
[For a better viewing experience click here to view this email in your browser.](#)



[Volunteer](#) | [Join](#) | [Renew](#) | [Donate](#) | [Website](#)

WDC Weekly Update – Thursday, September 23, 2021

WDC Events, News, and Resources

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thank you to all of the WDC members who joined us for our outdoor happy hour on Saturday, September 18! It felt great to see our political friends in person for the first time since before COVID. We heard the latest news from Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh, County Executive Marc Elrich, and Chair of the Maryland Democratic Party, Yvette Lewis, and enjoyed time speaking with our elected leaders -- senators, delegates, council members, central committee members, and more -- who joined us as

well. Special thanks to Diana Edensword Conway & Bill Conway for hosting this lovely event, and to Lisa Fuller and Enid Light from our membership team for their organizing work.

Recently we learned about the passing of a longstanding Montgomery County Board of Education member, [Pat O'Neill](#). Tributes were posted across social media mentioning Pat's kindness and her dedication to the BOE for more than 20 years. We are grateful for her work and recognize the

debt of gratitude for their deep commitment over the years to our children and to public service.

Looking ahead, we are planning candidate forums for Governor, County Executive, and State's Attorney to be held in spring 2022. On Friday, we will host Nadia Hashimi for an in-depth conversation about Afghanistan, which shouldn't be missed. Registration information is below.

If you have any recommendations for future speakers or topics, please let us know!

All the best,

Leslie Milano

WDC HAPPY HOUR!

WDC held its first member happy hour since early 2020! How wonderful to be fully vaccinated and be able to gather together safely. We heard from Maryland Democratic leaders at the state and county levels, and enjoyed seeing each other in person once again. We're honored (and excited) to have so many elected officials, candidates and community leaders as members. Thanks to all of our members who attended, including all of the elected leaders and candidates who came out for this special event. We celebrate you!



Event Organizers Enid Light and Lisa Fuller with
Past WDC President and Host Diana Conway



Raffle Winner Nadia Hassan and Mikel Blair



Chair of the Maryland Democratic Party, Yvette Lewis



Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosch and County Executive Marc Elrich



UPCOMING EVENTS - QUICK LINKS

[September 24: Nadia Hashimi Discusses the Withdrawal from Afghanistan](#)

[October 4: Conversation with Jaime Harrison, Chair, DNC](#)

Other Events

[September 23: "Are We There Yet?" Progress and Challenges for Women in Politics and Media, 2020 and Beyond](#)

[Open Positions with WDC -- Volunteer to Make a Difference](#)

Take Action!

-
- [DTMG Phonebanks](#)
 - [Help Keep VA Blue with SSPA](#)
 - [Help for Afghanistan](#)

Democratic Clubs

- [Montgomery County Democratic Party](#)
- [Calendars](#)

Community Resources

- [Covid-19 Rent Relief Program](#)
- [CDC: COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots](#)
- [2022 Candidate Information](#)

WDC Resources

- [Social Media & Contact Us](#)
 - [Calendars](#)
-

UPCOMING WDC EVENTS

WOMEN'S
DEMOCRATIC CLUB

SEPT 24TH | 12:30 - 1:30 PM | ZOOM

WDC PRESENTS

THE US WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN: A RECAP AND LOOK AHEAD
PLUS A DISCUSSION OF THE NOVEL, *SPARKS LIKE STARS*



Featuring
Nadia Hashimi

PEDIATRICIAN, BEST-SELLING AUTHOR, MEMBER
OF THE US AFGHAN WOMEN'S COUNCIL, AFGHAN
AMERICAN FOUNDATION, & MONTGOMERY
COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH

WWW.WOMENSDEMOCRATICCLUB.ORG

Join WDC and Best-Selling Author Nadia Hashimi on September 24th for a Virtual Briefing on the State of Affairs in Afghanistan.

"America's longest war" may have ended with last month's airlift from the Kabul airport, but the Afghanistan experience will likely shape our political landscape for years to come. Too few of us understand the full history of that war and its antecedents, nor the nuances of our involvement. As we welcome thousands of Afghan immigrants to the US, we need to learn more about the land they left behind and the culture and the trauma they bring with them.

Nadia Hashimi is someone who can help shed some light on these issues. Daughter of Afghan immigrants, pediatrician, one-time Congressional candidate in Maryland's CD6, and now an internationally bestselling author, Hashimi has written six books set in Afghanistan that provide a window into the history, heritage, and traditions of a nation that has resisted foreign invasion repeatedly. Although she was an organizer of Afghan Americans for Biden in the 2020 race, she – like many Americans – questions the way the evacuation was handled. Her most recent historical novel is *Sparks Like Stars*.

Hashimi is a member of the US Afghan Women's Council, the Afghan American Foundation, the Montgomery County Commission on Health, and serves on the boards of several nonprofit organizations. Learn more at nadiashimibooks.com.

Where: Zoom

Cost: Free

[RSVP](#) today to join us for this exciting and informative discussion.

