



The Banner

An Online Monthly e-Newsletter for the Democratic Party

By Authority: FCDCC, McCamie Patterson, Treasurer

April 2025

CHAIR'S CORNER



Chairwoman Mari Lee

On Saturday, March 8, about 1200 people attended the Resistance Protest & March that we co-hosted with Rise Up Frederick. Here are most of the remarks I shared on Facebook later that evening:

"First, thank you to the approximate 1200 who supported our event. We appreciate you!

Thank you to all the speakers: Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater; City of Frederick Mayor Michael O'Connor; Senator, MD-District 3, Karen Lewis Young; Frederick County Council Vice President Kavonte Duckett; City Council Member/President *pro tem* Katie Nash; Delegate, MD-District 3 Kris Fair; Frederick County Board of Education Member Dean Rose; Maryland Democratic Party Chair Ken Ulman; John Funderburk who shared comments on behalf of Congresswoman April McClain Delaney; Elizabeth Chung; Marta, NAACP President Willie Mahone;

Violet Gruber; Walter Ruby; and Mick O'Leary. Other elected officials in attendance were Delegate, MD-District 3, Karen Simpson, Frederick County Council Members Renee Knapp and M.C. Keegan-Ayer, City Council Member Derek Shackelford and Honorable Bonnie Nicholson.

Thank you to Rise Up Frederick for serving as a cohost, helping in planning, and setting up.

Thank you to our audio person Bill, Patty Clements for leading our chants, and Jamie Shopland for providing our Rise Up playlist.

Thank you to the ASL interpreters.

Thank you to the City of Frederick for your hospitality during our permit application and process.

Thank you FPD for ensuring we were able to move throughout our march without issue.

Thank you DCC members who helped plan, set up, and/or shared a few remarks: Deb Reynolds, Shelly Beaird-Francois, Amanda Stone-Gines, Louisa Conklin, and Milton Hallin.

It was a cold day, but our red hot passion for democracy will not let us stay silent when so much is at stake. We have an economy to save, jobs to save, healthcare to save, research to save, USAID to save, DEI to support, and much more to do."

Since then, the Department of Education, Medicaid and Social Security have been attacked, and the Smithsonian and other museums are

now subjected to having federal dollars pulled for having content that promotes "divisive, race-centered ideology [sic]." Folks, none of these executive orders are designed to help anyone and shouldn't be ignored as just another crazy thing that Trump and his unqualified and incompetent administration are doing. And don't get me started on SignalGate, which was clearly a conversation that illegally discussed classified information about the attack on Yemen over a commercial (i.e. unsecure) platform. While all of this is crazy, it's not funny crazy. It's downright horrifying.

This Saturday, our DCC and Rise Up Frederick are hosting another protest and march in response to the National "Hands Off" Protest and Day of Action. If you can't make it to DC, please join us. We will kick off at City Hall at 1 PM. After a few speeches, we'll march to the Baker Park Bandshell where we will resume our protest around 1:45. Please join us at the Bandshell at 1:45 if you are unable to march. ASL interpreters are available. Please see our event flyer on page 8.

Because of this Saturday's Protest & March logistics, we have had to reschedule the Democratic Campaign School that we planned to host that morning. The new date is Saturday, May 3, at 1 PM at our HQ. Our topics include "Basics, Fundraising, Messaging, Data Analysis, and Managing Volunteers." This event is for registered Democrats interested in running in the City of Frederick municipal election this year or county/state offices in 2026.

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We will host a separate meeting for anyone interested in a supporting role, such as manager or treasurer. Space is limited. Please register for our campaign school [here](#).

Our local HQ is a collection site for a personal hygiene drive this month. Local group Dems Help will distribute the items to designated community organizations. You may drop off items anytime during our hours: Thursdays, 5-7 PM, and Saturdays and Sundays, 10 AM – 2 PM. Monetary donations are not accepted, and neither Dems Help nor the Central Committee will provide a tax-deductible receipt.

We continue to add information to our "[Resist Fascism](#)" page on our website. This page 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. Please help spread the word about this resource page. I mentioned in last month's edition that we planned to host our Monocacy Plowman & Fisherman Club kickoff event on May 12. Our plans are now changing due to an unexpected change of plans for our guest speaker. We'll announce the kickoff date and location ASAP.

Please continue to save the date of Monday, June 9, at 6 PM, at Dutch's Daughter for our annual Gala. We'll announce the details later this week or early next week at the latest. You won't want to miss it!

