

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



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

WDC Newsletter – December 2021

WDC Events, News, and Resources

President's Message

WDC recently welcomed Rep. John Sarbanes to speak with our membership about his work on HR 1 -- the [For the People Act](#). Voter access, election integrity, and safeguarding the core components of our democracy are complex issues that most Americans aren't following closely. Yet when it comes to preventing voter disenfranchisement and ensuring fair elections as early as the 2022 mid-term elections, the stakes couldn't be higher for us right now.



From the disastrous four years of President Trump to the COVID "fatigue" we're experiencing after 20+ months of navigating a global pandemic among science-deniers -- what Democrat is not bone-tired? When we see Republicans inviting Kyle Rittenhouse to become a Congressional intern following his pursuit and murder of civilians, or when the systemic racism we see so clearly is denied by half of the country, it's hard not to be disillusioned. Fighting against the disinformation on national TV can feel as though the uphill battle is too great. Yet the midterm elections and bills like HR 1, held up in the Senate, call for us to bring a renewed energy to the good fight. We can be realistic and optimistic. We can work hard to help Democrats across the country win elections and pass legislation like HR 1, which our

At WDC, we are preparing for robust advocacy efforts in the 2022 Maryland General Assembly session. From criminal justice reform to paid family leave, we will be working hard to address the issues that make women and families vulnerable. We hope you will join us.

We also look forward to holding educational forums during the 2022 primary season. Be sure to save the date for our in-person forums: Governor (April 28, 7 pm), County Executive (May 4, 7 pm), and State's Attorney (May 12, 7 pm). Each of these will take place at the Silver Spring Civic Center.

One item to note: We've recently moved from a weekly newsletter to a monthly newsletter. This transition allows us to prepare more substantial content to share with you while continuing to send out our e-blast reminders for events and other important notifications.

We are grateful for your continued support of WDC and your continued drive to help create the country we all deserve. We hope you enjoy a wonderful holiday season and we thank you for being part of our WDC family.

All the best,
Leslie Milano

In Case You Missed It!



MONTGOMERY
COUNTY, MARYLAND

WOMEN'S
DEMOCRATIC CLUB

**“Resistance: How Women Saved
Democracy from Donald Trump”**
with **Jennifer Rubin**
Author, Columnist

Tuesday, November 30, 12:30 pm

Notes

- Participants will be **muted** during the program
- For best viewing, use **Speaker View** instead of **Gallery View**
- This event is being **recorded** and will be published on the WDC website and YouTube channel
- Submit questions via the **Chat** window to ‘**Q&A**’

www.womensdemocraticclub.org





November. 30, 2021, **WDC Guest Speaker Jennifer Rubin** on *Resistance: How Women Saved Democracy from Donald Trump*

[View Recent WDC Speakers](#)

[Visit Our YouTube Channel](#)

WDC Feature



Why WDC Cares about Working Families and What You Can Do to Help

By Ginger Macomber, Advocacy Committee Chair for Working Families and Economic Security

THE CRISIS

Even before the pandemic, working women struggled to balance work with family life. The United States stands alone in the industrialized world with its lack of support for working families.

The United States, Suriname, Papua New Guinea, and a few island countries in the Pacific Ocean are the only countries that do not require employers to provide paid time off for new parents. While the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) entitles eligible employees to job-protected leave for 12 work weeks to care for a new child or other family members, FMLA only guarantees unpaid leave and only covers employees of businesses with 50 or more employees.

There is no universal, federal childcare program. Federal childcare subsidies go to the States, and income limits vary widely. In Maryland, the limit is \$71,525 for a family of four, yet Maryland has some of the highest childcare costs in the U.S., averaging \$13,500 per year for infant care – more than the annual \$10,779 tuition cost for the University of Maryland (which is publicly subsidized). Many childcare workers are also leaving their jobs. There has been a drop of 36 percent in the childcare workforce since the start of the pandemic and more than one third of childcare providers are considering quitting or closing their businesses because of low pay and difficult working conditions.

Working women and their families are in a crisis that has been exacerbated by the impact of the pandemic. Many women, who are often essential workers like health care providers, teachers, and retail employees, are dropping out of the labor force with predictable negative results for family income stability and for our wider economic recovery. In fact, women's workforce participation is now no greater than it was in 1988. For those of us who struggled to balance jobs, career, and family at the dawn of the Women's Movement and believed change was coming, we are sadly watching our daughters and granddaughters struggle with the same lack of support.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

WDC has consistently advocated for legislation that benefits working women and their families. We need policies like other industrialized countries that will help women re-enter the workforce as this pandemic ends and maintain their careers. When women earn less, a family's standard of living declines, family savings disappear, and a woman's future retirement income drops.

the assigned House and Senate Committees in 2021 ([HB0839/SB0539](#)). Passage of this legislation will provide up to 12 weeks of paid leave to an individual who is taking leave to care for a newborn or newly adopted child, a family member with a serious health condition, themselves if they have a serious health condition, or a service member who is next-of-kin or has a specified need because of the military deployment of a family member. WDC has received commitments from all of our Montgomery County Legislators on the relevant House Economic Matters Committee and Senate Finance Committee (Delegate Charkoudian, Delegate Qi, Delegate Queen, and Senator Feldman and Senator Kramer) to support this year's bill. Please thank our legislators for their support. If you have family and friends who live outside Montgomery County, please ask them to contact their legislators to urge support for the Time to Care Act.

