

The DEMOCRAT

Newsletter of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee

August 2017

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The Democrat is published bi-monthly by the

Fairfax County Democratic Committee; 8500 Executive Park Avenue, Suite 402, Fairfax, VA 22031

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All submissions are subject to word limit and editing.

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Message from Sue Langley,

Chairman of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee

Fairfax City again hosted the 4th of July parade. Democrats were gifted to see Ralph Northam, Justin Fairfax, and Mark Herring, all participating in the front end of the parade. There was a pause for photo ops when Democratic volunteers finished later on. Then it was off to the races, the candidates sprinting to Dale City to join the Prince William County parade after appearing in ours. Our candidates for this year's election got an enthusiastic reception, the crowd happy to see Democrats after the gloom emanating from Washington these days.

At their Special Endorsement meeting in June, Fairfax County Democrats endorsed **Karen Keys-Gamarra**, from a field of 7 candidates, for the county-wide vacant seat on the school board. The remaining 6 candidates comprised a field with amazing qualifications, including Shiasta Keating, Abrar Omeish, George Becerra, Michele Menapace, Stacia Keel, and Mariana Du Bosq. These candidates all have a bright future in the Democratic Party.

Karen Keys-Gamarra's race (karen4fairfaxkids.com) is running full bore with only a few days left before election day, August 29th. Karen's resume includes her many years of representing children in crisis as Attorney Ad Litem in custody, abuse, and other difficult cases in the courts; a Commissioner on the Fairfax County Planning Commission; civic activities; and community service. Karen and her husband live in Oakton with their three sons, all successful students in Fairfax County's schools. Be sure to check out the profile on Karen, as well as voting information, elsewhere in this issue!

How can we help Karen win? Talk with every Democrat you know about voting August 29th or earlier by absentee. County Democrats are lending space to the campaign at our office in Fairfax. With low turnout engineered by our opponents in this election, the vote could be close, and **every vote will count**.

Peter Dougherty (peter@FairfaxDemocrats.org) is the Campaign Manager. Peter managed Dan Storck's campaign for Mount Vernon Supervisor, and he was Field Director in LuAnn Bennett's run for Congress last year. Peter brings both experience and enthusiasm to this race, and he works hard night and day to bring home Karen's victory.

Emilie Larson (emilielarson@rcn.com) is the Volunteer Coordinator, and she will be contacting Committee members to recruit help for campaign activities that can use volunteer support. Emilie has been Volunteer Coordinator in many previous campaigns and will be eager to hear of your interest in helping out the campaign.

A win for the Democrats will be a significant boost to our candidates in the Fall election, as the momentum will be in our favor heading into Labor Day weekend, the conventional start of the Fall campaign. Interest in the outcome has been covered in the Daily Kos, Blue Virginia, and other media concerns.

Our performance in the Keys-Gamarra election will also prepare our coordinated campaign to win in November. Voter contact and voter ID are essential to both efforts. What we do for Karen, we can do for the statewide ticket and the Delegate contests here in the county. When the winning margin in Fairfax County is substantial, it overwhelms any lead that the rest of the state can muster. With a wide enough lead coming from Fairfax County, statewide Democrats win!

Democratically yours [#Resist],
Sue Langley
Chair, Fairfax County Democratic Committee

Karen Keys-Gamarra

A True Advocate for Children

The special advocate, appointed by the court to look after the welfare of children from troubled homes, could see immediately that the Hispanic third-grader had a rare gift with words.

“He loved to write poetry,” recalled the advocate. “And it was good! I thought to myself, ‘This guy could be the next Robert Frost.’”

But shortly the flow of poetry stopped and the boy’s enthusiasm waned. The love of words that had sustained him during a stressful period at home was overwhelmed by the drudgery of preparing for a battery of state-imposed tests.

“He couldn’t write poetry any more. And it hurt him. And I thought, ‘What are we stealing from this little boy in the name of a test?’ That feeling stayed with me.”

That moment confirmed the commitment of the advocate, Karen Keys-Gamarra, to dedicate her life to better public school education for all children.

Fast-forward to the upcoming special election on August 29th of this year, when Karen, for the second time, will stand for Fairfax County School Board member.

The first time, in 2015, Karen lost by a small margin in her Sully District. But today is different. In this election, for an at-large seat that became vacant, the entire county will vote. “I feel more urgency this time,” she says. She has been endorsed for this post by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee.

