

# *The* **DEMOCRAT**

*Newsletter of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee*



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## **Message from Sue Langley,**

*Chairman of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee*

Our August special election sent shivers through the Republican establishment in Fairfax County and Virginia. In the first summer special election won by Democrats in recent memory, we elected Karen Keys- With the November election and Thanksgiving behind us, it is time to reflect on the awesome energy we mustered for our candidates.

We saw record turnout for a Governor year, and a clean sweep for all three statewide offices. Not a complete surprise, we scored Delegate victories both around NOVA and around the state. Incumbent Republicans are now half the House of Delegates instead of their previous two thirds. And once the recounts are settled, a power sharing arrangement may be necessary to conduct business in the House. None of this would be possible without the fantastic showing of our volunteers, and whatever our contributions, we all share in the electoral rewards.

We now shift our focus to next year's Federal elections. The Senate seat of Tim Kaine has already attracted a challenger, Corey Stewart of Prince William County. Stewart almost defeated Ed Gillespie in the Republican primary with his embrace of the Confederate flag and Confederate monuments. We also must work to re-elect Don Beyer and Gerry Connolly to Congress. Our biggest challenge will be to unseat Barbara Comstock, who is raising her visibility with the sex harassment controversy brewing now on Capitol Hill.

The Road to Richmond Brunch on January 7, 2018, will be at a new location for more capacity, the Westwood Country Club in Vienna. Special thanks to Rex and Nancy Simmons for sponsoring our many fine brunches at the Springfield Country Club.

The Inaugural Ball will be at the Fairfax Elks Club once again, on January 28, 2018, where this year, we celebrate the inauguration of the Governor Northam, Lieutenant Governor Fairfax, and Attorney General Mark Herring. Finally in January, on Tuesday the 9th, my second term as Chair of the Committee comes to a close. My four years' service have been both challenging and rewarding You will elect new officers on January 9th at the County Committee's reorganization meeting. Whoever is chosen, I wish them the best of success for their upcoming terms. After a long rest, I will be back at it with a volunteer slot in the Tim Kaine campaign.

*Democratically yours [#Resist],*

*Sue Langley*

*Chair, Fairfax County Democratic Committee*

## Why and How FCDC Reorganizes



By Florence Upson

Healthy organizations are ones with engaged participants willing to commit their time to further its goals. Organizations evolve and adapt over the years to achieve continued success, providing opportunities for greater engagement by both experienced members who “know the ropes” and newer members with fresh ideas. FCDC’s reorganization of members and officers helps it to remain a healthy successful organization.

**Membership:** FCDC members must be (a) residents of Fairfax County, (b) committed to supporting all (and only) Democratic candidates, and (c) willing to volunteer significant time to help FCDC committees and Democratic candidates. While those meeting these criteria can join at any time, the reorganization provides the opportunity to reach out to potential members, such as Democrats new to Fairfax County, as well as energized progressives eager to promote progressive values while building on this fall’s extremely successful statewide elections.

**How to Join:** Those interested in joining become members

of FCDC by joining their magisterial district committees. Memberships are generally for two years, and all expire at the end of December in odd years, unless renewed. Details and applications are on the [FCDC web site](#). Once you have filed your application, it must be approved by the membership of your magisterial district committee (generally at the next monthly meeting) for you to become a member.

**Officers and Standing Committees:** In addition to membership, all FCDC county-wide offices, magisterial district committee offices, and standing committee memberships, are up for election. Incumbents can run for reelection, run for a different position, or take a break. Any FCDC member can run for any position, so FCDC can have competitive elections for some positions. (Only those who joined FCDC by December 1<sup>st</sup> are eligible to vote for officers at the [FCDC Reorganization Meeting](#) January 9<sup>th</sup>.) Even those who are not officers can serve as their district’s voting representative on one of the many standing committees.

After the process is over, FCDC members can expect to have strong leadership with both experienced and newer officeholders, an engaged and committed group of members, and continued successes in 2018 and 2019.

## 5 Year Anniversary of Sandy Hook: Vigil at the NRA

By Kris Gregory

On December 14, 2017, from 10:00AM-12:00PM over 400 people including 200 clergy from across the USA gathered for the 60th monthly vigil in front of the National Rifle Association (NRA’s) headquarters in Fairfax, VA. It was the



5th anniversary of the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT in a horrific tragedy where 20 first graders and 6 educators were shot. Joanna Simon of the Reston/Herndon Alliance Against Gun Violence organized the first monthly vigil in front of the NRA HQ on January 14, 2013 and was the first speaker. Martina Leinz, Virginia State President and board member of the Brady Campaign Against Gun Violence, Andrew Goddard of the Virginia Center for Public Safety and the father of Colin Goddard, one of the survivors of the 2007 Virginia Tech mass shooting, and Delegate Ken Plum (D-36th Reston) all spoke to the crowd about the need for gun violence prevention. Reverence Dennis Miller of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairfax (UUCF) in Oakton VA then led an interfaith ecumenical prayer service with music. Muslim, Jewish, and Christian ministers addressed the crowd about their ministry to victims, survivors, and communities devastated by gun violence and called for healing and working together to end gun violence.



## Remember the ERA? It's Back!

By Holly Hazard

Ellie Smeal at 2012 rally for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Congressional Passage of the ERA

Thousands of Americans, including many Democrats, worked through the 1970's and early 1980's to pass the

27<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which guarantees equal rights for women under our U. S. Constitution. Passage required meeting the constitutional requirement that ¾ of the states (38) ratify the amendment, and Congress set a ratification deadline. Supporters fell short by only a few states, and Virginia was one of the states that did not ratify it. In recent years, activists have resurrected the effort after legal analysts concluded that Congress may reconsider its deadline after the requisite number of states ratifies the Amendment. Nevada became the 36<sup>th</sup> state last year.

One unforeseen benefit of our extraordinary Democratic wins in the House of Delegates (HOD) this past November may be our renewed opportunity to become the 37<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Illinois is also positioned to pass it. In addition, bills are moving through both chambers of the U.S. Congress (S.J. Res. 5, Cardin, MD and H.J. Res. 53, Speier, CA) to remove the previously legislated ERA ratification deadline.

