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WDC Newsletter – November 1, 2023

President's Message

On October 19, 1973, John Dean pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice before Watergate-trial Judge John Sirica. Dean admitted supervising payments of "hush money" to the Watergate burglars, notably E. Howard Hunt, and revealed the existence of Nixon's enemies list.

Exactly 50 years later to the date, WDC hosted Jill Wine-Banks for an in-person conversation with a reception and book signing. Ms. Wine-Banks was one of the three Assistant Watergate Special Prosecutors for the obstruction-of-justice trial against President Nixon's top aides —and the only woman on the team. As such she was able to provide a candid and captivating behind-the-scenes account of the events and speak to the stark differences between the actions of Nixon and those around him, versus those of Trump and his entourage.



What is clear is that Nixon's 1973 betrayal of the American people and our democracy pales in comparison to the transgressions of Donald Trump. It is bewildering that after two impeachments by the House, 91 felony counts across four criminal cases (two federal, one

Will that change as these trials ramp up?

In the past few weeks, there has been a flurry of activity, most recently a guilty plea by lawyer Jenna Ellis in the Georgia state Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) case. Ellis is the fourth of the 19 defendants to negotiate a deal with Fulton County DA Fani Willis. She admitted that she made up details about election fraud and pleaded guilty to one count of aiding and abetting false statements and writings, and will receive probation in exchange for her testimony.

Before Ellis, defendants Kenneth Chesebro, Sidney Powell, and Scott Hall took plea deals in exchange for agreeing to testify against other defendants. Remarkably, shortly after her guilty plea to six charges, Ms. Powell's dark-money Substack, *Defending the Republic*, wrote in unsigned posts that she had been extorted by prosecutors and that the 2020 election was in-fact rigged.

It seems inevitable that these cases will unfold amid the heat of the 2024 election.

Trump's woes do not stop there. This week hearings begin in two state courts on lawsuits seeking to disqualify Trump from the state's 2024 ballot under the 14th Amendment's "insurrection clause." Proceedings in Colorado began on Monday and oral arguments before the Minnesota Supreme Court are scheduled for this Thursday. These are not the only cases but appear to be the more significant ones. They are almost certain to end up before the US Supreme Court and are worth watching.

None of this seems to have deterred Republicans' feverish support of Trump, as seen by the recent ascension of MAGA Rep. Mike Johnson ("MAGA Mike") of Louisiana to Speaker of the House, ending 22 days of a paralyzed chamber. Mr. Johnson, a vocal supporter of former President Donald Trump, was a key congressional figure in the failed efforts to overturn the 2020 election. He supports a national ban on abortion, opposes LGBTQ+ rights, and views Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security as entitlements that pose an "existential threat" to the American way of life.

What should we be paying attention to?

With MAGA in control in the House of Representatives, Democrats need to do everything we can to support our candidates at the state, county, and municipal levels.

As Frederick Douglas said in 1857, "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them, and these will continue till they are resisted with either words or blows, or with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress." Click [here](#) for the full transcript.

access to reproductive healthcare, can fend off the mangling of school curricula, and can deflate efforts on book bans. They will determine whether Virginians are protected from regressive legislation on everything from worker's rights, LGBTQ rights, environmental protections, criminal justice, and so much more. We must know what's on the line, and in the face of injustice anywhere, we are obligated to act.

There are plenty of opportunities to act. Whether it is phonebanking to get out the vote or to cure ballots missing information with [MobilizeVADems](#), or knocking on doors with organizations like [CASA in Action](#), [DoTheMostGood](#), or [Silver Spring Progressive Action](#) to name just a few, or just sharing information on your social media.

Finally, let's not forget that all politics is local, so if you live in Gaithersburg or Rockville, make sure you do your research and get out and vote on November 7th.

Don't know where to look for information? Here are a few resources:

The [Gaithersburg City website](#) has statements from candidates and videos of candidate statements.

[Rockville Reports](#) includes an article with links to statements from candidates.

[A forum for candidates for Council and Mayor](#), co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and Montgomery College, may be viewed on the [Rockville YouTube channel](#). Forums sponsored by other organizations are also available on that channel.

Finally, we all need to ramp up efforts for the 2024 elections **now**.