A lively woman whose glasses don’t disguise the sparkle in her eyes, Karen Keys-Gamarra has a resumé that a Hollywood producer could not design better for a school board candidate.

A lawyer with degrees from Tulane University and Washington University School of Law, she has formed her practice around the needs of children and families. Besides volunteer work as a court-appointed special advocate, she has worked professionally under court appointment as a “guardian *ad litem*,” representing abused and neglected children. Her practice has also focused on education discrimination, family law and employment law.



Outside the courtroom, besides raising 3 boys with her husband, Antoine Gamarra, a utility consultant, Karen has found time to coach teens for the well-regarded achievement program Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics, sponsored by the NAACP. Moreover, she established and has led the Fairfax County chapter of the support group Mothers of Preschoolers. Even on Sundays, she guides children as Sunday school teacher at Grace Covenant Church in Chantilly.

Like so many people whose passion underlies their success, Karen traces her inspiration to her parents, who taught her not to limit her ambition, and to further her own education as a means of helping others realize equality of opportunity.

Later, as a parent herself, she witnessed her children experiencing some of the same unfairness that had marked her upbringing as an African American in St. Louis years before. And just as her parents had fought for her, she determined to fight for her children.

"I realized that my boys had to go through some things that their counterparts did not have to," she recalled. "And this was happening not just to my kids but other kids that did not fit the mold. That was when it hit me: that's not ok. I was born to advocate for other people. I don't like boundaries being placed on any children."

Once on the school board, Karen would have a key objective of providing equal access to high quality education to all Fairfax County children, no matter where they live. "People in Mount Vernon should not feel they have fewer opportunities than their neighbors in McLean," she points out.

In addition, she feels that pay and other conditions need to be improved for teachers and staff in the public school system. "Teachers have been leaving Fairfax County to go to Arlington and Loudon, where the pay is higher," she notes.

At the same time, she wants to improve fiscal responsibility and transparency. "People think, 'We don't know where the money is going.' We have to do some work to make sure that members of our community feel part of the process."

Besides improving communications with the community, Karen believes there has been needless tension in relations between the school board and the county government and sees the importance of lowering the temperature, in the interest of better governance for all.

More than many politicians, Karen's motivations for seeking office seem a totally natural outgrowth of her upbringing, her career, her interests and her family position. "When I leave Earth, I want to feel I made a difference," she says. Other politicians say this, too, of course, but rarely do they bring to these words such a degree of conviction and believability.

- Brad Swanson (bradswanson@verizon.net)

For more information on registration and where to vote go to fairfaxdemocrats.org/blog/2017/07/24/voting-is-underway-for-august-29-special-election/



Summertime School Board Race may Provide Preview of Fall Election Dynamics

Special Election is Tuesday, August 29

By Holly Hazard



Karen Keys-Gamarra

The Fairfax County Democratic Party endorsed Karen Keys-Gamarra for the at large school board seat up for election on August 29th. Her positions include protecting our schools from the policies of Betsy DeVos and President Trump, reducing class size, supporting needs-based staffing, reducing bullying and protecting teachers' salaries. Outgoing School Board Chair Sandy Evans strongly supports Gamarra, stating "she will bring her fierce sense of justice to work toward improving education for all Fairfax County children."

Tipped off this spring to the impending resignation of a Republican-aligned school board member, the Republicans plotted to trigger this special election, costing the taxpayers an estimated \$250,000. Calculating that a summer contest would favor their base, they staged the resignation to require an August, instead of November, vote.

The Party spent far less energy recruiting a qualified candidate. In a county littered with education experts, financial wizards and government VIPs, the Republicans managed to find a candidate who doesn't even appear to have P.T.A. experience on his resume. While his campaign materials provide a sympathetic back-story, voters are left to guess about his relevant background, positions on serious issues or his ability to contribute to solving them.

This is a vote with consequences. Parents who spend all their time watching Little League games or driving kids to Girl Scouts or music lessons should connect the power of the school board and its influence over their kid's education and future. Likewise, voters without children, knowing that the reputation of Fairfax County schools is a key factor in keeping their property investment high, should also cast their vote to invest in a child.

This is a complicated race. It is county-wide so the candidate's messaging must spread from Seven Corners to Centerville. Because school board seats lack formal party affiliation, the uneducated voter, who may rely on party designation on the ballot, will only find four unfamiliar names in the voting booth—the third being Karen Keys-Gamarra. To vote absentee, citizens must apply for, receive and mail back the ballot or trek to the Government Center to vote in person. For those living along the Route 1 corridor or close to Arlington, this can be a 2-hour roundtrip excursion.

