



Riderwood Dems

RIDERWOOD DEMOCRATIC CLUB NEWSLETTER

December, 2025

President's Corner

The Riderwood
Democratic Club
wishes you

Season's Greetings
and our best hopes for
Peace on Earth

Looking forward to 2026, the Democratic Club wants to engage our members to support our party's candidates in the midterm elections and to become more informed on the work our elected representatives are doing at the county, state, and national level. Don't forget that although this is a "midterm" year, when all seats in the House of Representatives are on the ballot, we will also have elections for state and local offices here in Maryland.

To provide the best possible schedule of speakers and activities in this pivotal election year, we need each Club member to consider participating in the work of 2026. The Democratic Club by-laws have been updated, and the new by-laws require the entire current Board of Directors to resign at the end of this year. We plan to have a new slate of candidates available at our January meeting. Will your name be on it? See the article on page 3 of this newsletter for more information.

My best wishes to all, as you celebrate in the holiday season, and may you have a prosperous, healthy, and happy New Year.

— Bea Rodgers, President

December Democratic Club Meeting: Featuring a discussion of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation 2026 Goals

For our final monthly meeting of 2025, in the Encore Theater at 2:00 PM on December 17, we will be hosting Matt Stegman from The Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The Foundation is the largest organization dedicated solely to protecting the Chesapeake Bay. Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, will be joining us to speak about CBF's advocacy priorities for the upcoming legislative session which begins January 14, 2026 and runs until April 13, 2026.

CBF's focus this session is going to be primarily on the state budget and protecting funding for environmental programs and agencies. The group also plans to advocate for forest preservation and living shorelines. The general fiscal conditions of the state make it challenging to push many exciting policy changes, and until Governor Moore releases his preliminary budget in January, CBF won't know specifically where to focus its efforts. Matt Stegman will give an overview of what CBF wants from the budget and what it expects might happen early in session.

Fortunately, the budget is an area where letter writing, calling legislators, and generally putting pressure on elected officials to make the right choice is highly effective. As the Riderwood Democratic Club hopes to make 2026 an active

advocacy year, let's begin by hearing from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation!

– **Joanne Coen, Program Committee**

Maryland's Democratic Party Chair Speaks at Our November Meeting

Close to 100 members of the Democratic Club gathered in the Encore Theater on November 19, to hear from Steuart Pittman, chair of the Democratic Party of Maryland since this past June. His informal talk was part of his state-wide listening tour that he began earlier this year.

Mr. Pittman, a long-time farmer and horse trainer, served two terms as Anne Arundel County Executive. First elected in 2018, he said jokingly that he will soon be out of a job since his position is limited to two terms. His tour, he said, is giving him a better idea of what is most important to the people in Anne Arundel.

Mr. Pittman has high praise for the people who work with him. He claims that the reason for the success of his staff is that most of them had been members of Governor Wes Moore's campaign and had already worked successfully together.

While Maryland is known today as a reliably blue state, it has not always been so. In 2018, when Mr. Pittman was first elected, Anne Arundel County had been strongly red for 50 years.

Mr. Pittman credits this turn-around to numerous factors. First, the Republicans' 'Big Beautiful Bill' has begun to backfire as people realize its many pitfalls, like gutting Medicaid. Second, a plethora of volunteers, especially in red counties, who knock on doors, write postcards, and make phone calls ensures that people know how active the Democratic party is. And third, the Party's goal of finding a strong candidate for every contest guarantees that the party will have increased press coverage throughout the year.

Mr. Pittman talked at length about the Urban/Rural divide throughout the state, an underscored the need to elect more rural representatives to statewide offices. He plans to organize a mini-convention next year, leading up to the 2026 election. He sees this as a way of "reintroducing the party to the people."

In sum, Mr. Pittman's goal of reaching out to as many Democrats as possible in the next year will allow him to hear first-hand about the issues that citizens care most about. We wish him well as he begins to put into action what he has learned by listening.

– **Paula Einaudi**

Opinion: Comments on the Environment

While COP30 was a disappointment, there were several positives in spite of the presence of over 1,600 industry lobbyists working against climate change.

For one, COP30 had more Indigenous Peoples involved than ever before. These are the people who have lived on and protected these lands for thousands of years. Also, for the first time ever in this venue, fossil fuels were the center of the discussions. Eighty-plus countries supported a call from Brazil to develop a pathway for the transition away from fossil fuels. An April conference will deal with this.

Sadly, major oil-producing countries were in lockstep and blocked language calling for a fossil fuel phase-out and an end to deforestation from the final text. The agreements were far weaker than needed to address our climate crisis. Global North countries like Canada refused to pay their fair share to help Global South countries adapt to the impacts of climate change and reduce fossil fuel use.

My personal project recently has been to work toward getting the Latino vote to return to the Democrat side. One local Latino environmental group recently had 100 Latinos show up to environmental workshops even though it was potentially dangerous to do so. *Defensores de la Cuenca* wants to connect people to the watershed, nature and each other. Jill Shindelman used ChatGPT to generate a report for our Earth Day/Month.

