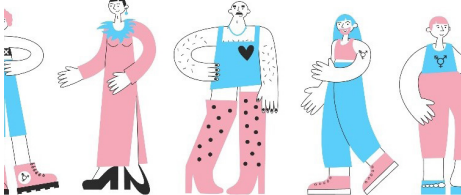




TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY



Shaping Futures? or Promoting Special Interests?

The Campaign for Southern Equality recently initiated a federal complaint against North Carolina's attempts to address parental rights in the education of children.

Let's be clear – a complaint is not a lawsuit. It's simply an attempt to stimulate a regulatory agency into challenging something a complainant doesn't like.

In this case, the complainant, The Campaign for Southern Equality, doesn't like the idea of parents having rights that interfere with their vision of what's best for America.

Herein lies the problem. The Campaign for Southern Equality has about as much connection to equality as KFC has to nutrition.

Their focus is almost always on agendas tied to one specific interest group. In this case, that group holds a very – might we say – generous view on sexuality, gender identity, and parents' rights regarding these matters in schools.

This conversation extends beyond sex to broader principles that concern us all – the integrity of education and the importance of parents guiding their children's moral and educational development.

Parental engagement in education is crucial for many reasons, but one stands out -

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DSA Picks for Asheville City Council

With the Asheville city council elections on the horizon, it's essential for voters to be informed about the candidates and the significant decisions made by the current council. This knowledge is crucial for understanding the potential directions our community might take.

Key Decisions by Current Council Members:

The Asheville City Council, composed entirely of registered Democrats and currently all female, has made several decisions that have sparked discussion within our community. Notably, Kim Roney and Sage Turner have made votes on key issues:

- Appointment to the Asheville City Schools Board: Turner and Roney voted for the appointment of a transgender activist to the Asheville City Schools Board. The same city council later appointed a BLM supporter to the school board.
- Funding Initiatives: Their votes were also cast to allocate millions of taxpayer dollars towards homeless initiatives and reparations.
- Vance Monument: Additionally, they voted in favor of removing the Vance Monument in downtown Asheville, a decision that has been a focal point of conversation about the city's public spaces and historical representation.

Candidates Seeking Election:

- Charles "CJ" Domingo: As a candidate registered as a Republican, Domingo offers a platform focused on fiscal responsibility, safety, and educational values, contrasting with some of the recent council decisions.
- Roney and Turner: Incumbent council members.
- Additional Democratic Candidates: The ballot includes an additional five

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"Every right is married to a duty, every freedom owes a corresponding responsibility."

- Russell Kirk

WARNING

**BULLYING,
HARASSMENT,
OR ANY KIND OF
VIOLENCE
ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE
AND ARE GROUNDS
FOR EXPULSION
FROM THIS SCHOOL**

Buncombe Bullying

At the heart of the January 11 Buncombe County Board of Education meeting were the earnest voices of our community, laying bare the multifaceted challenges facing our educational system. Yet, amidst these calls for attention and action, a pattern of response—or lack thereof—emerged, particularly highlighted by the Board's handling of grave concerns raised by citizens like Bill Robinson regarding student suicides attributed to bullying.

Sara Disher Ratliff's spotlight on the issue of latchkey kids underscored a broader theme of vulnerability among our students, emphasizing the need for the school system to adopt proactive communication strategies. This plea for consideration, aimed at mitigating the unintended consequences of weather-related school closures, is a testament to the community's desire for a responsive and caring educational framework.

Bill Robinson has attempted at multiple times to draw the Board's attention to the tragic suicides in our district and the role of "suicide bullies". His attempts have been met with a response that seemed to echo the more significant issue at hand: an institutional hesitance to engage deeply with uncomfortable truths. The cursory "thank you" offered in response to Robinson's

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Special Interests

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- any system that assigns responsibility without authority is doomed to fail. One cannot successfully raise children without linking influence and accountability.

