



Of the people, by the people,

For the People



A publication by the Calhoun County Democratic Committee, February 2026



This is how Donald Trump plans to Make America Great Again.

Political Meaning: For supporters, it signifies patriotism, economic rejuvenation, and an "America First" policy. For opponents, it has been described as a divisive phrase representing a romanticized, less inclusive past.

Regular gasoline is ~ \$3.49 gal locally.

Ground Beef 80-20 is ~ \$6.74 lb locally.

Many families are struggling to feed and clothe their children. Some can no longer afford health insurance.

Trump has declared war on almost any country that owns oil.

Trump Says He'll End Iran War When He "Feels It in My Bones"

Innocent people are dead/dying. With no end in sight. And nobody seems to have a plan.

To do Trump's bidding is not what our soldiers signed on for....

I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God. (Title 10, US Code; Act of 5 May 1960 replacing the wording first adopted in 1789, with amendment effective 5 October 1962).

bw

Calhoun County Democratic Party Newsletter: February 2026

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Welcome to the February 2026 Edition ‘Of the People, By the People, For the People.’ If this is your first time reading the CalCoDem newsletter – we hope you enjoy it and return for more. If you are a frequent reader – you likely return for the value of the content and the knowledge of the contributors. We encourage and welcome ‘speak out’ or ‘opinion’ pieces. Email them to thisis2hard4me.beverly@gmail.com.

We are facing some tough times. Unprecedented times. History is being made and it isn’t anything we’d be proud of. It is up to every one of us to see that the outcome of the current administration - is as good as it can be under the circumstances. Join a protest. Write postcards. Make phone calls to our legislators. Stand UP and Speak OUT while we still can. Be PROUD you’re a Democrat. VOTE.

There are a lot of Democrats on the ballot. Vote for them. Donate to their campaigns. Candidates are putting a lot on the line – a year+ of their time for many; money; energy – for the opportunity to represent us. We must help THEM so they can help US. Vote the Trumpers OUT of office.

Thank you all! Beverly Williams, Editor

The months ahead are our opportunity....

Fellow Calhoun County Democrats,

In every election cycle there are moments when the road feels long and the work feels hard. This is one of those moments, but it is also when our commitment matters most. Progress has never come from giving up; it has always come from people who stayed in the fight when it would have been easier to step away.



The months ahead are our opportunity starting with the May 19, 2026 Primary which will reveal either a clear-cut Democratic winner or a run-off to be held June 16, 2026. Then it will be on to November where these elections will shape the future of our communities, our state, and our country. What we do now such as organizing, registering voters, talking to neighbors, and supporting our candidate will determine the outcome.

Our Calhoun County Democrat's strength has always been our persistence. When we stay engaged, when we keep building, and when we stand together, we make a difference. Every call, every door knocked, every post card written and every conversation helps move us forward. So, let's stay focused, stay hopeful, and get ready. The work we do between now and November matters more than ever as our country is at a major turning point.

Thank you for your dedication and for continuing to stand up for the values we share. Together, we are moving forward. Sheila Gilbert, Chair

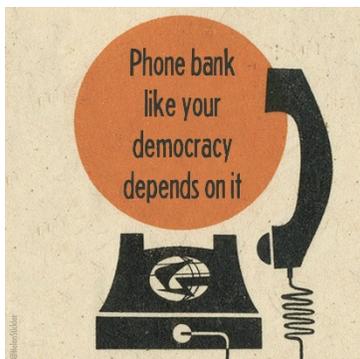
Postcard writers!



Door Knockers pic made it into the NYT!



LaNita made it into the NYT!



NO KINGS 3.0

Mark your calendar! NO KINGS 3.0 is happening on March 28, 2026!

What is NO KINGS? NO KINGS is a non-violent, non-partisan National Day of Action in response to the authoritarian excesses and corruption of the Trump administration. President Trump is governing through fear and intimidation. He is assuming power that isn't his—the opposite of democracy. This administration's policies are harming families every single day. We cannot stand idly by and watch our democracy crumble.



Carsie Evans, Office Mgr

A protest poster for 'NO KINGS 3.0'. The top section has a black crown with a red 'X' over it on a yellow background, next to the text 'NO THRONES. NO CROWNS. NO KINGS.' in large black letters. Below this, on a red background, is the event information: 'MARCH 28TH 11AM-1PM JACKSONVILLE SQUARE JACKSONVILLE, AL'. A yellow box contains the text 'JOIN US FOR A PEACEFUL PROTEST ON THE SQUARE PLEASE, NO WEAPONS OF ANY KIND'. Below that are two bullet points: 'BRING A SIGN EXPRESSING YOUR OUTRAGE, BUT' and 'NO PROFANITY-THIS IS A FAMILY FRIENDLY VENUE!'. An arrow points to a text box: 'Donations of non-perishable food and hygiene items will be donated to Moose Corps for the less fortunate in Calhoun County. Please donate if you are able.' At the bottom, there are illustrations of hands holding signs that say 'PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS' and 'NO FOREVER WARS', a 'REFUSE TO BE SILENCED' sign, a 'SPONSORED BY' logo for '507 501', and a stylized Statue of Liberty with yellow checkmarks.

