

Jackson Dems News

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Jackson County Democratic Party, PO Box 114, Sylva, NC 28779

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Now More than Ever – We Need You

Frank's Corner

My Democrat Friends,

In my entire lifetime I have never seen such a **dangerous time for Democracy** in the United States of America. The values we share that recognize and honor our individuality and diversity are being challenged and discarded by executive order and a **Congress in chaos**.

Here are just a few examples of what's happening in Washington and Raleigh that hurt Jackson County. Our wonderful **public schools** are under attack like never before. They are being replaced by vouchers and charter schools that won't help Jackson County children to attend schools that don't exist. **Teacher pay** has been reduced so much that many are leaving the state. Our beautiful mountains, **rivers and streams** are under attack by new rules that allow corporations and **polluters** to dump waste into them instead of protecting them. We need our State and Federal legislators to make sure that every North Carolinian has access to affordable **health care**. Our own Congressman, Mark Meadows is trying to take away any chance of a **health care** system for North Carolina citizens.

Resistance movements like Indivisible, Progressive Nation, Women's March and many others are popping up and working hard to let people know what's happening and to resist the ongoing assault on everything we believe in. Many of us are **marching, protesting, writing letters and making phone calls** to let our elected leaders know that we are not happy with what they are doing. Before the next election, just 19 months away, all the energy and efforts to make a difference will have to be directed toward electing good Democratic Candidates who will stand up to the Republican bullies in the State Assembly and in Congress. How can we accomplish this together? **How can you make a difference right now?**

The Jackson County Democratic Party is stepping up efforts to be **visible**, to be **relevant** and to be the true **big tent party** that welcomes everyone. Whether you are a progressive, moderate or conservative Democrat, we need your voice, your views and your support. There is no question that we will have to make some big changes if we are to be successful, and we need you to help provide the direction and the platform. Change is hard but to make it happen, we need people from all over the county to step up and become leaders. In other words, **WE NEED YOU**. Our monthly meetings are held on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month and all Democrats are welcome. Bring your family or your neighbor with you. We have childcare available on a limited basis. (Limited space, so please let us know in advance. **828-226-8500**)

Please make a difference today! We will never have the huge income that the local Republican Party has because they receive massive amounts of money from national PACs and out of state donors. In order to maintain Democratic Headquarters and to provide the space for change to happen, **we need more income**. We have monthly bills that are



Frank Burrell, Chairman

always difficult to meet and we must go far beyond our basic needs to elect democrats. We're starting now so we have enough funds to help candidates in 2018. Please use the enclosed envelope to make a donation today or go to www.jacksondems.com to donate with a credit card. Please be sure to fill out the all the spaces so we can file the necessary reports with the State Board of Elections.

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The Task Ahead: Why it's So Important

Jane Koenig

We're Still Here

Why are we sending out mailings and fundraising letters when it has been only five months since the last election and the next election is 19 months away?

Democrats didn't fare well in November. Maybe you noticed? At all levels, the Democratic Party is now cleaning house and doing plenty of soul searching. But, we are also laser focused on November, 2018.

What Is Going On???

It is becoming clear that the Federal government in Washington is dysfunctional at best and possibly dangerously corrupt. The new president's actions seem designed to destroy the basic fabric of our democracy. We can only hope that the structure of our government, with its checks and balances, will prevail.

In Raleigh, there is a new sheriff in town, but the deputies want to keep on playing high stakes poker with the state's citizens as chips. Governor Roy Cooper is struggling with a majority Republican General Assembly and Senate. They are blatantly trying to turn the governor into a powerless puppet and obstruct his agenda at every turn. It took several tries before the Assembly was able to pass even a partial repeal of the expensive, regressive "Bathroom Bill." How can this toxic, squabbling government function to our benefit?

Locally, the Jackson County government continues to function pretty well.

However, we are not immune to the problems of poverty and homelessness. In 2016, the Community Table served almost 26,000 meals, over one-third for children. Government services struggle to provide housing for our local homeless. As a rural

area, we should be very concerned about the potential impact of reduced health insurance options on our local healthcare services. In addition, the federal plans to turn public schools into a private, for-profit, system is likely to have the greatest negative impact on areas like ours, where choices are more limited.

