



# The Banner

An Online Monthly e-Newsletter for the Democratic Party

By Authority: FCDCC, Tony Soltero, Treasurer

December 2020

## Central Committee

(Front Row L – R)

Lauren Beacham, Bill Reid, Deb Reynolds,  
Mari Lee, Tom Slater, Deborah Carter,  
Regan Riley (Back Row L-R)  
Renee Knapp, Gabriel Cassutto, Tony  
Soltero, Josh Cramer, Antonio Bowens



## The Chair's Corner-

It's Giving Tuesday! Today, we're asking you to donate whatever you can to help turn the U.S. Senate blue. For those who don't know, the Republicans now hold 50 senate seats, but Georgia's two senators are yet to be elected. The state is holding a runoff election on January 5; if both Jon Ossoff and Rev. Raphael Warnock win their races, Vice President Harris becomes the tiebreaking vote, and that means we can give President Biden a Democratic majority!

Between now and January 5, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved: texting voters in Georgia, making phone calls, writing letters, sending postcards – we've posted links to a number of groups on our Facebook page, and we encourage you to check them out and find a way to help. But what's needed now above all is money. To learn about Ossoff and donate to his campaign, go to <https://election.com>. For Warnock, visit <https://warnockforgeorgia.com>.

If you'd like to volunteer close to home, our office is still open one day a week. Can you spare a little time to help staff the desk on a Saturday? Check out all the info and get the December schedule here: <https://frederickdems.ivolunteer.com/>.

Assuming it's safe, we'll open up a bit more in February and March to work on the Frederick City election!

Speaking of safe, COVID cases are on the rise, as we all know. We are so thankful to County Executive Jan Gardner and the Frederick County Board of Health for encouraging responsible behavior and restricting risky activities locally. Unfortunately, a few Republicans have reacted by going on the attack. In addition to spreading dangerous misinformation on social media (we're looking at you, Del. Cox!), a small but loud group of "conservatives" have spent their past two Saturday mornings maskless outside CE Gardner's home, blasting music, shouting, and banging on pots and pans like toddlers.

Today, please – in fact, right now, before you read more – send a quick email to the County Council and tank them for taking steps to keep our community safe in these frightening times. Too often, our elected officials hear from only the folks who disagree with them; we need to let them know

we have their back. One email to [councilmembers@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:councilmembers@FrederickCountyMD.gov) will reach them all.

The three Republican council members, unfortunately, voted against these measures; so if you live in councilmanic district 2 or 5 (as I do) and would like to express your specific disappointment with Steve McKay or Michael Blue, that would be appropriate. And of course, if you live in district 1, 3, or 4 and would particularly like to thank Jerry Donald, M.C. Keegan-Ayer, or Jessica Fitzwater, please do! (Of the at-large council members, Kai Hagen voted in favor of keeping us safe, and Phil Dacey voted against it.)

Well, friends, this is our final Banner of 2020, and we won't see you again until February 1. But please stay in touch at [www.frederickdemocrats.org](http://www.frederickdemocrats.org), and keep an eye on our FB page for news. Have a happy and safe holiday season, and I hope we can be together in person in the new year.

December 2020 - At-a-Glance



**Women's Democratic League (WDL) Meeting**  
**Monday, December 14th at 6:30 p.m.**  
For info please visit [WDL Frederick.org](http://WDL.Frederick.org)



Senator Ron Young- District 3

We are relieved and pleased that we have won back the presidency. It has certainly been a nail-biting experience as we waited for the results from Pennsylvania, Georgia, Nevada, Arizona and Michigan to get counted and certified.

In approximately two months, this nightmare experience of division, racism, narcissism, corruption and lies will come to an end. Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have a herculean task in front of them. They must immediately begin addressing the pandemic. We have lost hundreds of thousands of lives while President Trump has downplayed, dismissed and ignored providing the leadership to address the greatest American tragedy of the last hundred years. Instead he played golf and held mass super-spreading rallies to feed his ego.

