

# Newsletter

NCMP Quarterly Civic League and Community Organization Messenger (Fall, 2025)

## **Chesapeake Vote Shows Importance of Off-Year Elections**

Some say “I only vote in the presidential election.” This is a big mistake. City Council and other important local offices are decided in the presidential and in the off-year elections. Crestwood, a majority Black community in Chesapeake, “stayed home” in the 2022 off-year election. It paid the price at the July 15 meeting of the Chesapeake City council when members voted 6-3 to approve Virginia Natural Gas’s proposal to build a compressor station in Crestwood.

Compressor stations push natural gas through pipelines. Several years ago, the blockbuster film “Erin Brockovich” dramatized a true story in which a compressor station operated by a power company released pollution into a community. It caused widespread cancer and generated liability north of \$300 million.

Crestwood got its start during World War II. It is provided housing for Black employees of Smith Douglas Fertilizer Plant. Crestwood today is a vibrant, mainly Black community with neighborhoods of well-kept, single family homes such as Eva Garden, Crestwood Manor, Crestwood at Parkside, and Portlock. It is also home to mobile communities and strip malls. The median annual household income is \$72,000, about 24% lower than the median household income for the city of Chesapeake as a whole. Crestwood, then, is majority-Black community That is working hard to earn its way into the American Middle (Continue on page 5, Column 2)

## **Our Best Chance to Elect Democrats in Chesapeake is now.**

When we vote for local offices like city council and school board in Chesapeake, we don’t vote in districts the way we do for our state delegates. For local elections, all of Chesapeake is considered one district. That means all citizens of Chesapeake vote for the same city council and school board candidates. Local elections with only one district, like we have in Chesapeake, are called at-large elections.

At large elections are illegal at the state and national levels because they are discriminatory against Black communities. Chesapeake’s city council has been fighting to keep the system for years. We can eventually change the way we run local elections by electing Democrats into office.

## **Why is this election different from others?**

The way at-large elections work is through the power of numbers. The mostly white, Trump-supporting voters who vote in House District (HD) 90 show up to the polls in huge numbers for every election. Since they show up numbers, their votes end up diluting the votes of the more diverse, mostly Black voters who show up in the other districts, especially because it’s common for people to get discouraged and stop voting when their candidates never win. When that happens, the power of the white voters get even stronger. And so on, for decades.

Chesapeake’s at-large voting system for local elections means the (Continue on page5, Column 1)

## Does Political Canvassing Work?

The short answer is yes. There are several ways to doing canvassing of neighborhoods and individual. Listed below are four ways to do canvassing:

- Door to door
- Phone banking
- Text messaging
- Digital outreach (social media)

Knocking on doors take down barriers and build bridges with voters and increase voter turnout. Among the four methods of canvassing, **knocking on doors is the Gold standard.**

Door to door canvassing provides direct engagement. Encouraging voters to participate; address voters' concerns and questions effectively; raises awareness about upcoming elections and issues; and mobilize infrequent voters by reminding them to vote.

Canvassing has proven its worth in increasing voter turnout. The findings by Gerber and Green have broad implications for political strategies, suggesting that personal engagement and targeted messages are keys.

According to the 2023 Gallup Poll, independents constitute the largest political bloc in in the U.S., with an average of 43% of the electorate. Canvassing door to door provides an opportunity to win voters. The September 2024, Gallup Poll showed that canvassing door to door provided opportunities to register voters, and got more voters to register. An important finding of the poll was that and engaged voter was very likely to vote for a candidates that engaged them.

The polls and empirical research showed that canvassing increased voter turnout between 6-10% which can have a very positive results for the canvassing party. Tapping into the independent group of voters and infrequent voters can generate very positive results.

## Chesapeake Voter Turn Committee Canvassing

The New Chesapeake Men for Progress, Inc., Voter Turn Out committee, launched it precinct canvassing of the Province Neighborhood Saturday August 16, 2025, Jolliff Middle School Neighborhood precinct Sunday August 23, 205, and Crestwood, Crestwood Parkside, Crestwood Manor, and Libertyville Saturday September 5, 2025.

Organizationally, the NCMP Turn Out committee will be canvassing 12 Democratic Precincts wherein we nine more to go. The list of precincts remaining to be canvassed are:

Camelot  
Pughsville  
George Town  
George Town East  
Indian River  
Taylor Road  
South Norfolk  
Expressway  
Carver School

Our research shows that the city-wide voter turnout is at 67. In the 12 majority precincts for Republicans, the voter turnout is 77%. In the 12 majority Democratic precincts, the voter turnout is 62%. If we can raise the voter turnout to 67% in the 12 majority Democratic precincts, we stand a good chance of electing 3-5 candidate on city council and the school board.

