



Charlottesville phone banker, Calvin Maupin, speaks with voters about issues that are important to them.



Virginia Organizing leaders gathered outside the Virginia Workforce Center in Martinsville to protest the votes of U.S. Reps. Hurt and Griffith to continue giving tax breaks to the wealthiest two percent.



The Augusta-Staunton-Waynesboro Chapter gathered outside U.S. Rep. Goodlatte's office to ask for a real, in-person town hall meeting.

## News From the Grassroots

### Virginia Organizing Works to Register More Voters

Civic engagement is one of many things that Virginia Organizing is passionate about, and voting is a big part of civic engagement. This year, Virginia Organizing is amping up the effort to get out the vote. In addition to Virginia Organizing leaders working to get eligible voters registered, we have taken an additional step of adding 14 project associates to register voters at schools, community events, grocery stores, senior facilities, and anywhere else eligible voters may be found.

Virginia Organizing leaders have been emphasizing the importance of voting. Lois Hairston of Martinsville fondly remembers her father dressing up in his "Sunday clothes" to go to the polls for every election in North Carolina.

In addition to the hard work to register eligible voters in time for the November election, leaders are also

hosting events to educate voters on what kind of ID they need to bring to the polls this year and their rights.

In Louisa County, Douglas Winston helped organize a voter education forum. When asked why he thought this event was needed, Winston said, "It is important to help people identify if they are on the rolls to vote in the upcoming election, clear up any confusion about newly-enacted voter ID laws, and make sure everyone knows where their correct polling place is."

The Richmond Chapter also hosted a joint educational town hall-style forum with a variety of non-profit groups to educate voters on their rights and responsibilities. Panel speakers discussed the importance of knowing what you need to bring to the polls before you go and encouraged people to volunteer at the polls.

There are several important things you need to know before going to the polls this year:

- You need an ID. Acceptable forms of ID include your Social Security card, driver's license, utility bill with your current address, pay stub from your employer, voter registration card, concealed weapon permit, student ID, military ID, employer ID, or other state-issued ID.
- First time voters in a federal election need to meet certain guidelines to vote. If you are a first time voter, a Social Security card is not an acceptable form of ID. Be sure to bring another form of ID listed above!
- If you have questions or have problems voting, call 1-866-OUR-VOTE
- Virginia Organizing has a flyer available to help answer other questions about voting. You can find it by visiting <http://www.virginia-organizing.org/sites/default/files/NewVoterIDLawsFlyer.pdf>

See you at the polls!

# Real people. Real change.

## Virginia Organizing Participating in Commonwealth Campaign

This year, Virginia Organizing will participate in the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign from October to December. The program allows state employees to make donations using a payroll deduction. If you are a state employee and you'd like to donate to help Virginia Organizing continue our social and economic justice work, please use code **3168**. Thanks in advance for your support!

## Augusta-Staunton-Waynesboro Chapter Demands Real Town Hall Meeting

U.S. Representative Bob Goodlatte has not yet scheduled any open, in-person town hall meetings in his district, a common practice of Representatives during the August break. The Augusta-Staunton-Waynesboro Chapter paid a visit to Rep. Goodlatte's office in protest of his "robo-call" town halls and to demand a real town hall meeting that is open to the public. While Rep. Goodlatte was not at his office on the day of the protest, his staff gave him the information from the Virginia Organizing leaders. The

Chapter believes that a town hall is one important way to hold Rep. Goodlatte accountable for his votes on bills like the House budget, which strip important protections for people and for giving tax breaks to the wealthiest two percent.

## Checks for Millionaires

Did you know that your members of Congress are effectively writing checks to millionaires? Recently, the U.S. House of Representatives voted in favor of H.R. 8, a bill to extend tax cuts to the wealthiest two percent of Americans. The average tax cut for those affected would be \$160,000. Since tax cuts are not cheap, who will pay for these cuts? You guessed it: the middle class. The House voted in support of ending the Making College Affordable tax credit, affecting 25 million working and middle class Americans. The Martinsville-Henry County and Danville Chapters stood up to U.S. Reps. Robert Hurt and Morgan Griffith and protested their votes in support of H.R. 8. The protest took place in Martinsville where participants handed out fake checks to millionaires written by the Congressmen.

## Leader of the Month Catherine Fitzgerald



Catherine Fitzgerald is a Danville Chapter leader and has been working on numerous campaigns with Virginia Organizing. She

has been an outspoken advocate for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and has taken the lead on the local weatherization campaign in Danville.

This year, Catherine spoke out for the ACA in print, television, and radio news segments. She also participated in the demonstration in Danville in support of the ACA after the U.S. Supreme Court decision affirming the law. Catherine believes the ACA has helped her as a person on a fixed income be able to afford health care.

In addition, Catherine recently spoke to the Danville City Council on weatherization of buildings to create jobs and save energy. She believes this is an important issue because she lives in an older building and knows the cost of not weatherizing.

"I think Virginia Organizing is a very important organization because they are trying to do a lot to help a lot of different people. I like that the organization isn't focused on just one thing," said Catherine. Thank you, Catherine!

## VIRGINIA ORGANIZING

703 Concord Avenue  
Charlottesville, VA 22903  
(434) 984-4655 Fax: (434) 984-2803

## Local Chapters

Augusta/Staunton/Waynesboro  
Charlottesville  
Danville  
Harrisonburg  
Fredericksburg  
Lee County  
Martinsville-Henry County  
South Hampton Roads  
Washington County  
Tri-Cities/Petersburg  
Richmond  
On Campus: W&M, UMW, VSU, CNU,  
UVA, E&H, U of R

## News in Brief

- We only have \$114,147.94 to go to meet our grassroots fundraising goal of \$325,000! Will you consider helping us by making a tax-deductible donation? Donations can be made online by visiting our website and clicking on "Donate" or by mail to 703 Concord Avenue, Charlottesville, VA 22903.
- The **South Hampton Roads Chapter** participated in an action to keep the ban on uranium mining on August 28 in conjunction with several other advocacy organizations.
- We are still in need of volunteers to help with our phone bank! Can you give a little time to make sure that everyone comes out to vote this November? Contact Harold Folley at [harold@virginia-organizing.org](mailto:harold@virginia-organizing.org).
- The **Danville Chapter** made progress on their weatherization campaign, meeting with city officials to discuss the benefits of weatherization and the jobs this project can create.



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