In addressing the complexities of Senate Bill 49, we have an opportunity to consider how to create a respectful, inclusive educational space while recognizing parents' indispensable role as child advocates.

The Director of the Campaign for Southern Equality, Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, has a history of special interest dedication. That's fine, but it would be a mistake to imagine her organization can simultaneously practice inclusion and exclusion and pretend wisdom.

History has repeatedly shown us that in the rush to prioritize the agenda of one special interest group or another, public policy can all too easily block the essential input of other key stakeholders.

Any approach to education that seeks to eliminate or impair parental engagement is short-sighted. Matters of gender and sexuality are certainly not an exception.

Parents are not part-time participants in their child's upbringing and no bureaucracy – educational or otherwise – should be supported in minimizing parental involvement.

The Campaign for Southern Equality is a special interest group that rejects this premise. They should not be rewarded for their error in judgment.

Bullying

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pleas highlights a disconnect between the urgency of community concerns and the Board's engagement with these issues.

In light of this, we proposed a series of amendments to Policy 4329/7311 (Bullying and Harassing Behavior Prohibited), aimed not only at addressing the specific issue of bullying and its dire consequences but also at catalyzing a shift in how the Board interacts with the concerns of its constituents.

We wrote to both the Asheville City Schools Board and the Buncombe County Schools Board on February 7. We offered eight specific suggestions for amending Buncombe's existing policy

with the seriousness and urgency they warrant:

1. **Prohibit Bullying Related to Suicide:** Introduce explicit rules against bullying that encourages suicide or self-harm.
2. **Mandatory Suicide Prevention Training for Staff:** Ensure all staff are trained to recognize and respond to signs of suicidal ideation.
3. **Suicide Prevention Education for Students:** Implement comprehensive, evidence-based programs to foster a supportive environment.
4. **Fast-Track Investigation of Bullying:** Establish procedures for quick response to bullying linked to suicidal thoughts.
5. **Support Services for Victims:** Offer counseling and support for bullying victims and their families.
6. **Clear Consequences for Bullying:** Define and enforce penalties for bullying related to suicide and self-harm.
7. **Anonymous Reporting System:** Create a confidential way to report bullying, facilitating early intervention.
8. **Community Task Force on Bullying:** Form a group to regularly review and update bullying and suicide prevention policies.

While we requested the board's response to our proposal, we have heard nothing but silence from the Buncombe County Board members; but we were treated to a "thank you" from a member of the Asheville City Board.

It is time for the boards' silence and cursory acknowledgments to give way to substantive action and meaningful change. In doing so, we affirm our collective commitment to creating a safe, supportive, and responsive educational environment for all our students.

We urge you to reach out to members of each board and tell them your thoughts on bullying in their systems. *Better yet consider registering as a candidate for a seat on the county school board during the candidate registration window this summer (July 5 thru August 2).*

**2024 Primary Election
Early Voting in Progress!**

Election Day is Tuesday, March 5

Buncombe Schools Board: Don't Tell Them What to Do!

In a contentious climate, the Buncombe County School Board is inching closer to finalizing a redistricting plan in compliance with NC state law. The process has highlighted deep divisions within the community and underscored the tension between local and state governance. Amid political discord, a recent board meeting brought to light the complex journey towards adopting Option C for redistricting, showcasing a broader narrative of local resistance to state-led initiatives.

Community Voices and Political Tensions Public input showcased a community divided over the proposed changes. Sara Disher-Ratliff urged the board to acknowledge and appreciate the unique differences within each school district. Other minority voices expressed feeling marginalized in a predominantly liberal-controlled area. They expressed concerns over the dilution of their representation under the current process.

Democrat NC Representative Eric Ager attended the meeting to show support for the board and criticize the redistricting effort as "partisan". His appearance at this meeting further amplified political tensions, and his comments demonstrated how local governance stands defiantly against external influence. While declaring herself to be a conservative Republican, Board member Amy Churchill has also referred to the state legislation as "partisan" on several occasions.

