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WDC Newsletter – January 2022

WDC Events, News, and Resources

President's Message

Happy New Year from WDC! We hope that each of you enjoyed a wonderful, healthy holiday and (as much as can be expected during a global pandemic) feel rested and ready for exciting new opportunities in 2022.

We are particularly excited about the start of the General Assembly session on January 13. There are so many important pieces of legislation at play that we wanted to share our approach to advocacy. In short, WDC focuses on issues that impact women and families. Overlaying that focus, however, is an approach of using a racial equity lens in our analysis and decision-making. What does that mean? We ask ourselves questions throughout our decision-making process that elevate the lived experience of racially (and economically) diverse Marylanders, focusing heavily on a bill's impact on black and brown members of our community.



In my recent testimony at the Montgomery County State Delegation's Priorities Hearing, I spoke about the common thread in each of our important issue areas: We are most

marginalized throughout our state.

Advocacy is how WDC turns our shared Democratic values into action within our state. We look forward to working with you over the next four months to advocate for important legislation that will change the lives of Marylanders and hope that you will join us in these efforts.

Cheers to WDC in 2022!

Leslie Milano

Upcoming WDC Events



Gun Safety: A National Priority

January 20, 2022, 12:30 - 1:30

[Register here.](#)

Rob Wilcox, Federal Legal Director, Everytown for Gun Safety, will address WDC about the importance of gun violence prevention. [Everytown for Gun Safety](#), a grass-roots organization, is the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country, with over six million supporters and more than 375,000 donors including moms, mayors, survivors, students, and everyday Americans who are fighting for common-sense gun safety measures that can help save lives. Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, a part of Everytown, is the nation's largest grassroots volunteer network working to end gun violence

Rob Wilcox is a nationally recognized expert on gun safety, drawing upon more than 20 years of policy, advocacy and litigation experience. Wilcox leads all of Everytown for Gun Safety's federal policy work and incorporates his experience working with policymakers and stakeholders at all levels of government. Wilcox specializes in the development of comprehensive approaches to address gun violence, and technical advice on the development of evidence-informed policy solutions. [Click here to register now.](#)



WOMEN'S
DEMOCRATIC CLUB

JAN 25TH | ZOOM | MORE DETAILS TO COME

WDC PRESENTS



CONGRESSMAN RASKIN ON HIS NEW BOOK
**"UNTHINKABLE: TRAUMA, TRUTH, AND THE
TRIALS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY"**

Featuring
Congressman Jamie Raskin

THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FOR MARYLAND'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. LEAD HOUSE MANAGER DURING THE SECOND SENATE IMPEACHMENT TRIAL OF FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP, WHICH ENDED WITH A 57-43 VOTE TO CONVICT THE PRESIDENT FOR INCITING A VIOLENT INSURRECTION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT TO OVERTHROW THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

WDC Feature

Welcome to the 2022 elections!

Diana Conway

First, the bad news:

- It will be harder for Democratic voters to vote. The **Supreme Court's** conservative majority made it easier for states to purge voters and take other steps to suppress targeted voter populations. And they have done so, including rewriting state law on who certifies election results as valid.
- It will be harder for Democrats to pass legislation in **Congress** to protect ballot access -or anything else. History tells us the party in the White House loses seats in the mid-terms. The questions for 2022 is how many. Will this cycle be different? If

Now for some better news:

- Democrats are motivated. Threats to **reproductive rights and abortion care**, climate and more are setting off alarm bells. Reputable polls find 56% to 86% support for safe, legal abortion across age, gender, race, education, urban/rural, and religion -with the exception of white evangelicals. This fall, oral argument in two cases revealed a court poised --for the first time--to narrow or even dismantle a constitutional right and hand it off to states: OUT with self-determination and bodily integrity; IN with women as vessels and enforced motherhood.
Q: Will this wider threat get women -and men- back into the fight like the 2016 election did?
- Republicans face real minefields. Their party leader loves to punish insufficiently loyal candidates --including some **sitting** governors and House and Senate members in key swing districts. He attacks Mitch McConnell and supports the likes of Rep. Gosar (cartoon of himself killing AOC) and Parnell (dropped out of PA Senate race after spousal and child-abuse accusations).
Q: Will this haphazard king-making keep moderates on the sidelines and leave the field to MAGAs?
- In Maryland, Democrats are poised to retake the governorship. Eight Democratic candidates are vying to take on Hogan's designated successor.
Q: Will Hogan's chosen successor be damaged by the one endorsed by Trump?
- Virginia's gubernatorial race may not be replicable for Rs. That race had unusual dynamics: a too-familiar Democrat versus an undefined, nimble Republican who kept Trump as far as possible.
Q: Can that model hold outside Virginia?

