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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Participating in the 2017 County Board/School Board Caucus Is As Easy as 1, 2, 3 (or 4)

A Primer on Participating

On **May 9th, 11th, and 13th**, the Arlington County Democratic Committee (ACDC) will host an unassembled caucus to determine who will appear as the Democratic nominee for the Arlington County Board on the November 7th ballot. The Democratic endorsee for the Arlington School Board will also be selected. Candidates will be selected using Instant Runoff Voting or IRV.

What is an unassembled caucus?

Voting in an unassembled caucus, also known as a “firehouse primary,” is **simple** and **easy**.

The upcoming caucus is nothing like the caucuses you see every 4 years in Iowa. Unlike the Iowa Caucus--where voters must stand in the corner of a room to indicate their preference for their candidate--voters participating in the County Board/School Board Caucus will arrive any time during the specified voting period, register, sign a pledge stating that they intend to support the Democratic candidate, mark their ballot and leave.

It's that **simple** and **easy** to participate in the 2017 County Board/School Board Caucus.

What is Instant Runoff Voting (IRV)?

To ensure that the winning candidates receive support from the majority of caucus voters, ACDC uses an Instant Runoff Voting system. Instead of voting a single choice, voters will be asked to rank their candidates in order of preference for the County Board nomination and the School Board Endorsement. Votes are then tallied by preference until a candidate receives a majority of the votes.

Under IRV, you indicate your numeric preference for the candidates - you mark "1" next to the name of your first choice candidate, "2" for your second choice and so on. If one candidate receives a majority of the 1st choice votes during the first round of vote counting, then that candidate wins. If not, the candidate with the fewest number of 1st choice votes is eliminated and each of his/her ballots is re-distributed to the candidate listed as the 2nd choice on that ballot. The ballots are counted again and the process continues until one candidate reaches the majority threshold.

This process, implemented in Arlington Democratic caucuses since 2014 was adopted to ensure that the winner represents a majority of those voting rather than winning by a small percentage which often happens in primaries when there is a large number of candidates.

Caucus Locations & Times:

- Tuesday, May 9 (7 p.m. to 9 p.m.) at Francis Scott Key Elementary School
- Thursday, May 11 (7 p.m. to 9 p.m.) at Drew Model School
- Saturday, May 13 (11 a.m. to 7 p.m.) at Washington-Lee High School

As of the filing deadline, four candidates have announced their candidacy for County Board: Peter Fallon, Vivek Patil, Kim Klingler, and Erik Gutshall. They will share the ballot with Arlington School Board candidates Maura McMahon, Monique O'Grady, and James Lander.

Upcoming County Board Candidate Forums:

- *Several Civic Associations* - Tuesday, April 18th, at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 6201 Washington Blvd (7:30pm-9:15pm)
- *Arlington Young Democrats* - Wednesday, April 19th at NRECA Building 3501 Wilson Blvd, (7:00pm-8:30pm)
- *Arlington County Democratic Committee* - Wednesday, May 3rd at NRECA Building 3501 Wilson Blvd, (starting at 7:30pm)

Volunteering for the Caucus:

Unlike primaries and general elections, caucuses are run wholly by volunteers with the Democratic Party.

Your help is essential to running a successful caucus. If you are interested in helping with this year's caucus, please reach out to Deputy Caucus Director Chris Leyen at leyenc@gmail.com or sign up to volunteer online at bit.ly/2017CaucusVol