



# RanDem News

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026, Issue No. 42

## CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

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### NC Senate

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## CALENDAR

(RCDP Meetings will be conducted in person at Democratic HQ, 114 Sunset Ave, Asheboro, NC, unless otherwise noted.)

☑ **County Commissioners Meeting** Monday, February 2, 6:00 pm, Historic Randolph Courthouse, Worth St, Asheboro.

☑ **Early Voting Begins, Weekday Hours** Thursday, February 12 through Friday, February 27, 8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. *See calendar on front page.*

☑ **Randolph County Young Dems meeting**, Wednesday, February 11, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. RCDP Headquarters, 114 Sunset Ave, Asheboro

☑ **Monthly Breakfast and Executive Committee Meeting** at HQ Saturday, February 14, 9:30 am; Bring a breakfast item to share. [mobilize.us/randolphcountyncdems/event/877588/](https://mobilize.us/randolphcountyncdems/event/877588/)

☑ **Early Voting Ends** Saturday, February 28, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. *See calendar on front page.*

☑ **County Commissioners Meeting** Monday March 2, 6:00 p.m., Historic Randolph Courthouse, Worth St, Asheboro.

☑ **Primary Election Day** Tuesday, March 3, 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

☑ **Monthly Breakfast and Executive Committee Meeting** at HQ Saturday, March 14, 9:30 am; Bring a breakfast item to share. [mobilize.us/randolphcountyncdems/event/877588](https://mobilize.us/randolphcountyncdems/event/877588/)

## WEEKLY EVENTS

☑ **Stand on Salisbury (SOS)** Weekly protest on Tuesdays from 3:30 - 5:30 pm and Saturdays from 2:00 - 4:00pm at the corner of Cox and Salisbury Streets in Asheboro. All lovers of democracy welcome!

☑ **Espresso Your Voice** Conversation, connection, and advocacy, hosted by Democracy Forward, Thursdays at 4:30 pm at the Chat & Chew Bakery & Café, 10301 N Main St, Archdale.

To RSVP for upcoming RCDP events, please visit [mobilize.us/randolphcountyncdems](https://mobilize.us/randolphcountyncdems).

## Contact Your County Commissioners: Let Them Know We're Paying Attention

**Darryl L. Frye**—336-812-5951  
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## Notices & Announcements

If you would like to place an announcement or notice in *RanDem News*, email us at [rcdp.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rcdp.newsletter@gmail.com). The price is \$10 for an approximately 2"x 4" spot. Some variation on size may occur due to space constraints.



DONATE TO RCDP

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 336-629-9003 (leave message)

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

Website: [randolphcountyncdems.org](https://randolphcountyncdems.org)

Sign up to receive *RanDem News*:

[randolphcountyncdems.org/randem-news/](https://randolphcountyncdems.org/randem-news/)

Social media/contact info in one place:

[linktr.ee/randolphncdemocrats](https://linktr.ee/randolphncdemocrats) or use the QR code above.

HQ 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*

*(Paid for by the Randolph County Democratic Executive Committee and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. c2025)*



## Randolph County Must Be Ready – and Stay Ready

By Kim Nelson-Edwards, Randolph County Democratic Party Chair

Randolph County voters are facing a moment that demands our full attention. For the first time in North Carolina history, registered Republicans now outnumber registered Democrats. At the same time, the largest group of voters remains unaffiliated. This shift is already shaping how both parties are planning for the 2026 midterm elections – and it means we cannot afford to be complacent.

We have to be ready – and stay ready – for what is being thrown at us.

This is not just about party labels. It's about what kind of future Randolph County families will have. Every day, people in our community are struggling with affordability. The cost of groceries, housing, utilities, healthcare, and childcare continues to rise, while wages too often fail to keep up. Working families, seniors on fixed incomes, and young people trying to build a life here are feeling the squeeze. These are the real issues that should be driving our politics, not division or distraction.

The shift in voter registration tells us something important: many people are still searching for leadership that truly speaks to their needs. Many unaffiliated voters are tired of empty promises. They want practical solutions that help them afford to live, work, and raise a family in their own community.

As Democrats, we must meet this moment with clarity and courage. That means staying engaged, talking to our neighbors, helping people register and stay informed, and making sure every eligible voter knows their rights and their power. It also means standing firm for policies that put people first – policies that strengthen our local economy, protect access to healthcare, defend public education, and make Randolph County a place where everyone has a fair shot.

The road to 2026 starts now. Whether you are a long-time Democrat, newly registered, or unaffiliated, your voice matters. Together, we can push back against fear and misinformation and focus on what truly matters: building a stronger, more affordable, and more just Randolph County for all.

Let's stay ready – because our future depends on it.



