

## How to Support the Randolph County Democratic Party

by Larry Thomas

It has been my privilege to serve as Treasurer of the Executive Committee for the past four years, and I'm grateful to all of you who have supported the Randolph County Democratic Party through your monetary contributions, donations of goods such as office supplies, and the hundreds of hours of volunteer time.

As we start a new "election cycle," as campaign finance nerds call it, I thought it would be timely to remind everyone of the many easy ways to support your local Democratic Party. And if you've never contributed before, please consider it.

I assure you that no contribution is too small, and all are greatly appreciated. Most of our contributions are \$100 or less, and I routinely receive contributions of \$10 to \$25.

Here's how you can contribute:

**1.** Mail a check to the Randolph County Democratic Party, P.O. Box 4814, Asheboro, NC, 27204.

**2.** Use a debit or credit card to contribute through Act Blue, the Democratic Party's national fundraising website. Go to [secure.actblue.com](https://secure.actblue.com) and type "Randolph County" in the search box at the top of the home page. Then click on "Randolph County Democratic Party NC." (Four other states have a Randolph County, so make sure you click on the correct one.)

**3.** Stop by our headquarters at 114 Sunset Avenue in downtown Asheboro. Call 336-629-9003 to make sure someone is there, and keep in mind that, according to state law, we cannot accept cash contributions of more than \$50.

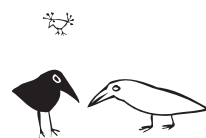
New contributors will be asked for their name, address, occupation and employer, and I am required to include this information in the reports I must file regularly with the NC State Board of Elections. I realize that some are reluctant to list their occupations and employer since campaign finance reports are public record, but I'm required by law to ask.

Contributions will be deposited into our general fund, one of two accounts the party maintains at Truist. From this account, I pay routine expenses for our headquarters such as electricity and internet service, as well as projects to help elect Democrats such as direct-mail pieces and flyers when our volunteers do door-to-door canvassing in the county.

If you wish, you can designate your contribution to go to our Building Fund, which is a separate account at Truist. According to state law, money from this account can be used only for expenses for our headquarters such as rent, utilities, furniture and remodeling, and I'm not allowed to transfer money from this account into the general fund.

Unlike the general fund, the Building Fund can accept contributions from labor unions, corporations, and other business entities.

If you have any questions, reach out to me at [planzone56@hotmail.com](mailto:planzone56@hotmail.com). And once again, thank you for your support of the Randolph County Democratic Party!



### CALENDAR

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

**\*April 12th, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.: 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 26th, Saturday, County Convention at HQ:** Social time 9:30 a.m., Convention begins 10 a.m.

**May 10th, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.: Monthly Breakfast and Executive Committee Meeting at HQ.**

**May 15th:** June/July Newsletter deadline

**District Convention:** Between May 11th - 24th

**Summer SEC Meeting:** Saturday, June 28th, location TBA

**\*RCDP monthly meetings have been moved to the second Saturday of the month to coincide with the NAACP monthly meetings.**

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.

### 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. c2025)



Randolph County  
Democratic Party

# RanDem News

APRIL/MAY 2025, Issue No. 37



## Don't Give in to Hopelessness

by Diane Hubbard, Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

Every day I wake up and wonder what fresh hell we'll see today from the Trump Regime and all its sycophants. It could be something as minor as the Manchurian Cantaloupe allowing his bestie Elon's son to wipe boogers on the Resolute Desk. It could be the sharing of state secrets using a public app and adding the editor of a well-known magazine to the text thread. You just never know what you'll get with stupidly malicious (or maliciously stupid) people in charge. Stop the roller coaster! We all want off!

