



TEMPO

APRIL/MAY 2024

"And the greatest phrase, I think, in the history of politics is on all of those red and white hats that I see: 'Make America Great Again.'

"I try to learn from the past, but I plan for the future by focusing exclusively on the present. That's where the fun is."

~ President Donald J. Trump



CONGRATULATIONS!

WMAL AND CRWC ARE NOW PARTNERS

CRWC IS OVER THE MOON! WE WILL COLLABORATE ON A HOST OF PROGRAMMING AND PROJECT ACTIVITIES! WE ARE GRATEFUL!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shirley Miles

CRWC President

APRIL 25, 2024, WILL GO DOWN IN CRWC'S HISTORY AS ONE OF THE BEST GALAS, BY FAR! WMAL'S OWN, VINCE COGLINESE WAS SENSATIONAL, KEEPING EVERYONE ON THEIR TOES! Watch the highlight video [HERE: CRWC Membership Gala](#)

Greetings, members:

April 2024 was a whirlwind of a month. We have good news, and it is historic! CRWC and the esteemed WMAL are now partners! Never in the history of CRWC have we accomplished such a feat..

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN???

MORE.....

- VISIBILITY INTO CRWC's POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY VIA CIVIC PROJECTS
- CIVIC PROJECTS VISIBILITY AND RESOURCE SUPPORT
- INCREASED MEMBERSHIP
- MORE MEDIA ACCESS
- PODCASTING ON ELECTION INTEGRITY AND LOCAL CIVIC PROJECTS



Photo by Jeanne Theismann/Gazette Packe

Jeanne Jacob, center, accepts a check on behalf of the George Washington Legacy Foundation presented by the Commonwealth Republican Women's Club in honor of foundation founder Marion Moon April 25 at The Lyceum.

Pictured are: CRWC president Shirley Miles, CRWC's Laurie Kirby, Jeanne Jacob, WMAL's Vince Coglianesse, and Shawn Eyer of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial



Photo by Jeanne Theismann/Gazette Packe

Gant Redmon, right, makes remarks after accepting a donation on behalf of the Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria in memory of his wife Fran, a longtime SOLA supporter and board member. The donation was made by Shirley Miles and Laurie Kirby, left, on behalf of the Commonwealth Republican Women's Club April 25 at The Lyceum.

CRWC Honors Redmon, Moon

Donations made to SOLA, GW Legacy Foundation.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

WMAL News talk radio host Vince Coglianesse was on hand as the Commonwealth Republican Women's Club paid tribute to two of its members with donations in their memory as part of the CRWC's annual meeting April 25 at The Lyceum.

Coglianesse was the keynote speaker at the event which honored recently deceased CRWC members Fran Redmon and Marion Moon.

Gant Redmon accepted a donation in his wife's memory on behalf of the Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria, where Fran Redmon was a longtime supporter and board member.

It is only fitting that we honor and pay tribute to Fran Redmon and Marion Moon.

— CRWC president Shirley Miles

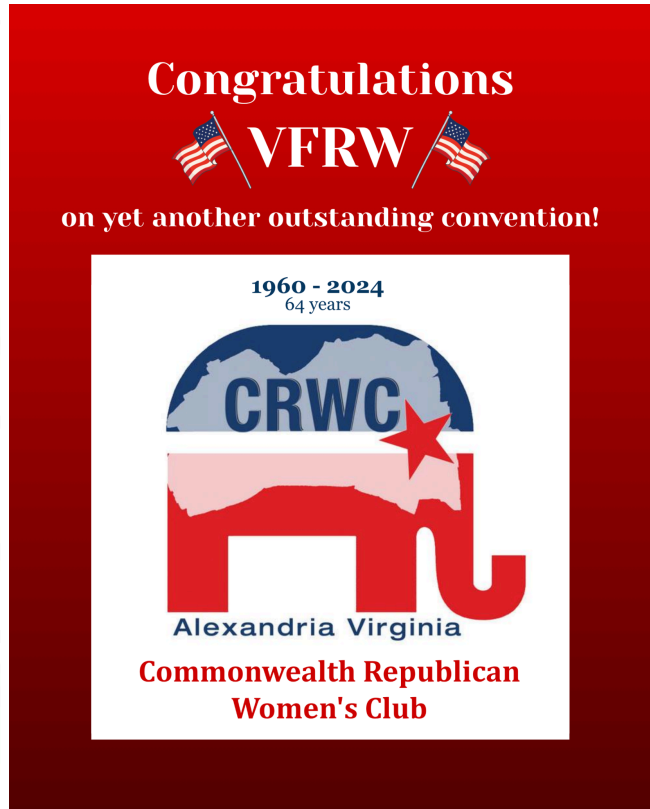
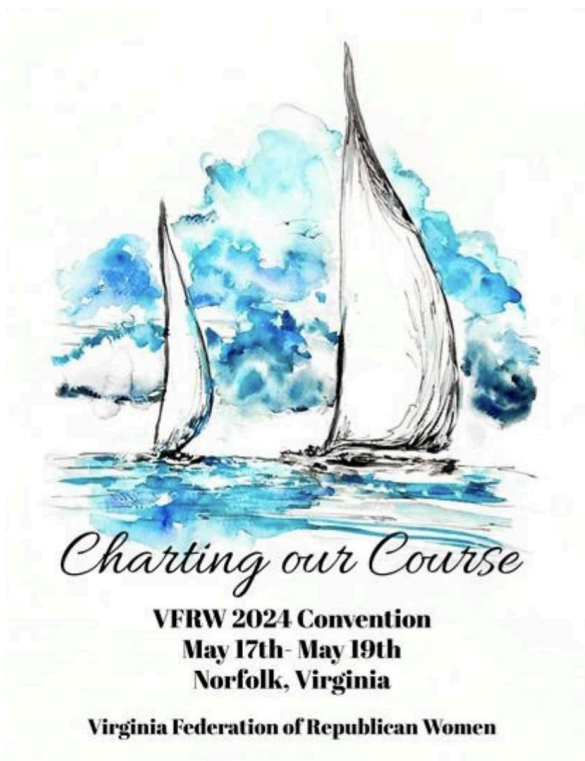
Shawn Eyer of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial and Jeanne Jacob accepted a donation in memory of Marion Moon on behalf of the George Washington Legacy Foundation, which was co-founded by Moon.