In addition, they must reinvigorate the economy, restoring integrity in government and reuniting America. After four years of Trump insulting our allies and worshiping dictators, Biden needs to reestablish our role in international leadership and cooperation. There are also health care, immigration policy, global warming and many other issues to address. No administration has faced such a daunting task since F.D.R. in 1932 with the Depression.

Locally, this was the first election since 1964 that Frederick County has seen a Democratic presidential candidate carry the county. This was a great effort by a number of people locally. Tom Slater, William Reid, Karen Lewis Young and I joined the state Biden for President committee about a year and a half ago. Tom, Karen, and Bill all ran as Biden delegates to the Democratic Convention and were elected. Everyone stayed involved in the campaign in one form or another. We all made calls to other states, particularly to Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, and Texas. Karen was team chair for Western Maryland for Biden and Western Maryland Women for Biden.

Trump may have to be carried out of the White House. He has filed and lost more than thirty lawsuits trying to overturn the election. He won't concede and has made the transition as difficult as possible. He is still trying to claim victory after losing the popular vote by more than six million votes and the electoral votes by the same margin by which he won it and claimed a landslide victory four years ago.

Fortunately, he doesn't have to concede. The American people made the choice. On January 20, Joe Biden will be sworn in as president and Kamala Harris as vice president. Biden was unsuccessful two times before. Maybe it was fate. No one was needed more than he was at this time.

Democracy has been saved. A new day is coming here in the United States and in Frederick County. God bless America! We have much to celebrate and be grateful for.

-Ron



Delegate Karen Lewis Young

District 3A

**Thankful**

Since I am writing this piece on Thanksgiving Eve, it seems appropriate to share some of the reasons why I am thankful. Despite a pandemic and a major recession, there is much to be thankful for.

First and foremost, I am thankful that Joe Biden will be our next president. I am thankful for the many Frederick County Democrats who volunteered thousands of hours to register voters, mail postcards, participate in phone banking, and canvass in swing states. I know that our efforts made a difference.

I am thankful that our next president will be presidential. He will be compassionate, fair, honest, dedicated, empathetic, and kind. He will not only bring respectability to the White House, but he will also rescue the soul of our nation (as he promised).

I am thankful that, instead of worrying about the future of our country, I have great hope again. I have hope that we will significantly increase our efforts to reduce climate change, develop a national strategy for combatting the coronavirus, restore the middle class, improve health care affordability and accessibility, grow our economy with jobs that provide a livable wage, restore America's reputation throughout the world, expand education opportunities, and guarantee liberty and justice for all.

I am thankful that Joe Biden chose a strong, smart woman as his running mate and he is choosing a cabinet made up of highly experienced, well-respected individuals. These people also reflect the diversity of our country more so than previous administrations.

I am thankful for my many colleagues in Annapolis who have supported our efforts to ensure that Frederick's needs are met. The relationships that I have developed are inspiring and stimulating as well as productive.

I am thankful that we have Jan Gardner as our County Executive during these turbulent times. Few elected officials work harder or come better prepared to meet the challenges of today. As we look across the counties on so many important metrics, Frederick performs consistently well. So much of that is correlated to our leadership.

And last, but not least, I am thankful for my supporters. I appreciate the trust and confidence that you have placed in me and consider it a great honor to represent you.

Please be cautious and safe during the holidays so that we can enjoy many more together.