So, what can we do in times like these, when everything seems hopeless? Don't ask me. I am just as befuddled as everyone else. However, Attorney Marc Elias who is the founder of Democracy Docket, has some ideas. He has won over 60 lawsuits against the GOP's efforts to suppress our right to vote. Here are some of his suggestions (abbreviated by me for space constraints) for things to do to protect our democracy:

**1. Stay engaged.** It is natural to want to retreat or tune out. Don't. One way to stay engaged locally is to get on our email list. We don't have a private Signal chat, so this will have to suffice. [randolphcountydems.org/getemails](https://randolphcountydems.org/getemails)

**2. Help Democrats.** Find a Democrat you support and volunteer or contribute to their campaign. Sign up to volunteer with RCDP here: [tinyurl.com/RCDPvol](https://tinyurl.com/RCDPvol)

**3. Don't do Trump's work.** Stay grounded in the truth: The U.S. Constitution is clear. Trump is powerless and the courts will reject his efforts.

**4. Don't grade on a curve.** This goes both ways. Do not hold Republicans to a lower standard and do not hold Democrats to a higher one.

**5. Believe in the courts.** Joe Biden confirmed a record number of new federal judges. We are dependent on the courts to help protect democracy. Rather than assume they will not, insist they do.

**6. Beware of false attacks.** Donald Trump has promised retribution. When you hear that a Trump foe is under investigation, be skeptical.

**7. Support independent media.** The solution is found in independent news outlets that have no incentive to make nice with the Republican Party. Pick a few and subscribe for free. Find one or two that you pay to support.



**8. Use your town square.** Every one of us has a town square. Don't assume your voice is too faint or your platform too small. See all our social media links: [linktr.ee/randolphncdemocrats](https://linktr.ee/randolphncdemocrats)

**9. Prepare for a long fight.** We are in for a long fight and must build and commit to an opposition movement that will stand the test of time. This is the fight of our generation, and it will take time. Sign up to attend an event: [mobilize.us/randolphcountyncdems](https://mobilize.us/randolphcountyncdems)

**10. Don't give up hope.** Our best political movements were hopeful. Donald Trump and the Republicans want you to give up hope. Despair and cynicism fuel their movement. We must always, in the words of Jesse Jackson, "keep hope alive."

Read the full article here: [democracydocket.com/opinion/10-things-we-can-all-do-to-protect-democracy/](https://democracydocket.com/opinion/10-things-we-can-all-do-to-protect-democracy/)

### County Convention Scheduled; Officers Needed

Our county convention is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th at Democratic Headquarters, 114 Sunset Ave, Asheboro. Social time will begin at 9:30 a.m. The convention will officially start at 10 a.m. If you were appointed as a delegate at your precinct meeting, you are encouraged to attend. Check our Mobilize page to RSVP: [mobilize.us/randolphcountyncdems](https://mobilize.us/randolphcountyncdems)

We will be electing new county officers at the convention. Some of you have already expressed interest, but I want to give everyone a chance to run for an office if they like.

The offices are:

County Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, 3rd Vice Chair, Secretary, 3 SEC Members

Visit the NCDP Plan of Organization to learn more about these offices: [tinyurl.com/PlanOfOrg](https://tinyurl.com/PlanOfOrg)

### Thank you, Martha!

Before I go, I want to give a shout out to Martha Crotty, who has managed this newsletter since its launch six years ago. Martha has decided it is time to let someone else take the reins, so she will be stepping away after this issue. She has done an outstanding job at laying out this publication, as well as soliciting and finding articles that are useful and relevant to Randolph County Democrats. Thank you, Martha, for all you've done to make this publication a success. These are big shoes to fill, and we hope we will make you proud.

## How Democrats can Save America

The following are excerpts from a long opinion piece (entitled *There is a way for Democrats to Stop Trump and Save America*) published in the March 21st *New York Times*. It was written by Ben Rhodes who was deputy national security adviser under President Barack Obama.

You are meant to feel powerless. That is what a strongman wants: to make you feel as if nothing can stop the takeover of your country. The richest man in the world is destroying parts of the government.

Rhodes quotes Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut: “If this is a unique, ahistorical challenge to American order and American traditions,” said Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut, “you need to respond with exceptional tactics and messaging. The idea that we should sit back and let them collapse is ridiculous.”

