

**Spread the word and VOTE**

by Todd Dulaney

What if there was an election and no one showed up to vote? When it comes to municipal elections, we're getting to that point, not just in Randolph County but everywhere. This September, there was an election in Sanford (which is just a little bigger than Asheboro) and only 24 people showed up in-person to vote (another 161 people voted during early voting). That same day in Charlotte, fewer than 5% of eligible voters showed up to vote.

In 2021, when yours truly first ran for a seat on the Asheboro board of education, almost 4,000 people voted, a relatively "robust" 12.4% turnout. As you'll recall, in that election, seven candidates vied for four "non-partisan" school board seats. You'll also recall that the local republican party made the race very partisan, motivated their base voters with "CRT" bogeymen, and handily won the election for their four candidates.

Progressive/Democratic candidates didn't just lose the overall election, our three candidates finished last in EVERY precinct. In Asheboro South, their top vote-getter got more votes than our three managed to get COMBINED.

And it wasn't just on Election Day: during early voting, their candidates beat our candidates by a more than 2 to 1 margin.

So, what's the use of re-hashing the shellacking of 2021? Well, for one, Randolph County's municipal elections are coming up (November 7) and if we want to stand a chance of winning, Democrats need to show up to vote! Friends of Democrats who are Independents, but who want what is best for their communities need to show up to vote!

We need to spread the word about the Democrats on the ballot: Gwen Williams and me for Asheboro Board of Education, and Harry Okeke for Asheboro City Council.

We also need to get people to commit to a plan to vote. Don't ask IF someone is going to vote, ask WHEN they are going to vote. Early voting at the Board of Elections starts Thursday, October 19, and polls will be open until 7 pm that day. Why not be one of the first to vote and get it over with?!

Keep this newsletter with you and show your friends and family the dates and times for early voting. Point out days that might work for them. Taking kids to see the voting process when they are out of school Monday, October 30, could be fun and educational. Or if they can't get out of work during the week, point to Saturday, November 4, the only weekend day the polls are open this year. If they say they're voting on Election Day, November 7, ask what time! If need be, ask to watch them add it to their calendar.

And if you think all this reminding and cajoling people to get out to vote is a bit over the top and unnecessary, I'm sure those two dozen voters who came out to vote on Election Day in Sanford thought the same thing.

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**Election Information**

**Municipal Elections:** Asheboro Board of Education, Asheboro, Franklinville, High Point, Liberty, Ramseur, Randleman, Seagrove, Staley, Thomasville

**Friday, October 6** Absentee by mail voting begins

**Friday, October 13** Voter registration deadline 5 pm

**Thursday, October 19 through Saturday, November 4:**  
**One-Stop Early Voting at Board of Elections Office**  
**1457 Fayetteville Street, Asheboro**

**Hours: T, T 8-7; M,W,F 8 - 5; Sat 8 - 3**

**Tuesday, October 31** Absentee by mail request deadline 5 pm

**Tuesday, November 7 ELECTION DAY – November Municipal Election Polls are open 6:30 am-7:30 pm**

**Friday, November 11** Veterans Day Holiday

**Tuesday, November 17** County Canvass meeting for November Municipal 11 am

**Filing Period For 2024 Elections**

**Monday, December 4** Candidate Filing period opens 12 noon

**Friday, December 15** Candidate Filing period ends 12 noon



**CALENDAR**

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

**October 7, Saturday, 9 am - 6 pm: Asheboro Fall Festival and Bake Sale,**

**October 7, Saturday, 12 noon - 6 pm: Bush Hill Hometown Jamboree, Archdale**

**NO October Breakfast Meeting**

**November 4, Saturday, 9:30 am: Monthly Breakfast and Executive Committee Meeting at Democratic HQ,** 114 Sunset Ave., Asheboro. All Democrats and like-minded unaffiliateds are welcome! Bring a breakfast item to share. RSVP here: [tinyurl.com/Aug23MM](https://tinyurl.com/Aug23MM)

**November 15: December/January Newsletter deadline**

**December 2, Saturday, 9:30 am: Monthly Breakfast Meeting at Democratic HQ**

Check our Facebook page ([facebook.com/RandolphCountyDemocraticParty](https://facebook.com/RandolphCountyDemocraticParty)) and website ([randolphcountydems.org](https://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

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2023, Issue No. 28



**Municipal Elections Are Important!**

by Diane Hubbard, Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

It's nearly Fall in an odd numbered year. You know what that means? Municipal elections! I don't want to hear any moaning and groaning. Everyone thinks municipals aren't sexy enough to warrant much attention, but I disagree with that notion. Municipals are vitally important. The folks who sit on your City Councils and Boards of Education affect your everyday life in ways that are much more direct than officials at the state and national levels. How so, you ask? Let me count the ways!

