



The Banner

An Online Monthly e-Newsletter for the Democratic Party

By Authority: FCDCC, McCamie Patterson, Treasurer

February 2025

CHAIR'S CORNER



Chairwoman Mari Lee

Welcome to the first Banner of 2025! The first few weeks of the year started with the continued calm, compassionate, and strong leadership of President Biden and Vice President Harris, closing out four years of many accomplishments and necessary global partnerships. While there were concerns regarding everyday issues important to many that needed real solutions, our country could still be viewed as a beacon of hope.

In only 13 days since the inauguration, the actions of Donald Trump and his administration have created chaos and confusion and are positioning our beloved country into a tailspin back to worrying and perilous times. From one day to the next, or even one hour to the next, executive orders are signed and released that are detrimental to people's lives, livelihoods, and our country's ability to serve all but the wealthy oligarchs. While Trump won the election, his margin was not a mandate. And while he attempted to distance himself from Project 2025, he

and his administration are fully embracing it, methodically implementing each agenda item without forethought and tearing the very fabric of our Constitution. Despite his slogan and those red hats, nothing that has happened in the past 13 days has "Made America Great Again," and there's nothing in Project 2025's playbook that ever will.

While dealing with the onslaught of destabilizing executive orders, the flood of misinformation/disinformation is happening at warp speed. So much so that it's hard to grasp all that is occurring because of it. But we can't let rhetoric, propaganda, and outright lies distract us from the essential fight against the shredding of our democracy and Constitution before us. We also can't let the overwhelm break our sanity. Be intentional about taking time for physical and emotional rest as you need it.

Turning to local news, this year, the City of Frederick will hold its municipal elections for the Mayor and seven-member City Council. Candidate filing starts this month and runs through 1 July 2025. You can learn more about their elections [here](#). With this in mind, the Central Committee will host a campaign school in the spring for anyone interested in running for office; anyone interested in running for office for the gubernatorial elections in 2026 may also attend. We'll announce more details once finalized.

A few weeks ago, the Central Committee held a special public meeting to interview and select applicants to fill vacant seats. I am pleased to announce the addition of

Megan LeRoux, and two new associate members, Louisa Conklin and Joe Castle. Megan served as a legal advocate for victims of domestic violence and as a District Court Commissioner; she currently works in the Maryland Office of the Public Defender. Despite facing the challenges of running against an entrenched incumbent, Megan ran for Clerk of the Circuit Court in 2018 and 2022. Her ability to secure 47% of the vote speaks volumes about the support and respect from within her community. Megan embraces her role as a mother to three sons, all graduates of Frederick High School. Louisa moved to Brunswick from Knoxville, TN in 2021. She has voted for Democrats in five states as well as the District since she cast her first vote in 2004. Before she was old enough to vote, she volunteered for the late, great progressive Representative Bill Pascrell of NJ, helping his immigration office and voter registration efforts. Louisa's priority is resisting fascism and recruiting more progressive candidates for local office. Joe (Dr. Castle) currently works for a private software company after having served over twenty years in the U.S. federal government at The White House and the U.S. General Services Administration. As a veteran of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division, he supports numerous veterans' organizations. We welcome all three members, and we thank outgoing members Tom Slater and Teresa Schwab for their work and service while on the DCC. Both will still participate through subcommittee efforts.

(Continued on the next page)

Join the Central Committee on Sunday, 9 February, at 1:30 PM for a Town Hall / Listening Session at the C. Burr Artz Library Community Room, 110 E. Patrick Street, Frederick. We want to hear YOUR comments, questions, concerns, and expectations about how the local Party can better serve you now and in the future. While the event is in person, we seek a logistics headcount. Please register [here](#).

Please save the date for our annual Democratic Party Gala on Monday, 9 June, at 6 PM, at Dutch's Daughter. Our special guest will be someone you sure won't want to miss. We'll soon announce more details, including tickets, sponsorships, and info about our special guest. We are also concurrently planning our Plow-Fish event schedule. We expect to hold the kickoff on a soon-to-be determined date in the spring.

