



## January 2024

Visit [qacdems.org](http://qacdems.org)!

### Next Membership Meeting

The next membership meeting will be folded into a January Discussion Forum on **Tuesday, January 16th at Kent Island Public Library**. The broad topic will be ***Developing Engaged Young Voters in a Time of Political Conflict***. Our panel are active young adult voters and the event will be facilitated by Dr. Merle Schwartz. This will be the first of a 3-part forum series, with the following two forums focused on women's health and the environment.

If you would like to help us plan for one of the following forums, please contact Merle Schwartz, [merleschwartz@me.com](mailto:merleschwartz@me.com). These small planning teams will be minimal time commitments for a short period of time. They will be fun and important!

**You can register to  
vote at this event!**

## **A Public Forum Series: DEVELOPING ENGAGED YOUNG VOTERS IN A TIME OF POLITICAL CONFLICT**

How have our young voters learned to be responsible, informed, and engaged citizens?

For soon-to-be voters and experienced voters.

**January 16, 2024, 7PM**

**Kent Island Public Library**

While sponsored by the QAC Democratic Club, this event is not presenting Democratic or Republican political party beliefs.



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## Let's Meet Up!

### Coffee Social

**January 20th** at the Lovely Little Coffee Shop, 10 am to noon, 430 Outlet Center Dr., Queenstown, MD. This is near the Gap outlet store. Conversation with fellow Democrats. Wear something BLUE!

### Trivia Night Dem Fun

**January 18th** at Rams Head Shore House, 7 pm, 800 Main St., Stevensville, MD. This is an informal drop-in event

# Lend a Hand

## Join our Planning Committee (Board)!

We have openings for our 2024 QAC Democratic Club Planning Group (Board). It's a small but mighty group. With the 2024 election approaching, we could use additional members to help us think through events. We do a mix of political and social efforts, and have lots of fun in the process. Please connect with Andrea Alduino ([4hgsleader@gmail.com](mailto:4hgsleader@gmail.com)) or Merle Schwartz ([merleschwartz@me.com](mailto:merleschwartz@me.com)).

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## It's Political!

### Maryland Democratic Party Event: Rural Urban Divide Training with Anthony Flaccavento of RUBI, Inc.

*Join this ZOOM event on January 6th from 10am - 12:30pm EST*

This training is sponsored by the Maryland Democratic Party and coordinated by its Rural Communities Committee. It is available at no charge to any rural Maryland Democrat.

The Rural Urban Divide (RUD) training provides a concise but deep dive into the underlying causes of the rural urban divide and what progressives, liberals and Democrats can do to begin to overcome it. Developed by the Rural Urban Bridge Initiative, or RUBI, the RUD training brings together extensive research and a wide range of hands-on experience that enables participants to engage with rural people more productively and effectively. The RUD training has been done more than 50 times with nearly 3000 participants, from local Democratic Committees to state-wide and national progressive organizations.

For more information on RUBI, please see it's website at <https://ruralurbanbridge.org/>

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# Editorial: Way Better with Democrats

By a QAC Democratic Club Board Member

By many accounts, the 2023 Congress, with a Republican-led House of Representatives, did not deliver for the country. [118th Congress to be most unproductive in modern history \(axios.com\)](#); [U.S. Congress Had Its Least Productive Year in Modern History \(people.com\)](#); [118th Congress to be the most unproductive in decades : NPR](#); [Opinion | Worst. Congress. Ever. - The Washington Post](#).

Even Maryland's Republican First Congressional District Representative, Andy Harris, seems to have had to stretch to give things a positive spin. In a year-end message to constituents, his very short list of House Republican "achievements" included trying to tie a substantial reduction in Internal Revenue Service staffing to aid for Israel. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6126?s=1&r=4&q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22israel+aid%22%7D>

The Congressman also listed the House of Representative's passing of H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, without any democratic support, and H.R.5, a "parental rights" bill, again without any democratic support.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2>, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5>. Both bills were subject to heavy criticism. H.R. 2 did not resolve hugely complicated border issues ([SAP H.R. 2 Secure the Border Act of 2023 \(whitehouse.gov\)](#)). H.R. 5 would burden teachers and schools. (<https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/action-center/letters-testimony/nea-urges-no-vote-parents-bill-rights-act-hr-5>; [Statement of Administration Policy \(whitehouse.gov\)](#).)

As the country begins the 2024 election year, voters should remember the puny record of the 2023 Congress. Given the media environment they will not be able to avoid the vicissitudes of the multiple Trump trials and the breathless reporting of every publicity seeking statement the former president makes. Hopefully, voters will recognize that facts and words matter, that every vote counts and that democracy is fragile.

But voters should also be reminded of and given a chance to focus on the remarkable record of the Biden-Harris administration during objectively challenging times. A summary of the record can be found at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/therecord/>. The record includes and is not limited to: protecting a decent economy in a complicated and inter-related world, measures to rebuild infrastructure in the United States, protecting the environment, permitting Medicare to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies so that drug costs can finally be lowered, executive orders to protect reproductive rights, strengthening foreign alliances so that America doesn't have to go it alone and for the benefit of the American people, the first meaningful gun violence reduction measures in 30 years, getting more people health insurance than ever before and dealing with student debt.

All of these are complicated issues and folks can debate about whether more (or less) could or should have been done. But ultimately, the Biden-Harris administration got things done. Obviously, there is way more to do. Democrats should be vigilant in their efforts to remind voters how much got done, how much better the country is because of it, and that – based on the record - the country will be way better off with a President who is a Democrat and a Senate and House of Representatives led by Democrats.

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## Support the Cause

### Help Us Find New Members

Share our website with friends! <http://qacdems.org>

### *Renew Your Membership Today!*

We still have much to do to turn the tide blue right here in Queen Anne's County. Let us continue the course TOGETHER to build a solid foundation for future elections.

We hope that you will continue to support our Democratic Club to fight for justice, equality, and opportunity by renewing your [membership](#) in the Democratic Club of Queen Anne's County or joining for the first time. Your dues help to cover the Club's outreach efforts, special events, materials, printing, and postage. Annual dues are only \$35/household, \$20/individual, or \$10/student.

Renew at <http://qacdems.org>

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# Donate today.

**Set up a *recurring donation* through  
**ActBlue** to help support the  
**Queen Anne's County Democrats.****

Recurring donations help us keep our *county headquarters*, lend support to local *democratic activities*, and maintain a *presence in our community*.

**Any amount will help! Visit [qacdems.org](http://qacdems.org)**

**ActBlue**



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## Our Legislators

[Ben Cardin](#)

U.S. Senator

[Chris Van Hollen](#)

U.S. Senator

[Andy Harris, MD](#)

U.S. Representative

[Steve Hershey](#)

Maryland State Senator

[Steven Arentz](#)

Maryland State Delegate

[Jefferson Ghrist](#)

Maryland State Delegate

[Jay Jacobs](#)

Maryland State Delegate

## QAC Democratic Club Board

Andrea Alduino - Co President

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