Whether you are outraged by ICE attacks on innocent civilians, increasing threats to civil rights and voting rights, irresponsibility on the global stage, skyrocketing costs, the gutting of essential services, the assault on free speech and the press, or something else, THIS MOMENT IS FOR YOU!

We have seen how the citizens of Minneapolis have taken a stand and now it is OUR TURN. The power is in our hands to show that *We the People*, the majority of Americans, reject this wannabe dictator and are taking action to stop the power grab and the wanton corruption we see all around us. So, JOIN US on March 28 from 11am to 1pm on the Square in Jacksonville. Bring a sign reflecting the issue that expresses your outrage; bring a friend (or 2 or more). Bring your enthusiasm for our precious democracy. Let's do our part to make March 28th the largest nationwide demonstration of non-violent protest in our

nation's history and prove that our voices WILL be heard and that our democracy will live past its 250th birthday!

Young Democrats of Calhoun County!

Hello Fellow Democrats –

Pam Lowery, Admin Assistant



In January we started assembling the “younger” members to help develop a Young Democrats group for Calhoun County. We have 23 members now, and their ideas and enthusiasm are very needed and exciting!

Our meetings are held at HQ once each month, 6 to 8 PM. Beginning next month (April) we will be moving the day of our meetings to the first Tuesday (instead of the second Tuesday) to better accommodate some of our members.

Their work has been primarily designing their logo and setting up their social media accounts. All of these are now coming together and should be up and running within the next week. We will include with this article, a copy of their logo and business card along with all the media outlets they will be available through.

They plan to hand out their business cards at local events they attend, as well as to people they meet at gatherings, protests etc. It’s a good way to have someone be able to get in touch with them and possibly help our group and “ideas” grow.

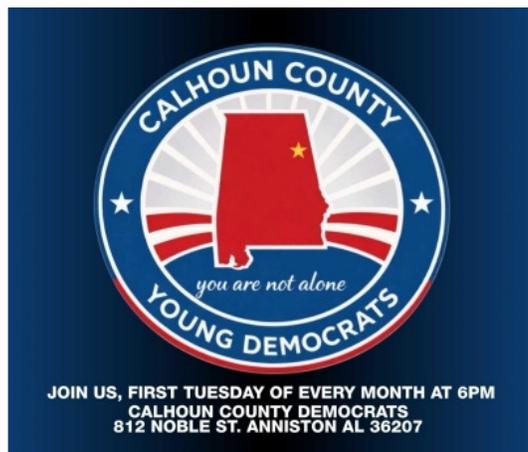
As a matter of fact, the upcoming 50501 “No Kings” protest in Jacksonville on March 28th - our group will be there handing out their cards and hosting a Meet and Greet after the protest at HQ for any of the protesters that would like to come.

And speaking of HQ... Our group has been working on converting the conference room into a Podcast Studio! The YD’s have spec’d out the equipment needed and it’s here; they have begun the task of soundproofing the walls as well. Our goal is to have the studio completed – practice and rehearsals done - and be able to have Doug Jones as their first guest on April 28th! Which will officially “launch” our Young Democrats of Calhoun County!

Young Democrats Logo

Business Card Front

Business Card Back



Time to Impeach the Wanna Be King

What can we impeach King Trump for? Let's list the reasons or specifications in no particular order. The evidence is there, recorded, videotaped by the world. All we need are men and women (in the US House and Senate) brave enough, bold enough to enforce the rule of law. We need Diogenes and that damn lantern that he carried looking for an honest man. Hard to find honest men/women at the top levels of our current American political organization chart.

Articles of Impeachment:

1. Dismantling Federal agencies without Congressional approval
2. Ordering the military to invade American cities without legal cause
3. Threatening and starting a war with another country without Congressional approval
4. Ordering or sanctioning the killing of civilians in the Caribbean ocean without evidence of crime or threat to the USA.
5. Attacking/invading a sovereign nation (Venezuela) without cause, Congressional approval, knowledge, or consultation
6. Threatening to annex the sovereign nation of Greenland
7. Numerous violations of the Emoluments Clause of the US Constitution
8. Sanctioning (through agency heads) the firing (without due process) of multiple federal employees
9. Sanctioning the terrorizing and killing (through the DHS – I.C.E.) of citizens in American cities
10. Illegally destroying the East Wing of the White House without going through federally mandated procedures
11. Stalling or refusing to release the results of a federal investigation (Epstein) as requested
12. Engaging/profiting from cryptocurrency scams
13. Treason/sedition – attempted overthrow of US government authorizing assault on the US Capital on Jan 6, 2020.