In our last special school board election, in Mason District in 2010, citizens cast over 500 absentee ballots, almost 10 percent of the total, but only 10 percent of eligible voters participated. Because of the expected dismal participation rate in both parties, every active voter has a magnified influence over the outcome. In addition, absentee votes, like those in the Mason District race 15 years ago, may tip the race.

The Democratic Party is using all its tools in support of Gamarra. GOTV is in full swing. The campaign and party-activists are holding house parties, attending civic, religious, sports and cultural events and canvassing neighborhoods. The 'secret sauce' for the Democratic Party may be the general ground-swell of resistance against the Trump administration. The post March #resistance has invigorated a new breed of progressive grass-roots activists in Northern Virginia, already mobilized work with the party to flip Virginia blue in November. This August appetizer to that contest is serving as a training ground for novice organizers, canvassers and new voters, providing an infusion of energy to this race that may significantly undermine the Republican strategy, counting on Democrats to sit this race out.



To bring in a win, every Democrat needs to:

1. Make a plan to vote on August 29th at your regular voting location,
2. Ensure your family does the same,
3. Contact neighbors and friends to ask them to remember "Karen" on the ballot,
4. Give the absentee ballot form to family and friends,
5. Vote absentee, in person or by mail, if you expect to be away on August 29th and
6. If you can, contribute to Karen Key-Gamarra's campaign.

Fairfax kids deserve the extra hour or two it may take each Democrat to speak up for a progressive, inclusive, world-class school system. And the bounce of a win in August will translate into an inspired and committed base to work through the fall election season and flip Virginia blue.



Important Dates for Upcoming August 29 Special Election

Member, School Board at Large

- [Voter Photo ID Requirements](#)
- [Upcoming Voter Photo ID Opportunities](#)
- [Sample Ballots](#)
- July 14: In-Person Absentee Voting begins
- Aug 15: Voter Registration Deadline 5pm, Online: 11:59pm.
- Aug 22: Deadline to apply for an Absentee Ballot by mail, 5pm.
- Aug 26: Final Day, In-Person Absentee Voting, 5pm.
- Aug 29: Absentee Ballot return deadline, 7pm.
- August 29: Polls open 6am-7pm.



Universal Healthcare is Serious Business - *Democrats Should Craft Message of Universal Healthcare for 2018 Midterms*

National Affairs Standing Committee (NAC)

Sandra J. Klassen, Chair

By Ricardo Coleman, Mason NAC Member

The 2018 Midterm Elections are fast approaching, and Democrats should reconsider the way we talk about healthcare. After the failed response from Congressional Democrats and Republicans to the Senate version of the "Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017" or "TRyancare" (Trump/Ryan Care), it is time to craft an economic message for 2018 that includes universal healthcare.

A tweet from Larry Levitt, Senior Vice President for Special Initiatives, Kaiser Family Foundation, summarized the Senate Republican's Bill as follows: "Under the Senate bill, low-income people would pay higher premiums for bigger deductibles." Everyone should be outraged by this, but Democrats also need to be pragmatic, and to champion single-payer as a means for making U.S. businesses more globally competitive.

Two recent articles, one by Dr. Tom DeLoe in March, 2016 for Physicians for a National Health Program entitled: "Why Business should Favor a Single-Payer Plan," and another by Gene Marks in April, 2016 for the Washington Post entitled: "Why I'm Finally Ready to Agree a Single-Payer Healthcare System Would Be better for Business," make strong business cases for single-payer.

Marks describes the burdens and competitive disadvantages U.S. businesses face due to our broken healthcare system. A Kaiser Foundation study concluded that in 2016, the typical U.S. company pays \$5,000 per employee for health insurance, but their Canadian and British counterparts paid \$0. As a result, a small U.S. business with 20 employees could see an additional \$100,000 in healthcare costs as opposed to their Canadian or European competitors.

Universal healthcare will also help level the playing field between large and small businesses. Small businesses have no bargaining power to keep costs down, so their plans usually provide less coverage, but their deductibles and premiums are often higher. The expense of \$5,000 per employee per year can be especially devastating for small businesses and make them much less competitive.

Not only are U.S. businesses financially penalized because of healthcare costs, they also spend much of their time attempting to navigate the labyrinthine system of private healthcare plans. Dr. DeLoe noted that under a universal healthcare system U.S. businesses would no longer have to spend time reviewing multiple plans, worrying about the effects of “Tryancare,” or making heart wrenching decisions to not cover their employees and paying a penalty.

