

the Democrat

The Newsletter of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee

June 2015 Volume 2, Issue 5

Representatives Connolly and Beyer 'Deeply Disappointed' by House Cut of \$50 Million in Federal Commitment to Metro in Appropriations Bill

Bipartisan Amendment to Restore Full \$150 Million Fails in House Vote

On June 3, Representative Gerry Connolly (D-VA-11) rose to offer an amendment with his colleagues in the National Capital Region delegation that would "restore full funding of the federal commitment for vital rider safety improvements to 'America's Subway,' the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit

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June 9th Primary Election Results

Tuesday, June 9 polls were open for voters to elect a Democratic nominee for the 44th and 45th Virginia Delegate seats and a Democratic nominee for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in Mason and Mt. Vernon Districts. The candidates displayed spirit, determination, and passion. Thank you to all the candidates for stepping forward to seek your respective nominations.

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Message from the FCDC Chairman Sue Langley

On April 26 over 300 activist Democrats joined party leaders at the McLean Hilton for Fairfax County's annual **Jefferson Jackson (JJ) Dinner**. First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe said she was honored to speak at the event for her first JJ speaking role. In her keynote address, she reviewed Governor McAuliffe's efforts in the first year of his administration, as well as her own initiatives to benefit Virginia's children and families. Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam, Congressmen Gerry Connolly and Don Beyer, State Senator Chap Petersen, and Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn also presented brief remarks. Attorney General Mark Herring presented Committee awards to recipients.

In attendance were many county elected officials from the State Senate, the House of Delegates, the Board of Supervisors, the School Board, and the Soil and Water Conservation District. New State Democratic Party Chair Susan Swecker was there, as was Democratic National Committee member Frank Leone. The silent auction was bountiful and financially lucrative; the successful fundraiser will help

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Deadlines for The Democrat

July 2015 Edition

Friday, June 26, 2015

August 2015 Edition

Friday, July 31, 2015

Articles/ photos must be submitted as attachments to thedemocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org. All submissions are subject to a word limit and editing. For more information, contact thedemocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org.

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Message from the FCDC Chairman *Sue Langley*

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finance our absentee ballot program, back-to-school nights, get out the vote, and other joint campaign activities this year. Thanks to JJ Dinner team members Paula Gori and Emilie Larson for planning and executing the silent auction and to Kim Cogle for handling the seating arrangements.

At a well-attended **general membership meeting** of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee on May 26, members voted overwhelmingly to re-endorse our incumbent at-large School Board members. The Committee also endorsed the District School Board members and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. We congratulate all of the following candidates, who will receive FCDC's full support going into the November general election:

School Board At-Large: Ryan McElveen, Ilryong Moon, and Ted Velkoff.

District School Board Members: Megan McLaughlin (Braddock), Janie Strauss (Dranesville), Patricia Hynes (Hunter Mill), Tamara Derenak Kaufax (Lee), Sandy Evans (Mason), Karen Corbett Sanders (Mt. Vernon), Dalia Palchik (Providence), and Karen Keys-Gamarra (Sully).

Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Directors: George Lamb and Gerald Peters.

The Fairfax Democrats would like to thank Stephen Blancq, Omar Fateh, and Michele Menapace for bringing their enthusiasm and passion for Fairfax County Public Schools to the contest for the at-large endorsement. We look forward to their contributions on educational matters in the coming months and beyond this year's election.

Primary Election June 9. Voters in the Mason and Mt. Vernon magisterial districts voted at their regular precinct polling places to elect the Democratic candidate for District Supervisor for the fall election. In Mason, incumbent Penny Gross faced Jessica Swanson. **Congratulations Penny Gross.**

In Mt. Vernon, the seat vacated by the retirement of Gerry Hyland was sought by Candice Bennett, a former director at a Democratic polling firm in Washington; former Mt. Vernon Democratic Committee chair Jack Dobbyn; Planning Commissioner Tim Sargeant; and School Board member Dan Storck. **Congratulations Dan Storck.**

When Scott Surovell decided to seek the Senate seat of retiring Senator Toddy Puller, this created a vacancy in the 44th District. Former FCDC chair Paul Krizek announced that he would seek to replace Surovell in the House of Delegates. Justin Brown, the oth-

Representatives Connolly and Beyer ‘Deeply Disappointed’ by House Cut of \$50 Million in Federal Commitment to Metro in Appropriations Bill

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Authority (or Metro). Representative Connolly reminded Congress that for “the past six years, in a bipartisan fashion Congress has provided \$150 million for Metro safety upgrades, as authorized under the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008.” He further stated that “this authorization was not like traditional transportation funding as the law requires the federal funding to be matched dollar-for-dollar with \$50 million each from Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.”

