



GARRETT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

GARRETT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 & 2024

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GARRETT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Garrett County Democratic Central Committee 2023 & 2024 Strategic Plan

Version 1: Adopted and approved, April 26, 2023

MISSION:

As reflected in the Bylaws of the Garrett County Democratic Central Committee (GCDCC), the committee's authority and purpose are:

1. To serve as the governing body of the Democratic Party in Garrett County under the authority of the Democratic State Central Committee of Maryland, and to exercise all of the powers, rights and privileges granted it under the Constitution and Laws of Maryland, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Maryland Democratic Party.
2. To promote the election of the nominees of the Democratic Party in Maryland and Garrett County.
3. To conduct the business, organize activities, and foster the growth of the Democratic Party in Garrett County.

THE DEMOCRATIC LANDSCAPE IN GARRETT COUNTY:

Since the Civil War Maryland has been a Democratic-leaning state; however, Garrett County has always been strongly Republican. Formed in 1872, Garrett is one of forty counties across the nation (chiefly Unionist strongholds in antebellum slave states) to have never voted for a Democratic presidential candidate. Lyndon Johnson did get within 109 votes of Barry Goldwater in 1964, but Garrett County has voted for every official Republican nominee except when it went for Theodore Roosevelt's "Bull Moose Party" in 1912.

The last Democratic County Commissioner, John Braskey, was elected in 1994; the most recent Democratic State Delegate from Garrett County was Benjamin O. Aiken, elected in 1970; and our last Democratic State Senator, Bernard J. Gonder, was elected in 1962. In 2023, Garrett County's three County Commissioners, the State Senator, and the State Delegate are all white, male Republicans.

Elections for the county school board and for the eight local town councils are non-partisan. There are Democrats that have been elected to and are presently serving on many of these, including the mayors of Grantsville, Friendsville, and Kitzmiller.

Table 1 provides a snapshot of Garrett County voter data from the last four general elections:

TABLE 1. GARRETT COUNTY VOTERS

Description	Gubernatorial Election 2022	Presidential Election 2020	Gubernatorial Election 2018	Presidential Election 2016
County Population	28579	28806	29202	29395
Registered Voters	20396	20183	19668	19544
Registered Dems	3719	3990	4175	4425
Reg. Dems % of Reg. Voters	18%	20%	21%	23%
Registered Repubs	13584	13318	12744	12466
Reg. Repubs % of Reg. Voters	67%	66%	65%	64%
Reg. UNAFF / 3rd party (UA-3rd)	3093	2875	2749	2653
Reg. UA-3rd % of Reg. Voters	15%	14%	14%	14%
Ratio Repubs to Dems	3.7 to 1	3.3 to 1	3.1 to 1	2.8 to 1
Total Turnout	14765	15718	11208	14137
Ttl Turnout % of Reg. Voters	72%	78%	57%	72%
Democratic Turnout	4425	2980	2378	3057
Dem % of Ttl Turnout	30%	19%	21%	22%
Dem % of Reg. Dem Voters	69%	76%	61%	78%
Republican Turnout	12486	10950	7863	9666
Rep % of Ttl Turnout	85%	70%	70%	68%
Rep % of Reg. Rep Voters		82%	58%	72%
UNAFF/3rd party turnout		1788	967	1414
UA-3rd % of Ttl Turnout		11%	9%	10%
UA-3rd % of Reg. UA-3 Voters		62%	33%	48%
D&R Candidates for pres/gov	Moore/Cox	Biden/Trump	Jealous/Hogan	Clinton/Trump
Total GC Votes for pres/gov	11305	15579	11008	13850
% / Votes for Dem pres/gov	22% 2507	21% 3281	13% 1395	19% 2567
% / Votes for Rep pres/gov	74% 8381	77% 12002	86% 9472	78% 10776
% / Votes for UA-3rd	4% 417	2% 296	1% 141	4% 507
D&R MD Senate candidates	Dreisbach/McKay		UNOPP/Edwards	
Total GC votes for MD Senate	11325		9848	
% / Votes for Dem MD Senate	22% 2544		0% 0	
% / Votes for Rep MD Senate	77% 8761		99% 9702	
% / Votes for UA-3rd	0% 20		1% 146	
D&R Candidates for Delegate	Spear/Hinebaugh		Dreisbach/Beitzel	
Total GC votes for Delegate	11278		10916	
% / Votes for Dem Delagate	16% 1835		23% 2551	
% / Votes for Rep Delegate	79% 8868		76% 8348	
% / Votes for UA-3rd	5% 575		0% 17	