#NOKINGS

Now we all know if former President Barack Obama or any other Democratic President committed even a fourth of the above offenses; their impeachment would be over in a year and they would be tucked away in some cushy federal jail country club within a year.

The above list is by no means all inclusive and not everything on it is a crime or impeachable offense. But I'm sure there are other more grievous, schemes, offenses, and bad behaviors and display of conduct not benefiting a President or any other decent human being. We need a Blue Wave to take back Congress, install fortitude and the rule of law in this country.



Without enforcement of the rule of law, belief in our Justice system, We as a people and a country are lost. We will become a mega-size Banana Republic. After 250 years, we must be, have to be better than that. Or else the past two and half centuries of American government were in vain. All the trials, tribulation, angst, bloodshed and death to make this country a democracy, a land of freedom will have been in vain. God save us, God help us. **OMG! HE BOMBED IRAN!**

Martha Jordan, Talladega County Democrats
Community Leader and Activist

‘DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN’ –

TRUMP, THE ‘SECRETARY OF WAR, AND THE VIETNAM SONG

On March 7, 2026, [Country Joe McDonald](#) died at age 84. Many of us and certainly people younger than 60 probably won't remember who he is. However, his 1965 song -- "I-Feel-Like-I'm-Fixin'-to-Die Rag" -- became so identified with the Vietnam War that it's usually called "[The Vietnam Song](#)." He might have passed largely without notice except for the news about the US's attacks on Iran and what was happening in the Middle East.

To me, there was a powerful irony in McDonald's death, the song's lyrics, and the news. A cascade of reports quickly had the lyrics and tune banging in my head: the [initial strikes in Iran](#), [retaliatory strikes](#) across the Middle East, the President's [casual comments about likely casualties](#) and [wearing a ball cap](#) to review remains arriving at Dover, the [Secretary of War's exuberant announcements](#), reports of commanders exhorting their soldiers about [bringing on the Apocalypse](#), uncertainties about goals [and how long conflict might last](#), along [with calls to replace expended munitions](#) and speculations of [restarting the draft](#). It wasn't hard to replace the word Vietnam with Iran. The change scarcely broke the rhythm.

Country Joe may have left the stage, but his lyrics, the sentiments, and the circumstances behind them may be as fresh as ever. Have a great day. And remember who gave us this priceless opportunity.

And to the new generation: Your turn!

Yeah, c'mon on all you big strong men,
Uncle Sam needs your help again
He's got himself in a terrible jam,
Way down yonder in Vietnam
So put down your books and pick up a gun,
We're gonna have a whole lot of fun

And it's 1, 2, 3, what're we fighting for?
Don't ask me, I don't give a damn
Next stop is Vietnam, And it's 5, 6, 7,
open up the pearly gates
Well there ain't no time to wonder why, Whoopee!
we're all gonna die

Well c'mon on Wall Street, Don't be slow,
Why this is war a-go-go
There's plenty good money to be made,
By supplin' the Army with
the tools of the trade,
Just hope and pray that if we drop the bomb
They drop it on-the Vietcong

And it's 1, 2, 3, what're we fighting for?
Don't ask me, I don't give a damn
Next stop is Vietnam,
And it's 5, 6, 7, open up the pearly gates
Well there ain't no time to wonder why, Whoopee!
we're all gonna die

Well c'mon generals, let's move fast,
Your big chance has come at last
Gotta go out and get those Reds,
The only good Commie is one who's dead
And you know that peace can only be won,
When we've blown 'em all to kingdom come

And it's 1, 2, 3, what're we fighting for?
Don't ask me, I don't give a damn
Next stop is Vietnam,
And it's 5, 6, 7, open up the pearly gates
Well there ain't no time to wonder why, Whoopee!
we're all gonna die

Well c'mon mothers throughout this land,
Pack your boys off to Vietnam
C'mon pops, don't hesitate,
Send 'em off before it's too late
Be the first one on your block to have your boy
come home in a box

And it's 1, 2, 3, what're we fighting for?
Don't ask me, I don't give a damn.
Next stop is Vietnam, And it's 5, 6, 7,
open up the pearly gates
Well there ain't no time to wonder why, Whoopee!
we're all gonna die



Country Joe McDonald



Jim Williams, Captain, US Navy Retired. Served in operations from Vietnam to Bosnia. PhD in History. Taught at the Naval Academy and US Army War College. Historian for Army Chemical, Armor and Aviation Branches. Mentor in veterans' treatment court. Community Leader and Activist.