Representative Connolly stated that “this partnership is funding critical safety improvements throughout the system identified by Metro itself, the National Transportation Safety Board, and

the Federal Transit Administration following the tragic 2009 Red Line accident and the recent tragedy on the Yellow Line this past January.” He further shared that the most visible improvement was the purchase of new 7000 series railcars with advanced crash-resilient technology that replaced the oldest cars in its fleet.

The funding bill for the Department of Transportation which was under consideration in the House, H.R. 2577, would have cut the allocation of Federal funds by \$50 million. The regional delegation headed by Representative Connolly jointly offered an amendment to restore that funding, but it was ruled out of order during debate on the House floor on June 3rd.

The regional delegation which included Representatives Connolly and Beyer (D-VA-8) stated that, “We are deeply disappointed that the House of Representatives has chosen to cut \$50 million from Metro and not fulfill the long-standing federal commitment critical to rider safety improvements. Reducing this funding breaks the 10-year federal commitment and jeopardizes the successful local, state, and federal partnership. Millions of Americans – not just from the DC region, but from across the nation – depend on Metro, which is why Congress and the federal government have a responsibility to the operation, oversight, and safety of the system.”

They vowed to continue fighting for full WMATA funding.

Message from the FCDC Chairman Sue Langley

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er choice in the primary contest, is a staff director in the House of Representatives and founder of *HillVets*. **Congratulations Paul Krizek.**

The primary also selected among five Democrats in the 45th District due to the retirement of Delegate Rob Krupicka. This contest featured a choice among Larry Altenburg, Vice Chair of the City of Alexandria’s Board of Zoning Appeals; Craig

Fifer, director of communications for the City of Alexandria; Julie Jakopic, former chair of Alexandria’s Economic Opportunity Commission; Mark Levine, former legislative counsel for former Democratic Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts; and Alexandria Democratic Committee chair Clarence Tong. **Congratulations Mark H. Levine.**

State Party Meeting and JJ Dinner—with Hillary Clinton—in

Fairfax June 26.

With gratitude to Governor McAuliffe, the state party announced that in lieu of this year’s Virginia Jefferson Jackson Dinner, the Democratic Party of Virginia will host a rally at the Patriot Center on Friday, June 26. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is the special guest. The summer meeting of the State Democratic Party will be held the next day, Saturday, June 27 at Woodson High School in Fairfax.

National Affairs Committee

Senator Bernie Sanders and Congressman Don Beyer to Speak at Policy Forum July 9 by Sandra J. Klassen, NAC Chair

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), progressive policy icon and co-founder of the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC), and Representative Don Beyer (D-VA-8), first-term congressman from Virginia's 8th District and new CPC member, will discuss Rebooting Our Policy Agenda To Reclaim The American Dream on Thursday, July 9, from 7:00–9:00 pm at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Arlington.

Senator Sanders has represented Vermont in the Senate since 2007, after serving 16 years as the state's sole congressman in the House of Representatives. Throughout his career Senator Sanders has been a champion for working families, focusing on the shrinking middle class and the growing gap between the rich and poor, and he is continuing his advocacy as a 2016 Democratic presidential candidate.

Congressman Beyer voted in favor of the CPC budget resolution alternative, the "People's Budget: A Raise for America" that would have fixed an economy that has failed to provide opportunities American families need to get ahead. As Virginia Lieutenant Governor

from 1990–1998, Mr. Beyer's signature achievement included ensuring protections for Virginia's most vulnerable populations as the Commonwealth reformed its welfare system in the mid-1990s.

The CPC is dedicated to promoting a "strong, progressive agenda rooted in four core principles that embody national priorities and are consistent with the values, needs, and aspirations of all the American people, not just the powerful and the privileged." These principles are:

1. Fighting for economic justice and security for all,
2. Protecting and preserving our civil rights and civil liberties,
3. Promoting global peace and security, and
4. Advancing environmental protection and energy independence.

They reflect a fundamental belief

in government of the people, by the people, and for the people."



Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA-8)

The reality that Caucus members and all progressives must confront is that savage inequalities are destroying the American dream and our democracy. The key to understanding these rising inequalities is to recognize that political power is increasingly concentrating in the corporate and financial elite who have been using it to shape government policies for their benefit, not for the benefit of all Americans.