Register online -- [Click Here](#)

A promotional graphic for an event. On the right is a portrait of Jaime Harrison, a Black man with a shaved head, smiling, wearing a grey suit, light blue shirt, and blue tie. The background of the portrait is dark blue with a blurred American flag. On the left, there is a blue vertical banner with white text. At the top, it says 'RSVP TODAY' in large, bold, serif font. Below that, in a smaller sans-serif font, it says 'Join WDC and Democratic National Committee Leadership for a Political Briefing followed by audience Q&A. Get answers to your top concerns at this informative, inspiring event.' Further down, it says 'OCT 4TH' in bold, followed by '1:00 - 1:30 PM ET' and 'ZOOM' in bold. Below this is a red horizontal banner with white text that says 'IN CONVERSATION WITH Jaime Harrison Chair, DNC'. At the bottom left of the blue banner is a small logo for the 'MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB' featuring a star.

In Conversation with Jaime Harrison, Chair, DNC

Date: Monday, October 4

Time: 1:00 - 1:30 pm

Where: Zoom

Cost: Free

[RSVP](#) today!

OTHER EVENTS



WOMEN & POLITICS INSTITUTE SCHOOL of PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ARE WE THERE YET?
PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN
IN POLITICS AND MEDIA, 2020 AND BEYOND

Thursday, September 23rd from 6:45-8 p.m. ET

Professor Jane Hall
Executive Director,
Women & Politics Institute
Betsy Fischer Martin
Journalist
April Ryan

WOMEN & POLITICS INSTITUTE
SCHOOL of PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SCHOOL of COMMUNICATION
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, DC

Are We There Yet? Progress and Challenges for Women in Politics and Media, 2020 and Beyond

AU professor **Jane Hall** will discuss her recently published book, *Politics and the Media: Intersections and New Directions*, an examination of "how media and political institutions interact to shape public thinking and debates around social problems, cultural norms, and policies." She will be joined by journalist **April Ryan** and WPI Executive Director **Betsy Fischer Martin**. Co-Sponsored with AU's School of Communication.

When: Thursday, September 23, 6:45 pm

Time: 6:45-8:00 pm

Where: Zoom

Cost: Free

Register online [here](#).

Open Positions with WDC -- Volunteer to Make a Difference!

If you want to:

- Help pass state legislation that impacts women and their families in Maryland
- Learn more about "how things work" in Annapolis
- Get rid of Maryland's shameful Confederate state song

.....and much more, you'll want to join the Advocacy Committee. No special background or training is required. The Advocacy Committee determines legislative priorities, works in coalition with other groups to devise legislative strategy, maintains close relationships with the Montgomery County Legislative Delegation, mobilizes WDC members to support key bills, writes testimony in support of WDC priorities, and organizes an annual Advocacy Day in Annapolis.

The **WDC Advocacy Committee** has two positions we wish to fill:

1) **Affordable Housing:** We are looking for someone to advocate for the Affordable Housing issue area. No special background or training is required other than an interest in improving affordable and safe housing availability. The Advocacy Committee determines legislative priorities, works in coalition with other groups to devise legislative strategy, maintains close relationships with the Montgomery County Legislative Delegation, mobilizes WDC members to support key bills, and writes testimony in support of WDC priorities.

2) **Event Planner.** Every year during the Maryland General Assembly (MGA) Legislative session, WDC hosts an "Annapolis Day" for members to meet with their Montgomery County Delegation members, including a luncheon, tour the MGA complex, and other activities. We are looking for an event planner to help plan and execute this important event.

For more information, contact [JoAnne Dalton Koravos](#).



The Maryland Commission for Women is conducting an online survey to determine the impact of

state make informed decisions on policies and programs that impact women as we move forward towards the end of the pandemic and into a state of recovery.

We invite women from all walks of life and from every jurisdiction in the state who are at least 18 years old by July 1, 2021, to participate. The questionnaire is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and French and takes less than 15 minutes to complete. All responses will be completely anonymous.

The links to the questionnaires in five languages are below. We hope you will complete the questionnaire and that you will invite all your female family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors to do the same. You may also feel free to post the links to the questionnaires on your social media accounts. Let's be sure Maryland women's voices are heard!

Maryland Women and the COVID-19 Pandemic Survey:

[English](#)

[Spanish](#)

[Chinese](#)

[Korean](#)

[French](#)



Help Pass the *For The People Act!*

Republicans have introduced at least 361 bills with restrictive provisions in 47 states. The one that passed in Florida last week is just the latest one to be voted through. We must stop these efforts in their tracks -- and the For the People Act will do just that.

The For the People Act (HR1/S1) will safeguard voting rights, mandate independent redistricting commissions, increase transparency in campaign financing, and more! It's passed the House -- now we need to get it through the Senate, which will likely include ending or modifying the filibuster. You can help by calling constituents of key Senators and asking them to tell those Senators to let this bill have a vote on the Senate floor. Sign up now:

- To make calls with DoTheMostGood, click here:
<https://www.mobilize.us/commoncause/event/380035/>

DoTheMostGood works through this Common Cause platform every Sunday, 12:00-2:00 pm, as long as needed, organized by WDC Board member (and DTMG Exec Director) Barbara Noveau. DTMG leaders will train you so you can equip the voters you call to talk to their senator, using up-to-the-minute talking points from Common Cause.



