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## February 2025

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

### Membership Meeting:

### February 19, Kent Island Public Library at 7PM

### Hot Topic based on what's happening in the news

The one thing we know for sure with the new Trump administration and the Republican majority is that it is likely that every week there will be something that Democrats may find unacceptable. We want our QAC Democratic Club to be action oriented. We want our meetings to be a place for information, strategy, and discussion. To that end, we may not always have the hot topic three weeks ahead.


Please mark your calendars for the third Wednesday of every month (excluding summer) for our Hot Topic membership meetings. We are also very open to recommendations.

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

# Recent Events

## January 22nd Zoom Membership Meeting

The weather was absolutely frigid on January 22nd, so we all stayed nice and warm Zooming into the membership call from the comfort of our homes. We had a wonderful and engaged turnout! At one point in the meeting, scripts were posted and participants were asked to take out their phones and call our senators about cabinet nominees.

<b>Van Hollen: 202-224-4654; Alsobrooks: 202-224-4524</b>	
<b>RFK Jr.</b>	<b>Tulsi Gabbard</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• My name is _____, I live in [insert town/city name] in Queen Anne's County and am registered to vote.</li><li>• I am contacting you to request that you vote against the confirmation of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.</li><li>• Mr. Kennedy's rhetoric about vaccines is a danger to public health, especially the health of our children. It is NOT supported by research.</li><li>• He also has unresolved financial conflicts of interest.</li><li>• Please vote against his confirmation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• My name is _____, I live in [insert town/city name] in Queen Anne's County and am registered to vote.</li><li>• I am contacting you to request that you vote against the confirmation of Tulsi Gabbard as the Director of National Intelligence.</li><li>• Ms. Gabbard has previously repeated Russian talking points blaming the United States and Ukraine for starting the war in Ukraine.</li><li>• She cannot be trusted to with sensitive U.S. intelligence or to brief the President candidly on matters of national security,</li><li>• Please vote against her confirmation</li></ul>
	

The following show some great suggestions/resources people shared in the online chat:

### Organized Groups for Opposition

Chop Wood Carry Water

Substack

Indivisible Guide

### Suggestions

Get off Twitter and onto Blue Sky, bsky.app

Simon Rosenberg - Hopium Chronicles

Heather Cox Richardson newsletter

Thomas Hartmann

The Contrarian

## Action Group Met on January 7th and 9th

The Action Group met twice, Jan. 7 and Jan. 9, to kick off the group. In both of those meetings, we discussed a variety of actions to prioritize at both the national and local levels. Regarding Andy Harris, we discussed trolling him on Facebook (including naming our effort "Where's Andy"), writing letters, and making phone calls to ask him to vote in particular ways, monitoring his newsletter and website, writing short pieces for local media on how his votes hurt his constituents and our community, and asking him for town hall meetings. The main point of all of this is to alert the community early in the cycle that what he does hasn't been helping them.

On the national level, we are currently writing to our senators about the unacceptability of many of Trump's cabinet nominees, most especially Hegseth, Gabbard, Kennedy, and Patel. One of the main initiatives that we need to begin soon is to identify candidates that we can start introducing to the District 1 (congressional) and District 36 (state) communities, so that we can run them more effectively in 2026. Finally, we are keeping track of social media (BlueSky, Substack, etc) to get information and share when it seems appropriate. We have put together a list of our state and federal representatives and their contact information. **If you would like to receive a copy (AND USE IT) please contact Cindy Miller, millercynthia1952@gmail.com.**

Please join us at our next meeting at the Club office on Feb. 4, 6:30 pm.

## New Year's Eve Democratic Breakfast - December 31st

Queen Anne's County Democrats gathered at the Rams Head Shore House to enjoy a delicious breakfast, robust conversations, and to welcome the new year for our Ninth Annual New Year's Eve Breakfast. Thanks to everyone who came out. Please save the date - December 31, 2025 - to join us for our tenth annual breakfast.



## People's March on January 18th in DC

*QAC Democratic Club Board member, Marti MacKenzie, attended this year's march on January 18th. Her words follow, but note that her finding further reinforces the action-oriented opportunities our Club is underscoring at this time:*

It wasn't the hundreds of thousands of people who marched in Washington in 2017, the day after Donald Trump became president the first time, but several thousand did gather Saturday, two days before he was inaugurated the second time. Protestors carried handmade signs, vowing to resist policies impacting climate, reproductive rights, gender issues, gun control, and more. Sponsors and speakers represented Planned Parenthood, ACLU, Sierra Club, and other progressive groups.

I am a frequent attendee of rallies in D.C., and was there for both. Those attending were passionate, loud, and knowledgeable. I met protesters from Colorado, New York, and North Carolina. A friend of mine had driven from Miami to join me and make his voice heard. Still, the hundreds of chartered buses that descended on the city eight years ago were replaced by a few dozen. The Metro wasn't packed, only a few streets were blocked, and park police were present only in small numbers.

The Washington march was the largest of many around the country, including a small gathering in Chestertown. Those opposing Trump have expressed a need to resist in other ways beside large rallies.

