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WDC Newsletter – February 2022

WDC Events, News, and Resources

President's Message

As we honor Black History Month and recognize the robust contributions that Black Americans have made throughout the country and world, Democrats will recognize that Black people, especially Black women, have saved our democracy, time and time again, with their smart strategies and relentless organizing to get out the vote in our most critical elections. Yet at the highest levels of policy and decision making, where their voices are sorely needed, their roles have been limited. It is incumbent on all Democrats to right this wrong. It is fitting and right for President Biden to acknowledge that we need a Black woman's experience, analysis, lens, and voice on the United States Supreme Court. We look forward to experiencing this living Black history with you.



Although we are close to two years into the global pandemic, WDC's programs and community education events are still going strong. We successfully transitioned from live events to online "Zoominars" to bring important speakers to our members every month. Last month, we hosted the brilliant, indefatigable Jamie Raskin for a conversation about his

be watched [here](#).

On February 15 at 12:30 pm, we will host Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, and Cherri Branson, third VP for the Montgomery County NAACP and past president of the Montgomery County African-American Democratic Club, for a candid conversation on Critical Race Theory and its impact on our schools, criminal justice policies, and more. To register, click [here](#).

Lastly, we are proud to report that our Advocacy Committee has submitted testimony on 22 bills to date in the Maryland General Assembly on topics ranging from criminal justice reform to protections for aging women. Our annual Annapolis Day will be held virtually on February 26 from 9 am-12 pm. Register [here](#) for this member's only event. Kudos to our Chair and WDC VP, JoAnne Koravos, for leading WDC's robust advocacy efforts, which are making a real impact in Annapolis. Just this week, several Senators and Delegates called to ask if WDC would consider supporting their legislation. Our team makes a difference. Your efforts make a difference.

Let's keep making a difference together.

Leslie Milano

Upcoming WDC Events

What Is the Truth Regarding Critical Race Theory?

Tuesday, February 15, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Click [here](#) to register.

Join **Randi Weingarten** and **Cherri Branson** in a candid unbiased conversation on Critical Race Theory and its impact on education in our schools and equitable criminal justice and policing policies.

Critical Race Theory is an academic concept that outlines how racism in America is not only a product of individual biases, but is also deeply embedded in public policy, the criminal justice system, education, the labor and housing markets, as well as healthcare systems. As recent events have increased public awareness about disparities, specifically in the quality of education and criminal justice policy, CRT has been suggested as an educational tool to unpack the root causes of many of these issues.



1.7 million-member American Federation of Teachers, ALF-CIO, and leads the effort to strengthen public education for all children.



Cherri Branson currently serves on Montgomery County's Policing Advisory Commission and is the 3rd VP of the NAACP-Montgomery County Branch, whose mission is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights for all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.



Save The Date

Saturday, February 26, 2022
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Virtual Annapolis Day

- ❖ *Updates From Our State Legislators*
- ❖ *WDC Priority Issues Breakout Rooms*
- ❖ *Fun Rank Choice Voting Activity*

COVID is going to keep WDC from going to Annapolis again this year, but it is not going to stop Annapolis from coming to WDC!

Join us for a day of legislative advocacy – 'Live' via Zoom

**** Members-Only Event ****

Join Or Renew Now

www.womensdemocraticclub.org



Come One! Come All! to Virtual Annapolis Day!

Virtual Annapolis Day – Saturday, February 26, 9 am-12 pm

Click [here](#) to register.

Well, for the new members here is a bit of history. Every year once the Maryland General Assembly session in Annapolis is underway, WDC hosts an event for our members. We call it **Annapolis Day**. Our members gather in Annapolis for a packed agenda that includes breakfast and lunch (important stuff!); meetings with their elected officials; and a tour of the House and Senate chambers where laws are being debated, voted on, and enacted. Some of us often sit in on bill hearings. We also take the opportunity to discuss WDC's legislative priorities and hear from the WDC leadership.

But, alas, it is the age of the pandemic, and we must adjust to the new normal. So...this year we rolled up our sleeves and planned a fun-filled virtual event! Meet your District representatives to the State legislature and have discussions about important priorities that impact women and their families in Montgomery County. We will also have a fun exercise to vote on your choice for the new Maryland State Song! It is a member-only event. If you aren't a member, need to renew, or check whether you are active, click [HERE](#). What is your State District and who are your State Representatives? Find out [HERE](#)! Come join us! Tell your friends to sign up as well. WDC has some great speaker events coming up! When you join, don't forget to check the box to receive Advocacy Alerts (see January Newsletter "Advocacy Alert Team – the Crown Jewel!").

WDC Hosts State Party Chair Yvette Lewis -- "Proving the Pundits Wrong: Winning with MDDEMS"



Thursday, March 3, 7:00 pm

Click [here](#) to register.