Join us at our next Central Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 15, at 6:30 PM, at our HQ, 8 West 5th 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 – Democrats and Rural Voters

Last month marked the 20th anniversary of the death of Richard Grumacher, who died on March 4, 2005, at the age of 90. Grumacher was an army veteran who worked in his family business, Bon-Ton Department Store. He was elected three times to the Maryland House of Delegates and served from 1961 to 1974. He sponsored legislation supporting civil rights, civil liberties, and consumer protection. He was a delegate to the 1967 Maryland Constitutional Convention and active with the A.C.L.U., Planned Parenthood, and the Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Health. In 1960 he was a delegate to the White House Conference on Children and Youth and was on the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. From 1982 to 1988 he served on the original board for the Maryland Legal Service Commission, which was set up to provide legal services to the less fortunate. He helped coordinate the 1972 Maryland McGovern for President campaign. What is surprising about Grumacher is that he represented Washington County in the Maryland House of Delegates! In 1960 he was appointed to the Maryland House of Delegates to replace Delegate Charles Coss, who had resigned to join the Kennedy administration to work in economic

development. Charlie Coss was a strong union supporter and later moved to Frederick County and was active in the United Democrats of Frederick County. During the time that Grumacher served in the House of Delegates, he represented all of Washington County. Today, except for the oasis of the city of Hagerstown, Washington County is Trump country.

House District 4A was created after the 1970 census. Charles Smith was elected as District 4A's first delegate in 1974, and he was re-elected in 1978. District 4A was south, east, and north of Frederick City and included Johnsville, Mt. Pleasant, Woodsboro, Urbana, Linganore, Mt. Airy, Walkersville, Brunswick, Liberty, New Market, Buckeystown, Adamstown, and Point of Rocks. In 1981 there were 23,844 registered Democrats in the District, 15,432 registered Republicans, and 2,420 registered independents. Smith was considered a moderate Democrat at that time. The district became a two-member district in 1982, and Smith was defeated in the Democratic Primary by Tom Hattery and George Littrell who both were elected to the House of Delegates in the 1982 general election. They both served three terms until the 1994 election when Tom was defeated for re-election and George was unsuccessful in his attempt to replace Democrat Charles Smelser in the Maryland Senate in Senate District 4. House District 4A during the time that Tom and George served was essentially the same as the district in the 1970s with the addition of Thurmont, Myersville, and Lewistown. The district in 1983 contained 13,567 Democrats, 8,922 Republicans, and 2,152 independents. Tom and George both had a moderate to liberal voting record in the Maryland General Assembly. Today, much of the area that was included in District 4A comprises District 4, which is represented by a Republican state senator and three Republican members of the House of Delegates.

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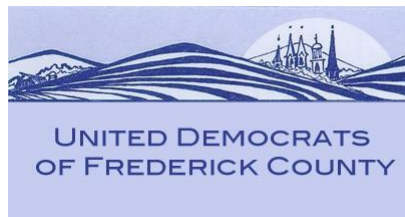
Except for Brunswick, Urbana town center, and a few new developments near New Market, district 4 is overwhelming Republican and Trump territory.

Traditionally, before this century, Democrats in Frederick County were organized by election districts. Each election district had a Democratic committee with officers. On June 27, 1994, Jefferson Democrats met and elected officers: Merhl Remsberg (chair), Charles C. Smith (vice chair), Dorothy Long (secretary), Doris Ifert (treasurer), and committee members Tom Arnold, Nancy Gordon, Joe Bill Kelley, George Lakin, Henry Lakin, Jr., Joe Long, Daniel Poole, Helen Remsburg, and Floyd Wickless. Most of the Democrats on the committee were associated with the Jefferson Fire Department, and the Jefferson Ruritan, and/or were active in the agricultural community. Charles C. Smith (not the same Charles Smith who served in the House of Delegates), a Jefferson farmer, was elected several times to the Frederick County Board of County Commissioners as a Democrat. Voter registration in Jefferson in 1992: 662 Democrats, (46.6%), 633 Republicans (44.7%), independents 122 (8.6%). Today, I would guess that the majority of members of the fire department, the Ruritan, and the agricultural community in Jefferson are registered Republicans. In 2024 Trump defeated Harris in the Jefferson district 1900 (55%) to 1489 (43%). Put Jefferson in the Trump camp.

