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WDC Newsletter – April 15, 2023

From the President

Diana Conway



The inventory can feel a little bleak:

- More than [151 mass shootings in the first 100 days of 2023](#).
- Two young Black male legislators were expelled from the Tennessee legislature for demanding action on gun violence—but not the White female legislator who stood with them.
- A federal judge in Texas suspended—for the entire nation—access to an abortion medication in use for more than 20 years, in a country where carrying a pregnancy to term is statistically more dangerous than this abortion medication—especially for women of color or of limited means.
- Republican "leaders" are following their base, jostling to cling to a former president under indictment.

But! There *is* good news: The Maryland General Assembly just closed with a slew of progressive bills on criminal justice reform, environmental protection, health care—you name it. Not perfect, but movement. It helps to have willing partners in the Moore-Miller administration. The Tennessee legislators were not only reinstated; they were met with jubilant crowds of energized new voters and activists. The Texas judge's ruling was met by

signaling she will act soon. More than 1,000 people have been charged with federal crimes related to the J6 riot, and over 600 have been convicted or pled guilty. More charges continue to be brought by federal authorities.

There is progress being made, and we surely have to start with progress, not perfection. Hope means setting goals, devising a roadmap, and applying willpower. And allies. We all need allies, and we all need to **be** allies. So please—get engaged with WDC's work, or one of the many excellent advocacy groups around the county. Our next three speakers are all leading policy work that is full of opportunities for you to dip in, or wade in, to be part of the solution. Join us!

Diana

WDC Events



The banner features a light beige background with a subtle floral pattern. At the top center is the logo for the Montgomery County, Maryland Women's Democratic Club, which consists of a stylized 'W' and 'D' in blue and red. To the right of the logo, the text 'MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND' and 'WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB' is written in blue. The main title of the event, '"IMPLEMENTING the BLUEPRINT for EDUCATION"', is displayed in large, bold, red capital letters. Below the title, the word 'with' is written in a smaller, italicized font. The name 'IKE LEGGETT' is prominently displayed in large, bold, white capital letters. Underneath his name, his title 'Chair of Maryland Accountability and Implementation Board' is written in a smaller, italicized font. To the right of the text is a circular portrait of Ike Leggett, a Black man with a mustache, wearing a blue suit and tie. At the bottom of the banner, the date and time 'THURSDAY, APRIL 20 | 6:30 PM | via ZOOM' are written in white. A red button with the text 'REGISTER NOW' in white capital letters is located at the bottom center.

MONTGOMERY
COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S
DEMOCRATIC CLUB

**"IMPLEMENTING the
BLUEPRINT for EDUCATION"**
with
IKE LEGGETT
*Chair of Maryland Accountability
and Implementation Board*

THURSDAY, APRIL 20 | 6:30 PM | via ZOOM

REGISTER NOW

Thursday, April 20, 2023

6:30 - 7:30 pm, via Zoom

CLICK [HERE](#) to register.

Former County Executive Ike Leggett is Chair of Maryland's Accountability and Implementation Board for the [Blueprint for Maryland's Future](#). We'll discuss what that means on the ground for Maryland schools, staff, students, and budget.

The Blueprint's five pillars are:

- College and career readiness
- More resources for students to be successful
- Governance and accountability

Mr. Leggett will unpack these goals and how the \$3 billion annual increase in public school state funding will be deployed to reach them, as well as how the board he is chairing will verify the progress toward their achievement. **For recent coverage, see the [April 14 article](#) in *Maryland Matters*.**



The graphic features a circular portrait of Adam Ortiz, a man with a goatee in a suit and tie, positioned on the left. To his right, the text reads: 'MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB' with a logo above it. Below this, a green banner says 'In honor of EARTH DAY'. The main title is 'SAVING the PLANET' in large green letters, followed by 'What We Must Do' in blue script. The name 'ADAM ORTIZ' is prominently displayed in white on a dark blue background, with his title 'EPA Regional Administrator for the Mid-Atlantic/Region 3' below it. The date and time 'THURSDAY, APRIL 27 | 6:30 PM | via ZOOM' are listed, and a red 'REGISTER NOW' button is at the bottom right.

Thursday, April 27, 2023
6:30 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom
CLICK [HERE](#) to register.

Adam Ortiz serves as EPA's Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator, where he oversees federal environmental and public health protections in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, the District of Columbia, and seven federally recognized tribes. Working with state partners and local stakeholders, Mr. Ortiz is focused on infrastructure, enforcement, climate change, environmental justice, and restoring the Chesapeake Bay. He will help us understand what we can all do together to ensure a future for humanity.

