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WDC Newsletter – October 1, 2023

President's Message

Recommitting to Democracy

In an unprecedented show of unity last month, 13 Presidential Foundations and Centers, representing nearly every former president from Herbert Hoover to Barack Obama, called for [a national recommitment](#) to the principles of democracy and to civility and respect in political discourse.

“Each of us has a role to play and responsibilities to uphold. Our elected officials must lead by example and govern effectively in ways that deliver for the American people. This, in turn, will help to restore trust in public service. The rest of us must engage in civil dialogue; respect democratic institutions and rights; uphold safe, secure, and accessible elections; and contribute to local, state, or national improvement.”



The joint statement comes amid growing concern about the deep national polarization, the alarming increase in divisive rhetoric, and the disinformation that permeates our political

shutdown.

What can we do to strengthen our democracy?

This political gridlock is a threat to our very democracy and requires us all to step forward. It requires political and civic leaders to boost grassroots engagement, to enable active participation in the democratic process: voting in elections, attending public meetings, engaging with elected officials, and recruiting their networks to do likewise. This active involvement holds leaders accountable.

What additional ways can you get involved?

At WDC, we work to keep you informed on key issues and to enable you to take action on issues that are important to you, and that means educating and advocating for equitable laws and policies, and electing Democrats to enact them.

One powerful way we do this is through our Advocacy Committee, led by co-chairs Melissa Bender and Cynthia Rubenstein. The WDC Advocacy Committee determines legislative priorities, works in coalition with other groups to devise legislative strategy, maintains close relationships with the Montgomery County Legislative Delegation, mobilizes WDC members to support key bills, writes testimony in support of WDC priorities, and organizes an annual Advocacy Day in Annapolis.

So, whether you want to help pass state legislation, learn about "how things work in Annapolis," or just meet like-minded individuals who care about important issues, our Advocacy Committee is a perfect place for you.

Update on our Mobilize Maryland series

Our next Mobilize Maryland event is next Sunday featuring Governor Wes Moore, Congressman Glenn Ivey, and Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk. The excitement of having Governor Moore join us is palpable, and the rally is shaping up to be a momentous event, bringing many of our diverse communities together. This initiative is part of building a broad coalition to support Democratic candidates in the year ahead of us. This is urgent work and will help ensure Democrats succeed in Virginia this November, and on to the 2024 presidential elections. Virginia is the focus of our October 8th event: Virginians' access to reproductive healthcare, inclusive school curricula, and defeating book bans are among the critical issues. So don't forget to register for the [WDC rally](#) and visit DoTheMostGood to register to [door-knock in Virginia](#).

Looking forward to seeing you all on October 8th at Glen Echo Park.

Stay Strong. Stay Focused. Stay United.

WDC Events

FEATURING



Maryland Governor
Wes Moore



U.S. Congressman
Glenn Ivey



Maryland Delegate
Joseline Peña-Melnyk



MONTGOMERY
COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S
DEMOCRATIC CLUB

The WDC invites you to a

Mobilize Maryland (GOTV) DEM RALLY

Glen Echo Park Spanish Ballroom
Sunday, October 8, 2023
at 11:00 a.m.

RSVP: bit.ly/WDCgotv

CO-SPONSORS

Maryland House Democratic Caucus
Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee
Do The Most Good
JWalkers
Association of Black Democrats of Montgomery County
Latino Democratic Club of Montgomery County
Indivisible Montgomery
Montgomery County Young Democrats
National Panhellenic Council of Montgomery County
Coalition of Asian Pacific American Democrats of Maryland
D-15 Democratic Caucus
UpCounty Democrats
Germantown Democratic Club
D-17 Democratic Club
South County Democratic Club
Prince George's Democratic Central Committee
Young Democrats of Maryland
African American Diversity Leadership Council
Continental African Diversity Leadership Council
Latino Diversity Leadership Council
LGBTQ Diversity Leadership Council
AAPI Diversity Leadership Council
People with Disabilities Diversity Leadership Council
Senior Diversity Leadership Council
Veterans Diversity Leadership Council
Women Diversity Leadership Council
Women for Biden-Harris
Maryland Women for Biden-Harris
Virginia/DC Women for Biden-Harris