The ERA passed the Virginia Senate in 5 of the past 6 years. In the House of Delegates however, it has quietly stalled in sub-committee without even a vote. With the infusion of 14 new Democrats, 11 of them women, new life has been pumped into this effort.

Kaye Kory, (HOD, 38<sup>th</sup>) and patron of H.J.R. 2, ratifying the ERA, states, "We'll get further with this issue in 2018 than we have before. Virginia women are not willing to be treated as second-class citizens. Not only did they vote, many became elected officials." Eileen Davis, co-founder of [Women Matter.org](http://WomenMatter.org), a leader in the fight for passage in Virginia, is even more optimistic. She believes there is a path out of the legislature and to ratification in 2018. To accomplish this, Davis asserts we need "every woman in every corner of Virginia to know about the Amendment and press for its passage." Both Kory and Davis encourage

local jurisdictions such as the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to pass resolutions endorsing ratification by the Commonwealth.

Historically, the measure has had much more success in the Senate. Senator Surovell, (36<sup>th</sup>) will carry the resolution, which previously has had strong bi-partisan support, including the leadership of Jill Vogel (27<sup>th</sup>). Ironically, support in the Senate seems to be waning just as the HOD may be positioned to move.

Fairfax Democrats can help by urging our Board of Supervisors to signal its support in a resolution, signing up for alerts at [Women-Matter.org](http://Women-Matter.org), letting their state HOD member and Senator know this is a priority for them and joining with women in Richmond, either with Women-Matter.org on [January 17<sup>th</sup>](#) or [WoFA](#) and [Network NoVA](#) on January [25<sup>th</sup>](#) to lobby for its passage.

Many Democrats worked through the 1970's and early 1980's to pass the 27<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which guarantees equal rights for women under our U. S. Constitution. That effort derailed when fewer than the three-quarters, or 38, of the states required by the deadline set by Congress reached ratification. In recent years, activists have resurrected the effort after legal analysts concluded that Congress may reconsider its deadline after the requisite number of states ratifies the Amendment. Nevada became the 36<sup>th</sup> state last year.

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# Sue Langley Ends Four Years of FCDC Chairmanship

*Saying Goodbye Is Hard to Do*

From 2014 to 2017, Fairfax Democrats have led the way to bluer skies over Fairfax County, with pick up victories in many places, including the Board of Supervisors, the School Board and the House of Delegates. Each of these pickups occurred under the leadership of Sue Langley as Chair of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee.

Kathy Smith was elected Supervisor of the Sully District after the unexpected retirement of Mike Frye. Just this year, Karen Keys-Gamarra was elected to the vacant At-Large School Board seat. Additionally, Delegate seats turning over from Republican to Democrat in the past 4 years include Kathleen Murphy, Jennifer Boysko, Kathy Tran and Karrie Delaney. Did anyone notice that these victories were all scored by Democratic women?

FCDC embarked on a two-year office relocation project in 2014 that culminated with a move to the current location at the end of 2015. The new space is a significant improvement in functionality over the previous location with 50% more space and modern furnishings at no increase in monthly rent.

Encouraging all members to contribute financially at whatever level they can afford, Sue Langley has led by example. FCDC had a record of over One Million Dollars income raised during Sue Langley's two terms as Chair, 2014-2017. And in departing, Sue is leaving a hefty surplus of unspent funds to continue the traditional financial solvency of the organization.

As Sue moves on to other challenges, the County Democratic Committee has earned a reputation for supporting its candidates with an army of well trained volunteers, office furniture and office equipment, technical support, and the wealth of resources at its disposal. Sue is the only County Chair to negotiate a lease for satellite office space which was used by FCDC volunteers and related progressive groups such as Indivisible, to foster synergy with our common causes. The Northam campaign found use of this space helpful in its 2017 campaign. FCDC has hired field staff to support campaigns, loaned the use of its high-speed color copier, and trained unpaid interns who have gone onto paid positions in local political campaigns.





We are in position to raise a serious challenge to U. S. Representative Barbara Comstock's seat in 2018 with 9 declared candidates in the upcoming Democratic Primary. Partnering with the DCCC and John Foust's 2014 Congressional campaign, FCDC's red-to-blue campaign that year played a role in laying the precinct-level groundwork for stronger Democratic showings in future years within this Congressional District.

Over the past four years, FCDC's precinct operations team has trained hundreds of volunteers in precinct level organizing and in the use of the Voter Activation Network (VAN). The Voter Registration Committee registers hundreds of new voters each year, and it distributes information cards on the complexities of registering and voting in Virginia to thousands of interested parties each year. Additional outreach by the Committee has included welcome letters to new citizens, Diversity booths at community events, celebrations of other cultures' holidays, and committee recognition by NAACP for our Voter Protection program.



FCDC conceived, organized and hosted the Northam-Periello debate at Lanier Middle School, where a capacity crowd of over 400 watched as NBC4 Moderator Tom Sherwood questioned the candidates, and they responded with their answers to sometimes tough questions. NBC channels across the commonwealth broadcast the debate, which helped to stimulate interest in Primary Election Day voting.

In May, 2017, Sue Langley presided over the first Jefferson-Obama Dinner, with over 400 attendees, featuring Senator Tim Kaine introducing our keynote speaker, Khizr Khan.

Sue Langley's home was the scene of many additional fundraisers, collecting significant funds for the Herring re-election campaign, the FCDC Joint Campaign, and others.

FCDC hosted a snap School Board Endorsement meeting, where in the presence of hundreds of members, Karen Keys-Gamarra was endorsed from a field of seven candidates. FCDC then provided the technical and financial support to get Karen over the finish line. FCDC raised and contributed more money to Karen's race than her opponent raised in total. This support ensured that she defeated the

Republican endorsed candidate by more than a 2 to 1 margin.



First Lady Pam Northam came to Sue Langley's house to kick off the 2017 canvasses conducted from her home. Thousands of doors were knocked and thousands of phone calls were placed from the Langley headquarters for central Vienna.

The Committee organized, hosted and funded the 2017 GOTV rally with our statewide candidates outside our Headquarters—in the rain. Despite the downpour, hundreds of rain ponchos were distributed to participants, nobody left, and Governor Terry McAuliffe was there, along with Tim Kaine, to introduce our candidates Ralph Northam and Justin Fairfax, just two days before their sweep of the statewide offices. Both local media, foreign language tv, and a daily Korean newspaper were there to cover the event, providing our candidates with additional “earned media.”