Dr. DeLoe analyzed that under a single-payer plan, U.S. businesses could prospectively pay a 10% payroll tax directly to the government who would act as the primary insurer, and employees could obtain healthcare from participating doctors and hospitals. He also recognized the national cost savings for such a program. Currently, overhead costs for private health insurance companies average 25-30%, but, Medicare’s administrative costs are about one to six percent, or a reduction of nearly 80%. Consequently, in a country that spends nearly \$3.2 trillion on healthcare, an 80% reduction in administrative costs would mean an annual savings of approximately \$600 Billion.

Dr. DeLoe stated, “single-payer is certainly not nirvana. There will still be problems within our health care system. However, single payer represents an efficient, transparent, and cost-effective way to achieve health care.”

Democrats need to start making the case to voters that universal healthcare is also good for U.S. business.

Congressman Connolly’s Reston Town Hall *A Model for Civil Discourse*



One of Congressman Connolly's town halls

National Affairs Standing Committee, Sandra Klassen, Chair; Contributing Author Andrew Scalise, Springfield NAC Member

While some elected officials have decided to hide from their constituents, Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA 11th) brought his together to discuss the challenges facing our country at a June townhall in Reston. Far from the outbursts and jeers we hear about in the news, at this town hall nearly 150 concerned citizens engaged passionately and respectfully in civil discourse.

The congressman opened with, “I was planning not to be political, but I’m going to be political,” and jumped right in to the major issues of the day. He led with the shooting of Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA) calling it a wakeup call not only to stop partisan rhetoric, but also to enact prudent gun control. A supporter of 2nd Amendment rights, Connolly made it clear that reasonable actions should be taken to protect people from gun violence, including banning assault weapons, studying the relationship between guns and

mental health, and implementing no fly – no buy legislation. He asserted that the majority of NRA members support background checks and that “people who are imbalanced should not have guns.”

Rep. Connolly then addressed the tragic murder of Nabra Hassanen, 17, from Reston. An audience member, self-identified as the conservative in the room, garnered applause for her courage from the mostly Democratic crowd. She accused Connolly of neglecting to mention that Hassanen’s killer was an illegal immigrant. The congressman responded that our focus should be on actions and behaviors, not status. Crimes are crimes, regardless of who commits them.

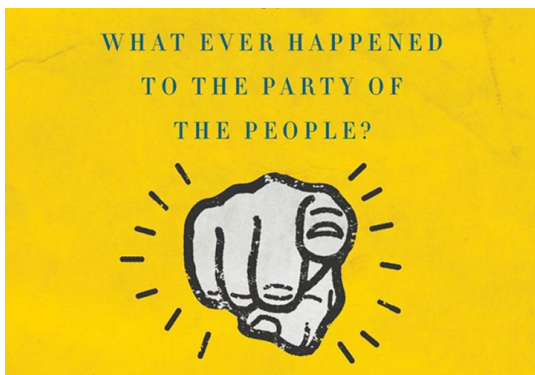
He stated that any undocumented immigrant convicted of a serious crime should be removed from the country, but stressed the need for due process. He disagreed with attempts to deport undocumented immigrants after traffic stops or other minor offenses. His three criteria for immigration enforcement consisted of “bad guys need to go,” “the laws are not to be used for scaring or demonizing undocumented immigrants,” and “we cannot have arbitrary enforcement of these laws.”

The discussion turned to the Senate’s 98-2 vote imposing sanctions on Russia, amidst a concern raised at the townhall that the sanctions bill also imposed new sanctions on Iran. Connolly emphatically announced that Iran has fully honored the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA -Iran nuclear agreement) struck by President Obama, citing that Iran has “met every single metric required by the deal 100%” and that Iran has gone from half a year away from developing a nuclear weapon to a decade away. While Connolly does not favor sanctions on Iran that may affect the nuclear deal, he perceives additional sanctions on Russia as urgent and likely to receive his vote.

Connolly condemned President Trump’s proposed budget noting that it would “radically alter the America we know” cutting spending in areas where government support is most needed, and shifting substantial financial burden onto state and local governments. He countered with his own budget priorities: education, research and development, and infrastructure.

Other topics constituents raised included the healthcare bill, the Russia investigation, Federal employees, legal immigration, the EPA, foreign policy, voter turnout, and gerrymandering. Another audience member wrapped up the townhall by asking, “What can we do to help you?”

