

Reviews

*Chowchilla*

— reviewed by Megan Crotty

“Chowchilla” is a recently released CNN documentary about the kidnapping of 26 children and a school bus driver in Chowchilla, Cali., on July 15, 1976. There are no frills in this one, just interviews with students, parents, and law enforcement — back then and now. I had never heard of the incident (I was only 1 when it happened). Not only was the documentary well done, but you can see how these events were the cornerstone of how we deal with school tragedies today.

*The Business Plot of 1933*

— suggested by Jay Hubbard

Search for “business plot” on Google and you will find references to this 1933 plot to overthrow the government, oust president Franklin Roosevelt and install Smedley Butler as dictator. Sound familiar? One reference stated, “The coup was aimed at toppling President Franklin D. Roosevelt with the help of half-a-million war veterans. The plotters, who were alleged to involve some of the most famous families in America, (owners of Heinz, Birds Eye, Goodtea, Maxwell House & George Bush’s grandfather, Prescott) believed that their country should adopt the policies of Hitler and Mussolini to beat the great depression.” There is also a book about it called *The Plot to Seize the White House* by Jules Archer.

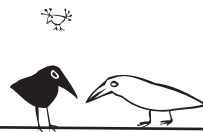
Public Schools are the Best Choice

— from Public Schools First NC

Public schools educate an overwhelming majority of North Carolina’s students. Supporting and making them even better is the best investment in our children and communities that we can make! Throughout 2024, NCPTA and Public Schools First NC are teaming up to celebrate the valuable contributions and achievements of educators and education advocates in our public schools and the communities they serve throughout our state.

In survey after survey (e.g. Gallup and Pew), parents overwhelmingly and consistently approve of their children’s school. Further, research has shown the vital role educators play in preparing children for success and how the best possible investment of tax dollars for our children’s education is in public schools. Public schools provide free education to all students regardless of income, race, ethnicity, religion, language ability, or other characteristics such as learning needs or physical challenges. Supporting programs that work along with schools that educate our diverse student populations are better for everyone.

Help us lift up the stories that show North Carolinians why Public Schools Are the Best Choice! We will share your good news on our many social media platforms. Email us at [info@publicschoolsfirstnc.org](mailto:info@publicschoolsfirstnc.org)



*Randolph County  
Democratic Party*

# RanDem News

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024, Issue No. 30

Let’s Get Organized to Elect Democrats

by Diane Hubbard, Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

Ah, February! Love is in the air. Valentine’s candy has been in the stores since at least Christmas. February is Black History Month and Mardi Gras is starting soon. There’s so much good stuff to celebrate this month, but the thing that makes Democratic organizers’ hearts flutter is Precinct Organization. Let me tell you, these past few years there have been more heart palpitations than flutters. We have got a lot of work to do.

There are 15,019 registered Democrats in Randolph County. We need 5 people in each of our 22 precincts. That’s 110 of you, less than 1% of the registered Dems in our county. We need you to come together, elect officers, and get our voting precincts organized. What do precinct officers and volunteers do? These people help us increase voter turnout by talking to neighbors, helping place campaign signs with people who request them, or working at their polling place distributing campaign literature. An orderly voting precinct is grassroots level organizing; neighbors helping neighbors exercise their basic rights as American citizens.

Of our 22 voting precincts in Randolph County, 11 are at least partially organized or have someone who is interested in getting it organized. Only 3 of those have a full set of officers and volunteers. This is just unacceptable. There are hundreds

of registered Dems in every single precinct, even the ones way out yonder. Are you telling me that there aren’t 5 people in Trinity or Southwest precincts who care about getting Dems elected up and down the ballot? I refuse to believe that.

Being an organizer in your precinct will not require much of your time. We promise not to overload you with duties. We’re only asking for maybe a couple of hours a month to help get as many Democrats as possible elected in North Carolina.

This year’s election is crucial. We’ve all seen the hard-right, white nationalist, anti-woman, anti-immigrant, anti-American candidates the GOP has recruited at all levels. Your Democratic Party needs you to pitch in and help.

The first step is attending your precinct organization meeting on **Saturday, February 17, at 9:30 am at the George Washington Carver Center, 950 MLK Jr. Dr., Asheboro.** This will be one large cluster meeting for all precincts, and we will be having breakfast while we organize! Please come. Bring your Randolph County Democratic friends and bring a breakfast item to share.