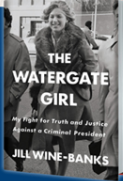


MONTGOMERY
COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S
DEMOCRATIC CLUB

presents

JILL WINE-BANKS

MSNBC Legal Analyst
Cohost of the podcast #SistersInLaw
Author of her memoir, *The Watergate Girl*
available for purchase at the event

THURSDAY, OCT. 19 | 6:30 PM
IMAGINATION STAGE 4908 Auburn Ave, Bethesda

REGISTER NOW at bit.ly/wine-banks



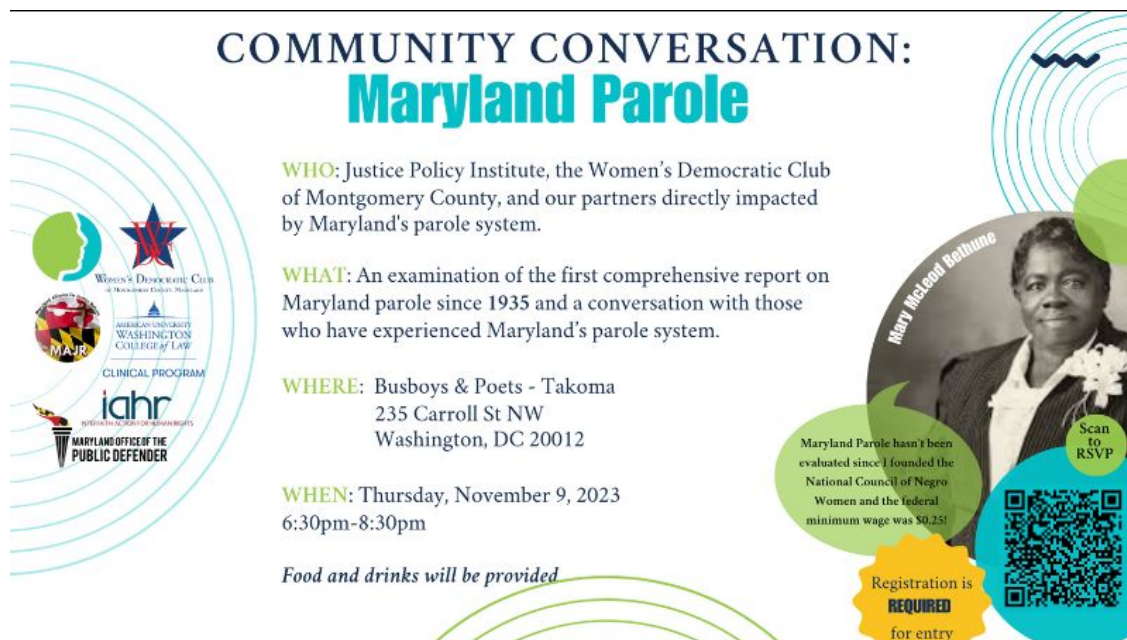
Jill Wine-Banks is currently an MSNBC Legal Analyst, appearing regularly on primetime and daytime shows.

When: Thurs., Oct. 19, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

\$40.00 - WDC Member

\$50.00 - Guest

To register, click [Here](#).



COMMUNITY CONVERSATION:
Maryland Parole

WHO: Justice Policy Institute, the Women's Democratic Club of Montgomery County, and our partners directly impacted by Maryland's parole system.

WHAT: An examination of the first comprehensive report on Maryland parole since 1935 and a conversation with those who have experienced Maryland's parole system.

WHERE: Busboys & Poets - Takoma
235 Carroll St NW
Washington, DC 20012

WHEN: Thursday, November 9, 2023
6:30pm-8:30pm

Food and drinks will be provided

Logos: Women's Democratic Club of Montgomery County, American University Washington College of Law, iahr, Maryland Office of the Public Defender.

Portrait: Mary McLeod Bethune

Text: Maryland Parole hasn't been evaluated since I founded the National Council of Negro Women and the federal minimum wage was \$0.25!

