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WDC Newsletter – March 2022

WDC Events, News, and Resources

President's Message

WDC began Women's History Month with a speaker program featuring two-time Maryland State Democratic Party Chair, [Yvette Lewis](#), the second African American woman to serve in that position. In addition to delivering visionary, quality work in public service, Yvette Lewis simply makes us proud in that a strong Black woman, with her depth of experience and expertise, is leading us. Similarly, it was a joy to see our incredibly hard-working national leaders, Vice President Harris and Speaker Pelosi, sitting behind the President during the March 1 State of the Union address. Again, we are proud of this team and proud of this moment in Women's History.



Which brings us to Maryland in 2022. If you are like me, you may be wondering, "*WHERE ARE ALL THE WOMEN?*" Why is it that we have not one Democratic woman running for Governor in a race featuring 10 Democratic men? Why is there not one Democratic woman running for County Executive in a race featuring four (white) Democratic men? These statements are not meant to suggest that the current candidates running for these offices aren't quality, experienced individuals who are capable of leadership that will greatly benefit our county and state. Rather, it proves that the current recruiting and decision-making

elections process for Governor and County Executive, leaving a gaping hole that begs for the lived experience, priorities, and creative problem-solving of WOMEN.

And although Marylanders typically feel strong positive feelings toward our Congressional representatives, we need to note that the federal delegation is all-male as well. Back in 2018, what was considered a turning point in higher numbers of women being elected to office, the County Council emerged from the June primary with eight men and one woman - an incumbent. In other words -- this is not a new problem. We see it at every level of leadership within the state.

As a graduate of [Emerge Maryland](#), an organization that trains Democratic women to run and win elections, I know that my class of 2021 featured 26 highly engaged, smart Democratic women. Each year, Emerge trains Maryland women in the strategy and tactics of running a successful campaign; it has trained more than 4,000 Maryland women to run for office since 2002. But still, here we are. Emerge cannot solve this overwhelming problem single-handedly -- a problem that needs to be discussed, highlighted, challenged, raised in conversations consistently at every level, and acted upon by all Democrats -- not just women. We need analysis, strategy, and commitments for action across the state.

What women do you know who should be running in one of these important races? Homework: Plant that seed. Recruit them. Send them to Emerge. Tell them we need their voice to help fill this gaping, inexplicably growing void that is the very opposite of everything we believe in as Democrats: Progress.

Leslie Milano

Upcoming WDC Events



**APRIL 1
NOON | ZOOM**

Register at womensdemocraticclub.org

**Rep. Jim McGovern Inaugurates
Tommy Raskin Speaker Series**

[Click Here to Register](#)



2022
**Candidate
Forums**

Democratic Candidates for Governor

April 28 | 7-9 PM ET

Silver Spring Civic Building

Live Streaming | Facebook

Montgomery County Democratic Candidates for County Exec.

May 4 | 7-9 PM ET

Silver Spring Civic Building

Live Streaming | Facebook

Montgomery County Candidates for State's Attorney

May 12 | 7-9 PM ET

Silver Spring Civic Building

Live Streaming | Facebook

[Click Here to Register](#)

In Case You Missed It!



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

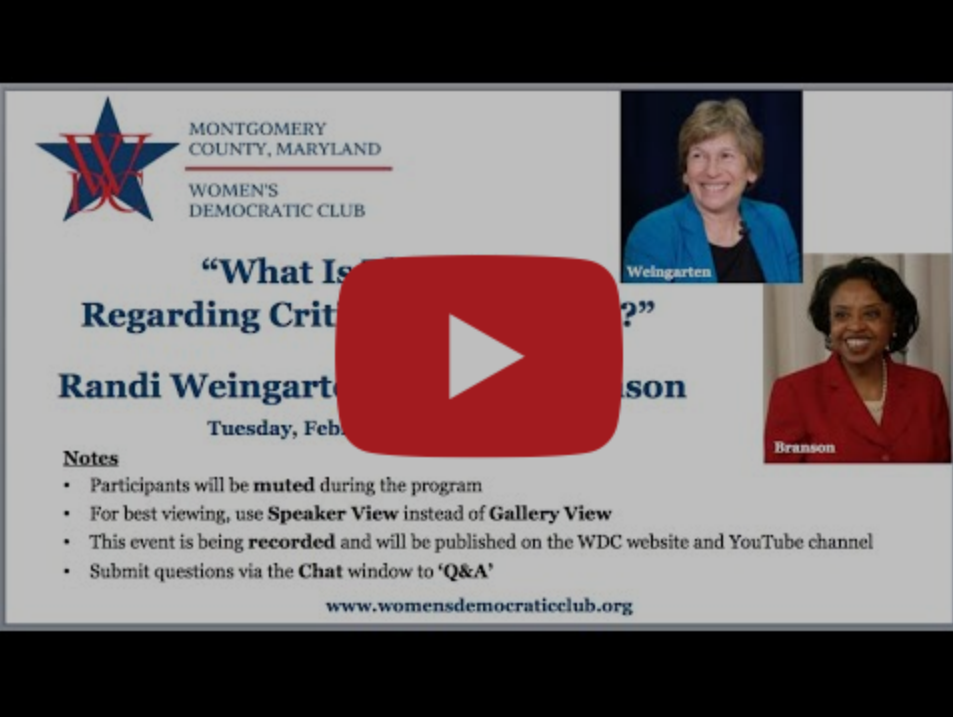
"Proving the Pundits Wrong: Winning with MDDEMS"
with Yvette Lewis
Maryland Democratic Chair
Thursday, March 3, 2022

