

More Elections Changes Coming

NC Senate Bill 747 has passed the Senate and is scheduled to go to the House Committee on Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform next.

- Eliminates the three-day grace period for mailed-in ballots (with the exception of overseas and military ballots). They must be received by the County Board of Elections by the end of voting on Election Day.
- Bans donation of private money for election administration.
- Will result in most voters using same-day registration casting a provisional ballot. The ballot will only count if the voter has a photo ID and two documents from an approved list showing the voter's name and their address. One of the documents can be the photo ID if the voter's current address is on it.
- Extends the time to vote on Election Day in all counties if one county has to extend the time to vote due to equipment malfunction, natural disaster, or other circumstances.

NC Senate Bill 749 has passed the Senate and is also scheduled to go to the House Committee on Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform.

- Will evenly split county and state boards of elections between Democrats and Republicans resulting in more deadlocks.
- Effective immediately, removes the Governor's ability to appoint any board members to the State Board of Elections. All eight members of the State Board of Elections will be appointed by the legislature. Effective 6/1/2024, all four members of county boards will also be appointed by the legislature with the first appointees serving a three-year term to keep appointments on odd-year cycles.
- Effective 7/1/2024, transfers the State Board of Elections to the Secretary of the State, but gives the office no power to direct or supervise the management of the State Board of Elections.
- Changes the appointment of the County Director of Elections from the County Board of Elections to the County Commissioners.
- Changes the administration of emergency powers from the State Director of Elections to the State Board of Elections who must exercise those powers in an open meeting and may not delegate those powers to any individual.
- Effective 7/1/2024, if the State Board of Elections does not fill a vacancy for the State Director of Elections in 30 days, that appointment will be made by the legislature.

NC House Bill 772 is still in the House but has passed Judiciary 1. Its next stop will be the Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

- Provides that any election official who restricts or denies access to a listed poll observer could be charged with a Class 1 misdemeanor.
- Allows observers to move around the voting enclosure to within five feet of the registration tables, ballot tables, and tabulator, and to listen to conversations between voters and poll workers.
- Requires that each voting enclosure contain at least three seats for observers.
- Allows up to three observers from the same political party in the voting enclosure.
- Allows both the county party and the state party to submit a list of appointed observers to the County Director of Elections.

(See the June/July issue of *RanDem News* for more information on voter requirements.)

North Carolina House and Senate Contact Information

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Get on our text messaging list!

If you would like to receive text updates about upcoming RCDP events, please scan the QR code (below) with your phone to be added to our texting list.



CALENDAR

(Meetings will be conducted in person unless otherwise noted or announced.)

August 5, Saturday, 9:30 am: Monthly Breakfast and Executive Committee Meeting at Democratic HQ, 114 Sunset Ave., Asheboro. Final Gala committee meeting. All Democrats and like-minded unaffiliateds are welcome! Bring a breakfast item to share. RSVP here: tinyurl.com/Aug23MM

August 12, Saturday, 5:30 pm: Annual Blue Jeans Gala at GWCCEC

September 9, Saturday, 9:30 am: Monthly Breakfast and Executive Committee Meeting

September 15: October/November Newsletter deadline

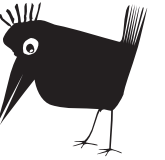
October 7: Fall Festival and Bake Sale

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.

Randolph County Democratic Party

RanDem News

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023, Issue No. 27



 NCDP Chair Anderson Clayton	 Lt. Governor Candidate Ben Clark	 Court of Appeals Judge Allison Riggs
 Insurance Commissioner Candidate David Wheeler	 House Leader Robert Reives, II	 Labor Commissioner Candidate Braxton Winston

15TH ANNUAL DEFENDING DEMOCRACY BLUE JEAN GALA

Turn your passion into action.

Saturday, August 12, 2023, 5:30 pm
George Washington Carver
Community Enrichment Center
950 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Asheboro, NC.

Don't miss our 15th Annual Defending Democracy Blue Jean Gala!

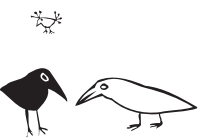
Seats are going fast. If you don't have one yet, please visit [Secure.actblue.com/donate/rcdpgala2023](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/rcdpgala2023) or scan the QR code (above) to reserve yours today. If you prefer to pay by check, please mail it to the P.O. Box listed to the right. This will be a great night of food, fun, and fellowship, all in the pursuit of compassion, inclusiveness, and democracy. Friends, we look forward to seeing you there!