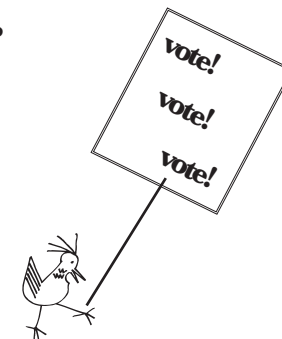
**First**, and maybe most importantly, municipal elections are grassroots democracy at work. People running for municipal offices are quite literally your neighbors. You see them at school, in church, and at the grocery store. Nowhere else can you get that level of access to the people making decisions about the issues and policies that affect your life. They are living life right beside you and see the needs of your community firsthand.

**Second**, municipal governments control budgets for local programs and services, including education, public safety, and infrastructure projects. Residents of the municipality elect the officials who will be responsible for managing financial resources wisely and transparently. If these folks are found to not be properly performing the duties they're charged with, it is much easier to hold them accountable because they are right there, living in your community.

**Third**, participating in municipal elections fosters civic engagement and community involvement. It encourages residents to inform themselves about local issues, attend public meetings, and actively contribute to the decision-making process. Who doesn't want to have a say-so in what's going on in their community?

**And finally**, municipal elections allow for tailored solutions to address the unique needs of a specific community. Can you imagine if we had to wait for the state legislature to make all our local policy decisions for us? We'd never get anything done. More on that, at right.

**I cannot overemphasize how important it is for you to vote in the 2023 municipal elections.** If you live in a town or city that is having elections this year, please get out and vote. If you need a ride during early voting or on Election Day, RCDP would be happy to provide you with one. Leave a message at 336-629-9003 or email [randolphdem@gmail.com](mailto:randolphdem@gmail.com) to schedule a time and date.



**And, it is Crucial for us to Elect Democrats at the State Level**

As Journalist P.J. O'Rourke once said, "The Republicans are the party that says government doesn't work and then they get elected and prove it." He must have been thinking about North Carolina's current legislature, specifically NC House Speaker Tim Moore and Senate Leader Phil Berger. In the 13 years since Republicans gained the majority in both houses of the General Assembly, they have chipped away at the concepts and ideals that make us Americans.

It has been 175+ days since Gov. Cooper signed Medicaid Expansion into law. It's been more than 80 days since our state entered a new fiscal year. Yet here we sit without a budget to fund public schools, give raises to state employees, expand Medicaid to more than 600,000 North Carolinians, and pretty much anything necessary to the day-to-day running of our state.

So, what have Berger, Moore, and the rest of the Republican-run legislature been doing while neglecting their duties? They've been having extramarital affairs, blocking a state budget until they get casinos built for their wealthy benefactors, mocking college kids protesting gun violence in their schools, stealing a supermajority, dismantling public education, hanging out at Biscuitville, and gerrymandering everything that isn't red hot and tied down.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that we absolutely must take back power in both houses of the General Assembly. We must elect Democrats for Governor, and for the various Council of State offices. This is an all hands on deck, DEFCON-1 situation. If we don't start clawing back our state's position as the Beacon of the South, we may not get it back. We've got to let our votes be the crowbars that pry those GOP hindquarters out of those seats they gerrymandered themselves into. Are you with me? I hope so.

**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.





## Join the Democratic Party

by Jane Braswell

It's impossible to go anywhere in Randolph County without seeing the positive impact that immigrants and their children have here, and the Democratic Party would seem to be a natural fit for our large number of Latino residents. After all, Democratic President Barack Obama single-handedly created DACA, an executive action that removed the threat of deportation for those who came to the U.S. as undocumented children, and it allowed them to emerge from the shadows to get driver's licenses and work permits. In the starkest of contrasts, Republicans, led by Donald Trump, adamantly protested this action as an abuse of presidential power.