MoveOn.org's Ilya Sheyman and Democracy for America's Charles Chamberlain wrote for Politico, "The surging progressive spirit of the 2016 Democratic field and electorate are ... all tremors presaging a much deeper tectonic shift in American politics. Just as the progressive movement and New Deal set the stage for the rise of the great American middle class a century ago, we're due for a profound political reckoning that restores our founders' dream of government by and for the people."

That reckoning is now. It's time for progressives to build a movement, reboot our policy agenda, and reclaim the American dream. Join the July 9 forum to discuss the way forward.

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Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

National Affairs Committee Senator Bernie Sanders and Congressman Don Beyer to Speak at Policy Forum July 9

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For more information and to RSVP, please visit the following sites.

RSVP: <https://goo.gl/sR3ANw>

Flyer: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4QmnGSd1EuSc1BseklvZjRjBDA/view>

FCDC website: <http://www.fairfaxdemocrats.org/2015/06/03/forum-with-senator-bernie-sanders-on-july-9th/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/509393732543505/>

June 9th Primary Election Results

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Fewer than 145 days to the November general election, now we as Democrats must regroup and reenergize to win in November. Congratulations to the following Democratic nominees:

Virginia House of Delegates

44th District Paul Krizek

45th District Mark H. Levine

Fairfax Board of Supervisors

Mason District Penny Gross

Mt. Vernon District Dan Storck

Beginning with the July 2015 *The Democrat*...

Beginning with the July 2015 issue, *The Democrat* will run a special monthly insert titled, *Campaign Trail 2015*. All Fairfax County candidates are welcomed and encouraged to share a human interest story from their campaign travels or a

campaign update. Candidate article submissions must be limited to 250 words and be about the candidate's experience on the campaign trail or a campaign update. One picture may be submitted with narrative. No fundraising promos, please. Articles/photos must be submitted as attachments to thedemocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org by 5 :00 pm on the last Friday of the month. All submissions are subject to editing.

Show Your Support at the June 25 FCPS School Board Meeting for Pro-LGBT Issues

At the May 26 general membership meeting, the Fairfax County Democratic Committee voted unanimously to commend the Fairfax County School Board on its recent pro-LGBT motions, to support adopting age-appropriate Family Life Education (FLE) and health curricula that affirm our LGBT youth, and to encourage its members and supporters to attend the June 25 meeting to support these LGBT efforts and our FCDC-endorsed school board members.

Background: On May 7, the School Board entertained a motion to add gender identity as a protected class in its non-discrimination policy. At that meeting, national anti-LGBT groups organized a protest and packed the Luther Jackson Middle School with opponents of the proposal. Many of the protesters were not residents of Fairfax County, i.e., Delegate Bob Marshall from Prince William County. It was estimated that the anti-LGBT groups outnumbered

supporters nine-to-one. That night the school board voted 10-1 with one abstention to add protections to transgendered students and employees. All ten of the FCDC-endorsed members voted in favor of the proposal.

On June 25, the Fairfax County School Board will vote on a motion to make LGBT-positive additions to the Family Life Education (FLE) curriculum. The FLE Advisory Committee which proposed these recommendations to the Board voted nearly unanimously on each recommendation. The recommendations include informing Fairfax teens that some people in our community are LGBT and that this is normal.

The impact of these additions to the FLE curriculum can be great. Suicide rates among LGBT and questioning teens is much higher than among straight teens. Adding the recommendations to the FLE curriculum may reduce the youth suicide rate.

Based on the May 26 meeting, the FCPS School Board will have a contentious meeting on June 25. The anti-LGBT groups are expected to bus in protesters. It is imperative that LGBT backers come to support the proposed FLE changes and outnumber the opposition. The June 25 meeting will be held in the Luther Jackson Middle School auditorium (3020 Galloway Road, Falls Church, VA 22042) at 7:00 pm. We recommend supporters arrive no later than 6:00 pm to ensure getting a seat in the auditorium.

You are also encouraged to review the proposed FLE changes and [submit your comments to the School Board](#). The period for public comment ends on June 19 so that all of the comments may be reviewed by School Board members before the June 25 meeting.

We look forward to your support on June 25. If you have any questions, you may contact [Joshua Israel](#) or [Christopher Schäffer](#).