Use this link to RSVP for Precinct Organization: [mobilize.us/randolphcountyncdems/event/594631](https://mobilize.us/randolphcountyncdems/event/594631) /or send me an email at [rcdp.countychair@gmail.com](mailto:rcdp.countychair@gmail.com)



Voting Information

At the right, you will see the list of polling places for the 2024 primary election in Randolph County. Below are some important dates to note:

- February 9: voter registration deadline (5 pm)
- February 15: in-person early voting begins
- February 27: absentee ballot request deadline (5 pm)
- March 2: in-person early voting ends (3 pm)
- March 5: primary election day
- March 5: absentee ballot return deadline (7:30 pm)
- November 5: general election

Go to [ncsbe.gov/voting/upcoming-election](https://ncsbe.gov/voting/upcoming-election) for the details (there are some exceptions) and all the information you need.

Precinct	Precinct Code	Polling Location	
ARCHDALE	AR	Randolph Community Services Building 213 Balfour Drive, Archdale	
ASHEBORO EAST	AE	Central United Methodist Church* 300 S. Main Street, Asheboro	*No signs allowed on church property
ASHEBORO NORTH	AN	Balfour Elementary School 2097 N. Asheboro School Rd., Asheboro	
ASHEBORO SOUTH	AS	National Guard Armory* 1430 S. Fayetteville St, Asheboro	*No signs allowed on Armory property
ASHEBORO WEST	AW	Asheboro Recreation Center* 135 N. Fayetteville St, Asheboro	*Enter from Fayetteville Street entrance
BACK CREEK	BC	Friendship Baptist Church 2235 Spero Road, Randleman	
DEEP RIVER	DR	Franklinville United Methodist Church 227 W. Main Street, Franklinville	
GRANT	GR	Bethel Friends Meeting 2519 Bethel Friends Rd, Asheboro	
LEVEL CROSS	LC	Level Cross Elementary School 5417 Old Greensboro Rd, Randleman	
LIBERTY	LB	American Legion Post 81 Building 604 S Greensboro St, Liberty	
NEW MARKET	NM	Cedar Square Friends Meeting 7546 Harlow Road, Archdale	
PROVIDENCE	PR	Friendly Baptist Church 8102 NC Hwy 22, Climax	
RAMSEUR	RM	Southeast Randolph Middle School 5302 Foushee Rd, Ramseur	
RANDLEMAN	RN	First United Methodist Church 301 S. Main Street, Randleman	
SOUTHEAST	SE	Coleridge Elementary School 4528 NC Hwy 22-42, Ramseur	
SOUTHERN	SO	First Baptist Church of Seagrove 7931 US Hwy 220 S, Asheboro	
SOUTHWEST	SW	Farmer Elementary School 3557 Grange Hall Road, Asheboro	
STALEY	ST	Staley Fire Station 410 West Railroad Street, Staley	
TRINITY	TR	Hopewell Elementary School 6294 Welborn Rd, Trinity	
TABERNACLE	TB	Tabernacle Elementary School 4901 Tabernacle School Rd., Asheboro	
TRINITY TABERNACLE	TT	Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting 3673 Hoover Hill Road, Trinity	
UNION GROVE	UG	Southmont Elementary School 2497 Southmont Drive, Asheboro	

Come Help Strategize on 2/3/24

—by Pat Chamberlain

Local Democrats who have an interest in helping strategize for this coming crucial election year are invited to attend the RCDP breakfast meeting on Saturday, February 3, at 9:30 am at party headquarters.

Many of you were at the strategic planning workshop last May, at which we developed a list of 4 primary goals for the local party and a number of strategies to achieve those goals. Then at our January breakfast meeting, there was discussion about limiting the number of goals to no more than 3, focusing on what will be practical and achievable in the coming year. The discussion was enhanced by comments from Ben Goodwin, who is a local financial professional, educator and strategic planner, and who will be helping us push the work of the party forward.