Door to door canvassing provides a golden opportunity for us to achieve our objective. We need your assistance to put boots on the ground, that is, civic leagues, candidates, and community organizations. We also need a little financial help to continue with materials, etc.

***“Let it be said, Let it be done”***



The New Chesapeake Men for Progress, Inc.

Make your plans to...

# MEET THE CANDIDATES



There isn't a more important election than the one closest to home!

Saturday, *September 27, 2025*

*10: 00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.*

*Buffalow Family & Friends Community Days*

2403B Bainbridge Boulevard

Chesapeake, VA 23324

Commonwealth Attorney

Honorable Matt Hamel (D)-David Mick (R)

Commissioner of Revenue

Jennifer Naperala (D) – Honorable Victoria Proffitt (R)

Treasurer

Corrie Kring (D) – Wendy Roenker (R)

Sheriff

Honorable Dave Rosado (D) – Wallace Chadwick (R)

Dr. Amanda Quillin-School Board-Daniel A. Stahler

Do you have questions you would like to ask the candidates?

Submit your questions

To [cliftonrandolph178@gmail.com](mailto:cliftonrandolph178@gmail.com)

***Light refreshments will be provided***



The New Chesapeake Men for Progress, Inc.



## 2025 Chesapeake Civic and Community Engagement and Mobilization Forum

Saturday, September 20, 2025

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon

New Mount Olive A.M.E. Church

1953 Campostella Road, Chesapeake, Virginia 23324

**Focusing on Strengthening Equity and Equality  
in Local Governance**

**An invitation to church and community  
organization leaders, and civic leagues**

Please join us and share your questions and concerns regarding your neighborhood as well as concerns regarding the upcoming election, the Democratic process, and more!

Please contact Clifton Randolph, President (757-450-1610) or George F. Reed, Ph.D., chair,  
Legislative Committee (757-650-0174)

### **Why is this election different from other (Cont'd?)**

The number of voters who show up in HD 84,89,91, and 92 need to be larger than the number of voters who show up from HD 90 in order for Democrats to win seats at the local level. Right now, reasonable Republican voters are disgusted by the chaos and harm the current administration is inflicting on our country and so many of our citizens. In November, we can expect some Republican voters to vote for Democrats and for some to stay home. We can also expect Democrats who might not usually vote to show up and vote.

Those factors have set the stage for Chesapeake Democrats to take every seat in November: commonwealth Attorney; Commissioner of Revenue; Sheriff, Treasurer, and a School Board seat. However, we must do the work to get us over the finish line in first place.

We must vote and insist our family, friends, and neighbors do the same. We must make sure the people around us are registered and we must help them register if they aren't.

Reach out to local candidates and offer to knock on doors or invite them to speak at a meeting – even a house party. Inspire everyone around you to get involved. Now is the time to get loud.

The Republican Party might have money, but they have no soul. What we lack in money, we make up for with soul. Let your passion, your anger, or your faith drive you; and this year, we'll see more Democrats elected in Chesapeake than we ever have.

Next year, five city council and five school board seats will be open. May our joy from this year's success allow us to focus on expanding our reach? If we do, Democrats will control all major seats in Chesapeake's government in less than two years.

Imagine a city government that works for all of us. It's finally here for us if we want it. Therefore, let us get out and VOTE.

Contributed by:

**Jennifer Naperala, Democratic candidate for Commissioner of Revenue.**

### **Chesapeake Vote shows Important of Off-year Elections (Cont'd.)**

Class. Crestwood is also the type of place where American industry likes to put its pollution or dangerous operations, as the gas company did in 2018 when it ran a high-pressure transmission line adjacent to a school and through residents' back yards in Georgetown, another Black neighborhood in Chesapeake.

VNG operates its Gidley Gate Metering and Regulation Station in Crestwood. The company wants to expand Gidley by building a compressor station there. The gas transmission lines at Gidley operate at very high pressure (1,250 psi). Throughout the nation, 243 pipeline explosions were reported to the U.S. Department Transportation Pipeline and hazardous materials Safety Administration between 2015 and 2023. Serious incidents at these high-pressure transmission pipelines account for, on average, two fatalities, nine injuries, and \$65 million in property damage.

