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## April 2025

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

### Quick Peek at What's Coming Up

#### April

- 1st - Action Group meeting at the Dem office, 121 Clay Dr., Queenstown, 6:30 PM
- 5th - National Day of Action March on DC; Gathering in Chestertown
- 16th - QAC Democratic Club Membership Meeting, 7 PM - 8:30 PM, Kent Island Library
- 17th - "Good Trouble" meeting

#### May

- 17th - Women's Luncheon, El Jefe Restaurant, save the date
- 21st - QAC Democratic Club Membership Meeting, 7 - 8:30 PM, Kent Island Libra

### Next membership Meeting April 16th, 7 PM

Please mark your calendars and join us for a lively examination and discussion

about the latest political news and opposition needs. We'll be at the Kent Island Public Library.

For more information, or to make a hot topic suggestion, contact Merle Schwartz [merleschwartz@me.com](mailto:merleschwartz@me.com), or Andrea Alduino [4hgsleader@gmail.com](mailto:4hgsleader@gmail.com).

## Recent Events

### Membership Meeting March 19th, 2025: Discussion about the Department of Education, Social Security, Medicaid, and Measles/Vaccinations

Our March membership meeting was lively and serious at the same time. People want to be involved and we discussed the need for folks to step up as they can, help us with ideas and organization for our opposition, and help us solve the problem of getting the word out quickly when an event is going down that requires us to take a stand.

We looked at four pressing concerns at the federal level right now that may have far-reaching implications. Here are some highlights:

#### **Department of Education (DOE)**

The dismantling of the DOE will disproportionately target financial aid, civil rights, and education research teams. Legal guidance and guardrails (compliance) will not be in place to guarantee that the federal money is being used to help the most vulnerable children as it was intended to- Title 1, low income students, and IDEA, students with disabilities.

#### **Social Security**

73 [million retired and disabled Americans](#) will receive Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or both in 2025, according to the Social Security Administration, with nearly \$1.6 trillion in benefits paid out annually. The Project 2025 plan for Social Security is to Increase full retirement age to 69 (from 67) cutting benefits for ¾ of Americans, threatening low- and middle- income workers, especially women (who tend to live longer) with economic insecurity after they leave the workforce. Problems with benefits will be harder to resolve. Long wait times on the phone and delayed resolutions will be more common. Initiation of Social Security benefits for new applicants will be delayed.

#### **Medicaid**

Medicaid is a federal/state public health program that provides medical assistance to eligible low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults, and people with disabilities. The federal share of Maryland Medicaid for FY 2025 is roughly 50%. Maryland reports that nearly one in four Marylanders get their health insurance

through some form of Medicaid. Half of those covered are children.

The Concurrent Resolution directs the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Medicaid program, to submit changes in laws to reduce the deficit by not less than \$880,000,000,000 for the period 2025-2034. The Congressional Budget Office advises that mandatory spending for programs that are under the jurisdiction of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, excluding Medicare, total 8.8 Trillion for the 2025-2034 period. Medicaid outlays account for 93 percent of that amount or \$8.2 Trillion.

It's just math: how can the Republican proposed reductions be made without going after Medicaid assuming Medicare is off the table?

### **Questions and Concerns about Vaccinations**

- Where do we obtain Reliable Health/vaccination information?
- Will Medicaid/Medicare continue to cover vaccinations?
- Are local, state, and federal governments tracking and reporting of outbreaks of diseases?
- Do families have access to RELIABLE/VALID information through medical doctors and internet sites?



*Photos from Dem Club Membership Meeting, March 19th, 2025*



## Coffee Meetup, March 29, at A Little Lovely Coffee House, Queenstown

The first 2025 Coffee Meetup took place on Saturday, March 29th

**Club members gathered at The Little Lovely Coffee House on 3/29/25 for a morning of spirited discussion, camaraderie, and connection with like-minded concerned citizens. The coffee was delish and the company was wonderful!**





## Action Group Update

The Action Group met on March 13th. The following are highlights of actions the group is supporting:

- Holding a town hall with special speakers. Inviting Andy Harris and highlighting his absence.
- Jamie Raskin has recommended that all US citizens submit a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request for all of their social security information (from DOGE) Go to [Here](#) - it will need to be printed out and signed.

### **Make it hurt dates:**

April 7-14 - Boycott Walmart

April 18 - 2nd Economic Blackout

April 21-28 - Boycott General Mills

Please join us at our next meeting, April 1st, at the Dem office, 121 Clay Dr., Queenstown.