“Bloom where your plant is,” Connolly replied. In other words: get involved locally, and forge consensus. The incivility we see in Congress, he noted, did not start there; it started in the communities that sent those people to Congress.



The FCDC National Affairs and Labor Committees Invite You to Attend

A Panel Discussion
Preceding the
September FCDC
Membership Meeting

An Inconvenient Truth: Labor Matters
Tuesday, September 26, 6PM-7:15PM

James Madison High School - Cafeteria
2500 James Madison Dr, Vienna, VA 22181





The International Democrat

Homeward Looks from a Frequent Traveler

When you treat people like terrorists, you get terrorists. This is the tragic paradox of home-grown Islamist violence in Western Europe.

Many Muslim families living in Western Europe, in some cases for generations, feel shut out by the majority culture. Many could not become citizens of the European country of their birth. Others are nominally citizens but treated like strangers. Discrimination leads to alienation, deprivation breeds resentment, and finally hatred takes root instead of community. The inevitable result is the recent surge of violent attacks, most perpetrated by native-born Europeans.

It doesn't have to be this way. I have lived and worked in Muslim majority countries in the Middle East and Africa. Hatred of the West is not part of their culture. Aggression against non-believers is not central to their faith.

Moreover, Muslims don't move to Western countries in order to subvert their Enlightenment principles and colonize them with sharia law. They move here to find work, do research, raise families, realize dreams of better lives.

But walls that separate people don't have to be physical to be insurmountable. Any community that feels unwelcome will withdraw into itself and take refuge in its otherness. Consequently, banlieues on the outskirts of Paris become segregated Muslim villages. And there are first-generation Muslim parents who are torn apart when their children, born in Europe, reject European heritage instead of embracing it, and find sustenance in a mythical jihadist identity that distorts Mohammed's true precepts.

Ironically, the charming traditions of European culture that fascinate tourists also frustrate assimilation of foreigners. The French have passed through four republics so far as well as numerous monarchies and empires, have conquered and been conquered in turn, yet remain obdurately and characteristically French, with not only a distinctive cuisine and, of course, "joie de vivre", but also an enduring set of national attitudes, norms, legends and beliefs.

This is true across the continent, from the “little Englanders” who sanctify their warm beer and cricket on the common to the sturdy burghers of Holland and the order-loving Germans. Of course, there is an element of stereotype in these characterizations, but there is also an element of truth. How can it be otherwise, when people have lived together in settled communities for hundreds, sometimes thousands, of years?

The lesson for the USA is clear. Our culture has been fluid since it began to take shape in this hemisphere. We have assimilated many nationalities, each one changing the mold a bit as it settled in. What characterizes an American is not traditions of dress, gastronomy, myths, religion, etc., but rather a core set of principles regarding freedom and fairness.

We are the first nation to consciously define itself in its founding documents, and so far we have been able to build and rebuild entire societies and cultures on our home soil, ceaselessly changing outward appearances, without undermining this stable foundation. Frankly, it means that our popular culture is often mocked for its superficiality. Even among ourselves, we question what it means to be an American as the look and feel of our communities change over time.

But it would be a terrible mistake to freeze the notion of America and reject this constant dynamic of surface change with underlying solidity. As long as we cherish Constitutional values, we remain uniquely American, and stronger for that in a world of ceaseless flux. An authentic American today, no matter what their skin color or ethnic origins, feels an immediate kinship with the Founding Fathers, as the musical Hamilton demonstrates. We feel the same urge to live free, to accept responsibility for our actions, to join together in a civic morality that transcends our differences.

Americans are made, not born. We can't take for granted that the creed that defines us will be passed effortlessly across communities and down generations. When tradition overshadows tolerance, when fear overcomes curiosity, when equal rights are only for those who look and pray like the majority, then we stop being American. Instead, we become, like too many Europeans, artifacts of an ossified culture that rejects new blood instead of welcoming it, and ends up crumbling from within.

– Brad Swanson (bradswanson@verizon.net)



A Year in the Life of a PTA President

By Kelly Manion Trott

Seven years of mostly stay-at-home momhood under my belt and my first child entering first grade, I've firmly established myself in a new phase of my life - elementary school mom. And when we talk about elementary school, we naturally have to talk about the things beyond the school work and homework and classes. We have to talk about school dances, fundraising bake sales, chili cook-offs and class field trips. And that without one special organization – the PTA - these tried and true grade school events

likely wouldn't take place! I have now gratefully gotten a firsthand perspective on the difficult work that PTA volunteers put in (and why they keep doing it anyway), thanks to a brave mom friend's recent endeavor into the PTA world. Heidi's interview follows.

