



Diversity and the Art of Gardens and Politics

by Diane Hubbard, Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

It's pouring down rain as I write this. I'm sitting at Democratic Headquarters, finding it hard to get motivated to do anything "party-adjacent." I have procrastinated until I am starting to feel the familiar squeeze of panic that comes with a deadline looming. And yet here I sit, thinking about gardening. I'm thinking about growing and enjoying the healthy fruits of (mostly Jay's) labor. So, I'll write about that.

Jay and I have had a garden every year we've been married, no matter where we've lived. We grow the staples like tomatoes, squash, and okra. We also like to try new things. This year it's mizuna, wasabi radishes, and multicolored heirloom corn. We plan, we compost, we rotate what goes in, and where. Because of Jay's mindfulness, he ensures that the next year's garden will be stronger and more prolific. Movement and variety are the keys. If he planted the same way every year, without rotation, without amending the soil, without going forward with a plan, our garden would eventually grow weaker and less productive.

My grandpa was a tobacco farmer over near Liberty. Like so many others around here, I worked for him in the summer, planting, priming, suckering, irrigating, and fumigating with pesticides. Tobacco is a heavy feeder. To have a consistent crop yield every year, you need to continually add fertilizers to the soil, which by the end of the season is depleted and not suitable for planting. But there usually

aren't enough fields to rotate where you plant. Each year the whole process must start anew without giving the soil a chance to rest. This is monoculture. Growing the same species over and over in the same place, without rotation or diversity. That practice increases the potential for the spread of pests and diseases. Without biodiversity, you must treat the crop with more and more chemicals to make it produce and to keep pests at bay. This leads to pollution, groundwater contamination, and many other problems.

So why am I telling you all this? Well, because Randolph County has become a political monoculture. Republicans dominate our local governments. Very few Democrats, or other affiliations, can get elected here. Now we've reached a tipping point, where local Republicans must fertilize their fields with more and more manure, for lack of a better term, to make sure their ideology continues to "produce." They must come up with new nonsensical wedge issues to keep their base fired up and ready to vote for them, even when the policies they propose would be detrimental to those voters' own interests. It makes us weaker when diverse voices can't break through the constant babble of conspiracy theories and scare tactics. Like the monoculture crops mentioned above, lack of diversity and mindful care leads to pollution, toxicity, and fragility.

When you always do what you've always done, you will always get what you've always gotten. Randolph County is proof of that. For nearly 50 years the GOP has dominated this county and we are worse off for it. I'm asking for your help this campaign season. We need volunteers and voters to help us drag our county into the future.

Absentee Ballot Information

We have included an absentee ballot request form with this issue. If you would like to vote by mail, please fill it out and return it to the Randolph County Board of Elections, 1457 N. Fayetteville St., Asheboro, NC 27203. When the primary ballots are available, they will mail your ballot to you.

If you would like to request your absentee ballot online, visit votebymail.ncsbe.gov. At the bottom of the page, there are four options to choose from: Request an Absentee Ballot, Access Military/Overseas Voter Services, Accessible Ballot for visually impaired voters, and Sample Ballot, to see a copy and practice marking your ballot.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 336-629-9003

Email: randolphdem@gmail.com

Newsletter email: randolphcountydems.org

Facebook:

[facebook.com/RandolphCountyDemocraticParty](https://www.facebook.com/RandolphCountyDemocraticParty)

Address: Democratic Headquarters, 224 Sunset Ave., Asheboro, NC 27203 (henceforth referred to as HQ)

Mailing address: Randolph County Democratic Party, P.O. Box 4814, Asheboro, NC 27204

HQ is currently open. Call for hours.

(Paid for by the Randolph County Democratic Executive Committee and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. c2022)



Vote in the Primary Election

In Randolph County, there will only be one race on the Democratic Primary Ballot in May. That's because most of the Democratic candidates are uncontested in the primary. Although you won't see them in May, they'll be on your ballot in November for the General Election. We still need you to vote in the primary because the race on the ballot is for US Senate and we need our best candidate moving forward to November. These are the candidates:

US Senate Primary Candidates

Greg Antoine: greg4nc.com

Cheri Beasley: cheribeasley.com

Chrelle Booker: electchrellebooker.com

James L. Carr: carrjr4senate.com

Robert Colon: robertcolonnc.com

Alyssia Hammond: alysiahammondnc.com

Constance Lov Johnson: constancelovjohnson.com

Tobias LaGrone: ncnewday.com

B. K. Maginnis: maginnis4congress.com

Rett Newton: rettnewton.com

Marcus Williams: williamshouseusa.com

If you are interested in learning more about the Judicial Candidates who will be on the November ballot, here is their contact information:

Contact Information for Judicial Candidates

Gale Adams: judgegaleadams.com

Sam Ervin IV: ervinforjustice.org

Lucy Inman: lucyinmanforjustice.com

Darren Jackson: judgedarrenjackson.com

Brad A. Salmon: judgebradsalmon.com

Carolyn Thompson: carolynthompsonforjudge.com



Volunteers and Organizers Needed!

