

## Chatham County Democratic Party Weekly News Digest November 20, 2023

### Name the New CCDP Donkey!

CCDP just acquired our new four-foot-tall cardboard donkey to use at events around the County, and we're super-excited for the donkey to get a name! We don't know the donkey's gender, but we do know a good Democrat when we see one!

Please [Suggest A Name](#) by the end of the day on Saturday, December 16. We'll take final name submissions during the first half of CCDP's **Holiday Party at the CEC on Sunday, December 17, 2 - 6 PM at the Community Engagement Center** and will vote to choose a winner during the last hour of the party.

You don't have to be present at the party to win, so make sure to include your email address. The winning submission will be awarded a prize!

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### Take the CCDP Events Volunteer Survey!

Let's get ready for 2024!

**CCDP wants to do LOTS of events in 2024, and we're getting ready!  
Please help by:**

Step 1: Take our Events Volunteer Survey so we can find the best volunteer role for you!

#### [Events Volunteer Survey](#)

Step 2: Sign up for one of our Let's Get Ready! sessions. At this event, we'll review the results of this survey, describe CCDP's SIX event types, and describe the plan for events for 2024.

#### [Sign Up for a Let's Get Ready! Session](#)

We're looking forward to working with you!

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### Upcoming CCDP-Sponsored Events

**November 24, 2 - 2:30 p.m. – Events Team Orientation (weekly virtual event)**

CCDP puts on LOTS of events every year, and we have SIX different events teams to do it all! Join this weekly Zoom to talk about which events team (or teams!) is right for you!

After you sign up, you'll receive an email confirmation from Mobilize that will include the Zoom link.

Sign up at: [Events Team Orientation](#)

**December 2, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Training – Introduction to Voter Registration & Voter Education, CCDP Community Engagement Center, 628 East St, Pittsboro**

Get ready to register people to vote! This one-hour training will cover how to help people fill out a voter registration form and give you answers to questions newly registered voters are likely to ask.

This is a great way to prepare for working in the CCDP Community Engagement Center, greeting people at CCDP events, canvassing, and a variety of other volunteer activities.

Sign up at: [Training - Introduction to Voter Registration & Voter Education](#)

**December 3, 12 - 4 p.m. – Pittsboro First Sunday CCDP Tent - Goldston Precinct, 53 Hillsboro St, Pittsboro**

Volunteers are welcome to sign up for more than one of these time slots. The time slots are:

- 11:00 AM-1:00 PM: Equipment Carry, Set Up and Shift 1\*
- 1:00-3:00 PM: Shift 2
- 3:00-5:00 PM: Shift 3, Clean Up and Equipment Carry\*
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\*Equipment Carry people will move equipment and materials between CCDP's CEC in Pittsboro and the event venue in downtown Pittsboro. Please only volunteer if you have an SUV or pickup truck that you can carry folding chairs, tables, and other equipment in. The event coordinator will contact you before the event to arrange pickup and drop-off times.

Sign up at: [Pittsboro First Sunday CCDP Tent - Goldston Precinct](#)

**December 5, 6 - 9 p.m. – Volunteer at a CCDP Zoom Watch Party, CCDP Community Engagement Center, 628 East St, Pittsboro**

We need three events volunteers to: set up chairs, tables, and food; check in attendees; and clean up at a Zoom Watch Party on Tuesday, December 5 @ 6-9:00 PM. The event is "Chatham County African-American History" presented by Charles Johnson, Ph.D., Chair, Department of History at North Carolina Central University. The Fearington Democratic Club is hosting, and CCDP will connect via Zoom.

Sign up at: [Volunteer at a CCDP Zoom Watch Party](#)

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### Other Upcoming Events

**December 1, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., CORE Community Organizing Interest Meeting With IAF, 79 Degrees West Coworking Space & Innovation Hub, 120 Mosaic Blvd. 120, Pittsboro**

Join CORE with IAF to learn more about community organizing and the broad-based membership organization we're building here in Chatham County.

Sign up [here](#).

**December 6, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. – County to County Volunteer Appreciation Event, Carolina Brewery, 460 W Franklin St, Chapel Hill**

In appreciation for all you do, we hope you'll join us at the Carolina Brewery in Chapel Hill (460 W Franklin St, Chapel Hill, NC 27516) on Wednesday, December 6 from 5:30 - 7:30pm. Enjoy a beverage and light snacks on us as we review our accomplishments from 2023 and share our vision for 2024!