It is only fitting that we honor and pay tribute to Fran Redmon and Marion Moon. They have both left a legacy and lasting impact on our organization and on our community.

— CRWC president Shirley Miles

Pictured: Monique Miles, Shirley Miles, Vince Coglianesse, and Behzad Parva; and Shirley Miles cutting the cake





Shirley Miles, the President of the Commonwealth Republican's Women's Club, gave a nod to the VFRW, all Local Clubs and other attendees for a successful event. A great time had by all. CONGRATULATIONS!

Meet your VFRW new leaders, and new Executive Board of Directors 2024-2026, elected at the convention. <https://vfrw.org/content.php?page=board>

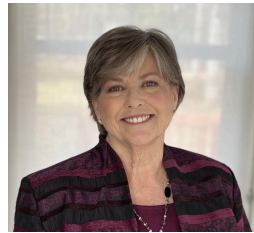
2024-2026 VFRW Executive Board



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Commonwealth Republican Women's Club



OUR GOALS

CRWC's goals are to grow our membership base, support our conservative candidates, select Alexandria's charities and civic projects, support the VFRW/NFRW, and advocate for passing common sense legislation that improves and protects the quality of life for our community, family, and country.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, OUR GOAL IS TO MAGA VIA WINNING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION!

APRIL/MAY's OUTLOOK

April and May's outlook was exciting because we are in a Presidential election cycle. We expect a win in November 2024.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY - CONSERVATIVES FIGHT FOR VIRGINIA

CRWC advocates for our legislators to stay the course for quality education, safe communities, low taxes, job creation, enhanced workforce skills, and election integrity.

OUR OUTLOOK IS PROMISING

The younger crowd sees their income dwindling due to increased inflation and the high cost of essentials, making it more difficult for them to buy homes and start families. CRWC is working on solid programs and activities to attract this unique group to our club. They can learn and make a difference in sustaining their future by actively participating in the political process and have a voice in determining their own future.

1ST Vice President of Programs Report

- Laura Kirby -



On May 23, 2024, the Commonwealth Republican Women's Club was pleased to feature Michael Maibach a Distinguished Fellow on American Federalism and Tom Kopko from Communities for an Accountable City Council who together presented the history and current impact of Alexandria's transition from Neighborhood Wards to At-Large voting.

Michael took the bi-partisan audience through the many periods during which Alexandria voted through Neighborhood Wards then switched to At-Large voting, went back to Neighborhood Wards and finally changed back to At-Large voting which is the city's current practice. Alexandria remains one of a very few jurisdictions in Virginia or anywhere for that matter which votes exclusively At-Large—a system that is vehemently opposed by many groups including the NAACP.

Tom then walked the standing room only crowd through the arguments used by At-Large advocates pointing out the fallacy of their chief argument: wards would create tribalism, nothing would get done. In actuality, this argument is just a euphemism for: we prefer conformity which diversity of opinion and thought do not facilitate.


Wards divide power which is good for the people but a return to Neighborhood Wards voting would thwart the efforts of those who prefer to maintain power and the status quo.

The presentation take-away is that a return to voting by Neighborhood Wards would give the diverse areas of our city a voice and an opportunity to identify and support candidates familiar with the unique characteristics of their particular section of the City. Neighborhood Ward voting would necessitate compromise and consensus-building rather than limit voter choice which has led to two areas of the city making the rules with no input from the remainder of the city's constituents.

Most importantly, this is a diversity suppressing practice which affects all City voters irrespective of their party affiliation.

Next steps will be taking this bi-partisan issue to Richmond.

Coming to the June CRWC meeting...




June Meeting
Speaker:
Kenneth Reid
Can Republicans capture more of the Jewish vote in 2024 due to the rise in anti-Semitism among Democrats and Leftists?

RSVP: information@alexandriacrwc.org
** Formal Program starts promptly at 7:00pm
Date: June 27, 2024 @ 7:00 pm
Refreshments served

CRWC is pleased to welcome Kenneth Reid, an Orthodox Jew, author, lecturer, and former Loudoun County council member and county supervisor who helped organize *Jews Choose Trump* in 2016. Ken was a delegate to both the 2016 and 2020 Republican National Conventions.

Please read more about Ken in our May/June 2024 Tempo



LOCATION: Alexandria Police Station, 3600 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria, VA 22304

CRWC is pleased to welcome Kenneth Reid, an Orthodox Jew, author, lecturer, and former Loudoun County council member and county supervisor who helped organize *Jews Choose Trump* in 2016. Ken was a delegate to both the 2016 and 2020 Republican National Conventions and will present on the topic:

Can Republicans Capture More of the Jewish Vote in 2024 Due to the Rise in Anti-Semitism Among Democrats and Leftists?

Please read more about Ken BELOW:

Kenneth Reid is an Orthodox Jew, who attends CHABAD in Herndon and Fairfax, residing outside Tysons. He has participated in many pro-Israel rallies and events through the years and has studied the Israel-Palestinian conflict closely. He helped organize *Jews Choose Trump* in the 2016 election and studies the Torah (Bible) regularly. Reid also was a delegate to the 2016 and 2020 Republican National Conventions.