EARLY VOTING					February 2026	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			12 8 am – 7:30 pm	13 8 am – 7:30 pm	14 closed	15 closed
16 8 am – 7:30 pm	17 8 am – 7:30 pm	18 8 am – 7:30 pm	19 8 am – 7:30 pm	20 8 am – 7:30 pm	21 closed	22 closed
23 8 am – 7:30 pm	24 8 am – 7:30 pm	25 8 am – 7:30 pm	26 8 am – 7:30 pm	27 8 am – 7:30 pm	28 8 am – 3 pm Ends Today	Voting continues Election Day: March 3

**EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS:**

**Randolph County Board of Elections**  
1457 N. Fayetteville Street, Asheboro

**Randleman Civic Center**  
122 Commerce Square, Randleman

**Franklinville United Methodist Church**  
227 W. Main Street, Franklinville

**Randolph Community College-Archdale Center**  
110 Park Drive, Archdale **NEW SITE!**

**RANDOLPH COUNTY**  
**2026 PRIMARY ELECTION DAY\***

**March 3, 2026 – 6:30 am-7:30 pm**

\*You must vote at your assigned voting precinct site on Election Day.

Questions? Call 336-318-6900 or email [elections@randolphcountync.gov](mailto:elections@randolphcountync.gov)

## Randolph County Young Dems Chartering Soon!

The Randolph County Young Democrats had a great turnout on January 14, and hope to charter on Wednesday, February 11, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Randolph County Democratic Headquarters.

There has been significant progress and continual growth in numbers since the first meeting. If you know a young Democrat or a left-leaning UNA, who is aged 18 - 35 (not yet 36) please let them know of our efforts.



**Make Your Voice Heard** – If you have an article, event, or book/media review you'd like to contribute to *RanDem News*, please email it to us at [rcdp.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rcdp.newsletter@gmail.com).

## ACS Candidates Need Your Help

Asheboro City Schools students are 70% minority, but our school board consists of four white women, four white men, and only one minority woman, Mikayla Cassidy. Mikayla won her seat over Mike Brown, a Republican who is again on the ballot for the upcoming 2026 election. Mikayla beat him last year but must run again this year for a full term. The Randolph GOP is using unscrupulous machinations to reduce the size of the local school board in order to oust the moderate members who oppose right-wing extremism in our school governance. Hilda De-Cortez, another unaffiliated candidate, was an incumbent and made a very strong showing, but lost.

It is critical that we first get Hilda and Mikayla back on the ballot by petition as they are running as unaffiliated candidates. We then need to elect them both in November.

Because both are running as unaffiliated candidates, they are required to collect a certain number of signatures from registered voters in the school district before March 3. We ask that all lovers of democracy and fair education living in the Asheboro City Schools district please sign the petition to the Board of Elections to allow Mikayla and Hilda on the ballot.

If you have not signed the petition yet, please contact Becky Megerian at [jmegerian@triad.rr.com](mailto:jmegerian@triad.rr.com) or Susie Scott at [susie.l.scott@gmail.com](mailto:susie.l.scott@gmail.com) to set up a meeting to sign.



## BOOK REVIEWS

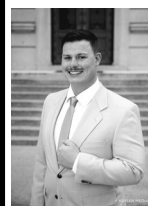
By Jay Hubbard

Over the last few months I've read three recently published history books, written from a perspective outside the American media sphere. I can't recommend them highly enough.

The first book, *The Great Class War 1914-1918*, by Jacques R. Pauwels, asserts that "the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in June 1914 — traditionally upheld by historians as the spark that lit the powder keg — was not a sufficient cause for war but rather a pretext seized upon by European powers to unleash the kind of war they had desired. But what Europe's elite did not expect or predict was some of the war's outcomes...a wave of political and social democratic reforms in Western Europe that would have far-reaching consequences."

The second book, *The Myth of the Good War: America in the Second World War*, also by Pauwels. From the author's website, "Pauwels questions this orthodox view of America's participation in World War Two. In his view, the United States was not the disinterested champion of democracy in the face of dictatorship: its role in the war was determined, rather, by the interests of its corporations and of its social, economic and political elites. His analysis explicitly addresses many of the myths that have since been fostered about the U.S. decision to enter the war alongside the Soviet Union, the U.K. and Canada, and against Nazi Germany."

## Loren Bibler for Progress



I very much appreciate the opportunity to introduce myself and present my platform's priorities to the RanDem Community. My name is Loren Bibler, I am a 30-year-old North Carolina native and have ties to District 9, growing up in the Guilford County portion of the district.

One of the pillars of my campaign platform is enshrining comprehensive Healthcare as a constitutional right. No

person nor family should be financially crippled for decades because of sickness, disease, or an accident. By the time I graduated high school, the list of procedures I'd had would make a grown man blush. Dental reconstructions, dermabrasions, testicular torsion (yes, I lost it), and tearing my meniscus in both my knees. I was an expensive child; I just didn't get any say in how it was spent.

The second pillar of my campaign platform is strengthening workers' rights. Working as an agronomist for the last 15 years has deepened this belief. Knowing my colleagues were leaving a full workday at the course only to go to their second, or third, job was infuriating. They worked hard, put in extra effort, and still a full-time position was not enough to support them and their families. I do not believe this was the American dream we were sold in grade school.

The third pillar is regulating AI, especially Large-Language-Models. LLM's and AI both hold the capacity to greatly transform our society and workforce. As regulators and lawmakers, the duty to control and shape this transformation remains in the hands of our legislators. This technology can streamline many of our day-to-day tasks, with added efficiency and precision. I do not believe it has the ability, nor should it, to replace the human element in the workforce. I believe that restrictions and regulations are paramount to proper integration into the workforce, and to maintain respect for individual rights and privacy.