A Reluctant Consensus

Despite these overarching tensions, board members voiced a cautious preference for Option C. Some commenting that Option C appeared to be the least disruptive option, aimed at preserving the integrity of school communities. Board member Rob Elliot expressed concerns about divisiveness and the erosion of community identity. This introspection begs the question: Is the fear of divisiveness not an indirect opposition to the diversity of opinion?

Fiscal Implications and Educational Priorities

The board's lean towards Option C has not

Redistricting

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eased the concerns of conservative constituents, who view the redistricting process as indicative of a broader disregard for their concerns. The perceived opposition of the board and local politicians to Republican-led legislative efforts in Raleigh exacerbates the feeling of disenfranchisement among conservative families.



A Community at a Crossroads

As the board prepares to formalize its redistricting decision, Buncombe County finds itself at a crossroads. The process not only reflects the challenge of aligning legal mandates with local demographic realities but also highlights the struggle for a voice in a political landscape where many conservatives feel increasingly alienated. The board's actions, in navigating the redistricting challenge, reveal tensions between state and local governance, highlighting a schism between legislative intent and community impact.

Reflecting on Political Influence and Educational Governance

The board's use of consultants and the criteria set for redistricting, including incumbent protection, raises questions about the political nature of their decisions.

This approach, costing over \$40,000, underscores a tension between maintaining stability in board composition and responding to legislative changes. It prompts critical reflection on the inherent politicization of public education governance and whether true nonpartisanship is achievable. The endeavor to remain apolitical in the face of significant demographic and political shifts may itself be a political act, aimed at preserving the status quo under the guise of nonpartisanship.

The consensus for Option C, while a reluctant compromise, emphasizes the ongoing battle for representation and educational governance in Buncombe County. As the board moves forward, the community watches closely, hoping for a resolution that bridges divides and fosters a more inclusive and representative educational landscape.

City Council

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other registered Democrats, each presenting their own visions for Asheville's future, which promises a robust democratic process.

Note: Roney was endorsed in her 2022 mayoral run by the Democratic Socialists of America – Asheville Chapter (DSA). DSA also endorsed Taylon Breanne Breeden in her 2022 candidacy for the state Senate. Breeden is among the five Democrats on the Primary ballot for City Council.

Asheville DSA



Democratic Socialists of America

Asheville DSA is the Western North Carolina chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, a political, activist organization that seeks to empower working people and marginalized groups and build a more equitable society for all of us.

DSA is actively working to recruit volunteer polling place greeters for Roney.

Your Role in Shaping Asheville's Future:

The city council election is a pivotal moment for Asheville, offering an opportunity to influence the city's direction. By casting an informed vote, each of us contributes to the shaping of Asheville's future. Let's approach this responsibility with the seriousness it deserves, ensuring our decisions are based on a comprehensive understanding of the candidates and their potential impact on our community.

First Tuesday Conservatives – Asheville, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt advocacy organization under Section 501(c)4 of the IRC. Contributions or gifts to First Tuesday are not tax-deductible for IRS purposes.

<https://secure.anedot.com/first-tuesday-conservatives-asheville-inc/>

Help Wanted: Social Media Volunteers

Are you passionate about politics and eager to make a difference in our community?

First Tuesday is looking for volunteers to join our team and help manage our social media campaigns.



Responsibilities:

- Assist in managing social media accounts for First Tuesday, including content creation, scheduling posts, and engaging with followers.
- Collaborate with team members and other conservative organizations to develop and implement social media strategies to promote our initiatives and events.
- Monitor social media channels for trends and opportunities to increase engagement and reach.
- Work with leadership to ensure messaging aligns with First Tuesday's goals and values.

