

We Are Augusta County

The Augusta County Democratic Committee cherishes the rural and small town lifestyle afforded to all residents of Augusta County. Whether a recent transplant, a transplant of many years, or born and raised in the County, we are all here for the same reason: appreciation of a quiet and relaxed pace of living and a love of natural beauty. Whether hunting, fishing, hiking, or taking a Sunday drive, the opportunity to take some time just to enjoy life is always available. To maintain this lifestyle, we need a robust economy and infrastructure without sacrificing the environment in the name of short term economic gain.

- Agriculture has always been a mainstay of Augusta County and must remain so.
- We must foster the growth of small businesses as particularly important to rural communities.
- We support charging sales tax on internet sales as no sector of the economy should enjoy a tax advantage over another – in this case, our local businesses. Efforts must be made to ensure the sales tax revenues go to the proper locality based on purchaser address location not zip code.
- While maintaining our current industrial/manufacturing base, we must create an environment that attracts both traditional and high technology businesses.
- In today's economy, it is important to have a solid community base that can attract these new businesses as well as qualified workers. To that end:
 - We must support Augusta Health as a premier rural medical center
 - We must support and improve our public school system that has achieved high marks in statewide rankings
 - We must support Blue Ridge Community College's efforts to provide a quality education at an affordable price.
 - We must preserve and protect our natural resources as a main attraction for bringing new business into the area as a family friendly and healthy environment.
- To enhance our quality of life for today and for future generations in the County defined urban district as well as foster our tourist industries, we support:
 - The expansion of the county park system specifically with a "Central Park" size park.

- The creation of a pedestrian/cycling/equestrian greenway from Staunton to Afton Mountain.
- Broadband internet access must be expanded across the entire county not only to make our rural businesses more competitive but to support our children's education.
- We support Net Neutrality.
- As the main transportation artery through our County, the I-81 traffic congestion problem must be solved. Solutions include the use of technology to better enforce laws and manage traffic flow and heightened police presence.
- To preserve our rural lifestyle, we are committed to preserving our individual property rights. Eminent domain must be reserved for government projects that benefit the population as a whole not for increasing corporate profits.
- We are fortunate to have the City of Staunton within our midst and border two national forests to attract those all-important tourist dollars to our area. We must work with Staunton and Waynesboro to build on this tourist industry by preserving not only the natural beauty of our county but supporting new businesses tied to tourism such as wineries and breweries.