So, while Democrats are far behind from both an historical and a current political perspective, we must recognize our current opportunity. For the first time in a quarter century, we face a national Republican Party that is demoralized, confused, and conflicted. Nationally, Republicans are leaving their party in droves. If we can seize this opportunity, perhaps the Democratic values message and platform will break through. We Democrats would fight more effectively for better policies to benefit our local economy (including agricultural and small business), health care systems, educational institutions, and social support and equalities that the Republican party ever has. This is especially true given the Democratic dominance in Annapolis.

Garrett County Democrats face major challenges in turning out the Democratic vote as well as registering new Democratic voters. Unfortunately, even if we succeed in getting every Democrat to vote, we still lose 2-1, which may be better than 3-1 or 4-1, but it's still a loss. The only path to victory must include convincing a sizable number of Republican and Independent friends and neighbors to support Democratic candidates because it is in their best interest to do so – both individually and as a rural community and both economically and culturally.

SWOT ASSESSMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN GARRETT COUNTY:

Strengths:

1. All eight positions on the GCDCC are filled with active members, with appropriate gender representation, three alternates, and one student member.
2. In the 2022 General Election, for the first time in 40 years, we fielded Democratic candidates for all five top-line positions on the ballot: the three County Commissioners, the State Senator, and the State Delegate. Though none of these five won their races, their presence did help other Democrats win wider contests, notably Congressman David Trone (MD-6), who won an extremely tight contest for re-election to Congress. Our 2022 candidates improved the visibility of the party in Garrett County and brought significant issues into the public square.
3. The Maryland's Congressional District 6 position has been filled by a Democrat since 2012. We have a good working relationship with Congressman Trone and his staff.
4. Valuable experience gained from our concerted canvassing campaign in 2018. Due to the pandemic, door-knocking was suspended in 2020 and still limited in 2022, but we expect this effort to continue in the next election cycle.
5. The GCDCC has organizational and strategic documents in place that are regularly used and updated including a constitution and bylaws, strategic plan, DCC member job description, platform statement, GCDCC vs. Dem Club distinction document, and a working website.
6. The relationship between the GCDCC and the GC Dem Club has improved markedly. The two organizations support each other, drawing on the unique strengths of each group, and working together to achieve common goals and carry out collaborative events and activities.
7. The Garrett County Democrats have initiated and implemented important social programs including "Seniors on the Move" (paid transportation to social and exercise activities) and "Let's Drive" (high school drivers' education scholarships). These programs operate in strong collaboration with Garrett County Community Action and several business sponsors in our community.
8. The GC Dem Women, which started out as an online chat at the beginning of COVID, has been meeting every single Tuesday morning since March 2020 and is active and engaged in developing programs and creating initiatives. For example, they have collaborated with WAC of Allegany County to create the

Mountain Maryland Alliance for Reproductive Freedom and testified on the Reproductive Rights Protection Package legislation this session.

9. The GCDCC opened the first ever year-round Democratic Headquarters in Garrett County in September 2022. It is located at 208 S. Second Street in Oakland, MD, and is currently leased until March 2024.
10. GC Democrats turned out to vote in a higher percentage than Republicans in the 2022 General Election.
11. GC Democrats turned out with an impressive float for all community parades in 2022. A highlight was the Autumn Glory Parade, which included all local candidates, Congressman David Trone, and the Dem Club with the longest length of marchers ever in Autumn Glory history.
12. A recent survey indicated that Democrats in the county are pleased with the work the GCDCC has been doing and its accomplishments.

Weaknesses:

1. Many Democrats in Garrett County feel separated from and forgotten about by the MDP and state-wise candidates, especially after the primaries.
2. Registered Republicans outnumber registered Democrats in Garrett County by a ratio of more than 3:1.
3. There are those who are Democratic at heart but register as Republican to have a voice in the primaries, where candidates who will win local offices in the general election are chosen. Democrats struggle under a long history of Republican dominance. There has been no local Democratic official elected as County Commissioner, State Delegate or State Senator in more than 25 years.
4. Garrett County culture favors Republicans and discriminates against Democrats. Many people are reluctant to admit publicly that they are Democrats for fear of retribution, especially in terms of business relationships and career security. Anecdotes of such retribution are common.
5. Partisan vitriol continues to affect the Democratic Party in Garrett County. It is not uncommon to walk into a local owned business with a TV on with Fox News playing. The messages of hate towards Democrats that are spewed by conservative media often play out on social media and in social conversation here.
6. From 2008 through 2018, Democrats were not well organized in Garrett County, with both the GCDCC and the GC Dem Club suffering from a lack of engaged members. This legacy has residual effects today. Finding those willing to be active leaders in both organizations has been a shared challenge.
7. Recruiting candidates for each of the five main local political contests – State Senator, State Delegate, and three on the Board of County Commissioners – continues to be a challenge. Prior to the 2022 election, the Democratic ticket for some of these positions has often goes unfilled.

Opportunities:

1. We can build on the successful season of candidate recruitment in the 2022 election cycle and set our sights on even more achievements in 2026.
2. We can continue to strengthen the working relationship between the GCDCC and the GC Dem Club.
3. Campaign fund raising in 2018 and 2022 indicates that there is strong fund-raising potential for local Democratic candidates.
4. The continuing chaos in the national and Maryland GOP represents a real opportunity for Garrett County Dems, presenting an opportunity to connect with local voters who have left the GOP to explain our platform issues and positions and invite them to consider joining the Dems.

5. Successful Democratic events took place both before and during the pandemic, organized by GCDCC and the GC Dem Club. Examples include the Roosevelt/Kennedy Dinners and our Liberal Libations for Parched Progressives social events. The success of these events can be built upon.
6. The Tuesday morning Democratic Women's Group has become an agent for progressive initiatives, including the monthly food for shut-ins, Seniors on the Move, and Let's Drive. We can amplify that these programs benefit our community while contributing to a positive image for the Democratic Party.
7. There is an interest in developing better bi-partisan connections by some, as evidenced by the Ruth Enlow Library's Choose Civility Programs. We can look for common ground with Republicans, especially in promoting Garrett County as a great place to live, work, and raise a family.
8. There is growing unrest and dissatisfaction with the status quo, especially in terms of a stagnant, if not declining, economy. We are also losing population in Garrett County, a place we are all so proud to cite as the best-kept secret in Maryland. Our opportunity is to tout the advantages of staying put and to explain to neighbors how our local economy and our lives will improve when Democratic values and Democratic solutions are adopted.
9. We can take advantage of national issues that can also be emphasized in Mountain Maryland, especially reproductive freedom and gun safety. Both issues can resonate locally if we improve our ability to explain them.
10. Newcomers to Garrett County include many who are retired and less conservative. Members of this group are not only prone to vote Democratic but also are often financially secure and may be willing to donate generously. In this regard, the COVID pandemic has caused a surge in new homeownerships.
11. We have a real opportunity to enlist young people into active participation in the Democratic Party, since young people often align themselves with Democratic Party values. Young people tend to be pro-equality, pro-progressive growth, and interested in science-based climate change policies. More energetic and more passionate about politics than recent previous cohorts, these young people may be more likely to become politically active. In this regard, there is a resurgent Young Democrats organization statewide, and we can encourage our youth to join and gain leadership positions in that organization.

Threats:

1. The candidates for statewide positions often stop paying attention to Garrett County after the primaries, resulting in Democratic voters who feel their vote doesn't matter and don't get out to vote.
2. The MDP does not have events in Garrett County, and during coordinated campaigns, does not have much of a presence here, leading to the alienation Democratic voters often feel.
3. We Democrats do not understand the exact reasons why Republicans exhibit such animosity against Democrats. While they go low, we continue to go high, or at least we try to, but most often our efforts to reach out appear to be without effect.
4. Democrats have been unable to clearly communicate the Democratic message, platform, and solutions. We still need to figure out how to talk to and reach leaders of a rural society that continues to vote against their own self-interest (at least as far as we Democrats are able to discern).
5. Some Democrats continue to avoid being "out and proud".
6. We have not yet figured out how to talk to and reach a Republican electorate that feels disenfranchised from the pre-dominantly Democratic state legislature in Annapolis.

7. Though considerable progress has been made to this point, we cannot yet be sure that we have the strong organization, cohesion and commitment needed for continued progress in both the GCDCC and the GC Dem Club.

