very challenging to schedule and administer doses. This has caused frustration for some who have faced difficulty getting an appointment for a vaccination. As of January 26, Randolph Health had given 3,081 vaccinations.

Dr. Cohen emphasized that vaccine providers should use all first doses received each week before the next weekly shipment arrives. That may mean redistributing some doses of vaccine. She suggested that vaccine providers maintain a waiting list so they can respond quickly when notified a shipment is coming in.

N.C. officials are shifting the state's COVID-19 vaccination distribution toward mass clinics. For example, nearly 16,000 people were vaccinated recently at Charlotte Motor Speedway, leading to frustration for some hospital systems that had their anticipated vaccine allocations postponed or cancelled. Dr. Cohen responded, "As long as we are getting such a small amount of vaccine as a state, there are going to be challenges and shortages as we try to ensure equitable access to vaccine, while getting shots into arms quickly. We understand this is hard for providers who are doing everything right."

The NCDHHS has launched a new tool to help people find their vaccine at findmygroup.nc.gov, and a new vaccine dashboard at covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/vaccinations where you can track shipments of vaccine to N.C. Also, NCDHHS and the N.C. Department of Transportation announced funding for local transit agencies across the state to fund free rides for anyone needing transport to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. In Randolph County, contact RCATS at (336) 629-7433 to arrange a ride.

Each day, things change as we go forward to attempt to get the virus under control. Please check often with local, trusted, scientifically-based websites to get the latest information about COVID-19 vaccines.

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

February 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 all registered Democrats in Randolph County. To attend, email rcdp.CountyChair@gmail.com or leave a message at (336) 629-9003.

February 27 — Winter **SEC Meeting**

March 2 at 7 pm — **RCDP Executive Committee Meeting**

March 6 - 20 — **Precinct Organization Meetings**

April 6 at 7 pm — **RCDP Executive Committee Meeting**

April 10 — **County Convention** (April 17 make-up date if needed)

April 24 at 10:30 am — **Outreach Committee Meeting** (formerly Democratic Women)

May 22 — **Congressional District Convention**

August 7 — **Summer SEC Meeting**

Thank the Capitol custodial staff

Recently, teacher Sharon McMahan began a campaign on social media to thank Capitol custodial staff. On January 6, these hard working individuals immediately began cleaning up the mess left behind by rioters so that Congress could resume certification of the electoral college vote. McMahan's hope is that thousands of people will join the effort to show gratitude to these employees. If you would like to send thanks, here are the addresses and email addresses.

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Architect of the Capitol
US Capitol
Room SB-15
Washington, DC 20515
communications@aoc.gov