Reid also served ten years as a councilmember and county supervisor in Loudoun County, VA, outside Washington, DC—one of the fastest-growing communities in the US. A Republican, he won election in a blue-leaning community, Leesburg, (2006, 2010, 2011 and 2016), losing only one election, for Virginia State Senate in November 2023 (District 37 Fairfax County). Reid also has assisted numerous other candidates to win office using many of the strategies and organization efforts in his book, “The Six Secrets to Winning ANY Local Election – and Navigating Elected Office Once You Win!” Available on Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, Google Play and Apple iTunes. Visit www.KenReid.org He also has lectured on campaign tactics to various groups, including the Leadership Institute in Arlington, VA.

He has a master’s degree in journalism from the University of Missouri and B.A. degree in political science from Rutgers. Website: www.KenReid.org

FUNDRAISER

2024 White House Christmas Ornament

The anchor-shaped 2024 White House Christmas ornament commemorates Jimmy Carter's presidency and highlights our 39th President's service in the United States Navy. The ornament's reverse side pictures the USS Jimmy Carter (SSN-23) submarine, commissioned in 2005, and several additional motifs related to Carter's life and legacy.

These exquisite ornaments make lovely birthday, hostess, thank you, and holiday gifts, as well as a treat for yourself. The accompanying booklet includes additional information about Carter's life and presidency.



CRWC sells The White House Historical Association's Christmas ornament to raise funds for Club endeavors. The \$25 per ornament price is significantly less than the same ornament sells for elsewhere.

To make your purchase as convenient as possible, please call or text **Laurie Kirby at 703-220-1067** or visit www.AlexandriaCRWC.org to make a purchase using PayPal.

2nd Vice President of Membership

Susie Miller

As the Membership Chair, I am pleased to report we now have 68 members. Our newest member, Joan Sass was so impressed with the Lyceum Members Meeting this past Thursday she joined the next day. I want to share with you a part of Joan's message to me:

Your guest speaker, Vince Coglianese, was right on point. And, a joy to listen to.

The room set-up with the food & bar was very impressive. Even the photographer was so captive, making sure she got the perfect pictures.

I will introduce our new members at each meeting. This newsletter includes CRWC's membership recruitment letter and membership form for you to fill out and send to Suzanne Morrison. See you in May at our next meeting.

Membership Chair,

Susie Miller

JOIN US!

Dear Prospective CRWC Member,

The Commonwealth Republican Women's Club ("CRWC") looks forward to counting you as one of our members!

CRWC was formed in the 1960s and has continuously spread and upholding Republican values since its inception. We are the Alexandria Chapter of the Virginia Federation of Republican Women ("VFRW"), an affiliate of the National Federation of Republican Women ("NFRW"). Joining CRWC affords you automatic membership in both the VFRW and the NFRW.

We meet in the evening on the 4th Thursday of each month from September through June at various locations published on our website: <http://www.alexandriacrwc.org>. In addition to conducting the business of our club, our meetings include guest speakers, political candidates, and the company, as well as camaraderie with like-minded people.

We support local political candidates by inviting them to speak during our meetings, hosting and attending fundraisers, and disseminating literature at farmers' markets and other local annual events held in Alexandria throughout each year.

CRWC members receive our monthly newsletter, Tempo, which includes Club news and activities and details about political events in Alexandria, the 8th Congressional District, and the Commonwealth of Virginia. PLUS the NFRW's weekly Capital Connections, which contains articles on legislative news, campaign events, polling profiles, and state and national events.

Members are invited to attend our monthly Saturday book club meetings, which are held in members' homes. The books selected focus on the writings of recent conservative authors. Come prepared to discuss the book or get the perspectives of those who read it!

Most recently, we launched our own Election Integrity group, which advocates for common-sense legislation to keep our families and communities safe and our elections free and fair. We do this by researching and tracking specific bills and making recommendations regarding those we believe should be passed by Virginia Legislators or vetoed by the Governor.

We are drawn to serve Alexandria's local community by contributing to Community Lodgings, Carpenter's Shelter, A.L.I.V.E., and Christ House.

CRWC proudly supports the Alexandria Police Foundation, Alexandria Firefighters Foundation, and The Frederick Douglass Foundation.

Our fundraising includes the annual sale of White House ornaments and the ad hoc social events that the members plan.

We welcome, need, and value your input and participation in all our endeavors and activities and invite you to click the link below. *

[* See the Membership Application on the next page](#)



**Commonwealth Republican Women's Club Membership
Application/Renewal for 2023/2024**



***Required information**

*Name _____ *Date _____

*Address _____ *City _____ *State _____ *Zip _____

*Email _____ *Phone (H) _____ (C) _____

Employer _____ City _____ State _____

Precinct: _____

New (\$50) _____ Renewing (\$50) _____
Associate (\$25) _____ If a woman, name of primary club _____

Member: Must be either (1) a resident of Alexandria or (2) a nonresident who is not a member of another Republican women's club and chooses the CRWC as her primary club. Dues: \$50 a year

Associate member: May be a member of a Republican club outside of Alexandria. They may not make motions or vote, hold office or be a delegate to conventions from the CRWC. Men may also be associate members. Dues: \$25 a year

**Make check payable to CRWC and mail to:
CRWC TREASURER, 3812 Woodlawn Ct., Alexandria, VA 22304**

I am interested in participating in the following committee areas:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Election Integrity |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Election Officers |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Poll Watchers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation Monitoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program Events | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Tree | <input type="checkbox"/> TEMPO News Letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Projects | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facility Search | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Present One Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity/Press |
| on RPV State Central Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political Campaigns | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Farmers Market Tables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media | <input type="checkbox"/> Recruit or Sponsor HS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minority Inclusion Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Republican/College Republican Women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College Republicans | <input type="checkbox"/> Promoted Women Health Issues |

[Http://www.alexandriacrwc.org/joinrenewdonate](http://www.alexandriacrwc.org/joinrenewdonate)

School Board Meeting Report

Deborah McKeeman

APR 2024 School Board Report

The Mar 7 school board meeting was dominated by public speakers who showed up in force to address a weapons incident that occurred at Lyles Crouch Elementary, when a student was found to have a loaded gun in his backpack and parents weren't notified for 2 days. Another serious complaint was the continued overcrowding of West End schools. Patrick Henry, in particular, is currently supporting 1,000 students in a building built for 800. The Chair of the Board and Superintendent addressed the Lyles Crouch incident directly after public comments. The Central Office presented a Technology Plan update, citing that 50% of schools were completed, the other half in-progress. Other presentations included updates to the LINK and Community Partnerships programs. After the meeting, the school board held a work session on proposed changes to the draft resolution for collective bargaining with the teachers.

