



University Democrats at the University of Virginia

democrats@virginia.edu

Dear University Democrats Supporter,

In recent years, the University Democrats at the University of Virginia have been working to keep our members, alumni, and generous supporters connected to our ongoing projects and accomplishments at UVA. From spending the fall campaigning for Democrats across the state and across the country to attending the Virginia Young Democrats Convention in the spring, we have continued to grow as an organization over the course of the past year. As we enter a new school year—and campaign season—our work connecting students to the political process and keeping Virginia blue is as important as ever before.

As we came back for the fall semester, UDems hit the “Grounds” running, supporting the campaigns of Virginia Democrats such as Tim Kaine, as well as Democrats running across the country. After a huge first meeting turnout for Khizr Khan, the club rallied new and old UDems, registering hundreds of students to vote, knocking thousands of doors, making tens of thousands of phone calls, organizing our largest cohort of campaign fellows to date, and increasing the number of voters we reached by over 700% compared to 2017. We hosted Senator Kaine on a number of occasions, and were thrilled to welcome UVA alumnus and Super Bowl Champion Chris Long for a canvassing weekend in Charlottesville. In addition, we supported the efforts of Car2Vote, transporting students and Charlottesville residents to the polls. Charlottesville and Albemarle saw turnout that was the closest to Presidential levels of any localities in the Commonwealth, and our efforts were a major part of that. After a semester of hard work, we celebrated flipping the House of Representatives on November 6th.

UDems returned to Grounds this spring with the same vigor, traveling to Richmond for Virginia Young Democrats Lobby Day during the first week of classes. We welcomed speakers on progressive topics ranging from diversity at the University to immigration policy. In addition, we’ve worked closely with other groups on Grounds to work to end the voluntary ICE notification policy here in Charlottesville. Not to mention, Beto O’Rourke became the first Democratic Presidential candidate to visit UVA this cycle, and we welcomed him in Nau Hall to an overflow crowd of hundreds. A week after that, we welcomed the two House of Delegates candidates here in Charlottesville for a forum.

This, of course, is only a brief overview of the extensive activities, projects, and campaigning we completed over the course of the 2018-2019 school year. To stay up to date on UDems goings-on and to keep an eye on our continued growth, we encourage you to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram using @DemsatUVA or to check out our website: www.demsatuva.org.

This Fall, UDems will be working tirelessly to flip the House of Delegates and Virginia State Senate. In both chambers, Democrats face only a two seat deficit. Given these crucial elections,

UDems will be launching extensive canvassing, phonebanking, and voter registration initiatives for candidates across the Commonwealth. UDems' role as a hub of both voter registration and Democratic campaigns at UVA is a massive undertaking, and requires a great deal of planning and assistance. We are writing to ask for your continued support for our endeavors this campaign season, upcoming semester, and beyond, in multiple ways.

Because UDems receives limited monetary support from the University due to its status as a political organization, UDems must largely self-fund our efforts. Thus, in order to continue holding events that politically engage students and successfully campaign for Democrats this fall, **we need your help financially.**

If you can't support us financially, please **help us expand our network.** Though there are many UDems alumni, we don't have contact information for everyone. If you are in touch with any fellow alumni, please invite them to join the group "UDems Alumni" on Facebook and have them invite their friends as well. Additionally, please encourage fellow alumni to fill out our contact form, which can be found in the aforementioned Facebook group, so we can keep them abreast of news as well. Finally, we also have a LinkedIn presence, so feel free to cite us on your profile. We look forward to continuing to expand our alumni network and strengthen connections between UDems alumni and current members.

Whether you are able to include a donation, an email or home address of someone we should be in touch with, a picture of you campaigning, a suggestion, or even just a kind note, we'd love to hear from you! Thank you in advance for your support. Additionally, we'd love to meet alumni who are in town—please reach out to attend a meeting, join us for trivia, or even join us as a guest speaker. Never hesitate to reach out!

Please help us build on the progress we've made this past year, ensure that we flip the House of Delegates and Virginia State Senate, and guarantee a successful 2019-2020 year for UDems!

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is for Jackson Samples, and the signature on the right is for Joseph Dennie. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

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