-Karen Lewis Young



Tom Slater- Frederick County Democratic Party Historian

**The Rest of the Story**

Some random thoughts about the 2020 election:

...Hooray for Frederick County. For only the third time since 1940, our county voted for the Democratic nominee for President of the United States (1940 and 1964 were the other years). Joe Biden/Kamala Harris – 77,675(53.3%); Donald Trump/Michael Pence – 63,682(43.7%). The almost 14,000 margin (13,993) far exceeded my prediction of at least 3,000 in the last issue of *The Banner*. The Biden/Harris 53.3% exceeds FDR's 51.55% in 1940 but falls short of LBJ's 61.10% in 1964. In some respects, the 53.3% is more impressive than the 1964 result because LBJ's opponent, Barry Goldwater, received only 38.5% of the vote nationally, whereas President Trump received 47.2% nationally compared to Biden/Harris's 51.1% (with some of the votes still to be tallied). David Trone beat Neil Parrott with 61.6% compared to Parrott's 36.2% percent in Frederick, and Jamie Raskin lost to Gregory Coll by a 56.6% to 43.2% margin in Frederick County but won the sixth district handily. The areas of Frederick County that are in the eighth congressional district (C.D.) are much more conservative than the areas in the 6<sup>th</sup> C.D.

...National turnout was great – about 144 million or 66.3% of registered

voters, the highest percent of national turnout since 1908. Frederick's turnout was 78%. Vermont gave Biden 66% of the vote, with Maryland and Massachusetts next with 65%.

...While we will get Trump out of the White House, Trumpism was not totally defeated, as Trump's share of the popular vote was greater than anticipated. Republicans made gains in the House, and we did not make as many gains in the Senate as expected (come on Georgia, you can do it!). The *Washington Post*, on November 13, 2020, reported it this way: "Some Democrats are betting that the 2020 general election represented a perfect storm for down-ballot Republicans, who benefited not only from the massive turnout of otherwise politically disengaged Trump supporters but also from ticket-splitting from traditional GOP voters who opted for Biden." Centrist and more liberal Democrats in the House have engaged in a spirited discussion about what the Democratic message should be. Hopefully, Democrats in the House will work out these differences, and gains will be made in 2022 (although traditionally the party of the most recently elected president loses seats in the next non-Presidential election).

...According to Dan Balz, writing in the *Washington Post* on November 8, 2020, "Biden might have been the only Democrat among the two dozen or so men and women who sought the nomination who was capable of doing what he did, which was to hold the key states in the northern tier, with substantial populations of White workers without college degrees, and potentially expand into the South and Southwest, where demographic changes are altering politics." Those demographic changes are increases in minority populations. Griff Witte, also writing in the *Post* (11/8/20), discussed how the shifts outside urban areas drove Biden's win in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Michigan: "The real difference between 2016 and 2020 was most pronounced in suburbs and small cities, where increasing diversity and a less overwhelming margin for Trump among White voters both

appeared to have helped propel Biden to victory. Among White men without college degrees and White suburban women, for instance ... Biden has done better, or at least less bad than Clinton did in 2016. That was evident in the three Republican counties surrounding Milwaukee: Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington. Collectively known as the WOW counties, they are predominantly White, and they reliably come out in force for the GOP nominee. They did this year too – but Biden managed to substantially narrow the gap, especially in Ozaukee, where seven points were sliced off Trump's advantage. Those gains for Biden more than offset an improved Trump performance in many Wisconsin's rural counties and helped deliver Biden victory by just over half a percentage point statewide. It was a similar story in next-door Michigan, where Biden managed to pull off an approximately 2 1/2 –point win, largely by improving on Clinton's performance in the suburbs outside Detroit. Macomb County – famed home of the Reagan Democrats – had voted twice for Obama before crossing to Trump in 2016. It didn't cross back this time, but Biden cut into Trump's lead. The Democratic nominee made up even more ground in the exurbs of Livingston County, long a Republican stronghold, and in Ottawa County, just outside Grand Rapids."

...*New York Times* preliminary exit polls are interesting: Biden was ahead of Trump by 75% with Black voters, 33% with Latinos, 27% with Asians, 24% with age 18-29, 15% with women, and 6% with ages 30-44. The President-elect and Democrats owe Congressman Clyburn and African-American voters. Trump was ahead of Biden by 52% with Evangelicals, 17% with Whites, 8% with men, 5% with age 65+, 2% with those having no college degrees, and +1 with ages 45-64. As a 75-year-old white man, I fit the Trump profile (no way!).