Full text of the FCDC resolution:

Whereas the Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC) strongly supports non-discrimination and inclusion of our entire community; and

Whereas the national and Virginia Democratic Party platforms embrace equal treatment for LGBT Americans; and
Whereas LGBT and questioning youth face continued stigma and have suicide rates several times higher than their straight classmates; and

Whereas in recent months the 10 FCDC-endorsed school board members added

sexual orientation and gender identity to the schools' non-discrimination policy; and Whereas the board's Family Life Education committee recommended unanimously and nearly-unanimously that LGBT-affirming changes be made to the health and family life curriculum; and
Whereas the school board will vote on the recommendations at its June 25 meeting; and
Whereas national anti-LGBT hate groups have targeted Fairfax County and worked to flood recent school board meetings with their supporters from within and outside of Fairfax Coun-

ty. Be it resolved that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee commends the school board majority for its support for non-discrimination; and

Urges the school board to adopt age-appropriate Family Life Education and health curriculum that affirms our LGBT youth.

Be it further resolved that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee encourages all its members and supporters to attend the June 25 meeting in support of these LGBT efforts and of our FCDC-endorsed school board members.

Special 2015 Jefferson Jackson Day Dinner Insert



The annual Jefferson-Jackson Dinner held Sunday April 26 at the McLean Hilton Hotel was attended by more than 300 Democratic activists and nearly 50 current and past elected officials including Congressmen Gerry Connolly and Don Beyer, Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam, Attorney General Mark Herring, the Hon. Kate Hanley, Virginia State Senators and Delegates, Chairman Sharon Bulova of the Fairfax County Board of Supervi-



Keynote Speaker Virginia's First Lady, Dorothy McAuliffe

sors and Board Supervisors Foust, Hyland, Huggins, McKay, and Gross, Fairfax Sheriff Kincaid, Soil and Water Conservation, At large and district members of the Fairfax County School Board, and elected members of Herndon and Vienna town councils. The keynote speaker was Virginia's First Lady, Dorothy McAuliffe. Special guest, the new



Virginia State Party Chairperson, Susan Swecker

Virginia State Party Chairperson, Susan Swecker also spoke.

The formal event was dedicated to honoring the many years of

public service of State Senator



Virginia State Senator Toddy Puller, 36th Senate District

Toddy Puller and Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland.



Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland

Special 2015 Jefferson Jackson Day Dinner Insert

**Jefferson-Jackson Dinner 2015
Award Presentations**



**FCDC District Committee
Member of the Year**
**Dalia Palchik, Providence
District**

**FCDC District Committee Volunteer
of the Year**

Hanh Deniston, Hunter Mill District



**FCDC Outstanding
District Committee
of the Year**
Dranesville District

Jefferson-Jackson Dinner 2015 Award Presentations



Charles S. Robb
Young Leaders Award
Jessica Bowser, Lee District

Lynda J. Robb
Community Service
Award
Linda Waller, Lee District



Jefferson- Jackson Dinner District Award Recipients

Member of the Year

Ellen Strauss, Braddock
Kris Gregory, Dranesville
Denver Lovett, Hunter Mill
Esther Ferington, Lee
Nelly Samaniego, Mason
Fred Shwaery, Mt. Vernon
Dalia Palchik, Providence
Frank Blechman, Springfield
Maggie Godbold, Sully

Volunteer of the Year

Carol Randall, Braddock
Rose Donovan, Dranesville
Hanh Deniston, Hunter Mill
Esther Ferington, Lee
Sheila Jonas, Mason
Bob & Toni Fasick, Mt. Vernon
Donna M. Wilson, Springfield

Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner 2015

Smiles Were Everywhere



Special Democratic Party of Virginia Event

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HILLARY

Special Guest →

RODHAM CLINTON

JOIN US FOR AN EVENT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF VIRGINIA **JUNE 26, 2015** 5:00 p.m.

Patriot Center at George Mason University
4500 PATRIOT CIRCLE, FAIRFAX, VA

To purchase tickets, or if you have questions, please visit www.vademocrats.org/clinton or you can reach us at events@vademocrats.org or 804.482.0180.

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Hillary Clinton is appearing at this event only as a special guest. Hillary Clinton is not asking for funds or donations.

Register at <http://virginiademshrc.tumblr.com/> today.

TICKET TYPE	SALES END	PRICE
General Admission Seating will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Food and beverage will be available for purchase.	Jun 26, 2015	\$30.00
Preferred Seating Preferred Seating will be offered off the floor in the areas immediately surrounding the stage. Food and beverages will be included with the cost of the ticket. Seating will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.	Jun 26, 2015	\$125.00
DPVA Members DPVA Members will be seated together on the floor and immediately surrounding areas. Food and beverages will be included with the cost of the ticket. Seating will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.	Jun 26, 2015	\$125.00