When my son, Stephen, and I presented an analysis of last year's presidential election, Stephen provided a slide that showed all of the counties in the United States with those that were carried by Trump in red and those carried by Harris in blue. Almost the whole map was red. The blue was almost exclusively in the east, some Great Lakes states, and parts of the west coast, basically in urban and some suburban areas of the country. One state, Oklahoma, had no blue counties. As recently as 2008, Obama

won Florida and North Carolina as well as Indiana. He managed to carry Florida again in 2012. Biden won Georgia in 2020. Otherwise, in the last 20 years, the south and the heartland of America has been solidly red. West Virginia, once a solid blue state has become an especially strong red state and definitely a Trump bastion.

The Democratic Party has a rural problem. We are not competitive in areas of the country that we historically have been competitive. I do not have the answer as to how to deal with this issue, but the Democratic Party, locally, in the State of Maryland, and in the nation needs to devote some of its energy to developing a plan as to how we can compete in rural areas of the county, state, and nation.



UNITED DEMOCRATS OF FREDERICK COUNTY

Hello UDFC Member and Friends,

Indivisible and other activist groups are organizing a march to Washington D.C. on Saturday, April 5th at the grounds of the Washington Monument. To help ensure that Frederick is well represented, United Democrats of Frederick County has organized buses to join the March along with support of the other democratic clubs (WDL, North County Dems, South County Dems, and Young Democrats). We now have three buses filled with Frederick marchers going to

Washington D.C.! Melanie Galloway, Vice President of UDFC, has been working hard on the arrangements, and will give us an update at the meeting.

The next UDFC meeting is Monday, April 7th at Café 611 at 7 PM; 611 North Market Street, downtown Frederick. We are delighted to welcome former State senator (and former Frederick Mayor) Ron Young, as our guest speaker for the evening. Ron can share his unique perspective of today's political situation using his experience in both the Senate and city hall. The doors open at 6 PM for ordering food and beverages, at patrons' expense, and for social time, followed at 7 PM with a brief business meeting and then our speaker.

This is a good time to gather with friends and talk – there certainly are enough news events to cover!

Looking forward to seeing you at the April 7th meeting!

Save the Date:

- Monday, May 5, at our May meeting, we will have the Maryland District 3 Delegation present their Legislative updates from the 2025 session in Annapolis.
- Please mark your calendar for Sunday July 20th, for the UDFC Picnic at Middletown Park, Pavillion #2, time for late afternoon TBD.

Stay tuned for all details!

- Maureen Grayzeck
President, UDFC





WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE OF FREDERICK COUNTY

The WDL will hold our monthly meeting on Monday, April 21st at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Democrat Office at 8 W. 5th Street in Frederick. The speaker will be Dana Mooney from PFLAG. PFLAG supports federal, state, and local laws and advocates for legislation, regulations, and school district policies which mandate policies and practices that protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) students from bullying, including cyberbullying, harassment, and discrimination.

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>



SOUTH FREDERICK COUNTY DEMOCRATS

Please join the South County Dems for our April meeting entitled "Republicans Then, Democrats Now." We have a panel of folks who used to be Republicans but have switched their affiliation to Democratic. They will share with us via a round-robin question-and-answer format what changed their thinking and allowed them to move to the Democratic Party. This discussion promises to be interesting and insightful and should help us to engage with Republicans we know who may be on the fence regarding their party.

We will meet in person on April 19 from 9:30-11:00 am at Bar-T Mountainside at 2914 Roderick Road, Frederick. Follow the entrance road as it curves to the left. We meet in the larger white building located past the small white building (camp office) on your right. It is across from the parking lot with a side entrance under the porch overhang on the right side of the building. Light refreshments will be served.

Please feel free to invite your Democratic friends to join us. If you have questions, please contact the South County Dems Chair, Melanie Galloway, at danmelgalloway@verizon.net or the Vice Chair, Annette Breiling, at Annette.breiling@gmail.com.

Melanie Galloway,
Co-President, SFCD



State Delegate, Ken Kerr

As I write this, we are two weeks away from Sine Die. Today is March 25th and we are listening to hours upon hours of Republican amendments the budget and BRFA. We are 76 days into the session and have heard nothing from the opposition about what they would cut and what revenues they would generate—until today. Suddenly, they have programs they don't want cut coupled with revenues they don't want to support. Disappointing, but not unexpected.