So how did you end up becoming PTA President of your son's elementary school? Is it something you had been interested in doing all along?

Well first off I was actually co-president with my friend Crystal – and for our school we are actually called the PTO – which is an



In Partnership with George Mason University FCDC National Affairs *Invites You!*

Mark Jacobson, Stanford Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering will lecture at George Mason's 2017 "Fall for the Book Festival."

Topic:

Transitioning to 100% Renewables by 2050

Date:

October 12, 12pm

Location:

HUB Ballroom, Fairfax Campus

Professor Jacobson and his team of colleagues have developed individual plans for each of the 50 states, showing how they can replace traditional energy sources with wind, water and solar energy by 2050.

The state plans present "all of the basic information, such as how many wind turbines and solar panels would be needed, how much land area would be required, what would be the cost and cost savings, how many jobs would be created, and how much pollution-related mortality and global-warming emissions would be avoided," Jacobson states.

Jacobson has received research awards from the American Meteorological Society and the American Geophysical Union, as well as a 2016 Cozzarelli Prize from the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences for the "outstanding scientific excellence and originality" of his influential paper on providing grid reliability with 100% wind, water, and solar power.

Click to Learn More:

[100% Virginia Plan](#)

[Jacobson on His Critics](#)

independent parent-teacher organization where you are not beholden to the greater PTA. And it happened because I got to know people the first year my son was there. Crystal kind of talked me into it. We thought it would be fun, be a chance to do something good for the school. We thought we could make some changes, meet other moms, and get to know the school community.

Give us a snapshot of your life as PTO president. How much of a time commitment was it?

It was a weekly time commitment. We averaged one big event a month that you had to prepare for and were always trying to recruit others to help with. Work like making phone calls, doing flyers, talking to the principal, trying to handle the food situation (for the events), organizing the activities that were being provided, etc. Lots of logistical planning.

Some people might think of the job of a PTA or PTO President as an exhausting, thankless job (present company excluded of course). What was the best part of the job or the thing that kept you going when you had a ton on your plate?

Really thinking you are helping the kids. A lot of the kids you felt bad for – a good amount of the kids were underprivileged and some of the parents were illegal - and it was huge for them to have things like [LEGO club](#) and we were trying to start a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) class for next fall so kids will have that to do. We wanted to do what you could to help the community.

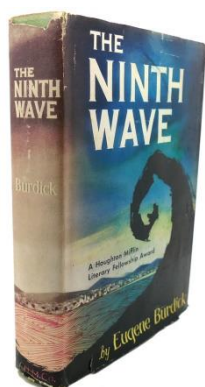
What was the thing that surprised you the most about your experience?

I guess just how hard it was. Like you have all these ideas - I'll come in, make changes and get this done, etc., and like any bureaucracy it works slowly, you have to deal with all sorts of personalities, and change is slow. That's how things work.

Okay last question. What would you say to a parent who is interested in getting involved in their school's PTO or PTA but is worried about the time commitment?

You can do whatever you can, however much you want. Don't feel pressured to do more than you can. Say this is what I can do – maybe one specific event or something small that recurs each week or month - and nobody will think the less of you. Anything you can do is appreciated. This year I learned my lesson. If you don't get the snow cone machine at the dance you don't get the snow cone machine at the dance - don't get stressed out about it.

BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH



*Recommendations by National Affairs
Standing Committee*

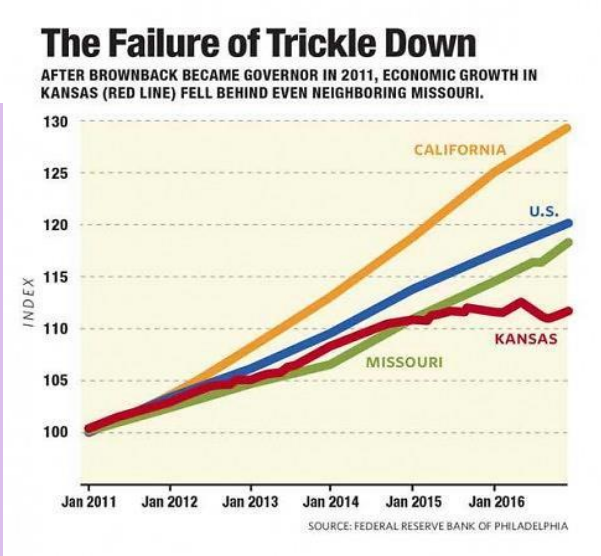
Review by Braddock NAC Member Doug Samuelson

The Ninth Wave, by Eugene Burdick

Sales of "1984" are reportedly spiking as people try to understand what's going on with the Trump administration. "Brave New World" is also picking up. But the book you really want to read is "The Ninth Wave," by Eugene Burdick, 1956.

