

**Upcoming Fairfax City Elections, November 2024**  
**Friends of Fairfax City Environment – September 1, 2024**

Happy Labor Day!

As you all are aware, November 5 is Election Day and a very important election for our forests and streams in Fairfax City.

Those of us who want the city to protect our forests and streams need to make sure to support and vote for the candidates who have committed to doing so. And inform your neighbors. Many people will think that voting for the local democrat's "slate" will be a vote for protecting the environment. Sadly, that is not true! Both Mayor Catherine Read and Councilmember Billy Bates voted to proceed with the forest- and wetland-destroying bike trail projects despite ample evidence that the projects will be needlessly destructive and have very little community support.

The only way to stop these destructive projects is to vote for Sue Kuiler for mayor, and vote for the council members who will commit to cancel the George Snyder Trail (or move it to existing infrastructure) and the other similarly destructive trail projects. You have likely received the new newspaper, the [Fairfax Independent](#), in your mail. FYI, the paper states that all candidates were invited to answer the questionnaire, but 3 candidates did not respond. The only candidates, who, in their responses to the questionnaire, state they want to cancel the trees-to-trails projects unless much less destructive options are found, are Sue and Kate. Tom Peterson identified the failed decision-making process that led to the GST, and that citizens must have a voice in this type of project. In my view, this is a result of his experience, like mine, as the chair of the Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC), from which position it was made abundantly clear to me that city leadership has been intent on muzzling the ESC on critical issues like the GST and development projects. People often ask me why the ESC is not front and center on some of these issues. I can assure you it is a result of actions taken by leadership to prevent active engagement by their own advisors on "controversial" environmental issues.

Please voice your concerns to all the candidates and see who will commit to concrete action and not just "greenspace is good" throw-away positions that vanish when votes are called. Also, just from reading the candidate responses I want to point out that Jack Ryan goes out of his way to voice support for bike trails and "regional" access via bicycling, with no mention of the enormous environmental cost of such projects to our city. It has been a frustrating aspect of this fight to have people express this type of joy in seeing "flora and fauna" on a bike ride without considering the destruction to the habitat of those plants and animals that had to occur to build those bike roads in sensitive stream valleys. While several candidates acknowledged that invasive plants are a problem in the city, none grasp the size of the problem, nor do they seem to understand the connection between poor city decisions like woodland destruction and the invasion of non-native plants. Invasive plant removal work is a last ditch, herculean effort to reduce the damage, when the problem needs to be addressed at the source. With the modest amount of remaining woodland in our city it is especially imperative to protect what remains. **We can't keep slicing and dicing a small woodland and expect it to remain a viable habitat.**

Three upcoming candidate events (more details on the flyers below)

**Independents for City of Fairfax Meet and Greet - Saturday, Sept 7**, 4117 Addison Road 5-8 pm (RSVP [kateforfairfaxcity@gmail.com](mailto:kateforfairfaxcity@gmail.com))

**Sue Kuiler Kickoff Event Tuesday, Sept 10** PJ Skidoos 5-7 pm 9908 Fairfax Boulevard (RSVP [kuiler4fairfax@gmail.com](mailto:kuiler4fairfax@gmail.com))

**Tom Peterson Campaign Kickoff Event Sunday, Sept 15**, 3-5 pm Country Club Hills Commons (10050 Spring Lake Terrace) [tom4fairfax@gmail.com](mailto:tom4fairfax@gmail.com)

Yard signs for these candidates will be available at these events. If you want a yard sign sooner than the event you can email the candidates to request them.

Also, there will be a [Meet the Fairfax City 2024 Candidates Night](#) Wednesday, Sept 25 7:30-9pm Sherwood Community Center 3740 Blenheim Blvd. (note just fyi, this is not going to be a debate format- only 2 minutes per candidate to introduce themselves and the rest of the time will be "mingling")

And PLEASE consider volunteering a few hours to help them reach voters. A major assist would be helping hand out flyers during Early Voting (starts Sept 22). So many people will be coming to City Hall to vote for the presidential campaign, and the reality is that 1/2 of them are likely to unthinkingly check the boxes for those local candidates they are told are democrats without doing any more research on the candidates themselves. So unless we who care are there to explain that the candidates we support share the democratic party platform vision on many social and economic issues but add to that environmental priorities they probably won't ever know that the so-called, self-anointed "dems" in our city have committed to a very anti-environmental program of paving forested public lands and kowtowing to developers.

Current city leadership has done our woodlands, streams and wildlife a grave disservice by pushing forward obstinately with these destructive projects even after the very real inherent damage of the proposed plans has been brought to their attention repeatedly. And in so doing, ignoring the Comprehensive Plan commitments to the environment, and giving deference and priority to the developers and other regional power brokers who don't live here. When they say Fairfax Forward, think twice about what they are implying- the GST is what they think is the future. Destroying our woodlands is not the way to a healthier and more sustainable future for Fairfax City.