Pentagon update on Operation Epic Fury

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TIP SHEETS

End-times rhetoric in US military 'didn't infiltrate, was invited in'

March 4, 2026

MEDIA INQUIRIES

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation reports receiving more than 100 complaints from U.S. service members alleging that some commanders have framed current military operations in Iran in terms of Christian end-times prophecy, namely God's plan for Armageddon and the imminent return of Jesus.



Landon Schnabel
Associate Professor of
Sociology



How Much Is Enough For Defense?

- March 12, 2026

I served in the U.S. Department of Defense both as a soldier and a civilian for over 30 years. When I started, the defense budget was 6.3% of our Gross Domestic Product. It was that high because the Reagan Administration was literally trying to drive the Soviet Union into bankruptcy.

And it worked. The Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the Cold War ended, and defense spending as a share of GDP began to decline. It fell to 3.1% in the late 1990s and remained there until after 9/11, when it started to rise again. At its post-9/11 peak in 2007, it reached 4.9%, but the country had over a quarter of a million troops deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. In the last 25 years, no administration has dared to ask for 5%... until now.

We need to go back four months.

As the House Armed Services Chair, Rogers' main job is to pass the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The 2026 NDAA passed the House on December 10, 2025. Rogers was proud of the bill and its \$900 billion price tag. As the committee chairman, he issued a statement saying, "As we face the most complex security environment since World War II, the FY26 NDAA delivers on President Trump's Peace Through Strength agenda and ensures our warfighters are the most ready, lethal, and capable force in the world."

Mike sounds confident there, doesn't he? It wouldn't last. On January 10, 2026, exactly one month later, Rogers announced that the 2027 NDAA would require increasing our defense spending to 5% of GDP, or \$1.5 trillion. Just so you don't think that was a typo — I said ONE POINT FIVE TRILLION DOLLARS.

That meant the 2026 NDAA, which Rogers claimed ensured "our warfighters are the most ready, lethal, and capable force in the world," missed the mark BY MORE THAN 50%. And he hasn't articulated any reason for the 50% increase except "to deliver the 'Dream Military' President Trump has envisioned."

Rogers stated that this aligns with the expected defense spending of all NATO members, but last year, the US agreed to a goal for members to spend 3.5% of their GDP on defense by 2035. So, this isn't part of any

agreement with NATO. We can assume there haven't been any new global threats since mid-December, when he was so proud of the last NDAA.

This increase makes no sense at all until you remember that on January 3rd, one week before Rogers announced this huge increase, we attacked Venezuela. Then, on February 28th, we started a war with Iran. Now, Trump is threatening to invade Cuba.

These little wars are expensive. The naval blockade of Venezuela has cost us \$700 million (rising by \$9 million a day still), and that doesn't include the cost of the January 3rd operation to kidnap Maduro. The DoD reported to Congress that just the first six days of combat operations against Iran cost \$11.3 billion. It seems Mike Rogers is asking us to write a blank check so Donald Trump, the President who promised "No More Forever Wars," can pursue his dreams of being a military hero by starting wars... sorry... starting limited combat operations around the world.

Defending this nation and our national interest abroad is costly, but here in this district, we have children experiencing food insecurity, hundreds of thousands lacking access to basic healthcare, cities and towns without safe drinking water, and schools that are falling apart.

Maybe Mike Rogers should focus on these 11 counties before he writes a blank check to an addled old man with martial dreams.