I'm happy to announce that we will reopen our HQ on Thursday, 6 February. Stop by to visit us anytime at 8 West 5th Street, Frederick, during our new hours: Thursdays 5-7 PM, and Saturdays and Sundays, 10 AM – 2 PM.



Tom Slater, Frederick County Democratic Party Historian

The Rest of the Story – Jimmy Carter and Frederick County/Electors from Frederick County/Passages

When former President Jimmy Carter died at the end of December at age 100, it brought back memories of Jimmy Carter and Frederick County. Other than staying at Camp David or flying to Camp David and landing at the Hagerstown airport, I'm not aware of any Jimmy Carter appearances in Frederick except in Thurmont while staying at Camp David when they visited the Mother Seaton Shrine and other places. He did appear at a rally at Longmeadow Shopping Center in Hagerstown, I believe during his 1976 campaign for the presidency. He also spoke at the Naval Academy's graduation in 1978. While he was President, Carter visited the Antietam National Cemetery on July 6, 1978, and attended services at the First Baptist Church in Hagerstown in March of 1977. In September 1980 he fished in Washington County on Jack and Ginny Slick's farm near the Potomac River. After his presidency, Jimmy and Roselyn volunteered for Habitat for Humanity in Baltimore City in 1992 and in Baltimore and Annapolis in 2010.

Ron Young has fond memories of Jimmy Carter. At the 1972 convention, Ron had the opportunity to talk to Governor Carter. In 1975, the primary supporter of Governor Carter for President in Maryland was State

Senator Jim Clark, chair of the Maryland State Senate Finance Committee. Late in 1975, Senator Clark invited some Maryland politicians to his farm in Howard County to meet the up-and-coming Georgia governor. Ron was among those invited. He tells me that at that time he had no expectation that Carter would be a credible candidate for president but he decided to attend the event at Clark's farm because he expected to talk to some members of the Maryland legislature about the underground wiring project Ron, as Mayor of Frederick, was working on. Carter made a great impression on Ron, and he left the event as a supporter of Carter. Shortly thereafter, Senator Clark called Ron and asked him to be on a slate of delegates to the 1976 Democratic Convention that he was putting together. Ron agreed to join the slate that also included Senator Clark, state Senator John Corderman from Washington County, Delegate Paula Hollinger from Baltimore County, and newspaper publisher Tom Finan from Allegany County.

Maryland's Governor Marvin Mandel and Governor Carter were not fans of each other, probably going back to their interactions on the Democratic Governors Association. Mandel decided to support the candidacy of California Governor Jerry Brown in the 1976 Maryland Democratic primary. Mandel had a powerful political machine and Brown won the state of Maryland in the presidential primary. There was one problem, the Brown campaign had a late start and had not filed slates of delegates in all of the congressional districts. As a result, all five of the Carter delegates that had filed in the 6th congressional district of Maryland were elected to the 1976 Democratic convention as delegates. Wilbur Ford, the local Carter campaign treasurer and a member of the Frederick County Democratic State Central Committee, was chosen as a

(Continued on the next page)



New Central Committee members:
Megan LeRoux



Louisa Conklin



Joe Castle



Carter Alternate delegate by the Maryland Democratic Party after the primary election.

At some point during the primary campaign, some Carter supporters from Georgia showed up in Frederick and stayed at the Holiday Inn on Route 40. Ron met with them and started a friendship with one of Carter's closest friends and advisors John Pope. Pope was a prosperous Americus, Georgia, businessman who co-owned a cabin in the Georgia mountains with the Carters. Also at the Holiday Inn was Carter's son Chip. Chip attended and spoke at the Frederick County Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner at the Elks Club, as did Jerry Brown's sister.