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

"Proving Pundits Wrong: Winning with MDDEMS"
Yvette Lewis, Maryland Democratic Chair



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

"What Is the Truth Regarding Critical Race Theory?"
Randi Weingarten and Cherri Branson
Tuesday, February 22, 2022

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

What Is the Truth Regarding Critical Race Theory?
Randi Weingarten and Cherri Branson

Advocacy Corner



Coming Down to the Wire!

Only three weeks until the end of this 2022 legislative session. The deadline for bill introductions is behind us and the bill crossover day just passed us by. Although committee hearings are still being scheduled, committee voting sessions are increasing in number and some bills are making it to the chamber floors. WDC advocacy had a record year, supporting 44 unique bills (not counting cross-filed bills in the opposite chamber, which doubles this number and the work!) across eight WDC advocacy subcommittees: Affordable Housing, Aging, Criminal Justice Reform & Public Safety, Education, Environment & Energy, Health, Immigration, and Working Families & Economic Security.

[Click HERE](#) to view a list of the bills we supported including live links. If you see a bill that you are interested in and want to do a bit of grassroots advocacy, simply do the following:

- Click on the Bill Number to see the Bill Page.
- Where is the bill on the legislative timeline at the top of the page?
- Click on the last status point on the timeline to view an expanded view of where the bill is in the process.
- Click on the Committee links and identify the MoCo members on the committee.
- Contact the committee members and committee chair and tell them you want this bill to pass!
- **You are a constituent; your voice should be heard!**

See you on the other side of Sine Die on April 11, 2022!

Grassroots Advocacy and Our State Song

WDC thanks all the elected officials and WDC members who attended our first (and

home of Maryland's General Assembly. The last time we had an in-person Annapolis Day event was February 26, 2020, right before the pandemic hit. Although the Virtual Annapolis Day event was very successful using the Zoom platform, we are hoping we can hold this event in Annapolis in 2023. Fingers crossed.

The virtual event was three full hours of grassroots advocacy. We started off with video messages from leadership Senator Bill Ferguson and House Speaker Adrienne Jones, followed by a Meet and Greet, where WDC members heard from their Montgomery County State Legislators by District. Next, we all spread out into Zoom breakout rooms by issue area, where our own WDC Advocacy Chairs led lively and thoughtful discussions on current and proposed legislation.

Event Breakrooms:

- (1) Criminal Justice Reform & Public Safety, led by Chair Beth Tomasello;
- (2) Education and Immigration, led by Education Chair/VP Laura Stewart and Immigration Chair Fatmata Barrie;
- (3) Environment and Health, led by Past President Diana Conway and Health Chair Margaret Hadley;
- (4) Housing and Aging, led by Housing Chair Janet Frank and Aging Chair/VP JoAnne Koravos;
- (5) Working Families and Economic Security, led by Chair Ginger Macomber.

At Saturday's event, we also held a modified ranked-choice voting exercise to select a winning State song from a field of four candidates. What does advocacy have to do with the Maryland State Song? During this legislative session, WDC advocated for the passage of House Bill 362 - Montgomery County – Voting Methods, authorizing the Montgomery County Council to adopt a ranked-choice voting (RCV) method or an approval voting method. Why? Not only because RCV and similar voting approaches give voters a clearer way to express their preferences, but also because data shows that in RCV elections more women run and more women win, including Black women. Unfortunately, it looks like the bill will not pass during this session.

Event attendees ranked four potential candidates for the new Maryland State Song. You can listen to each of them by clicking the links below. In the end, Song A won by one point over Song D. **Enjoy!**

(A) **[“That’s My Maryland”](#)**

Jefferson Holland. (2:40)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rbns0vkl30>

(B) **[“Maryland Proud \(A Place Called Maryland\),”](#)**

Joshua A. Hastings (D) and Sarah Bernstein (3:52)

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2725308684451352>

Thomas Ponton (2.24)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjpm84l7BZE>

(D) **"Maryland, My Maryland (The Free State Song)"**

Jamie Raskin and Steve Jones from the D.C. Labor Chorus. (4:39)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljSUts6o2uw>

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

Take Action!



Take action with [DoTheMostGood](#)

[Check out](#) ways to get involved in and around your area!

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
- Communications Committee Members

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 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.

**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, 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

Contact us [here](#).

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[Twitter mocowdc@](#)

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Facebook Group](#)

[YouTube
Speakers & Events](#)

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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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