If there were ever a critical year for us to be effective in getting our message out, and in getting Democratic voters to the polls in November, this is the year! All of you who agree with this sentiment are welcome to attend the February 3 breakfast meeting. I hope to see you there and look forward to working with you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 336-629-9003

Email: [randolphdem@gmail.com](mailto:randolphdem@gmail.com)

Newsletter website: [randolphcountydems.org](https://randolphcountydems.org)

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. c2024)

**About Commissioner Candidate**

**Jane Ledwell-Gant**

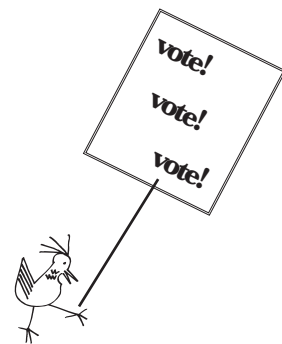
My name is **Jane Ledwell-Gant** and I am a candidate for the Randolph County Board of County Commissioners, District 5. I was raised in Randolph County and I am a graduate of Seagrove High School. I pursued further studies at Middlesex County College, New Jersey. With over 30 years of experience in computer technology at major firms such as Digital Equipment and Prime Computer in New Jersey, I have a solid professional background.

In 2000, I moved back to Randolph County and became deeply involved in local community issues. My experiences working with various boards and as a community activist highlighted the urgent need for reform in the governance of our county commissioners. I have observed firsthand that the current commissioners often prioritize their agendas over community needs.

My goal is to actively engage with the people of my District, understand their concerns, and ensure that they are fairly represented, especially in the allocation of county resources.

I believe it's crucial to have strong female representation on the Board to influence decisions that affect our lives. Our taxpayers deserve to have their voices heard and their concerns addressed effectively.

As a potential elected official, my commitment is to represent the entirety of my District, not just a select few. I plan to organize town hall meetings to directly connect with the community and bring their issues to the forefront in Board meetings. I am dedicated to being a voice for all my constituents, ensuring their needs and opinions are a priority in county decision-making.



**This is how we protect choice in NC**

—from Anderson Clayton, NCDP Chair

Today (January 22, 2024) we mark the 51st anniversary of Roe v. Wade, a historic decision affirming women's fundamental right to privacy and personal health care choices. Regrettably, Trump-appointed Supreme Court justices overturned this landmark decision in 2022, emboldening North Carolina Republicans to pass an extreme abortion ban despite Governor Roy Cooper's veto.

Our state is now grappling with the repercussions of Trump's dismantling of essential protections. With 1 in 3 women of reproductive age living under an abortion ban, it's clear that this should not be happening in America. Trump boasts about "getting rid of" Roe, and his intentions go further — pledging a national abortion ban and plans to block medication abortion access nationwide.

The stark choice before us this November is to protect

**CALENDAR**

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

**February 3, 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.

**February 17, Saturday, 9:30 am: Precinct Meetings. All precincts will meet at the GWCC at for a breakfast potluck.**

**February 24, Saturday: Winter SEC Meeting**

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

**March 15: April/May Newsletter deadline**

**March 16, Saturday: County Conventions to be held at the Asheboro Library meeting room**

**April 6, Saturday, 9:30 am: Monthly Breakfast Meeting at HQ**

**April 20, Saturday: District Conventions**

**August 19 - August 22: Democratic National Convention**

To RSVP for upcoming meetings, please visit [mobilize.us](https://mobilize.us) and search for Randolph County Democratic Party.

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.

our rights by reelecting President Biden and Vice President Harris. They champion women's access to reproductive care and personal freedoms, advocating for the codification of Roe and vowing to veto any national abortion ban.

The North Carolina Democratic Party is on the front lines, working tirelessly to empower voters against Trump and Republicans' anti-freedom agenda. From Greenville to Asheville and beyond, we're committed to ensuring every North Carolinian has the tools to reject these assaults at the ballot box.

Since the Supreme Court's decision a year and a half ago, North Carolina Republicans have already moved to restrict and ban abortions. We know this is just the beginning, and without electing more Democrats this November, we'll have no way of defending our rights against their attacks.

Thanks for standing with us.