Issues related to overcrowding of West End schools again dominated public comments at the Mar 21 school board meeting, to include not enough bathroom facilities to accommodate female students and accusations of racism against the board. The High School Project reported that construction of the new Minnie Howard High School was both on time and under budget. Changes to the draft collective bargaining resolution were then read aloud before the Board, after which it voted to adopt the resolution, as amended. After the meeting, the board held a work session on the subject of the redistricting of schools within Alexandria.

Please consider sitting in on board meetings. It will add perspective to what you thought was going on in our schools. For more detailed notes, email dmckeeman0002@outlook.com

May 2024 School Board Report

The Apr 11 School Board meeting started with recognition of several District teachers who had achieved National Board Certified Teacher awards. They were followed by a dozen public speakers, most of whom addressed the overcrowding of schools on the West End, the Lyles Crouch gun incident, and gun safety in schools. The Central Office presented a SEAL (Social, Emotional, and Academic Learning) Implementation Plan update, to include a description of social awareness, the 8 recognized social-emotional categories in the school District, and the success of telehealth therapist services now being provided to students. A second presentation addressed Special Instruction (Special Ed) updates, to include the hiring of a new Executive Director of the Program. At the Apr 25 board meeting, VA State representatives, including Alan Ebbin and Alfonzo Lopez, presented "proclamations" to a number of Alexandria High School students, all of whom had received full scholarships, awards, and/or money for their academic achievements. Public speakers then addressed overcrowding at schools in the West End, demanded reinstatement of top administration at Jefferson Houston during investigation of a missing-child incident, and lack of transparency between the Central Office and parents. The Central Office gave a presentation on the ACPS VA Literacy Act, highlighting the District's transition to fully implement the Act; a change in the District's literacy emphasis program from a system called PAL to VALISS; and the new VA State Literacy Standards that now measure 10 domains vice the 4 domains set in 2017.

Please consider sitting in on school board meetings, even for an hour (they usually run 4 hours). It will add perspective to what you thought was going on in our schools.

CRWC's Local Civic Engagement

Michael Maibach

Why Calling for "A Return to City Council Wards" Is the Right Political Phrase

American cities use both terms - Wards and Districts - for their City Councils. Historically, Alexandria City has always used the term "City Council Wards" beginning in 1804 when our first Wards were created. Please see an attached memo containing direct quotations from T. Michael Miller's History of Alexandria City Government. Mr. Miller was the Research Historian of the Alexandria Library until his retirement. These quotes are from his revised history published in Alexandria, Virginia, in May 1992. Given our City's governmental history, calling for "a return to City Council Wards" (rather than districts) aligns with our City's political history. There is nothing wrong with the term "district," but we have never had them here. And if we brought into this debate the new term "direct representation," we would have to create an entirely political jargon that has no history in our City Council debates since the loss of Wards in 1950. As you will see below, even local critics of City Council Wards use the word "Ward". Onward!

ALEXANDRIA WARDS

<https://www.alxnow.com/2023/09/29/city-council-members-say-ward-system-would-be-a-bad-idea-for-alexandria/>

<https://alexandrialivingmagazine.com/news/for-wards-citizen-group-advocates-ward-representation-alexandria/>

<http://www.alexandriagazette.com/news/2020/oct/01/alexandrias-failed-experiment-wards/>

LYNCHBURG WARDS

<https://www.lynchburgva.gov/560/City-Council>

NORFOLK WARDS

<https://www.norfolk.gov/200/City-Council>

DC WARDS

<https://planning.dc.gov/maps-wards-2022>

PHILADELPHIA WARDS

<https://seventy.org/political-maps-of-philadelphia/city-wards-and-divisions>

CHICAGO WARDS

<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/about/wards.html>

-Michael

Michael C. Maibach

FOR RELEASE: May 5, 2024

Contact: info@accountableALX.org

“Candidate Scorecard” Proves Incumbent System Lack Of Accountability

Every Incumbent Candidate Fails To Respond To Community Survey; Challengers Express New Thinking

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VA - Candidates' responses to the Communities for Accountable City Council (CACC) Candidate Survey - Candidate Scorecard - were released this morning at the CACC website www.AccountableALX.org.

No incumbent responded to the community survey regarding the most basic civil right: Representation.

“The incumbents have inadvertently condemned Alexandria’s at-large election scheme by ignoring this community candidate survey. Amazingly, they have dared to prove our point. That’s how bad it is.” observed CACC leader Tom Kopko.

No response means no accountability. No response means communities with opposing voices are dismissed. “It’s a pocket veto of community voices disliked by incumbents. Is this what citizens of Alexandria deserve from their elected officials, to be ignored yet again about another crucial issue? The at-large election system directly enables this callous behavior.” Kopko said.

“Instead,” he compared, “imagine citizens having a normal, district-based election where one specific candidate answered to their specific concerns. That’s how we do it at every other level, from the Federal House of Representatives and Virginia House of Delegates to the Virginia Senate, which has specific districts.” The US Constitution wisely requires federal election districts, but Alexandria rejected that notion 74 years ago.

Candidates vociferously argued for District/Ward elections during the debate hosted by the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations (AFCA) on April 24. Charlotte Scherer, Jonathan Huskey, and Celianna Gunderson have stated their belief in District/Ward elections for Alexandria. Jimmy Lewis said he is open to the idea. Detailed results about all candidates are online.

