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## WDC Newsletter – November 15, 2023





## Dems Win Big in Virginia!

November 7, 2023: The State of Virginia had excellent results in last Tuesday's state elections. WDC members should be patting themselves on their backs, many members having worked hard at canvassing, writing postcards and letters, and reaching across the river. Democrats will control both chambers of the Virginia legislature. Republicans promoted fear and divisiveness; Democrats spoke about schools, choice, and an equitable standard of living.

## Advocacy Corner

### “Shining a Light” on Maryland’s Parole System

*by Cynthia Rubenstein, Advocacy Co-Chair*

On November 9, WDC joined the Justice Policy Institute (JPI) and other partners\* in co-sponsoring a powerful community conversation about making critical improvements to



Maryland's parole system. Insightful perspectives and key recommendations were shared by the speakers panel, including **Keith Wallington** (JPI), **Professor Lila**

**Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins** (Chair, Legislative Black Caucus), **Shekhinah Braveheart** (JPI), and **Willie Hamilton** (Community Worker, No Struggle No Success). Mr. Hamilton provided the most stirring testimony of the evening, drawn from his personal experience with the parole system over 30 years of incarceration. The panel was moderated by WDC's Criminal Justice Reform (CJR) Co-Chair, Margaret Barry, and several WDC members were in the audience, including WDC President Tazeen Ahmad, CJR Co-Chair Carol Cichowski, as well as Delegates Aaron Kaufman and Jeff Waldstreicher and Senator Shelly Hettleman.

This event clearly revealed how Maryland's parole system continues to fall short. It also allowed advocates and elected officials to talk about and begin to pursue significant change. To learn more about the parole system's history and how it must improve, you can read the full JPI "Safe at Home" report [HERE](#).

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\*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.

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## Issues of Interest



## MLAW's Annual Conference Develops Its Agenda

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a non-partisan, statewide coalition of women's groups and individuals. MLAW held their annual fall conference on Saturday, November 4. This year's theme was "EYES ON THE PRIZE: When Women Vote, We All Win." WDC not only sponsored the event, but we were well represented by four of our



considered for their final legislative agenda for 2024. The MLAW members will vote for their top proposals soon. WDC and MLAW often overlap in our advocacy since both organizations focus on policies in support of women and their families. WDC is grateful for all the advocacy work MLAW has done over the years. In fact,

MLAW's President, Michaela Cohen announced that over the last 29 years, MLAW has supported 112 bills that were passed by the MD General Assembly.

To view the 18 policy proposals along with lead organization and legislative sponsors, click [HERE](#).

## Be an Active Democrat!

A poster for the Montgomery County Democratic Party DNC Delegate Bootcamp. The poster features a large blue star on the left and a large red star on the right. The text is as follows:  
Top left: MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY logo (a blue circle with a white 'D').  
Center left (on the blue star): *So, You Want to Be a DNC Delegate?*  
Bottom left (on the blue star): **Saturday  
December 16  
10 am – Noon  
Rockville, MD**  
Center right (on the red star): *Join our FREE*  
**DNC Delegate  
Bootcamp**  
Bottom right (on the red star): *For registered  
Democrats only!*  
Bottom center: **Register at [bit.ly/DNCdelegate23](https://bit.ly/DNCdelegate23)**

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Rockville, MD (address provided upon registration)

Click [HERE](#) to register.

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## **Be a Precinct Leader**

The Montgomery County Democratic Party is recruiting new volunteers in preparation for the 2024 elections. The party is actively seeking volunteers from diverse backgrounds to represent and engage our diverse communities. No prior experience is needed, but volunteers must be registered Democrats.

As a volunteer with the Montgomery County Democratic Party, you will be a grassroots organizer in your precinct.

Being a precinct leader is an important way to connect with your neighbors, serve your local community, and support the Democratic Party. Your party needs YOU to ensure a strong Democratic presence in every precinct, to get out the vote, and to win in 2024!

Learn more and apply [HERE](#).

For questions, contact Shruti Bhatnagar and Sarah Brand-Wiita, Co-Chairs, Precinct Organization Committee for the Montgomery County Democratic Party, at [precinct@mcdcc.org](mailto:precinct@mcdcc.org).

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# Holiday Party



**Sunday, December 3, 2023**  
**2 pm – 4 pm**

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

**MCDCC Holiday Party!**

**Sunday, December 3, 2 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Save the date** for the Montgomery County Democratic Party's holiday party at Walter Johnson High School.

Bring a potluck dessert. Food will be provided by MCDCC.

Continuing MCDCC's tradition, please contribute a new, unwrapped toy, item of clothing, or gift card to make a child smile.

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Please join DoTheMostGood, Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club, Indivisible Montgomery, and Greater Silver Spring Democratic Club for a Dancing in December party on December 10, 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. Enjoy yourself, connect with friends, and dance! Our featured speaker is MD Comptroller, Brooke Lierman. Please join us!

To RSVP, click [HERE](#).

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## 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!

**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 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](mailto: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."

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## WDC Resources

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