At the Democratic National Convention in New York City, Carter and his family stayed at the same hotel as the Maryland delegation, as did Carter's old and Ron's new-found friend John Pope. Ron got invited by John Pope to a number of Carter and Georgia events at the convention and Ron met many of the Carter clan.

After Jimmy Carter was sworn in as President of the United States, Ron and his wife Carol as well as Wilbur and his wife Mary Ann, were invited to and attended a White House dinner honoring Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and his wife Margaret. The Youngs and the Fords were the first to go through the reception line to greet the Carters and the Trudeaus.

When Carter ran for re-election in 1980, someone other than Clark managed Carter's Maryland campaign and Ron was not selected as a Carter delegate. Carter's challenger in the 1980 Democratic primary was Senator Ted Kennedy. I got involved early in the Kennedy campaign and was a Maryland Kennedy At-Large delegate to the 1980 Democratic convention. Although Carter was nominated for re-election, he lost in the general election to California Governor Ronald Reagan.

In 1980, Carter did earn Maryland's ten electoral votes, and Austin Powell, a member of the Frederick County Democratic State Central Committee, was selected by the Maryland Democratic Party to be one of Maryland's Electors. The last Elector from Frederick County before Powell was William J. Grove in 1936. Austin and his fellow Electors signed the last page of the book that had been signed by every Maryland Elector since the election of George Washington in 1789. Twelve years later, Frederick County Democratic Central Committee member Bill Abrecht was selected as a Maryland Elector. Another thirty-two years elapsed before a resident of Frederick County was selected as a Maryland Elector. In 2024 I had the honor of being selected by the Maryland Democratic Party to be a Maryland Elector and on December 17, 2024, I proudly cast one of Maryland's ten electoral votes for Kamila Harris and Tim Walz.

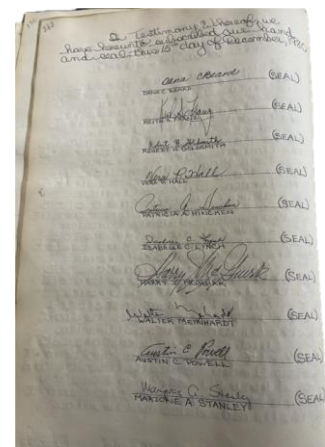
Passages: The Democratic Party lost four stalwarts recently – Zakir Bengali, Ed Gillis, Don Robertson, and Tony Carey. Zakir Bengali was an ardent local supporter of the Democratic Party, an accomplished scientist, and a former member of the Frederick County Board of Education. He was 84. Ed Gillis was a loyal Democratic from Baltimore County who served as the Baltimore County Attorney, served on the county's Planning Board and Board of Education and was a past president of the Maryland State Bar Association. He died suddenly of a heart attack at age 69. His wife, Barbara Stultz, was born in Frederick. Don Robertson served in the Maryland House of Delegates representing Montgomery County for 18 years. He was 93. Tony Carey was an attorney, legal ethics specialist, and founder of the Baltimore School for the Arts. He died at age 89.

His wife, Eleanor had served as Deputy Maryland Attorney General, Senior

Advisor to the Governor of Maryland, was an unsuccessful candidate for Maryland Attorney General, and served in various other governmental capacities.



Maryland 1980 Electors

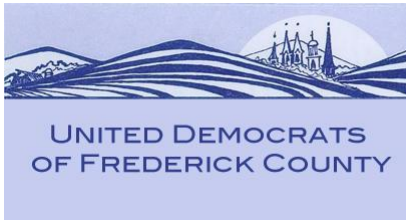


Austin Powell's signature in the Maryland Book of Electors



Tom Slater being sworn in as a 2024 Elector





**UNITED DEMOCRATS OF
FREDERICK COUNTY**

Hello UDFC Member and Friends,

You are invited to join UDFC for the Monday, February 3rd meeting at Cafe 611 at 7 PM. As always, the doors open at 6 PM for socializing and purchasing food and drink at guest expense. This is one way we can thank Cafe 611 for offering us the venue for our meetings! After opening announcements from 7-7:15, Tom and Stephen Slater will present election results and analysis from the November election from 7:15 to 8:00 PM.

