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WDC Newsletter – December 2022

From the President

An exceptional midterm election

We had been warned: A president's party always loses seats—and control of Congress—in mid-term elections. Only the most exceptional circumstances created outliers:

- Franklin Roosevelt (D) in 1934 during the Great Depression
- John F. Kennedy (D) in 1962 amid the Cuban missile crisis
- George W. Bush (R) in 2002 following the 9/11 attacks of 2001

Well now there's a fourth exception!

- President Joe Biden in 2022, following four disastrous chaotic years under his predecessor. Instead of the predicted red wave, American voters repudiated candidates and ballot measures aligned with the former president—candidates who denied the 2020 election results, promised voting restrictions, championed abortion restrictions or outright bans, and threatened more chaos or violence.

In the Senate, two key points: First, Democrats defied all predictions to narrowly hold control of the U.S. Senate. Second, we are poised to take one MORE Senate seat: In **Georgia's December 6 runoff**, we **MUST re-elect Senator Warnock** to have 51 senators. Yes, Vice President Harris can break ties on the Senate floor, but first, a bill or nomination

contrast, a 50-50 Senate split means every committee has equal numbers of Ds and Rs and leaves us hamstrung. If bills and **judicial nominations** cannot get out of committee, they cannot get to the Senate floor for VP Harris to cast the tie-breaking vote. Having 51 seats means committees can **work**. So please [jump in](#). We've worked too hard to let this slip through our fingers.

In the House, Republicans have passed the magic 218 to claim control of the chamber. Worth noting: Alaska's lone House seat went to Democrat Peltola through [Rank Choice Voting](#)—a system WDC supports.

So Republicans will have narrow control—but of what? Such a slim majority in such a fractious caucus means extremists will be emboldened to act on their hunger for attention. I suspect most readers can tick off a few likely names. All the more reason to strengthen our hand in the Senate!

In Maryland, Democrats romped through all three statewide races, winning each by **2-to-1**, while shattering barriers:

- [Wes Moore](#) will be our first Black governor and only the third in the nation.
- [Aruna Miller](#) will be our first Asian-American lieutenant governor and first immigrant as well.
- [Brooke Lierman](#) will be our first woman comptroller-- the first woman elected statewide, to state office.
- [Anthony Brown](#) will be our first Black attorney general. Brown's opponent has yet to concede, citing unspecified irregularities despite losing by more than 560,000 votes.

Bottom line: Help clinch this Georgia senate seat! Call on your friends one more time to re-elect Senator Warnock. It's our best chance to empower Democratic senators so they can take action on nominees, appointees, and policies. After all this work, let's not let up in the final stretch.

For Democrats, for democracy,

Diana

Diana Conway
WDC President

Upcoming WDC Events



Save the Date!
Thurs., Jan. 26, 2023
12-2 pm

WDC In-Person Luncheon with Guest Speaker Chuck Rosenberg at The Universities at Shady Grove

WDC will host Chuck Rosenberg as our first in-person speaker since the onset of COVID. Mr. Rosenberg

last spoke to the Club on April 18, 2019, the day the Mueller Report on the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential election was released. This time, he will share his views on ways the activities of the U.S. Department of Justice have impacted democratic governance in the years since then.

In the News

District 14 Delegate Vacancy
 Apply by 5 pm, Friday, December 16, 2022

Public Forum
 7:30 pm, Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Support Letters Submission Deadline
 5 pm, Thursday, December 29, 2022

MCDCC Special Meeting
 7:30 pm, Tuesday, January 3, 2023

D14 Delegate Seat Vacancy to Be Filled by Appointment

We congratulate Del. Eric Luedtke (D-14), who has accepted the offer to become Governor-elect Moore's chief legislative officer. With Leudtke's resignation, effective Jan. 2, the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee (MCDCC) has the authority to

Interested applicants must submit their application no later than **5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 16, 2022**.

The Jerry Samet District 14 Democratic Brunch Club (the District 14 Club) will host a public forum for residents of District 14 to meet the applicants at **7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022**, via Zoom. Register [here](#).

Registered District 14 Democratic voters interested in **submitting letters of support** for their preferred applicant must do so no later than 5 p.m., **Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022**.

The MCDCC will hold a **Special Meeting at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023**, to interview the applicants and vote to recommend one or more candidates to the Governor to fill the vacancy. The meeting, which will be open to the public, will be held in-person at MCDCC Headquarters, 12320 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD 20852, and will be livestreamed via Zoom Meeting and Facebook Live. **All attendees and applicants, whether they wish to attend in-person or via Zoom, must register in advance at bit.ly/mcdcc-01-03.**

For more on how to apply for the position, eligibility requirements, attend the public forum, or attend the special meeting, click [here](#).



Congratulations to Delegates Julie Palakovich-Carr, Emily Shetty, Lily Qi, and Vaughn Stewart on their new positions leading the Montgomery County delegation in the Maryland General Assembly. Palakovich-Carr will be the Chair of the delegation, following the able leadership of Del. Mark Korman. Shetty will be Vice Chair, and Qi and Stewart will serve as Democratic Caucus Co-chairs. WDC looks forward to working with all of them.

Maryland Approves Question 4, Legalizing Recreational Cannabis

Maryland voters overwhelmingly approved Question 4, the state constitutional amendment allowing possession and use of recreational cannabis. Cannabis possession charges have disproportionately affected Black and Brown people and for that reason, WDC testified in support of putting Question 4 on the ballot, allowing Maryland voters to make the decision regarding legalization.