Grant approved

At the July 8 Executive Committee breakfast meeting, Diane Hubbard announced that we were awarded the Rural Power Labs Grant (now called "Contest Every Race"). The grant will provide our organization with \$500 a quarter. Diane said that there is a list of goals to achieve, and we have already completed, or have plans to do, many of them.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Facebook: facebook.com/RandolphCountyDemocraticParty
Social media/contact info in one place: linktr.ee/randolphncdemocrats
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
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. c2023)



Harry Okeke: Asheboro City Council

My name is Harry Okeke, a resident of Asheboro, a husband, a father to an amazing son, and a community activist.

I am running for city council in Asheboro because I have a deep passion for this community and a strong desire to contribute to its growth and well-being. Asheboro is not just a place I call home; it's a place that has shaped me and the values I hold dearly. I moved to North Carolina in May 2022 with my family because we were looking for a community where we can raise our son.

My community welcomed us with an open heart and we are pleased to have good neighbors that care for one another. I had the opportunity to interact with my neighbors to learn more about my community, and I was made to know the community lacks a playground for the kids as most of the kids play on the street which is a big safety concern that needs to be addressed.

One of my primary motivations for running is to ensure that every resident of Asheboro has a voice in the decision-making process. I believe in the power of representation and inclusiveness. I want to be a strong advocate for all members of our community, regardless of their background, economic status, or social standing. By listening to their concerns, needs, and aspirations, I aim to promote policies that will enhance the quality of life for everyone in Asheboro.

Another reason I am running is to foster community development and economic prosperity. I believe that Asheboro has immense untapped potential, and with the right vision and strategic planning, we can create an environment that attracts businesses, creates job opportunities, and promotes sustainable growth. By collaborating with local entrepreneurs, community organizations, and fellow council members, I hope to implement initiatives that will revitalize our neighborhoods, improve infrastructure, and enhance our overall economic landscape.

Furthermore, I am deeply committed to ensuring the well-being of our residents. This includes addressing issues such as affordable housing, health-care access, education, and public safety. I believe that every individual deserves a safe and supportive environment in which they can thrive. By working closely with law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, and community service organizations, I aim to promote initiatives that will enhance public safety, provide quality education, and improve the overall health and well-being of our residents.

Lastly, I am motivated by a genuine love for public service and a desire to make a positive impact. I believe that effective leadership requires transparency, integrity, and a willingness to listen to diverse perspectives. By fostering open communication, engaging in constructive dialogue, and making informed decisions, I hope to build trust and work collaboratively with my fellow council members to address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for Asheboro.

Running for city council is a responsibility I do not take lightly. I am committed to dedicating my time, energy, and expertise to serving the people of Asheboro. Together, let us shape a future that we can all be proud of, where every resident has a fair chance to succeed, and our community thrives in unity and progress. Thank you all, and God bless Asheboro!!



Jay Hubbard: Ramseur Board of Commissioners

My name is Jay Hubbard and I am a candidate for Ramseur's Board of Commissioners this year. I wrestled with this decision, going back and forth many times, but it comes down to this: I've spent the better part of the last four or five years poking the bears in my town. I write a blog called Ramseur Watchdog (ramseurwatchdog.com). Four years ago, the result of my writing was a 100-vote landslide that got us our first female mayor, and the defeat of three incumbent commissioners.

Sadly, today's board is as dysfunctional as its predecessor and I've watched some really bad decisions sail through without 10 minutes of discussion or debate. The current board continues to waste money on high-priced consultants and professional services with no plan to develop sustainable management. We're also several years behind on budget audits, which has an adverse effect on the town's ability to win grants and other needed funding for infrastructure, parks, and other services citizens here value.

I'm probably the most reluctant candidate on the ballot this year, but I've always said that the best person for any leadership position is the one who doesn't want it. I want to ask the uncomfortable but necessary questions and start the conversations that I don't see taking place under the current board. That's why I'm seeking this office.

Gwendolyn S. William: Asheboro City School Board

I am once again asking for your support and trust as I embark upon the re-election process of becoming a member of the ACS School Board. Even though the work is not a "Walk in the Park," there is a need to have someone to balance conservative and progressive view points and I am that person.

