



Frederick County Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC)

STRATEGIC PLAN: 2026

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This version of the Strategic Plan, with approved amendments, as adopted by the membership on January 10, 2026, supersedes and replaces all prior versions and is the official plan and report of the Frederick County Democratic Party.

FREDERICK COUNTY'S STATISTICS/DATA

County Population U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2024 estimates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 299,317 – Estimate as of 07.01.2024 Increase of 10.2% since the 2020 Census
Frederick City Population U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2024 estimates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 89,537 – Estimate as of 07.2024 Increase of 14.6% since the 2020 Census

Source for Data Above:
<https://thefnp.com/tncms/asset/editorial/f9c68ad0-0065-11f0-9fcd-a371c771de3a/>

County Population & Demographics (worldpopulationreview.com)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population: 305,093 Population Density: 462 Population Rank (State): 7 Annual Population Growth: 5.9K Average Income: \$71,234 Median Household Income: \$120,458 Poverty Rate: 6.29%
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RACE	POPULATION & PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
White	197,085 – 70.3
Black or African American	28,924 – 10.32
Two or more races	28,166 – 10.05
Asian	15,212 – 5.43
Other race	10,003 – 3.57
Native American	780 – 0.28
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	171 – 0.06

Frederick City Population (worldpopulationreview.com)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 Population: 90.748 2020 Population: 78.360 Density: 3.787 Area (MI2): 24 Annual Population Growth: 2.5K Average Income: \$61,576 Median Household Income: \$95,150 Poverty Rate: 9.39%
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RACE	POPULATION & PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
White	45,940 – 56.99
Black or African American	13,846 – 17.18
Two or more races	10,068 – 12.49
Other race	6,017 – 7.46
Asian	4,492 – 5.57
Native American	174 – 0.22
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	80 – 0.1

2025 COUNTY/CITY PARTY REGISTRATION BREAKDOWN (D'S V R'S V U'S)

Source: Frederick Co. Board of Elections - <https://frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/348016/Precinct-Voter-Counts-Report?bidId=>

Frederick County Board of Elections – August 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democrats – 79,453 • Republicans – 69,793 • Unaffiliated – 56,749
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COUNTY/CITY ELECTION TURNOUT DATA BY PARTY, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

Source: State Board of Elections - https://elections.maryland.gov/press_room/2024_stats/PG24/Official%20by%20Party%20and%20County.pdf

	Election Day	Early Voting	Vote By Mail	Provisional	Eligible Voters	TURNOUT
Frederick Overall	67,950	46, 371	36,857	5,191	203,331	76.90%
Democrat	22,842	16,473	20,986	2,212	78,431	79.70%
Republican	26,772	19,903	8,070	1,425	68,686	81.78%
NLM	68	28	80	14	274	69.34%
Libertarian	481	187	124	33	1,252	65.89%
Other Parties	427	201	143	57	1,468	56.40%
Unaffiliated	17,303	9,555	7,425	1,440	52,988	67.42%
Green	57	24	29	10	232	51.72%

❖ Frederick County's More Recent Democratic Political Landscape

- Ten years ago, Frederick County had more registered Republicans than Democrats. Over the years, Democrats began to close the gap and surpassed Republicans for the first time in January 2020.
- In 2014, county voters voted to change Frederick County Government from a Board of County Commissioners body to a County Charter form of government with a County Executive and County Council. Voters elected Democratic candidate Jan Gardner as our first-ever Executive, then re-elected her in 2018. In 2022, voters elected Democratic candidate Jessica Fitzwater as Executive, so our county has only known female Democratic Executives. Our seven-person Council comprises five Democrats vs. two Republicans.
- One of our Democratic candidates for the Orphans' Court was elected in 2018. She was the first Democratic candidate elected to a courthouse position in 25 years. In 2022, she won her re-election race, and a second Democratic candidate was elected to the same role.
- Additionally, in 2018, voters elected all Democrats to the technically nonpartisan Board of Education. There was still a Democratic majority after the 2022 election. The 2024 election resulted in one Democrat being elected, along with two Republican extremists.