We deserve better than this. We'll talk soon. Lee McInnis

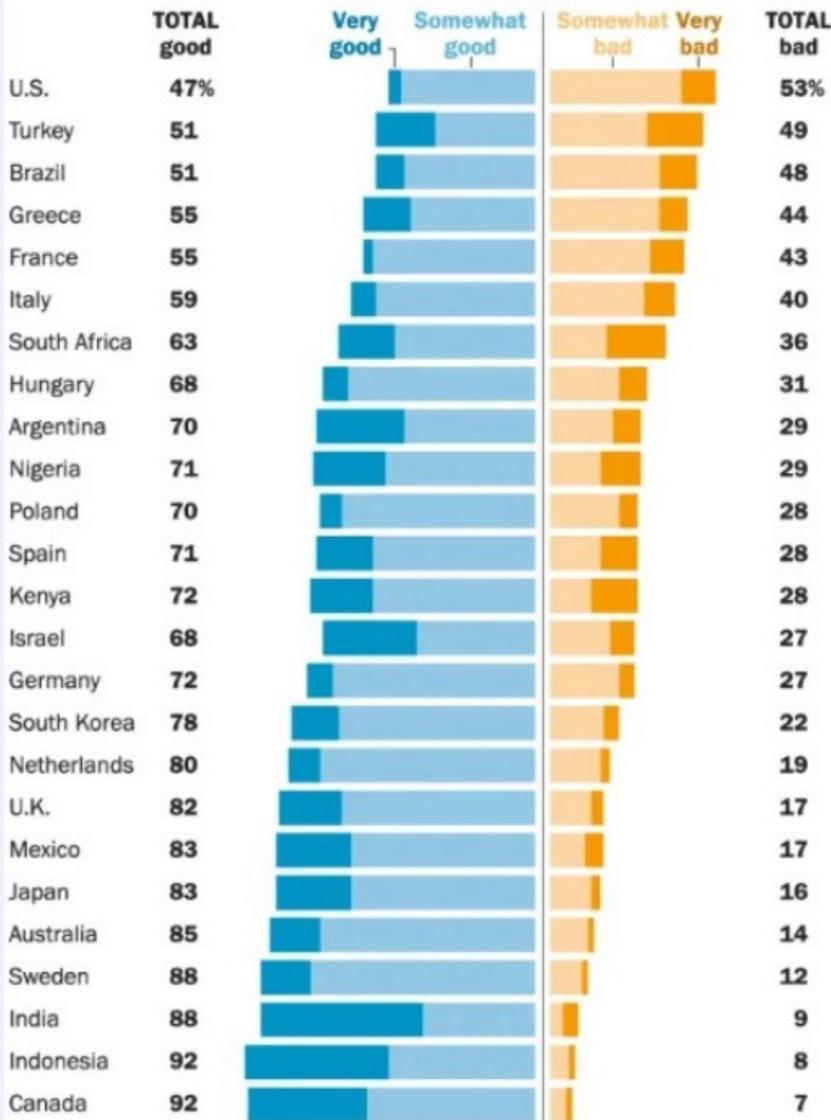


Our Divided Society, a Crisis of Contempt, and How Can We Get There From Here

- Jim Williams

In many countries, people see their fellow citizens as morally good

% who rate the morality and ethics of people in their country as ...



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Spring 2025 Global Attitudes Survey.

"In 25-Country Survey, Americans Especially Likely To View Fellow Citizens as Morally Bad"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Percentage of adults saying people in their country have good vs. bad morals and ethics. The United States is the only country surveyed where a majority says their fellow citizens are morally bad. Source: Pew Research Center, Spring 2025 Global Attitudes Survey

https://kylesaunders.substack.com/p/americans-think-their-neighbors-are?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web&triedRedirect=true

I encourage others to read a recent article about how Americans think about each other today and what that means in terms of trying to create a better world. [Kyle Saunders'](#) "[Americans Think Their Neighbors Are Bad People](#)" describe us, as a whole, at having reached a very dark place. More than half of us think that others around us – *even family members* – are inherently bad people. This view radically changes the way we think about things. Based on labels, symbols, and other associations – we categorize people. Having assigned them to that box, we no longer observe behavior but look for information that confirms our conclusion. Once we've decided that people are Bad, work together toward some common good becomes difficult, because we can't trust them. Even if they're saying 'the right things,' we suspect they're really not acting in good faith; we're looking for hidden motives. People lose faith in institutions because they believe the people in them are corrupt and operating against common interests. Saunders' data shows generational differences. Younger people are even more likely than older ones to have this view of their compatriots and the thinking that goes with it. In a time when we must make major changes, how do we get there from here? This isn't an academic question. Our collective future depends on the answer.

“No quarter” is a Crime

--- *Angela Morgan, Opinion Piece*

I've struggled to articulate my thoughts on “Trump's War”. I've searched for one word to sum up my feelings, but too many came - immoral, unjust, un-Christ-like, embarrassed, ashamed, angry, pointless, waste, fascist, confusing, amateurish, dangerous.... None reflect my unending support for our courageous, professional, disciplined military but all represent my disdain for the actions taken by Trump and Hegseth.

I cannot support launching a war on anyone based on “it was my opinion that they were going to attack first”. That rationale isn't defense- it's offense. It is like the offensive tactic communist Russia used to attack Ukraine. It's the excuse a despot, “mad king”, or dictator uses to explain away the cost of lives and money needed to sustain an unjust action.

This “war” has already cost the lives of innocent Iranians including over 100 children and over a dozen American servicemen. It's being overseen by a man who seems, based on the language he uses, to find joy in killing. Hegseth announced on March 13 that the US would give “no quarter, no mercy” for our enemies. Those actions would violate international law as well as basic morality. “No quarter” is taking no prisoners even if they surrender- it's killing survivors which is exactly what the US, under Hegseth's “leadership”, was accused of doing to men on a boat the US bombed in the Caribbean. No proof of drugs was given in that case and no proof of an imminent attack by Iran has been provided to justify “Trump's War”. Hegseth is acting like a warlord not a US Secretary of Defense or even US Secretary of War. Iranians are not my enemy ... their government has been for many years. There is a huge difference and it's inexcusable that that difference isn't being reiterated over and over by Trump and his administration. Trump has called for Iranians to rise up. How can they trust Trump would support them if they did try to overthrow their government when they are being killed by US bombs as well as the tyrannical Iranian leadership. Estimates have more than 1,200 civilians dead and just over 600 non-civilians, yet the US news isn't reporting these numbers. Instead, they are spending time trying to just identify and understand what the objectives of “Trump's War” actually are.