FCDC developed the capacity for media outlets who broadcast in foreign languages to our Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Spanish, other Asian, and Middle Eastern language audiences to conduct broadcast interviews with our U. S. Senators, U.

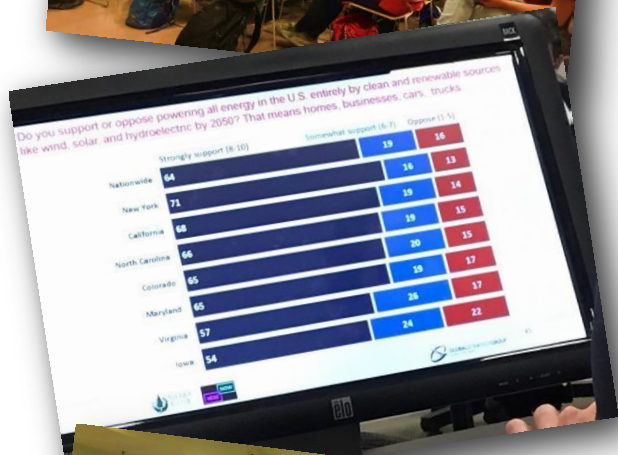
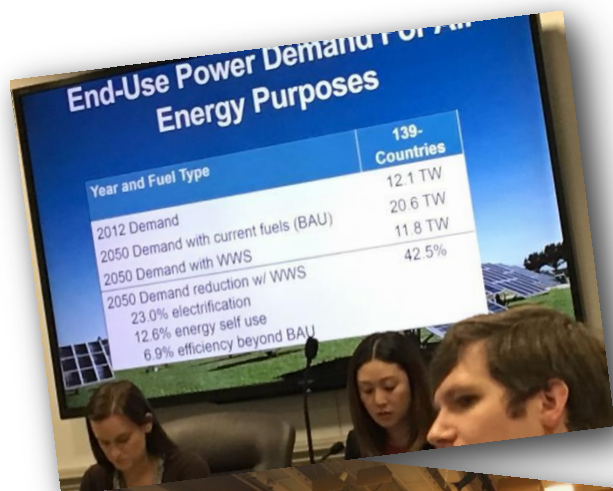
S. Congressmen, the Governor, the Attorney General, and our statewide candidates in both the 2017 Primary Election and the 2017 General Election. Print media, television stations and radio stations serving these markets and these voters participate on a regular basis.



FCDC remains the largest local Democratic Committee in the Commonwealth. Membership has nearly doubled to over 1,000 members in the past few years. This increase provides yet another challenge for the FCDC leadership to retain these newer members and encourage their participation at the precinct, district and county levels of the organization.

Sue Langley has had a productive four years with many accomplishments as Chair of FCDC. We all thank her and wish her success in her future endeavors and wish the incoming team success as well. FCDC has more battles ahead.

– Bruce Neilson



## The Post-Election Imperative: 100% by 2050

National Affairs Standing Committee (NAC) Sandra J. Klassen, Chair; Article by David Kuebrich, Braddock NAC Member

Virginia can transition to 80% clean energy by 2030 and 100% by 2050. Doing so would boost the state's economy and be a boon to the working and middle-classes, creating nearly 90,000 construction jobs and 60,000 operation jobs—all of these permanent—that is, jobs employing people for 40 years. The new energy would also save consumers money by providing cheaper electricity and reducing pollution-related health costs.

And there are longer-term pay-offs. A rapid conversion to renewables would begin the overdue process of tamping down Virginia's green-house gas emissions, transforming our state into a responsible national and global player, and helping to save the Virginia we know-- mitigating its vulnerability to hurricanes, coastal flooding, and farm-ravaging droughts and downpours. Most important of all, promoting renewables is our best hope for preserving our planet for our children.

Virginia can do this—if it so chooses!

So says Stanford Professor Mark Jacobson who recently spoke at George Mason University's annual Fall for the Book Festival.

Afterward he also met with delegates of the Virginia Environmental and Renewable Energy Caucus (VERE). Jacobson speaks with a goodly amount of credibility. A professor of civil and environmental engineering who directs Stanford's Atmosphere and Energy Program, he has received numerous prestigious academic awards, including the 2013 Global Green Policy Design Award for developing state and country energy plans and a 2015 Cozzarelli Prize from the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences for his ground-breaking work on the grid integration of 100% wind, water, and solar energy systems.

Jacobson and his team of colleagues have developed summary infographics that outline how each state can develop the required clean energy. For the Virginia plan, see <http://thesolutionsproject.org/infographic/>.

authoritative spokesperson for 100% by 2050, but he is only one figure in a rapidly growing movement. Forward-looking cities, counties, and businesses are also aiming for 100%. In addition, there have been several bills introduced into the U.S. Congress calling for the swift development of sustainable energy, including the

Jacobson is an

in a rapidly growing movement. Forward-looking cities, counties, and businesses are also aiming for 100%. In addition, there have been several bills introduced into the U.S. Congress calling for the swift development of sustainable energy, including the

“100 by ‘50 Act” sponsored by Senators Merkley, Sanders, Markey and Booker (April, 2017); and more recently, the “Off Fossil Fuels for a Better Future Act” (OFF Act)--calling for 100% by 2035!—sponsored by Reps. Tulsi Gabbard, Barbara Lee, Keith Ellison, Jamie Raskin and others.

These Democrats haven’t forgotten Trump reigns in the White House and Pence, the power behind the throne, is, like Pruitt at EPA, a willing vassal of the fossil-fuel industry. But they are stepping up because they realize bold action now is our only hope. Democrats must create the type of WWII-scale mobilization against climate change called for in the 2016 Party Platform. Projecting a vision of what must be done and raising public awareness are important initial steps.

Such calls to action, if adequately promoted, will reach receptive ears. Polls show 64% of Americans strongly favor the rapid development of renewables, and another 19% are somewhat supportive. In Virginia, the numbers are 57% and 26%.

Now’s the time to act. Given the national attention to Democrats’ success in our recent state elections, Virginia Dems are well-situated to play an important role in making climate change a key issue in the 2018 elections. Governor Northam, our state legislators, and all our members must work together to formulate adequate clean-energy policies and, perhaps more importantly, a clean-energy vision. In the 2018 legislative session, Virginia Dems must send a strong signal to their fellow Virginians and to the nation.

