

Francestown **D**emocratic **C**ommittee



“Providing a forum for like minded residents to come together about issues important to them at the local, state, and national levels.”

Sue Jonas, Chair, 547-3432
(suejonas@hotmail.com)

Eric Rasmussen, Vice Chair, 661-2449
(eric@francestowndems.org)

Ted Graham, Secretary, 547-2548
(graham.ted@gmail.com)

Jim Bosman, Treasurer, 547-8945
(jimbosman@me.com)

NH State Representatives

- Carol Roberts, D4 - Dem
(carolrose.roberts@gmail.com)
- Kermit Williams, D4 - Dem
(kermit.williams@gmail.com)
- Dick McNamara, D38 - Dem
(richard.McNamara@leg.state.nh.us)
- John Valera, D38 - Rep
(john.Valera@leg.state.nh.us)

NH State Senator

- Ruth Ward, D8 - Rep
(ruthward@myfairpoint.net)

Executive Councilor

- David Wheeler, D5 - Rep
(david.Wheeler@nh.gov)

Website: francestowndems.org

FDC **QUARTERLY**



Spring 2018

Editors: Heidi Dawidoff, Jim Bosman

FROM U.S. REP. ANNE KUSTER

I want to share with the Francestown voters the status of the Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. You will be pleased to know I am a strong supporter of DACA.

I am deeply disappointed by President Trump's decision to end DACA, which allows people brought to the United States as children the opportunity to work legally and live without fear of deportation. The young people protected by DACA are contributing to our nation in countless ways: they are serving in our military, paying taxes, and helping to create jobs and grow our economy. Diversity strengthens our fabric as a nation, and this ill-advised decision is nothing more than political pandering that will hurt real people and families. The United States made a pledge to Dreamers that by registering for DACA they would be protected from deportation. President Trump's decision to go back on that promise is heartless and inexcusable.

I vehemently reject vilifying or singling-out immigrants based on their religious beliefs or cultural heritage. I remain committed to working with Republicans and Democrats to support policies that will make our immigration

system more fair and inclusive for people who wish to weave themselves into our rich national fabric. Congress must act as soon as possible to reform our broken immigration system and extend protections to Dreamers across the country, including the hundreds in New Hampshire. I have repeatedly called on Speaker Paul Ryan to bring a clean DACA bill to the floor.

You might be interested to know that I am a cosponsor of H.R. 3440 the Dream Act of 2017. This bipartisan legislation, introduced by Congresswoman Roybal-Allard, would protect all DACA participants from deportation and allow them to continue strengthening our nation. I am proud of our heritage as a nation of immigrants. As your Representative in Congress, I will continue advocating to ensure that people who work hard and play by the rules are afforded equal opportunity to achieve the American dream.

I strive to maintain an open dialogue with the people of New Hampshire about issues important to our district. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my Concord office at [\(603\) 226-1002](tel:6032261002) or my Washington, DC office at [\(202\) 225-5206](tel:2022255206). I also encourage you to sign up for my e-newsletter at <http://Kuster.house.gov/contact/newsletter>, visit my website at <http://Kuster.house.gov>, follow me on Twitter at @RepAnnieKuster, or check out my Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/CongresswomanAnnieKuster>.

Sincerely,



COMMUNITY SUPPER



Please attend the Community Supper being served in the Fellowship Hall of the Francestown Community Church, April 5th, starting at 5:30pm. An Italian themed meal will be served by the Francestown Democratic Committee to benefit the Peterborough Food Pantry and FCC Outreach, which help feed local families lacking a secure supply of nutritious food. **PLEASE BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM** with you to place in the donation boxes that will be set up in the Hall.

The Peterborough Food Pantry serves residents living in every town in the ConVal, Jaffrey-Rindge, and Mascenic school districts. It is located in the Peterborough Community Center at 25 Elm Street (tel. 924-3008.) Open from 9am to 12 noon, Monday through Friday, it serves over 200 eligible families that come in regularly to select their food from the shelves stocked with non-perishables. The number of regular, weekly visitors to the Pantry has quite noticeably been increasing steadily. Additionally, there has been a rise in the number of Veterans, seniors, and individuals who have temporarily fallen upon hard times, requesting food to tide them over for a few weeks. No one who is hungry is ever turned away. Volunteers working at the Pantry help enroll visitors and can provide useful information about SNAP ("food stamp" EBT cards), and other forms of assistance.