Thank you again for taking the time to learn about me and my platform for the upcoming primary. Please make a plan to vote, and bring a friend along too.

Learn more and donate at: [biberforprogress.com](http://biberforprogress.com)

Finally, I read *The Jakarta Method: Washington's Anticommunist Crusade and the Mass Murder Program that Shaped Our World*, by Vincent Bevins, an American writer who worked as a foreign correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times*, and *The Washington Post*. The title refers to Indonesian mass killings that took place in 1965-66, during which at least one million people were murdered in an effort to destroy communists and other movements for democracy. Bevins describes subsequent replications of this strategy of mass murder against democracy activists and economic reform movements around the world.

Americans are reliving some of this history right now. There has never been a better time to dig deep and ask hard questions.

## Meet Our 9th Congressional District Primary Candidates

Introducing our four primary candidates for North Carolina's 9th Congressional District: (in alphabetical order) Loren Bibler, Nigel Bristow, Lent Carr II, and Maj. Ret. Richard Ojeda. Please get to know these candidates so that you may make an informed choice in the March 3 Primary. Early voting starts Thursday, February 12. See front page for early voting calendar.



### Nigel Bristow: Putting People First in North Carolina's 9th District

Nigel Bristow is a Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress in North Carolina's 9th Congressional District, running on a simple but powerful belief: Government should put people first.

Nigel's life has been defined by public service. He retired as a detective from the New York City Police Department after 20 years, where he worked to keep communities safe and build trust between law enforcement and the people they serve. After moving to North Carolina in 2011, he continued his commitment to public safety and accountability, serving as a probation and parole officer and later as Chief of Probation/Parole for Anson County.

Beyond his professional career, Nigel has deep roots in community service. He currently serves as Chairman of the Board for New Horizons Life and Family Services, an organization supporting survivors of domestic violence. He is also involved in reentry work through local reentry councils, helping individuals successfully transition back into their communities. Nigel is a deacon at Livingston Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, where faith, service, and justice guide his work.

Nigel is running for Congress because too many families in our district feel unheard and left behind. He believes working people deserve affordable healthcare, good-paying jobs, strong public schools, and a government that protects democracy rather than putting up barriers to the ballot. His priorities include expanding access to healthcare, defending voting rights, supporting educators, investing in infrastructure and broadband, and strengthening public safety through prevention, accountability, and opportunity.

Nigel and his wife are raising their son here in North Carolina, and he understands firsthand the challenges families face - balancing work, caring for loved ones, and planning for the future.

This campaign is about restoring trust, dignity, and accountability in government. Nigel Bristow is running to be a voice for everyday people and to make sure Washington never forgets.

Learn more and donate at: [nigelbristowforcongress.com](http://nigelbristowforcongress.com)

### Lent Carr III

We did not receive a submission from Mr. Carr.

Learn more at: [lentcarrforcongress.com](http://lentcarrforcongress.com)



### Major Retired Richard Ojeda: United, We Win

Major Retired Richard Ojeda is running for U.S. Congress in North Carolina's 9th District to represent veterans, working families, teachers, and others who want their voices heard in

Washington. Richard has spent most of his life in service to others and now seeks to take that experience to Congress.

Richard served in the U.S Army for 24 years, including tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Haiti. Fifteen of those years were spent in Fayetteville at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where his daughter was born and his family was raised. Through his years of service, North Carolina became his family's forever home.

After retiring from the military, Richard and his family moved to West Virginia to help care for their aging parents. Richard continued to serve others by teaching Junior ROTC at a local high school. While there, he saw the challenges students, parents, and educators face every day. That experience helped shape his belief that leaders must work with their communities and respond to the real problems people are facing.

Richard went on to serve in the state senate, where he worked on issues important to families, including supporting teachers and helping pass legislation like medical cannabis. After serving in the legislature, Richard and his family returned to North Carolina, bringing his parents and in-laws with them. Although he had not planned to return to politics, he decided that the Trump administration's actions and its decimation of the VA system were too much to watch and not fight directly.

Richard's campaign priorities reflect conversations he has had with veterans, farmers, teachers, and working families throughout the district. His platform calls for better care for veterans, increased teacher pay, efforts to cut student debt, stronger Medicare and Medicaid protections, higher wages, support for farmers, and defense of labor rights.

Learn more and donate at: [ojedafornc.com](http://ojedafornc.com)

### Petition to Reinstate Library Board of Trustees

The Randolph County Library Board of Trustees was dismissed in its entirety over the decision not to remove a children's book, *Call Me Max*, about a trans boy. The more Puritanical members of our County Board of Commissioners deemed it too controversial.

Sign the petition asking the Randolph County Commissioners to reinstate the recently dismissed Library Board of Trustees: [fightforthefirst.org/petitions/reinstate-the-randolph-county-nc-library-board](http://fightforthefirst.org/petitions/reinstate-the-randolph-county-nc-library-board)