We Dems can do this—if we so choose!



## An Inconvenient Truth: *Labor Matters*

National Affairs Committee Sandra Klassen Chair  
Contributing Authors Mary Paulet, NAC Rep  
Mason District (Editor The Democrat) & Sandra  
Klassen NAC Chair

“If Act 10 is enacted in a dozen more states, the modern Democratic Party will cease to be a competitive power in American politics...” This Grover Norquist quote was included in her opening remarks by National Affairs Chair, Sandra J. Klassen at the panel discussion, *An Inconvenient Truth: Labor Matters*, presented by the FCDC National Affairs and Labor Committees.

The panel discussion held on September 26 at James Madison High School featured nationally known economists Dean Baker, Co-Director Center for Economic and Policy Research, who focused on *Demonizing Public Sector Unions: Part of the Plan to Undermine Progressive Politics*, and L. Josh Bivens, Economic Policy Institute Research and Policy Director, who targeted *Why stopping the rise of inequality is key to winning the political battle, and why unions are key to stopping inequality*.

Act 10 was legislation spearheaded by Republican Darling and anti-union posterboy and Wisconsin governor Scott Walker. It stripped public sector unions of the power to bargain collectively, and has since become a model for

nationwide anti-union endeavors. Both panelists discussed the need to actively protect unions from the rising tide of anti-union attacks.

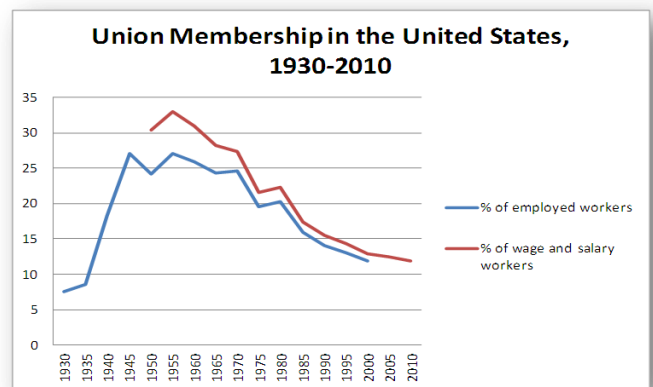
Baker described how the effort to demonize unions began with the election of Ronald Reagan, and was part of a strategy to undermine multiple bases of support for liberal causes. The anti-union endeavors became well-known with the Eastern Airlines lockout of workers who were on strike. These workers were eventually terminated due to the direct actions of Reagan. This began diminishing the effectiveness of strikes. The National Labor Relations Board - an agency tasked with protecting workers - also began to see significant backlogs in cases, as long as two years.

Baker explained that current anti-union efforts are concentrating on public sector unions. Two primary efforts have entailed denying collective bargaining and reducing the ability of unions to collect dues. Typically, public employees make less than their private counterparts in salary which is offset by their pensions.

Baker directly addressed criticisms made of pensions given to public sector employees. He reminded the audience that pensioners may not receive social security and thus remain dependent on their rather modest pensions. He also explained that willful underfunding of pensions by cities and counties has played a large role in the often grim financial standing of the public sector.

Finally, Baker reminded the audience that unions fight for "everyone's rights". The discussion then turned to Bivens' presentation.

Bivens asserted that rising income inequality would decrease if partisan politics would decrease. He opined that, "if Democrats liked unions one tenth as much as Republicans hate them, we would be in good shape."



Bivens described how significantly productivity has diverged from wages in recent decades. Productivity has increased for American workers, but they did not see a resulting gain in wages. Since 1968 the Federal Minimum Wage had decreased by 28%. Unions -according to Biven- result in productivity gains by ensuring that employers have incentive to better train the workers due to the higher salary expenditures for these workers. He advocated tougher protections for those attempting to form unions at their workplaces.

During the question and answer period Ron Krouse inquired what arguments can be used to help motivate Democratic Politicians to support unions. Baker answered that unions make huge differences in pushing progressive legislation. Most progressive changes would not have happened without union effort. Of all the groups in the Democratic coalition, labor remains the one with the greatest ground force and organizational strength representing a constituency that can help Democrats get out the vote, build congressional alliances behind progressive legislation, and sustain a broad coalition, and union members are more likely to vote.

David Whiteside asked "How do we save unions?" Bivens relied that there was no silver bullet but that the first step is to stop "right-to-work (RTW)" legislation. Wages are 3.1percent lower in RTW states than unfair share states. Also, pass the Employee Free Choice Act to protect workers' right to join together in unions and make it harder for management to threaten workers seeking to organize a union...and that a social revolution was probably necessary.

# In Their Own Words

Candidates for FCDC Positions Tell their Stories



## Dan Lagana

*Running for Fairfax County Chair*

My name is Dan Lagana and I'm running for Chair of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee as part of the Stronger Tomorrow team. I'm a 33-year-old Army veteran and Fairfax County native. I've run campaigns and I know what it takes to win. Recently, I managed Kathy Smith's successful race for Sully District Supervisor.

I got my start in politics because I showed up. I went door knocking for President Obama's reelection and worked my way up. Now, I'm an officer on FCDC, where I'm responsible for our campaign activities, from ordering our sample ballots to mailings and strategic direction for Karen Keys-Gamarra's school board race.

These experiences have taught me that to get work done, you need a well-thought-out plan and a strong team. Here is a short overview of our plan:

- ✓ **Community service and public outreach.** In performing small acts of service we build our brand, expand our network and connect ourselves to communities throughout Fairfax County.
- ✓ **Shore up our internal operations.** This will begin by creating an internal "think tank," onboard new members, and improve our IT and cybersecurity.
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Please visit [www.strongertomorrowfairfax.com](http://www.strongertomorrowfairfax.com) to read our plan in detail. Thank you and I hope to earn your vote.

## Paul Jameson

*Running for Fairfax County Chair*

The most relevant experience for chairing a Democratic committee is actually having successfully chaired a Democratic committee. A Democratic committee is full of people with different personalities and different strengths. We're all volunteers, and the leader of a Democratic committee cannot order the volunteers to do something. The volunteers need to be persuaded and see leadership by example. This is what I have done with the Providence Democrats.



