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WDC Weekly Update – Thursday, October 21, 2021

WDC Events, News, and Resources

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If we were betting people, we'd bet that you're someone who pays attention. You pay attention to what's happening in our world, within our country, within our state, and probably what's happening in your neighborhood as well. How different our country would be if everyone paid attention in the same way.

We know that our democracy works best when we not only pay attention, but we actively respond to information as well. Here's a challenge for us all, myself included: Let's respond this week --vocally, publicly, confidently -- to something in our world, at any level. Below you'll see that the Redistricting Commission is asking for feedback. Write to them with your feedback. This week, the Chevy Chase Library is accepting feedback in person and via survey for their full renovation plans. If you're a resident, respond. Have an opinion about the Thrive Montgomery 2050 plan? Put it out there for others to hear and contact your Councilmember. They want to hear from you! Important elections are coming up very soon in Virginia and elsewhere. Sign up to make calls or send texts. Concerned about any number of critical issues that you've been following? Write a letter to the editor at the media outlet that you read most frequently.



All the best,
Leslie Milano

WDC Upcoming Events

Save the Date!

[November 19, Congressman John Sarbanes on key voting bills in Congress](#)
[November 30, Jennifer Rubin, Washington Post journalist and author](#)

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Take Action!

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UPCOMING WDC EVENTS



[Registration Link to come!](#)

Congressman John Sarbanes returns with a timely update on the bills aimed at protecting our democracy.

Congressman Sarbanes represents Maryland's 3rd Congressional District and is a lifelong Marylander. In Congress, he serves on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, where he is the Vice Chair of the House Subcommittee on Health, and a member of the House Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change. He also sits on the House Committee on Oversight and its Government Operations subcommittee. Congressman Sarbanes authored H.R. 1, the For the People Act, to fix our democracy and give voice back to the people. He has worked tirelessly to bring Covid relief to Maryland families during the current crisis.



November 30, 2021

12:30 - 1:30 pm

[Save the Date - Details and Registration Link to Come!](#)

Jennifer Rubin, *Washington Post* journalist and author, will speak about her latest book: ***Resistance: How Women Saved Democracy from Donald Trump***.

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

WDC is looking for a Membership Co-Chair, Community Education Co-Chair, Finance Committee Member, Historian Co-Chair, and the following Advocacy positions (see below). If you are interested in any of these opportunities and would like to learn more, please

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 connected with cool effective kick-ass women making a difference at our state and county level

.....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 one position we wish to fill:

Children and Youth: We are looking for someone to advocate for issues impacting Children and Youth, such as, safe child-care facilities; protecting children against violence and abuse; promoting safe and healthy living environments; food security, etc. No special background or training is required other than a passion for improving the lives of children in Montgomery County and Maryland as a whole. 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.

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

ADVOCACY NEWS

For the last several legislative sessions, WDC has been a strong supporter of the Time to Care Act (paid family and medical leave). Unfortunately, this legislation failed to pass. Passage of this legislation in 2022 is a top priority for WDC, which is also a member of the Time to Care Coalition. Here is how you can help WDC advocate for this critical legislation that will benefit working women and their families.

Time to Care Action Alert - Email Your Legislators

Marylanders need time to care, and it is time for the Maryland legislature to pass the Time to Care Act to finally make paid family and medical leave a reality. Please take a moment to email your legislators and tell them that they need to make this a top priority for the 2022

Time To Care Coalition Organization Sign-On

Are you connected to another organization that supports paid family and medical leave and wants to see this policy become reality in Maryland? Please encourage the organizations you're connected with to sign-on in support of the Time to Care Coalition. Together we can make paid family and medical leave law in Maryland. Organizations can sign-on here: <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/we-support-paid-family-and-medical-leave-in-maryland>

Time to Care Coalition Employer Sign-On

Businesses and employers are key to winning the effort to pass paid leave in Maryland. We know that these policies are beneficial to both employees and employers and our legislators need to hear from employers who support this issue. Do you know an employer in Maryland that is supportive of establishing paid family and medical leave in Maryland? If so, please encourage them to sign-on in support of the Time to Care Act here: <https://forms.gle/jprXGtUg4sACuhE59>

MONTGOMERY COUNTY REDISTRICTING UPDATE

In September WDC virtually hosted Valerie Ervin and Sam Statland, both members of the Montgomery County Commission on Redistricting, who explained how important redistricting decisions are made within the Commission and how voters can influence deliberations. The presentation can be accessed on the WDC YouTube website [here](#).

The three preliminary redistricting maps under consideration can now be seen on the Commission's website at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/BCC/redistricting/>.

The Commission, which is encouraging feedback from constituents has provided a Comments form on the website. You can also access the emails for individual members if you have questions or want to reach out personally.

TAKE ACTION!



Message from Doreen Paster, leader of SSPA

Hi all. Have you been reading the papers? There are dastardly things going on in Virginia - [- racist and anti-Semitic postcards](#) being used against 3 of our 6 candidates! Well, when they go low, we go high (after we call them out for going low).

And going high means, well, actually going. There are lots of ways to make a difference in the upcoming elections this week, with more to come in future weeks. Early voting has already started, so voting decisions are being made now - let's encourage our neighbors to the south to make good choices.

We'll have Wednesday Evenings of Action on 10/20 and 10/27 - see 'em [here!](#) When you sign up, you'll be able to choose between:

- Making calls to get out the Dem vote (your choice - you-control-the-dial (Open VPB) or speed dialer (Hubdialer)
- Canvassing 101
- Learn about other options to ensure a blue win in VA - helping to cure ballots, observing polls, and more
- Learning about political texting
- SSPA Orientation

One more thing - SSPA has endorsed the upcoming "Freedom to Vote Relay and Rally," which will start on Wednesday October 20 in Harpers Ferry, WV, and end with a rally at the Capitol on Saturday, October 23. We don't have a full sign-up ready, but please contact me if you'd like to bike or walk for all or part of the route, if you can lead a team, or if you can provide support (be a marshal, etc.). And save the date for the 10/23 DC rally!

Dori

"When they go low, we go high." - Michelle Obama

"The best revenge is massive success." - Frank Sinatra

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 October actions are below. Please sign up for of these on our [on-line calendar page](#). Please sign up early - that makes it so much easier for us

Sunday, October 24 – 1:00 pm: Canvass for Debra Gardner (VA-27) in Richmond, VA
Saturday, October 30 - Tuesday, November 2: Canvassing Down to the Wire for a Blue Victory in Virginia!



The Freedom to Vote Act, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and D.C. Statehood will stop threats to our freedom to vote and help us realize the promise of democracy for all.

The Freedom to Vote Act:

- Protects Our Freedom to Vote
- Ensures Fair Representation in Government
- Reduces the Influence of Big Money in Politics
- Combats Partisan Election Subversion

Urge the Senate and President Biden to protect our freedom to vote!

Learn more at [FreedomToVoteRelay.org](https://freedomtovoterelay.org)



The Maryland Commission for Women is conducting an online survey to determine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the women of our state, how they experienced the pandemic, and what is needed to begin a “new normal.” The findings from the survey will be used to help leaders across the 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 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.

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

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](#).

- [Montgomery County Covid-19 Information Portal Data Dashboard](#)
 - [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](#).

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