Democrats must get elected to at least three of the four seats in 2026. Otherwise, a Republican extremist majority will prevail.

- In 2021, Frederick City voters re-elected a Democratic mayor. Five Democrats won their races for election or re-election for the aldermanic seats, making it a clean sweep for Democrats. In response to charter amendments in September 2024, the name of the City’s legislative body switched from Board of Alderman to City Council. The City Council unanimously approved new district boundaries in February 2025, which took effect for its 2025 municipal elections.
- In 2022, voters elected a female Democratic candidate to Senate District 3, making her the first female Senator representing any district in Frederick County.
- We have solid red areas (Council District 5 and Legislative District 4), solid blue (Frederick City, County Council Districts 3 & 4, and Legislative District 3), and purple and pink. The number of unaffiliated voters continues to increase each year.
- Between new voters, getting more people engaged, robust GOTV efforts, electing more Democrats to office, and other factors, Frederick County Democrats are working toward a vibrant and dynamic community. We are on the leading edge toward delivering better futures for the people in our County and beyond.

CURRENT ELECTED DEMOCRATIC OFFICIALS

(Not including Federal, Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller)

STATE	TITLE	NAME
	Senator 3 rd District	Karen Lewis Young
	Delegate 3 rd District	Kris Fair
	Delegate 3 rd District	Ken Kerr
	Delegate 3 rd District	Karen Simpson
COUNTY	TITLE	NAME
	County Executive	Jessica Fitzwater
	Council President	Brad Young
	Council Vice President	Kavonte Duckett
	Council Member	Jerry Donald
	Council Member	M.C. Keegan-Ayer
	Council Member	Renee Knapp
CITY	TITLE	NAME
	Mayor	Michael O’Connor
	Council President	Cesar Diaz
	Council Vice President	Katie Nash
	Council Member	Sarah Hempel Irani
	Council Member	Derek Shackelford
	Council Member	Libby Taylor
COURTHOUSE	TITLE	NAME
	Orphans’ Court Judge	Bonnie Nicholson
	Orphans’ Court Judge	Michael Powell

BOARD OF EDUCATION		
	TITLE	NAME
	President	Dean Rose
	Vice President	Rae Gallagher
	Member	Janie Monier
	Member	Karen Yoho
LOCAL DEMOCRATIC CLUBS/MEET-UPS		
NFCD	North Frederick County Dems Meet-up	Cathy Bodin, Bill O'Toole, Fred Wood
SFCD	South Frederick County Dems Meet-up	Melanie Galloway & Annette Breiling
UDFC	United Democrats of Frederick County	Maureen Grayzeck
WDL	Women's Democratic League of Frederick County	Lara Westdrop
YDFC	Young Democrats of Frederick	Madison Merzke

Frederick County Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC) Strategic Plan: 2025-2026



MISSION: The Mission of the FCDCC is to advance the core Democratic values of economic fairness and equality of opportunity in Frederick County and our candidates.

STRATEGIC VISION

The citizens of Frederick County:

- Understand and embrace core Democratic values.
- Act together as a vibrant and dynamic community.
- Inspire the best and brightest Democratic candidates to run and win.

Frederick County is an inclusive and active democracy where everyone thrives.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Engage elected officials, civic leaders, and affinity groups in our discussions and deliberations.
- Act with safety, integrity, and transparency in the political process.
- Uphold free and fair elections and the peaceful transition of power.
- Share equal responsibility for the success of the Committee's endeavors.
- Treat everyone with civility and respect.
- Reach out to diverse communities and seek increased participation in the Democratic Party.

Goals:

I. We will provide the structure, support, and guidance necessary to organize and coordinate all Democratic Party efforts in Frederick County.

II. We will develop an inclusive and comprehensive local Democratic message and the communications infrastructure to deliver it effectively to all.

III. We will recruit qualified Democratic Party candidates to run for office and educate and organize voters to elect leaders who put Democratic values into action.

IV. We will collaborate with and support the efforts of affinity groups to promote a vibrant Democratic community in Frederick County.