2. The House of Delegates has established a [Study Group on Economic Stability](#), co-chaired by Montgomery County Delegate Pam Queen. Please call or email Delegate Queen and let her know you support passage of the Time to Care Act – pam.queen@house.state.md.us; 301-858-3380. Let all the [Committee members](#) know of your concerns and urge them to support legislation that addresses paid family leave (Time to Care Act), the child care crisis, fair pay, and fair working conditions.
3. Congresswoman Grace Meng ([H.Res. 121](#)) and Senators Amy Klobucher and Duckworth ([S.Res. 87](#)) have sponsored a Resolution to implement a Marshall Plan for Moms to revitalize and restore mothers to the workforce, including passing legislation that establishes paid family leave, rebuilds the childcare industry, ends child poverty and hunger, invests in quality education, increases the minimum wage to \$15/hour, and provides access to mental health support for mothers. WDC was successful in getting all of our Maryland Democratic Congressional team to support these resolutions. Senators Van Hollen and Cardin, and Congressmen Trone, Raskin, Sarbanes, Brown, Mfume, and Ruppersberger have signed on as co-sponsors, and Congressman Steny Hoyer, who as a House leader does not co-sponsor bills, has stated his support for the Resolution's priorities. Please thank our Senators and our Congressmen for their support.
4. Sign up for WDC's Advocacy Team and watch for Alerts about how to advocate for pending legislation that supports working women and their families. Click [here](#) to send an WDC an email request to be added to receive Advocacy Alerts.

Advocacy Corner

'Tis the Season!

Hello Advocacy Warriors! Welcome to Advocacy Corner. It's that time of year again – when partnerships are forged between advocacy groups, elected officials, and impacted

called - the sausage making!

The General Assembly is the lawmaking body for the State of Maryland. The official start of the 2022 Maryland General Assembly legislative session starts on January 12, 2022, and runs until April 11, 2022. There is also an early special session scheduled for December 6, 2021, to consider (1) redistricting proposals and (2) overrides to the Governor's vetoes of 2021 bills. The Governor can veto (reject or refuse to sign) bills that were passed by the law-making body and sent to his desk. When the Governor vetoes a bill, that bill will not become law, thus blocking implementation. This could delay important programs and reforms by more than a year! Click [here](#) to learn more about our state legislative process.

The Montgomery County legislative delegation are elected officials representing the county's state legislative election districts at the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis. Montgomery County is divided into eight state legislative election districts. The General Assembly is composed of two legislative bodies, the Senate, and the House. Each district elects one senator and three delegates to represent them in Annapolis. Click [here](#) to find your State District and identify your delegation members. For example, I live in Maryland Legislative Election District 19. My Senator is Ben Kramer, and my Delegates are Charlotte Crutchfield, Bonnie Cullison, and Vaughn Stewart. Maryland is also divided into County Council Districts and U.S. Congressional Districts. Topics for another post!

Every year, WDC presents our list of advocacy priorities to the Montgomery County State Delegation at their joint legislative priorities hearing in the fall before the start of the next session. This year the joint hearing was held on November 15th. You can watch a recording of the hearing on the MoCo Delegation [YouTube Channel](#). For the 2022 Legislative Session, WDC will support relevant legislation mainly in eight priority issue areas, filtered through the lens of racial, social, and economic equity. All legislation we support must resolve an issue that has a disproportionate impact on women and their families in Montgomery County. WDC's legislative priority areas for 2022 are Affordable Housing, Aging, Criminal Justice Reform/Public Safety, Education, Energy and Environment, Health, Immigration, and Working Families/Economic Equity. Click [here](#) to read the Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club 2022 Advocacy Priorities report.

Every month, Advocacy Corner will provide updates on the legislative process and specific bills the club is supporting.

Let's have a productive legislative season!

For questions and more information contact the [Advocacy Committee Chair, JoAnne Koravos](#).

WDC is looking forward to expanding its scope and has several open positions within our committees and on our board:

- Secretary
- Membership Co-Chair
- Community Education Co-Chair
- Finance Committee Member
- Historian Co-Chair

If you are interested in any of these opportunities and would like to learn more, please contact Leslie Milano at leslie.milano@gmail.com.

Are you friendly, persuasive and interested in helping WDC build up our active membership? If yes, please join our Membership and Outreach Committee! In particular we are looking to recruit assistance/expertise in the following areas:

- Membership follow-up/outreach to WDC members--reaching out via phone calls, texts, or emails
- Membership Outreach to non WDC members who have attended WDC events
- Technical Assistance with data reports. We will teach you how to use our MyWDC data base.
- Assistance with locating venues/logistics for live happy hours once they resume

To learn more please contact Enid Light at enid530@aol.com.

WDC Membership

Please Renew Your WDC Membership Today!

Our new membership year began October 1, 2021. If you haven't already done so, please renew online at <https://bit.ly/323Md5r>. You may also mail your \$35.00 annual dues (\$25 for members 35 years old or younger) payable to "WDC" and mail to: WDC, P.O. Box 2181, 5056 Nicholson Lane, Suite B, Kensington, MD 20891.

By renewing your membership, you are joining other Democrats to achieve the following three goals:

Strengthening Our County and Our State by advocating for progressive democratic

issue-oriented coalitions, and political groups.

Strengthening Our Party by intensifying the work WDC has always done to elect and support Democratic candidates and increase voter involvement, with a new emphasis on strengthening our Party at the county and state levels.

Strengthening Our Club by connecting to our work, joining committees, and attending the high-quality events for which WDC has been known for more than 60 years.

Democratic Clubs



Montgomery County Democratic Party

The MCDCC Calendar includes numerous 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](#)

WDC RESOURCES

[Facebook](#)[Twitter mocowdc@](#)[Join Our Members Only](#)
[Facebook Group](#)[YouTube](#)
[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](#)