**Contested Primary Election Candidates**

**U.S. President**

Joe Biden: [joebiden.com](https://joebiden.com)

**NC Governor**

Gary Foxx: [garyfoxxforncgovernor.com](https://garyfoxxforncgovernor.com)  
 Michael R. (Mike)Morgan: [morganforgovernor.com](https://morganforgovernor.com)  
 Josh Stein: [joshstein.org](https://joshstein.org)  
 Marcus Williams: [williamshouseusa.com](https://williamshouseusa.com)  
 Chrelle Booker: [ballotpedia.org/Chrelle\\_Booker](https://ballotpedia.org/Chrelle_Booker)

**NC Lt. Governor**

Rachel Hunt: [rachelhunt.com](https://rachelhunt.com)  
 Mark H. Robinson: <https://theurbannews.com/government/2023/mark-harrison-robinson/>  
 Ben Clark: [benclarknc.com](https://benclarknc.com)

**NC Attorney General**

Satana Deberry: [satana.deberryfornc.com](https://satana.deberryfornc.com)  
 Tim Dunn: [timdunnfornc.com](https://timdunnfornc.com)  
 Jeff Jackson: [jeffjacksonnc.com](https://jeffjacksonnc.com)

**NC Commissioner of Insurance**

Natasha Marcus: [natashamarcus.com](https://natashamarcus.com)  
 David Wheeler: [wheelernc.com](https://wheelernc.com)

**NC Superintendent of Education**

C R Katie Eddings: [katieeddingsforeducation.com](https://katieeddingsforeducation.com)  
 Maurice (Mo) Green: [mogreenfornc.com](https://mogreenfornc.com)  
 Kenon Crumble: [kenoncrumble.com](https://kenoncrumble.com)

**NC Treasurer**

Gabe Esparza: [gabefornorthcarolina.com](https://gabefornorthcarolina.com)  
 Wesley Harris: [harrisfornc.com](https://harrisfornc.com)

**NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 6**

Allison Riggs: [riggsforourcourts.com/](https://riggsforourcourts.com/)  
 Lora Christine Cabbage: [cabbage4ncsupreme.com](https://cabbage4ncsupreme.com)

**NC State Senate District 25**

Donna Vanhook: [facebook.com/rev.d.vanhook](https://facebook.com/rev.d.vanhook)  
 John Coleman: [johncolemanfornc.com](https://johncolemanfornc.com)



**Biden Visits North Carolina**

from [www.ednc.org](https://www.ednc.org)

President Joe Biden announced an \$82 million investment to expand "affordable, high-speed internet" to 16,000 homes and businesses across North Carolina on Thursday, January 18, in Raleigh.

Biden likened the administration's work on expanding broadband access to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's determination to spread electricity across the United States during the Great Depression. "I made the same determination about affordable, high-speed internet," declared Biden. "It's just as essential today as electricity was a century ago."

Biden painted an image of kids and their parents sitting in the parking lot of McDonald's, attempting to access the restaurant's internet to complete their homework during the pandemic. He also noted that the continued expansion of high-speed internet would assist seniors in accessing telemedicine, enable people of faith to attend church services from home, and empower small businesses to reach customers globally.

Gov. Roy Cooper kicked off the event. He proclaimed that part of his vision was to create a North Carolina that would be "more educated" with "more job training" by the end of his tenure. He emphasized the expansion of internet access as a crucial strategy to achieve that goal: "North Carolina has become a leader in the quest to connect every single family and every single business to the internet."

Echoing Cooper, Biden stated that the administration's goal is to ensure that every North Carolinian has "access to high-speed and affordable internet" by the end of the decade.



**Reminder of Biden's Oath of Office**

from Heather Cox Richardson newsletter, 1/24/24

Three years ago today, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris took the oath of office, vowing to restore faith in our democratic institutions.

"This is a time of testing," Biden said in his inaugural address. "We face an attack on democracy and on truth. A raging virus. Growing inequity. The sting of systemic racism. A climate in crisis. America's role in the world. Any one of these would be enough to challenge us in profound ways. But the fact is we face them all at once, presenting this nation with the gravest of responsibilities.

"Now we must step up. All of us. It is a time for boldness, for there is so much to do. And, this is certain. We will be judged, you and I, for how we resolve the cascading crises of our era. Will we rise to the occasion? Will we master this rare and difficult hour? Will we meet our obligations and pass along a new and better world for our children?"