

NEWSLETTER

Coming to You from the Left Side of the House and the Senate



DEMOCRATS INVEST IN MARYLAND'S FUTURE

Good news for Maryland. Democrats in the General Assembly overrode Governor Hogan's veto, thus implementing the Kirwan Commission's recommendations for the support and improvement of Maryland's public schools. This is a huge victory for our schools, our children, and our teachers. Maryland's schools now have the hope and promise of becoming some of the best in the nation.

Maryland Democrats are showing just why we send them to Annapolis. Overriding a number of Governor Hogan's vetoes, they have successfully passed a series of ambitious bills that will invest in education, support local farmers, create good jobs, expand transportation, and lower the cost of prescription drugs.

Here are some of the bills and what they do.

- **HB1300/SB1000** - *Blueprint for Maryland's Future* - invests in education and our children's futures
- **HB1488/SB0985** - *Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program* - supports local farmers.
- **HB0498** - *Grants for Aging-in-Place Programs* - assists elder Marylanders.
- **HB0514/SB0398** - *Maryland Small Business Innovation Research Program* - promotes small businesses and job creation.
- **HB1236** - *MARC Expansion of Service* - expands MARC transportation service.
- **HB1095/SB0669** - *Prescription Drug Affordability Board and Fund* - lowers drug prices for Marylanders.

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2021-2022

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A Message from Your President

Vicky Wallace, DCWC President

Hello Fellow Democrats,

After the inauguration of President Biden and Vice President Harris, I thought life could not be better. The innovative inaugural celebrations, as well as the feeling that we, as a nation, could conquer whatever comes our way contributed to that feeling. I watched all day. The new administration, however, has their work cut out for them.

COVID-19 is still with us and vaccines have been difficult and confusing to sign up for and receive. Dealing with vaccine shortages left by the prior administration that had failed to establish a real delivery plan has made things worse. In spite of that, 33,000,000 Americans have received the vaccination. 600,000 of them live in Maryland. It is just the beginning of more vaccines to come.

February is BLACK HISTORY Month. In honor of that, I leave you with the words of James Weldon Johnson:

Lift every voice and sing,
 Till earth and heaven ring,
 Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
 Let our rejoicing rise
 High as the listening skies;
 Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
 Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
 Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
 Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
 Let us march on till victory is won.

This poem was originally written to honor Abraham Lincoln's birthday. It was later set to music. It was selected by the NAACP as their anthem and is "often referred to as the Black National Anthem."

Vicky, *President*, DCWC

"The truth may be stretched thin, but it never breaks, and it always surfaces above lies, like oil floats on water."

Don Quixote, Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra

Democratic Women's Club of Worcester County

WINTER BLUES BUSTER:

POSTCARD THURSDAY!



POSTCARDS FOR TODD NOCK

Write postcards on Thursdays for Todd Nock, Pocomoke City Councilman, District 4. He is running for re-election against a candidate recruited by the mayor. The first round of postcards has been completed. The second round will be mailed closer to the election. Contact Gail Jankowski at janfam83@gmail.com for addresses and messages.

If you need postcards or stamps, contact Gail. Postcards can be purchased at \$4.50 for 10 postcards and stamps, or at 1\$ for 10 postcards from the USPS.

Thursdays at 2 p.m.
Postcards to Companies/Legislators
Recurring meeting
Join us via Zoom
Meeting ID: 818 6999 9826
Passcode: Dwc

RSVP, so if there is a late-breaking additional action item, it can be emailed to you. We have been monitoring some MD legislation and have good progress to report.

The MD Senate voted to override Governor Hogan's veto of the Long Gun Background Check. It is now before the House on the override. MD HB4 will require that even private or unlicensed sellers must get a background check for the sale of rifles and shotguns.

First Amendment Exceptions

By Steve Cohen

The next few months' articles will be about the exceptions to freedom of speech. As we all know, the right to free speech in the constitution is one of our most sacred constitutional rights. But it is not absolute. Here is the first article about exceptions to the right of freedom of speech.

INSURRECTION

Insurrection is the "act of revolting against civil authority or an established government."

Insurrection, or rebellion, is a crime under Title 18 of the US Code punishable by a fine, a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, or both. Finding someone who is President of the United States guilty of insurrection also makes that person ineligible to hold office in the United States.

SEDITION

Similar to insurrection, the act of sedition is also a crime under the US Code, which characterizes it as two or more people who conspire to overthrow the US government, or "prevent, hinder, or delay the execution" of US law by force. It is punishable by a fine and up to 20 years in prison.