There is a lot to be done before the midterm elections this November and many hands make light work. We are looking for several volunteers for various jobs and projects this campaign season. Some of these positions include volunteer coordinator, campaign sign management, letter writers, organizers for specific communities/voting blocs, poll watchers, electioneering, door-to-door canvassers, HQ staff, event organizers, and other projects as the need arises.

Please email Diane at rcdp.countychair@gmail.com or visit tinyurl.com/RCDPvolunteer and let us know which project or activity you'd like to help with.

November Election Candidate Statements

Below are statements from several of the candidates who will be on the ballot in the November General Election, along with the office for which they are running. Look for information about more candidates in a future edition of the newsletter.

Ben Clark: US House of Representatives District 9

I am currently serving my fifth term representing District 21 as a member of the NC Senate.

Since retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel from the United States Air Force, I have worked for almost two decades on the Fort Bragg military installation in Cumberland County as a management professional for a major defense contractor. I understand and appreciate the role of our military forces in protecting our nation, and am a staunch advocate of our forces and our veterans.

A native North Carolinian, I was born and raised in Cumberland County. I graduated from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University with a B.S. degree in industrial technology, and received my commission as an Air Force Officer.

I went on to serve a distinguished 20-year career in the Air Force, during which time I earned an MBA from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. During my Air Force career I served in several duty assignments throughout the US and Europe, primarily in the field of information technology.

In Congress, I will pursue a six-point Family First Agenda: (1) A \$15/hour federal minimum living wage because every American worker deserves a living wage. (2) Affordable healthcare for every American. (3) Quality education for every child and young adult by fully funding K-12 education and canceling student debt. (4) Support for small businesses which are the backbone of the American economy. (5) Clean water and air, clean-burning fuels, and reversal of warming trends. (6) Protection of our democracy.

For more information, go to: BenClarkNC.com

Erik Davis: NC House 78

I was born in Asheboro. After graduating from Faith Christian, I went to NC State for Physics and Chemistry and eventually graduated from UNCG with an undergraduate degree in Geography, environmental emphasis. I went on to earn a master's degree in Applied Geography, graduating Magna Cum Laude. While applying for jobs, I was continually given the "too qualified" rhetoric and I ended up at Walmart where I worked for 1.5 years. It was there that I learned just how difficult retail workers have it. Currently, I am a substitute teacher for the Asheboro City Schools. It was in college that I learned how to stand up for my beliefs, how to research and debate, and how to speak in

a public setting, skills I will draw upon if I am elected.

Issues I stand behind include: expanding affordable broadband internet across the state, Medicaid expansion, protection of LGBTQ+ rights, increased funding to schools, working to try to ease adoption red tape and cost, working to reduce our climate impact. Additionally, I will try to understand all constituents and build bipartisanship.

For more information, go to: ErikDavisNCHouse.com

Susie Scott, NC Senate District 70

You may already know me from my work with our local party and the articles I have written previously for the newsletter. Like many other Democratic candidates, I'm running unopposed for the primary. That means you will not see my name on your primary ballot in May, but it will be on the ballot for the election in November.

From 2007-2016, I served as a precinct official with the local Board of Elections. In 2017, I was elected as the Chair of the Randolph County Democratic Party where I served until April 2021. I still volunteer with our county party, serving as a State Executive Committee member, helping with Votebuilder tasks, and recruiting Democratic precinct officials to work on Election Days.

I respect our teachers and appreciate their dedication and work to help their students through difficult circumstances caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. I support increased funding for public schools to ensure that no school is under-resourced, and I would work to see that the legislature funds schools in economically depressed areas as ordered by our courts. I also support Medicaid Expansion which would help our working families and local hospitals as well as provide resources to combat teen suicides and the opioid epidemic. I believe that we need to reexamine how we draw political districts because everyone deserves fair representation.

I would love to hear your thoughts on how we can move forward and what you would like to see for our district and state. You can get in touch with me by emailing Susie@SusieScottForNC.com or calling (336) 626-0433. (If you call, you will be asked to press “#” to get through the robocall screen.) Together, we can make a difference in North Carolina!

For more information go to: SusieScottForNC.com

Sean Walker: Randolph County Sheriff

My priorities include:

1. Drug Crisis and Addiction - Establish a pharmacotherapy-based, Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) program that is mandatory for the incarcerated and free to any citizen seeking help with addiction.
2. Stop Taxing Firearms - Eliminate permit fees for

handgun purchases and eliminate the county portion of CC permit fees.

3. Decriminalize Marijuana - We will no longer charge for the possession of misdemeanor amounts of marijuana for personal use.

4. End Policing for Profit - Eliminate the use of Federal Civil Asset Forfeiture, which violates the due process clause of the 5th Amendment.

5. Drain the Swamp - Replace all personnel above the rank of corporal (exception being patrol officers) and fill those positions based on skill, qualification, and merit by blind application process.