Get Louder Now! Be a Powerful Info Warrior for Dems

Simon Rosenberg
Founder, The Hopium Chronicles and NDN

Marc Korman
Majority Leader, MD General Assembly

To Be Determined
Member, VA General Assembly

**APRIL 23, 2023
3:00PM
KENSINGTON, MD**

DO THE MOST GOOD

<https://bit.ly/LoudforDems>

In-Person with DoTheMostGood

Our WDC colleagues at DTMG invite you to their first event of the year on **Sunday, April 23, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.**, titled **"Get Louder Now: Be a Powerful Info Warrior for Dems."** The title is drawn from the work of guest speaker, Simon Rosenberg, a Democratic strategist and thought leader whose data-driven analysis correctly predicted that several expected "red waves" in the 2022 midterms would actually be a "red mirage." The program will feature **Delegate Marc Korman**, Majority Leader in the Maryland General Assembly and a **leader in the Virginia General Assembly**. Virginia elections are in November and will be a testing ground for Democratic messaging.

Speakers will address key issues in the Maryland legislative session that just ended and how they will play into Virginia's upcoming November races and the 2024 Presidential election. The event will NOT be live-streamed, but a recording will be available afterwards. Sign up [here](#) OR [here](#).



WOMEN'S
DEMOCRATIC CLUB

WDC HAPPY HOUR with a PURPOSE
Celebrating the Women's Caucus
*Accomplishments, Advocacy,
and How We Move Forward Together*



**Please join WDC as we celebrate the revitalization and successes
of the Women's Legislative Caucus.**

Hear from our Montgomery County
legislators! Special comments from Delegate
Lesley Lopez, Chair, Women's Caucus.

Enjoy Happy Hour refreshments and the
opportunity to network with our elected officials,
WDC members, and prospective members.

REGISTER NOW! **SUNDAY, MAY 7 | Private Home in North Potomac**

Save the Date!



"Working For You: A Conversation with Congressman David Trone"

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

6:30 - 7:30 pm, via Zoom

Join **Congressman David Trone** (MD-06) for a virtual conversation during which he will speak about his work on key issues in our communities including the addiction and mental health crises, criminal justice reform, education, and medical research.

Advocacy Corner

JoAnne Koravos, Advocacy Committee Chair



Sine Die!

Closing out the state legislative year and hello to summer!

During this 445th legislative session, members of the WDC Advocacy Committee worked tirelessly to advocate for a total of 40 bills, 27 of which crossed over to the opposite chamber by the 3/20 deadline. Of those 27 bills, 21 passed both chambers by Sine Die at midnight on April 10th. This is the greatest number of WDC-supported bills passed during a legislative session since the club stood up the advocacy committee.

Thank you to all the members of the WDC Advocacy Committee who worked tirelessly with other advocates and coalitions to get as many of our bills passed as we could in the time available in a 90-day legislative session. To quote the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW), "By all accounts, the 2023 session was a successful year for women and families in Maryland." And I will add, that although statutory oversight is still a critical part of successful governance, with a Democratic Governor our legislative efforts will not be ignored or delayed upon execution, particularly important social programs. In fact, Governor Moore was on the floor of the General Assembly when they gavelled out the 445th session of the Maryland General Assembly last night.

Passing the baton, but not letting go! After several years as chair of the advocacy committee, I am looking toward the future and the possibility of moving on to other projects and shifting responsibilities. Therefore, I am pleased to announce that starting July 1, 2023, the WDC advocacy committee will have two excellent co-chairs who will lead the club through the 2023-2024 legislative gauntlet. More on the transition later!

Have a great summer. Thank you all for your advocacy and support!

Check the website soon for our complete *WDC 2023 Legislative Accomplishments* report.

Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club 2023 Advocacy Accomplishments

**HB3/SB185 - Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms
Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders**

**HB4/SB129 - Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal
Defense**

**HB16 - Primary and Secondary Education – Title IX – Notice
(Hear Our Voices Act)**

HB32/SB124 - Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

**HB111/SB26 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program,
Maryland Children's Health Program, and Social Services
Programs - Eligibility and Enrollment**

HB214 – Commission on Public Health - Establishment

**HB297/SB292 - Criminal Law - Victims of Child Sex Trafficking
and Human Trafficking - Safe Harbor and Service Response**

**HB333/SB404 - Hospitals - Financial Assistance - Medical Bill
Reimbursement Process**

**HB477/SB341 - Public Senior Higher Education Institutions -
Reproductive Health Services Plans – Requirements**

**HB495/SB350 - Early Childhood Development - Child Care
Scholarship Program – Funding**

HB547/SB552 - Family Prosperity Act of 2023

**HB705/SB798 - Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive
Freedom**

HB808/SB859 – Reproductive Health Protection Act

Protected Information and Insurance Requirements

HB988/SB828 - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Modifications

HB1071 – Criminal Law and Procedure – Cannabis – Fines for Smoking in Public, Stops, and Searches

HB1148/SB582 – Behavioral Health Care – Treatment and Access (Behavioral Health Model for Maryland)

SB37 - Criminal Procedure - Expungement of Records - Waiting Periods (REDEEM Act of 2023)

SB555 - Fair Wage Act of 2023

SB806 - Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and Maryland Department of Health - Health Care Coverage for Undocumented Immigrants - Report

SB858 - Firearm Safety - Storage Requirements and Youth Suicide Prevention (Jaelynn's Law)

Keeping Up with Our State Legislators

Del. Jheanelle Wilkins: Health and Well Being of Constituents Comes First

With a passion for leading change, Del. Wilkins has earned a collection of firsts during her two terms representing District 20. She is the youngest person elected to represent Montgomery County as well as the first Black woman to serve as a District 20 delegate and the youngest and first Black woman to serve as parliamentarian. Further, in the history of Maryland's Legislative Black Caucus—the largest in the country—she is the first person from Montgomery County as well as the youngest and first woman to chair the

voice and presence in Annapolis. Working closely with the General Assembly, the Governor, and the Secretary of State, the Black Caucus will take the lead on policies that address many Black communities' priorities.