## Upcoming Events



# QAC Democratic Central Committee (DCC)

## DCC Events

Stay tuned to QA Dems, our private group on Facebook. You can post there and avoid the trolls. We understand if you are no longer on Facebook.

- First Saturday Open House - 10 AM - 1 PM. Coffee and pastries at the Dem Office (121 Clay Drive). Bring questions and comments to today's issues.
- Every Tuesday at 10 AM - 12:30 PM. Discuss Events by request. Want to run for office? Have an issue? A solution?
- Saturday April 5th Day Of Action Hands Off: Gathering in Chestertown (357 High St) from 9:30-12, making signs and walking during the Farmer's Market
- Monday April 14th Dem Central Committee meeting 6:30 PM at Dem office
- Thursday April 24th "Good Trouble" Meeting If you missed the Town Hall, this will feature Tamara Robinson back by popular demand Location TBD (pending speaker)
- Tuesday April 22 (at Dem office) 2025-2026 CANDIDATE TRAINING at 6:30 PM
- Save the Date May 17th for Women's Luncheon (men welcome). El Jefe. Details coming on speaker.



Thank you to all who attended the events this month. We had folks at **marches** and demonstrations in Easton, Annapolis, Cambridge, and DC. There were lively discussions at our **First Saturday Open House** and at the **Kent Island Library Town Hall**. The busy month continued with a **Buffet Breakfast at Cult Classic** on Sunday, March 16th where we gathered to begin encouraging candidates for Municipal Elections in 2025 and Gubernatorial 2026.



*Breakfast at Cult Classic with a panel to encourage people to become candidates.*

Roots to Results- we had 2,300 Democratic registered voters who **did not vote** in the last election. We need to work on this! Can you help? It might just mean staying in touch with people so they know what's at stake.

## Where's Andy?

*Written by Paul Honigberg, March 20, 2025*

We found Andy again.

Congressman Andy Harris, M.D. (R-MD1) showed up for a political fundraiser at the Tidewater Inn in Easton on March 6. Although a group of constituents went to the Inn hoping to catch a glimpse, we didn't see Andy; he likely went in and out through a side or back door.

But we know he was there because he gave an interview to The Star-Democrat. In that interview, Andy reaffirmed his support for President Trump's "agenda," even though that agenda has, in only two months, increased inflation and damaged the economy, while seeking to extend tax cuts for wealthy individuals and corporations.

Andy once again cheered the dismantling of the federal government at the hands of the so-called Department of Government Efficiency, or "DOGE." He claims DOGE's budget cuts are necessary due to the \$2 trillion budget deficit in the current fiscal year, but these concerns ring hollow after Andy voted for a budget resolution that could increase the deficit by \$4.5 trillion. Moreover, efforts by the Trump Administration and DOGE have been increasingly found by federal judges to be unconstitutional, illegal, or both.

Andy also used his interview to take a gratuitous swipe at the federal employees whose jobs are being eliminated and whose lives are being upended. Andy suggested that DOGE was firing “people whose jobs are probably not contributing to government efficiency.” Although Andy claimed to “feel bad for anyone who’s losing a job,” that doesn’t stop him from supporting the Trump Administration and DOGE’s efforts. Nor does one see on Andy’s Internet website any offers of assistance whatsoever to fired federal employees.

Contrary to Andy’s suggestion, DOGE is simply downsizing the federal government without any evaluation of value on the front end or consequences on the back end. This has led to embarrassing situations such as the firing of federal employees responsible for the safekeeping of our nuclear arsenal and then frantic efforts to re-hire them, only to discover that the administration could not contact them. Another example is the Department of Agriculture mistakenly firing workers monitoring the increase and spread of avian flu, with potential dire consequences for the poultry industry on the Eastern Shore. As the Washington Post’s Michele Singletary noted on March 19, “Years from now, MBA students and historians alike will cite the chaotic civil service cuts under President Donald Trump and Elon Musk as a stunning example of mismanagement.”

Of course, neither DOGE nor Andy has any idea what the vast majority of federal employees do, their value, or the consequences of firing them. Take, for example, two fired federal employees working for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory, in Oxford, Maryland, whose stories ran in The Star Democrat on March 8, two days after Andy’s Easton fundraiser. As reported in The Star Democrat, the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory employs scientists who “monitor water quality, tides, and the presence of vibrio, which can cause fatal food poisoning, in oyster populations. The Lab – which is Oxford’s largest employer – works on an array of projects, from oyster restoration to evaluating nature-based solutions like living shorelines.” When they were fired, these employees were, among other things, implementing a water quality monitoring station. The monitoring station gathers tide data, helping Oxford determine when flooding is likely. Now that project cannot function effectively. Were these federal employees, who love their jobs so much that they are willing to volunteer to stay on the project, not contributing to government efficiency? Not likely.

