

Habitat for Humanity Breakfast

The 14th Annual Habitat for Humanity Celebrity Breakfast will be held April 16 at 8:00 am at Pinewood Country Club. This fundraiser began in 2001, with the funds raised used to lay foundations for future Habitat homes. This year, we will pay special tribute to our longtime event emcee, Larry Reid, and also a special thank you to Marilyn Koonce in memory of longtime Habitat supporter, Phil Koonce. Table sponsorships are available for the Celebrity Breakfast, which promises to be a very special event!

For additional information, contact Dremia D. Meier (336) 625-1429 or dmeier@habitatrc.org

Fellow Democrat Dale McClain is a very active member of Habitat for Humanity. He writes, "Habitat for Humanity's mission is to build simple, decent, affordable housing for families in need who would not otherwise be able to afford a home of their own by conventional means. We build homes with, and sell them to, families at no profit and no interest. We do this through private donations and volunteer labor.

"I am going to be sponsoring a couple of tables and would love to fill one of them up with Democrats. **If you would like to attend please contact me at (336) 301-2845.**

"We typically have been able to build just over two houses a year, however Covid did substantially interrupt our progress over the past couple of years. We built and finished five homes over the past few years in the Mission Heights neighborhood in Ramseur and have recently acquired property off McMaster Street in Asheboro that has sites for four houses. We are starting to build our first ever five bedroom home at that site for a large family in need. We hope to be working on multiple homes concurrently at the site and hope to be able to finish all four homes in the next couple of years. We are always in need of volunteers to help build houses. You don't need any special skills; we will instruct you and work with you. If you are interested in volunteering for this great cause please contact me at the number above."

GWCC Enrichment Center Banquet

The George Washington Carver Community Enrichment Center is holding their annual banquet on Saturday, April 20, at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$35 each. Funds raised will go toward the Carver Arts Academy After-School Program. From the Center website, "The Carver Arts Academy is an arts-centered after-school program that aims to provide a holistic educational experience that nurtures creativity, enhances academic skills, and fosters personal growth." For more information about the Center, visit its website at gwccasheboro.com.

If you are interested in attending, please email Diane at rcdp.countychair@gmail.com.

All About Leandro School Funding

This article has been condensed from a piece by Greg Childress that was published on February 21, 2024, on ncnews.com.

The Leandro school funding case began nearly three decades ago when school districts in five low-wealth counties sued the state of North Carolina, claiming that children were not receiving the same level of educational opportunities as students in wealthier counties.

In 1997, the state Supreme Court issued a ruling, later reconfirmed in 2004, in which it held that every child has a right to a "sound basic education" that includes competent and well-trained teachers and principals and equitable access to resources.

And in November 2022, a Democratic-led state Supreme Court ordered the state to pay for the school improvement plan. Democrats held a 4-3 majority then. The Court now has a 5-2 Republican majority.

In October 2023, the state's highest court agreed to hear an appeal in the case filed by Senate leader Phil Berger Sr. and House Speaker Tim Moore. Both Republican leaders are challenging whether the trial judge had the authority to order the state to pay for the improvement plan as well as whether the trial court's order should extend beyond the five counties named in the original lawsuit.

Meanwhile, supporters of the improvement plan contend that the state has a constitutional mandate to provide North Carolina's children with a sound basic education. The state Supreme Court has previously ruled that the state is violating that constitutional obligation.

The Court's decision to revisit the state's long-running school funding case comes at the same time that state lawmakers are pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into a private school voucher program.

The Republican-led General Assembly voted to increase funding and expand the program. Gov. Roy Cooper and other Democratic leaders have called on GOP leaders to stop spending taxpayer money on private schools that don't accept all students, aren't regulated, and aren't held to the same standards as public schools.

"North Carolina's future depends on making sure every child has the chance to receive a high-quality education in our outstanding public schools," Cooper said in a statement last month. "The legislature must fully fund public education in North Carolina, including meaningful investments in early childhood education."

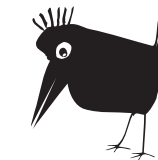
And, publicschoolsfirstnc.org reported:

On February 22, 2024, the NC Supreme Court heard oral arguments. Lawyers for the state and school districts argued that the 2022 ruling should stand because no new issues are before the Court. The lawyer for legislative leaders argued that the Court lacks authority to override the General Assembly's spending decisions. A ruling has not yet been issued. After nearly three decades of litigation, North Carolina legislative leaders still refuse to fully fund The Comprehensive Remedial Plan — Leandro — leaving schools, students, families, and communities without essential resources. The Appropriations Act of 2023 funds fewer Leandro provisions than the previous budget. For example, there is no new funding for early childhood education despite documented need across the state, especially in poor, rural counties.

Randolph County
Democratic Party

RanDem News

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In Their Own Words

by Diane Hubbard, Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

I thought I'd do a little compare/contrast between a few select Democratic candidates and their Republican opponents for November's election. I was going to write about a few of these races, but I got to thinking, what better way to show what they're all about than letting their own words speak for themselves. So here are some telling quotes from the candidates.