In the following interview, Del. Wilkins discusses how her role both as a delegate and the chair of the Black Caucus empowers her to push forward legislation that removes financial barriers to cancer screenings and treatment, ensures protections for reproductive health care, and provides more affordable housing, ultimately benefiting all Marylanders.



- **Do you see synergies among the issues that both your district's residents and the legislative Black Caucus consider priorities?**

I find that the Black Caucus's priorities—health, wealth, cannabis legislation, education, and housing—address issues that disproportionately impact Black communities as well as align with the values of most of my constituents, members of the General Assembly, and Maryland families. For example, because Blacks are more likely to be diagnosed with cancer than any other ethnic group and have the lowest survival rate, the Black Caucus put forth a package of three different bills dealing with cancer disparities and access to cancer training, treatment, and care. With passage of these bills, my constituents and all Marylanders will have greater access to cancer screenings, treatment, and care.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the complete interview on the WDC website.

WDC Blog



Harriet Tubman: A Maryland Hero

"I was the conductor of the Underground Railroad for eight years, and I can say what most conductors cannot say: I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger."

Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in Dorchester County. She lived a long life to become an abolitionist and social activist.

After escaping enslavement, Tubman made some 13 missions to rescue approximately 70 enslaved people, including her family and friends, using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad. During the American Civil War, she served as an armed scout and spy for the Union Army and took an active role in freeing hundreds of enslaved people in South Carolina. In her later years, Tubman was an activist in the movement for women's suffrage.

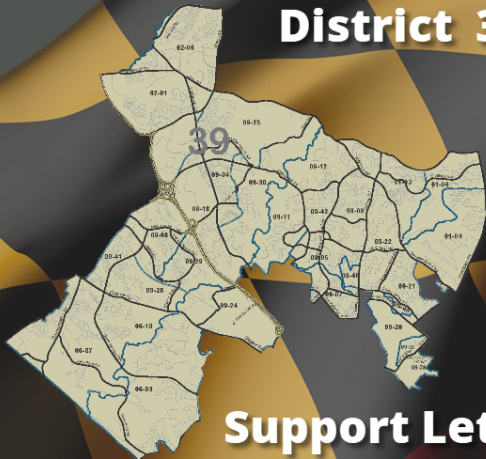
The Button Farm Living History Center in Germantown is host to the "Harriet Tubman: Journey to Freedom" monument" by artist Wesley Wofford. This moving tribute has traveled to major cities across the nation and depicts Tubman as a formidable force on the perilous Underground Railroad. This is the monument's first appearance in the Washington, DC, area.

On Saturday, May 6, the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project and the County Commission on Remembrance and Reconciliation will co-host presentations and activities with Button Farm.

13, and 20.

Location: Button Farm Living History Center; 16820 Black Rock Rd, Germantown, MD 20874

Details/Tickets: [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

A map of District 39 in Maryland, showing various precincts and their boundaries. The map is overlaid on a background of abstract, overlapping shapes in shades of gold, brown, and maroon.

District 39 State Delegate Vacancy
apply by Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 5 pm
via email to office@mcdcc.org

Public Forum
Tuesday, April 12, 2023, 7 pm
via Zoom Webinar
register at bit.ly/d39-04-12

Support Letters Submission Deadline
Friday, April 14, 2023, 5 pm
via email to d39vacancy@mcdcc.org

MCDCC Special Meeting
Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 6:30 pm
register at bit.ly/mcdcc-04-18

[Spring Fling Event for Tommy's Pantry](#)

Sunday, April 30



Like others across the county many WDC members and friends have supported Tommy's Pantry. Named to honor Tommy Raskin, the pantry serves our vulnerable neighbors—a growing segment given the end of covid emergency programs. There are many, many worthy organizations doing similar and critical work and we urge you to consider supporting one or more, such as through opportunities like this [April 30 Spring Fling fundraiser](#) at a private home.



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.

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!

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
- Community Education Co-Chair
- Finance Committee Member
- Historian Co-Chair
- Communications Committee Members
- Advocacy Committee Chair, Co-Chair, or Member

Interested? To learn more, please contact [Diana Conway](#) and make sure to put into the subject line: "*Volunteering with WDC.*"

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 database.
- Assistance with locating venues/logistics for live happy hours once they resume

To learn more please contact [Enid Light](#).

WDC Resources

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