6. Employee Relations - Set minimum starting salary of \$47,751.60 for deputies. Establish 10-hour shifts and a 24-7 rotating work shift for all employees, regardless of rank. All employees given a contract and can only be fired for cause by the County HR Dept.

7. Jail Reform - Release to electronic monitoring all individuals with misdemeanor charges and bonds less than \$2,000. Eliminate all electronic devices at jail. Cancel food service, commissary and Paytel contracts.

8. Crime Intervention - Increase officers on patrol to at least 40 on any given day. Peak periods, minimum 60 officers. Begin replacing Dodge Chargers with White Ford Interceptor Hybrid Utility Vehicles.

For more information, go to: Walker4Sheriff.org



Vigil Held to Remove Monument

A vigil, “Faith Moves Mountains & Monuments,” was held on March 27 at the monument on the Old Courthouse Square. Led by NAACP President Chip Faust, the event was very well attended. Deborah Dicks Maxwell, President of the North Carolina NAACP, was among the dignitaries who spoke to the crowd. Other speeches included prayers and messages from numerous church leaders, as well as messages from various community members. They all touched on the importance of removing the statue from the public square. Although the Randolph County Commissioners voted against moving the monument at their March 7 meeting, it was obvious from the cheers of those attending the vigil that the effort to remove the monument will continue.

Early Voting Offered on Sunday, May 1

We have one Sunday for early voting this year. The Randolph Board of Elections will be using the attendance on Sunday, May 1, as a benchmark to determine whether Sunday voting is worth the time and money it takes to offer it. Because Democrats believe that voting should be made convenient for as many people as possible, we ask you to consider voting on Sunday, May 1, at one of the early voting locations to make sure the BOE knows that it is worth the investment.

Early voting will take place at the following locations:

Randolph County Board of Elections
1457 N. Fayetteville Street, Asheboro

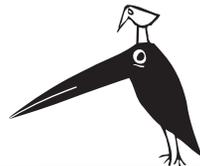
NEW LOCATION:

Braxton Craven Middle School Gym
7037 NC-62, Trinity

Randleman Civic Center
122 Commerce Square, Randleman

Franklinville United Methodist Church
227 W. Main Street, Franklinville

See the calendar, right, for all early voting dates and times.



CALENDAR

(Meetings will be conducted on Zoom unless otherwise noted or announced.)

April 5 at 7 pm — **Randolph County Executive Committee Meeting, open to all registered Democrats in Randolph County.**

April 28 — **Early Voting begins**

Thursday & Friday, April 28 & 29: 8 am - 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 30: closed

Sunday, May 1: 1 pm - 4 pm

Monday-Friday, May 2-6: 8 am - 7:30 pm

Monday-Friday, May 9-13: 8 am - 7:30 pm

Saturday, May 14: 8 am - 3 pm

May 3 at 7 pm — **Randolph County Executive Committee Meeting**

May 14 — **Early Voting ends**

May 15 — **June/July Newsletter deadline**

May 17 — **Primary Election from 6:30 am - 7:30 pm**

May 21 — **District Convention Meetings, venue/time TBA**

Summer SEC / 2022 Convention, TBA (In Person. Location TBA)

Check our Facebook page

(facebook.com/RandolphCountyDemocraticParty)

and website

(randolphcountydems.org)

often for information and updates. We have many opportunities to make a difference in Randolph County in the coming months.

News from the County Convention

The 2022 Randolph County Democratic Convention was called to order on Saturday, March 19, with a quorum of 10 out of the 15 organized precincts present. Included in that count was our three most recently organized precincts: Trinity, Back Creek, and Grant. We heard brief messages from several candidates about their campaigns and positions on issues (please see articles in this issue).

Attendees elected delegates to the 9th District Convention, as well as to the NCDP State Convention. Attendees also selected two members each for the NC House Executive Committees for Districts 54, 70, and 78, and the NC Senate Executive Committee for Districts 25 and 29. We also elected Karen Katula to be our new First Vice Chair. Congratulations, Karen!

We then went over resolutions submitted by the precincts. There were five resolutions accepted. They can be viewed

at randolphcountydems.org/2022-resolutions. A suggestion for one more resolution regarding our support for the Ukrainian people was put forward. Chair Diane Hubbard will write the resolution and present it at the next Executive Committee meeting. Larry Thomas gave us a brief report on the status of our audit by the State Board of Elections. Larry and Diane will be putting forward a new budget at the County Executive Committee meeting on April 5.

Also discussed were donations to the sustaining fund, that may be made at secure.actblue.com/donate/rcdpsustaining, and the upcoming Habitat for Humanity Celebrity Breakfast on April 26 at 8 am. Dale McClain will be sponsoring at least one table at the Habitat Breakfast that he'd like to fill with local Democrats. He has said that if there is more interest, he will reserve more tables. If you would like to attend this breakfast, please email Diane at rcdp.countychair@gmail.com.