Gidley, with its nest of high-pressure transmission pipelines, is located a quarter mile from the Sturbridge mobile home community in Crestwood, a quarter-mile from CFC Childcare in Crestwood, less than a half-mile from the Eva Garden neighborhood in Crestwood, and three-quarter of a mile from the 553 middle school student at Crestwood Middle School.

Fifty-one people signed up to speak against the compressor station at the July 15 City Council meeting. Remarkably, City council, at the outset of the meeting, jettisoned its rules to prevent 80% of the opposition speakers from being heard. Even more remarkably, just a few weeks before, City council sat for hours and hours, deep into the night, while numbers of residents from the white neighborhood spoke in opposition to a data station. In sharp contrast to the treatment afforded to Crestwood, city council rejected the data center project opposed by the white, more affluent neighborhood.

Six members voted to short-change the people living in Crestwood at the July 15 meeting. Four were elected in 2022 off-year election when about one-half of the voters in Chesapeake (51%) cast ballots but, in Crestwood, far fewer (only 29%) voted. By choosing to stay home on Election Day, Crestwood squandered its chance in 2022 off-year elections to (continued on page 6. Column 1)

Put people of it choosing on City Council. Residents there have an opportunity to make a course correction in the 2026 off-year election, when the seats held by those four members of City Council are once again on the ballot.

***“By choosing to stay home on Election Day, Crestwood squandered its chance in the 2022 off-year election to put people of its choosing on City Council”***

Contributed by Jim Lang, a Chesapeake semi-retired attorney. For several years, he led the election committee for the Chesapeake Democratic Party.

## **When / Where to Vote**

**The Deadline to register to vote is October 24, 2025**

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registratio/how-to-register>

**In-person early voting starts at the General**

**Registrar’s Office on September 19:**

The General Registrar’s office – 411 Cedar Road  
Monday – Friday 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.: September 19 – October 31.

Saturday – 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.: October 25 & November 1.

**In-person early voting starts at satellite voting locations on October 20:**

October 20, 2025 – November 1, 2025

Central Library – 298 Cedar Road

Indian river Library – 2320 Old Greenbrier Road

Major Hillard Library – 824 Old George Washington Highway

Russell Memorial Library – 2808 Taylor Road

Dr. Clarence Cuffee Community Center – 2019 Windy Road.

**HOURS**

Monday – Thursday 10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Saturday – 9:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. October 25 & November 1

Office closure: Columbus Day Monday, October 13

**In-person voting on Election Day, November 4, 2025**

6am to 7pm. At your assigned voting precinct.

**Vote by Mail:**

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/early-absentee/>

## **The New Chesapeake Men for Progress Legislative Agenda**

The New Chesapeake Men for Progress, Inc. ten point legislative agenda include the Following:

1. Implement speed control signs in selected neighborhoods to protect lives and improve safety for walkers.
2. Install sidewalks in selected neighborhoods to improve safety and connectivity for students walking to schools and senior walkers.
3. Build and convocation/performing arts complex to graduate students in our city/bring entertainment groups to the city.
4. Implement a residential floor management program to improve traffic safety and reduce mosquito related diseases.
5. Reduce the tax burden on citizens in a fair and equitable manner, especially real estate, personal property and water and sewage.
6. Improve the education system through short and long range planning. Provide additional resource to improve the nine schools performing below the 50% percentile academically.
7. Support a fair and just common wealth attorney office and sheriffs’ office.
8. Support economic growth that improve the city’s infrastructure, services, provide good employment, and enhance the quality of life for citizens rather than corporations.
9. Support zoning practices that prevent industrial zoning in residential, and farming communities.
10. Reshape and update the Commissioner of Revenue and Treasurer’s offices to improve customer services, create greater accountability and transparency.

## Upcoming Canvassing by Chesapeake Men for Progress

-Jolliff Middle School-11:00 P.A.M. Saturday September 13, 2025 (4,141 Registered voters)

-Province-3:00 P.M. Saturday September 13, 2025. (4,240 Registered voters)

-Georgetown-Early October, TBA (2,534 Registered voters)

- Carver School-October, TBA (Part of providence precinct)

-Camelot-October, TBA (2,634 Registered voters.

The Voter Turn Out Committee, is most effective when the candidates and other organization's members volunteer to help in the effort.

