



# The Banner

An Online Monthly e-Newsletter for the Democratic Party

By Authority: FCDCC, McCamie Patterson, Treasurer

March 2025

## CHAIR'S CORNER



*Chairwoman Mari Lee*

There is an all-out assault on our country, and it's coming directly from inside the highest office in the land. The president and his administration are brazenly staging a coup. Not in the dark of night, but in the open, and Republican federal officials are complicit through their votes and their silence. Under the guise of an unofficial government department claiming to make the government more efficient and to eliminate wasteful spending, federal jobs are being slashed, and agencies and much-needed research and services are being disrupted or dismantled on a whim.

These actions have caused immediate harm, devastation, and uncertainty for the many direct employees of the federal government, and anyone who receives federal funding to do their work. Furthermore, the proposed plan to cut Medicaid and SNAP would create its own harm, devastation, and uncertainty. It's hard to fathom the longer-term, far-reaching, harmful consequences on our health, national

security, and economy. It will take all of our collective voices to speak against these and other worrying actions that seek to further slide us toward authoritarianism and fascism.

This weekend, the Democratic Central Committee is hosting a Weekend of Action at our local HQ at 8 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Frederick. Join fellow Democrats for postcard writing parties led by local Democratic volunteer and activist Melanie Galloway. Volunteers will write postcards to help elect Judge Susan Crawford, Democratic candidate for the Wisconsin State Supreme Court. This is a critical election to keep the Democratic majority on the court and protect voting, civil, and women's rights, and so much more. There are two shifts on Sunday: 10 AM - Noon & Noon - 2 PM. Space is limited. Learn more and sign up for one or more shifts [here](#). You will receive a short training session at the start of each shift. We'll address any questions or concerns, ensuring you feel prepared and confident to help with this effort.

Our local HQ is also a collection site for a community diaper drive. A local group, Dems Help, will distribute the diapers to designated community organizations. You may drop off anytime between 10 AM - 4 PM tomorrow. Monetary donations are not accepted, and neither Dems Help nor the Central Committee can provide a tax-deductible receipt.

Next Saturday, March 8th, the DCC and local group Rise Up Frederick are cohosting a [Resistance Protest and March](#) from Noon to 2 PM in response to the administration's overreach and power grab. You can learn more about

this event on our flyer on page 7. The planning of this event is very fluid. Please be patient as we continue to plan and confirm speakers and details. We will do our best to provide updated information as timely as possible.

A few weeks ago, we hosted a town hall/listening session at the C. Burr Artz Library. We had over 100 people attend, and about 30 shared their thoughts on national issues and on the upcoming Frederick City election.

One of the immediate actions we implemented from the listening session was creating a "[Resist Fascism](#)" page on our website that provides links to resources for impacted federal workers and links to sites and/or documents detailing how to contact your elected officials and options to get involved. We will continue to add new information as we discover it. Please email us at [info@frederickdemocrats.org](mailto:info@frederickdemocrats.org) if you have links to sites or resources we should consider adding.

The Frederick City Council approved its new election district boundaries at a recent meeting. You can view the new map and learn more about the 2025 City of Frederick's municipal elections [here](#). The Central Committee plans to host a campaign school on Saturday, April 5th, from 10 AM - 2 PM for anyone interested in running in the City election. We also welcome anyone who may want to run in the 2026 election cycle. We will provide more details soon.

(Continued on the next page)

Please save the date of Monday, May 12th, at 6 PM for our Monocacy Plowman & Fisherman Club kickoff. The location and final details will be provided ASAP. Please also remember to save the date for our annual Democratic Party Gala on Monday, June 9th, at 6 PM, at Dutch's Daughter. We'll soon announce our guest and provide more details, including tickets and sponsorships info.

Join us at our next Central Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 18th, at 6:30 PM, at our HQ, 8 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Frederick. Come share your thoughts and/or listen in as we discuss our business and activities.



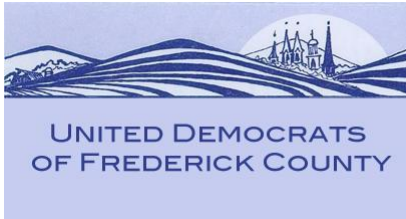
Tom Slater, Frederick County Democratic Party Historian

The Rest of the Story – Beverly B. Byron

Beverly Byron was one of a kind. I'm sure you have read recent news accounts and obituaries about her recent passing. Just before the Democratic State Central Committee held the first Beverly B. Byron Award event in November 2023, I devoted my column in the November 2023 Banner to Beverly Byron. If you go to the party's website you can access that article. Rather than write more about Congresswoman Byron, I thought it might be interesting to remember her in pictures.