Our troops are performing exactly as expected. They are well-trained professionals doing their jobs as directed but for what end? Billions of tax dollars are being spent to destroy Iran but the only reassurance of an end to this “war” (which Congress hasn't declared) is Trump saying it will end when he “feels it in my bones”. Didn't our troops deserve a real plan - one where they knew without a shadow of doubt that an imminent threat existed and knew a well-thought-out exit was developed before the first strike occurred? Instead, they have been dealt a “war” that feels like deja vu. Iraq was justified with untruths too.

War isn't a game - people die- yet that's exactly how this administration is acting - the White House even made social media posts that meshed clips from video games, movies, and wartime footage from strikes in Iran! Those posts were not only disgusting, they were juvenile and beneath the dignity this moment requires. The lives of our troops and civilians matter. They are not trivial. They are all living, breathing children of God. They deserve respect which has not been consistently given.

This “war” is unpopular and getting more so with rising costs at home. I am worried that Trump and Hegseth will soon try to use our military as scapegoats to cover for their horrendous, unjust actions. It happened with Vietnam. I will not sit by silently and let that kind of deflection happen now. Our troops deserve nothing less than our unyielding support when the Secretary of “War” is publicly voicing illegal orders like “no quarter” during a press conference!



We all know ‘how we got here’. Now, it’s up to us to dig ourselves out. Are we ready?

Let’s talk about the ‘cover photo’ on the 1st page of the newsletter. Where do ‘we’ fit in? When are Americans going to feel like our country is ‘Great Again?’ For that matter, who thought it wasn’t a GREAT nation before Trump was put back in the Whitehouse? And do the majority of the people who voted for him THREE times still believe he is doing the things they voted for him to do?



Beverly Williams

Gas prices are high and climbing. We know when gas prices go up – the cost of just about everything else goes up. Everything but wages. Most ‘products’ must be ‘moved’ from the ‘origination’ to the ‘destination’ point – where it’s then sold.

And what about the people already living paycheck to paycheck? How much gas are they able to put in their vehicle? What about groceries for their family? A visit to the doctor? I saw a young woman wearing a McDonald’s uniform pump \$7 worth of gas into her car, then she and her two small daughters went inside to pay. They came out with a pack of donuts that would surely be the girls’ breakfast on the way to school. And - it - will - get - worse. These are the circumstances that nudge people who are already living on the edge – into homelessness. Through no fault of their own.

When Donald ran for president in 2024, he bragged about starting “no new wars,” and said that if Kamala Harris won, [“she would get us into a World War III guaranteed,”](#) and send the “sons and daughters” of Americans “to go fight for a war in a country that you’ve never heard of.” **He called himself the ‘president of PEACE’.**

Barely a year later, Trump is racing to topple foreign regimes and is sending American sons and daughters to wage another war in the Middle East. The self-declared [“president of PEACE”](#) has chosen to become the president of war after all, unleashing the full power of the U.S. military on Iran with the explicit goal of toppling its government.

I’m appalled at the way the news is/is not being reported. So many act like it’s ‘just another day in the neighborhood.’ We can’t fall into that. It’s not just another day.

VOTE at every opportunity. Vote Democrat. Join the protests. Attend CalCoDem monthly meetings. Write postcards. Make phone calls. Wave signs. Donate to candidates, **whether it’s money or your time and energy.** Many are putting their lives on ‘hold’ for a year or more to position themselves to be a viable candidate. They need US to help THEM be able to represent US. Stand UP and speak OUT while it’s still legal. And that, dear friends, is questionable right now. Know your rights at <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/protesters-rights>

Lastly, consider contributing an article for the newsletter.

Thanks! Beverly



Lots of things going on with the Calhoun County Democrats, the Calhoun County Young Democrats and the Calhoun County 5051 group.

**Here are a few events you may want to take part in!
Mark your calendar and SAVE THE DATE!**

Thursday, March 19th at 6 pm, MEET THE CANDIDATES and enjoy a pot-luck-pitch-in dinner



- A pot-luck-pitch-in dinner on Thursday, March 19th at 6 pm, CalCoDem HQ, 812 Noble Street.
- Please bring a dish to share with others.
- Most importantly - bring yourself and a friend or two to meet candidates vying for your vote.
- The candidates will speak and take questions from the audience.
- Other candidates in the audience will be introduced.

