

NC-11 January 2022 Newsletter



North Carolina Congressional District 11 Newsletter #5 of 2021-2022



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to everyone!

January has proven itself to be another rollercoaster for our District, our state, and for our country as a whole. What started out as a month where we hoped for a new start to a new year quickly turned into another time where we collectively had to pivot to alternate plans due to the rise in COVID numbers.

Our District 11 Candidate Forum which was originally scheduled for January 8th in Burnsville had to be switched to a hybrid virtual event. While we experienced some technical difficulties at the beginning of the forum, we were able to overcome and our 5 primary candidates answered substantive questions from both the Executive Committee as well as submissions from around the district. We greatly appreciate

everyone who tuned in the day of the event, everyone who has watched the recording of the event after the fact on our Facebook page and YouTube channel, and for everyone who submitted such great questions. We know that this setup was not ideal, and we appreciate the patience of both our viewers and our candidates. And we look forward to a 2nd forum (in-person as COVID allows) later in the spring.

The issue of redistricting also continues to be a rollercoaster ride, with Republican legislators passing a bill this week that would move the primaries back even further than the current May 17th date. We feel confident that Governor Cooper will veto this bill, and we will have our primaries in May. We also feel confident that the NC Supreme Court will strike down the current maps as unlawful next month when the case is argued in front of their body. We will keep you apprised of any news and updates that we receive.

Annual precinct organizing meetings are next month! County Chairs should have received the 2022 Precinct Packet from NCDP, and the current window for precinct meetings is set for February 5th-19th. Please contact us if you have any questions concerning these important meetings.

We are also still in the process of recruiting candidates for campaigns this fall! While the obvious attention goes to the NC Senate and House seats, I want to stress the importance to everyone as well for recruitment for local races. County Commission seats and County School Board seats are extremely important this cycle, with Republicans wanting to take control from the ground up. Recruiting and electing good Democrats for these seats keeps our children safe in these uncertain times of COVID, keeps our teachers free to educate as they need to, and brings Democratic values to decisions being made for the citizens of the counties in our district. Local elections are also where we grow our talent pool for state elections to come! So, if you or someone you know may be interested in running for a local office this

November, contact you county party today!

Our training continues under the leadership of 2nd Vice Chair Denise Marecki, our district fundraising is being revamped with the help of Transylvania County Chair Sam Edney, and we're working on making our district whole through current work to organize Avery and Graham counties. This district is on the move for 2022, and as always, I thank each of you for your work and support to do so!

Matt

Balance

NC District 11 Chair

Mark Your Calendars

[NCDP Winter SEC Meeting](#)

January 29 for SEC members.

February 5-19 – Annual Precinct Meetings

February Bi-Monthly Meeting NC 11th Congressional District

Wednesday February 9, 2022 7:00PM

Please check nc11democrats.org/events for more details

Effective Use of VoteBuilder

Trainer: Kathie Kline [Join Event](#)

February 16 from 6:00-7:30PM

County Conventions

March 19

District Convention

May 21

COUNTY EVENTS

Please visit our website [Events page](#) to learn of many meetings, and special events offered by our counties.

Counties please send us your events using the [submission page](#).

Western County Chairs Association

Congratulations to the folks who will join the Executive Committee for the County Chairs Association! I am excited to work with each of you.

- *Western: Pam Genant, Burke and Sam Edney, Transylvania*
- *Piedmont: David Dixon, Durham and Kathy Kirkpatrick, Guilford*
- *Eastern: Kevyn Creech, Wake and Franklin Thurman, Columbus*

Howard Larsen, Western VP of the County Chairs Association



All Things Training

Our 2022 Primary has been delayed until May 17, 2022. It feels like we have a little more breathing room. However, it is important to make good use of this time and prepare your counties and precincts for getting out the vote for Democrats in both the primary and general election. By the time this newsletter comes out, the recording of training done on Jan 19, ***Volunteers are Golden: How to Train, Recruit and Retain*** will be on our YouTube channel. If you missed this training, check it out by using this link. [YouTube channel](#)

How to Utilize the Primary Season
I will be doing a brief training/discussion of ***How to Utilize the Primary Season to Your Democratic Organizations*** at the **Feb 9** District 11 Executive Meeting. All Dems are invited to attend. Details and link to the meeting will be out in a few weeks.

VoteBuilder Training

District 11's Former 2nd-Vice-Chair, Precinct Chair and VoteBuilder expert, Kathie Kline will present ***Effective Use of VoteBuilder*** on **February 16 from 6:00pm-7:30**. [Event Link](#). This is a great one to attend before your precinct meetings in March. And a recording of this meeting will be put into the District's YouTube channel after its completion.

Social Media and Digital Tools

I would also like to use this opportunity to promote an excellent NCDP Training. Use this link and check out. [*Social Media and Digital Tools*](#).

This is great time to develop a strategy for using social media and other digital tools for your group. These are very important tools to use for our GOTV mission. Hope you can watch this video (around 40 min). Note, we are not able to lift this video to place in our YouTube channel. But the link takes you right to the recording.

If you have any ideas for training, expert speakers, comments or questions, please contact me,
Much appreciation for all you do!