Last year, President Biden and Democrats unveiled an eight-year path to full citizenship for most of the 11 million undocumented immigrants and an end to restrictions on family-based immigration. In the keenest possible divergence, while president, Donald Trump said that his administration was exploring ending birthright citizenship for U.S.-born children of noncitizens, which means that our local young first-generation Americans are not welcome by the GOP in this country, much less as members of the Republican party.

In 2021, Democrats in the NC Senate introduced Bill 672 to grant in-state tuition for NC Dreamers, only to have it die from lack of Republican support. Democrats have embraced securing our borders while still welcoming arrivals and current citizens as contributing members, while the GOP has championed deportations that devastate families and the demonization of newcomers trying to make a better life. Republicans still embrace again-candidate Trump who said of Mexican immigrants: "They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists."

Consequently, I find it disheartening, baffling, to talk with young first- or second-generation Americans whose parents bravely risked so much to come to this country and hear that these young folks are either disinterested in politics, or — most surprisingly — feeling drawn to the Grand Ol' Private-grabbers.

I believe the success of MAGA-style bravado in Florida is related to young-man machismo that is not limited to one ethnicity. But locally, when I asked acquaintances of a young Latina candidate with many admirable qualities why she would choose to run as a Republican given the party's flirtation not only with anti-immigration policies but also white supremacy, I was given two possible reasons: 1) She believed a Democrat could not be elected in this county given its history of overwhelmingly electing white Republicans and 2) She had deeply held beliefs about abortion.

The first reason is understandable. Locally and statewide, qualified, intelligent, experienced Democrats have fallen short to lesser Republican counterparts. But the second reason demonstrates that it's past time for Democrats to make clear that the party is not pro-abortion, it is *pro-choice*. The DNC must claim its rightful spot as the party with policies to make abortion more rare. Help us so we can help you!

Contact info: Our number to receive texts is: (336) 568-7161. For more info, go to [linktr.ee/randolphncdemocrats](https://linktr.ee/randolphncdemocrats) and/or [randolphndem@gmail.com](mailto:randolphndem@gmail.com).

## Message from Gwen Williams, candidate for re-election to Asheboro City School Board

My name is Gwendolyn Williams and I am seeking re-election to the Asheboro City School Board to serve a second term. I learned a lot about Board Governance, Policies, and other board members the last term. I am excited about continuous improvements, new opportunities for students, what is on the horizon in education and how I can positively impact the changes.

My work has expanded across Texas, Florida, Saudi Arabia, and North Carolina. This afforded me the opportunity to learn so much about different cultures, how culture affect parental involvement and realize that all parents, regardless of their differences, want their children to be successful.

My experiences as a teacher, team leader, assistant principal, principal, parent outreach specialist and community activist gives me insight on how to have a positive impact on the school board. I am a member of St. Luke United Methodist Church. I am a mother of two wonderful sons, three grandchildren and two great-grands. All of these things help me to view things from different perspectives.

I want to serve on the School Board because I care about this community. I care about jobs, struggling families, marginalized communities, and the impact a quality education will have on each one of these entities. Serving on the School Board will be a continuation of my life's work, "Fighting for ALL students to maximize their potential and become productive citizens in the communities in which they live."

Please vote for Todd Dulaney and me to help make Asheboro City Schools one of the best in North Carolina.

## Reviews



*Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver  
—reviewed by Jay Hubbard

I'm picky about the fiction I read, but this book checks all my boxes: relatability, grit, and social significance, to name a few. I lost count of how many people I've known on whom any of these characters could have been based. These are my people. I grew up going to church and school with them and worked beside them for decades. I saw their struggles up close and bore witness to their failures and even the occasional triumph. This is their story.

Three of my grandchildren came into our family through the foster care system, and I saw them reflected in this tale. I've known parents arrested for stealing food or medicine their kids needed. Sick, hungry kids can't wait a few days for the next meager paycheck to drop. I knew a mother almost broken by a legal system designed to punish "the least of these" for simply being unlucky and poor.