NC Governor

Democratic candidate Josh Stein says, "I'm running for Governor because I believe in the promise of North Carolina — that where you come from should never limit how far you can go, that every person deserves a fair shot at prosperity, strong public schools, and a safe place to call home."

Republican candidate Mark Robinson had this to say about children who survived a school shooting, "David Hogg and the rest of these silly little immature 'media prosti-tots' need to grab a passy, have a seat in time out, and shut up [...]. If, two days before this shooting, a hard nosed no-nonsense conservative had walked into that school and put into place the ideals and principles that would have avoided that massacre, you spoiled little bastards would have kicked and screamed like babies in a crib."

Superintendent of Education

Veteran educator and Democratic candidate Maurice (Mo) Green had this to say, "There is much to celebrate about public education and its transformational power. However, it is long past time for our state to truly fulfill its promise to each of its students — that no matter who you are, you will receive high-quality educational opportunities that will prepare you to be successful."

Conservative activist, homeschooler, and January 6th attendee Michele Morrow says, "I think the whole plan of the education system from day one has actually been to kind of control the thinking of our young people." She also calls public schools "indoctrination centers" and "socialism centers."

NC Treasurer

Democratic candidate Wesley Harris, in an interview with the *Daily Tarheel*, said, "When I was growing up, we had a state government that believed in my community, that opened up the doors for opportunity. When opportunity goes away, that's when people lose faith in the system.

"That is my solemn vow, because I know what North Carolina can do, because North Carolina is being left behind. It used to be a leader in education, a leader in finance, a leader in technology, and a leader in healthcare. We did that by investing in our people, but we've gone away from that in the past 10 or 15 years. We're finally starting to see the cracks in the system."

Republican candidate Brad Briner says simply, "I'll get woke politics like CRT (critical race theory), DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) and ESG (environmental, social, and governance) out of our state's pension fund." Don't ask me what he's talking about here. It's a whole lot of buzzwords and not much substance.

So, if you want good governance, it's obvious the Democrats are your candidates. If you want whacked out conspiracy theories and hateful rhetoric, well, you know ...

North Carolina Democratic Party Statement of Inclusion

“All public meetings at all levels of the North Carolina Democratic Party shall be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, economic status, or disability. In order that the Democratic Party at all levels be an open Party, which includes rather than excludes people from participation, a program of effective affirmative action has been adopted by the North Carolina Democratic Party. Discrimination on the basis of 'status' in the conduct of North Carolina Democratic Party affairs is prohibited.”

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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. c2024)

County Convention Report

The Randolph County Convention convened at the Library on March 16, and was well attended. Attendees heard from several Democratic candidates (via video) who will be on the November ballot, as well as in-person messages from three candidates — Susie Scott, Jane Ledwell-Gant and Bill McCaskill.

RCDP Chair Diane Hubbard led the meeting. She announced upcoming dates, among them the date for the Sixteenth Annual Defending Democracy Blue Jean Gala: September 14. Please mark your calendars. She also reported that, so far, no decision has been made on Sunday voting for the November election. A resolution was passed in support of a more equitable distribution of State Democratic Party funds supporting the various districts across North Carolina.

Here is a list of the Democratic candidates who will be on the November ballot:

President: **Joe Biden**
 US House, District 9: **Nigel Bristol**
 NC Governor: **Josh Stein**
 NC Lt. Governor: **Rachel Hunt**
 NC Attorney General: **Jeff Jackson**
 NC Secretary of State: **Elaine Marshall**
 NC Commissioner of Insurance: **Natasha Marcus**
 NC Commissioner of Labor: **Braxton Winston**
 NC Commissioner of Agriculture: **Sarah Taber**
 NC Superintendent of Education: **Maurice (Mo) Green**
 NC Treasurer: **Wesley Harris**
 NC Auditor: **Jessica Holmes**
 NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 6: **Allison Riggs**
 NC Court of Appeals: **Carolyn J. Thompson, Ed Eldred, Martin Moore**
 NC State Senate District 25: **Donna Vanhook**
 NC State Senator District 29: **Kevin Clark**
 NC House 54: **Robert T. Reives II** (*Liberty, Staley*)
 NC House 79: **Susie Scott** (*Archdale, Trinity, Trinity Tabernacle, Tabernacle, New Market, Back Creek, Level Cross, Randleman, Asheboro North, Asheboro West, Asheboro South, Asheboro East*)
 NC House 78: **Lowell Simon** (*Providence, Deep River, Ramseur, Grant, Southeast, Southern, Union Grove, Southwest*)
 Randolph County Commissioner Dist. 1: **Bill McCaskill**
 Randolph County Commissioner Dist. 5: **Jane Ledwell-Gant**

Please vote for and support these Democrats!

Interview with Heather Cox Richardson

Bob Williams suggested interested readers turn to the February/March 2024 issue of *The Progressive* for an interview with Heather Cox Richardson by Michaela Brant. Richardson is a history professor at Boston College and author of the internet newsletter *Letter from an American*. Brant talks to Richardson about her book *Democracy Awakening*. Richardson says that Trump started with those who opposed FDR's New Deal and built it into another movement with tools toward a dictatorship, ignoring the principles embodied in the Declaration of Independence.

