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FCDC Monthly Meeting on 2021-9-21

We have returned to full Zoom meetings.

1. MEDIA CAMPAIGN: Kathy Kadilak reviewed our media campaign in Max's absence. Consensus that it is successful, better-than-average click-through rates, helps with fundraising. Tax credit ad a good example. Executive Committee will discuss further but overall strong feeling to continue with the media campaign.
2. DR. DOUG WARD: Discussed the status and acceleration of his campaign.
3. LATINO AND FALL FESTIVALS: Larry Jackson reported on volunteer participation in Latino Festival and Spring into Fall Festivals: Excellent participation, including by new volunteers, a trend we want to continue. Several new persons signed our volunteer forms at the festivals, so a good source of potential new FCDC members.
4. VOTE NOW! Larry reminded all that early voting has started. ****Remember mail-in ballots require a witness signature! If you mail your ballot without a witness signature, it is not valid and needs to be "cured!"** If you know someone who has mailed a ballot, check with them if they included a witness signature! To "cure" a ballot contact the Registrar's Office immediately at 540-422-8290.
5. POSTCARDS: Kim Gibson reported on the great success of our postcard campaign. Kudos also to Mara Seaforest for designing the cards, and Suzanne Nadeau for organizing the packets and making their pickup so easy. More than 70 writers volunteered for this initiative.
6. SIGN DISTRIBUTION: David Wiedenfeld and Irv Woods reported on our Signs Program; we have deployed all are large signs (lots of positive feedback!) and have identified many more locations, so propose buying more 4x4 signs and will do so with Rappahannock Dems to achieve lower per-sign cost. Widespread approval. Members joined in high praise for the Signs Team!
7. FCDC WEBSITE: Discussion of new resources Dee Pendley is putting on the website (www.fauquierdemocrats.org) High praise to Dee for being an outstanding steward of the FCDC website, and to Whitney for equally fine work on our Facebook page.
8. TREASURER'S REPORT: Colleen Taylor reported our balances and we discussed additional funds coming in through new contributions.
9. DPVA RECRUITING POLLWATCHERS: Larry described the DPVA call for pollwatchers – technically "authorized representatives" – who will go inside the polling stations to watch for any inappropriate activity. Republicans are making a strong push for their own pollwatchers – partly as a way to generate anger and mistrust about the legitimacy of our elections. Bob Zwick and David carefully distinguished between pollwatchers as "authorized representatives" (who come with a letter from the FCDC designating them as a pollwatcher authorized by the local Democratic committee) vs. "campaign workers" who stay outside the building, staffing our tent, and who must remain 40' from the front door. ****Note: Campaign workers can periodically go inside the building to check in re: vote totals and inquire how things are going, but must observe the dress code – no candidate clothing or buttons or other candidate promotion of any sort – plus the behaviour code – no interaction with voters, only with election offices staffing the station. ***IF YOU OBSERVE OR HEAR OF ANY INAPPROPRIATE ACTIVITY, CALL BOB ZWICK OR DAVID WIEDENFELD DIRECTLY.** Their numbers will be in the Polling Station instructions in the election day boxes distributed by Nancy Treusch.
10. RELATED ELECTION DAY POINTS:
 - a. Bob pointed out that 57% of Fauquier election officials are Dems which annoys the Rs. (Yay!)
 - b. Voters should not be sent away from the station: Voters will be asked for photo ID but if they do not have one on their person they can sign an affidavit of their identity and vote a regular ballot, or they can sign a provisional ballot.
 - i. General rule: Voters should not be sent out of the polling station to get IDs if they do not have ID on their person.
 - ii. If we observe a voter being sent away, follow them into the parking lot and inform them they can vote a provisional ballot.

Respectfully submitted,
Nigel Ogilvie
Secretary