## Upcoming Events

## Action Group Meeting on February 4th, 6:30 PM

We have recently established a working group of members who are interested in specific action-oriented plans to disrupt the Trump agenda. Currently we have about a dozen or so committed folks, and can always use more. We are focusing on Trump's nominees at the moment, but will also be addressing policy issues as they develop.

One of our major projects is to focus on local issues and candidates, and a major goal of this work is to unseat Andy Harris in 2026. Our models of resistance come from the Indivisible Guide, Chop Wood Carry Water, and other action groups. We have had 2 meetings so far, and have been communicating through email.

Our next meeting will be **Feb 4, 6:30 p.m.** at the Club Office, 121 Clay Dr., Centreville. Please join us and if you have any questions or would like to participate in the email chain, contact Cindy Miller, [millercynthia1952@gmail.com](mailto:millercynthia1952@gmail.com)

## QAC Democratic Central Committee (DCC)

The QAC DCC meets February 10th at 121 Clay Drive, 7 PM. It is open to the public.

The DCC will be advertising a First Candidate Recruitment event at Cult Classic on Sunday March 16th from 10-30 till 1PM. This is a Brunch and all donations (suggested \$20) for that event will be part of the funds for candidates selected in the primaries in 2026 for the following positions: Delegates and Senate to represent us in Annapolis. 5 County Commissioners, Clerk of Court, Register of Wills, 3 Orphans' Court positions, States Attorney, Sheriff, 2 positions on the School Board. If you are interested in running for those positions or any of the 5 women, 5 men positions on the Central Committee or acting as a treasurer or campaign manager, please join the brunch. There will be follow up events and a host of information handed out. This includes a panel discussion featuring Justin Butler and invited elected officials.

For more information, contact Elaine McNeil at 443-262-1310.

## "Good Trouble" Discussion Group

This group meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM at 121 Clay Drive. There are ongoing topics aimed at creating a more informed electorate in Queen Anne's County, keeping our friends and neighbors informed using *Roots to Results*.

## Where's Andy?

On January 20, 2025, our Congressman, Andy Harris (R), went on Fox Business's Mornings and decried the pardons Joe Biden issued on his final days in office as "unprecedented" and "unfathomable."<sup>(1)</sup> Andy observed that these pardons, which also apply to law enforcement officers who testified before the January 6 Committee,



interfere with Congress operates.(2)

Andy has not yet commented on President Trump's unprecedented and unfathomable decision on January 21 to pardon all approximately 1,500 individuals convicted or awaiting trial on charges relating to the storming of the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021. Those pardoned included those convicted of seditious conspiracy against the United States and others convicted of attacking and injuring law enforcement officers attempting to protect the Capitol and the Senators and Representatives – like Andy Harris – conducting their ceremonial duties relating to certification of the results of the 2020 election. Approximately 140 police officers were injured in the riot, including those law enforcement officers who testified before the January 6 Committee, where they described the horrific scene at the Capitol as they were attacked by the rioters.

We look forward to Andy condemning Trump's blanket pardons, the horrible precedent they set, and the likelihood that they will encourage others disappointed with the results of an election or other government action to resort to violent measures.

Where are you, Andy?

1. Asher Notheis, Washington Examiner, reported in msn.com
2. Ibid.

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## More Politics

Trump will overplay his hand. Be ready for when he does.

Author Robert Reich wrote a piece which appeared in Your Weekly Stack (among other places.) It's a good read. Below are the six strategies given to survive the coming four years and come out stronger. Read the [full article](#) for the details.



*Photo from Trump will overplay his hand. Be ready for when he does.*

1. Don't Panic – Autocracy Takes Time
  2. Don't Disengage – Stay Connected
  3. Don't Fear the Infighting
  4. Charismatic Leadership is a Non-Negotiable
  5. Skip the Protests and Identity Politics
  6. Have Hope
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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).

**Cecile Richards, Rest in Power**



Monday, Jan. 20, was a sad day, not only because of the inauguration of a tyrant to the Presidency, but also because we lost a truly inspiring warrior, Cecile Richards. Cecile was a freedom fighter beginning in adolescence, inspired by both of her parents, Ann and David Richards. She was the President of Planned Parenthood from 2005 to 2018, after which she founded the feminist political action group, Supermajority. Her political activism began with labor organizing, but was really centered on women's issues, especially reproductive freedom, for most of her life. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Biden in 2024. Cecile was diagnosed with glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer in 2023, and succumbed to it on Monday, Jan 20, 2025. Her tireless work inspires all of us to work harder. Cecile Richards will always be on the top 10 list of feminist warriors, and will never be forgotten. Thank you, Cecile. Rest in Power.

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## Calendar

### February

4th - Action Group Meets at the Dem office, 121 Clay Dr., Queenstown, 6:30 PM

10th - DCC meeting, Dem office, 121 Clay Dr., Queenstown, 7 PM

18th - "Good Trouble" Discussion Group, Dem office, 6:30 PM



## 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**



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## 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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