

[View this email in your browser](#)

SPRING 2023



Roses are red, violets are blue, the Cumberland County Dems are ready to defend democracy, how about you?

Spring has sprung in Cumberland County! As we transition into the warmer weather, we thank each of you for your continued support and efforts to ensure Cumberland County is and stays a great place to live and work. As we draw closer to election day, we prepare to take action to get out the vote once more to ensure our voices are heard in every election from school board to county commissioner. We got the job done in November and elected a Democratic governor and senator, now we must continue our efforts in the local sphere and work to elect like minded school board members and county commissioners. All politics is local and we must work equally hard during primaries to defend democracy.



We are the Democratic Party of Cumberland County working hard to get Democrats elected in every community and at all levels of government! Our county party is supported almost entirely through small local donations. This makes it challenging to budget and plan for expenses such as answering calls, knocking on doors, participating in texting and postcard campaigns, increasing our social media, and training and helping our candidates win their races. You can make a difference with your thoughtful recurring donation by becoming a Sustaining Member of CCDC. Become a Sustaining Member of CCDC at <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ccdcwebsite2020>. Select a monthly amount that you are comfortable with and click "Make it Monthly". Thank you!



NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

School Board Races: Students Above Party

You are probably already aware of some of the troubling things happening at our school boards, and the efforts of extremist groups like Moms for Liberty to exert control over the educational experience we offer to our children. Book bannings, homophobic and racist attacks on curriculum and even lawsuits over programs that simply aim to encourage students to be kind and considerate of the perspectives of others.

Unfortunately, our school boards are at risk, extremist candidates who don't even believe in the value of public education, are running to transform schools into places where anyone who is different is unwelcome, challenging ideas are censored, and extreme conservative ideology trumps educational enrichment.

School Board races are usually non-partisan affairs. Most candidates cross-file, meaning they appear on both the Democratic and Republican Primary ballots. While plenty of candidates this year are cross-filed, that does not mean that all cross-filed candidates are committed to non-partisan approaches to managing our schools.

I am proud to report that in several communities across our county, Democratic candidates for school board have put students above party and have teamed up with like-minded candidates, including reasonable Republicans, to run as a slate. These teams include

highly qualified individuals who bring a diverse set of skills and expertise. I strongly support the teams that our candidates have joined, and now it is up to us to educate ourselves and our voters on who they should support in our upcoming primary. I encourage everyone to do the following:

1. Find out who is running for school board in your community by visiting <https://cumberlandcountydems.com/municipal-candidates/>
2. Talk to your local school board candidates and find out if they are teaming with any Republicans who have cross-filed on the Democratic ballot.
3. Talk to your friends and neighbors, including Republicans, about who you are supporting for school board and encourage them to vote for our Democratic candidates who have cross-filed on the Republican ballot.

Together we can protect our schools from extremism and elect School Board members committed to non-partisan collaboration, candidates who put students above party.



Commissioner Corner

Calling all Dems——

I am so appreciative that I've always been able to count on you for help. Your voices have made a difference in so many things at the County level. I need your assistance once more.

Since 2009, Cumberland County's population has grown and there's been an upsurge in demand for mental health services, yet we've received no increase in base state mental health funding for 12 years. As I write this, we are facing a \$2.5 million dollar deficit in the county mental health budget.

Cumberland County held the first of three Town Halls on April 3 to discuss our mental health funding crisis. The link to the FB live is attached in case you want to watch. So many people testified as to the importance of county-provided mental health services. The loss of those services would create a negative ripple effect for everyone, children, families, adults, schools, county human services, community law enforcement and EMS.

What can you do? Call your state legislators and let them know how important sustainable mental health funding is to you. Let them know we need state support and dollars to meet the need. Come to the next Town Hall and voice your concerns. Please email or call me with any questions at jmfoschi@cumberlandcountypa.gov or 717-240-6156.

https://fb.watch/jHcvSXJv_T/



During the Winter 2023 State Committee Meeting, The Rural Caucus offered a Deminar that focused on "messaging" and how we can consistently and effectively communicate our Democratic values and belief. The main presenter was the author of the book Democrats 101 wherein the essence of his message in embodied in the following creed.

