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WDC Newsletter – November 2022

From the President

Time to buckle down!

Ready for the final push? Our Nov. 8 ballot presents a flurry of candidates who will face staggeringly important issues in our legislative, judicial, and executive branches:

- **Women's rights** and bodily autonomy after the *Dobbs* reversal of *Roe*
- **Voting rights** and ballot integrity, with *Harper v Moore* on the Supreme Court docket
- Addressing **climate change** or **public health** after federal agencies have been knee-capped
- **Separation of church and state** for school funding or book-banning
- ... and the far-reaching fallout from *Dobbs* -- serious stuff: Reversing *Roe* not only stripped women of our "status as free and equal citizens," as the dissenters wrote in *Dobbs*. It also threw into legal peril so much of the 'substantive due process' we take for granted: our rights to contraception, same-sex marriage, interracial marriage, Miranda warnings, the presumption of innocence... *Dobbs* threw into doubt our ability to rely on **any** precedent.

This election will set the terrain for the 2024 election. One hundred and forty-seven (147) elected members of Congress voted against certifying the 2020 election results. People are sitting in jail cells after convictions of seditious conspiracy. The [January 6](#)

threat. As conservative legal luminary Judge Michael Luttig told the J6 Committee in June, the former president is [a clear and present danger to our democracy](#).

Yes, we are **all** tired—candidates, donors, activists, and volunteers.

Short answer? Too bad. Because with stakes this high, being tired will have to wait.

Being tired didn't stop us in the 1960s when civil rights, voting rights, and women's rights were on the line. This is also the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act and of Rachel Carson's [Silent Spring](#). We have work to do, and it is worth doing.

So for one more week, Democrats and all clear-eyed people need to pitch in for a last push to secure victories up and down the ballot.

What else can you manage? Can you volunteer to phone--or text-bank? Maybe knock on doors or put up yard signs? Work at a polling station or give rides to the polls? Supply snacks to canvass launches? Can you bring along a friend or two? Every additional set of hands can boost turnout of informed voters--and morale for all. We need both in this final stretch.

I'm out of adjectives. We know this is a tipping point for our democracy. Can you help? See some suggestions below. It's time.



For Democrats, for democracy,

Diana

Diana Conway

Below are strong options to maximize your final efforts for close, winnable races—**we can do this!**

- [DTMG DoTheMostGood](#)
- [SSPA Silver Spring Progressive Action](#)
- [MDDems](#)
- Or a quick scan of the press will help you find races that are tight but winnable and important to you.

Upcoming WDC Events



Wait, What Just Happened? Unpacking 2022 with Fred Yang

Fred Yang, CEO of Hart Research Associates and a founding principal of Hart's political division, is unmatched at translating survey research and dry statistics into cogent and compelling political analysis.

A perennially popular WDC speaker, Mr. Yang will regale us with stories from the 2022 campaigns (his clients include senators, congressional representatives, governors, and mayors) and show how pollsters came up with their expected winners and losers. He excels at explaining why some races turn out dramatically different than the pundits' predictions, and which demographic groups made the difference in various races.

A regular contributor to network and cable news programs, Mr. Yang has been part of NBC News coverage of the national election returns since 2008. Currently, he also collaborates with Republican pollster Bill McInturff on the monthly NBC News/Wall Street Journal national survey—widely regarded as a barometer of American opinion.

Whether we get the Democratic wave election we always hope for, or something less favorable to our party, no one illuminates the reasons things turn out the way they do like Fred Yang. Don't miss this insider's view of the 2022 election cycle!

Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022, 12:30 pm ET

Free Zoom meeting. A link will be sent prior to the event.

To register, click [here](#).



Movie Screening and Panel Discussion: "On These Grounds"

Join Councilmember Will Jawando for this film about a viral video showing a white police officer in South Carolina as he pulls a Black teenager from her school desk and throws her across the floor. Following the screening, Councilmember Jawando will host a panel discussion with students, Ruschelle Reuben, Chief of Teaching, Learning and Schools at Montgomery County Public Schools, and Dwanna Nicole, Executive Director of the Restorative Justice Partnership, about the realities of and alternatives to policing in schools. WDC is a cosponsor of this event.

