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WDC Weekly Update – Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Events, Advocacy, Community Events

President's Message

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From the President

Happy Spring!

Between the accelerating vaccine rollout and the cherry blossoms, things feel hopeful! President Biden's stimulus package is injecting significant money into our state and local governments, MCPS, and Montgomery College. We will be watching where our elected officials direct those funds and would love your thoughts on it.

Coming up for WDC:

- In one week the Maryland state legislature will adjourn for the year after its usual 90-day session, so next week's Update will assess the fate the bills we championed. Even at this late date, both chambers face scores of bills awaiting votes on critical issues like affordable housing, criminal justice, employment, schools, and the environment. Is it time for Maryland to convert to a year-long legislature?
- We have three exciting speakers scheduled: Former DNC Chairman Tom Perez; former National Security Council official Fiona Hill, whose 2019 testimony you will recall from Impeachment #1; and our own Congressman John Sarbanes, author of the "For The People Act" to broaden the franchise, clean up campaign finance, limit gerrymandering, and impose tighter ethics rules. Bring your questions!
- WDC annual meeting and elections: The WDC Nominating Committee is preparing a slate of candidates for our six elected officers: President, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Vice Presidents, Treasurer, and Secretary. Each of these is for a two-year term. (All other Board positions are appointed by the President.) Following Board action, the slate is presented to the full WDC membership to stand for 30 days. Following that, we will convene the annual WDC meeting at which all current members are invited to vote on the slate. That is tentatively scheduled for late June. And surprise--we will hold a virtual meeting again this year.

As always, thank you for supporting WDC's advocacy and programs. We are mindful of how busy everyone is and appreciate your engagement and feedback!

Democratically yours,
Diana Conway
President



Events Update

Voting Rights in America: Sustaining Democracy in Challenging Times

When: Thursday, April 15, 1-2 pm with Tom Perez, former DNC Chair

Register [here](#).




Tom Perez
Thursday, April 15, 1 pm
*Voting Rights in America: Sustaining
 Democracy in Challenging Times*
<http://bit.ly/wdc-april-15>
[www. WomensDemocraticClub.org](http://www.WomensDemocraticClub.org)

A lifelong public servant, Tom Perez chaired the Democratic National Committee for the past four years, where he led the transformation of the DNC. In a recent New York Times interview, he acknowledged that more remains to be done: for example, he would like to see New Hampshire and Iowa bumped from their first-in-the-nation status in the presidential nominating process to reflect current realities. As President Obama's Secretary of Labor, he expanded worker opportunities. As Obama's Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, he led the Justice Department's voting rights and police reform work.

Here in Maryland, Tom served as Secretary of Labor, Licensing and Regulation under Governor Martin O'Malley and was the first Latino elected to the Montgomery County Council. Tom served almost a decade on the Board of CASA de Maryland, including a stint as Board Chair. He is currently considering a run for Governor.

The son of immigrants from the Dominican Republic, Tom grew up in Buffalo and put himself through college earning tuition money on the back of a garbage truck. Tom earned a bachelor's degree from Brown University, a master's of public policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and a Harvard law degree. He lives in Takoma Park with his wife, Ann Marie Staudenmaier, an attorney with the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, and their three children.

[Register Here](#)



Save the Dates for these WDC Events!

- April 29, 1 pm, with Fiona Hill, "Threats to American Democracy -- Internal and International."
- May 31, with Rep. John Sarbanes, "For The People Act: Voter Suppression, Dark Money and the Filibuster"

WDC Committee Reports

Advocacy Update!

The 2021 Maryland General Assembly legislative session officially ends on April 12, 2021. We will post a final bill wrap-up soon after. Look here or on the WDC website to view our legislative wrap-up.

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](#).

WDC has submitted written and/or oral testimony for the following bills. [Click here](#) for details.





General Meeting with Guests

Senator Van Hollen & Elizabeth Hira, Brennan Center





Tonight!