Why is 2018 So Important?

We have a great opportunity to take back seats we lost in 2016 and even unseat some Republicans who were re-elected.

There must be some Republican voters who are already feeling buyer's remorse!

The Margin is Slim

Switching the power in the US House to a Democratic majority is not impossible. Only 24 seats need to be flipped. With a majority come the rights to elect the Speaker (3rd in line for the Presidency) and appoint the chairs of all the committees.

Imagine if a Democrat were currently in charge of the House Intelligence Committee responsible for investigating the President's ties to Russia!

2020 is a census year. North Carolina's population has been growing, so there is a possibility we will get an additional Representative. That will result in redistricting and the likelihood that the General Assembly, which is currently 61% Republican, will attempt to design (gerrymander) the districts to ensure their continued majority in both Raleigh and Washington. We need to elect Democrats to the Statehouse to prevent being gerrymandered out of existence.

The Supreme Teeter-Totter

The Supreme Court is currently in danger of having a very conservative judge added. Two of the sitting progressive judges are elderly. If either of those judges retires while Trump is president, this branch of

our government may become a very conservative body. We talk about "draining the swamp" and "power to the people," but until the ruling known as Citizens United is repealed, our governments at all levels will remain prisoners of the billionaire corporations and special interest groups. What other human rights are at stake?

What YOU Can Do

Be LOUD. Be CLEAR. PERSIST! We **must** let our current representatives in government at all levels know **what we think**. Their primary objective is re-election. While they may think their conservative actions reflect the will of their constituents, we need to let them know when they do not. We need to keep calling to encourage everyone we know to join in. It's the numbers that count. With persistence, we may be able to convince our representatives that their re-election is in jeopardy. Our relentless noise has already affected the repeal of the ACA.

The other, really big thing we must do is **elect progressive Democrats** who will work for us locally, in Raleigh and in Washington. Here in Jackson County we need to be targeting Mark Meadows, Jim Davis and Mike Clappitt. We also have county races to focus on, commissioners and school leaders.

Candidates rely on the organization and support of the JCDP to help get them elected. We are energized, we have a plan, we are serious and we are fully aware of the importance of this task. But we need your help. We will be calling on you to volunteer and to make donations whenever you can. And we will be calling on you to vote for Democrats!

How to Be an Activist

Immediately after the election of Trump as president, a number of activist groups emerged to harness the energy of the opposition. Many of these groups are active in Jackson County and WNC. They are organized to be a voice for people who feel their needs and priorities are not being met by elected officials. They are providing training on how to contact politicians effectively, writing opinions and letters for the media, and organizing protests and marches.

How inspiring was it to see all those people—millions of people!—peacefully marching to protest the election of Trump? There are more marches planned: some local, some regional, some in the state capital and some in the nation’s capital. Many who cannot march are calling daily, writing and flooding social media with their objections to the agenda of the new president and the state legislators. If you feel you are missing all the fun, here are some groups who can help you be part of the movement.



Women’s March

Front Row: Nilofer & Isabel Couture, Joanna Woodson, Kelsey Woodford, Fiona Buchanan, Emma Tate, Donna Dupree **Back Row:** Gabe Consenza, Kimberly Werth, Katie Balough, Zack Daniels

Most Active Local Activism Groups

Indivisible Sylva <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?g=indivisible%20sylva%20nc>

One of 2,800 groups nationally. Training and organizing progressives at the grassroots level to communicate with elected officials.

Common Ground WNC <https://www.facebook.com/groups/256915484744697/>

Standing together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families. Recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country. We work peacefully while recognizing there is no true peace without justice and equity for all. <https://www.womensmarch.com/mission/>

Progressive Nation WNC www.progressivenationwnc.org

Built on the belief that each and every one of us has the power to change the world one action at a time.

Knock Every Door www.knockeverydoor.org

Conducting nationwide, door-to-door canvasses to start conversations that should have been happening before the election and that simply can’t wait until 2018. We’re going to listen to voters and non-voters alike, and in the process help organize our communities against Trump.

Make 5 Calls www.5calls.org

Calling your Government on your smart phone can create the change you want to see. 5 Calls is an APP that provides phone numbers and scripts so calling is easy. It uses your location to find your local representatives so your calls have more impact.