During our business meeting from 8-8:30, we have several things to discuss, including setting up a nominating committee, discussing vacancies on the Board of Directors, and getting ideas for meeting topics in 2025. A detailed agenda will be available at the meeting.

Suzanne Salichs of Centro Hispano de Frederick will be our guest speaker at the Monday, March 3rd meeting, and will be discussing issues facing our immigrant community.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

- Maureen Grayzeck
President, UDFC



**WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC
LEAGUE OF FREDERICK
COUNTY**

The WDL will hold our monthly meeting on Monday, February 17th at 7:00 pm. We are still trying to finalize the location. In honor of Black History Month, our guest speaker will be from the African American Resources Cultural and Heritage Society (AARCH). Their mission – The AARCH Society identifies, collects, preserves, and makes publicly accessible, through our programs and services, the objects, artifacts, and stories about the history, rich heritage, and culture and the contributions of African Americans in Frederick County past and present and in doing so educates, enriches, and enlightens this and future generations.

I hope to see you there!

Shelly Beaird-Francois,
President, WDL



Don't forget to check the calendar on our website to keep up with Democratic meetings, candidate events, and more!

<http://www.frederickdemocrats.org/events/calendar>



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!

Shelly Beaird-Francois,
shelly@frederickdemocrats.org
or
Central Committee -
info@frederickdemocrats.org



Bob Kresslein, Member,
Democratic National
Committee

DNC TO ELECT NEW CHAIR

On February 1, 2025, the Democratic National Committee will convene at National Harbor in Prince George's County for its Winter Meeting. The highlight of the meeting will be the election of a new Chair, several Vice-Chairs, and other officers of the Democratic Party, to serve until the next quadrennial national convention in 2028. The meeting is generally open to the public.

Among those seeking to serve the party as Chair for the next 4 years is our own former governor, Martin O'Malley. At this point, the major competition appears to be between Governor O'Malley, Ken Martin, Chair of the Minnesota Democrat Farm Labor Party, and Ben Wikler, Chair of the Wisconsin Democratic Party. There are several other candidates vying for the position as well: Dr. Quintessa Hathaway, Robert Houton (also a Marylander) Jason Paul, Nate Snyder, and former Presidential candidate, Marianne Williamson. Each has a webpage and/or social media site from which you may gather more information.

The party officers are elected by a majority vote of DNC members, some of whom, like me, are elected by their respective state parties and some of whom are appointed as at-large members by the DNC itself. There are 488 eligible voters.

For my part, I am supporting Governor O'Malley. My experience with the governor is that he is an intelligent and forceful advocate for core Democratic principles, with experience in running large diverse organizations. He is pragmatic and understands that the way to victory for Democrats is being true to its principles while delivering policies, which are meaningful to the general voting public as well as our individual constituencies. I believe that bringing in someone fresh from outside the existing decision-making apparatus will reinvigorate the DNC staff and be more open to DNC member participation in policy debate. O'Malley's executive experience will allow him to do both the administration of party affairs and the development of a permanent campaign organization to compete in 2026 and 2028. You can check out his 100-day agenda on the facebook page.

Other officers to be elected are Vice Chair for Civic Engagement and Voter Participation, two (2) National Vice Chairs, Party Treasurer, Party Secretary and National Finance Chair. A list of candidates presently qualifying for the ballots is attached to this article.