RESOURCES AND PARTNERS:

Our greatest resource is the GCDCC itself: Eight regular members, three alternates, and one student member. Additionally, we have a good working relationship with the Maryland Democratic Party, including commitments of financial and organizational support as well as MDP's interest in Western Maryland. We have a solid partnership with the Garrett County Democratic Club whose approximately 70 members contribute greatly to the Democratic politics of Garrett County. Finally, we list among our resources the Democrats and others who were active in campaigning activities in the 2022 election cycle and would presumably step up again. The GCDCC currently (April 2023) has \$10,440 in the bank.

2023-2024 OBJECTIVES:

1. **Central Committee Development** – We must strengthen the GCDCC culture of action. Creating this Strategic Plan is one aspect of Committee development, but so is creating expectations that each GCDCC member be active, that we identify a structure of subcommittees under the GCDCC, and that we recruit non-committee members to help us with our work. The measures of success will be the number of active subcommittees as of May 1, 2023, compared with the number of Democrats involved in these subcommittees by the end of the year.
2. **Communications** – The Communications objective encompasses all communications initiatives targeted at Garrett County Dems, Garrett County citizens, and the wider world. It includes the joint website with the GC Dem Club, social media, focus groups, and issue-oriented meetings. To engage Democratic voters and make them proud to be Democrats in Garrett County and to recruit strong Democratic candidates, we must create a solid communications strategy promoting party values, enhancing public relations, and focusing on growth. Developing measures of success in each communications modality – number of posts, number of clicks and click-throughs, number of impressions (for press releases), number of focus group sessions, etc. – can help us identify our accomplishments and reach our communications objectives.
3. **Fund-Raising** – More proactive fund-raising strategies must be developed to have operational funds for implementation of our Strategic Plan, particularly its focus on support for Democratic candidates. We must examine ways to optimize our ActBlue account, initiating ActBlue generic party-building campaigns as well as issue-oriented ActBlue campaigns. The measure of success will be the year-over-year success of our fundraising efforts.
4. **Local Candidate Development** – Potential Democratic candidates need to be recruited and supported. The Committee should examine successful recruitment efforts and practices in other counties and states. This will require an active Committee with well-developed strategies and sufficient funds. The measures of success will be 1) how many Democrats compete in the five partisan elections in Garrett County; 2) how many Democrats compete in non-partisan elections in

Garrett County; and 3) election results. In every case, while we hope for and work for electoral success, we must also be proud of incremental improvements.

5. **Voter Registration and Turnout** – Democratic voters need to see a Democratic Party presence in their local community and be encouraged to be educated and active on local issues. Those not registered to vote need encouragement to register as Democrats and be involved in Democratic activities and events. We will use party registrations and election results as the measures of our success.
6. **Precinct Organization** – In order to have an organization effective in reaching all voters, especially those who are not engaged with or who have never learned about the Democratic Party, we need to reach them where they are and learn what they care about. The measures of success will be 1) the number of precinct captains and deputy precinct captains in place on January 1, 2024, and 2) the number of contacts (canvassing, mail, telephone) in each precinct, including registered Democrats, registered voters from other parties, and eligible non-registered voters.
7. **Platform Issues** – This will be an area of joint activity with the GC Dem Club. Possibilities include hosting forums, publishing on social media, and participating in sympathetic organizations to advance one or more of our platform issues which include education, economic development, healthcare, jobs, poverty, and social/diversity issues. Topics from the Maryland Democratic Party and the National Democratic Party will be considered for inclusion. The measures of success will be our progress in raising public awareness of our platform issues, identifying the Democratic Party with our positions on these issues, and convincing our Republican and Independent friends and neighbors that the Democratic Party speaks for this entire community.

HOW WILL WE ACCOMPLISH THESE OBJECTIVES?

For each objective, a GCDCC member has agreed to serve as the Lead. This does not imply that the Lead will do all the work. Rather, the Lead will create a subcommittee responsible for performing the tasks under that objective. Subcommittee volunteers should be drawn from both the GCDCC and the GC Dem Club. The Lead will serve as the subcommittee chair and the liaison between the subcommittee and the GCDCC.

In the following Objective/Task Tables, the “Report Frequency” should be one of the following: One-Time, Biennially, Annually, Semi-Annually, Quarterly, or Continuous. This scheme is designed so that each Lead will report on the objective and its underlying task once each quarter. The “Next Report” for each task will be updated regularly. We plan to use these reporting dates to help us move forward effectively, and, as such, this plan will be a living document which will be updated as needed. The plan includes a version number and date on the front page which indicates when an update is made.

