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WDC Newsletter – October 15, 2023

President's Message

What an incredible day it was! WDC's second Mobilize Maryland event on Sunday, October 8th, was a resounding success, thanks to the extraordinary support and energy from our community and our many co-sponsoring organizations.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for the GOTV Dem Rally. We were truly honored to have Governor Wes Moore, Congressman Glenn Ivey, Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk, and At-Large DNC Member and former MD Democratic State Party Chair Yvette Lewis share their insights and inspire us all. To see a video from the event, click here [GOTV Video](#). [Go to the [WDC website](#) to see photos from the event.]



Why hold a GOTV rally when Maryland isn't having elections this year?

Because early voting is under way in Virginia!

Our GOTV rally enabled us to pull more than 60 volunteers to knock on doors in Virginia,

support to retake Virginia's Senate and hold the Virginia House. Thank you to all who stepped up!

What the rally also did is build excitement among Democrats as we plan for 2024. The stakes couldn't be higher, and we need your help to build a grassroots campaign that is effective and inclusive.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg once said, "Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time." Well, at WDC, we are doing that work--to bring about real change, enduring change. And we will continue working to build bridges and alliances with many of you to do that grassroots work.

But our work doesn't stop there! We invite you to take up the offers from local organizations to door-knock or write letters and postcards. There are numerous locally rooted organizations, such as DoTheMostGood and Silver Spring Progressive Action, that have shown themselves to be highly effective in organizing support for carefully selected races. Or participate with the Board of Elections and others to help at voter-registration drives. Sign up to be an election worker (paid!) because we are going to need plenty next year. Consider signing up with the Democratic Party as a precinct chair or volunteer. There are so many ways each of us can help. Together, we can create the enduring change defined by RBG for the future we want and deserve.

Once again, thank you to so many individuals and organizations for being a part of this incredible day and for your unwavering commitment to our shared values. Let's keep the momentum going; there is too much at stake to do any less.

Up next!

WDC's next program is an in-person conversation with Jill Wine-Banks at Imagination Stage on October 19th at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Wine-Banks is a frequent MSNBC contributor and a co-host of several podcasts, including #SistersInLaw. We'll talk about her astonishing career, and hear her take on the Trump indictments, the fate of the ERA, and more. Ms. Wine-Banks is a trailblazer who has broken every glass ceiling, including as the first woman at DOJ to serve as an organized crime prosecutor. She was barely 30-years-old when she was selected to be one of the three Assistant Watergate Special Prosecutors for the obstruction-of-justice trial against President Nixon's top aides. In that role, she was responsible for cross-examining Nixon's secretary Rose Mary Woods about the 18.5-minute gap in the Watergate tapes,

Ms. Wine-Banks was later appointed General Counsel of the Army by President Carter. She also served as Illinois's first Solicitor General and first female Deputy Attorney General, and as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the American Bar Association, the only woman to have held that position. Join the conversation--[register here](#) or on our website.

program.

It is noteworthy that the full title of Ms. Wine-Bank's book is *The Watergate Girl: My Fight for Truth and Justice against a Criminal President*. Sound familiar? Please spread the word and join us on October 19th.



A somber note

I want to close this letter by acknowledging the horror that is unfolding before our very eyes in Israel and Gaza. We are all devastated by the brutal and inhumane attacks on innocent civilians. Many in our diverse community are suffering terrible loss, apprehension for the fate of loved ones, and fear of what the future will bring. Now more than ever, we need to come together as a community to offer support to one another during this extremely difficult time.

Stay Strong. Stay Focused. Stay United.

Tazeen Ahmad
President

WDC Events



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 prime-time and daytime shows. Join WDC for a reception with food and beverages, at 6:30 p.m.

When: Thursday, October 19, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Imagination Stage. 4908 Auburn Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20827

Admission: \$30.00 - WDC Member UNDER ages 30 or OVER 65

\$40.00 - WDC Member

\$50.00 - Guest

To register, click [HERE](#).

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION **Maryland's Parole System Is Falling Short**

*What reforms are needed? How can we make
parole a more reliable source of rehabilitation to
enhance public safety?*

WHEN: Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023 | 6:30–8:30 pm

WHERE: Busboys & Poets – Takoma Park
235 Carroll St. NW, WDC

Food and drinks will be provided



Fixing Maryland's Broken Parole System: What To Do

Hear from people directly affected by parole practices in Maryland, and consider what

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). Register for the event [HERE](#).

Along with WDC and the Justice Policy Institute (JPI), 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.

[Read more here.](#)

What's New at WDC



Look at this! WDC now has a [LinkedIn](#) page—and another way to stay connected.

WDC Subcommittee on the Environment has launched!

WDC's newest Advocacy Committee, the **Subcommittee on the Environment**, held its first meeting last week.

We had a wide-ranging discussion about areas of interest for each participant. We reviewed how WDC selects bills to support, and how to advocate effectively, at the state and county levels. And we discussed some of the work already under way in the state legislature through the Pathways report on getting to net-zero and the Climate Solutions Now Act passed last year.

Curious?

already know the railways of Annapolis, join us—no obligation!

Email Diana Conway at dianaconway@outlook.com and put in the subject line: **WDC Environment**. We hope you will join us at our next meeting.



WDC Issues of Interest

Democracy in Maryland

A majority of Maryland voters want to change how vacancies in the General Assembly are filled, according to a poll commissioned by a coalition of public interest groups.

Among 818 registered Maryland voters surveyed who said they are likely to vote in the 2024 general election, 85% favored filling vacancies in a special election.



[Read more in the Oct. 1 issue of *Maryland Matters*.](#)



Why we need to be involved! Watch the video from WDC's GOTV event on Oct. 8.



Montgomery County Democratic News & Events



Volunteer to Swing and Keep Elections Blue!



Take Action with SSPA!

SSPA is raising funds for the Democratic candidates running in the six tightest elections in Virginia; you can donate [here](#). All funds go directly to the candidates.

Find out about phonebanking, texting, and canvassing events on SSPA's [calendar page](#).

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



Volunteer with DoTheMostGood

In-Person Letter Writing Parties

[2 - 4:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoons in Rockville](#)

Other Events

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.





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!

- 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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