**Qualified DNC Party
Officer Candidates**

January 23, 2025

Candidates for Chair

Quintessa Hathaway
Robert Houton
Ken Martin
Martin O'Malley
Jason Paul
Nate Snyder
Ben Wikler
Marianne Williamson

Candidates for Treasurer

Merika Coleman
Matt Hughes
Virginia McGregor

Candidates for Secretary

Marilyn Davis
Jason Rae

Candidates for National Finance Chair

Chris Korge
Tim Lim

**Candidates for Vice Chair for Civic
Engagement and Voter Participation**

Joyce Beatty
Michael Blake
Sheikh Rahman
Rosarie Tucci
Reyna Walters-Morgan
Nikema Williams

Candidates for Vice Chair

Joe Barbuto
Troy Blackwell
Artie Blanco
Waikinya Clanton
Shasti Conrad
Michelle Deatrick
Aisha Dew
Kalyn Free
Adam Frisch
David Hogg
Chris Jones
Malcolm Kenyatta
Joe Paolino
Jeanna Repass
James Zogby

As of Thursday, January 16, 2025 - 12:00 p.m. ET

The Frederick County Democratic Party presents
A Town Meeting/Listening Session

SUNDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2025

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

C. BURR ARTZ LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM
110 EAST PATRICK STREET, FREDERICK

ON-STREET PARKING IS AVAILABLE OR IN THE CARROLL CREEK PARKING DECK



Free & Open to the Public

We want to hear YOUR comments, questions, concerns, and expectations about how the local Party can better serve you now and in the future.

While the event is in person, for logistical planning, we ask that you register in advance by scanning the QR code or visiting frederickdemocrats.org.



Special Accommodations - Individuals requiring the services of an ASL interpreter should contact Frederick County Democrats at 240-288-1148 or info@frederickdemocrats.org no later than 5 PM on Monday, 27 January. We will do our best to secure services, but cannot guarantee it.

The C. Burr Artz Library does not endorse the views of the program sponsors or promoters.

By Authority: FCDCC, McComie Patterson, Treasurer

Save the Date
for our
Campaign
Kickoff

Casey Day

Board of Education

PLEASE JOIN US!

Monday, February 3
5:00 pm

C. Burr Artz Library

110 E. Patrick Street, Frederick

2 Free Hours of Parking Provided at the Garage Next Door

Come hear about our campaign and the exciting things in store. Drinks & hors d'oeuvres will be served.



A Good Day for Frederick

Sponsored By: Friends of Casey Day, Lindsey Beck, Treasurer



Join CLUBBLUE! Our sustainers are activists and everyday people who contribute a monthly monetary donation to help the Party sustain its competitiveness in current and future local and statewide elections. Click [here](#) for more details. Donate as little as \$5 a month and let the Frederick County Democrats do all the work!

Februar 2025 At-a-Glance



United Dems of Frederick Co. Monthly Meeting
Monday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Café 611, 611 North Frederick Street, Frederick

North Frederick Co. Dems (NFCD) Monthly Meet-Up
Saturday, February 8 at 10:00 a.m.

Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd, Thurmont
 (Please bring a non-perishable item for the area food bank.)

Frederick Co. Democratic Party Town Hall/Listening Session
Sunday, February 9 at 1:30 PM

C. Burr Artz Library Community Rm, 110 E. Patrick Street, Frederick

South Frederick Co. Dems (SFCD) Monthly Meet-Up
Saturday, February 15 at 9:30 a.m.

[Zoom Meeting](#) or cut and paster link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88188139244?pwd=DIw7CwpwGwkbJAbAc9wOaX2AetiJfj.1>

Women’s Democratic League (WDL) Monthly Meeting
Monday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Location TBD

Frederick Co. Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC) Meeting
Tuesday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Frederick Co. Democratic HQ, 8 W. 5th Street, Frederick

Young Democrats of Frederick County (YDFC) Monthly Meeting
Thursday, February 27 at 6:00 p.m.

C. Burr Artz Library, 110 E. Patrick Street, Frederick

Get
connected!

with

Frederick County Democrats

Like us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter



Follow us on Bluesky



Visit our website



Follow us on Instagram



Check us out on YouTube too!



Click on the icons for a direct connection.