OBJECTIVE 1. COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT			
LEAD: <i>Judy Carbone</i>			
Task	Description	Report Frequency	Next Report
1.a	Update the distinction document, identifying differences in roles of the GCDCC and the GC Dem Club, to help local Democrats better understand the two organizations, their shared goals, and their leverageable differences; publish this document.	Biennially	Sept. 2023
1.b	Develop an annual budget and use it to help implement the strategic plans and guide investment of our funds.	Annually	Feb. 2024
1.c	Conduct a training event for GCDCC members for purposes of professional development.	Quarterly	Sept. 2023
1.d	Hold focus groups with various groups of local Democrats to better understand their needs and interests and their goals for the Democratic party in Garrett County.	Quarterly	June 2023
1.e	Evaluate the pros and cons of a protocol/procedure for the GCDCC to take on endorsement of certain pieces of state legislation and issues as brought forward by other organizations that request our support.	Quarterly	October 2023
1.f	Adopt a culture of action and an expectation of each GCDCC member to act; identify specific action expectations for each member.	Continuing	May 2023
1.g	Develop a sub-committee structure with a different member taking leadership for each objective and encouraging recruitment of non-Committee members.	Continuing	May 2023
1.h	Elevate the issues of young Democrats and rural issues in the work of the GCDCC whenever and wherever appropriate.	Quarterly	August 2023
1.i	Explore options for a Democratic mailing list that can be shared by the GCDCC and the Club and updated in real time.	Quarterly	Sept. 2023
1.j	Evaluate the merits of an Administrative Account for non-election expenses and, if deemed appropriate, initiate such an account.	Quarterly	Dec. 2023
1.k	Create information management systems (i.e., using electronic organizational apps and other software) for information sharing and archival purposes.	Quarterly	June 2023
SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS: (names to be added as members are recruited)			

OBJECTIVE 2. COMMUNICATIONS**LEAD:** *Tracy Edwards*

Task	Description	Report Frequency	Next Report
2.a	Commit to having a public presence to build a positive image of Democrats in Garrett County. This means that GCDCC and GC Dem Club members attend, whenever feasible, meetings and events of GCDCC and the GC Dem Club. It also means that we attend public meetings important to the Democratic agenda such as meetings of the Garrett County Commissioners and Board of Education. As needed, members can be tasked to attend certain meetings and report back to the group.	Continuing	May 2023
2.b	Develop a publicity plan to better utilize press releases, letters to the editor, presentations to other groups, etc. Develop a Publicity Subcommittee for this purpose to include at least 5 members.	Quarterly	Apr. 2023
2.c	Set a communication strategy and social media plan with dates and topics targeted to reach specific sectors in our community. These should include quantifiable goals for the number of posts/articles/letters for each strategy.	Continuing	Jun. 2023
2.d	Maintain the GCDCC page on the gcdems.com website. Include bylaws, strategic plan, platform, GCDCC and GC Dem Club Distinction Document, information about upcoming elections, candidate resources, events, and activities, etc. Include graphics but follow accessibility guidelines. Optimize for web searches (SEO) as possible.	Continuing	July 2023
	SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS: Judy Carbone (more names to be added as members are recruited)		

OBJECTIVE 3. FUND RAISING			
LEAD: <i>Betty Pritt</i>			
Task	Description	Report Frequency	Next Report
3.a	Develop a Fund-Raising Plan with the goal of raising \$10,000 each year. Use ActBlue as the vehicle for receiving donations.	Continuing	June 2023
3.b	Develop a schedule for sending out fundraising letters, making specific asks on social media, developing a strategy for donor recognition and appreciation. Use VAN and Campaignfinance.maryland.gov as resources for identifying possible donors.	Quarterly	Oct. 2023
3.c	Tie fundraising to the GCDCC budget and make it a priority every year, not just in election years.	Annually	Oct. 2023
3.d	Coordinate and implement all aspects of fund-raising plans to reach fund-raising goal.	Continuing	August 2023
3.e	Coordinate the annual Roosevelt Kennedy Dinner by fund-raising through ticket sales, sponsorships, and booklet advertisements with an annual goal of raising \$2,000-3,000.	Annually	June 2023
3.f	Explore other possible fundraising activities, events, and sales with an eye on available human resources and the amount of work required to track and report individual donors at all monetary levels.	Continuing	Oct. 2023
	SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS: Erin-Ruth Natividad and Tracy Edwards (more names to be added as members are recruited)		