She asked for "Actions Taken to Harm the Environment during Republican Administrations Since 1900" and "Actions Taken to Protect the Environment during Democratic Administrations Since 1900." The differences are striking and show Democrats as strongly pro-environment. Once I can get the two items translated into Spanish, I hope to get the wherewithal to print a number of copies for distribution.

The 7th Annual Legislative Summit for Climate and Environment will be held online for FREE on January 10 and 11, 2026 from 1pm to 5pm each day. This is prep for the Maryland Legislative session. Contact me for info.

– **E. Anne Riley, Chair, Democratic Environmental Committee**

Democratic Political Events and News

I publish a newsletter on Silver Spring and Democratic Politics. Please contact me at thausner@gmail.com if you would like to be on

my mailing list. A copy of my most recent newsletter is available on <https://shorturl.at/vyWK1> and is also on my Substack page, Facebook, and Bluesky. Please let me know if you have information that you would like to be included in my newsletter.

These are some events of interest over the next several weeks:

- On December 11, Congressman Jamie Raskin will be hosting "A 63rd Birthday Party and Re-Election Campaign Kickoff!" 6:00 PM, North Bethesda, MD, (Address to be provided 48 hours in advance.) RSVP or donate at <https://shorturl.at/3oVLG>
- The Montgomery County Democratic Party has a weekly newsletter. The most recent one is at <https://shorturl.at/ULpno>
- The Maryland Democratic Party's website is <https://mddems.org/>
- The MD Legislative Council: 7th Annual Legislative Summit for Climate and Environment 1/10-11/26. Register at <https://shorturl.at/Y0dxg>
- Maryland Climate Partners is hosting our first Agencies Climate Progress Winter Webinar to discuss Maryland's climate plans on Thursday, December 11 from 12:30-2:30 pm on Zoom. Register at <https://shorturl.at/D57VO>

- Moms Demand Action Lobby Day at the Maryland State Assembly on 2/5/26. I plan to attend and welcome those who might want to carpool. Register at <https://act.everytown.org/event/moms-demand-action-event/73530/signup/>
 - Center for American Progress: Healing America's Spiritual Crisis: A Conversation with Sen. Raphael Warnock will be held on 12/11/25, 9:30-10:30 am. Register at <https://shorturl.at/XLiK5>
- **Tony Hauser, Ph.D.**

Help Make 2026 a Banner Year for Democrats

The Democratic Club of Riderwood is seeking members to run for the 2026-2027 Board of Directors. If you are interested, please contact Patric O'Brien at 614-981-6372 or patricobrien46@gmail.com by December 20.

If you would rather not be on the Board, but want to learn about the Club's plans and would like to be of service, give Patric a call or send her an email. We currently need new members who are interested in being on the environmental action, communications, political action and social committees. 2026 Congressional races.

– **Patric O'Brien**

Important Dates

Date	Subject	Location	Time
Wednesday, December 17	General Meeting of the Riderwood Democratic Club, featuring Matt Stegman of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Encore Theater	2:00 PM
Friday, December 19	Environmental Book Group discusses <i>The Underworld: Journeys to the Depths of the Ocean</i> by Susan Casey	LSC Card Room	1:00 PM
Friday, January 3	Democratic Book Group discusses 1984 By George Orwell	LSC Card Room	1:00 PM

RIDERWOOD DEMOCRATIC CLUB MEMBERSHIP DUES: 2025-2026

The purpose of the Riderwood Democratic Club is to further the policies and goals of the Democratic Party at all levels and to work for and support the election of Democratic candidates.

Specifically, the club seeks to:

- Elect Democratic Party candidates at all levels of government who support the platforms of the national, state and local Democratic parties;
- Persuade the public and elected officials to implement the party's agenda;
- Educate and inform members through monthly meetings and the newsletter.
- Discuss issues of interest to the membership.

Membership is open to all Riderwood Village residents. Our membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. **Annual membership dues are \$10 per person. Additional contributions are gladly accepted. You may also obtain a Lifetime Membership for \$100.** Your membership dues help meet Club operating expenses, such as the newsletter and costs associated with the monthly meetings, and enable the Club to support the election of local Democrats. **Please make your check payable to Riderwood Democratic Club and send it with this completed form by campus mail to Democratic Club, c/o Trudy Downs, MS621, Lakeside Commons.** Please do not send cash.

Questions/problems – Contact Carol Elliott (carolelliott@usa.net or 301-273-2325).

Please PRINT CLEARLY:

Date: _____ Apartment Number _____

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ (_____) _____

Email address: _____

Total amount enclosed (\$10 dues plus any additional contribution): \$ _____

How do you want the Riderwood Democratic Club newsletter delivered?

Please send it to me by email*

OR

Please place a paper copy of the newsletter in my cubby

* Email delivery saves paper, reduces printing costs and minimizes the work of our label stickers and cubby stuffers. You may then print out your own copy if you wish.

Thank you for supporting the Riderwood Democratic Club!