Date: Monday, November 14, 2022, 5:30 - 8:00 pm

Where: [Silver Spring Civic Center](#)

This is a hybrid event. For more information and to RSVP, [click here](#).

In the News



From left-right: Natali Fani-Gonzalez, Dawn Luedtke; Laura Stewart, Laurie-Anne Sayles; Kate Stewart, Marilyn Balcombe, Kristin Mink, Eden Durbin, and Julie Yang

Great Turnout for WDC's First In-person Happy Hour with a Purpose!

On October 18, we were thrilled to welcome 75+ Democrats for the return of the in-person **Happy Hour with a Purpose!** This time the purpose was to celebrate the six Democratic women headed for our new, expanded County Council: Marilyn Balcombe, Natali Fani-Gonzalez, Dawn Luedtke, Kristin Mink, Laurie-Anne Sayle, and Kate Stewart. We were also joined by County Councilmembers Andrew Friedson, Evan Glass, and Will Jawando, plus Debbie Spielberg for County Executive Marc Elrich, former Delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez, Kensington's Mayor Tracey Furman, and Councilwoman Ann Lichter. We especially thank our hosts Eden and Marty Durbin for accommodating a late change of venue at their made-to-party home, and as always, our volunteers and the WDC Board. See [below](#) for the video of the speakers' portion of the event.

Meanwhile, stay tuned for a rescheduled upcounty Happy Hour with a Purpose!

In Case You Missed It!




 MONTGOMERY
COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S
DEMOCRATIC CLUB


 LATINO DEMOCRATIC CLUB
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**“The Contributions of the Latino Community Brings to
Montgomery County, the State, the Region,**

Moderated by Dr. Gabriela Lemus – Maryland Latinos Unidos
Wednesday, October 12, 5:30 pm

www.womensdemocraticclub.org

Latinx Power Panel: Women’s Democratic Club & Latino Democratic Club
 Zoom Forum



RSVP: bit.ly/HHOct18





Natali Fani-Gonzalez
 Kristin Mink
 Marilyn Balcombe
 Dawn Luedtke
 Kate Stewart
 Laurie-Anne Sayles
 (left to right)

Advocacy Corner

WDC Advocacy Matters!

Celebrating the One-Year Anniversary of Juvenile Restoration Act

In a letter marking passage of the JRA, which grants sentencing review to Marylanders under the age of 18 at the time of their offense and prohibits children from being sentenced without the possibility of parole, the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth (CFSY) recognized the contributions of WDC and other key advocacy groups for their “tireless efforts” in making this legislation a reality.

According to CFSY, in the year since JRA's passage, 36 individuals have been granted sentencing review, 23 of whom have been released from prison, including Adnan Syed whose case was featured on the podcast, *Serial*.

Former WDC President Beth Tomasello, who led WDC's Advocacy Committee when the JRA finally passed, said, “We were involved in advocacy on ending juvenile life sentences without parole in Maryland as early as 2014. Both [former WDC President] Fran Rothstein and I testified on the bill in 2014 and 2015. Final passage of the JRA in 2021 is an object lesson in the role that WDC can play in amplifying the voices of directly impacted people and other advocacy organizations. To paraphrase old pro-choice bumper stickers, “We are pro justice, and we vote.”

An article in the [Baltimore Banner](#) has more information about the JRA.

And, the 2023 Maryland legislative session is just around the corner so now is the time to get involved with our advocacy efforts. [Join](#) the WDC Advocacy Committee.

Important Maryland 2022 Election Dates

Election Day is Almost Here! November 8, 2022 (7am – 8pm)

Early Voting: Now – November 3, 2022 (7am – 8pm)

A graphic featuring a central yellow banner with the text "#MDVOTES" and "2022" in bold black letters, separated by a horizontal line. The banner is flanked by blue and red vertical bars with geometric patterns.