Qualifications:

- Strong understanding of major social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) and how to effectively utilize them for advocacy and outreach.
- Excellent communication skills. Creative mindset with the ability to generate engaging content.
- Reliable

Benefits:

- Opportunity to contribute to meaningful causes and make a positive impact in our community.
- Gain valuable experience in social media management and digital marketing.
- Work with a passionate and dedicated team of like-minded individuals.
- Flexible scheduling and the ability to work remotely.

How to Apply or Inquire:

Voice Mail: Reach us at 828/348-4180. Please leave your full name, contact details, and the best times to return your call.

Email: Send your application or questions to jimcowmia@firsttuescons.com. Highlight your experience with website security, AI integration, and any previous work with WordPress sites.

US Postal Service: Mail to First Tuesday – Asheville, 4 Long Shoals Rd., Suite B459, Arden, NC 28704.

We hope to hear from you soon!

Power Politics? or the Principled Rule of Law?

Current efforts to exclude a candidate from the presidential ballot is a dangerous business.

Weaponizing the 14th Amendment's disqualification clause to this mission – doubly so.

Though those so engaged reliably drape themselves in a cloak of nobility. Any legal agenda that sidesteps the principles of fairness, due process, and integrity is anything but.

Thus, the burning question becomes a simple one — shall we permit political agendas to circumvent the foundational precepts of our Republic and thus risk forever blurring the crucial differences between the rule of law and the rule of power and personal preference?

The 14th Amendment, born out of the

ashes of the Civil War, was intended to solidify the nation's unity and explicitly repudiate insurrection. Its contemporary application to allegations from January 6, 2021 ventures onto a slippery legal slope. It beckons a pressing concern — the exchange of our historic legal process for the temptations of political convenience.

Are we really prepared as a society to sideline foundational legal safeguards to neutralize a political opponent?

Such actions threaten to morph our electoral landscape from a marketplace of ideas and leadership competencies into a legalistic quagmire dominated by constitutional interpretations and judicial interventions.

In such an environment, voters become window dressing to a political system that makes the real decisions on who, what, and why. History reveals many examples.

As a growing chorus of voices charges recklessly through this constitutional and political labyrinth, we must ponder the legacy that is being forged.

Should people who authentically value a sincere application of our Constitutional framework remain passive or find our courage button and challenge those who value power over principle?

Our collective near-term voice will significantly influence not just the upcoming national election but the core essence of our American future.

Shall we insist on the opportunity to make informed leadership decisions at the polling booth, or surrender to legalistic disqualifications so visibly predicated on partisan agendas?

A surprising number of people voted to boycott Bud Light for downgrading our culture behind a mask of virtue. It worked.



Our Mission

First Tuesday is a conservative advocacy organization that amplifies the voices of Buncombe County conservatives through public events, social media, and other channels. We believe that all voices deserve to be heard, and we strive to give conservatives a platform to share their perspectives.

Our Vision

We envision a community of active and vocal WNC conservatives who are informed about the issues affecting our quality of life and who are willing to use their voices to influence the government, business, and media in a way that promotes conservative values.

Our Beliefs

- We believe that conservative values are essential to a healthy society, and we promote those values through our actions and our words.
- We believe that conservatives have a unique perspective to offer on a wide range of issues, and we share that perspective with the public.
- We believe diversity of voices is essential to a healthy democracy, and we promote that diversity.
- We believe that we can make a difference in the world by working together.

Visit us on the web:

<https://www.FirstTuesCons.com>

- Calls to Action
- Citizen Resources
- Local Government Activities News
- Local Govt Committees Information
- Newsletter Archives

Follow us on Social Media:

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828/348-4180

Check Your Voter information



Snap the QR code (or browse to the url below) to be taken to the NC State Board of Elections Voter Registration site.

Do you know your jurisdictions? That information is also available at the voter registration site.

- Precinct Number and voting location.
- Congressional District
- NC Senate District
- NC House Districts
- County Commissioner District
- School District.

Ensure that your registration status reflects "Active"

Confirm you are registered for your current address.

<https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/>