The PFP also provides food to the "End 68 Hours of Hunger" program, operating out of the SAU on Route 202N. Every Friday afternoon, volunteers bag up and distribute food to over

170 students to cover their nutritional needs. Their needs, over the period of time stretching between their subsidized school lunch on Friday and their subsidized school breakfast on Monday, cannot be met by their own families.

Lori Way- Hardwick, through FCC Outreach, provides cooked meals year- round to Francestown families and distributes fresh, healthy, ingredients during the growing season, to those who would benefit from nutritional support. Please contact Lori, this summer, if you have garden produce that you can contribute to her Gleaning Project.

In the midst of plenty, pockets of hunger and dire need may go unnoticed within our community. Please share what you can, with a contribution of food or funds on April 5th. Spread the word, and bring your friends, to help support a worthy cause.

- Sue Jonas



**Keep up with all the news and
events at our website:
francetowndems.org**

STAND UP

Democrats in Congress have known close to ten years now of being outnumbered and/or stubbornly met with Republican refusal to work together or even to consider a single Democrat's bill offered for consideration. Imagine letting the country go for almost a year without a ninth justice on the Supreme Court because the Senate majority leader wanted to block the sitting president from exercising his

presidential obligation and authority. Such a situation has naturally had a demoralizing effect on Democrats, which has led to a most unfortunate further effect: Democrats keeping quiet, not proclaiming their beliefs, and not even grandly going down in the flames of heroic defeat. It's no wonder, then, that voters claim they don't know what Democrats stand for and believe their representatives likewise don't know what they stand for. Republicans, by contrast, have been making plenty of noise, have beguiled voters into believing they have a clarity of ideas when it's obvious that they are a fractured, befuddled, completely incompetent party who, with full control of our government, have no idea how to govern. Besides helping the rich, their thinking amounts only to undoing what others have built up.

Democrats in office have not forgotten what they stand for. They have forgotten how to speak out. They need to shake off demoralization and do what Democrats do so well: proclaim their ideas and get out and act on them. Democrats know that they stand for universal health care, affordable education, citizenship for Dreamers, for economic policies that create jobs, for instance, through building projects that improve roads, bridges, airports, railroads to benefit us all.

Journalist Michael Kruse visited people in small western towns of Pennsylvania, people who had voted for Donald Trump, who know that he is not and probably won't be helping them, and yet who still support him because in their miserable unemployment, in their loss of children to heroin, in their terrible hopelessness at least he validates their rage. These are situations that Democrats know how to remedy because

Democrats believe in helping those who need help, in making life better for Americans, in building and creating.

If our representatives and senators in Washington find the Republicans adamantly opposed to working cooperatively, they, Democrats will have to organize in their states and towns, raising money privately, if necessary, and appealing to volunteers. There are plenty of retired people who have long futures ahead of them and who will be glad to put in some hours of work. It's a fact that volunteering is a specifically and intrinsically American virtue, evidence of our confidence, practical know-how, can-do spirit, and generosity. In the shameful neglect that devastated Puerto Rico, Amurtel North America raises money for batteries to bring electric power to houses on the island. In those towns Michael Kruse visited, where people are living on the edge and boiling in anger, Democrats need to set up shops staffed by teachers, technicians, engineers who can give their time to train those hopeless people to do the jobs that are crying for employees. In those towns where their hopeless children are dying from drugs, Democrats need to set up clinics staffed by medical personnel. Politicians will have to organize good, safe work places for such endeavors.

Democrats in Congress should now be proud and eager to follow the stirring, impassioned, and effective example of first Florida's and now the nation's high school students in their bold campaigns to achieve exactly what Democrats stand for: sensible, essential gun-control legislation. The Young Democrats are the fastest growing arm of the Democratic party. They are an inspiration to the rest of us.

Democrats have a history of bold action driven by bold, workable ideas. Now they need to get moving – to fight for whatever they can get from Congress and hastily move out on their own to show voters what they stand for by acting on what they stand for.