OBJECTIVE 4. LOCAL CANDIDATE DEVELOPMENT

LEAD: *Erin-Ruth Natividad*

Task	Description	Report Frequency	Next Report
4.a	Commit to having Democrats run for every local seat and put this commitment into action vigorously.	Quarterly	July 2023
4.b	Develop a policy/procedural statement on the kind of support the GCDCC can offer candidates at all levels, including when such support can be offered and under what conditions and specifically on Municipal and other non-partisan races. Include information on what can be expected from the Maryland Democratic Party (MDP) for candidates.	Quarterly	July 2023
4.c	Develop a candidate recruitment schedule for all 4 years of an election cycle.	Quarterly	July 2023
4.d	Review materials from state party and other DCCs on how they recruit candidates.	Quarterly	Aug. 2023
4.e	Commit to seeing that GCDCC members are well versed in running for office by having them attend training sessions given by MDP and other Democratic organizations.	Continuing	January 2024
4.f	Use VAN and committee recommendations to develop a list of potential candidates, with emphasis on equal gender representation, for each of the 5 politically elected seats: State Senator, Delegate, and 3 County Commissioners.	Quarterly	June 2023
4.g	Develop a strategy on helping candidates with their campaign staff by understanding what is required of being a Campaign Manager, Treasurer, etc., and helping them find people who could help them.	Quarterly	July 2023
4.h	Use developed issue/policy statements from the approved Platform to help candidates build a platform for their campaign.	Biennially	Oct. 2023
4.i	Hold multiple training sessions locally for Democratic candidates thinking of running for local office.	Quarterly	Oct 2023
4.j	Prepare interim substitutes to take over responsibilities or roles of individuals who are running for local office and are a member of the GCDCC or leadership within the Garrett County Democratic Club.	Continuing	Every Election Cycle
	SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS: Judy Carbone, Bob Spear, Pat Hunt, Mike Dreisbach as previous candidates		

OBJECTIVE 5. VOTER REGISTRATION AND TURNOUT

LEAD: *Jeff Hovis*

Task	Description	Report Frequency	Next Report
5.a	Assign a member and a back-up member (in-training) of the GCDCC to be the point person on VAN and to become knowledgeable on all aspects of the system, what it can do, and how we are able to use it according to MDP policies.	Quarterly	June 2023
5.b	Work with MDP to train all DCC members and other local Democratic leaders on using VAN. Conduct at least one training annually.	Biennially	June 2023
5.c	Conduct a series of town hall “What’s Your Beef With The Democratic Party?” meetings with soft Democrats, soft Republicans, non-affiliated, and Green Party voters in the northern, central, and southern parts of the county, with light refreshments and snacks, beginning in the fall of 2023.	Monthly	July 2023
5.d	Take out a series of radio and newspaper ads, urging people to register to vote for the presidential primaries and the general elections, beginning in March 2024.	Monthly	September 2023
5.e	Take out a series of radio and newspaper ads, urging people to vote in the presidential primaries and general elections, beginning in April 2024.	Monthly	Sep. 2023
5.f	Strongly emphasize voter registration and voter turnout at all public functions, such as the Garrett County Fair. Have voter registration forms available at these functions.	Monthly	June 2023
	SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS: (names to be added as members are recruited)		