”Some folks said that ‘the unspoken mafia’ would force every candidate to toe the line of keeping the discredited at-large system. Well, the ice has been broken...wide open.” Kopko observed.

Some candidates, like many of the public, are curious about where District/Ward lines would be drawn and if they would be fair to the many different communities in the city. Implicit is the acknowledgment that one single district for the whole city is the ultimate unfair drawing of district lines because it drowns every community.

Candidates can still respond or modify their responses to CACC. CACC accepts candidate commentary in addition to Yes/No answers to the Candidate Survey questions.

CACC believes the return to District/Ward elections is a moral, civil-rights imperative. Every Alexandria neighborhood and community of interest deserves a definitive answer to the question, who is YOUR representative on City Council?

Visit AccountableALX.org to review the Candidate Survey and Scorecard and to find out how to join the Community movement for an accountable City Council of Alexandria.

Election Integrity & Other Common Sense Legislation

Some efforts are being made to ensure Virginians' voters are not disenfranchised. See the legislative bills activity in this article. You will find the list of bills recommended to Governor Youngkin to VETO.

Commonwealth of Virginia Office of Governor Glenn Youngkin

What Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed or vetoed on April 8 VPM | By Dawnthea M. Price Lisco, Meghin Moore

Published April 8, 2024 at 10:54 PM EDT

Gov Youngkin gives remarks



Shaban Athuman/VPM News

Gov. Glenn Youngkin gives remarks during a Secure Your Vote Rally on Monday, Oct. 23, 2023, in Glen Allen, Virginia.

VPM News is updating this masterlist as we go. Stay tuned. [Click here for vetoes](#) | [Click here for laws](#) | [Click here for amendments](#) Within hours of issuing his "Common Ground" budget amendments, Gov. Glenn Youngkin vetoed, signed or amended an unknown number of bills. (We've reached out to Youngkin's office for confirmation on how many bill actions took place April 8.)

Minutes before the deadline struck, Youngkin's office sent a brief statement saying that he had completed action on 1,046 bills — signing 777, amending 116 and vetoing 153 — throughout the General Assembly session. The finalized list was not available, though VPM News has determined the governor signed at

least 160, amended more than 80 and vetoed approximately 50 pieces of legislation on Monday by the action deadline: 11:59 p.m.

“As I said on the first day of this year’s legislative session, in the State of the Commonwealth address, every piece of legislation I have had the honor to sign into law as Governor has necessarily been bipartisan,” Youngkin said April 8. “And where there are differences in our approaches, I hope my amendments reflect the common ground we can find together. I want to thank every member of the General Assembly for their service to the Commonwealth and look forward to their return to Richmond next week as we work toward an on-time end to this year’s session.” Similar to April 2’s wave of legislative actions, Youngkin’s work began circulating on social media and through press releases from interest groups on Monday night — ahead of the 11:57 p.m. announcement from his office.

Unlike all other bill actions Youngkin took this session, his office did not provide a formal list of Monday’s signatures, amendments and vetoes, instead directing people back to Virginia’s Legislative Information System. Deadline night actions began trickling in after the deadline and were still appearing on the website the following day. (VPM News has reached out for confirmation, but hasn’t heard back as of April 18.)

VPM News will update this list to reflect bills our staff has confirmed as vetoed or signed.

This is a developing story. Check back later for updates.

Vetoes SB 14/HB 805: As VPM News reported last month, state Sen. Jeremy McPike’s bill would make statewide a process by which school divisions can seek construction funds through ballot referendums permitting 1% sales tax increases. At present, each division must seek individual permission from the Legislature.

“You know, kids aren’t Republicans or Democrats when they go to school. They’re just kids in school,” McPike told VPM News. “Hopefully we can provide a school building that’s not crumbling around them.” McPike announced the veto on social media similarly: “When a kid goes to school, they’re not going to a Democratic or Republican school. They’re going to a school with a leaky roof.”

SB 246/HB 1454: McPike also sponsored

SB 246, while Del. Alfonso H. Lopez (D–Arlington) sponsored its House counterpart, where an extension would be granted to select forms of limited-duration identification. The legislation would have allowed the Department of Motor Vehicles to implement an extension when documents would be reissued. In his veto statement, Youngkin said that the legislation “would enable a person permitted by the Federal government to be in the United States for a limited duration to obtain a Virginia Driver’s license for a full eight-year term even though their eligibility to be legally present here may have expired.”

SB 274/HB 570: This bill would establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Board that would meet quarterly and conduct reviews of prescription drug pricing throughout the commonwealth. State Sen. Creigh Deeds (D–Charlottesville) said in a brief social media message that it had been vetoed. Advocacy organizations Virginians for Affordable Medicine and Freedom Virginia issued statements condemning Youngkin’s veto within minutes of Deeds’ announcement. As VPM News reported earlier this month, PDABs “have the ability to review medications and place upper-payment limits on as many as 12 drugs per year that it deems an affordability risk.” Many of its proponents include people with chronic conditions who must frequently purchase medications or supplies that may fluctuate in cost or are consistently high prices.

In its release, Virginians for Affordable Medicine noted that PDABs currently exist in eight states: Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, Oregon, Ohio, Colorado, Washington and Minnesota.

SB 428: This bill on ranked-choice voting would have clarified requirements for holding elections using the system at a locality level. The legislation was carried by state Sen. Schuyler T. VanValkenburg (D–Henrico). In 2023, Arlington County became the first locality in the commonwealth to permanently use RCV in its elections, according to the Washington Post.

The governor vetoed VanValkenburg’s measure on Monday, saying it’s still a new practice. Historically, the method can be traced back to the 13th century — and during the 1850s, it became popular in Europe. Last session, the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported that state Sen. Creigh Deeds floated a presidential primary–focused RCV bill. He later withdrew it from consideration after ELECT conveyed its logistical concerns.