Meet Kyle Sweetser, candidate for US Senate

Kyle Sweetser is a product of the American Dream. His parents married after high school, worked for three dollars an hour, and saved enough to start a family business.



Today, Kyle and his father are always serving customers. His mother manages the phones, and his wife, Anna, oversees the office. More than most, Kyle understands the economic anxiety felt by many Americans, as costs rise, wages don't, and big corporations make record profits while scheming to become monopolies.

"America was founded on freedom from oppression," says Kyle. "But today, too many Americans work 40 hours a week and barely make the rent. They're not free." Kyle is running for the U.S. Senate because he's worried that the American Dream is no longer achievable for the next generation.

In 2024, Sweetser became a [Republican](#) critic of [Donald Trump](#), speaking out against his policies on [tariffs](#) and foreign affairs at the [2024 Democratic National Convention](#). In April 2025, Sweetser [switched his party affiliation](#) to the [Democratic Party](#).

Mark Wheeler, candidate for US Senate

Mark Wheeler, a proud 32-year-old millennial born and raised in Heflin, Alabama. I'm a husband, a father, and a passionate advocate for personal freedom, choice, and the well-being of our communities. My wife and children are the reason I felt compelled to step up and serve, because I want to leave them, and all of Alabama's children, a country that's more just, more free, and full of opportunity. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Emergency Management from Jacksonville State University, where I worked tirelessly to balance my education with real-



world responsibilities. Before pursuing my degree, I spent years working 12-hour night shifts in a wire mill, typically over 60 hours a week with mandatory overtime. It was never easy, but it shaped me into the hardworking, determined man I am today. I put myself through college while providing for my family, and that experience instilled in me a deep understanding of sacrifice, perseverance, and the daily challenges working families face. I know what it's like to struggle, to juggle work, school, and family, and to strive every day for something better.

Today, I work in research and development, where I apply my background in chemistry and emergency management to develop innovative, sustainable solutions. As someone who loves the outdoors, I'm also a proud gun owner, with my Winchester 30-30 lever-action rifle being a personal favorite. I believe in the right of every responsible American to bear arms, and I'm committed to protecting the Second Amendment and the freedoms we hold dear. My mission is about making the world better for the people I love, and for every hardworking American who just wants a fair shot. Whether it's fighting for fair wages, safer communities, better working conditions, or the freedom to succeed, I'm ready to serve you with integrity and purpose.

Meet Fred Wilson, candidate for County Commissioner, District 1



Since first taking office in November 2012, I have poured my heart into serving others. With more than 40 years in education and over a decade in county government, I have remained committed to strengthening our communities, supporting families, and creating a brighter future for every resident of District 1 and Calhoun County as a whole.

Throughout my tenure, I have worked side by side with our community to rebuild bridges, pave roads, secure funding for storm shelters, build community centers, uplift school programs, enhance public safety, and expand access to health clinics and vital resources in Hobson City, Blue Mountain, Thankful Community, and Anniston.

As a veteran, deacon, and lifelong servant, I strive to lead with faith, integrity, and a sincere dedication to the people I proudly represent.

“Service isn’t just what I do – it’s who I am.” I believe in building strong communities, protecting our families, and creating opportunities for future generations. Together, we will continue moving District 1 forward.

I am a proud graduate of Alabama A&M University, Tuskegee University, and the University of Alabama. I reside in Anniston, where I cherish my role as a father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Thursday, March 26, the Young Democrats of Calhoun County will host Freddy Rubio,



at 6 pm at the Calhoun County Democrat HQ, 812 Noble Street, Anniston, AL. Rubio, is a Birmingham attorney, who is dedicated to representing Alabama's Hispanic community through his law firm and involvement in local organizations. Before opening [Rubio Law Firm](#), he studied at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the Cumberland School of Law, where he found his passion in the fight for justice.

Rubio works to explain the judicial system to his clients, handling their personal injury and accident cases.

He also served on the [American Civil Liberties Union](#) (ACLU) National Board of Directors for 10 years and continues to offer his legal expertise to several local organizations, including the [Hispanic and Immigrant Center of Alabama](#) (iHICA!), Fiesta Incorporated, and the Jefferson County Indigent Defense Commission.

**NO THRONES.
NO CROWNS.
NO KINGS.**

**MARCH 28TH 11AM-1PM
JACKSONVILLE SQUARE
JACKSONVILLE, AL**

**JOIN US FOR A PEACEFUL PROTEST ON THE SQUARE
PLEASE, NO WEAPONS OF ANY KIND**

- BRING A SIGN EXPRESSING YOUR OUTRAGE, BUT
- NO PROFANITY-THIS IS A FAMILY FRIENDLY VENUE!