While Providence Dems chair, I concentrated on growing the committee, and seeing to it that we were well-organized at the precinct level. Before Reorganization we had over 200 members. At Reorganization, we hit the limit of 180 members and we'll get back to over 200 members again. I worked relentlessly to recruit precinct captains, so that we had a captain in every precinct, trained in using VoteBuilder, and able to recruit volunteers within the precinct. We had precinct captain training at least once, sometimes twice, every year. It paid off with great voter turnout in 2017. In 2015 we defeated an incumbent

Republican school board member.

- ✓ I want to **Empower** our members to have the resources and encouragement to turn out the vote at the precinct.
- ✓ I want to **Energize** our members to participate as fully as possible in the organization, and inculcate a culture of mutual respect for our fellow members.
- ✓ I want to **Elect** Democrats, because we need to advance Democratic values, which at their core are The Greatest Good for the Greater Number, With Dignity for All.

<http://paul4fcdc.com>



## Sue Rosenberg

*Running for Vice Chair North*

I'm Sue Rosenberg, running for Vice Chair North to elect Democrats because that's the role of the Regional Vice Chairs at FCDC. I've worked extensively with the Regional Vice Chairs for several years, and have the experience and produced results that exceeded our goals. You've probably seen my work: back to school flyers, sample ballots, voter guides, and the absentee program.

If I'm elected, **I pledge to serve for the full two year term.** The Joint Campaign is vital to success in 2019 when 54 offices are up for election in Fairfax County! That's ALL our

State Senators and Delegates AND our local government officers!

The State Senators and Delegates we elect will vote on redistricting. Those districts – for Congress, State Senate and Delegate – influence who will represent us through 2031! The local officials, including the Board of Supervisors and School Board, who have the biggest impact on our day to day lives, are not identified by party on the ballot, so the work of the Joint Campaign is essential in letting voters know which candidates we support. In 2018 in Fairfax County we need to re-elect Tim Kaine, Don Beyer and Gerry Connolly, and we must elect a Democrat to truly represent us in the 10th Congressional District. I want the Joint Campaign to welcome and work with grassroots activists to help us keep Tim, Don and Gerry and flip the 10<sup>th</sup>.

When I was FCDC webmaster, I wrote that membership gives you a voice and a vote. **I'm asking for your vote: Sue Rosenberg for Vice Chair, North.** <https://www.facebook.com/FCDC.VC.North/>

## Jay Reddy

*Running for Vice Chair North*

I'm running to remain Vice Chair North, my current position, and I am humbled and honored to be part of a great team of thoughtful, hard-working candidates for FCDC officer positions. I truly believe this team will live up to its promise of a Stronger Tomorrow. I ran for Vice Chair North 2 years ago with a goal of focusing on where FCDC adds the most value, in local elections where candidates need us the most. FCDC accomplished much by giving extra attention to the school board special election and several targeted Delegate races in 2017, and everyone in FCDC should be proud of what all of us together accomplished.



Going forward, our primary mission this next cycle is to finally defeat Barbara Comstock. I came up in the local Democratic Party with defeating Comstock as a primary personal goal all 5 times she has been on the ballot: as a freelance volunteer for Delegate Margi Vanderhye; as a precinct captain and new Dranesville Democratic Committee member while helping Pamela Danner, Kathleen Murphy, and John Foust; and as Vice Chair North and also as Dranesville Vice Chair of Precinct Operations while helping LuAnn Bennett.

In 2018, we will not fail, because Comstock no longer has the cover of a Democratic President, and we will hold her accountable for her faithfulness to Trump's destructive agenda. I want to finish in 2018 what I started in 2009, and I respectfully ask for your vote on January 9th for Vice Chair North.



## **Patti Dinkelmeyer**

*Running for Vice Chair South*

Hello, My name is Patti Dinkelmeyer, and I'm running for FCDC Vice Chair South. I grew up in Fairfax County and have been a Lee District member for the past 7 years. I'm a graduate of Fairfax County Public Schools and Virginia Commonwealth University, with a degree in Political Science.

As a former FCDC HQ employee and as a volunteer, I have experience with the day-to-day work that keeps FCDC going. I learned and taught others how to use our fundraising and member/volunteer management tool, NGP and I have extensive experience with VAN Votebuilder. In 2010 and 2012, I was hired by FCDC, as a Regional Field Director to help replace a Tea Party majority on the Herndon town council with a majority of progressive women. I've also managed our summer intern program and worked on many other important programs like fundraisers, absentee voting, back to school nights, the voter guide and sample ballots. For the last four years I have been working for Dranesville District County Supervisor John Foust.

This year we have an unprecedented influx of new committee members and I am running to help us solidify that growth and further strengthen and expand our committee. I am proud to be running alongside Dan Lagana and the Stronger Tomorrow Team. Dan has put a lot of thought and effort in bringing together a variety of skills and perspectives and I hope we can all earn your vote at our January 9th FCDC reorganization.

Facebook: [facebook.com/PattiDforFCDCViceChairSouth/](https://facebook.com/PattiDforFCDCViceChairSouth/)

## **Lainie Singerman**

*Running for Vice Chair Central*

My name is Lainie Singerman and I am running for Vice Chair Central.

Raised in Fairfax County, I'm now an attorney at a local firm in Fairfax. I represent crime victims and others who have been injured due to others' negligence. I also provide free legal representation to victims of domestic violence. In May, I was elected to serve on the 11th Congressional District Democratic Committee. As an FCDC officer, I will stand up for progress and inclusiveness and promote a culture of



professionalism.

My experience on Democratic campaigns in Northern Virginia will allow me to effectively work with FCDC members, candidate campaigns, and the Coordinated Campaigns. I began volunteering for John Kerry 2004, when I also formed a Young Democrats Club at Oakton High School, and volunteered or worked on a dozen campaigns in the years since.

At UVA Law, I gained a new perspective about the need for progressive change in state and local government. I worked for the Virginia Capital Representation Resource Center, which represents death row prisoners; at the Innocence Project fighting wrongful convictions; and as a public defender in Charlottesville/Albemarle County.

Now that Democrats have a clear mandate from Fairfax County voters, I want to help FCDC take a more active role in making policy recommendations to Democratic elected officials. It's finally time to realize the progressive change Democrats have been fighting for years to achieve. To that end, I ask for your vote for myself and the Stronger Tomorrow team on January 9.

