

**CALL TO ACTION**  
**January 1, 2022**  
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR &**  
**ELECTED OFFICIALS COMMUNICATIONS**

Going to cut right to the chase. We need you to step up. Now that we have 2020 behind us, it is time to jump into 2022 with both feet. This year we have all of the U.S. House of Representative and possibly, due to redistricting, all the VA House of Delegate seats up for re-election.

You will hear this said a lot this year - Virginia is where the nation studies for the midterm elections. It is up to **US** to set an example for what organizing can look like in rural communities across the country. It is up to **US** to bring about the Biden/Harris campaign promise of Build Back Better.

For real democracy to work, it requires participation beyond the voting booth. One way is to ensure that our elected officials are held accountable to their constituents, not just corporate donors or other special interests. We must insist they institute policies that benefit WE THE PEOPLE. Therefore,

**HOW CAN YOU START TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

- consider routinely writing Letters to the Editor. Ben Cline and our House of Delegate members have provided plenty of material and especially warrant our attention by direct contact and/or through the local newspapers. Also, writing about Income Inequality, the Right to Work, and social justice, to name just a few, are ways to educate and bring awareness to issues that affect everyone.

- o News Leader submissions [HERE](#).
- o News Virginian submissions [HERE](#).

**AND/OR**

- consider routinely writing letters/emails to elected officials to advise them of what you see as priorities, steer them towards more equitable policies, remind them who they work for, demand change, and hold them accountable for their actions. Let's keep the pressure on to ensure fair representation. Lobbyists and special interests are routinely contacting

OUR representatives. It is time they hear from their constituents on what matters to us.

- Senator Tim Kaine contact info [HERE](#).
- Senate Mark Warner contact info [HERE](#).
- Representative Ben Cline contact info [HERE](#).
- VA General Assembly HOUSE contact info [HERE](#).
  - John Avoli, D-20; Ronnie Campbell, D-24; Chris Runion, D-25
- VA General Assembly SENATE contact info [HERE](#).
  - Emmett Hanger, D-24
- Augusta County Board of Supervisors contact info [HERE](#).
- Augusta County School Board contact info [HERE](#).
- Staunton City Council contact info [HERE](#)
- Staunton City School Board contact info [HERE](#)
- Waynesboro City Council contact info [HERE](#)
- Waynesboro City School Board contact info [HERE](#)

Again, 2022 presents the opportunity to start anew, to ensure that the regressive policies, especially of the last four years and more generally over the past 40 years\*, of the Republican party, are no longer national policy. Silence and complacency have allowed the rhetoric, lies, myths, and policies that have taken hold in our society to flourish. We need to take back the narrative. Collectively we can make a difference. We must build back better because normal has not been working for the middle class or poor.

*The cure for much of what ails our society is active citizen participation. Those who don't care, those who do nothing, bear enormous responsibility for the suffering of the world.*  
*Laurence Overmire*

Please seriously consider taking a more active role in our democracy and being part of the solution for positive change in our daily lives and for a future that our children and grandchildren rightfully deserve.

\*See discussion of 40 years of the Reagan Revolution and Movement Conservatism by Heather Cox Richardson, December 30, 2020 [HERE](#)