For the People Act: Listen In & Take Action

DTMG General Meeting with Sen. Chris Van Hollen and Elizabeth Hira, Brennan Center

Senator Chris Van Hollen, and Elizabeth Hira of the Brennan Center, will update us on what's happening in the Senate regarding the For The People Act and the filibuster

When: Tuesday, April 6, 7-8:30pm EDT

How: Sign up at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/13996fdb7cc4e56872f22619f34712e>

Contact Our Senators (in partnership with AOTL -- All On The Line)

Maryland, the tool will automatically adjust recipients and basic message to your Senators)

National Teach-Ins hosted by Declaration for American Democracy Coalition

Ending Felony Disenfranchisement

When: Monday April 5, 1-2pm EDT

How: sign up at <https://www.mobilize.us/dfadcoalition/event/381497/>

Advancing S.1: America's next great civil rights bill

When: Monday April 5, 6:30-7:30pm EDT

How: sign up at <https://www.mobilize.us/dfadcoalition/event/381597/>

The Danger of Money in Politics

When: Wednesday April 7, 7-8pm EDT

How: sign up at <https://www.mobilize.us/dfadcoalition/event/381356/>

Democracy, Racial Justice, & the For the People Act

When: Thursday April 8, 12:30-1:30pm EDT

How: sign up at <https://www.mobilize.us/dfadcoalition/event/381343/>

Ensuring Every Vote Counts

When: Thursday April 8, 4-5pm EDT

How: sign up at <https://www.mobilize.us/dfadcoalition/event/381599/>



Montgomery County Democratic Party

Events Calendar, [click here](#).

Honor Harriet Tubman

Wednesday, April 15, 7-8 pm

RSVP [here](#).

Don't miss MCDCC's Harriet Tubman small dollar fundraiser (\$20). Anita Powell, Harriet Tubman scholar and authority on the history of our historical MoCo Black Communities, will speak about Tubman's influence.

Democratic Club of Leisure World

April 8, 6:30 pm -- Congressman John Sarbanes, author of [HR1/S1 "For the People Act,"](#) to broaden voter access, clean up campaign finance, create strong ethics reforms, and more.

May 13, 6:30 pm -- Annual "Report from Annapolis" with our D19 State Senator and Delegates

For information, please contact Jane Corona jane.e.carona@gmail.com.

Register [here](#).



Reclaim Our Vote

Ready to get back to post-carding? Join [Reclaim Our Vote](#) to reach voters of color who were deactivated from the Virginia voter rolls and **urge them to re-register**. ROV has thousands of addresses. **Postcards must be mailed by April 17** to give voters plenty of time to register before the May 17 deadline.

Sign up with [Postcards4VA](#) to receive addresses and scripts for this campaign.

Because of the fast turnaround time ROV suggests you order your postcards right away at [BADASS Boutique](#). These postcards are being offered at a special discount price and were printed at a local, black-owned union print shop.

Be sure to watch this [Postcard Video](#) if you're a new writer!

Save the Date! D15 Legislative Wrap Up Town Hall

Thursday April 22, Earth Day, 7 pm

Watch for details.



Community Ambassador Volunteers Needed for County Vaccine Pre-registration Events

[Sign Up Here](#)

MoCo's Volunteer Center, Office of Community Partnerships, and County Health Department are working with a broad network of community organizations to help inform our most vulnerable residents about the COVID-19 vaccine and assist with pre-registering for a County Health Clinic appointment.

We need volunteer Community Ambassadors for in-person outreach at County-supported events in communities where COVID rates are high, vaccination rates are low, and barriers to receiving the vaccine are significant. Duties include distributing vaccine fliers, answering questions, hosting information tables, distributing COVID kits, and offering pre-registration assistance. Since the events take place in multilingual areas, volunteers with language skills (particularly fluency in Spanish) are vital! Please know that ensuring COVID-safe interactions by practicing social

Interested? Go to the Vaccine page on the [Volunteer Center website](#), scroll down to "Resources for Community Ambassadors" showing dates and links to sign up. A required zoom information session will cover event goals, equity, appointment options, pre-registration, and relevant resources -- plus you will have the opportunity to ask questions.



Event Calendars

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

Community

[MoCo Covid-19 Information Portal](#)

[Where to Volunteer In Response to COVID-19](#)

Social Media

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[Join Our Members Only Facebook Group](#)

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

Please continue to receive WDC event notices and news and do not unsubscribe.

Replies to this update will be sent to

wdc@womensdemocraticclub.org

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