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WDC Weekly Update – Tuesday, February 16, 2021

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President's Message



I know you share my sense of devastation, of disbelief, that the Senate Republicans voted as they did, in the numbers they did. Again. There are endless questions –why didn't Mike Pence speak out about his harrowing escape? Why didn't Rep. McCarthy speak out about his exchange with Trump? How could Senate Rs give a standing ovation to the law enforcement officers who saved their lives from a mob incited by the very man they then acquitted?

How could they??

Fear. Fear of losing their seats. History will deal with them but in the meantime we can impose the real cost of just what they feared: losing their seats in the next election cycle. The organizing has already begun to oust the complicit Rs in the House and Senate, as well as at state levels.

All of this is a stark reminder of three things:

We need campaign finance reform, we need redistricting reform, and we need to teach civics again.

Finance reform: Elections should turn on earning more votes, not raising more dollars. There are important but limited initiative at the local and federal level. For example Montgomery County now offers a public financing option for County Executive and Council that rewards more, smaller contributions. But it remains optional. Guess who opts out: People with access to the kind of funds that devalue small donors. At the federal level our own Rep. John Sarbanes has championed campaign finance reform for years. His bill has been introduced by Speaker Pelosi as HR1 -- a powerful acknowledgement of its importance.

Redistricting reform: Work is also happening on redistricting in our County. Following the County referendum last fall a new commission has been charged with redrawing our County electoral map to accommodate the two new Council districts. At the state level, Virginia and Maryland have long danced around a 'bilateral disarmament' concept to both turn over their Congressional map-drawing to independent commissions.

Civics Reform: The cry of "Oh, kids these days!" resonates in context of students' ignorance of history, civics, and why our political system is as it is.

These initiatives will succeed when the public demands them. WDC is committed to helping drive these efforts. In the meantime dig out your canvassing shoes and letter-writing supplies. We are all-in to support our sister communities in ousting craven politicians, and electing leaders who value integrity and character above job security. Stay tuned for our ideas, bring us yours, and let's get to work.

2022 is coming, and so are we.

Diana Conway, President



Rebuilding Maryland's Future: How we can recover from COVID-19 in a just, equitable, and sustainable way.

BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE, JUST, AND PROSPEROUS MARYLAND



Friday, February 26, 1:00 pm

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

Free Virtual Public Event

Dr. John B. King, Jr

Founder of Strong Future Maryland

Hosted by

MONTGOMERY
COUNTY, MARYLAND

WOMEN'S
DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Monday, February 26, 2021 - 1:00 - 2:00pm

Guest Speaker Dr. John B. King, Jr., founder of Strong Future Maryland, CEO of the Education Trust and former US Secretary of Education

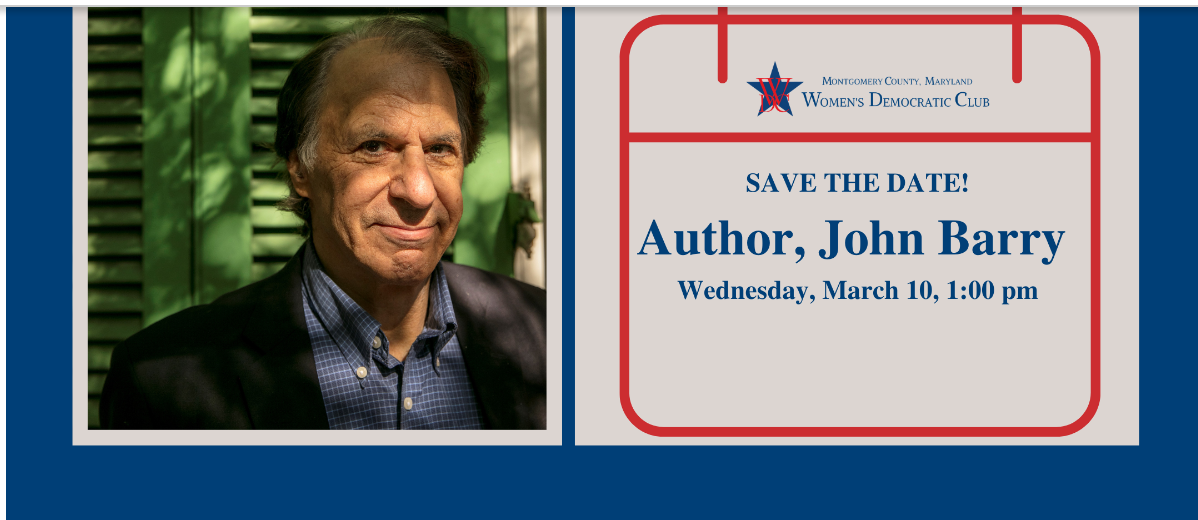
Friday, Feb. 26, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

