

SPRING 2025



As we spring forward into warming temperatures and brighter days, the Cumberland County Democrats are springing into action to organize, resist and protect democracy from the local to the state level.

The Cumberland County Democrats understand that you may feel concerned if not outraged by what is happening in Washington D.C., but we invite you to work with us to ensure that Cumberland County remains a great place to work, live and play in Pennsylvania. We hope that you will consider volunteering with us, attending an upcoming rally, writing letters to the editor or to your local representatives, or running for office. With your help, we can work toward a brighter future!



Note from the Chair

Handling the Barrage of Insanity: Staying Grounded in the Face of Chaos

Every day (or even every hour) seems to bring news of another outrageous, illegal and dangerous action by Donald Trump. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the constant onslaught. But in the face of all of this, we must remember that our response should be rooted in clarity, strategy and solidarity. As Democrats, we have a responsibility to stay focused on protecting our communities and leading with the values that guide our party.

Stay Grounded in Our Values

Our strength as a party lies in our unwavering commitment to justice, equality and opportunity for all. While Trump attempts to stoke fear and division, we must stand firm in our belief that a more just society is possible. Whether it's fighting for affordable health care, championing environmental protections or advocating for voting rights, we must keep our eyes on the prize — creating a future where everyone can thrive. This year, with municipal and school-board elections, our candidates will be fighting for high-quality, fact-based education for our children and competent and efficient delivery of government services. These important values, and the fact that so many of our neighbors share them, are a key driver of Democratic gains in Cumberland County.

Take Action

Words matter, but action is what drives real change. Our mission is to turn the energy we feel in response to Trump's chaos into concrete steps. Get involved in local organizing, support candidates who reflect our values and work to mobilize voters. Attend your local school board, borough council or township

commissioners' meeting. Enlist friends and neighbors to also get involved. The more people who are engaged, the stronger our party will be.

Lead with Hope, Not Fear

Finally, let's not lose sight of what we're fighting for. Trump's style of politics is rooted in fear, anger and division. Conversely, as Democrats, we are the party of hope, compassion and unity. We believe in a future where every person can succeed, where communities work together to solve problems and where leadership is accountable to the people, not to Elon Musk. Our country is in a crisis, the American people are suffering, and it is easy to think we should just give up. We can't give up; we won't give up. We will fight back, and we will win. Together, we must remain strong, focused and ready for the work ahead.

— *Matt Roan*

chair@cumberlandcountydems.com



Commissioner's Corner

Recently, I spent a few minutes checking out Democrats.org. This quote stood out for me: "Democrats believe that the economy should work for everyone, health care is a right, our diversity is our strength, and democracy is worth defending."

On the site it also was good to see Malcolm Kenyatta, vice chair of the DNC, in the photo of the new DNC officers. He's spent a decent amount of time in Cumberland County with us, and his smiling face is a breath of fresh air. If you haven't seen the photo, [check it out](#).

I read the party platform. Here are some priorities:

- fighting for common-sense gun safety reforms
- fighting to make health care more affordable
- tackling inflation
- fighting for equal rights and protections for all
- defending democracy and protecting voting rights for all Americans
- protecting reproductive rights
- protecting Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid
- supporting veterans

I'm proud to be a member of the party that protects children, elders and the environment. We have a powerful, worthwhile platform, and we should never forget it.

In the words of Bruce Lee, "The successful warrior is the average man with laser-like focus." My fellow Democrats, we are our own democracy warriors. We have the power and authority to protect and defend our democracy and our country. We are a party that is forged in fire, and we will always feel that fire because democracy is too important and precious to give up on.

I'm proud to work with you, with laser-like focus because, as average people, we will get Dems elected and keep them elected. As our own CCDC website states, "We are the party of everyday people, for the people, by the people."

Never fear, Democrats are here!

— *Jean Foschi, Cumberland County*

Commissionerjmfoschi@cumberlandcountypa.gov



Local is Where the Action Is

In a mid-February interview with Pennsylvania Capital-Star, DNC Vice Chair and State Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta proclaimed the importance of local elections, specifically citing Cumberland Valley's school-board director elections.

"As a Democratic Party, we have made a mistake of ceding the local elections to Republicans and only focusing on what's happening in D.C.," he said.

"What's happening in D.C. is important. We have to focus on it. We have to focus on the fact that Donald Trump is trying to make us hate each other so that he can pick our pockets and give more money to his billionaire owners." [Read the full interview.](#)



Cumberland County Democrats, Take Action Today!

Make Your Voices Heard

Find out about opportunities to join others who are protesting the inhumanity and illegal actions of the Trump Administration.

Claim your power in a march on Washington, March 14

[Learn more](#)

Participate in a peaceful protest in Harrisburg, March 15

[Learn more](#)

Join the National-wide Day of Action, April 5

[Learn more](#)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Cumberland County Dems have called out the injustices and excesses of the Trump administration in our local newspapers. Here are some excerpts from letters published in *The Sentinel*:

A mission mismanaged

In March 1865, Abraham Lincoln signed legislation to create a network of facilities to care for soldiers wounded during the Civil war. Now, 160 years later, that promise is being broken — and in the most inhumane way. The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), under the cover of the Office of Personnel Management, is sending emails multiple times a week firing, threatening and bullying the public servants who provide medical, physical and mental health care to 9 million veterans (out of 19.5 veterans in the United States) whom Republicans gushingly call their “heroes.”