DTMG Phonebanks on Thursdays & Sundays

DoTheMostGood is launching a new partnership with End Citizens United / Let America Vote to host virtual [Phone Banks For The People](#) that can be made at anytime from anywhere.

Our country needs the For the People Act (H.R.1/S.1) if we hope to rein in corporate interests, end partisan gerrymandering, ban dark money, and protect our freedom to vote. President Biden has asked for the bill to come to his desk quickly, but we need your help to make it become law!

[Sign up here](#) to join us as we call voters across the country and patch them through to their Senators to strongly urge them to pass the For the People Act. Shifts will begin with a quick training session, and all you'll need is your computer and some headphones.

DTMG is continuing to host phonebanks to pass the For The People Act on the Common Cause platform every [Sunday from 12-2pm](#) as long as needed. [Sign up here!](#) These are patch-thru calls: you call friendly voters in a pivotal state, explain what's at stake in S1, and ask if you can patch them through to their Senator to deliver this urgent message.



Help Keep the Virginia House of Delegates Blue!

We have a legislature to keep blue (Virginia) as well as legislation to pass (e.g., For The People Act) to ensure that future elections are fair. And now we have a schedule of actions to help us all plan in advance. Our September actions are below. Please sign up for all of these on our [on-line calendar page](#). Please sign up early - that makes it so much easier for us (and you) to plan. Training and figurative hand-holding are always included.

Saturday 9/25, 10:00 am: Canvass for Delegate Josh Cole (Stafford)

Tuesday 9/28, 6:30-8:00pm: Phonebank for Delegate Alex Askew

Wednesday 9/29, 6:00-8:00 pm: Phonebank to AZ voters for the For The People Act

Thursday 9/30, 7:00-8:15 pm: Conversation and Fundraiser (via Zoom) for Delegate Wendy Gooditis and Debra Gardner, with special guest, our own awesome Delegate Lorig Charkoudian

A word about letters -- Thank you to those who have helped us to write over 9,000 letters encouraging Virginians to vote. If you have time to write one more set of 20 letters by our 9/15 deadline, please sign up [here](#). Letter writers, please think about giving phonebanking or canvassing a whirl now -- we will train you, accompany you, and be six feet from your side.



Help for Afghanistan

For those who are watching the news unfold in Afghanistan with anguish as so many of us are - especially what Taliban rule means for the future of women - here are a few links to organizations that are trying to help:

- [Women for Women International](https://www.womenforwomen.org/) - <https://www.womenforwomen.org/>
- [Women for Afghan Women](https://womenforafghanwomen.org/) - <https://womenforafghanwomen.org/>
- [International Rescue Committee](https://www.rescue.org) - <https://www.rescue.org>

Democratic Clubs



additional meetings and events.

Events Calendar, [click here](#).

As County and State Democratic candidates begin campaigning in earnest for the 2022 elections (yes, already), WDC will continue its tradition of staying out of the fray until each race has a Democratic nominee following primary elections.

We urge you to get informed on the field of candidates for these critical municipal, county, and state elected offices. The [MCDP \(Montgomery County Democratic Party\)](#) has a terrific and comprehensive listing of events featuring candidates for Democratic nomination. These include free events like panels and Democratic Club meetings, as well as fundraisers. Please share the list.

Canvass with Virginia Democrats

Saturday, September 25, 2021, 10 am - 1 pm & 1 - 4 pm
Arlington, Virginia
Open to all Maryland Democrats.

Join VA Democrats to help hold the recent gains we've made there! We will be reaching out to Democratic voters who must be mobilized prior to their State elections later this year. Virginia is going to be the first competitive statewide election in the Biden presidency and we want to make sure that we are not only holding the line, but also expanding the electorate.

Canvasses in Arlington begin at 10 am and 1 pm.
Sign-up for one or both shifts each day to receive your specific launch location.
Please register [here](#).

CALENDARS

Calendars

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

COMMUNITY RESOURCES



The Montgomery County COVID-19 Rent Relief Program provides short-term rental assistance to eligible households who have experienced lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has caused them to fall behind on their rent. The program is managed by the County's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) with funding from the U.S. Department of the Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

While funds are available, the program will provide up to \$12,000 to eligible households to pay for back rent owed and/or pay for up to three months of future rent. For households below 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI), additional financial help may be available. Funds awarded will take into account any other local, state, or federal assistance received to pay rent.

Apply [here](#).

-
- [CDC: Covid Vaccine Booster Shots--HHS has announced a plan to begin offering COVID-19 booster shots in the fall.](#)
 - [Apply to Serve! Montgomery County Boards, Committees, & Commissions](#)
 - [2022 Candidate Information and Resources](#)
-

WDC RESOURCES

WDC Social Media & Email

Contact us [here](#).

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter @mocowdc](#)

[Facebook Group](#)[Speakers & Events](#)

DONATE to WDC

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

Copyright © 2021 WDC | Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



Calendars:

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

Tag Us on Facebook @MCWDC or on Twitter @MoCoWDC

[Join Our Members Only Facebook Group](#)