Beverly B. Byron (July 27, 1932-February 9, 2025) – A Pictorial Tribute





**UNITED DEMOCRATS OF FREDERICK COUNTY**

Hello UDFC Member and Friends,

We are looking forward to a special guest at our meeting March 3, 2025. Dr. Suzanne Salichs, the director of Centro Hispano of Frederick. She will be discussing some of the many issues facing our Hispanic community at this very difficult time. The meeting is at 7 PM, but the doors open at 6PM to order food and beverages if you wish, and to enjoy social time: to meet some new friends, and spend time catching up with those you already know!

The February UDFC meeting at Café 611 had a good turnout (30 people), and many of those paid their membership dues for 2025- adding a number of new folks to the roster! We had a very informative presentation from Tom and Stephen Slater discussing the election results of the 2024 election in Frederick County. We also discussed the election of UDFC Board members for 2025-26. The slate of nominees was sent out to all 2024 and 2025 members last week. We'll be accepting nominations from the floor in addition to the current slate, and for folks to fill in the five open Board slots, and the position of Communications Director.

Please join us to participate in this election process, and listen to what Dr. Salichs has to share with us in regard to our Hispanic Community.

We look forward to having you join us on Monday, March 3, at 6 PM at Café

611: 611 North Market Street, Frederick, Maryland.

- Maureen Grayzeck  
President, UDFC



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

The WDL will hold our monthly meeting on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Democrat Office at 5 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Frederick. The speaker will be a member of the Immigrant Affairs Commission. The Commission acts as an advisory body that serves as a means for immigrant voices to be heard and understood, facilitates civic engagement among immigrants, and recognizes and legitimizes issues of importance to immigrants arriving and living in Frederick County.

I hope to see you there!

Shelly Beaird-Francois,  
President, WDL



**SOUTH FREDERICK COUNTY DEMOCRATS**

The South County Dems will be meeting on March 15 from 9:30-11 am via Zoom.

We are pleased to have as our guest speaker the President and CEO of Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services), Krish O'Mara Vignarajah. She will speak to us about myths of immigration and immigrants, the many challenges for immigrants under the current administration, and how we can support our immigrant communities. A Question and Answer session will follow Krish's presentation.

See below for Krish's impressive bio from Wikipedia. [Krish O'Mara Vignarajah - Wikipedia](#)

To ensure that those who might seek to disrupt the meeting are not given access, please request Zoom access via email to [danmelgalloway@verizon.net](mailto:danmelgalloway@verizon.net) using the Subject: "So County Dems 3/15 meeting."

Feel free to invite like-minded friends (but NOT via social media) and ask that they request the Zoom access as well. This will allow easy access from the Zoom waiting room.

Hope you can join us to learn about and discuss immigration from an expert.

Melanie Galloway,  
Co-President, SFCD





EMERGE  
MARYLAND  
WANTS YOU  
TO BE THE  
CHANGE YOU  
WANT TO SEE!



WOMEN LEADERS FOR A DEMOCRATIC FUTURE

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

[contact@emergemaryland.org](mailto:contact@emergemaryland.org)



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>

**2025**  
 The 21st Annual  
**Western Maryland Democratic Summit**  
 April 25 & 26, 2025  
 Live at Hub City Vinyl  
 Hagerstown, MD  
 Registration Opens March 3rd at  
[westernmddems.org](http://westernmddems.org)



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!



### 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!  
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 or  
 Central Committee -  
[info@frederickdemocrats.org](mailto:info@frederickdemocrats.org)



Bob Kresslein, Member,  
Democratic National  
Committee

## KEN MARTIN ELECTED AS NEW DNC CHAIR; STARTS “ORGANIZING EVERYWHERE TOUR”

I recently attended the Winter Meeting of the Democratic National Committee at National Harbor in Prince George’s County. The main event was 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.

Those seeking to serve lobbied members hard over the first two (2) days of the meeting. At the outset, the frontrunners appeared to be current Vice Chair and Minnesota Democratic Farm Labor Party Chair **Ken Martin** and **Ben Wikler**, Wisconsin Chair, with our own former governor, **Martin O’Malley** putting in a major effort. Each team had outstanding WHIP operations. While candidates also lined up for support for a second ballot as several ballots were predicted, at the end of the day, Ken Martin easily prevailed on the first ballot.