But this critique is only a starting point. Recently, the most promising signs have been seen in the actions of ordinary people protesting at Republican town halls and the enormous crowds that turned out in several states to see Bernie Sanders rail against oligarchy. Something is stirring. To succeed, the opposition must become a movement out in the country rather than a party trying to discover a formula in Washington. The enormous cuts proposed for Medicaid and services for veterans are deadly serious for Americans, including many who voted for Mr. Trump or didn't vote at all. Make that the basis for a movement.

Spotlight harms that will come to everyday people. Protest at shuttered facilities in communities, not agencies in the capital. Make noise however you can. Amplify the voices of people out in the country. Hold town halls where Republicans are afraid to. Boycott the businesses of specific billionaires. File lawsuits. Sign petitions. Organize communities, including deep red ones. Support people who get arrested. Create a culture around the movement.

This approach sidesteps purity tests and the pursuit of an agreed-upon national message that has shrunk the Democratic Party. It is easier to invite someone into a movement if all you both must agree on is one issue, not a dozen. A win on one issue punctures the sense of invincibility and inevitability that a strongman relies on.

If you don't like what is happening to this country, you don't need to wait for someone to come along and save it: You need each other. That should be the message that Democrats embrace, because most Americans don't want to go where Donald Trump and Elon Musk are leading us.

The opposite of shame is pride. Let's be proud of fighting back, of caring about one another, of committing to rebuild what is being destroyed. Because America is not just about the powerful becoming more powerful; at its best, it is about the underdog beating the longest of odds.

## Asheboro City Schools Board of Education and NC House Bill 58 (HB58)

As the result of legislation requested by Asheboro City Schools (ACS) Board of Education member Gidget Kidd, and presented to the Legislature in Raleigh by Senator Dave Craven (R) and Representative Brian Biggs (R), the structure of the ACS Board of Education will significantly change. The legislation, HB 58, originally only affected the Town of Kittrel and had passed the House and was on its way to the Senate when it was amended (at the request of Craven) to add a section about Asheboro City Schools. This amended version plans to reduce the size of the Board from 11 to 7, change the length of terms from 6 to 4 years, and make sweeping changes in the way ACS Board Members are elected — mainly that the election will now be partisan.

Many Asheboro residents, Democrats and Republicans, were opposed to these changes and called their representatives to protest. It has been shown that students and teachers are better served when School Board members are representative of the entire community, and that is why we believe these elections should NOT be partisan.

The changes were rejected by the ACS School Board at their March 13th meeting by a vote of 6 - 3 [For (3): Calloway, Hurley, Kidd; Against (6): Cheek, Cranford, DeCortez, Hammer, Smith, Knott; Absent (2): Lee, Patton] but their votes were ignored as the bill passed the Senate, then went to the House where it was voted on in just days. On March 27th, the bill passed into law by a vote of 59-52. No Democrat voted for it and six Republicans voted against it. It is now Session Law 2025-3.

Todd Dulaney, who has run twice for the ACS Board of Education and was present at the March meeting, commented, “I wouldn't say this is being rushed through the legislature for some reason, but it took NC lawmakers more than five years to agree on a State Cookie. They are dismantling the Asheboro City Schools Board of Education in a matter of days with little to no opposition or debate.”

Thanks to Todd Dulaney, who regularly attends and reports on the ACS Board of Education meetings, and to Susie Scott for her in-depth and informative updates on the doings of the North Carolina State Legislature. You may be interested in attending the next ACS Board of Education meeting. It is scheduled to be held on April 10th at 7:30 p.m.



### NCDP 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.

## Just Say NO to Lifewise

Here is a message from the Secular Education Association (formerly called Parents Against Lifewise). After you read it, you may be interested in joining the group: [facebook.com/groups/1522693745167717/](https://facebook.com/groups/1522693745167717/)

Public schools all over the country are taking part in a program called LIFEWISE ACADEMY. It was initially only for ages Kindergarten to 5th grade and requires parental permission to “opt in” to the program. Now they've expanded all the way through high school in some areas, even attempting to gain college credit for their “classes” with the older grades.

During public school hours this program takes children off campus to receive Christian “instruction”/Bible school. This is done during electives such as Art, Music, Gym, Library time and varies from school to school. It's always during those electives — either on rotation or just one. *That means that students are missing whatever special class they are scheduled for that day.* They are then sent back to school with candy, treats, pamphlets, etc.