OBJECTIVE 6. PRECINCT ORGANIZATION**LEAD:** *Darryl Glotfelty*

Task	Description	Report Frequency	Next Report
	The structure for building out our precinct leadership is going to have to start from the ground up. Using online resources provided by MDP and DNC will give us a good start in trying to build out this structure. The club is helping a lot with bridging the party with community engagement. We need to leverage these programs to get people excited about working with Dems.		
6.a	Create a specific plan for developing a precinct strategy and program.	Continuing	May 2023
6.b	Review what other DCC's have done.	Quarterly	July 2023
6.c	Develop a job description for captains with responsibilities and expectations laid out clearly.	Continuing	Aug. 2023
6.d	Use the candidate contact list to identify possible precinct activists.	Quarterly	Sept. 2023
6.e	Meet local democrats in their home precinct to develop camaraderie, friendship, and support. Developing rapport and friendship with local Dems will be key to garnering active local precinct leaders/groups.	Quarterly	Oct. 2023
6.f	Have regular meetings of and training for precinct captains, each March, June, September, and December.	Quarterly	Oct. 2023
6.g	Adopt a strategy of vice-captain as a way of having someone else who can step into the captain role as needed.	Continuing	Dec. 2023
6.h	Using VAN system, create voter lists for each precinct and work with leaders on get out the vote strategies within their locale (door knocking, phone banks, literature drops, text message campaigns).	Quarterly	Dec. 2023
6.i	Work with candidates to connect with the precinct captains and develop strategies for reaching voters, donors and volunteers in the election districts.	Continuing	Nov. 2023
6.j	Nurture and maintain the precinct organization to the greatest extent possible throughout campaign season and through election.	Continuing	Mar. 2024
SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS: Patrick Hunt (more names will be added as they are recruited)			

OBJECTIVE 7. PLATFORM ISSUES

LEAD: *Bob Spear*

Task	Description	Report Frequency	Next Report Date
7.a	Assemble a comprehensive GCDCC Platform Issues Committee, including at least one person focused on each of the GC Democratic platform issues, namely, Education, Economy, Environment, Healthcare, Poverty and Income Inequality, and Community.	One Time	April 2023
7.b	Develop a social media strategy to regularly identify the GC Democratic Platform stance on each of our issues: Education, Economy, Environment, Healthcare, Poverty and Income Inequality, and Community. The social media strategy may include, <i>inter alia</i> , forums, webinars, focus groups, press conferences, and letter-writing campaigns.	Quarterly	August 2023
7.c	Collaborate with the GC Dem Club on platform issues.	Continuing	June 2023
7.d	Identify local leaders and organizations as they relate to platform issues and make initial contact. Participate in local meetings of government and non-government organizations on behalf of GCDCC. Report to GCDCC on platform issues as needed, but at least semi-annually.	Quarterly	June 2023
<p>SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education: possibly Suzie Sincell (?) • Economy: Mike Dreisbach (yes) • Environment: possibly Dawn Beitzel • Healthcare Nicole Newman (yes) • Poverty and Income Inequality: possibly Len Shindell or Ryan Kitzmiller • Community: possibly Adele Naylor, Annika Naylor, Mike McEwen, and/or Tiffani Rains 			

FOLLOW-UP AND EVALUATION:

The Strategic Plan will be an item on the monthly GCDCC meeting agenda, with a written summary each quarter, specifically, Feb, May, Aug, and Nov. The Lead will be asked to report on the status of tasks under their purview. In addition, when a specific task becomes due in any month, the Lead will report on the accomplishment of that task and may invite other subcommittee members to report on aspects of the program.


CONCLUSION:

We Democrats are tired of being shy about our steadfast support for workers, farmers, and small businesses. We are in fact the party that supports working people of all stripes. All our messaging must emphasize that central fact.

It is indeed true that “It takes guts to be a Democrat in Garrett County.” While this may be an accurate and humorous statement, it is time to help Garrett County Democrats feel that they have a voice that needs to be heard and that they deserve to have a seat at the table in local politics. We made some strides during the last three general elections with increasing Democratic Party outreach, candidate development, and active participation. This plan is only a first step in building on those advances. We have our work cut out for us, that is true, and doing the work that is necessary as laid out in this plan is ambitious. It will take committee members, their successors, and their allies to be committed to attaining these goals and to be willing to invest the time and energy to do so. It is up to the members of the Garrett County Democratic Central Committee to be the leaders we need to build the Democratic Party here in Garrett County for real change in local politics to occur. We must no longer cede the ground to the Republicans, allowing them to feel entitled as the sole voice in Garrett County.

It is time that we demand our place at the table.

Plan Adopted by Garrett County Democratic Central Committee:

 <hr/> Judy A. Carbone, Chair, GCDCC	4/26/2023 <hr/> Date
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Committee Members:

Voting Members: Judy A. Carbone, Chair; Betty Pritt and Darryl Glotfelty, Co-Vice-Chairs; Bob Spear, Treasurer; Jeff Hovis, Secretary; Erin-Ruth Natividad, Tracy Edwards, and James Hunter

Associate Members: Charlene Pullias , Lindsay Pack, and Stephanie Pack; Cadence Natividad, Student Member