His protagonist figures out how to manipulate people for political and financial gain, using the formula, "Hate Plus Fear Equals Power." He ends up building a powerful movement and losing any connection to morality and decency. Sound familiar? Burdick, a first-rate political scientist, explains in the book how modern political profiling and targeting work. You'll even learn a little about surfing and poker. And seduction, in the 1950s telling that might seem relatively tame now – but more evocative, if less explicit. Burdick was not just a good political scientist, but also a fine writer: this was his first novel, but after this he also co-authored "The Ugly American" and "Fail-Safe." And "The 480," 1964, in which he gave more details about targeting, as he depicted the rise to the Presidency of a businessman who runs as an outsider and confounds the pundits. Again he raises the ethical questions of running such a campaign. The 480 is the number of polling microcells in the targeting models used at that time. The technology has changed, the moral issues haven't.

New [affordable paperback reissues](#) are available on Amazon. Check it out!



VA Republicans Need to be Hammered - *With Kansas*

National Affairs Standing Committee (NAC)

Sandra J. Klassen, Chair

By Paul W. Jameson, Providence NAC Member

A year ago Chris Setser was profiled in a Washington Post article. He worked at a United Technologies factory in northeast Indiana. He worked hard, but United Technologies announced that they were moving production to Mexico. Chris told his family, "We're getting to the point where they aren't really any good options left. The system is broken. Maybe it's time to blow it up and start from scratch, like Trump's been saying."

The following chart is from Justin Miller, "Kansas, Sam Brownback, and the Trickle-Down Implosion," *American Prospect*, June 28, 2017.

Democrats have been doing it wrong, if a hard-working, working-class American would even consider supporting a Republican. We can't really blame Republicans for cynically exploiting resentments for problems that they themselves created. That's like blaming the wolves for eating the sheep. But we shepherds have some work to do.

Last November, the Chris Setsters of America helped elect Donald Trump. Now what are we Democrats going to do about that?

We are going to get back to our roots as the party that really does represent the interests of all working Americans. That means not just giving lip service to, but actually making the central emphasis of our message, that we will fight for policies that will actually reverse the trend of the hollowing out of the middle class. YOU need a raise!

We need to ask ourselves, when considering proposals by Republicans that they claim will lead to economic growth, whether the problem is that businesses are not making enough profits, or that most Americans do not have the money to buy the things our businesses are selling. In economics terms, is it an issue of supply or demand?

Republicans don't want to admit it, but they've already given us the answer: Kansas.

Former Republican Senator Sam Brownback became Governor of Kansas in 2011. He promised to eliminate the income tax, reduce the number of people on public assistance, and overhaul public schools. Brownback made the same claim that

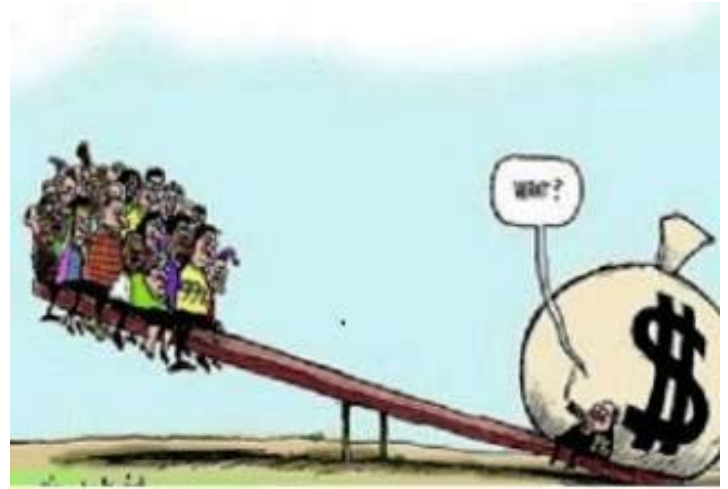
Republicans make everywhere--that the tax cuts would “unleash” - they love that word - businesses and create economic growth that would pay for the tax cuts. And he had a majority Republican legislature, so he was able to enact the policies that he promised.