It's not entirely clear what happens to the children whose parents opt out, but it's been reported that they miss instructional time because it isn't “fair” to the kids who go to Lifewise.

It's been reported that Lifewise will *not* provide parents a full curriculum. Nor are they forthcoming about who funds the program and transportation, how or who the children will be transported by, and who is teaching their “classes.”

It has also been reported that those who teach, drive buses, etc. for Lifewise do not need to have a background check.

The CEO is a former OSU football player and they are sponsored by “The Gospel Project” which is an affiliate of Lifeway — the Southern Baptist conventions publishing house. This group is notorious for sexual abuse, coverups, racism, homophobia, transphobia, and nationalism. They are busy indoctrinating and bribing our children, the youngest of them, who cannot even comprehend religion. This program is ostracizing other children, valuing one religion over all the others, causing students to miss valuable school time, having children travel off campus with adults who have not had a background check, and “leaders” who instruct children using a curriculum that they won't fully disclose. If they aren't already in your local school, they are likely actively taking signatures and working on bringing it to your school board for approval.

**You do not need to be a parent to join.** We need valuable members of our communities to be aware and involved. Stand up with us for the separation of church and state and fight for our children's rights to the same.

## Public Schools Face Deficits While Private Schools Profit

Public school districts across the state are working through their budget planning for next year facing threats of looming budget shortfalls expected from the loss of federal funds and the revenue shortfalls predicted at the state level. In sharp contrast to the belt-tightening at public schools across the state, private schools are experiencing a gold rush thanks to the voucher expansion passed in 2023 and funded to the tune of \$616 million in 2024-25. By making vouchers available to all families regardless of whether the student has ever attended a public school, the NC General Assembly added a new

## Book Review

by Jay Hubbard

*Tax the Rich!* by Morris Pearl, Erica Payne, and The Patriotic Millionaires

This little pamphlet was produced by the Patriotic Millionaires group ([patrioticmillionaires.org](https://patrioticmillionaires.org)) you might have heard of. If you're interested in tax justice and how to make our economy work for everyone, this is the book for you. *Tax the Rich!* gives an insider's view of how the system is rigged by the ultra-wealthy to benefit themselves. It also offers ideas on how to fix the system. It starts with creating an engaged and unified electorate that will hold politicians accountable for taxing the wealthiest among us.

## Share a Review or an Opinion

Send your review/opinion piece to: [srcdp.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:srcdp.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.

## 66,000 Votes still in Jeopardy

As you are undoubtedly aware, the November 5th election of Justice Allison Riggs to the North Carolina Supreme Court is still being challenged by Republican Jefferson Griffin. He is trying to throw out 66,000 votes in an attempt to steal the Supreme Court seat.

**UPDATE:** On March 21st, North Carolina appeals court judges listened to arguments about whether the 66,000 ballots should remain or be discarded. After two recounts, Democratic incumbent Allison Riggs leads Griffin by 734 votes. No immediate ruling was issued after 90 minutes of arguments before the panel, which is composed of two registered Republicans and one Democrat. There's no date set on when they will act.

And, on March 29th, Common Cause of North Carolina reported: In today's editions of the *Raleigh News & Observer* and *Charlotte Observer*, a letter from over 200 members of North Carolina's legal community called on Griffin to end his baseless attempt to throw out the lawful ballots of 66,000 voters and overturn the 2024 election. Read the letter at: [ccnc.me/LetterToGriffin](https://ccnc.me/LetterToGriffin).

burden on its taxpayers — paying for private school tuition. Go to [publicschoolsfirstnc.org](https://publicschoolsfirstnc.org) to see the data that Public Schools First has compiled on the funds received by each voucher-accepting school in the state. Private schools have no accountability for how taxpayer funds are used. Many schools are taking advantage of the massive expansion by increasing tuition to maximize revenue. Even schools that primarily or exclusively serve wealthy families are receiving tax dollars. According to the state constitution, the legislature is responsible for funding a system of PUBLIC schools, NOT private schools.