SB 586/HB 398: State Sen. Stella G. Pekarsky (D–Fairfax) and Del. Delores L. McQuinn (D–Henrico) sponsored identical pieces of legislation that would have prohibited students in public elementary or secondary schools from being suspended, expelled or excluded from school attendance without “first considering at least one evidence-based restorative disciplinary practice.” The practices, including community service, mentoring, peer mediation and positive behavioral interventions, would have also required the Virginia Department of Education to evaluate the use and effectiveness of them. In Youngkin’s veto statement, he notes that “Virginia is in the midst of a school discipline crisis.” He goes on to add that 27 teachers at Charlottesville High School refused to come to school in November because of “a wave of classroom violence” that resulted in police being called to the school twice in one day.

Youngkin believes that for schools to be “safe places for young Virginians to learn and become active citizens, they must be safe.” He does not believe schools could be “safe” when schools are utilizing “restorative practices” instead of “suspending or otherwise disciplining students who are violent in school.”

HB 1264: In this legislation proposed by Del. Irene Shin (D–Fairfax) that had bipartisan support, fines, fees and court costs would’ve been made discretionary for juvenile traffic infractions.

Emily King, a senior policy analyst with the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis said that fines and fees are “unjust and particularly harm Black youth, families, and communities.” In the governor’s veto statement, he says the bill “undermines public safety by sending the wrong message about accountability and responsibility among young offenders.”

HB 354: Del. Patrick Hope (D–Arlington) introduced this legislation to direct the Board of Health to adopt regulations that would govern public swimming pools and other recreational water facilities, including facilities “operated in conjunction with a tourist facility or health spa.” In the governor’s veto statement, Youngkin deemed the legislation “unnecessary” because under current law, the Department of Health regulates water quality in certain facilities. He did not mention how this has been enforced.

HB 335: Del. Debra D. Gardner (D–Chesterfield)’s legislation would have directed Virginia’s Department of Labor and Industry to put together a work group that would study options to increase wages for Virginia’s tipped employees who receive minimum wage. It would also have studied any circumstances related to wage theft, or any payment inequalities. It also would’ve amended penalty provisions that were related to remedies by employees and penalties for employers who are in violation of minimum wage requirements. In Youngkin’s veto statement, he states that “in other jurisdictions that have increased tipped minimum wages, many tipped workers have seen a decrease in earnings,” without mentioning examples of where this has occurred.

HB 26: Del. David A. Reid (D–Loudoun)’s legislation would have expanded what forms of identification would be accepted for voting. Under the bill, an identification card issued by any “private entity that is licensed or certified” by the Department of Health, Department of Social Services, Department of Medical Assistance Services or the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services that has a picture of the voter on it would be able to be used at the polls.

The bill received bipartisan support, and would have also allowed senior citizens to vote by using their senior living facility IDs, making it easier for seniors to vote. Youngkin vetoed that legislation, stating that “expanding this list presents additional complexities for poll workers in discerning which forms of identification are acceptable.” He also said that Virginia Voter Photo Identification Cards can be issued to eligible voters for free, but did not expand on how people could get one.

Vetoed bills may still be revived by the General Assembly when it reconvenes on April 17. However, each chamber would have to re-pass the bills on two-thirds majorities — which would also require bipartisan buy-in. (Democrats maintain one-seat leads in the House and Senate.)

Signed into law

The governor also signed several bills Monday, some of which were reflected in the state's legislative filing system ahead of the 11:59 p.m. deadline. As the new laws trickle in, we’ll update this section with what is impacting Virginians starting later this year.

New state laws, unless otherwise noted, typically take effect on July 1.

SB 39/HB 27: This bill establishes new protocols and requirements for kinship foster care placements, child safety and caregiver assessments. Those new rules will be applied by local social services departments when placing children with relatives or other proposed caregivers. As VPM News reported in January, supporters of the bills said it would add guardrails to a system where some parents and guardians felt like their children had been abducted by the state.

SB 116/HB 25: Last year’s annual sales tax holiday didn’t happen during its usual August window because lawmakers failed to introduce bills during the regular General Assembly session and the special session that would keep it in play. Though it did ultimately occur in October, the sales tax holiday is returning to the summer beginning next year.

Legislation from state Sen. L. Louise Lucas and Del. David Reid establishes Virginia’s sales tax holiday during the first full weekend in August, starting July 1, 2025, through July 1, 2030. According to Virginia Tax, the sales tax–free items include school supplies, clothing and emergency preparedness supplies.

SB 180/SB 400/SB 657/SB 724/HB 1349: This series of bills all focused on streamlining Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority rules and regulations on serving mixed alcoholic beverages at performing arts or sports facilities, as well as on-and-off premises wine and beer licenses for concessions at performing arts facilities.

Beginning July 1, a new annual mixed beverage license will be created for sports facilities across the commonwealth.

SB 324: This legislation directs Virginia's Freedom of Information Act Advisory Council to review its fee scheduling and processing and present a report by December. Changes to state code based on the report's findings will have to be taken up in 2025's session.

SB 336: This bill permits the placement of speed enforcement cameras at designated high-risk intersections — notably, places where a traffic fatality has occurred since Jan. 1, 2014 — by local or state law enforcement agencies.

SB 391/HB 149: These identical pieces of legislation were carried by Sen. Stella Pekarsky and Del. Dan Helmer (both D–Fairfax) to amend a provision in the Virginia Constitution allowing employers to discriminate against employees who lawfully use medicinal cannabis oil. According to the full text, “No employer shall discharge, discipline, or discriminate against an employee for such employee’s lawful use of cannabis oil under the laws of the Commonwealth,” as long as the employee has written certification issued by a medical professional as part of their treatment plan, or to help ease their symptoms.

SB 453: Where applicable, the cost of DMV-required emissions inspections for motor vehicles will now cap at \$30, a \$2 increase.