Donations of non-perishable food and hygiene items will be donated to Moose Corps for the less fortunate in Calhoun County. Please donate if you are able.

NO FOREVER WARS

PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS

REFUSE TO BE SILENCED

SPONSORED BY

The poster features a red background with a black crown crossed out by a red 'X'. It includes illustrations of hands holding protest signs, the Statue of Liberty, and a circular logo with a woman's face and the text '50/501'.

Mark your calendar! NO KINGS 3.0 is happening on March 28, 2026!

March 28th the Calhoun County 50501 group will sponsor a peaceful protest on the Square in Jacksonville, AL.

What is NO KINGS? NO KINGS is a non-violent, non-partisan National Day of Action in response to the authoritarian excesses and corruption of the Trump administration. President Trump is governing through fear and intimidation. He is assuming power that isn't his—the opposite of democracy. This administration's policies are harming families every single day. We cannot stand idly by and watch our democracy crumble.

The Young Democrats of Calhoun County will be there handing out their cards and hosting a Meet and Greet after the protest at HQ, 812 Noble Street, Anniston, for any of the protesters that would like to come.

Thursday, April 16th, the Calhoun County Democrats will host candidates Everett W. Wess for U.S. Senate and Will Boyd for Governor of Alabama.

A pitch-in-pot-luck dinner will be served at 6pm. Please bring a dish to share with others. Mr. Wess and Dr. Boyd will speak after dinner.



Everett W. Wess is a dedicated member of the Avondale Church of Christ in Birmingham, Alabama, a lifelong public servant, civil rights advocate, and experienced attorney running for the United States Senate. His mission is to fight for justice, opportunity, and dignity for all Alabamians. Based in Birmingham, Everett has spent decades standing up for working families, protecting your rights, and ensuring fairness in Alabama's courts and communities. Everett Wess will fight to: "Protect Alabama Jobs, Healthcare, and Tough fair justice."

SAFE COMMUNITIES Economic opportunity is vital for our growth and prosperity. We must ensure quality public education to equip our future leaders.

AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE is essential, especially when it comes to funding medical providers in rural Alabama and supporting hospitals in underserved areas.

PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS is a fundamental pillar of our Alabama Senate campaign, advocating for fair courts and a clean government that serves all citizens, including the vision of leaders like Everett W. Wess.

Will Boyd is a proud husband, father, and lifelong servant leader with a proven record in business, education, and public service. Born in Florence, South Carolina and now residing in both Hoover and Florence, Alabama, Dr. Boyd brings a deep commitment to family, faith, and community to everything he does.

- **Support our educators and our students** by fully funding high quality pre-K while also investing in HBCUs, community colleges, and trade schools;
- **Build a stronger economy** from the ground up by growing the Alabama workforce as we improve support for small business owners and blue collar workers;
- **Make healthcare affordable for all** as we continue our fight against Covid-19, expand Medicaid, and support the lowering of prescription drug costs;
- **Fight for voter rights** to ensure that every voter's voice is heard at the ballot box; and
- **Protect the environment** by cleaning up of areas where there is water contamination, modernizing our waterways and ports, installing more electric charging stations, and embracing clean and renewable energy sources as we still rely on an "all-inclusive approach" to energy.



Tuesday, April 28th - Former Senator Doug Jones, now candidate for Governor of Alabama, will speak at Calhoun County Democratic HQ, 812 Noble Street at 6pm.

Light refreshments will be served.

“We can build the Alabama we’ve always deserved. Let’s make Alabama the state we all know it can be.” For too long, Alabama had suffered from an array of office holders who became embarrassments to our state and cast a shadow on the good people of Alabama. We can do better.



I’m running to give the people of Alabama something too many politicians in Montgomery don’t want you to have: a choice.

Two-thirds of Alabamians believe their state government doesn’t really care what they think. And I have to ask you — is anyone here surprised?

If Montgomery truly cared what the people thought, we would already have:

- **A state lottery**, instead of watching millions bleed across our borders to Florida and Georgia.
- **Early voting**, like 47 other states that trust their citizens.
- **No more straight-ticket ballot**, a system designed to keep the powerful in power, even as they fail us year after year.
- **Taken every measure possible to protect families**, so Alabama wouldn’t earn an “F” on maternal health from the March of Dimes — think of that, this self-proclaimed “pro-life” state earning an “F” in caring for mothers.
- **Protected IVF and contraception.** It started with abortion, but make no mistake — those folks never planned on stopping there.
- **Expanded Medicaid**, so our neighbors wouldn’t be living with the highest rates of diabetes and heart disease in the nation, and our rural hospitals wouldn’t be shutting their doors.

Join us and bring someone who doesn’t make it to the regular meetings, but who will know more and have a better appreciation of Jones and his platform when they leave.