We are on the other side of Crossover. I sponsored 15 bills this session. At the advocates' request, I withdrew two of them. In all, 12 of the 15 passed the house and crossed over to the senate. HB297 repeals the sunset on the Young Worker Subsidies bill. This law has been very successful in making healthcare affordable for young workers (18-37) and in keeping all premiums low by adding young health people into the risk pool. HB298 creates a commission to study college students who have dependent children. Nationally, only 18% of this population complete a degree within 6 years as compared to 61% of the traditional student population. With 80% of new jobs in Maryland requiring a degree, we need to get these students connected to these jobs. HB300 helps our non-profits by allowing them to use 15% of grants for indirect costs relieving pressure on their operating budgets and overhead

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expenses. HB304 provides increased transparency in state procurement practices making it easier to do business with the State of Maryland. HB333 creates a workgroup to study cybersecurity in Maryland's hospitals. HB345 includes Maryland in an Interstate Social Worker Compact allowing social workers to practice across member-state lines. This is especially helpful to military spouses. HB507 codifies into Maryland law, contract provisions the University System of Maryland is prohibited from entering into—specifically “indemnification.” HB508 specifies what type of work Maryland Blind Industries is eligible for in no-bid contracts. HB723 makes it easier for Dental Hygienists trained in other states to practice in Maryland. HB780 allows municipalities to reduce the speed limit on state roads that run through the town by 5MPH without requiring a traffic study. HB1027 advances the implementation of a statewide 3-1-1 non-emergency constituent assistance system.

All my bills are now in the custody of the senate and have to make their way back over to the house before midnight on April 7th. Meanwhile, we are putting in long days and late nights and the occasional Saturday as the 2025 Legislative Session marches toward Sine Die. Senator Lewis Young, Delegates Fair and Simpson and I hope to see you on Monday May 5th at Café 6-1-1 for a legislative wrap up.

- Ken



City Council Member, Kelly Russell

The City of Frederick deserves stable, common-sense leadership rooted in experience—and that’s exactly what I’ve delivered as your Councilmember. In these times of uncertainty, experience matters. Frederick needs steady hands and practical solutions, not political noise. I’ve shown I can lead with clarity and accountability, producing common-sense results. With your continued support, I’ll keep working to build on our progress and protect what makes Frederick such a special place to live, work, and raise a family. Please consider investing in my bid for re-election as your Councilmember at large. Thank you, Frederick Dems

- Kelly



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

City of Frederick Votes 2025

City of Frederick will hold its municipal elections later this year. Voters will vote for the Mayor and seven-member City Council. Learn more [here](#).

Seven other municipalities in Frederick County will hold elections this year. Learn more [here](#).





Bob Kresslein, Member,
Democratic National
Committee

Friends,

I wanted to share this release I recently received this on behalf of the Rural Council the DNC

Lower-Income and Rural Students Already Paying the Price After Trump Abolished Department of Education

Donald Trump's reckless agenda shutting down the Department of Education is already hitting our public schools and is set to [delay](#) grants for student aid and [pause](#) new programs in lower-income and rural communities. With help from billionaire Education Secretary Linda McMahon, Trump is pushing [another unpopular](#) pillar of his Project 2025 blueprint — and 50 million public school students will suffer.

Here's a look at how Trump's order to abolish the Department of Education hurts low-income and rural students:

NPR: "Education Dept. cuts could hurt low-income schools." ...
"[T]oday, nearly all the statisticians and data experts who help get [certain federal education grants] to schools could be out of a job."

"The action essentially tells U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon to take all necessary steps toward eliminating the department to the maximum extent possible ... **The National Center for Education Statistics, the agency that will have all but three staff workers eliminated, works on 'formula grants.'** States and districts primarily decide what to do with these funds. For example, Title I and rural school grants could be used to pay for school staff salaries, transportation costs, technology and extra tutoring."

USA Today: "Already, college officials say they have a backlog of logistical questions building up now that fired federal workers have stopped returning their emails. Brenda Hicks, the financial aid director at Southwestern College, a private school in Kansas, said an employee at FSA who was helping greenlight a new nursing program at her institution was let go last Tuesday. The program was started, Hicks said, so that young people in her rural community wouldn't have to drive an hour out of town to become nurses. ..."

"The day after the Education Department announced staffing cuts last week, students nationwide briefly couldn't apply for financial aid. ...
"More than 320 employees in the Federal Student Aid office received termination notices last Tuesday, according to a preliminary tally from a union representing federal workers."
NPR: "[T]he federal government plays an outsize role in helping high-needs schools get the money they need to stay afloat."