**#MDVOTES
— 2022 —**

Time to Vote! Know How to Register, How and Where to Vote, and Be Prepared! Find everything you need to know below:

The Gubernatorial General Election **early voting centers** are open **today through Thursday, November 3, 2022, from 7 am until 8 pm**, and **election day polling places** will be open from **7 am until 8 pm on November 8, 2022**, for election day. You may vote early at any early voting center in your jurisdiction of residence or at [your assigned polling place](#) on election day.

2022 Gubernatorial Election - Voter Resources. Click [here](#).

Early Voting has started. Click [here](#).

For the nearest Early Voting Center, directions & wait-times, text EV plus Zip code

(Example: EV 20879) to 77788 or go to this

link: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/elections/earlyvoting/index-wait-times.html>

Mail-In Ballot request no longer available.

VOLUNTEER! Elect Democrats Up and Down the Ballot. Click links below.

[Montgomery County Democratic Party](#)

[Maryland Democratic Party](#)

The Most Important GOTV Action You Can Take Between Now and Election Day Is to Phone Bank. Here's How! Click on the organizations below:

[DoTheMostGood](#)

[JWalkers Action Group](#)

[Silver Spring Progressive Action Group](#)

General Election Ballot Questions

There are [five Constitutional Amendments](#) that will appear statewide on the November 8, 2022, general election ballots. There is [one local referendum](#), passed by the General Assembly, that will appear on the ballots in Montgomery County. The Secretary of State is responsible for preparing and certifying the statewide ballot question language. A [non-technical summary](#) of the statewide questions is provided by the Department of Legislative Services. Additionally, [these local ballot questions will appear in certain](#)

Sample General Election 2022 Montgomery County Ballot. Click [here](#).

Know your Congressional, State, and County District Numbers. Click [here](#).

[State Board of Elections Announces Process for Hospitalized or Quarantined Marylanders to Vote.](#)

Drop Box Locations. Click [here](#).



LWVMC Voters' Guides Available

[Voters' Guides](#) or [VOTE411](#)

Paper Copies at MC Public Libraries and Community Centers or [outlets sites](#)

During elections, League volunteers reach out to EVERY CANDIDATE to include them in our Voters' Guides and on VOTE411. This edition includes pros and cons on ballot questions!

WDC Directory

We are pleased to announce that we will be publishing a new member directory this fall. The Directory will include active members of the club as of October 1, 2022. Join WDC and stay involved in local and state policy and politics. After the directory is published, any current member can obtain one free copy at WDC in-person events. **Be on the lookout for our letter to current members regarding the deadline to review and update your directory entry.** This is your opportunity to change how you are listed, including opting out entirely, for all current, new, or renewing members. Also, remember to check the box to receive our **Advocacy Alerts** upon joining the club! Advocacy alerts keep our grassroots membership informed and help make our voices heard in Annapolis!

WDC Membership

Our new membership year began October 1, 2021. If you haven't already done so, renew online [here](#). You may also mail your \$35.00 annual dues (\$25 for members 35 years old or younger) payable to "WDC" and mail to: WDC, PO Box 34047, Bethesda, MD 20827.

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 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.

Make a Difference—Volunteer with WDC!

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

- Membership Co-Chair
- Community Education Co-Chair
- Finance Committee Member
- Historian Co-Chair
- Communications Committee Members
- Advocacy Committee Chair, Co-Chair, or Member

Interested? To learn more, please contact [Diana Conway](#).

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

-
- Assistance with locating venues/logistics for live happy hours once they resume

To learn more please contact [Enid Light](#).

Have you enjoyed using software in the past?

If you would like to join our WDC team, please volunteer to help us. You can learn one or more of our software or social media tools and have a real impact.
Contact Mary Lou Fox.

WDC Resources

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter mocowdc@](#)

[Join Our Members Only
Facebook Group](#)

[YouTube
Speakers & Events](#)

WDC Social Media & Email

Contact us [here](#).

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

DONATE to WDC

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