<http://strongertomorrowfairfax.com/lainie-singerman/>



## **Susan Johnson**

*Running for Vice-Chair of Precinct Operations*

Hi, I'm Susan Johnson, and I'm running for re-election as vice-chair of precinct operations as part of the Stronger Tomorrow team. This is an exciting time to be a Democrat in Fairfax County! The Stronger Tomorrow team is poised to capture the energy and enthusiasm of everyone, be they veteran committee members or first-time volunteers, and turn it into victory for Democrats.

I have been a political junkie practically since birth, but I didn't begin to volunteer with campaigns until 2005. During Barack Obama's first presidential campaign, I fell in love with organizing. I left my teaching career and was hired as one of the first field organizers for President Obama's re-election campaign in Fairfax County. I have worked on several campaigns since then, and of course have knocked doors and made calls as a volunteer as well.

The best thing about organizing is supporting people as they work together for a cause or candidate they believe in. As vice-chair of precinct operations, I try very hard to "respect, empower, include" (the Obama campaigns' motto) as I work with each district. While I believe it is imperative that we organize precinct teams throughout the county, I want to respect each district's style of doing things, empower the volunteers to take charge of their own turf, while including all who want to play a role. I hope you will support me and the entire Stronger Tomorrow Team on January 9.

## **Nadja Golding**

*Running for Treasurer*

My name is Nadja Golding, and I am running for reelection as Treasurer of FCDC as part of the Stronger Tomorrow team. I am deeply committed to the success of our committee, and Treasurer is the position where my particular skills and experiences



make me the most effective in ensuring that success. I joined FCDC as Assistant Treasurer in 2008, spent 2 years learning the basics of the role, and have served as Treasurer since 2010. I've worked hard to perform all aspects of the position at a very high level.

As a member of leadership for 10 years now, I've come to understand that FCDC performs at its best when it has a united leadership team who are all committed to excellence and are all pulling in the same direction, supporting each other, our membership, and our candidates.

I believe it is essential that our leadership be professional, inclusive, diverse, creative, and dynamic -- committed to using best practices and open to new ideas and new people -- as that is what's necessary to build upon our successes as a committee to bring in the grassroots, encourage more progressives to become Democrats and more Democrats to become active, and ultimately to achieve electoral success for Democrats. The members of the Stronger Together Team offer that kind of leadership to FCDC. Please vote for me and the entire Stronger Together Team on January 9. Please visit my Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/nadjazgolding>.



## **Andrew Scalise**

*Running for Assistant Treasurer*

I am Andrew Scalise and I am running for FCDC Assistant Treasurer. If Donald Trump has done anything positive for our country, it was motivating people like me to get involved. I filled out my FCDC application on November 9th last year and in the past year, I have met so many incredible people and have heard many war stories from campaigns and elections past. FCDC has really helped me come out of my shell a bit and develop skills in organizing, canvassing, and interacting in general. FCDC has given me a lot in the last year, so when Dan Lagana asked me to join the Stronger Tomorrow team, I knew it would be the perfect opportunity for me to give back to FCDC.

As a practicing CPA in Tysons Corner and professor of accounting at American University, I believe I have the training and experience needed to help maintain a smooth treasury function. As your Assistant Treasurer, I will work with Treasurer Nadja Golding to ensure that every dollar brought in or dispersed is properly accounted for, that the financial reports you all receive are accurate and consistent, and that the business operations of FCDC operate as efficiently as possible. A successful business operation internally is essential to achieve our goals externally and I pledge to do my part as Assistant Treasurer to achieve our goals and help make FCDC Stronger Tomorrow. <http://strongertomorrowfairfax.com/>

## **Janice Yohai**

*Running for Vice Chair, Voter Registration & Education*

Hello Democrats! Helping citizens vote successfully is my passion. And that's why I am running for FCDC's Vice Chair of Voter Registration & Education, a post I have been privileged to hold since <2012. I lead our team of committed volunteers to help democrats choose a successful voting strategy (often early in person), become reliable every-election



voters, and understand and share their excitement with friends/family electronically. Register, Educate, and Engage.

Our nuanced methods, carefully language materials, and choice of venues are based on analysis, test results and field experience -- my guiding principle. We all take justified pride in our achievements:

- ✓ 2016 early inperson voting up 37% over Obama's 2012 levels,
- ✓ 2017 early inperson voter count alone up 17% over the combined inperson plus mail-in vote in comparable 2013 &
- ✓ 29% more early inperson votes for Lu Ann Bennet (vs Comstock) traced to using our Voting FAQ card by Bennett's Fairfax canvassers.

But it is not the [Voting FAQ card](#) alone which holds this power, but the way our knowledgeable volunteers communicate one-one with targeted voters about its contents. I hope to gain your support for our work, and your vote of confidence in me as your next Vice Chair of Voter Registration & Education. Register, Educate, and Engage.

Thank you, Janice Yohai. \* Recipient of Fairfax County's Barbara Varon Award (2014) "in recognition of years of exemplary volunteer service helping citizens vote, with an appreciation for the diversity of our community." DPVa Grassroots Award for the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (2014).



## **Tiffany Pryce**

*Running for Vice Chair of Voter Outreach*

I'm Tiffany Pryce, from Lee District, and I'm running for Vice Chair for Outreach. If you're like me, you woke up after last year's election feeling depressed and angry, but motivated to do more. I joined FCDC in hopes to double down on my goal to effect positive change in my community. No matter the tomfoolery happening in Washington, we all have the power to resist hate, uplift underrepresented voices, and champion equity in Fairfax County.

My commitment to advocating for and servicing our local community is why I'm running. I'd like to better connect FCDC with the community through service and build strategic partnerships with affinity groups and our standing committees. In Lee, I'm actively involved in our Social Action Committee where we partner with local nonprofits to volunteer. I'd like to help other districts replicate that model. Through our actions, FCDC can strengthen its relationship to community-based organizations already embedded in and trusted by diverse communities thus building the Democratic brand and showing we are relevant to people's issues and lives. Partnering with and leveraging the talent of grassroots groups can also help FCDC expand. Working synergistically, we can reach new members and achieve mutual goals. Similarly, I'd like to foster better communication and collaboration between standing committees on outreach initiatives.

