FAUQUIER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES: APRIL 21, 2020

This meeting was held via Zoom meeting conferencing because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and order from the Governor to stay at home and social distance.

Call to order: 7:32 pm

Chair opening comments: Co-chairs Larry Jackson and Whitney Petrilli welcomed and thanked the more than 32 members who joined the virtual meeting. This is a positive sign that Fauquier Democrats remain active and engaged in our upcoming elections. Max Hall, Political Director, commented that our focus will continue to be on how to campaign for our candidates and focus on GOTV under the circumstances brought about by the pandemic.

Candidate time:

Jess Foster gave an update on legislative accomplishments in the Democratic legislature. Briefly, some changes are: (1) Re voting: no excuse absentee voting; no voter ID required; election day is a state holiday; automatic voter registration; poll hours extended from 7 pm to 8 pm; same day voter registration and voting (effective October 1, 2022); provisional voting in precincts (2) Redistricting - will be on ballot in November (3) gun safety: must report lost or stolen firearms; universal background checks; one gun per month purchase; still working on local government power to limit where people can carry firearms and possession of a firearm while under a protective order (4) LGBQT equality passed (5) fair housing (6) repeal no same sex marriage law (7) Equal Rights Amendment passed (8) expansion of workers comp for firefighters (9) ban conversion therapy (10) health insurance provisions for autism (11) drivers privilege card for non-citizens NOTE: some of the bills that passed affecting teacher raises, etc., will be negatively affected due to unexpected and serious budget restraints resulting from the pandemic.\

Mark Warner for Senate: Staffer announced virtual townhalls. Go to MarkWarnerVA.com

RD Huffstetler VA 5th candidate: announced series of virtual community roundtables. Go to RDforVA.com

John Lesinski VA 5th candidate: hosting virtual townhalls. Go to JohnforVA.com and JohnforVA facebook. “Isolate but Participate”

Cameron Webb VA 5th candidate represented by staffer Benjamin Young: conducting numerous virtual and online activities. Go to Drcameronwebb.com

Alex Zarabi - Warrenton town council Ward 1

Michele Ferri - Warrenton Town Council Ward 5. Go to Ferrifor5th.com

Bill Semple: Warrenton Town Council Ward 2

IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION:

May 5th is election day for town councils in Fauquier County. You must request an absentee ballot in order to vote absentee by mail. Request your absentee ballot NOW from the Fauquier County Registrar. 540- 422-8290. They will provide your absentee ballot per the instructions you provide on your request for a ballot. Be sure to print legibly on the application. [www.FauquierCounty.gov/registrar](http://www.FauquierCounty.gov/registrar). 528 Waterloo Rd, Ste. 200, Warrenton, VA 20186. Voting absentee by mail is the safest way to vote if you do not want to go in person to the registrar’s office to vote early or to the polls on election day. Vote and return your absentee ballot promptly to ensure your ballot is received on time. Late ballots will not be counted.

Enter 2A as the reason for voting absentee.

June 23 is the Democratic primary voting date for the 5th and 1st Congressional districts. You must request an absentee ballot in order to vote absentee by mail for the primary. See the Fauquier Registrar’s contact information in the previous paragraph. They will send your ballot when the timeline for absentee ballots begins for this election. Vote and return your ballot promptly to ensure your ballot is received on time. Late ballots will not be counted.

Enter 2A as the reason for voting absentee.

The Virginia legislature passed a no excuse absentee voting bill which should be in effect by November elections.

Voting procedures for November have not been finalized.

Treasurer’s report: The Treasurer provided an updated report. In addition, he lead a discussion about federal reporting processes. David Wiedenfeld provided additional information about FEC reporting requirements for federal elections. A motion to accept the treasurer’s report passed.

Secretary’s report: Membership has held level at 93 members since last month. FCDC GOTV postcards drafts will be finalized and going to press in the near future. A motion to accept the March 2020 minutes passed.

Precinct Operations chair report: Jeff Millington reported that precinct ops will be picking up as we work on ways to reach voters during the pandemic.

Indivisible: National Indivisible is conducting webinars on canvassing without knocking on doors. Go to [www.indivisible.org](http://www.indivisible.org) for information.

The virtual meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Treusch, Secretary