The balloting for Secretary, Treasurer and Finance Chair went along smoothly with incumbents **Jason Rae**, **Virginia McGregor** and **Chris Korge** being reelected on the first ballot.

The same could not be said for the balloting for the Vice Chairs which lasted over seven (7) hours. The successful candidates included **Reyna Walters Morgan** as Vice Chair for Civic Engagement and Voter Participation and Vice Chairs at-large, **Artie Blanco**, **Malcolm Kenyatta**, and **David Hogg**.

It was especially gratifying to see the election of David Hogg, Parkland survivor David Hogg and co-founder of March For Our Lives and Leaders We Deserve. dedicated to recruiting, training, and funding young progressives running for Congress and State Legislatures,

I and most of the Maryland delegation supported Governor O’Malley, who gave the best and most rousing of the chair nominating addresses, but it was not meant to be. But for the Governor’s bid, we would have unanimously supported Ken Martin.

I have heard some grumbling that Chair Martin has yet to take the lead in opposing President Trump’s power grab but be assured he is working hard to organize for opposition and electoral success. He has only been chair for a couple of weeks!!

Ken’s first initiative is his “Organizing Everywhere” tour, traveling to blue, purple, and red states across the country to underscore his commitment that Democrats will go everywhere,

compete everywhere, and win at every level of the ballot. As the initial part of the Tour, he has visited Pennsylvania, Texas, Illinois, Missouri, and Wisconsin in his first two weeks. His goal is to get out of Washington and talk to working people. In McKeesport Pennsylvania, Martin said ‘Our party can’t just be a party focused on seven battleground states and a few Congressional seats, The way we win back working people is making sure that we’re competing and contesting every single race up and down the ballot.’”

You can act right now to hold the Trump-Musk administration accountable:

1. **Attend** town halls to let your elected officials know how Donald Trump’s reckless agenda has impacted your community and your life.
2. **Make calls, knock on doors, and vote** in off-year elections — like in the City of Frederick, Thurmont, Emmitsburg and New Market
3. **Run** for a position yourself — in the last midterm elections, there were 100,000 open local races that Democrats left uncontested.
4. **Challenge** misinformation on Social and Traditional Media by posting VERIFIABLE FACTS to your network or writing letters to the editor.



(l-r: Jason Rae, Reyna Walters-Morgan, Chris Korge, Virginia McGregor, Ken Martin, Artie Blanco, Malcolm Kenyatta, David Hogg)

March 2025 At-a-Glance



**United Dems of Frederick Co. Monthly Meeting**  
**Monday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m.**  
Café 611, 611 North Market Street, Frederick

**North Frederick Co. Dems (NFCD) Monthly Meet-Up**  
**Saturday, March 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.)

**South Frederick Co. Dems (SFCD) Monthly Meet-Up**  
**Saturday, March 15 at 9:30 a.m.**  
**Zoom Meeting** - To request access, please send email to:  
danmelgalloway@verizon.net  
using the Subject: "So County Dems 3/15 meeting."

**Women's Democratic League (WDL) Monthly Meeting**  
**Monday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m.**  
Frederick Co. Democratic HQ, 8 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Frederick

**Frederick County Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC)**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m.**  
Frederick Co. Democratic HQ, 8 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Frederick

**Young Democrats of Frederick County (YDFC) Monthly Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 27 at 6:00 p.m.**  
C. Burr Artz Library, 110 E. Patrick Street, Frederick



and

**Frederick County Democrats**

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**Check us out on YouTube too!**



UNITED WE STAND FOR DEMOCRACY, TRUTH, JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS

# Resistance Protest & March

co-hosted by the Frederick County Democratic Party and Rise Up Frederick



**SATURDAY, MARCH 8 @ NOON**  
**Kickoff at City Hall of Frederick, 101 N. Court Street.**

After a few speeches, we will march to the Baker Park Bandshell to resume our protest. If you cannot march, meet us at the Bandshell. We'll arrive by 12:45.

- Hear from a few Democratic elected officials about the severe and devastating impacts of the slashing of federal jobs, services, and threats to our democracy.
- Hear about the SAVE Act from Rise Up Frederick representatives.
- Hear personal stories of people affected by harmful executive orders or federal cuts.
- Learn about various resources for those impacted.
- Learn about ways to get involved.

## What Can I Do?

- Make and bring creative signs of resistance, and join us in peaceful solidarity against the overreach and power grab of the Republican Administration and silence of Republicans in Congress.
- Help spread the word about the resources and info you will learn..
- Get involved!



By Authority: Frederick County Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC), McCamie Patterson, Treasurer