Stay Strong. Stay Focused. Stay United.

Tazeen Ahmad
President

WDC Events

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

Scan
to
RSVP



COHOSTS



Thurs., Nov. 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

[Busboys and Poets](#)

Takoma Park, MD

Fixing Maryland's Broken Parole System: What to Do

Hear from people directly affected by parole practices in Maryland and consider what might be done to help us achieve the goals of incarceration and parole. 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). 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 You Might Have Missed

WDC Welcomes the "Watergate Girl"

It was an honor for WDC to host Jill Wine-Banks, MSNBC legal analyst and author of *The Watergate Girl*, on October 19 at the Imagination Stage theater in Bethesda. The program was preceded by a complimentary cocktail reception in the lobby, where Ms. Wine-Banks mingled with the crowd. The program was an interesting dialogue between WDC president,



only female on the Watergate prosecution team 50 years ago. She also answered questions concerning the current Trump prosecution activities. Following the program, Ms. Wine-Banks remained to talk with audience members and autograph copies of her book.

For photos of the event, [click here](#).

Volunteer to Swing and Keep Elections Blue!

November 7 is Election Day for Virginia's crucial 2023 elections, and Early Voting has already begun! The next few days are critical in helping get out the vote and ensure that Democrats have the support they need to finish strong.



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

For more information, [click here](#).

Volunteer with DoTheMostGood

Canvass in VA

Sat., Nov. 4 - Tuesday, Nov. 7, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

For more information, [click here](#).

Democratic Party News

MCDCC Seeks District 15 Member (Male/Non-binary) Apply by Monday, November 6

The Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee (MCDCC) has an open seat for a male/non-binary member representing Maryland Legislative District 15. The successful candidate will complete the unexpired term ending in November 2026.

The District 15 Democratic Caucus will hold a candidate forum via Zoom at 7 p.m., Wed., Nov. 8. Please register at <https://bit.ly/D15Forum23>.

The public is invited to submit letters of support by midnight, Fri., Nov. 10 using this [form](#).

Candidates for this position must:

- identify as male or non-binary
- be a U.S. citizen
- as of the date of the appointment, be registered to vote as a member of the Democratic Party in District 15

To apply, please submit:

- a cover letter
- your resume
- any additional information you would like the MCDCC to consider in assessing your qualifications.

Email your application no later than 5 p.m., Mon., Nov. 6, 2023, to office@mcdcc.org with the subject line: **District 15 Central Committee Member Vacancy**.

Issues of Interest

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.



Montgomery Parks Celebrates Maryland's Emancipation Day

Join Montgomery County Parks to celebrate Maryland Emancipation Day! Events will take place throughout Montgomery and Prince George's counties to commemorate the abolition of slavery in Maryland. For more information, [click here](#).



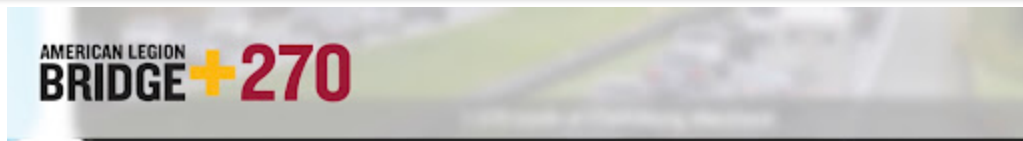
Board of Elections Approves Adding Mail-in Dropboxes at Montgomery College

The dropbox request came from Montgomery College President Jermaine Williams, who said the additional dropboxes would make voting more accessible for the college's more than 40,000 students. For more information, click [here](#).

**AMERICA'S VOICES
AGAINST APARTHEID**
Confronting injustice at home and abroad
The story of American anti-apartheid activism and
the legacy of American and South African ties

DON'T MISS
Sister States Maryland and The Kennedy
Center's America's Voices Against
Apartheid will be leaving on **November**
5th. Don't miss your opportunity to visit
this **FREE** exhibit.

For more information visit:
bit.ly/40eQqwZ
or scan the QR code



Open house meetings will be held by Maryland Department of Transportation in November and December to discuss their American Legion Bridge/Beltway/270 plans.

For more details, go to the [American Legion Bridge website](#).

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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