Upshot: Republicans may be overplaying their hand, with an assist from the Supreme Court. Instead of a referendum on the Biden administration, 2022 is shaping up as a fight about ballot access, a woman's right to control her body, and self-determination through the consent of the governed.

Will we Democrats step up our game to hold or flip swing districts? Are you ready to help?

Bonus points: Listen to great podcasts on this, like [#SistersInLaw](#), [Amicus](#), and [Strict Scrutiny](#).

Advocacy Corner

READY, SET, GO!

The 2022 Session of the Maryland General Assembly

to learn about new legislation they are working on, and to urge them to support previous legislation that may be re-introduced. There are many moving parts in the advocacy machine, but the effort is energizing and important.

What is advocacy? Advocacy comes in many forms. In general, when we talk about advocacy, we are referring to the activity of advocating for issues and policies we believe will improve the lives of women and their families in Montgomery County and the State of Maryland. We want to help our members find their voice and provide them an avenue to make their voices heard. (See section on Advocacy Alerts!)

Looking through a racial equity lens

Montgomery County has a rich cultural, geographic, ethnic, and racially diverse population. WDC has historically used a social and economic justice lens when evaluating policy and relevant issues impacting Women and their families. In 2019, the Club officially adopted a racial equity lens aligning with the newly formed Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice created by [The Racial Equity and Social Justice Act \(ACT\)](#) in Montgomery County. These changes at the county government level were informed by the Office of Legislative Oversight report, [Racial Equity in Decision Making: Lessons from the Field](#). In addition, due to the increased publicity surrounding the killing of unarmed Black civilians by police, it was obvious to the membership that WDC must put a more focused emphasis on creating a more racially just community. In fact, since 2015, police officers have fatally shot at least 135 unarmed Black men and women nationwide (NPR). Therefore, local and state bills considered for support by the WDC Advocacy Team, are evaluated for their racial impact.

WDC Advocacy Subcommittees

The WDC Advocacy Committee has eight subcommittees, each of which are responsible for a key issue area. Each subcommittee identifies policy and legislation that pertains to their issue area and fits the club's charter. Upon approval by the advocacy chair and club president, the subcommittee chairs engage in a variety of advocacy activities including submitting written and/or oral testimony in support of bills being considered by the general assembly. The subcommittees and subcommittee chairs are:

Affordable Housing – Janet Frank

Aging – JoAnne Koravos

Criminal Justice Reform – Beth Tomasello

Education – Laura Stewart

Energy and Environment – Petra Smeltzer

Health – Margaret Hadley

Immigration – Fatmata Barrie

Working Families and Economic Security – Ginger Macomber

Advocacy Alert Team – the Crown Jewel!

The crown jewel of WDC's advocacy efforts is our grassroots advocacy team. We have

make their voices heard about policies and bills that impact them personally and their families. We are very proud of what our advocacy alert team members accomplished during last session!

If you are a member and wish to receive AAA's contact [JoAnne Koravos](#) to be added to the list. If you aren't a member and wish to join the Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club, click [here](#), and sign up for AAA's when you fill out your membership form.

Ok. Let's make our voices heard this legislative season. **Ready, Set, Go!**

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

Other Upcoming Events



**We Can't and Shouldn't Forget January 6.
We're Remembering by Registering Voters
and Pushing for Voting Rights.
You can help by registering voters
on January 6 at Westfield Wheaton**

On January 6 from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM, DTMG volunteers will be registering voters at Westfield Wheaton mall (near the INDOOR Costco and Target entrances). You DO NOT have to be a certified voter registrar to join us, but you DO have to be fully vaccinated and masked at all times. Social distancing will be enforced. Click below to sign up for one or more 1-hour shifts and help us get new voters on the rolls!

Sign Up to Register Voters



**Join the District 15 Legislative Team,
Senator Brian Feldman, Delegate Linda Foley, Delegate David Fraser-
Hidalgo, Delegate Lily Qi
Thursday, January 6th at 7:30 PM
Pre-Session Town Hall via Zoom
[Link to register](https://bit.ly/d15-01-06) and to ask questions**

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY
COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
and our many co-sponsoring organizations
invite you to the

V I R T U A L

Women's Legislative Briefing

2 0 2 2

***Voting Women
Change Everything***

 KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Melanie Campbell
President/CEO
National Coalition on
Black Civic Participation

In Case You Missed It!

View Recent WDC Speakers

[Visit Our YouTube Channel](#)

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

- 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 policy objectives; keeping Democrats informed through our luncheon/dinner speakers and our education and training programs; and building alliances with other Democratic clubs, issue-oriented coalitions, and political groups.

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 become informed about 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

WDC Social Media & Email

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Speakers & Events](#)

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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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