Resistbot www.resistbot.io

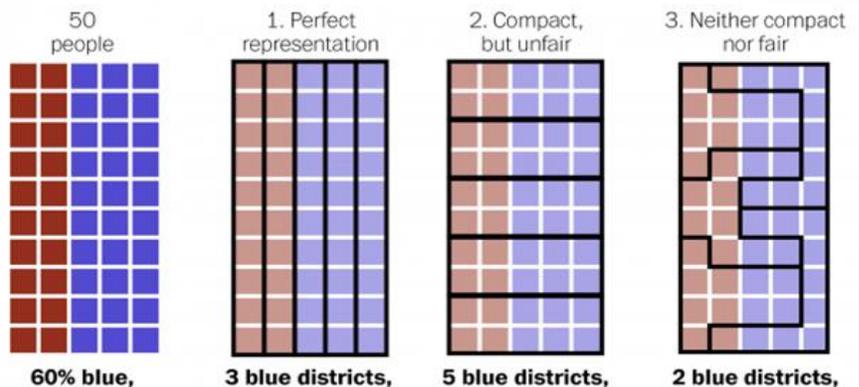
Text RESIST to 50409. Follow directions to have them Fax your message to your representative.

"I cannot tell a lie...but...perhaps I can interest you in an alternative fact?"



Gerrymandering, explained

Three different ways to divide 50 people into five districts



Where Does Our Money Come From?

In the last two years our budget and our activities have increased substantially. With great leadership from Frank Burrell and Carolyn Cagle we have been able to activate the Precincts which raised thousands of dollars for the Party.

Precincts worked in clusters to hold wonderful events that brought in money and hundreds of new people.

The Democratic Men's Club and the Democratic Women were able to raise more than \$10,000 for us. They also held wonderful events like a Fish Fry and a Square Dance Dinner.

We've had cake auctions and a household auction and we've written several newsletters like this one.

In other words, our money comes from you. We have no PACs or BIG DONORS. We depend on your generosity to fulfill our goals.

Please consider giving a monthly amount either through the web page or through your bank. All the local banks will set up a monthly amount for you and they will write the check and pay the postage at no charge to you. Our bills are paid monthly and you can help us maintain a budget.

Where Does Our Money Go?

We have been able to accomplish so much in the last two years. Although we didn't win the big election, we were still very successful.

We kept Headquarters open and the lights on, providing space for so much activity. We held monthly meetings, Issues Round Table, Democratic Men's Club, Democratic Women, and Young Dems. Phone banks and letter campaign volunteers filled the building for weeks. We were the headquarters for all the local and regional candidates for the 2016 election.

A first: We sent out three multi-page newsletters to 5,000 Jackson County Democrats to keep them informed. Individual Democratic Women helped to send about a dozen Young and College Dems to the Women's March in Washington.

We were able to provide modest donations to Democratic Candidates. We increased our volunteer pool by close to a hundred people and they're ready to go again for the next election. Finally, we made lots of friends and created a safe place for opinions and values that we share. We hope to see you at Democratic Headquarters soon.

For Your Calendar

4/13, noon: Democratic Women monthly meeting.

4/18, 6:30pm: JCDP Monthly meeting.

4/22, 10-4: Greening Up the Mountain festival – look for our booth!

4/24, 6:30pm: Issues Roundtable.

5/20, 1-4pm: District Convention, Haywood College.

5/21, 12:00-3pm: Barbeque, East LaPorte Park.

Check www.jacksondems.com for more details and to sign up for our email newsletter.

Commissioner's Corner



Brian McMahan, Chairman
Jackson County Board of Commissioners

Fake news is killing us!! Richard Paul Evans once said, "What a culture we live in, we are swimming in an ocean of information, and drowning in ignorance." Fake news is destroying the credibility of our legitimate and very necessary news media. Fake news is trying to rewrite history. Fake news helped elect Donald Trump President. John F. Kennedy once said that "The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all." With the ability to have instant access to unlimited knowledge and resources at the click of a fingertip, let's do our part and stick with just the facts.



Paid for by the Jackson County Democrats.