V. We will develop and maintain an aggressive and effective fundraising program that ensures the success of the Democratic Party in Frederick County.

STRATEGIES

Goal I: We will provide the structure, support, and guidance necessary to organize and coordinate all Democratic Party efforts in Frederick County.

- Provide the resources and training necessary to complete our mission.
- Prepare annual budgets that focus on raising and utilizing funds for local elections.
- Review our governing documents to ensure they comply with state party requirements, complete and submit a strategic plan, and update our committee structure.
- Broaden participation in our internal structure by creating an advisory board of Democratic Party stakeholders to meet as a group at least once a year and as needed for advice and counsel.
- Increase responsibility for members of the Central Committee by having members chair individual committees; serve as liaisons to Democratic groups, clubs, and other organizations; and be more visible in the community.
- Improve relations with the business community.
- Increase the visibility of Frederick County Democrats on the state level.
- Serve as the coordinating body for all Democratic Party clubs and organizations in Frederick County to ensure that Democrats have a consistent message and profile.

Goal II: We will develop a powerful Democratic message and the communications infrastructure to deliver it effectively to all.

- Maximize the use of electronic media, including upgrading the website so that it is current, appealing, and informative and features an interactive blog. Utilize our Facebook page and list calendar of events on social media sites, including Central Committee meetings and minutes.
- Educate the public about Democratic values and significant current events.
- Create in-house communication outlets for greater visibility such as signage, bumper stickers, etc. using our logo, and Democratic-themed paraphernalia such as coffee mugs and t-shirts as thank-you gifts for new donors. Provide updated brochures and other materials (in English, Spanish, and other languages as appropriate) to the Outreach Committee for distribution at community events. Pursue possibility of disseminating message via billboards.
- Develop the local Democratic brand and message and work toward media consistency among all Frederick County Democratic groups.
- Create informational videos about the role of each elected office with a focus on diverse representation and content creation.

Goal III: We will recruit qualified Democratic Party candidates to run for office and educate and organize voters to elect leaders who put Democratic values into action.

- Start early to identify and recruit candidates, campaign staff, resources, and volunteers.
- Enlist the assistance of Democratic Party elected officials and activists to advise and mentor individual potential candidates and provide campaign-training workshops.
- Conduct comprehensive Campaign Schools prior to elections that will bring in leading experts on campaign strategy and organization. Sessions may be recorded and materials, including campaign manual, available to all Democratic Party candidates.
- Support Democratic Party nominees with resources and campaign assistance.
- Expand the Democratic base with a vigorous voter registration program that will reach out to the unregistered voters in the County.
- Work closely with the Volunteer and Outreach subcommittees to ensure volunteers are identified and paired with their preferred candidate(s) and/or campaign activity.

- Implement a powerful Get Out the Vote effort that will include both traditional and non-traditional means to reach voters, including events and reaching voters where they are.
- Maintain and increase momentum following the election with “lessons learned” sessions, encouragement to unsuccessful candidates, and enhancing election strategies.

Goal IV: We will collaborate with and support the efforts of affinity groups to promote a vibrant Democratic community in Frederick County.

- Identify and connect with County activist groups, business associations, religious affiliations, and cultural organizations.
- Maintain a current list of all volunteers on VAN or other designated database.
- Recruit new volunteers.
- Expand visibility and outreach opportunities including our community service projects.
- Establish and maintain contact with Frederick County municipalities.
- Develop and maintain a calendar of events with focus on greater visibility and interaction with other groups that maintain calendars.
- Coordinate efforts with all County Democratic clubs and organizations.
- Support legislation and initiatives that uphold goals of diversity, inclusion, parity, and justice.

Goal V: We will develop and maintain an aggressive and effective fundraising program that ensures the success of the Democratic Party in Frederick County.

- Increase funds by at least 20% over the last four-year cycle. Maintain the donor database and develop a timeline for fundraising events and projects.
- Continue various fundraising efforts in compliance with public health safety measures.
- Expand monthly sustainer and trustee donor programs.
- Use collected data to identify and implement additional fundraising opportunities, such as venue specific functions and events to highlight our local elected Democratic Party officials.