

January 13, 2022



With the holidays behind us and the New Year here, I am reflecting on the work we have to do in our community. The school year is halfway through, and while the biggest thing on my kid's minds right now is if there will be a snow day. I've spent a lot of time thinking about the state of our schools and what we can do.

Fairfax County Public Schools are the crown jewel of the country, yet they are under attack. I grew up in Fairfax County and have lived nearly my entire life in Northern Virginia. I know our schools have changed for the better, with students and teachers working together toward improved educational goals and opportunities. Every day, I am thankful for the experienced teachers, supportive policies, and educational resources available to my children. I want to protect our public schools, so that future Fairfax County families have the same opportunities.

However, in the last two years, I have been saddened and surprised by the attacks on our schools, teachers, students, parents, and elected officials. These attacks have used fear, chaos, and disinformation campaigns to scare people into silence, but we must not be silent. They have been vicious, unfounded, and dangerous, driven by fake grassroots engagement, and we need to do everything we can to combat them.

FCDC is leading the way in standing up for our families and schools. As the mother of two Fairfax County Public School students. I'm asking you to donate to FCDC today to ensure we can protect public education and democracy.

Although I only joined FCDC recently. I have witnessed the hard work of Democrats across this county – and commonwealth – to protect our students, teachers and families from attacks funded by dark money and directed by the Republican party. FCDC is planning a full-court press this year to ensure that the school board in November continues the important work of educating our students in a positive environment where all kids can thrive. Our plans will cost money: your financial support now is critical for us to be able to carry them out. So here is who you can help right now:

Here is what your help NOW means to our effort:

- \$50 helps us purchase supplies for canvassers to go door-to-door talking about the importance of this election
- \$100 pays for targeted digital ads to make sure the names of our endorsed School Board candidates are known
- \$250 will go toward our funds to hire a campaign coordinator

With your gift today, you will not only help to support our school board, but also help the joint effort toward defending all our Democratic candidates for Fairfax County and the General Assembly. Please send your contribution in the enclosed envelope, or online at: <u>fairfaxdems.org/SupportSchools</u>.

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To make the biggest impact now and as we enter the critical 2023 cycle in Fairfax County, commit to a monthly donation so we'll know we can count on you throughout the year. We have big plans but can't do it without you.

As a scout leader and Sunday School teacher, I know the value of working together to make the world a better place. Let's work together to make sure our community continues to thrive and our teachers can continue to teach the truth and support all students.

With gratitude.

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Vanessa Hall FCPS mother, 9-year scout leader, Co-founder of <u>www.4publiceducation.org</u>