Thanks for hanging in there on my long email. I hope you can find the time to pitch in!

**PS:** Some excerpts from the Fairfax Independent from those candidates who stated their position on the George Snyder Trail and similar projects:

**Sue Kuiler:** As Mayor she "would urge the new council to cancel the Country Club Commons Connector Trail and the Pickett Road Connector Trail and cancel or modify the proposed George Snyder Trail to eliminate the western portion and re-design the western portion to minimize greenspace destruction"

**Kate Doyle Feingold:** "We should not use transportation funds for trails because that requires them to become large, paved roads and leads to the destruction of trees and green spaces. I support canceling the CCH connector, Pickett Run connector and canceling or re-scoping the George Snyder Trail - these are all examples of environmentally damaging proposed bike roads in the city."

**Tom Peterson:** "We must enable residents to become full partners in the identification and design of all City environmental policies...[t]he George Snyder Trail is an example of a breakdown in this process that should not be repeated"



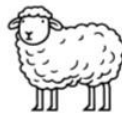
# Meet the Independent Candidates for Fairfax City Mayor & Council

September 7  
5-8pm

4117 Addison rd Fairfax

RSVP: [kateforfairfaxcity@gmail.com](mailto:kateforfairfaxcity@gmail.com)

The Lambmowers will be visiting - you can hang with the lambs and learn about this eco-friendly lawn care method while they “mow” the grass [www.lambmowers.com](http://www.lambmowers.com).



[www.IndependentFairfaxCity.com](http://www.IndependentFairfaxCity.com)

**Pick up yard signs, sign-up to volunteer and  
get to know all of us!**

Paid for and authorized by: Susan Hartley Kuiler for Mayor, Greenfield for City Council, Kate for Fairfax City Council, Stacy For Fairfax, Rachel for Fairfax, Tom4Fairfax, Friends of Anthony Amos

Working Together to Build a Safe, Liveable,  
and Beautiful City For All of Us

[KUILER4FAIRFAX.COM](http://KUILER4FAIRFAX.COM)

**VOTE NOV 5**

# SUSAN HARTLEY KUILER

**FOR CITY OF FAIRFAX MAYOR**

**JOIN THE CAMPAIGN  
KICKOFF EVENT**

**SEP 10**  
5PM

P.J. Skidoos  
**9908 Fairfax Blvd**  
*Refreshments will be provided.*

*Cash bar available.*

**FEATURING GUEST SPEAKERS**



**CHAP PETERSEN**  
Honorable Former State Senator



**KATE DOYLE FEINGOLD**  
Honorable Council Member

**RSVP**

[KUILER4FAIRFAX@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KUILER4FAIRFAX@GMAIL.COM)

*Authorized And Paid For By Susan Hartley Kuiler For Mayor.*

# ELECT

**TOM**  
**PETERSON**  
*for FAIRFAX CITY COUNCIL*



**Working  
Together To Build  
A Non-Partisan,  
Community-Focused,  
Sustainable Future  
For All.**

**Please join my  
campaign kickoff for an  
open discussion about the  
long-term vision for our  
community.**

**SEP 15**  
3-5pm

**Country Club Hills Commons**  
10500 Spring Lake Terrace,  
Fairfax, VA 22030

## **JOIN OUR MOVEMENT FOR A BETTER FAIRFAX**

Together, we can create a path toward a more livable, just, and sustainable Fairfax. Every contribution, no matter the size, empowers our campaign to make decisive, community-focused changes.

*Snacks and refreshments served.*

Learn more about the candidate  
**TOM4FAIRFAX.COM**

*Paid for and authorized by Tom4Fairfax.*

# MEET THE FAIRFAX CITY 2024 CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL, AND SCHOOL BOARD

Wednesday, September 25th

7:30pm-9pm

Stacey C. Sherwood Community Center

3740 Blenheim Boulevard, Fairfax, VA 22030,

Overflow Parking located at the Christian Science Church located at 3725 Blenheim Blvd

- Listen to and meet the candidates.
- Have your questions answered.
- Share your ideas.
- Interact personally with the candidates.
- Get ready for the General Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024!

Each candidate will be given two minutes to speak to the audience. Following, there will be ample time for you to meet and mingle with the participating candidates.

## SPONSORED BY:

League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area  
Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce



**FREE, NONPARTISAN event!**

## Co-Sponsors:

Asian American Chamber of Commerce, NOVA Black Chamber of Commerce, NOVA Hispanic America Chamber of Commerce, American Association of University Women - Virginia Northern District, NAACP Fairfax County Branch, Northern Virginia NCNW, The Arc of Northern Virginia, Fairfax County Council PTA, Fairfax City Citizens for Smarter Growth, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, Rotary Club of Fairfax Education Foundation, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated® Lambda Kappa Omega Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.-3rd District-Northern Area II, Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Iota Epsilon Sigma Northern VA Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.