- Heidi Dawidoff

TAKE ACTION

- **Ask a friend or neighbor to register to vote**
- **Ask a non-voter to promise to vote**
- **Know the candidates and issues**
- **Volunteer to Get Out The Vote**

Contested races in Nov:

- **U.S. House**
- **NH Governor**
- **NH Executive Council**
- **NH Representative**
- **NH Senate**

STEVE MARCHAND ON GUN VIOLENCE

It is possible to respect the Second Amendment and meaningfully reduce gun violence; indeed, we have a responsibility to do so. Whether due to suicide, mass shootings, homicide, or domestic violence, gun deaths destroy the lives of individuals and their loved ones, threaten our sense of community and safety, and steal the innocence of our youth. Our next governor must have both the competence to observe what works, and the courage to act on it. I will, and here's how:

1. Universal Background Checks. Currently, background checks are required only for

licensed dealers for handguns and long guns; private sales are not subject to background checks at either the state or federal level. We should require background checks for *all* transfers of firearms, including private transfers. In addition, New Hampshire should assure that its background check includes those who commit domestic violence, hate crimes, and those with a demonstrated history of harming themselves.

2. Red Flag Laws. In a number of states, mental illness, escalating threats, substance abuse, and domestic violence, are some of the circumstances under which a judge can order weapons restrictions. Family members, guardians, and law enforcement officials may ask the courts for such a temporary restriction where warning signs of violence are present.

3. 48-Hour Waiting Period. Particularly in the area of gun-related suicide, states which have instituted a short-term waiting period before a firearm can be transferred have seen meaningful decreases in such suicide attempts. Almost two-thirds of gun deaths in the U.S. are due to suicide, largely because of the lethal nature of firearms. Data show that 90% of suicide attempts involving a discharged firearm lead to death; in contrast, only 2% of drug-related suicide attempts lead to death. In states with such waiting periods, there are 51% fewer gun-related suicides, and 27% fewer suicides, overall. It also allows comprehensive background checks to take place in a more consistent, orderly, reliable fashion.

4. Ban on military-style semi-automatic weapons. In most mass shootings, AR-15s, or other military-style semi-automatic weapons,

are the weapons of choice. They are designed to kill humans quickly, and can easily fire 30 to 60 shots per minute. Ideally, such a ban would occur at the federal level, as it did until the law expired in 2004. However, in light of the unique level of mass shootings in America, a growing number of states are taking the matter into their own hands while urging the federal government to act.

5. Banning Bump Stocks. Simply put, the purpose of bump stocks is to effectively turn semi-automatic weapons into automatic weapons. If the federal government will not act to ban bump stocks, states (including New Hampshire) should.

6. Empower local communities to disallow firearms on school grounds. In 2003, New Hampshire sought to ban local governments (including school boards) from determining whether or not firearms would be allowed on school grounds. Federal law already disallows students from carrying firearms on school property - but it leaves the decision about adults (educators, administrators, or visitors) to local governments. The 2003 law, however, took that decision out of the hands of local government, telling local government they *must* allow adults to carry firearms on school grounds. Instead, we should give local communities the power to make this important decision for their local schools.

7. Licensing for Concealed-Carry. The first bill that Governor Sununu signed in early 2017 repealed the permitting process through local police chiefs in order to carry a concealed gun. Although very few requests for the concealed-carry license were denied, it provided an

important layer of background checks at the local level, and it should be restored.

- Steve Marchand

THE SCHOOL VOUCHER BILL

SB 193, by whatever name, is designed to provide funds to students of private, church-sponsored or home schools. The House Finance Committee is currently reviewing this bill for its potential costs to the taxpayers, that is, making up the losses to local school districts. While comments to the Finance Committee should relate to finance, there is another, not publicly discussed reason, for not passing this bill.

The big issue currently is whether the Finance Committee in Concord is going to provide adequate state replacement funds to cover the financial loss that school districts will experience for each student that withdraws from public school and requests an Educational Scholarship paid for by a fund created from taxpayers' money. The committee members and the Department of Education cannot agree on the following: the projected number of students who will request the scholarships; the possible financial impact on all school districts; and what the rate of funding should be to cushion the impact.

There is a hearing and work session scheduled for the Committee on April 4 at 10 a.m. in Concord. Those that are interested in providing commentary should write to the Chair and Committee members beforehand or attend.