---

## What does the City Council do?

- Act as the legislative body for city government
  - Make policy decisions and set goals for the city
  - Create and enforce laws and ordinances
  - Represent the interest of citizens and make decisions on behalf of communities
  - Approve contracts and bids for city projects
  - meet with constituents to discuss their issues and concerns
  - Negotiate and approve the city budget
- 

## City Publications to read to be informed

- Chesapeake Industrial Waterfront Study
- City Council Priority Projects
- Greenbrier Ara Plan
- City manager's 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 Popular Annual Financial Report
- Chesapeake 2035 Comprehensive Plan

## The Importance of Values in Politic and Governing

In politics, there are some things that are more important than victory. Honesty, truth, and integrity are a few of those things. These qualities are not unique to one party or the other. They are human values that must uphold and demand of our leaders, and especially, city council members that govern our city. A case in point in our city was when city council allowed members from the white community speak for our against the data center, and voted to kill the project. However, when members from Crestwood, a primarily Black neighborhood, city council changed the rules and only allowed on hour for citizens input, and then voted to allow the Virginia Natural Gas Compressor Station to move forward.

This decision expressed the values of the majority Republican City Council. They said to the citizens of Chesapeake and the world, that white people lives and corporations ventures are more important the wellbeing and live of Black people.

Why are Virginia Natural Gas pipelines and Compressor Stations only located in Black neighborhoods such as Georgetown, Crestwood and part of South Norfolk? The simple answer is that Blacks are not their constituents as a voting bloc, and therefore, posed no threat to their ability to get elected and to govern honestly, truthfully, and with integrity. Plus, too many Black people don't vote. We must understand that values play a pivotal role in shaping political thought and decision-making. The Republican Party in Chesapeake has governed along party lines consistent with the state and national party led by President Donald J. Trump. That is what loyal party members do. Protesting, marches, and complaining will do very little in changing their behaviors. The only effective way to change is to vote them out. This is why we, members of the New Chesapeake Men for Progress, is canvassing hard to get our Democratic Candidates elected. Help us in our efforts to **"Get out the Vote"**

## The Chesapeake Coalition of Community Organizations

The Chesapeake Coalition of Community Organizations (CCCO) was established April, 2025, as a nonprofit limit liability (LLC) company and serves as an umbrella organization to unite community organizations across Chesapeake as a collective voice to promote quality of life and fairness within communities.

Current member organizations include: New Chesapeake Men for Progress; Senior and Kids First; West Munden Civic League; Sunrise Hill Civic League; Crestwood Parkside Civic League; Southside Civic League; Fairfield Civic League; Camelot Civic League; Eva Garden Civic League; Georgetown Civic League; and Crestwood Manor Civic League.

The mission of CCCO is to bring community organizations together in unity, so that they can speak with one collective voice that advocate for the well-being of all communities within the city of Chesapeake. Through collaboration, shared purpose, and community engagement, CCCO strives to uplift every neighborhood and build a stronger, more connected city.

CCCO sponsored the Inaugural 2025 Community Celebration event Saturday August 23, 2025, on the grounds of the Dr. Clarence V. Cuffee Community Center, 2019 Windy Road, Chesapeake. the event was attended by more than one thousand youth and adults, and delivered an exciting program featuring, among other things, a back-to-school supplies give-away; games for children and adults; free food; informational workshops on preventative health and safety; academic challenges; fun games; voter registration; magic show, and a variety of demonstrations and music. CCCO is open to all civic leagues and community organization- contact Clifton Randolph, 757-450-1610.

## Quarterly Newsletter

The NCMP Quarterly Civic League and Community Organization Messenger was created to assist in keeping civic leagues and community organization informed on issues in the city that impact their neighborhoods, and provide assistance in solving them through community engagement and mobilization.

Voter Turnout Committee members  
Clifton Randolph, Educator (Ret.)  
George F. Reed, Ph.D., Educator (Ret.)  
Jim Lang, Esquire  
Nancy Pettigrew, Educator  
Adam Billet, M.D.  
Editor: George F. Reed, Ph.D. 757-650-0174

## What the Data Shows

The Voter Turnout Committee research team led by Nancy Pettigrew, compiled survey data on community concerns from Ahoy Acres; Camelot; Crestwood Manor, and Crestwood Parkside.

The bar graph below reflects the findings:

The top three concerns were (1) Speeding on neighborhood streets; (2) Ditches that breed mosquitos, (3) Lack of a performing arts center, (4) Flooding; and (5) Lack of a convocation center.