Registration is REQUIRED for entry

Scan to RSVP

Maryland's Broken Parole System: Join the Conversation

Maryland's system of incarceration is plagued by structural racism, inhumane conditions, and counterproductive policies and practices. One of these is a broken parole system that does not meet the public's need for successful reentry of returning citizens through a fair and reliable process. While invisible to most people, it is a process that affects thousands of Marylanders and their families every year.

In May 2023, the Justice Policy Institute (JPI) issued a comprehensive study of Maryland parole practices and made recommendations for change. The report is called "[Safe at Home: Improving Maryland's Parole Release Decision Making](#)." There had been no such study of the Maryland parole system for 88 years—not since 1935.

JPI's findings about parole are interesting because the administration of parole is central to WDC's concerns about how we treat people who are charged with crimes and put behind the walls of Maryland prisons. WDC believes that it is vital that the criminal legal system recognize the capacity of people to change as well as the benefits of investing in rehabilitation and removing barriers to successful reintegration into the community. For these reasons, WDC is joining JPI in putting the word out about this study.

The Maryland General Assembly (MGA) recently took an important step forward in

other systemic problems that demand action.

State leaders concerned about fears of rising crime should prioritize comprehensive parole reform. Simple, long-overdue changes, like making release decisions more sensible and consistent, can restore hope among incarcerated people and their loved ones. This in turn builds respect for the criminal legal process, leads to higher levels of public safety, stronger families, and communities, and makes better use of public resources.

To introduce the report, to hear from people directly affected by parole practices in Maryland, and to consider what might be done to help us achieve the goals of incarceration and parole, WDC and JPI are sponsoring a community discussion for Montgomery County residents. The Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR), Interfaith Action for Human Rights (IAHR), American University Washington College of Law's Decarceration and Re-Entry Clinic, and UMD Law School's Survivors of Gun Violence Clinic are cosponsors of the event.

The date for this in-person event is **Thursday, November 9, 2023**, from **6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** Register for the event [HERE](#). Confirmed speakers include **Keith Wallington** (JPI), **Professor Lila Meadows** (UMD Law School), **Professor Olinda Moyd** (AU Washington College of Law), **Senator Will Smith** (Chair of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee in the MGA), and **Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins** (Chair, Legislative Black Caucus).

Understanding what is happening in the parole process and discussing what can and should be done are necessary to effectively address crime in Maryland. After nearly a century of indifference, it is time for Maryland to finally embrace the spirit and the intent of parole. Join the conversation on November 9!

In Case You Missed It!



Panel discussion with Ruy Teixeira and Mark Hugo Lopez, "Mobilize Maryland: Unpacking Latinx/a/o Voting Trends Panel Discussion"

WDC News



Join the Fight to Affirm the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

WDC is stepping up to join the fight to affirm the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The federal ERA was passed by two-thirds of both houses of Congress in 1972 and was fully ratified by three-fourths of the states as of January 2020. According to Article V of the U.S. Constitution, the ERA has met all requirements for a constitutional amendment. To this end, WDC is partnering with MD NOW and many other MD organizations to increase awareness of the ERA among Marylanders; organize Marylanders to take action to promote recognition and validation of the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution; and take action to support protection, implementation, and enforcement of the Maryland state ERA (MD ERA). Additionally, WDC

28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (ERA-Affirming Resolution).

Why is the federal ERA an issue for the Maryland legislature or any state, for that matter?

The U.S. Constitution intentionally makes both Congress and the states necessary and co-equal parties in the process of adopting a constitutional amendment, and at this point, they have completed their roles in the amendment process. Yet our federal government declines to affirm the validity of this duly-ratified amendment, calling into question federal recognition of the power and authority of state legislatures.

The ERA has been 100 years in the making. Today it is the closest it has ever been to becoming the 28th Amendment. As WDC's very first speaker, Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "We do not have to become heroes overnight. Just a step at a time, meeting each thing that comes up, seeing it as not as dreadful as it appears, discovering that we have the strength to stare it down."

A lot of heroes have taken a lot of steps to keep moving the ERA forward over the past 100 years. It is incumbent on all of us to not let their work be in vain and it is critical for our future that we see it through. We have the strength to do this.