"Congress established Title I to provide money to K-12 schools in low-income communities. In the current fiscal year, the Department of Education set aside more than \$18.38 billion for Title I. Nearly 90% of U.S. school districts benefit from the program, which has historically enjoyed bipartisan support among lawmakers.
"The Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) awards money to low-income and rural school districts. More than a quarter of the country's public schools are in rural areas. And while REAP is a fraction of the size of Title I — \$215 million for the current year — Amy Price Azano of Virginia Tech's Center for Rural Education says those dollars stretch much further in rural communities. ... "These federal grants can pay for things like school staff salaries, supplies, technology, tutoring programs and a range of basic services that low-income schools may not otherwise be able to afford [...] while rural schools are used to having fewer resources, the loss of REAP funds will strain them even more."

NOTUS: "All income-driven repayment plans, the umbrella under which ICR plans fall, use the same application that was closed after the February court order, as the administration says it is revising it. The American Federation of Teachers sued the administration Wednesday morning for removing the application."

"The lack of clarity — from both the court decision and the Department of Education's limited communication with respect to the issue — has sowed fear and outrage that the programs might be eliminated. Without income-driven repayment plans, borrowers worry that their monthly payments would balloon to what they would be on the standard plan — for some borrowers, the difference could be hundreds of dollars."

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Save the Date for a Spring Reception

May 1 Woodsboro, MD 6-7:30 pm

with Frederick County Executive
Jessica Fitzwater

Tickets:

Friend: \$125 | Sponsor: \$250

Co-Host: \$500 | Host: \$1,000

Tickets online at:

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/jf-may12025-event>

or send checks payable to:

Friends of Jessica Fitzwater

P.O. Box 3574

Frederick, MD 21705

By Authority: Friends of Jessica Fitzwater, Paul Fulcher, 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!

Volunteers Needed!



We are looking for volunteers, to help us staff our Democrat booth at various events, canvassing, and our Get Out the Vote efforts. Please click on the link below for more information and to sign up.

[Volunteer Today](#)

Space is limited for the campaign school. Scan the QR code to RSVP or click [here](#).

Want to run for office but don't know where to start?
Join us for our FREE

★ ★ ★

Democratic Campaign School

Our initial event for *Saturday, April 5*, has been rescheduled.
New Date: Saturday, May 3, 1 PM-3:30 PM
Democratic HQ: 8 West 5th Street, Frederick

Basics | Fundraising | Messaging | Data Analysis | Managing Volunteers

★ ★ ★

Space is limited. To RSVP, scan the QR code or visit frederickdemocrats.org.

Limited on-street parking in front of the HQ and nearby residential streets.
Metered parking on N. Market Street. Please look for and abide by any/all sign restrictions.




By Authority: FCDCC, McCamie Patterson, Treasurer

UNITED WE STAND FOR DEMOCRACY, TRUTH, JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS

HANDS ~~OFF~~! Protest & March

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

 **SATURDAY, APRIL 5 @ 1 PM**
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 plan to arrive by 1:50.

Join us as we stand against this Republican Administration's lawlessness, cruelty, and corruption in this National Day of Action:

- Hear from a few elected officials and leaders.
- Hear a few personal stories.
- Learn about ways to get involved.

ASL INTERPRETERS AVAILABLE

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

April 2025 At-a-Glance



United Dems of Frederick Co. (UDFC) Monthly Meeting **Monday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m.**

Café 611, 611 North Frederick Street, Frederick

North Frederick Co. Dems (NFC) Monthly Meet-Up **Saturday, April 12 at 10:00 a.m.**

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

South Frederick Co. Dems (SFCD) Monthly Meet-Up **Saturday, April 19 at 9:30 a.m.**

Bar-T Mountainside, 2914 Roderick Road, Frederick

Women's Democratic League (WDL) Monthly Meeting **Monday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

Frederick County Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC) **Monthly Meeting**

Tuesday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Young Democrats of Frederick County (YDFC) Monthly Meeting **Thursday, April 24 at 6:00 p.m.**

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

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and

Frederick County Democrats

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Check us out on YouTube too!



A LOOK BACK AT FREDERICK DEMS IN THE COMMUNITY IN MARCH 2025

Frederick “Resistance Protest & March”, Saturday, 03.08.25



Cong. April McClain Delaney's Town Hall with Special Guest Cong. Jamie Raskin,
Wednesday, 03.19.25



Spring Cleaning at the Democratic Party HQ, Saturday, 03.22.25



Photos from the 03.08.25 event are courtesy of: George Cassutto, Kai Hagen, Mark Long, and Milton Hallen.