



**Smith Mountain Lake Democrats**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**SML Democrats Host UVA Center for Effective Lawmaking**

Smith Mountain Lake Democrats hosted Allison Carter, Operations Director of the University of Virginia Center for Effective Lawmaking (CEL), at their General Meeting on June 28, 2021. Ms. Carter, who is a native of SML, introduced the club to the groundbreaking work of the Center, which seeks to advance new knowledge about the effectiveness of individual lawmakers and U.S. legislative institutions.

“This presentation was interesting and, of course, we were interested to learn how our representative and senators measured up,” said Nancy Cox, President of the SML Democrats.

The CEL quantifies members’ actions, such as whether they introduced bills, whether the bills were acted upon in committee, whether the bills moved to the chamber, whether they were passed by the chamber and whether they became law. The Center also considers, among other factors, how substantive and significant the bills were, whether the member was in the majority party and member’s Committee assignments and seniority, all of which have been shown to affect effectiveness.

The Center, which envisions a Congress comprised of effective lawmakers, strong institutional capacity, and the incentive structure needed to address America’s greatest public policy challenges publishes the results of their analyses at [www.thelawmakers.org](http://www.thelawmakers.org).

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