Here are a few simple things we can do to ensure equal protection for every individual, regardless of gender:

- **Know the facts** – Take time to read and understand the history of this struggle.
 - **Be a catalyst for change** – Click [Here](#) to sign the petition. Add your name to the growing movement advocating for gender equality.
 - **Share with your networks** – Follow and amplify the campaign for the ERA: Use #ERANOW, #ERA100, #28thAmendment, #ERACoalition, or @ERACaucus when posting.
 - **Spread the word** – The ERA is fully ratified. Virginia was the 38th state to ratify in 2020. It's time! Let Congress know that we need Congressional affirmation, certification, and publication of the Equal Rights Amendment—and we need it now.
-



Join the WDC Environment Subcommittee!

You are cordially invited to participate in the kickoff meeting of the WDC Subcommittee on Environment.

Join us October 9 at 11:00 a.m. to help shape WDC's message for the next state legislative session with a new governor and administration.

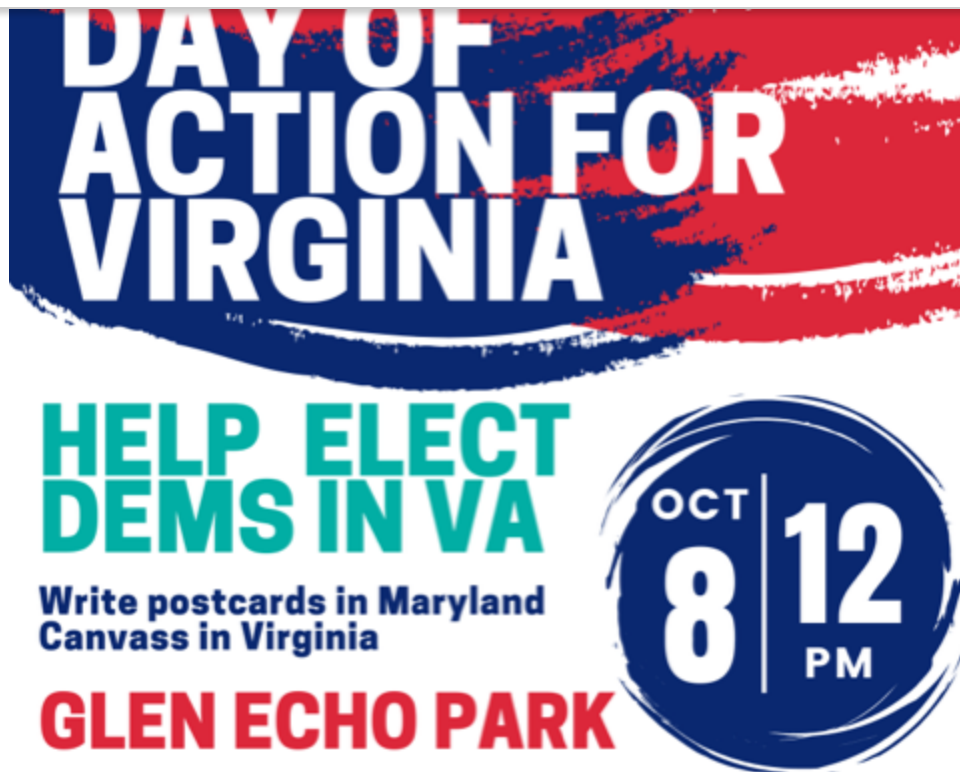
Curious? Contact Diana Conway at dianaconway@outlook.com and be sure to put **"WDC Environment Subcommittee"** in the subject line.

Maryland Democratic News & Events



Get Involved to Swing and Keep Elections Blue!

October 8th Day of Action Canvass & Postcard



RSVP: <https://www.mobilize.us/dtmg/event/576634/>



Social Media Training for Activists

Wed., October 4, 2023 – 7:30 - 8:30 pm

SSPA is holding a Social Media Zoom training focusing on amplifying Democratic messaging, especially all the accomplishments of the Biden administration, and at the same time, combating Republican disinformation. Learn how to write effective social media

Sign up [HERE!](#)

Write Letters to Virginia Voters

Write letters to encourage Virginia Dems to vote in this fall's election! Hand-written letters increase turnout and swing elections blue. [Sign up here](#) to learn more.