And bring a friend who is interested in joining our important work! (Please make sure they RSVP so we have enough).

County-to-County is an all-volunteer organization: C2C would simply not function without your time, energy, dedication, and passion. Thank you for all you do to further our mission to build county party infrastructure across NC and to elect Democratic legislators to the General Assembly.

Sign up at: [2023 Volunteer Appreciation Event · County to County Campaign, North Carolina](#)

**December 6, 7:30 p.m., Little Banned Book Club: Born on the Water (Virtual Event), Sponsored by Red, Wine & Blue**

Join us for Little Banned Book Club where we focus on children's books that are being targeted by extremists and being banned or challenged in communities across the country. Our discussion this month will be about The 1619 Project: Born on the Water. A book about a child who through a family tree assignment learns that her ancestors were brought to America as slaves. Together, we will read the book, talk about its impact and why some folks are up in arms about it.

Sign up at: [Little Banned Book Club: The 1619 Project: Born on the Water](#)

**December 12, 2 – 4 p.m., Board of Elections Regular Scheduled Meeting, Board of Elections Office, 984 Thompson Street, Suite D, Pittsboro**

The board meeting will be open to the public at the Board of Elections office; 984 Thompson Street, Suite D, Pittsboro, NC 27312 and online via GoToMeeting.

Meeting access information will be available to citizens prior to each meeting and available at the meeting.

To sign up to receive meeting notices click this link: <https://www.chathamnc.org/about-us/sign-up-for-e-notifier> .

Meeting Information:

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

<https://meet.goto.com/773064413>

**You can also dial in using your phone.**

Access Code: 773-064-413

United States: [+1 \(571\) 317-3122](tel:+15713173122)

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**News from the North Carolina Democratic Party**

[Candidate filing](#) opens December 4, 2023 and closes on December 15, 2023. If you are interested in running for office, fill out our [form](#) to get connected.

We are hiring! Check out [our openings](#) and share with anyone you think may be interested.

Thanks,  
Team NCDP

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**News from the Chatham Outreach Alliance (CORA)**

Our 5th Annual Turkey Tuesday was a HUGE success! Rebecca, Pam, the other members of the Food Drive Committee, and numerous volunteers deserve a big round of applause! ***(Editor's Note: CCDP provided all of the volunteers at the Briar Chapel Food Lion, and Barbara Pearman was the main CCDP coordinator.)***

We collected 1076 lbs of food from the Food Lion at Governors Club and 1396 lbs of food from the Food Lion at Briar Chapel. That included 187 turkeys and 10 hams, some of which were brought here to CORA.

We also served 102 families here at the Pantry (and 84 on Monday)! These numbers break all previous service records! And....it all went very smoothly! It takes a lot of work to get 102 families checked in, shopped, and loaded without any kinks!

Today, I'm so thankful for our staff and volunteers!

Best,  
Melissa Driver Beard  
Executive Director  
CORA

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## News from Neighbors on Call

Policy Updates for November 20, 2023:

### Fair Representation

- [The North Carolina Republican party issued a call for State Senator Lisa Grafstein \(D-Wake\) to resign her seat after her announcement that she is moving to seek re-election in the newly created Senate District 13.](#)

Republicans had drawn the new maps so that Grafstein lived in the same district as fellow Democrat Jay Chaudhri (a process called “double-bunking”), and Grafstein announced her plan to move in response. Republicans say that she can’t continue to serve her current district while living outside it, but Grafstein said she does not intend to step down.

### Voting Rights

- [On Tuesday a federal court heard a case in which voting rights advocates argued that people on felony probation should not be charged with a felony if they illegally register to vote because they did not know it was illegal.](#)

Because the laws have changed so much recently, people who have finished serving felony sentences are confused about their voting eligibility even when they are eligible, according to a lawyer for the Southern Coalition for Social Justice. State leaders and the Magistrate Judge hearing the case pointed out that, in general, ignorance of the law is not an excuse.