Tired of pundits and pollsters demoralizing you about Democrats' prospects for the 2022 elections and beyond? Our irrepressible, enthusiastic, accomplished **State Party Chair Yvette Lewis** will change your mind and demonstrate how a strong Democratic Party can win at the state and national levels.

Yvette is an organizer to her core. She brought groups of volunteers together in 2008 to knock on doors,

make phone calls, and register voters to elect President Obama. In 2010, she founded Maryland's "Rapid Response Network" to push back aggressively against the Tea Party in Washington, and to counter Bob Ehrlich's smear campaign against Governor Martin O'Malley.

Caucus female representative on the DNC Executive Committee. In partnership with churches, she created "Shop Talk," to encourage voter registration among barbershop and beauty salon patrons and employees.

Few others can motivate voters the way Yvette can. Don't miss this exciting speaker!

Postponed -- will be rescheduled

Stay tuned for new date

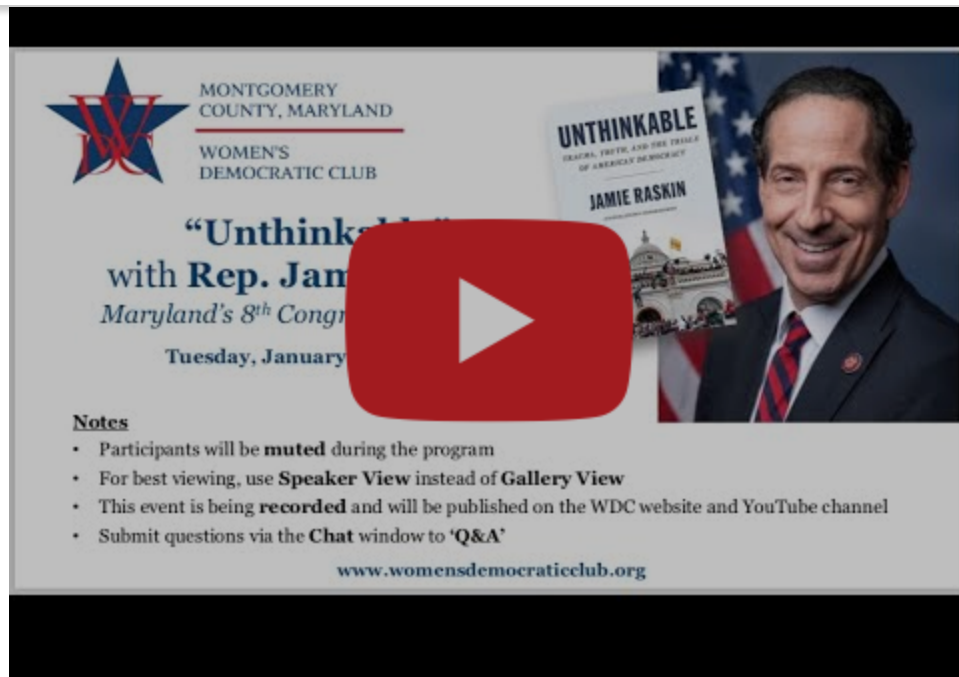
Fiona Hill: "Saving Our Democracy by Expanding Economic Opportunity"

When former **National Security Council Senior Director Fiona Hill** testified in the first impeachment hearing, she focused on then-President Trump's anti-democratic plan to hold military aid to Ukraine hostage until that nation agreed to a trumped-up investigation of presidential candidate Joe Biden. Widely applauded at the time for her courageous testimony, she warns in her new book that democracy remains at risk, thanks to declining opportunities caused by globalization.