SSPA Phonebank for a Blue Virginia Legislature

Phonebanking is the best way to connect with voters—and get them to the polls to vote for progressive candidates. [Sign up here](#) to learn more.

For information about SSPA and about ways to support Dems going forward, go to [SSPA](#).

Other Events



Hon. Lynne Harris, Hon. Jared Solomon, Carole and Nick Brand, Karen Britto, Varuni Dayaratna & Paul Tiao, Eden & Marty Durbin, Geoff Galster & Michelle Russo, Aviva & Andrew Goldfarb, Robin Lombard, Jill Ortman-Fouse, Lisa & Bill Raisner, Laura Stewart, St. John's Episcopal Church
(host committee still in formation)

Invite you to

Taste of Communities United

Food from Around the World!

In-Person Fundraiser for

Youth Creating Change

Featuring

Panel on Fighting Anti-Semitism and Creating a Framework for Battling Intolerance

Hon. Evan Glass, MC Council President
Lisa Taylor, Chair, MC Committee on Hate/Violence
Rabbi Noah Diamondstein, Temple Sinai (invited)
Ach'Sah Gubena, YCC Co-President & Blair HS Senior

Sunday, Oct. 15th at 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Kensington, MD (address provided upon registration)

Register in advance at: bit.ly/CUAHTOC
Sponsors: \$2,000 (platinum); \$1,000 (gold); \$500 (silver)
Adults: \$35. Students/Seniors: \$15. Kids under 5: free
Contact info1@cuahmcmd.org if you have questions



CUAH is a 501c(3) group whose mission is to unite our diverse community to combat bigotry, support victims of hate, and promote inclusiveness in the DMV and elsewhere.



EYES ON THE PRIZE: WHEN WOMEN VOTE, WE ALL WIN

Fall Agenda Conference

November 4 | 9 AM

UMBC, Catonsville

Since 1994, WDC has supported MLAW's legislative agenda both through conference sponsorships and our own advocacy for the passage of legislation that disproportionately impacts women and their families. MLAW's Fall Conference is their kick-off event for the upcoming legislative session starting in January 2024, where a coalition of women's organizations and their legislative sponsors present legislative proposals to be voted on by MLAW members and included in the MLAW's 2024 Legislative Agenda.



HELP ME: A New Service for WDC Members

Did you forget your password? Are you having trouble registering for an event? Logging into MyWDC? Renewing your membership? Have you changed your address? Email? Phone number?

WDC HAS A NEW WEB HELP SERVICE FOR MEMBERS. When you click on HELP ME on the WDC website, you will receive a form to complete. Please give us as much information as possible so we can fix the problem. Response time will typically be within a day.


 The image shows a person's hands typing on a laptop. The laptop screen displays a red button with the text "HELP ME" in white. The background of the entire section is a pattern of colorful hands in various colors (blue, green, yellow, red, purple) reaching out.

WDC Membership

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 building community and political muscle with other Democratic members, clubs, and allies to elect Democrats and support progressive Democratic policy goals. WDC is excited to work with each of you, as we advocate for our WDC priorities, and present our Speakers Programs, Community Education Panels, social events, and service projects. Join us!

Make a Difference—Volunteer with WDC!

The Events Committee needs members to support its programs and events this year. If you are interested, please send an email to lavontte.gardner@gmail.com.

WDC needs you! Can you help us in one of these positions? Not sure what a position entails? Come try it out—no obligation!

- Membership Co-Chair
- Events Committee Member
- Finance Committee Member
- Advocacy Committee Members

Interested? To learn more, please contact [Tazeen Ahmad](#) and make sure to use the subject line: "Volunteering with WDC."

WDC Resources

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[Twitter](#)

[YouTube speakers & events](#)

[HELP ME](#)

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WDC social media & email
Contact us [Here](#).

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Calendars:

WDC • [Community](#) • WNDC_ • MCDCC_ • [MDDEMS](#)

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[Join Our Members Only Facebook Group](#)