HB 474: The Restroom Access Act will permit retail customers with medical conditions like Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis or irritable bowel syndrome to use employee toilets upon request in urgent situations.

SB 536/HB 1261: The legislation put forth by state Sen. Lamont Bagby (D–Richmond) and Del. Kathy Tran (D–Fairfax) would provide a process for unemployment overpayments to be waived, if a person is able to demonstrate financial hardship. A similar waiver to this bill existed during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Virginia Employment Commission’s authority to grant them had expired in 2022. Read more VPM News coverage about the legislation from January, when the bills were originally introduced.

SB 546/HB 1242: Though it was one of the first planned pieces of legislation Youngkin announced in December, these identical bills from Richmond-area lawmakers were among Youngkin’s deadline-night signatures. The new law amends state code on emergency custody orders, temporary detention orders and evaluation procedures. It also permits a family member or legal guardian to be present for support and decision making assistance, when permitted by the person being evaluated and medical professionals. They are collectively known as Irvo’s Law after Irvo Otieno, a Henrico County man who was killed in police custody during a mental health crisis in March 2023. His mother, Caroline Ouko, has said she was barred from seeing Otieno during his original emergency custody order in Henrico County — an action she maintains led to his death at Central State Hospital. Several deputies are facing criminal charges. Otieno’s surviving family received an \$8.5 million civil settlement with the commonwealth, Henrico County and the county sheriff’s office in September, as reported by the Washington Post. The settlement did not include any admissions of liability from the state or county.

SB 547/HB 1246: Carried by state Sen. Lamont Bagby and Del. Rodney Willett (D–Henrico), these require Virginia’s Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish training standards for law enforcement officials on how to communicate with people who have an intellectual or developmental disability, such as autism spectrum disorder, by the start of 2027. These standards must include learning how to recognize when someone may have ASD, crisis prevention, de-escalation techniques, assistive tools or technology to help with communication, and community resources for the autism community on future crisis prevention. Officers employed before July 1 of this year have until July 1, 2028, to complete the future training standards.

SB 598: Marriage and divorce name changes will be recorded for men by local clerks. Previously, clerks only recorded the name changes of women who married and divorced.

SB 626/HB 1269: Once July 1 rolls around, more people will be eligible to apply for jobs to help provide substance abuse care and mental health services. In the Senate, this legislation was carried by Sen. Todd

Pillion (R–Abingdon), while its House counterpart was carried by Del. Marcia “Cia” Price (D–Newport News). The legislation will allow Virginia’s Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, along with substance abuse or mental health service providers, community services boards and behavioral health authorities to hire job applicants who had previously been convicted of “certain barrier crimes of misdemeanor assault and battery or involving controlled substances” four or more years ago.

SB 627/HB 1087: These bills create the College and Career Ready Virginia Fund, which aims to expand dual enrollment education options for Virginia’s high schoolers. The Virginia Department of Education and Virginia Community College System must establish a workgroup between July 1 and Nov. 1 of this year to recommend steps that will incorporate "a career and technical education program of coursework" for the program.

SB 707: Carried by state Sen. Suhas Subramanyam (D–Loudoun),

SB 707 permits public secondary schools to establish student organizations focused on career and technical education — even if the schools or divisions don't offer CTE courses.

HB 994: Virginia's child marriage loophole will officially close later this year. The exception, which permits emancipated minors between the ages of 16 and 18 to marry, has been in place since 2016. Prior to that, the commonwealth permitted marriages for children between ages 16 and 18 with parental consent — and under age 16 if at least one party was pregnant and a parent or guardian consented. Proponents of this impending law, carried by Del. Karen Keys-Gamarra (D–Oakton), have argued that emancipation of a minor does not fully remove a parent’s or guardian’s influence in their lives. “It didn’t matter if I was 15 or 17, because my parents would have done or had me do whatever was necessary to get me married,” Brigitte Combs, a self-identified child marriage survivor, told the Senate courts committee in February. “With all due respect, does anyone here actually think a vulnerable young person in fear of their parents or even God himself is going to protest?” Read more VPM News coverage of the legislation from February, while it was still being fine-tuned, and after its full passage in late March.

HB 1221: Students in grades four through eight who take health classes in Virginia can now have education about menstruation. Under the legislation put forth by Del. Holly Seibold (D–Fairfax), school boards are permitted to “provide a program of instruction on menstrual education” that the board deems appropriate as part of its curriculum.

HB 1354: Cat declawing will soon be illegal in Virginia! Except "as necessary for a therapeutic purpose" — which means when the declawing resolves an infection, disease, injury or other condition that jeopardizes a cat's health. It very specifically does not mean "any action performed for cosmetic or aesthetic reasons or reasons of convenience in the keeping or handling of a cat," according to the legislation’s text. HB 1365: Transcript withholdings from colleges for students who owe minor debts will no longer prevent them from applying for jobs, mortgages or other major life milestones that require proof of higher education or matriculation. As VPM News reported last month, Del. Betsy Carr’s (D–Richmond) legislation will require higher education institutions to release transcripts directly to students if they owe less than \$500 — or \$1,000 for Pell grant recipients.

Staff reporter Megan Pauly also covered the failed 2022 and 2023 attempts at changing direct-to-school debt rules in the award-winning Dreams Deferred series.

Patrick Larsen and Ian M. Stewart contributed reporting.

MAKE IT HARD TO CHEAT!!!