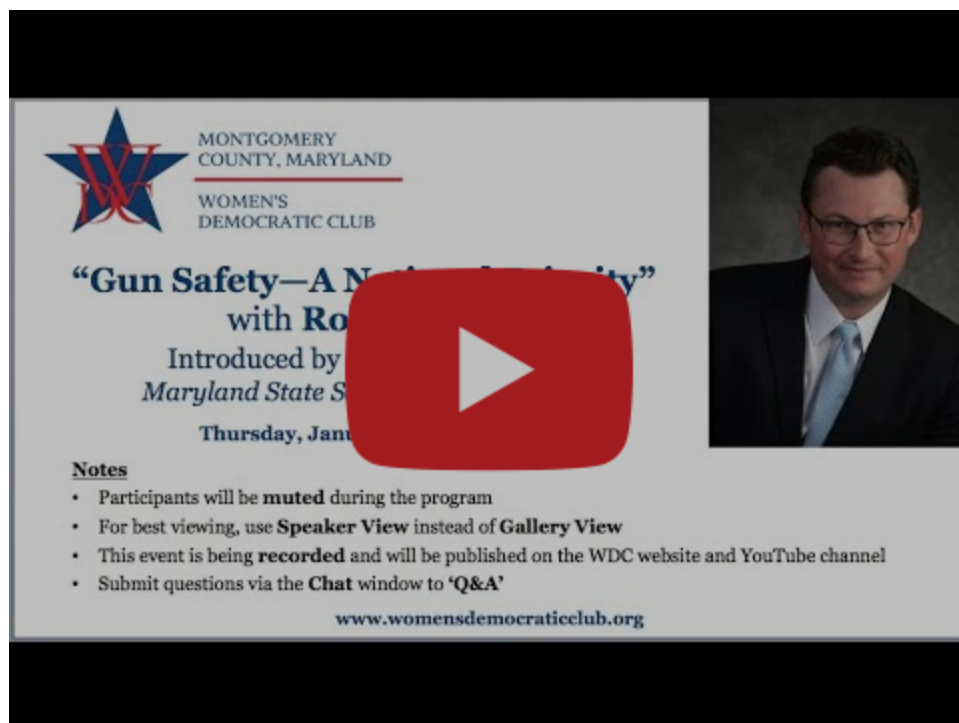


Her book, *There Is Nothing For You Here: Finding Opportunity in the 21st Century*, makes the case that the desperation of forgotten people underlies current threats to our democracy, and that we were running out of time to save ourselves from Russia's fate.

In Case You Missed It!



WDC's Special Guest Speaker, Maryland's Representative from the 8th District Jamie Raskin, talks about his new book, *Unthinkable*; the loss of his dear son, Tommy; the 2nd impeachment of Donald Trump; and the January 6th Insurrection, January 25, 2022



Gun Safety - A National Priority Featuring WDC Special Guest Speaker Rob Wilcox - Everytown, January 20, 2022

Advocacy Corner



Our Cup Runneth Over...with Bill Testimonies!

If you have been a member for a while, you already know that WDC is very active during the Maryland State legislative season advocating for (and sometimes against!) bills that we believe address important issues that impact women and their families. We also strive to look at potential legislation through a racial equity lens (see January newsletter, “Looking through a Racial Equity Lens”).

Here are just some of the pieces of legislation we have supported through written and/or oral testimony since the 444th session convened on January 12th. And we are still at it!

BILL NUMBERS TITLE OF BILL

<u>HB0001</u>	Constitutional Amendment - Cannabis - Adult Use and Possession
<u>HB0006</u> (<u>SB0150</u>)	Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Coverage for Adults
<u>HB0008</u> (<u>SB0275</u>)	Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2022)
<u>HB0031</u> (<u>SB0256</u>)	Maryland Energy Administration – Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund
<u>HB0047</u> (<u>SB0462</u>)	Public Schools – Expanded American History – Development of Content Standards and Implementation
<u>HB0080</u> (<u>SB0028</u>)	Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver - Participation and Applications
<u>HB0084</u> (<u>SB0119</u>)	Education – Crimes on School Grounds – Application
<u>HB0122</u> (<u>SB0138</u>)	Criminal Procedure – Expungement of Records – Expansion
<u>HB0125</u>	Motor Vehicle Insurance - Discrimination in Underwriting and Rating - Use of Gender

<u>HB0131</u> (<u>SB0321</u>)	Environment – Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill – Chain of Custody
<u>HB0148</u> (<u>SB0328</u>)	Criminal Law - Stalking - Definition
<u>HB0153</u> (<u>SB0033</u>)	Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal Defense
<u>HB0161</u>	Criminal Law - Exploitation of Vulnerable Adult or Elderly Individual - Undue Influence
<u>HB0252</u> (<u>SB0369</u>)	Income Tax - Return Preparation Assistance Program for Low-Income Families
<u>HB0254</u>	State Highway Administration - Pedestrian and Bicyclist Fatalities - Infrastructure Review (Vision Zero Implementation Act of 2022)
<u>HB0269</u> (<u>SB0053</u>)	Juvenile Law - Child Interrogation Protection Act
<u>HB0284</u> (<u>SB0020</u>)	Criminal Procedure - Out of Court Statements - Child Victims
<u>HB0294</u> (<u>SB0165</u>)	Juvenile Court - Jurisdiction
<u>HB0337</u> (<u>SB0021</u>)	Criminal Procedure - Sentencing - Primary Caretaker
<u>HB0425</u> (<u>SB0387</u>)	Public Safety - Untraceable Firearms
<u>HB0674</u> (<u>SB0384</u>)	Landlord and Tenant – Stay of Eviction Proceeding for Rental Assistance Determination

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

Take Action!



Go Blue In '22: Montgomery County Election Season Launch Event

Montgomery County Voter Outreach Phone Bank

Thursday, February 10, 6 – 8:00 pm

Free and open to all registered Democrats. Please register [here](#).

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

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

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 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 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

[WDC](#) • [Community](#) • [WNDC](#) • [MCDP](#) • [MDDEMS](#)

WDC RESOURCES

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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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