On top of this, the Administration proposes firing over 1,100 employees in the Environmental Protection Agency’s research office. This office provides the scientific foundation for rules safeguarding human health and ecosystems from environmental pollutants. How about them? More inefficient government spending? Again, not likely.

Cheering the firing of federal employees who are monitoring conditions in Chesapeake Bay and those working to safeguard the environment from pollution calls into question Andy’s professed love for Chesapeake Bay and the environment. Andy’s House of Representatives Internet website proclaims: “Growing up, I was taught that you should always try to leave a place better than the way you found it – and that’s my philosophy when it comes to the environment. The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure that must be preserved for future generations to enjoy.”

Perhaps Andy can explain how firing federal employees whose job it is to safeguard



the health of Chesapeake Bay is consistent with his professed goal of preserving this national treasure for future generations.

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## Action Items

### Submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request

Jamie Raskin has recommended that all US citizens submit a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request for all of their social security information (from DOGE) Go to [Here](#) it will need to be printed out and signed.

### Social Security

- If you don't have an online account, set one up at <https://www.ssa.gov/onlineservices/>
  - If you have an existing account, make sure all the information is accurate and up-to-date.
  - Obtain and save a copy of your Social Security earnings. Typically the SSA will send a copy in the mail or you can [access it through online services](#). If you don't have an online account, call SSA or visit a field office.
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## Let's Meet Up!

### Join a Short-term Planning Committee or Action Activity!! Volunteer!

Is your thing helping with events? Contributing cookies? Making phone calls? Being a helping hand at an event? Read this newsletter and/or come to the meetings and volunteer to help, maybe on just one thing. Every little bit helps!

Life for QAC Democrats continues after this presidential election. We need help supporting future candidates, computer entry, filing, greeting people at outreach events like Centreville Day,, KI Farmers market, and more. Contact Merle Schwartz [merleschwartz@me.com](mailto:merleschwartz@me.com), Andrea Alduino [4hgsleader@gmail.com](mailto:4hgsleader@gmail.com), or Elaine McNeil [elainemcneil101@gmail.com](mailto:elainemcneil101@gmail.com).

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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](#) for 2025 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**



# Our Legislators

[Angela Alsobrooks](#)

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

Merle Schwartz - Co President

Nan Ciandella - Treasurer

Donna Edward - Secretary

Carol D'Agostino

Julia Krebs

Bonnie Nelson

Marti MacKenzie

Cynthia Miller

Nikki Newhouse

Paul Honigberg

## Pro-Democracy News Sources (source: Indivisible)

Below is a condensed summary of Indivisible member recommended pro-democracy news sources.



## **Independent Writers**

Heather Cox Richardson (Letters from an American)

Robert Hubbell (Today's Edition Newsletter)

Jessica Craven (Chop Wood, Carry Water)

Joyce Vance (Civil Discourse)

Jamelle Bouie (The New York Times, but also on TikTok)

Timothy Snyder (historian focused on democracy and authoritarianism)

Marc Elias (Democracy Docket)

Mehdi Hasan (Zeteo)

Osita Nwanevu (The New Republic)

Michael Podhorzer

Brian Beutler, Dan Pfeiffer ("The Message Box")

## **Podcasts & New Media**

Politics Girl

The Bulwark Podcast

MeidasTouch / "Legal AF"

Pitchfork Economics

Majority Report with Sam Seder

Deep State Radio (The DSR Network)

SiriusXM Progress Channel 127

Media Matters

## **Traditional & Mainstream News Outlets**

MSNBC

NPR

BBC

PBS

The Guardian

Mother Jones

Rolling Stone

The Atlantic

ProPublica

The American Prospect

The New Republic

Harper's

### **Fact-Checking & Media-Bias Resources**

AllSides (Media Bias ratings)

Ad Fontes Media (Interactive Media Bias Chart)

Media Bias/Fact Check

FactCheck.org, PolitiFact, Snopes, Reuters Fact Check

Ground News (bias checker feature)

### **Other Notable Mentions**

Democracy Now! for progressive-leaning coverage

Daily Kos (community-driven political news)

Talking Points Memo, The Intercept for deep investigative or policy-focused content

Pod Save family (Crooked Media), focusing on progressive politics and activism

Local / State News: Some recommended tracking state legislative news via



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