...Trump's post-election conduct is unprecedented in United States history (although post-election shenanigans did occur in 1800, 1824,

and 1876). He just continues to demonstrate that he thinks only of himself and has no loyalty to anyone or anything other than himself. The *New York Times*, in October 2020, reported the death of psychologist Scott Lilienfeld, who wrote extensively on psychopathy which he described as having “three underlying personality features that psychopaths share, whether they commit illegal acts or not: fearless dominance, meanness, and impulsivity. The psychopath does what he or she wants, without anxiety, regret or regard for the suffering of others.” Sounds just like Trump.

...Trump won 2,664 counties, and Biden won 477 counties (with over 50% of the population). This reflects a rural vs. urban divide. 77% of the economic activity of the country is generated in the 477 counties that Biden won.

...On an “I told you so” note, in my September column in *The Banner* I criticized Governor Hogan as being a Reagan Republican who was no friend of Democrats. The *Baltimore Sun*, in a November 18, 2020 editorial, commented on Hogan’s write-in vote for Reagan as “Hogan’s Reagan Crush” and pointed out that Reagan ignored the AIDS crisis, illegally sold military arms to Iran, attacked workers, and excessively spent on military hardware and pointed out that the Reagan years weren’t “so great for civil rights, for cities, for low-income families, for the LGBTQ community, for women, or for minorities.”

...On a local note, some of you may remember Peyton Paul Phillips, a long-time Democratic supporter in Frederick (see 1969 picture of Young Democrats), whose wife, Arlene, was an elected member of the Frederick City Board of Aldermen. Paul and Arlene have retired to Manatee County, Florida. Paul reports that he has been elected by a 556 to 452 vote to the Board of Supervisors of the Tara Community Development District in a strong Republican county. Fortunately for Paul, the office he was elected to is non-partisan.

...On a “can you believe this!” note, Washington County Republican Central Committee Chair Jerry DeWolf has made the news recently for posting a meme with a picture of Hillary Clinton talking to Joe Biden with the comment: “You know, Hunter is gonna have to commit suicide right?” DeWolf also was reported to ask for an investigation into a Black Lives Matter fundraiser that listed him as a donor. He called listing him as a supporter of Black Lives Matter “a politically motivated attack designed to harass and intimidate,” according to the *Herald-Mail*. You just cannot make this stuff up!

...On a sad note, our condolences go to our Democratic friends Sabrina Massett and Kevin Lollar (part of Nick’s “adopted” family) for the loss of Sabrina’s father, Dominick “Nick” Massett, who passed away recently at the age of 92. Also we note the passing of Betty Smelser, at age 96, widow of former Maryland State Senator Charles Smelser, who represented Frederick County in the Maryland General Assembly as a Senator from 1967 until 1995 and the House of Delegates from 1955 until 1963. Senator Smelser died in 2009.

...40 years ago in the *Banner*: Democrats in Frederick County were unhappy with the election of Republican Ronald Reagan as President of the United States, the defeat of many Democratic members of the House and Senate, and the emergence of the “Moral Majority” and other right wing groups. Frederick County Central Committee member Austin Powell was selected as an elector to cast one of Maryland’s eight electoral votes for Jimmy Carter for President, and Democrat Beverly Byron easily won re-election to represent the sixth C.D. of Maryland.

-Tom Slater



(Above) Young Democrats planning meeting in 1969. Back Row (L to R): Tom Slater, Beverly Byron, Herman Miller. Front Row (L to R): Paul Phillips, Galen Clagett, Ronald Young.



Frederick County Democratic Party Podcasts

Be sure to listen in as we discuss all things of interest to local Dems.

Listen on [Soundcloud](#), [iTunes](#) or on your podcast app. Be sure to follow us too!