### Health Care Policy

- [How the state spent \\$1.6 billion in federal Medicaid incentives: When North Carolina agreed to expand Medicaid this year, it came with a special sweetener from the federal government--a signing bonus of \\$1.6 billion. Lawmakers could spend it on whatever they wanted. So where did it go? – Laura Leslie, WRAL News](#)
- [On Wednesday the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services announced new Medicaid reimbursement rates for behavioral health care.](#) This is the first behavioral health care Medicaid reimbursement rate increase in the state since 2012, and the new rates will apply to most Medicaid-covered mental health treatments, substance use disorder, services for patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and services for patients living

with traumatic brain injury. As NC Sen. Sydney Batch pointed out, behavioral health care has historically been reimbursed at much lower rates than physical health care, which has led to a shortage of providers.

### **Gun Violence Prevention**

- [On Wednesday the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission met to review proposed rule changes for concealed carry permit training](#). Among the rules the commission approved were that training must take place in person and that all people participating in a training must be given a copy of the state-approved training manual. The commission is part of the NC Department of Justice, which is led by Attorney General Josh Stein. NC's Rules Reviews Commission will now review the approved rules changes.

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### **News from NC Congressman Jeff Jackson**

We narrowly averted a government shutdown this week.

That's kind of normal at this point, but here's the interesting part: The way we did it was by doing almost the exact same thing that got the last Speaker fired. We passed a temporary budget for the next couple months.

So, the question is, will that get the new Speaker fired?

I don't think so, and here's why: It's true that he really upset his right-flank. I watched on the House floor while they yelled about it, and now they're on TV threatening to fire him. But I don't think they'll actually do it because if they do, he'll probably be replaced by someone less conservative.

The new Speaker is very conservative, but there are still about 30 members to his right, so it's not like more conservative options don't exist - I just don't think any of them could win an election for Speaker. Last month during the big Speaker fight, what the majority party was basically doing was finding the most conservative member they could all agree on, and they found this guy. If they throw him out, they'll get someone closer to the center, and they don't want that.

So, as weird as it sounds, there's a chance that electing a very conservative Speaker might have unlocked the potential for more bipartisanship. His right-flank won't like it, but he can look at them and say, "You'll like the next guy even less," and it's true.

Some flexibility to negotiate is good news for the Speaker, but here's the bad news: We're probably about to kick Rep. George Santos out of Congress.

Last time you heard from me, I told you I had just voted against kicking him out because he hadn't received due process yet. But I also told you that we were about to get the

final report from the ethics investigation into him, and when that happened, he would have gotten his due process.

And that's exactly what happened. The report came out this week and it is absolutely damning. Among many other violations, he was also spending campaign money on botox, Hermes clothing, and an OnlyFans account. (You should read the report - it's wild.)

We're gone until after Thanksgiving but something tells me the first order of business when we get back will be kicking him out of Congress. When that happens, it will take a very narrow margin for the Speaker and make it even more narrow. A margin of just a few votes is a nightmare for any Speaker, but definitely one whose flank is comfortable taking down your whole agenda.

Which is exactly what's happened so far this term. The truth is, we've gotten practically nothing done all year. All we've really done is narrowly avoid one default and two shutdowns. Why? Because for anything real to happen, it has to be bipartisan. One party controls the House, another controls the Senate. Anything that isn't bipartisan is dead.

Which means we need a Speaker who has the leverage to actually do some deals, and it's possible - at least, remotely possible - that the majority party may have accidentally enabled that by electing someone so conservative to the top job. That would be a very unlikely outcome of the Speaker Wars, but it's possible.

### **Quantumania (congressional edition)**

I'm pretty happy about this. Last week, I told you I got an amendment about the weather radar gap in Charlotte passed in committee. That's good for my district, but isn't exactly of huge national concern.

This week, I got another amendment passed. It's wider in scope.

Short version:

Quantum computers are going to change the world. Very few currently exist, but we expect their number and their power to grow considerably over this decade.

One of the dangers is that - in theory - quantum computers could render all of our passwords obsolete.

How? Well, I just can't stress to you enough how powerful these computers will be. We're talking an orders-of-magnitude difference between them and whatever you're using to read this email, and the mathematicians tell us this will create a major crypto-security problem.

So, I joined with a member of the other party and we filed a bill to try and get ahead of this by taking a coordinating approach within government agencies. Our bill became an amendment and our amendment was included - after a unanimous vote in the science committee - in another bill that was in our committee this week.