As a result of the amendment's passage, and because of expanded expungement statutes, Marylanders will be able to clear their criminal records of past cannabis charges and convictions. The revisions will pardon simple possession charges in cases where it was the only charge, and provide pathways to expungement where the charge was one of many. The law allows those currently incarcerated on simple possession charges to petition the court for re-sentencing and release.

"That describes literally hundreds of thousands of Maryland residents who have a criminal record," said District 20 Del. David Moon, who worked for years [to gradually expand cannabis expungement provisions](#).

More information about the new legislation can be found at the [Baltimore Banner](#).



Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women

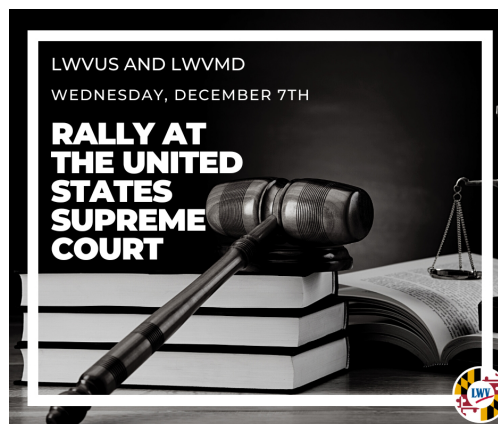
The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) held its first in-person fall conference since 2019 on Nov. 12, in Silver Spring. WDC was a Silver Sponsor of the

MLAW was established to harness the collective power of women and to create a statewide, non-partisan, independent coalition of groups and individuals to advocate for progressive legislative initiatives that promote and protect the well-being of women and their families in Maryland. The organization's advocacy and collaborative efforts have resulted in the passage of over 100 pieces of legislation enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in the last 28 years.

Every fall, prior to the new Maryland legislative session, MLAW puts out a call for legislative proposals. The theme for this year's conference was "Shift to the States: Women Lead in Maryland." Fifteen proposals were presented at the conference in a variety of issue areas including reproductive health and justice, criminal justice and women, children and families, and climate. The proposals now go through a voting process where MLAW members rank the proposals. The top 6-8 proposals will be included in MLAW's legislative agenda that will be sent to all Maryland legislators.

Detailed descriptions of the initiatives presented at the conference are posted on MLAW's website. [Read about each bill](#) and, if you are an MLAW member, cast your ballot for your preferred proposed legislation [here](#). The deadline is Monday, December 12 at 5 p.m.

The League of Women Voters of the United States filed an [amicus brief](#) at the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Moore v. Harper* case against the recently concocted "independent state legislature theory" (ISLT), a theory that would remove the checks and balances of our democracy and give state legislatures complete authority to rewrite the rules of how federal elections are run at the state level. LWVMD along with all other 49 Leagues in the nation, signed on to this brief. **To better understand ISLT, watch this [video](#).**



On **December 7** when the U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments on the case, **LWVUS is planning a National Day of Action** starting at 9:00 a.m. EST in front of the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. They will also be scheduling an in-person training with a virtual option on December 6, at 5:30 p.m. EST for people joining the rally.

To let LWVUS know that you are interested in attending please register [here](#). If you are interested in traveling to the event with other League members from Maryland, please also register [here](#). We will let people from similar parts of the state know about each other's interest in attending.

Advocacy Corner

Every year, WDC drafts our [advocacy priorities](#) prior to the start of the new legislative session in Annapolis. The document, jointly authored by our advocacy subcommittee chairs, outlines those issues we hope to advocate for during the upcoming Maryland legislative session, preferably bills introduced or sponsored by members of our own Montgomery County state delegation. Each September, the Advocacy Committee develops a list of legislative priorities for WDC Board approval. WDC's criteria are:

- The issue is directly relevant to women and their families;
- WDC has the organizational energy and capacity to advocate for the issue;
- There are other advocacy groups with which WDC can collaborate;
- County or State legislation has been proposed that addresses the issue; and
- At the State level, the legislation is sponsored or co-sponsored by a Montgomery County elected representative.

On November 15, 2022, WDC President Diana Conway presented WDC's [advocacy priorities](#) to the Montgomery County Joint State Delegation at their annual joint priorities hearing. We will also submit WDC's priorities to Senate and House leadership the week of January 11, 2023, when the Maryland state legislature convenes. "We have a lot of work to do this session! To get involved with these issues, contact Advocacy Committee Chair [JoAnne Koravos](#)."

In Case You Missed It!



Fred Yang speaks to WDC about "What Just Happened? Unpacking the 2022 Elections"

WDC Directory

We are pleased to announce that the WDC member directory will be coming soon.

The Directory will include active members of the club as of October 1, 2022. After the directory is published, any current member can obtain one free copy at WDC in-person events.

It's never too late to join WDC and stay involved in local and state policy and politics. When you join or renew your membership, remember to check the box to receive our **Advocacy Alerts!** Advocacy alerts keep our grassroots membership informed and help make our voices heard in Annapolis!

WDC Membership

Please Renew Your WDC Membership Today!

Our new membership year began October 1, 2022. 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

By renewing your membership, you are joining other Democratic women and men 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
- Technical Assistance with data reports. We will teach you how to use our MyWDC database.
- Assistance with locating venues/logistics for live happy hours once they resume

Do You Enjoy Using Software?

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](#)

[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

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