

It's our town too

In October, the Clarence Democratic Committee held its reorganization meeting during which committee members voted on the officers for the upcoming year. I am grateful to the members of the Clarence Democratic Committee for placing their trust in me as their chairperson through 2026. This new role is both an honor and a challenge I am eager to embrace.

That same night, dozens of Clarence Democrats gathered to learn more about the election and the candidates, as well as possible opportunities to participate in the local election process. It was heartwarming to see and be a part of such a large group of enthusiastic and politically involved Clarence residents. But even more importantly, the numbers who turned out were clearly evidence of a quiet yet significant shift in local politics.

Today, there are over 7,800 active registered Democrats in Clarence. This is an increase of 8.2% since 2020, a percentage significantly higher than the much more modest growth of the Republican party at 2.8%. It's also worth noting the growing influence of unaffiliated voters, who

now make up 24.3% of all active voters in Clarence. This group has seen the most dramatic growth since 2020, with an increase of 22.89%.

Their rise may be partially due to the consolidation of third parties, but it also underscores the town's evolving political landscape. Recent data also indicate that when the stakes are high and the issues resonate, Clarence voters will cross party lines. In both the presidential race and the victorious countywide district attorney election, the win/loss margins were significantly smaller than the gap between active registered Democrats and Republicans in Clarence. We see this as a hopeful sign for future elections.

Because Republicans have had historic control of our town government, many Democrats have felt marginalized politically. Many of our concerns go unheard; many of our views are not represented. Now, more than ever before, we need to stand together. We need to

know that we are not alone. And we need to make it clear that this is our town, too.

We are planning some great events and projects this year that will bring us together and strengthen our resolve to be represented. Look for announcements for a monthly happy hour at a local establishment starting with Jan. 15 at 6 p.m. at Shaloozy Loofer. Spring will be the start of a major project for our committee. As always, we will continue to meet monthly to exchange ideas and strategies to make our town government responsive to all its residents. Please join us on Wednesday, Jan. 8, at 7:30 p.m. for a virtual meeting. You can access the meeting information through our Facebook page or at clarencenydems.com.

Starting in February, we will return to our monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Clarence Center Legion Hall.



**Katie
Webster**

**CLARENCE
DEMOCRATIC
COMMITTEE MEMBER**