Much has been done the last six years — working through the pandemic, renovations, staff development, innovative grants, social and emotional learning as well as staff shortages — all while dealing with learning loss. I applaud the teachers and staff for the work that has been done, but there is yet much work to do.

The work on a four-year strategic plan has just begun. The task is ensuring that we are implementing the plan with fidelity. I will always seek to do what is best for our young people, regardless of their zip code, to ensure that we are student centered and student focused while being mindful of diversity, equity, and inclusion.



Todd Dulaney: Asheboro City School Board

As a candidate for a seat on the Asheboro City Schools Board of Education, I've attended dozens of meetings over the past few years. I'm always inspired by the many uplifting Points of Pride presentations about the amazing programs and accomplishments by our students, and only wish everyone in the entire district could be in that room with me. (I hope that one day the district live streams, or at least records video of the meetings, but that's a note for another day.)

During those meetings, I watch the interaction of board members. The meetings run long, very long at times, but smoothly. While members work together as a board, comments from folks like Gwen Williams show how much individuals care about the welfare of students and their education. Comments and questions made by some members also reveal subtle (and not so subtle) political agendas, as was the case during masking debates during the worst of the Covid crisis.

Knowing that Ms. Williams is the active Democrat on the board of 11, I've asked myself whether my progressive ideals would be welcome and if I belong on the school board. The answers are, of course: we'll see and absolutely.

To prepare myself for the role, I've done research over the past several years to better understand the issues that are truly important to the students and teachers in the district. Real issues, like teachers' pay and trusting them to provide our children with a quality education; equitable education opportunities for all our students; and universal pre-K, to name a few.

I've also looked closely at the job itself, and the role of board



members when it comes to addressing those same issues. From the outside, as a parent, I can rant and rabble rouse about hot-button issues. I can weigh-in critically on what I see and hear in meetings. And I can have an open dialogue with stakeholders, including teachers and other parents.

As a member of a large board, however, especially in the progressive minority, I realize that much of the work I'd be tasked with is less about moving mountains and more about ensuring that there are paths up that mountain for ALL of our students; making sure that no one causes an avalanche inadvertently or on purpose; and that the stewards of that mountain do their jobs.

In more prosaic terms: The board creates policies "that establish standards, accountability and evaluation of essential operations of the school district" — as it says right there in Policy Code 1010: Board Authority and Duties.

What the district's policies on board operations — and there are dozens — do not address, at least that I can find, are standards of expected board member behavior. Sure, there's an ethics policy: Don't break the law, do your job, etc. And perhaps it's assumed that, as adults, board members know how to behave.

Regardless, as every parent and student reads in the Student Code of Conduct, the expectations for behavior could relate to board members: respect, honesty, kindness . . .

If elected, I will uphold the ethical standards of the position, but I also intend to meet the same character traits that I expect from my rising fourth grader, especially this one:

Courage — Having the determination to do the right thing even when others don't; the strength to follow your conscience rather than the crowd; attempting difficult things that are worthwhile; being persistent in pursuit of worthy goals in spite of difficulty, opposition, or discouragement.

Reviews

Jesus the Refugee by D. Glenn Butner, Jr.
—reviewed by Bob Williams

Most people know that Joseph, in a dream, was told to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt because King Herod was searching for Jesus to kill him. When he could not find Jesus, Herod gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were under two years old. After Herod's death, the Holy family returned to Nazareth. Add the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-27) and Peter's experiences of the dream saying, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean" plus the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Centurian, Cornelius, and his household in Caesarea (Acts 10:23b-48). Thus, we understand the depth of Exodus 22: 21's statement, "Do not mistreat an alien or oppress him, for you were aliens in Egypt." Butner examines our refugee policies and finds them not reaching Biblical expectations.

Master, Slave, Husband, Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom by Ilyon Woo (2023)

— reviewed by Martha Crotty

Impeccably researched and beautifully written, this is the story of a couple who made a daring escape from slavery in 1848. It is both horrific and inspiring, but mostly thought-provoking. It is available at the Randolph Public Library.

A newsletter reader suggested the following books: *How to Talk to Anyone, 92 little tricks for big success in relationships* by Leil Lowndes, and *Jeffrey Gitomer's Little Red Book of Selling, 12.5 Principles of Sales Greatness*. They are useful in life and politics.

Share a Review or an Opinion

Send your review/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.