[Eventbrite Registration](#)

With a proud educator as First Lady and a progressive President, public education stands at a crossroads. Scorned by Donald Trump and Betsy DeVos, U.S. schools struggled even before COVID-19. And now—despite the benefit of the new Administration's support, public education faces historic challenges. Join us for a conversation with Dr. John B. King, Jr., CEO of the Education Trust and former U.S. Secretary of Education under President Obama, for his take on how to tackle the road ahead. Dr. King, the son of two New York City teachers who both died when he was 12 years old, credits his public school elementary and junior high teachers for saving (and inspiring the course of) his life. Eventually earning degrees in government, law, and education from Harvard, Yale, and Columbia, Dr. King began his career as a teacher and rose through a series of roles including commissioner of education for the State of New York and undersecretary and U.S. Secretary of Education—focusing on closing opportunity gaps for all students, especially boys and young men of color. An accomplished problem solver, Dr. King will explore how to keep alive the American Dream through public education for all our nation's children.

[Eventbrite Registration](#)

Save the Date! March 10, 1:00 pm with Guest Speaker John Barry



John M. Barry is an American author and historian who has written books on the influenza pandemic of 1918, the modern ideas of separation of church and state and individual liberty, and the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927.

John M. Barry is an award-winning author whose books have also involved him in policy making. He is the only non-scientist ever to give the National Academies of Sciences Abel Wolman Distinguished Lecture, and he was the only non-scientist on a federal government Infectious Disease Board of Experts. An advisor to the Bush and Obama administrations on pandemic preparedness and response, he served on the original team which recommended public health measures to mitigate a pandemic. After Hurricane Katrina, the Louisiana congressional delegation asked him to chair a bipartisan working group on flood protection, and he served on both the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the levee board protecting metropolitan New Orleans. Barry has worked with the private sector and with state, federal, United Nations, and World Health Organization officials on pandemics, water-related disasters, and risk communication. He serves on numerous advisory boards and is a professor at the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

The National Academies of Science named his 2004 book *The Great Influenza: The story of the deadliest pandemic in history*, a study of the 1918 pandemic, the year's outstanding book on science or medicine, and it has been a #1 New York Times best-seller. The Society of American Historians named his earlier book *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America* the year's best book of American history; it was also a New York Times best-seller, and in 2005 the New York Public Library named *Rising Tide* one of the 50 best books—whether poetry, fiction, or non-fiction-- in the preceding 50 years. His articles have appeared in such scientific journals as *Nature* and *Journal of Infectious Disease*, in such lay publications as *The New York Times*, *Esquire*, *Time*, and *The Washington Post*, and he has been a guest on every broadcast network in the United States, appearing on such shows as NBC's *Meet the Press* and NPR's *All Things Considered*.

Wednesday, February 17, 6-7:30 pm please join **Communities United Against Hate** and its co-sponsors as they kick off a year-long series of inter-generational conversations with social innovators who are thinking and working outside the box to bring people together to create sustainable change. Via Zoom [register here](#).

Wednesday, February 17, 7-8:30 pm **MDDEMS Black Lives matter Building Black Wealth**. [Register here](#). Join moderator Wes Moore, Author and CEO; Maryland House Speaker Adrienne Jones; State Senator Melony Griffith; Executive Vice President for City First Bank Shannan Herbert; and Director and Head of Talent at Schmidt Futures Tony Woods for a conversation on building Black wealth, equality, and long-term prosperity in America.