To nobody’s surprise except for Republicans, it didn’t work. Not only did Kansas’ economy fail to grow, its economic growth, which had been on a par with its neighboring states, began to lag its neighbors that didn’t decide to join in the “real-live experiment” in Republican policies.

There is a reason for that. Cutting taxes mostly for wealthy does NOT mostly mean that there is a lot of extra money that trickles down into the economy. Cutting services does mean that a lot of people who were being paid by the government to provide goods and services, now didn’t have the money to put back into the economy and help it grow.

Their stopgap solution was to raise the sales tax, which disproportionately falls on lower income families. It wasn’t enough. Finally, the legislature passed some tax increases, then overrode Brownback’s veto. But even with those tax increases, at the end of the day, the wealthy pay less taxes than they used to, and everyone else is worse off. Kind of reminds one of what it was like when Jim “No Car Tax” Gilmore was Governor of Virginia, doesn’t it?

Well, cutting taxes is just about the only arrow in Ed Gillespie’s quiver as well. And just like every other Republican, Ed will claim that the reason he wants to cut taxes is that it will result in higher economic growth. Even though that has never happened.



It’s not a matter of “when will the Republicans ever learn,” because tax cuts for the wealthy, not economic growth, are their goal. It’s a matter of when will the rest of us ever learn. The mantra of everyone running this year should be, “My opponent thinks that what Republicans did in Kansas was a great idea, and wants to do the same in Virginia. Sorry, but we don’t want to destroy Virginia’s economy.”

I counted 7 bills in the last Virginia General Assembly Session that called for an increase in the minimum wage. Every one of those bills died in the Republican controlled committees, not even getting to the floor for a vote.

YOU need a raise, but Republicans, at least the ones who get elected, regard income inequality as a feature, not a bug in our system. People need to know their place, they think. The majority of Americans, including Republicans, agrees that the minimum wage needs to be increased. The majority of Americans, including Republicans, agrees that taxes on the wealthiest citizens can be raised. But Republican legislators don’t.

Actually, Ed Gillespie does suggest another arrow to create jobs—cut “regulations.” This is another Republican perennial that they always trot out without the slightest proof that gutting our protections does anything more than make it easier for businessmen to profit at the expense of everyone else. It was buying into this kind of claim that allowed Great Britain to allow low income housing units to be clad with inflammable materials that had been prohibited everywhere else. As a result, at least 79 people lost their lives in London recently because somebody argued they needed to “ease the regulatory burden on entrepreneurs.” Governments develop and implement protections for all of us for a reason. They can always be reviewed to make the paperwork more efficient, but time and again Republicans, when given the chance, demonstrate that what they are interested in is socializing the risks and privatizing the profits.

But we’re not going to change the minds of the Republican legislators and governor wannabees. We’re just going to have to vote them out, or not vote them in in the first place.



Adult Back-to-School

By Mary Paulet

Back-To-School... This phrase probably brings back memories. Getting on the bus in the early mornings... Sitting in class as the teacher explains the First Amendment to the Constitution..

There is no reason why this time of year should only be special for children. We adults should seek to improve ourselves as well. In addition to the pursuit of self- enrichment (this author is in process of completing a continuing education course), in an age of economic uncertainty, continuing education can be an effective means of enhancing job security, preparing for a long desired career change or simply seeking a promotion.

Some ideas for busy adults who want to get in on the Back-to-School Fun:

1. Read a How-To Book

This option is a no-sweat, no hassle approach for adults who just want to spend a few minutes exploring something new. Bookstores and Fairfax libraries are good options to read more without breaking the bank.

2. Sign Up for a Specific-Interest Class

From gardening to learning a new language, opportunities abound for adults who want a slightly more formal approach to learning something new. Some options include Fairfax County Parks and Recreation (<http://parktakes.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/>) as well as adult education services located at NOVA Community College. *For anyone over 60 who is a Fairfax County resident, every class at NOVA is available to audit free of charge.* <http://www.nvcc.edu/admissions/apply/seniors.html>

3. Pursue a degree

Nowadays busy adults have the option to receive any level of degree online—everything from an Associates' to a Doctoral Degree. Simply enter the search term of interest on Google and see the wide variety of degrees available. One word of caution: make sure a degree program is accredited. Most colleges and universities will proudly post their accreditation status right on their websites. If you aren't sure- just ask!

Never Stop Learning!