This isn't a save-the-world thing. It's a normal, do-your-job thing. And it will make precisely zero headlines. But it's basically the kind of approach we should want to see more of in Congress: Stay practical, find some common ground, move forward, repeat, repeat, repeat. Certainly, the opposite of throwing elbows in the hallway and threatening violence against testifying witnesses, both of which also happened this week, as I imagine many of you saw on the news.

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### **Selected News and Opinion Stories of Note**

**Anderson Alerts:** [NC Voters File Lawsuit Challenging Newly Enacted State Senate Map](#)

**Anderson Alerts:** [Cotham to run for state House reelection, avoid contested congressional primary](#)

**Axios:** [National Democrats eye big spending on N.C. legislature](#)

**Cardinal & Pine:** [North Carolina: The 'most gerrymandered state in the country.'](#)

**Cardinal & Pine:** [Two years in, here's what Biden's infrastructure law has done for North Carolina](#)

**Cardinal & Pine:** [Moms for Liberty's far-right agenda rejected by voters](#)

**Cardinal & Pine:** [Racial disparities in student arrests are getting worse in NC, study shows'](#)

**Cardinal & Pine:** [Trump wants to use internment camps and calls opponents 'vermin,' evoking Hitler and Mussolini](#)

**Cardinal & Pine:** [NC Supreme Court Candidate Jefferson Griffin Uses Anti-Abortion Rhetoric](#)

**Charlotte Observer:** [NC should allow a ballot initiative like Ohio's on abortion](#)

**Carolina Public Press:** [COVID, flu and RSV are all circulating. Plan your vaccines for healthy holidays](#)

**Hopium Chronicles:** [Productive Biden-Xi Meeting, Winning North Carolina, Saying Thank You, Trump and Moscow](#)



Hopium Chronicles: [Biden: More Freedom or Less Freedom, "So Do The Right Thing," 48m Dem Jobs](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Some Prices Are Coming Down, The General Election Has Begun, Elon Musk Is A White Supremacist](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Prices Did Not Rise Last Month, 2023 Was A Very Good Year for Dems, Young Americans Back Biden's Handling of Gaza Conflict](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Biden Meets Xi, Inflation Was ZERO Last Month, Abortion, Treason and Mass Deportation](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [My Conversation With Amir Tibon About the Israel-Hamas War – A View from Inside Israel](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Why I Am Optimistic About 2024, Biden's Age, Univision's Shame, The Insurrection Never Ended](#)

INDY Week: [Triangle Cities and Towns Score High in LGBTQ Equality, Despite State Laws](#)

Lucid: [Why Do Authoritarians Appeal to People, and Does Trump Study Other Autocrats?](#)

Lucid: [Trump's Latest Speech Echoes Fascist Rhetoric](#)

NC Health News: [Migrant worker's death prompts calls for extreme heat labor protections](#)

NC Health News: [New numbers reveal ongoing impact of NC abortion restrictions](#)

NC Health News: [Lawmakers: Bridge partisan divide to make better health policy](#)

NC Health News: [North Carolina Gears Up for Challenges Ahead of Medicaid Expansion on Dec. 1](#)

NC Health News: [NC Raising Medicaid Rates for Behavioral Health Providers for the First Time Since 2012](#)

NC Newslines: [Casualties of the Culture Wars](#)

NC Newslines: [Immigrant Families in NC Face Barriers to Enrollment in Safety-Net Programs](#)

NC Newslines: [New Study Looks at “Return on Investment” of a UNC System Education](#)

NPR: [How abortion rights could impact the 2024 presidential election](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Opinion | Congress Isn’t a Schoolyard. Time to Deal With Toxic Immaturity](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Opinion | Rumbles in the Senate and the Supreme Court — and the Movie You’ll Never See](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Opinion | Trump Wants Us to Know He Will Stop at Nothing in 2025](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Democrats Plan to Spend Millions to Weaken Republican Supermajorities](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Opinion | The War in Gaza Is Splintering the Democratic Party](#)

NY Times (May require subscription): [Opinion | Antisemitism Cracks Open on the New Right](#)

Politico: [Here’s How Biden Can Turn It Around](#)

The Assembly NC: [Up and Atom?](#)

The Assembly NC: [The Poverty Trap](#)

Washington Post (May require subscription): [Opinion | When Trump threatens to punish his enemies as president, believe him](#)

WRAL: [More than 526,000 NC taxpayers given incorrect tax bills](#)