Denise Marecki,
2nd Vice-Chair,
Training
denise@nc11democrats.org



MEET OUR SOCIAL MEDIA ASSISTANT

Raymond Brewer-Posey is a communications professional and the communications director for the Young Democrats of Buncombe County, as well as the marketing and communications manager for Arch to Freedom, 12ecover App, and Inclusive Recovery Foundation. Having grown up in WNC, Raymond is driven by a passion to serve the local community - create connection, foster community and empower marginalized voices. Welcome and thank you for all you are going to do for us.

KEEP US INFORMED!!!

WE WILL POST YOUR COUNTY EVENTS AND
CAMPAIGN DEBATES/FORUMS ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE

[Use this submission form to send](#)

County News

Buncombe Buncombe County Democrats have been hard at work gearing up for 2022. On January 6, BCDP's HD 114 Executive Committee held an election to fill the upcoming vacancy when Rep. Susan Fisher retires at the end of January. Caleb Rudow's name will be submitted to Governor Cooper as the nominee to fill the seat. With all 3 NC House reps retiring, we've been busy recruiting candidates to make sure there are Democrats running for every single office on the ballot, organizing candidate forums, and making plans to get out the vote.

Clay Clay County Democratic Party has cancelled the January 29th in-person Candidate Forum for US Representative, District 11/14 due to Covid. CCDP will host the Candidate Forum April 16th, 2-4:30pm, Hinton Center, 2330 Hinton Center Rd, Hayesville, NC 28904. Jasmine Beach-Ferrarra, Jay Carey, Katie Dean, Eric Gash, and Bo Hess have confirmed attendance. Everyone is welcome.

We continue to hold our monthly meetings via Zoom right now. Our volunteers are manning HQ Monday - Friday 12-5pm and are busy reaching out to registered Dems in the county to update information.

Henderson Born and raised in the Carolinas, Mary Ellen Kustin loves spending time outdoors with her family. She also enjoys serving as chair of Hendersonville's Environmental Sustainability Board and being an active member of the Rotary Club of Hendersonville. For the past few years Mary Ellen has been fortunate to be able to stay home with her young children (who will be in Henderson County Public Schools through 2037) and work part-time at the YMCA refereeing and coaching youth sports. She has a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in sustainable development and conservation biology as well as a master's degree in public policy. "I am running for a seat on our Henderson County Public School Board because I strongly believe robust public

education plays a vital role in keeping our democracy healthy and our communities vibrant. I'm ready to stand up for our students, teachers, and families to make sure they have the resources and information they need to thrive."



Jackson Jackson County is sticking with Zoom meetings until Omicron wears itself out. We will have our regular monthly Party meeting on Tuesday, February 15 at 6:30pm. Democratic Women will meet on Thursday, February 17 at noon. Issues Roundtable will meet on Monday, January 24 at 7:00pm and on the 2nd and 4th Mondays in February. Annual precinct meetings are in the planning stages but will definitely take place in February. We will be sign-waving outside headquarters on February 28 at 4:15pm to commemorate National Caregivers Day. Lots of other sub-group meetings going on. We hope to open our headquarters at 500 Mill St. in Sylva to visitors in mid-February. The dual (North Jackson and South Jackson) Congressional candidate forums originally scheduled for January 15 have been postponed until March, probably the 12th. Along with everyone else we are watching the redistricting saga closely so we can try to coordinate our activities with the election schedule!

Mitchell Mitchell County Democratic Party was pleased to present a check to the Mitchell High School in the amount of \$1,600.00 to be distributed between the Band, Drama Department, and Key Club Christmas outreach. This is the second year that the

Mitchell Dems have been able to support the programs of our local high school. The money was raised by the Mitchell County Building Back Blue committee chaired by Ms. Wanda Hunt as their first Community Service project. This effort supported our community and provided valuable experience to this group in fine-tuning their skills as we enter into the 2022 election year.



Pictured are Deninse Rodriguez , Justice Sobolefski , and Mitchell Chair Howard Larsen

Want your county news in January's Issue? Deadline for inclusion is January 21, 5PM. Please get your news past and future (with pix) to communications@nc11democrats.org



From 3rd Vice Chair: Communications

Hello Everyone
County officers: Please visit your county page on the District 11 website (nc11democrats.org) and send any updates such as website URLs, FB, Twitter, Instagram addresses, postal and physical addresses, phone numbers and County officer's names positions, and contact email addresses (or phone).

County officers: Please also visit the state website NCDP.org and make sure they have the correct information for your county posted there.

Candidate Events: During the period from the NC primary until the general election in November candidates may submit posts of events for the District website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Please send detailed requests with pictures for addition to the District 11 Events Calendar. Pictures with captions of events that have recently happened in our counties are also welcome. Please try to get permission from people before taking photos. It's respectful.

[Submit your events for our Website Events Calendar](#)

Karen Albig Smith, 3rd VC Communications
communications@nc11democrats.org

Look for our next newsletter in February

Deadline for submissions to the newsletter is February 18, 2022 5PM

[Events](#)

Operations such as this newsletter are made possible by you. If we are to grow and promote our message at full force, we need your help. \$10, \$20, \$50 is all it takes from each of you to keep things like this newsletter growing, so please click the contribute button below and donate today. From all of NC-11, thank you.

[Contribute](#)