Thursday, February 18, from 7-8 pm a conversation with **A Conversation with Council President Tom Hucker and Council Vice-President Gabriel Albornoz**. Hosted by MCDP. Free and open to the public. Please [register at bit.ly/conversation0218](#). Everyone is understandably concerned about the availability of the coronavirus vaccine. Join us for a conversation about the current state of coronavirus vaccine distribution, education, housing, criminal justice reform, and any other issues before the Council or on your mind.

On Sunday, February 21, from 3-5 pm, join a virtual workshop on racial equity and resistance to kick off a Racial Justice Speaker & Event Series hosted by the Town of Chevy Chase Racial Justice Special Committee. RSVP to townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org with your name and community to receive the Zoom meeting information. The inaugural workshop will be facilitated by Mr. Troy Boddy, Director of Equity Initiatives for Montgomery County Public Schools, co-founder of the Student Equity Advocates and Building Our Network of Diversity (BOND) Project, and a board member of the Sandy Spring Slave Museum. The workshop will provide a foundational understanding of how systems of oppression and racism impact opportunities in our communities. In a conversation guided by Mr. Boddy, participants will learn about and reflect on the historical context of race in the United States, systems of oppression and how they operate, the degrees of racism, and how to interrupt racist systems, individually and in breakout rooms.

Tuesday, February 23, from 6-7:30 pm, please join the Maryland Women's Heritage Center as we salute Maryland's Black Women elected officials. Tickets \$15 on [Eventbrite](#). Honored are Verda Freeman Welcome, Bea Gaddy, and Gloria Richardson. This virtual event also includes a panel discussion featuring; Tiffany Gardner, Executive Director, ReflectUS, Yvette Lewis, Chair, Maryland Democratic Party, Del. Brenda Thiam (R-District 2B), Candace Bacchus Hollingsworth, former Mayor, City of Hyattsville, and National Co-Chair, Our Black Party. For further information, please email Danita Terry dt3rry@gmail.com

...and more. [View MCDP recent newsletter here](#).



WDC Committee Reports

Advocacy Update!

families. Members of the WDC Advocacy Committee are identifying and researching legislation that is aligned with the Club's stated [advocacy priorities for 2021](#). To date WDC has submitted written or oral testimony on the following bills being considered by the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis. Stay tuned for more updates as the 2021 Session progresses. Members can sign up for timely Advocacy Alerts delivered directly to your inbox with calls-to-action to contact your lawmakers on important legislation. [Become a member](#) and sign up to receive WDC Advocacy Alerts!

Contact [JoAnne Koravos](#), Advocacy Chair, to learn more.

To read about a specific bill, enter the Bill Number (e.g., HB0123) [here](#).

As of February 15, 2021, WDC has submitted written and/or oral testimony for the following bills, [click here](#).

Take Action! Upcoming Bill Hearings. Contact the Committee Members to voice your support!

View Upcoming Bill Hearings & Voice Your Support.

Join us to make change! Volunteer on a WDC Committee

Visit our [website](#) for committee descriptions and sign up!



[Our Committees](#)

- Advocacy
- Digital Communications
- Community Education
- Events
- Finance
- Historian
- Membership & Outreach
- Programs
- Political Action and Civic Engagement (PACE)
- Partnership and Outreach
- Task Force on Racial Equity in Public Safety (REPS)

VOLUNTEER

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Announcement:

Corrected FEC Link> Longtime WDC member Julie Davis shared the following useful news on changes in FEC contribution limit, from her law firm. <http://www.capdale.com/fec-updates-contribution-limits-for-2021-2022>

Event Calendars

[WDC](#) • [Community](#) • [WNDC](#) • [MCDCC](#) • [MDDEMS](#)

Community

[MoCo Covid-19 Information Portal](#)

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WDC has gone **GREEN** by using electronic communications.

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Replies to this update will be sent to

wdc@womensdemocraticclub.org

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