CALENDAR

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

April 6, 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.

April 16, Tuesday, 8 to 9 am: Habitat for Humanity breakfast (see page 4)

April 20, Saturday: District Conventions, venue TBD

April 20, Saturday, 6 pm: GWCC Enrichment Center Annual Banquet, (see page 4)

April 26, Friday, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm: Lunch with Lawmakers, 7074 Colonial Club Dr., Thomasville, NC 27360 contact: Ashlee Willet, ashelee@archdaletrinitychamber.com

May 4, Saturday, 9:30 am: Monthly Breakfast and Executive Committee Meeting followed by organized canvassing event

June 1, Saturday: Summer SEC meeting

August 19 through August 22: Democratic National Convention

September 14, Saturday: Sixteenth Annual Defending Democracy Blue Jean Gala

November 5: Election Day

To RSVP for upcoming meetings, please visit mobilize.us and search for Randolph County Democratic Party.

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.

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.



What's at Stake for You in Election 2024?

The following information comes from cards issued by bigwin2024.com. Go to their website to read the cards as they come out. Each one deals with different issues critical to voters in this election, comparing the Presidential candidates.

DEMOCRATS President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris will continue the work they have begun for all Americans, notably the following ...

Biden on Democracy

“Democracy means having the freedom to speak your mind, to be who you are, to be who you want to be. Democracy is about being able to bring about peaceful change. Democracy is how we've opened the doors of opportunity wider and wider with each successive generation, notwithstanding our mistakes. The alternative to democracy is dictatorship — the rule of one, not the rule of ‘We the People.’” President Biden speaking at Valley Forge on January 5, 2024.

On Women's Rights

The Biden-Harris administration will continue to defend a woman's right to make decisions about her body, including reproductive healthcare decisions, without government or citizen interference.

On Transgender Rights

Biden-Harris has an unparalleled record of advancing LGBTQ+ equality, from initiating executive actions and rule making to signing federal legislation into law.

On Economic Equality

Biden-Harris will continue investing in America's economic growth for all citizens, not just the wealthiest. We have the best job market since the 1960s and the lowest unemployment rate in U.S. history. The Biden-Harris team will work to ensure that all Americans pay their fair share of taxes.

On Healthcare Insurance

The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) continues to expand, delivering quality healthcare that covers all conditions no matter your economic standing.

REPUBLICAN Donald Trump promises much if elected, notably the following ...

Trump On Democracy

Trump asserts that he would only be a dictator on “day one” of a second term as he faces growing scrutiny over his increasingly authoritarian and violent rhetoric. The consequences of that rhetoric were made clear following the deadly storming of the Capitol on January 6, 2021, and after he tried to remain in power despite losing his 2020 reelection bid. The former president is now vowing vengeance and retribution as he runs again.

On Women's Rights

Trump's three Supreme Court nominees all lied that they would honor Roe v. Wade, which established the right to abortion, in their confirmation hearings and then overturned that 49-year-old precedent. Trump promises to continue the government assault on women's rights.

On Transgender Rights

Trump says he will ask Congress to pass a law establishing that “only two genders,” as determined at birth, are recognized by the United States.

On Economic Equality

Trump promises more tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations, paid for by the middle and lower classes.

On Healthcare Insurance

Trump has promised to end The Affordable Care Act, leaving as the only option private insurance that may not cover preexisting conditions.

Tia Meredith Receives John Lewis Youth Leadership Award

On Saturday, February 10, Tia Meredith was one of two North Carolinians to receive the North Carolina Secretary of State John Lewis Youth Leadership Award. This award was established in 2021 by the National Association of Secretaries of State “to honor the extraordinary accomplishments of Congressman John Lewis.” The non-partisan award recognizes “a gifted, civic-minded young person in their state each year.” Recipients must be 25 years or younger at the time of the presentation, and there can be no more than two recipients in the state per year.

Tia attends North Carolina State University where she finds time to volunteer at the Feed the Pack food pantry, co-chair two Food Science Club committees, and work part time at the Howling Cow dairy. She is a third-year senior on track to graduate with honors from N.C. State in May with a major in Food Science and a minor in Agribusiness. Tia is the daughter of Jim and Beverly Meredith of Liberty. Jim is a former RCDP Chair.



NCDP Chair Statement on Court Striking Down Republican Power Grab Bill SB 749, Returning Appointment Power to Governor Cooper

On March 13, North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton released the following statement after a unanimous panel of three North Carolina judges sided with Governor Cooper and struck down Republican-sponsored “power grab” law SB 749. This proposed law would have removed the governor's authority to make appointments to the state board of elections and instead would have granted it to the GOP-controlled Legislature.

“General Assembly Republicans have done everything they can to strip Governor Cooper of his authority and the powers bestowed to him twice by our voters,” Clayton wrote. “In this crucial election year, I'm proud that the courts are striking down these anti-democratic bills drafted by Republicans solely to increase their own power. This bill went against what North Carolinians wanted. This failed on the ballot in 2018 but Republicans in Raleigh are hellbent on finding ways to increase their own power. Today we celebrate this win and tomorrow we get back to work to fight for the future of our state.”