

Prince Edward County Republican Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2026

100 Dominion Drive, Farmville, Virginia

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Carolyn Bowman.

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and Republican Creed

- John Hardy lead the invocation.
- Guest speaker David Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Jodie Hobgood recited the Republican Creed.

Roll Call and Quorum Declaration

The Secretary called the roll. A quorum was declared present.

Approval of Minutes

Jim Bezdán made a motion was made to approve the minutes issued with the meeting call. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote with no objection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jennie Jenkins reported a current bank balance of approximately \$9,469, with a \$100 donation as the only new transaction since the last report.

Guest Speakers

David Williams, Candidate for U.S. Senate

Mr. Williams introduced himself as a candidate for the U.S. Senate seeking to unseat Senator Mark Warner. He described his background in the Navy, as a Marine Corps infantry officer, at the U.S. State Department, and in a career with the CIA, concluding as a chief of station. He stated he has met with President Trump twice and reported that the President has encouraged Virginia Republicans to be more vocal in order to draw national attention and resources to the race.

Mr. Williams outlined his campaign priorities:

- Fiscal responsibility, citing the \$38 trillion national debt as a threat to national security and calling for a balanced budget.
- Opposition to recent state tax increases out of Richmond, which he said included 51 separate tax proposals.
- Eliminating state taxes on Social Security benefits.
- Making the child tax credit permanent, and preserving no tax on tips and no tax on overtime.
- Support for Second Amendment rights.
- Parental rights in education.

On strategy, Mr. Williams said the campaign is focused on unifying the Republican Party, turning out the Republican base in southwest Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley, winning independent voters concerned about redistricting and taxes, increasing minority voter outreach, and engaging young voters at area colleges, including Hampden-Sydney, the University of Virginia, and Washington and Lee. He noted that early voting is underway ahead of the August 4, 2026, primary and directed members to his campaign website for more information.

Harrison Jones, District 1 Supervisor, Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Jones, who serves as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors this year, provided the following update:

- He cast the sole vote against placing a 1% local sales tax increase on the November ballot; the referendum will appear before voters in November.
- He has formed a Board ordinance committee to review county ordinances for compliance with the Virginia Code, and the committee has already repealed sections superseded by state law.
- He toured the local U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility in Farmville and reported that it was well run and professionally operated. He noted the facility provides fiscal benefits to the county that help keep real estate and personal property tax rates low.
- He offered to answer member questions following the meeting.

Fundraiser Update: Freedom 250 Bluegrass and BBQ

The Chair and Secretary provided an update on planning for the August 22, 2026, fundraiser:

- Ten table sponsorships have been secured; no additional sponsorship tables are currently available.
- Silent auction donations received to date include items from Harbor Freight, YakAttack, and a handcrafted picnic table.
- Entertainment will be provided by the Cook County Bluegrass Band.
- David Shores will cater the event, providing pulled pork, and chicken wings, with desserts also planned.
- A new complimentary photo activity, "SillyShots," will be offered to attendees. The booth will be sponsored at no cost to the committee.
- The event goal is 250 or more attendees, and the fundraiser subcommittee continues to meet regularly.

Jim Bezdan made a motion to provide one complimentary ticket to each of the 24 other 5th Congressional District unit chairs to promote unity across the district. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote with no objection.

Jim Bezdan as Secretary reported that online ticket and donation processing is being finalized through Anedot, which was selected over other platforms due to lower cost and greater suitability for political committee use.

Communications and Technology

Email Service

Jim Bezdán as Secretary reported ongoing email deliverability problems, noting that delivery and open rates have remained around 40% under both the prior free email service and the current free HubSpot service. He explained that major providers, including Microsoft, are increasingly blocking bulk email sent from free or shared sending domains, meaning members using addresses such as Hotmail, Outlook.com, or AOL are likely not receiving committee emails. Jim Bezdán made a motion to invest approximately \$100 annually in a paid email service to improve deliverability. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote with no objection.

Text Messaging

Jim Bezdán as Secretary reported that he has developed an automated method for sending text messages to the membership from his personal account and that a paid texting service, which would cost approximately \$100 annually, is not needed at this time.

Website Hosting

Jim Bezdán as Secretary reported continuing difficulty using the committee's current Wix website host for custom content, including online forms such as the poll worker sign-up form, and noted the site is not mobile friendly. A motion was made to obtain pricing for moving the committee website to WordPress and to bring that pricing back to the membership for a vote at the next meeting. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote with no objection.

New Business

Support for Christian Fox for Mayor of Farmville

Christian Fox addressed the committee regarding his campaign for Mayor of Farmville and reported that he has begun door-to-door campaigning. John Hardy made a motion to donate \$1,000 from the committee to the Christian Fox campaign to support printed campaign materials, consistent with past committee support for candidates. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote with no objection. Members were encouraged to volunteer for door-to-door canvassing on behalf of the campaign.

Town Flag at Half-Staff

A member raised concern that the Town of Farmville did not lower its flags to half-staff following the death of Senator Lindsey Graham, despite the courthouse and county doing so at the Governor's direction. Members discussed raising the issue directly with town officials.

Town Ordinance Matters

Members discussed ongoing concerns with outdated Town of Farmville ordinances, including restrictions on tattoo studios and sign requirements in the downtown business district. It was noted that a Sign Ordinance Committee is being formed to include local business owners, town staff, and council members.

August 4 Primary: Precinct Volunteers

Members were asked to volunteer to staff polling precincts for the August 4, 2026, primary election, and were asked to sign up following the meeting.

Event Liability Insurance

The Secretary reported that the committee's current liability policy covers up to \$100,000 and that the committee's insurance carrier is recommending coverage of \$1 million for the August 22 fundraiser. He noted that some carriers have stopped offering this type of event coverage and that he is continuing to research options and pricing.

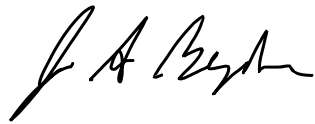
Announcements

Congratulations were extended to a committee member celebrating a birthday, and to Casey and Walker Jenkins on the birth of their son, Thomas Stetson.

Adjournment

The chair made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. A. Bezdán", written in a cursive style.

Jim Bezdán
Secretary, Prince Edward County Republican Committee