To broaden our party and make civic engagement accessible and meaningful, we need to do it together. I humbly ask for you to support me and the rest of the Stronger Tomorrow team January 9. Thanks! Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/TiffanyPryceforFCDCViceChairOutreach/>

## **Bryan Graham,**

*Running for Vice Chair of Technology*

Bryan Graham is the current Vice Chair of Technology for FCDC. Bryan is an IT professional with expertise in improving the systems and processes by large customers



and government agencies; he has been a member of FCDC since 2009. Bryan has recently become the chair of the Virginia Democrats Technology Working Group, working to share technology expertise across the state. His aim is to better use the technology professionals in the county to help elect Democrats and improve our organization.

Bryan understands the technology needs of FCDC. He is the former chair of the Sully District, and was intimately involved with the design of the FCDC office space and network. His work over the last few years has helped him understand the tools and systems we use in and out of elections, such as NGP and VoteBuilder. He would be thrilled to have your support for Vice Chair of Technology.



## **Candice Bennett**

*Running for Vice Chair of Finance*

Candice Bennett is the Director of Development and Communications at Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, one of the largest affordable housing non-profits in the Northern Virginia. She is a graduate of Emerge Virginia and the Sorenson Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia. In 2015, she ran for the Democratic nomination for Mount Vernon District Supervisor.

Candice has been developing and implementing communication and marketing strategies for corporations, political candidates and not-for-profit organizations since 1998, having started her career at Penn, Schoen and Berland. As a small business owner, she has consulted for companies such as Microsoft, Ruder Finn and the Consumer Technology Association. She is a past President of the Junior League of Northern Virginia where she continues to volunteer. Candice currently serves on the Boards of Directors for the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial and the Lorton Station Community Association. Candice was appointed by Governor McAuliffe in 2017 to serve on Virginia's Fair Housing Board.

Candice received her M.A. in Security Policy Studies and B.A. in International Affairs from The George Washington University. Candice resides in Lorton with her husband, Tom, and their two cats, Simon and Zoe, and their chihuahua, Riley.

Website: [www.strongertomorrowfairfax.com](http://www.strongertomorrowfairfax.com)

## **Lola Quintela**

*Running for Corresponding Secretary*

My name is María Dolores “Lola” Quintela and I am running for reelection as FCDC Corresponding Secretary at the General Meeting on January 9, 2018.

I have worked with FCDC for over 15 years. From precinct captain to Acting Chair of FCDC, from poll watcher to Vice Chair Central, I've just about done it all. For the last three and a half years, as FCDC's Corresponding Secretary, I have made arrangements for regular meetings, extraordinary meetings, primaries and caucuses; I have managed a wide range of communication tasks, including correspondence and assorted public notices as set forth in our Bylaws. Being a certified English-Spanish translator and editor is an asset that I have brought and continue to bring to this position. The Latino population in Fairfax County continues to grow and become a larger part of the electorate. If you are looking for



someone who can reach out and relate to all in this diverse Committee of ours, I am that person. A diverse community is what makes us strong. An engaged diverse community makes us unstoppable.

I currently serve on the Diversity and Headquarters Committees. I have been elected to the 11<sup>th</sup> CDDC and I am its representative to the Virginia Democratic Women's Caucus. The values of inclusiveness, transparency and fairness guide my life and my work. I will continue to listen with an open mind and act decisively to fulfill the duties of the office of Corresponding Secretary. I humbly ask for your vote on January 9, 2018. - María Dolores "Lola" Quintela, 703-375-9525, [lolafoxdems@gmail.com](mailto:lolafoxdems@gmail.com).



## **Sean Perryman**

### *Running for Recording Secretary*

My name is Sean Perryman and I'm running to be FCDC Recording Secretary with the Stronger Tomorrow team.

I believe in transparency, accountability, and responsiveness. Those are crucial values to the position of recording secretary. It's not just about recounting a meeting but about striving to keep all FCDC members informed. If I am elected, however, my job will not stop there.

As a member of the Steering Committee, I want to work hard to grow the Committee and elect Democrats in 2018 and 2019 and I'm committing myself to the job for the entire term.

I do not shy away from hard work and I'm capable of high level work. In my professional life, I work for Democrats as Counsel on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Prior to working on the Committee, I worked as a civil litigator.

I'm driven by my passion for equity and advocating for marginalized communities. I am the Education Chair for the Fairfax NAACP and I sit on multiple committees in the county, including the Affordable Dwelling Advisory Board and the Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee.

I want to expand the membership of FCDC. I want all people and all members to feel that FCDC is welcoming and that they can have a voice here. And, most importantly, I want to work everyday to help Democrats throughout the county win elections.

I ask that you vote for me on January 9, 2018 at Woodson High School. <https://www.facebook.com/seanperryman4fcdc>

*\* Please note that the candidates listed are those who had submitted statements by publication deadline. There are more late filing candidates currently running for positions with FCDC and can be found at [fairfaxdemocrats.org](http://fairfaxdemocrats.org). Voting will take place January 9 at Woodrow Wilson High School.*



# The International Democrat

Homeward Looks from a Frequent Traveler

## Don't Get Sick in America

It's a fact: Americans pay more for healthcare but instead of being healthier they are sicker than anywhere else in the rich Western world. There's only one word for it: crazy. Or maybe "tragic" would be better.

Defenders of our absurd system claim "socialized medicine" would be even worse. I can prove them wrong, having lived 9 years in the UK. The entire British healthcare system is funded by general taxation, so no one pays a penny when they get sick. They just see a doctor and get care.

We had excellent care in England. Doctors made house calls. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> child was born in a National Health Services hospital. During a pause in my wife's labor, the maternity nurse made me a cup of tea.

At every stage of life, the UK system has better results than ours. Fewer babies die at birth. Fewer adults have chronic conditions like arthritis and high blood pressure. The elderly live longer. But here's the real shocker: healthcare per person only costs 38% of what it costs in the USA.

And the UK is not alone in delivering far better healthcare at far less cost. There is a table at the bottom of this column comparing the USA to 10 other Western industrialized countries. On every metric we pay more and have worse outcomes than our peers.