CRWC's Book Club

Susan Yonts-Shepard

Email: seys7335@gmail.com

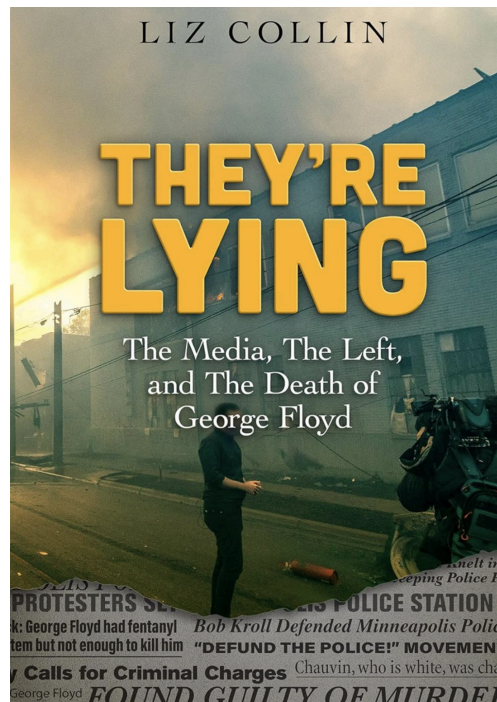
The May Book Club's selection was "They're Lying, The Media, The Left, and The Death of George Floyd"

According to the author, Liz Collins and editor, Dr. JC Chaix, the "award-winning investigative journalist Liz Collin sets the record straight. She uncovers what really happened on a street in Minneapolis that set off the riots, the demands to defund the police, and skyrocketing crime across the country.

Based on conversations with those who were there-including Derek Chauvin, Thomas Lane, and other Minneapolis police officers who've never spoken out before-Liz exposes how the media and the Left manipulated the facts to dupe and divide America.

In between, she explains how her life was turned upside down. Liz was a familiar face on the news in the Twin Cities. Her husband, Lt. Bob Kroll, president of the Minneapolis police union, was personally blamed for the rioting by the ACLU, Mayor Jacob Frey, and so many others. Liz and Bob were attacked by social media mobs and cancel-culture vultures. Amid all the chaos, she watched so-called civil-rights leaders, politicians, and activists protest on her front lawn.

This book also reveals some of the collusion, cover-ups, and hidden political connections in Minneapolis. It points out those who turned Minnesota nice into Minnesota naïve-and the "leaders" who could have stopped the insanity and given civility a chance. But most of all, it tells the truth about how the media and the Left have been lying to us all..."



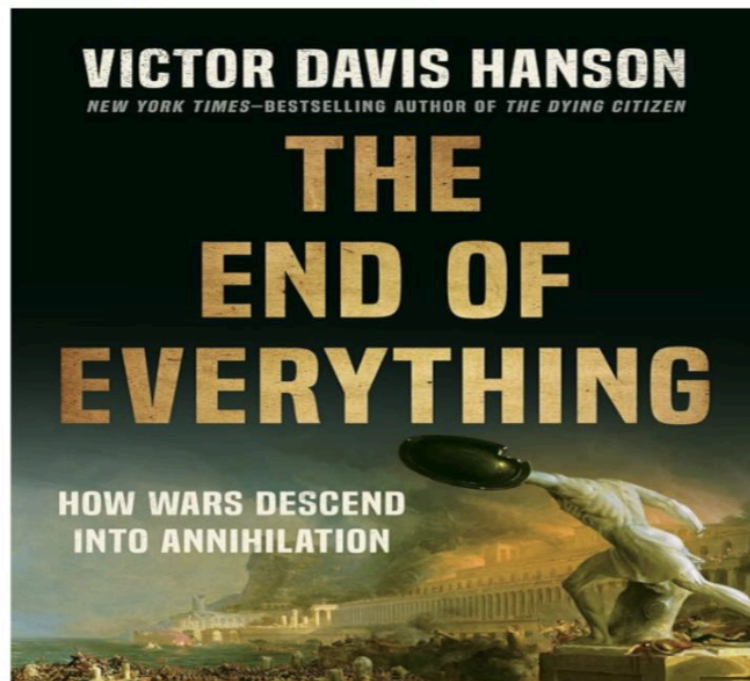
JUNE Book Club Selection

The June Book Club's selection is The End Of Everything

We are scheduled to meet at 1pm on June 29. The meeting location will be announced soon, so you have plenty of time to read or listen to Hanson's book.

Amazon Charts

Best Seller



Kindle \$16.99 (Earn 51 pts) Earn a \$1.70 credit	 Audiobook 1 Credit Available instantly
Hardcover \$21.20 (Earn 22 pts) 	

MEET THE LONE WOLF:

ALEXANDRIA'S REPUBLICAN CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE

Celianna Gunderson

Republican Celianna Gunderson Announces Run for City Council

Gunderson will be running as a Republican for Alexandria City Council in the fall.

BY GRACE KENYON
MAY 28, 2024



An Alexandria Republican has announced a bid for city council. Celianna Gunderson has been a resident of Del Ray for about 10 years and has worked as an educator in Alexandria City Public Schools. She is a single-mother to two children (one in high school, the other an adult) and is the daughter of a U.S. Air Force member. She lived abroad much of her life, but she now works for a law firm in Alexandria.

According to her campaign website, she intends to focus on promoting school choice and affordability, “market-based solutions” to affordable housing, and “law and order” measures to address crime and public safety. Gunderson joins 11 Democrats and one Independent (Mason Butler) in the campaign for city council. The 11 Democrats will face a primary in June.

The question remains whether a Republican candidate can realistically be elected in a Democrat-dominant city. In Virginia, voters do not register with a party affiliation, so there are no official records of the number of Republicans in the region. However, voting results from the Virginia Dept. of Elections indicate that Republicans are in the minority in Alexandria.

In the presidential election in 2012, Republican candidate Mitt Romney received 27.9% of the votes cast in the City of Alexandria. In 2016, Republican presidential candidate Donald J. Trump received 18.8% of the votes. In 2020, President Trump received 18.1% of votes cast by city residents. In comparison, President Trump received 44.2% of votes in Virginia in 2020.

The Democratic primary election will take place on June 18, and the general election will be on November 4.

Alexandria CRWC is a local chapter of the Virginia Federation of Republican Women (VFRW) and the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW).



Photo Credit: Rich Snider from VoiceMap