Chairman Neal Kurk and Committee Members:
HouseFinanceCommittee@leg.state.nh.us

- Steve Griffin

Dates to Remember

- ▶ 28 Mar - Humane Society Lobby Day
- ▶ 5 Apr - Community Supper at FCC
- ▶ 14 Apr - FDC Mtg - Library 10:00 a.m.
- ▶ 22 Apr - Hillsborough Conf, GOTV
- ▶ 11 Sept - Primary Election Day
- ▶ 6 Nov - General Election

THE YOUNG VOTER

What do the Civil Rights, LGBTQ, Occupy Wall Street, Black Lives Matter, Arab Spring, and Gun Control movements have in common? They all had young people at the forefront. They all used the media tools of their time to amplify voices and stories. They all shunned political labels and gravitated toward messages of ideas, principles, and values.

The 2016 Presidential Campaigns saw Generation Y, or the Millennials, align themselves with progressive, left-leaning ideas. More than 80% of voters under 30 years old voted for Bernie Sanders, a democratic socialist far outside the mainstream Democratic Party.

Young people have an aversion to the established order and labels. Their overwhelming support for Obama was the most any young cohort has leaned toward a Democrat since 1972. However, the failed promise of a consensus government and the assumption that a college education would automatically lead to middle-class comforts left them disappointed.

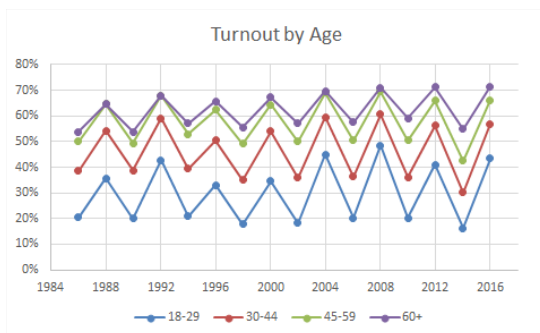
Young people have been financially punished during the past decade. Occupy Wall Street showed us the recovery has been extraordinary for the stock market and disappointing for the labor market. Corporate profits have soared while labor's share of the national income has

reached a modern day low. Every young person feels that inequity.

The youth of today know that America needs a moral rebirth in addition to an economic readjustment. The Black Lives Matter movement exposed a long-festered moral blight. The movement's title is a statement of obviousness, exposing a historical ugliness that is being proclaimed to the national consciousness.

Young adults are coming of age in a time when the political system is looking paralyzed and partisan. They want to believe that it's all going to work out in the end, but their optimism is hard to maintain in the face of real economic hardships and a moral vacuum in political leadership.

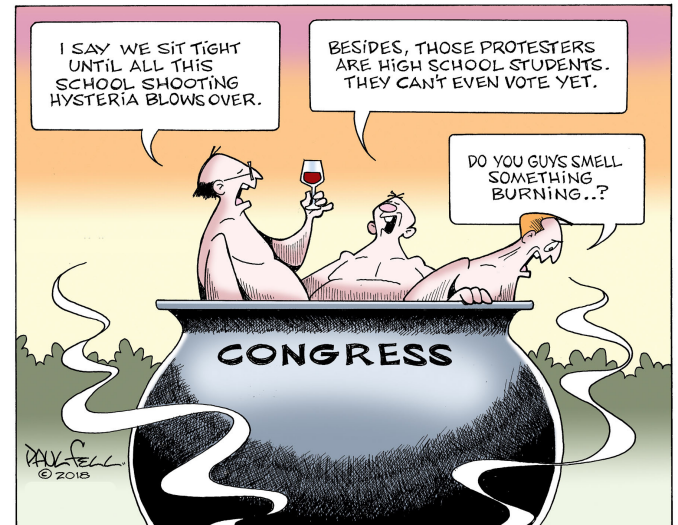
Generations Y and Z are the largest, most liberal generations in American history. But there is a problem – they don't vote. The number of Gen Y/Z citizens now exceeds the number of Baby Boomers, but fewer than 45% of young people vote compared to over 70% of the Boomers. The Y/Z citizens make a lot of noise, but as politicians know – they don't vote.



Young people avoid electoral politics like the plague. But if you want a change, you have to vote for it. Not just every four years. Not just for cool candidates. Not just for political outsiders.

If young people want a liberal revolution, they have to vote - again and again and again. To change the country, America's young people have to vote like old people.

- Jim Bosman



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COMMUNITY SUPPER
APR 5 AT 5:30**



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