The answer to this conundrum is surprisingly simple: every one of these countries except ours has universal healthcare. But that does not mean the government directly provides healthcare in all these countries, as it does in the UK. In some of them, like Switzerland and the Netherlands, insurance companies contract with private sector medical facilities.

In countries with universal insurance, premiums are affordable because the entire population, by law, is enrolled in insurance, including younger, healthier people. And, yes, there is some public subsidy, but overall the citizens of these countries pay far less for better healthcare than we do in our country.

Those who oppose universal healthcare see it as a subsidy from healthy people to treat the sick. And they are right. But those who are healthy today will one day be sick. Just as those who are young today will one day be old -- that is why the Social Security tax applies to all. Social Security is a bargain we make with ourselves as a people -- we pay today so that we may

receive benefits tomorrow. Universal healthcare insurance is similar.

Healthcare Costs and Outcomes in Higher Income Western Countries						
	Healthcare (% of GDP)	Healthcare (\$ per person)	Cost per person compared to USA	Infant mortality <sup>1</sup>	Adult chronic sickness <sup>2</sup>	Life after 60 <sup>3</sup>
USA	16.6%	\$9,936	100%	6.0	21%	23.6
Australia	9.0%	5,013	50%	3.4	10%	25.5
Canada	10.0%	4,372	44%	4.8	16%	25.0
France	11.1%	4,139	42%	3.5	12%	25.7
Germany	11.0%	4,586	46%	3.2	8%	23.7
Netherlands	10.9%	4,886	49%	3.6	9%	24.2
New Zealand	9.4%	3,960	40%	4.7	9%	24.7
Norway	9.3%	6,861	69%	2.4	12%	24.2
Sweden	11.2%	5,736	58%	2.2	10%	24.6
Switz	11.4%	8,944	90%	3.9	10%	25.5
United Kingdom	9.9%	3,738	38%	3.9	10%	24.1
<b>Avg ex. USA</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>\$5,223</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>24.7</b>
<sup>1</sup> Deaths per 1,000 live births						
<sup>2</sup> Percent of adults age 18 to 64 with at least two of five common chronic conditions: joint pain or arthritis; asthma or chronic lung disease; diabetes; heart disease; and hypertension						
<sup>3</sup> Life expectancy at age 60 in years						
<b>Sources</b>						
Healthcare as % of GDP:	<a href="http://www.commonwealthfund.org/interactives/2017/july/mirror-mirror/">http://www.commonwealthfund.org/interactives/2017/july/mirror-mirror/</a>					
Infant mortality:	<a href="http://www.commonwealthfund.org/interactives/2017/july/mirror-mirror/">http://www.commonwealthfund.org/interactives/2017/july/mirror-mirror/</a>					
Adult chronic sickness:	<a href="http://www.commonwealthfund.org/interactives/2017/july/mirror-mirror/">http://www.commonwealthfund.org/interactives/2017/july/mirror-mirror/</a>					
Life expectancy after 60:	<a href="http://www.commonwealthfund.org/interactives/2017/july/mirror-mirror/">http://www.commonwealthfund.org/interactives/2017/july/mirror-mirror/</a>					
GDP:	<a href="http://statistics.times.com/economy/countries-by-projected-gdp.php">http://statistics.times.com/economy/countries-by-projected-gdp.php</a>					
Population:	<a href="http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/population-by-country/">http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/population-by-country/</a>					

Letting poor people fall through the cracks of the medical system is not only heartless, it is economically stupid. People who don't have insurance can't afford medical care out of pocket, so they let conditions worsen until they end up in the emergency room, at vastly higher cost -- both because they are sicker and because ERs cost a fortune to run. Those costs are picked up by the rest of us in one way or another.

The simple truth is that the USA would pay less for healthcare, and our people would be

healthier, if we had a system that included everybody. This is not a Democratic or Republican issue. It is a human issue and a matter of common sense.

The complex, costly, failed system we have today must give way to universal coverage. This could be done by expanding Medicare/Medicaid, which already covers one-third of the population. Or Obamacare could be enlarged by strengthening the individual mandate, not vitiating it as in the GOP tax legislation. Or a combination of both, and perhaps some new ideas as well.

America is not short of resources or intelligence to make a universal healthcare system work. It does not happen simply because too many of us don't get the point: when people can't afford healthcare, society as a whole suffers, not just those excluded from the system.

Sharing the costs of healthcare, as we do with Social Security, will not only make Americans healthier but save money. It's about time we stop fear-mongering about "socialized medicine" and face facts.

- Brad Swanson

(The International Democrat welcomes feedback at [bradswanson@verizon.net](mailto:bradswanson@verizon.net) and [thedemocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org](mailto:thedemocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org))

## Welcome to VA PLAN Alerts!

Please call your state senator, delegate, and governor-elect Northam to tell them we need Medicaid expansion to cover 400,000 more Virginians with affordable healthcare. Find your state legislators: [whosmy.viriniageneralassembly.gov](http://whosmy.viriniageneralassembly.gov)

This is the first widespread VA PLAN alert. Please feel free to comment with feedback.

And if you're not yet receiving these alerts in email, please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/alertsva> - the Virginia legislative session moves fast and we will keep you informed on bills to call about.

## Medicaid Alert

Call your delegates, your state senators, and your Governor-Elect today, and tell them Virginia NEEDS to approve Medicaid expansion. Governor-Elect Northam:  
Email: [govelect.virginia.gov](mailto:govelect.virginia.gov) Phone: [804-418-4730](tel:804-418-4730)

## Grassroots Watch

By Susan Harford

Psychologists are likely not surprised by the number of grassroots activists who have been bit by the "Make Change Happen" bug after the gratifying and exhilarating slate of wins in the November 2017 state elections. Past distant legislative possibilities (Think Medicaid expansion) appear more possible given the right outpouring of support. Plus, their now civic energies need channeling. Many have joined FCDC. Others are not there yet but want to support and hold accountable the Democratic legislators they helped elect.

Thus the Virginia Policy and Legislative Action Network (VAPLAN) was born. It's an Alert System that allows constituents to sign-up for specific and timely calls for legislative action on issues of most

interest to them. It forges a closer relationship between each constituent and their representatives (1) by helping constituents easily learn who their reps are and (2) by calling TIMELY attention to legislative maneuvers on issues as they move through the legislative process.

More constituents are joining every day. The momentum is with us. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/alertsva> and sign up today!