WE BELIEVE

- *All people are created equal, that this is America's fundamental ideal.*
- *That America is a democracy, by and for the people: ruled by the Constitution and its interpretations, protected by the Bill of Rights, and inspired by the Declaration of Independence.*
- *These founding documents demand Freedom, Justice, and Opportunity for all Americans, in full and equal measure - regardless of who you are, what you believe, or where you live.*
- *That the Duty of government is to strive endlessly to make the ideals of Freedom, Justice, and Opportunity a reality for all.*

- *That the Purpose of government is to protect our nation, defend our democracy, and to endlessly promote the welfare of each and everyone of us.*
- *That fighting for these ideals is our purpose as a political party.*

With its gaze upon the 2024 elections, the PA DEMS Rural Caucus held a conference on April 1, 2023 named "Reclaiming our American vision and values - how we can win in 2024 and beyond!".



Democratically yours,

Jacqueline Smith-Bennett

Secretary to PADEMS State Committee

State Committee Member, Elect, Cumberland County

Treasurer, South Central Regional Caucus

Executive Committee Member, PADEMS & CCDC

Rural Caucus Member

Women's Caucus Member & Candidates Forum Exec. Committee

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Violating the Pledge of Allegiance

Go to a school board meeting and before you get down to business you will recite the pledge of Allegiance. Its 31 words may be the most-remembered part of the American civic liturgy, right up there with “We the People ...” and “We hold these Truths to be self-evident ...” and “... government of the people, by the people, and for the people ...”

While we know the pledge, it’s rare to find a Second Amendment enthusiast who can recite all 27 words of that amendment and even rarer to find someone who knows the five rights guaranteed by the First Amendment. But we learned the Pledge of Allegiance so early – every morning at my public school – that it became automatic and now rather appears to have lost its meaning to some.

Some local school boards have conspicuously violated their Pledge of Allegiance by narrowing their curriculum, marginalizing students who make them uncomfortable. It’s as if

they have forgotten the last five words: "... liberty and justice for all." Not just white people. Not just Christians. Not just straight people. All.

If nothing else, "liberty and justice for all" means eradicating the enslaving injustices of systemic racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia and religious intolerance that treat some people as less than others.

Yet today's Republican Party is moving in exactly the wrong direction. In mid-February, the Public Religion Research Institute and the Brookings Institution found that [more than half of Republicans](#), 54%, believe the United States should be a strictly Christian nation. It is impossible to square this position with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thankfully, Republicans now represent [only 27% of American voters](#).

Also thankfully, truly patriotic Republicans can salvage their shrinking party by re-affirming their pledge of "liberty and justice for all" and electing leaders who fulfill its promise.

Tim Potts
Carlisle



GET OUT THE
VOTE!

Don't Be Fooled by Cross-filing! Know Your Local Candidates

Did you know local Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) and School Board Director candidates can cross-file and appear on both the Democratic and Republican ballots? FYI – All MDJ Candidates on the Democratic ballot are Republicans who cross-filed. NO DEMOCRATS ARE RUNNING FOR MDJ. [Click here for a list of registered Democrats running for School Board Director.](#) PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH OTHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT. We must stop Mom's for Liberty candidates from taking over our school boards!

JOHN FLOOD -WRITE-IN CANDIDATE FOR CV SCHOOL BOARD – SILVER SPRING TOWNSHIP

John Flood of Silver Spring Township is running a write-in campaign for School Board Director in Silver Spring Township. Please help us spread the word so he can defeat Kelly Pottigier. Kelly is the Vice-Chair of the Cumberland County Mom's for Liberty Chapter and cross-filed to appear on the Democratic ballot! [Click here to learn more about John Flood.](#)



Unfair rules slam the door on bipartisan solutions. Learn how you can help at <https://www.fixharrisburg.com/> .

Receiving this email from a friend? Click [here](#) to receive it directly.

We are the Democratic Party of Cumberland County.

We are working year-round to elect Democrats to positions of power at every level of government.

Your contributions help us organize, train, and mobilize the 64,000 Democrats in Cumberland County from Shippensburg to Camp Hill and everywhere in between!

[DONATE](#)



Copyright © 2023 Cumberland County Democratic Committee, All rights reserved.

No longer want to receive these emails?

You can [unsubscribe from this list](#).