**Important Note:** Remember, that while we have defeated President Trump in the election, Trumpism lives on and will outlast his term in office. We must work to expunge these dangerous beliefs from our politics at the local, state and federal level.

-Gabriel Cassutto



Editor's Corner

**Gmail** users – Our mail server may cause *The Banner* to be delivered to your email "Promotions" tab instead of your inbox. If you do not receive your monthly edition, please check for it in that tab. If it isn't there, please send me an email and I'll check your subscription. You may also view *The Banner* on our website by clicking [here](#).

**Banner Newsletter Ideas?**

Send me an email with your ideas, materials, or feedback for consideration.

Hope you enjoyed reading!

*Gabriel Cassutto,*

[gabe.cassutto@gmail.com](mailto:gabe.cassutto@gmail.com)

OR

Central Committee -

[info@frederickdemocrats.org](mailto:info@frederickdemocrats.org)



and



with

Frederick County Democrats

Like us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter



Visit our website



Follow us on Instagram



Click on the icons for a direct connection.

Check us out on YouTube too!



**WDL**

Women's Democratic League  
Frederick County, Maryland



**\*Special Virtual Event\***  
**Monday, December 14**  
**6:30- 8:00 p.m.**  
**Postcards to Voters**

Join us to write GOTV (Get Out The Vote) postcards to Georgia voters!

Visit our website or Facebook page for more info and to sign up!

[www.wdlfrederick.org](http://www.wdlfrederick.org)

Questions? Email us at [wdlfrederick@gmail.com](mailto:wdlfrederick@gmail.com)

WDLFrederick on Facebook

*As you've probably heard, the State of Georgia will be hosting a special runoff election on 5 January 2021. Adding the voices of Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff to the U.S. Senate is critical to the work ahead of the Biden-Harris Administration. Please join the WDL as we gather virtually on Monday, 14 December at 6:30 p.m. to write postcards to help GOTV (Get Out The Vote) in Georgia.*

*There are two options for postcards: 1) you can either sign up at Postcards to Voters at [Volunteer](#). In signing up, you will be required to write a sample postcard and have it approved by Postcards to Voters before they can order addresses, or 2) you can contact Melanie Galloway at [danmelgalloway@verizon.net](mailto:danmelgalloway@verizon.net) by Thursday, 3 December, and she will order addresses from Flip the West and forward them to you by Dec. 14.*

*Important: you MUST send all postcards you write within three days. If you choose option one and want to write with us on the 14th, you need to request the addresses from Postcards to Voters no earlier than the 12th and then mail the postcards out on the 15th. You can buy neutral postcards or lined/unlined "4X6" index cards at any local store. You'll only need 20 postcards and addresses for our get-together. Don't forget to buy stamps too.*

*To reserve your virtual seat, please click [here](#). Approximately 24 hours before our event, you will receive an email with the Zoom access link.*

*We look forward to having you join us!*



---

Giving Tuesday 2020

This Giving Tuesday, 1 December, we're asking for your support of the critical special runoff election in Georgia.

Every dollar that the Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff campaigns raise will help them Get Out The Vote.

Please give what you can - even \$5.00 helps.

Please donate directly to their campaigns: [warnockforgeorgia.com](http://warnockforgeorgia.com) | [election.com](http://election.com)

By auth: FCDCG, Tony Soltero, Treasurer

---





WE'RE SAVING FOR A SUNNY DAY!

# BE A MONTHLY SUSTAINER!

Your monthly contribution of \$5 or \$10 supports local Democratic candidates!

**SUSTAINERS WILL RECEIVE A  
FREDERICK DEMOCRATS TOTE BAG**

To join, visit [www.frederickdemocrats.org/contribute](http://www.frederickdemocrats.org/contribute)  
By Authority: FCDCC Tony Soltero, Treasurer



# STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



For more information: [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)