*Demon Copperhead* is a tale of class, poverty, addiction, and resilience set in the hills of western Virginia and Tennessee, but it could have been set anywhere in rural North Carolina and been just as real and powerful.

## Please vote for Todd Dulaney, candidate for Asheboro City School Board

by Megan Crotty

I first met Todd Dulaney in the newsroom of the small-town Ohio paper where we were both working. He was in news; I was in sports. Double-digit years later, we've been in Asheboro for almost 20 years — even got married here in 2011, living in what everyone refers to as "the Millers' house" with a 9-year-old daughter, 5-year-old pup, and my mom (you're welcome, Mom, for not disclosing your age).

What I love most about Todd is that he makes me laugh. Second to that is how much he cares — about me, about our family, about his job, about Asheboro. Third is his ability to cook a fantastic dinner.

But I digress.

What does all of this have to do with the Asheboro City School board?

Since Todd lost his first bid for school board in 2021, he has attended every school board meeting (save that time he got covid). Not only does Todd report on the happenings at the meetings on his personal Facebook page (the meetings aren't livestreamed), but he also takes notes (you can't take the

## Attention Young Democrats!

Are you a young and enthusiastic person eager to make a positive impact on your community? The Randolph County Democratic Party is calling on you to be part of a movement that believes in progress, equality, and the power of collective action. This is your opportunity to be at the forefront of change, to help shape the future of our community, our state, and our nation. As young voters, you are poised to be the ones who usher our party into an even more forward thinking, progressive position. Here's your chance to ensure that your voice and the voices of other young people are heard by those in power.

The Randolph County Democratic Party believes in inclusivity, diversity, and the idea that everyone should have an equal shot at success. Whether your most important issue is addressing climate change, fighting for social justice, improving access to healthcare, or promoting equitable and inclusive education, RCDP welcomes your ideas and your energy. Our party has pushed for landmark legislation and policies that have expanded civil rights, protected our environment, and improved the lives of countless Americans. Come be a part of that legacy. Your voice matters. Your perspective is needed. Your involvement can be the catalyst for change.

The world is run by the people who show up. I encourage you to volunteer with the Randolph County Democratic Party today and be a part of a movement that strives for a better tomorrow for all. Together, we can create an America that is stronger, freer and works for everyone, regardless of their circumstances. If you are between the ages of 18 and 35 and would like to help us start a Young Dems chapter in Randolph County, please email [rcdp.countychair@gmail.com](mailto:rcdp.countychair@gmail.com) to get started. We look forward to working with you!

reporter out of the former journalist). He also enthusiastically fills me in on all of the good — and, yes, bad — goings on at the meetings.

I'll never forget when he came home from one meeting where a group of Latinx moms spoke eloquently to the Board about their children's needs. Todd had tears in his eyes as he told me this story.

I could pull at your heartstrings and tell you that Todd lost his dad when he was 5 and his mom when he was 13, which means parenting, school, everything takes on a different meaning — a greater meaning. I could list some of the really, really horrible Dad Jokes he tells to try and get the rest of us to either laugh or roll our eyes. I could tell you how many notebooks full of information from those board meetings are piled up at our house.

I could tell you about meetings Todd has had with the ACS superintendent, principals, teachers, parents, and board members. I could show you the picture he took at a recent meeting where the Board had live Spanish translation (for which he advocated).

I'm not going to.

I'm going to tell you to please vote for Todd Dulaney on November 7. Thank you.

## Municipal Election Democratic Candidates

1. ACS Board of Ed – Todd Dulaney, Gwen Williams
2. Asheboro City Council – Harry Okeke
3. Ramseur Commissioner – Tresa Hatchett, Jay Hubbard
4. Staley Mayor –Michelle Hooker-Ravenell
5. Franklinville Commissioner – Mac Whatley
6. Randleman Alderman At Large – Mike Dawkins

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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To receive the Newsletter:  
[randolphcountydems.org/randem-news/](https://randolphcountydems.org/randem-news/)

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

Social media/contact info in one place:  
[linktr.ee/randolphncdemocrats](https://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)