VA mental health workers are trying to address their patients' PTSD, insomnia, anxiety, depression, substance abuse and suicidal impulses while managing challenging caseloads, under immense pressure to prove their worth.

The tables have turned, and veterans are observing their mental health providers in distress, asking if they are OK and consoling them in sessions so veterans can get what they need — and what they are owed. And it's only going to get worse. An internal memo distributed to top VA staff on March 4 outlines plans to further decimate the VA workforce, according to [an article in Government Executive magazine](#).

— *Sherri Kimmel*, published March 11

Prothonotary helps process major life events

I'm Montana Hartman and, on May 20 and Nov. 5, I'm asking for your vote to be your prothonotary. The honor [of being a prothonotary is in [certifying] major life events: name changes, divorces, custody agreements and more. The prothonotary also gives, not decides upon, citizenship to those who've completed the process. In middle and high school, I volunteered for Cumberland Valley's ESL program, where I tutored classmates from Italy, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Jordan, France and Brazil, and it would be an incredible honor to now present citizenship to those from abroad who have chosen Cumberland County as their home.

Upon meeting a prothonotary, [President Harry] Truman said it was "the most professional-sounding political office in the U.S." Pennsylvania is the only state that elects prothonotaries, so this role has a unique history in our Commonwealth, and it'd be a great honor to serve as yours. I hope you'll join this campaign for Cumberland County prothonotary, the keeper of our county's records, its history, our story, written together.

— *Montana Hartman*, published Feb. 25

Executive orders set stage for collective trauma

Since assuming the presidency, Mr. Trump has signed an onslaught of executive orders, from mandating mass deportations, removing diversity and inclusions from the federal government to rescinding protections for transgender individuals. While some might applaud these unilateral policy decisions, I worry about the consequences that these dangerous orders will create.

The executive orders ... pose a very real threat of ushering in an era of far-reaching collective trauma. The United States cannot truly be called “the land of the free” when a plethora of communities live in fear of being stripped of their basic human rights. It is written in the Declaration of Independence that all people have the rights to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Clearly this administration’s agenda is in opposition with these rights.

If you are not outraged by what has happened so far, I ask you to pay closer attention. Even if you are not directly at risk of being affected by these dangerous policies, I assure you that many in your communities are.

— *Katie Pritchett*, published Feb. 12

Stand up for justice

The powers claimed by the President and Elon Musk alarmed me enough that I went to a rally on the Pennsylvania capital steps recently. I heard many stories of other concerned citizens: a substitute teacher with cystic fibrosis who depends on Medicaid for prescriptions, a mother of a transgender child, Black people whose history is being erased, teachers like me who are concerned about restriction of funds and the obliteration of public schools and many LGBTQIA people fearing for their safety.

If you love our country, pursue a just process: contact your legislators and learn the stories of those who have been portrayed as wicked or threatening. Let’s not allow liberty to be lost for any of us.

— *Cheryl Parsons*, published Feb. 8

Reaffirm — not nullify — the 14th Amendment

Trump and his “Rethuglicans” intend to end birthright citizenship by allowing only children of parents that meet specific criteria to be permitted citizenship. ... Referring to our fellow residents, friends, family, neighbors, workers or co-workers as “legal” or “illegal” is dehumanizing and creates fear and uncertainty in families and communities across America. The 14th Amendment provides that all children born in the USA are citizens.

As Thomas Wolf, director of democracy initiatives at the Brennan Center, explains, “If you’re born here, you’re one of us. It doesn’t matter who your parents were, whether they were free or enslaved, American citizens or not: You’re one of us. There is no other way to understand those words.”

Trump's executive order, aimed to restore national greatness and prosperity, is unconstitutional, so will be litigated by a Supreme Court stacked with conservative justices and Trump appointees. Perhaps this Supreme Court will strike the 14th Amendment and thereby exclude from citizenship individuals they consider racially, biologically, politically or socially undesirable, along with those who fail to support the policies of the new administration.

— *Robin Agerton*, published Jan. 28

Carter is leaving a hole in America

On Jan 23, The Patriot-News ran Eileen Graham's letter to the editor on the death of President Jimmy Carter.

Watching the funeral of former President Jimmy Carter who lived to serve others was such a stark contrast to events of the week, I felt overwhelmed, mourning not Carter but the hole he leaves in our American soul.

Images of wildfires incinerating thousands of homes and coverage of President Donald Trump's outlandish comments bookended the solemnities. ...

"Faith" is a word oft applied to Carter. Yet I fear we will lose faith in all that's good and decent in this life when we inaugurate as president a convicted felon, whose god is power. Who calls climate change a hoax, inspires us to hate, and lies as effortlessly as he breathes. Who now will speak truth to power? Who will say, "The emperor has no soul?"





Join the Cumberland County Democrats for *Celebrate the Slate*

Celebrate the slate of Democratic candidates on Wednesday, May 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Duke's Bar & Grille, 313 S. Front Street, Wormleysburg.

Register and reserve your spot or sponsorship today:

- General Admission: \$30
- Silver Sponsorship: \$100
- Gold Sponsorship: \$250
- Platinum Sponsorship: \$500
- Co-host: \$1000

This event is presented by the Cumberland County Democrats and is ADA accessible.

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!

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