



2024 Democratic National Convention

## We Can't Win Without Rural: Understanding and Overcoming the Rural Urban Divide to Win in 2024

Monday, August 19th

3 - 4:45pm CDT



Anthony Flaccavento is a farmer, rural development consultant, speaker, writer and co-founder of the Rural Urban Bridge Initiative (RUBI), which he now directs. He has lived, worked and farmed in central Appalachia for 40+ years, and has worked with rural communities across the country to help them build stronger local economies and more resilient food systems. A two-time Democratic congressional candidate in Virginia's 9th CD, he and RUBI help strengthen rural campaigns and candidates, and advise urban and suburban liberals and Democrats better understand rural people and issues, and more effectively interact with them. Anthony is the author of "Building a Healthy Economy from the Bottom Up" (University Press of Kentucky, 2016) and scores of articles and op-eds. Along with Erica Etelson, he writes the monthly "Rethinking Rural" column for The Nation. He is married to a retired public school teacher and together they have three terrific grown up kids.

### **Anthony Flaccavento**

Executive Director and Co-Founder, Rural Urban Bridge Initiative



Erica is Co-Founder, Communications Director for the Rural Urban Bridge Initiative. A former public interest attorney, she is the author of Beyond Contempt: How Liberals Can Communicate Across the Great Divide and co-writes the "Rethinking Rural" column at The Nation.

### **Erica Etelson**

Communications Director and Co-Founder, Rural Urban Bridge Initiative



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Cynthia Wallace, a native of Springfield, GA, has lived in Charlotte, NC since 2006. In 2021, she co-founded the non-profit, New Rural Project, which focuses on making sure that the voices of rural young people and marginalized residents are heard. She is also the Executive Director.

Her 25-year career in the financial services industry enhanced her expertise in risk management and regulations where she worked for three fortune 500 financial services companies, beginning at AT&T Universal Card Services. She then worked for Wachovia Bankcard Services before spending over 20 years with Synchrony (formerly GE Capital), retiring from there in Jan 2021 as Vice President, Credit Acquisitions Insights Leader.

### **Cynthia Wallace**

Co-Founder, New Rural Project