COUP

A "coup," shorthand for "coup d'état," is a "sudden decisive exercise of force in politics," but particularly the "violent overthrow or alteration of an existing government by a small group."

The **Insurrection Act of 1807** is a United States federal law that empowers the President of the United States to deploy U.S. military and federalized National Guard troops within the United States in particular circumstances, such as to suppress civil disorder, insurrection, or rebellion.

The act provides a "statutory exception" to the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, which limits the use of military personnel under federal command for law enforcement purposes within the United States.

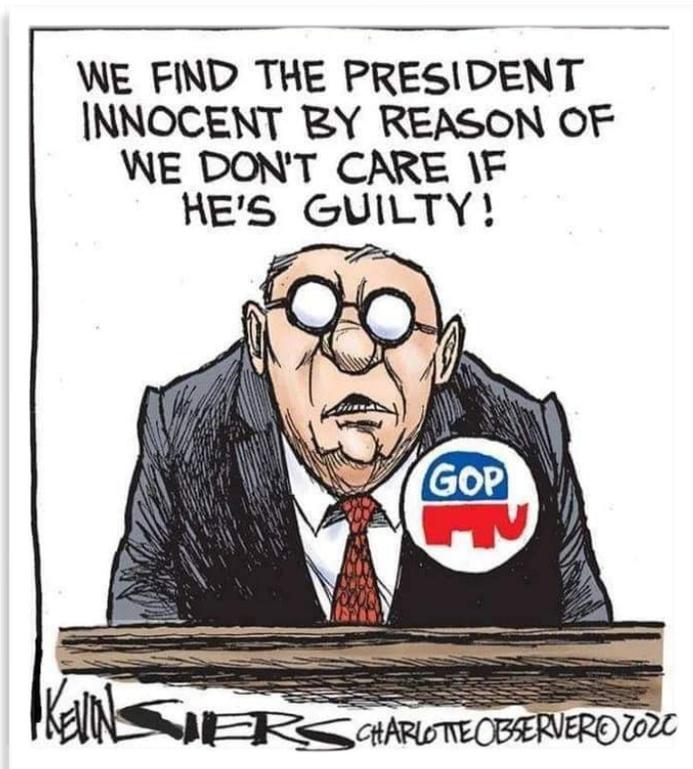
Before invoking the powers under the Act, 10 U.S.C. Sec. 253 requires the President to first publish a proclamation ordering the insurgents to disperse. *(Continued on page 5.)*

First Amendment Exceptions (Continued from page 4.)

As part of the *Posse Comitatus* Act of 1878, these provisions are now codified as amended.

There are Constitutional exceptions to *Posse Comitatus* restrictions rooted in the President's own constitutional authority. Defense Department guidelines describe "homeland defense" as a "constitutional exception" to *Posse Comitatus* restrictions, meaning that measures necessary to guarantee National Security from external threats are not subject to the same limitations.

The 1807 Act has been modified twice. In 1861, a new section was added allowing the federal government to use the National Guard and armed forces against the will of the state government in the case of "rebellion against the authority of the government of the United States," in anticipation of continued unrest after the Civil War. In 1871, the Third Enforcement Act revised this section (Sec. 253) to protect Black Americans from attacks by the Klu Klux Klan. The language added at that time allows the federal government to use the act to enforce the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. This section of the act was invoked during the Reconstruction era, and again during desegregation fights during the Civil Rights era.



The 57 senators who voted to convict Trump represent 76.7 million MORE people than the 43 senators who voted to acquit.
-Ari Berman

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SUGGESTED READING LIST For BLACK HISTORY MONTH

As the pandemic continues to keep most of us indoors, this is a good time to catch up on our reading. Here are some suggestions for books to read and enjoy in the waning days of February, Black History Month, and the beginning of those long days of March when we await Spring.

- Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent*, Isabel Wilkerson
- Between the World and Me*, Ta-Nehisi Coates
- Homegoing*, Yaa Gyasi
- A Lesson Before Dying*, Ernest J. Gaines
- The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, Michelle Alexander
- Underground Railroad*, Colson Whitehead
- The Fire Next Time*, James Baldwin
- Becoming*, Michelle Obama
- The Souls of Black Folks*, W.E.B. DuBois
- Kindred*, Octavia Butler
- Sister Outsider*, Audre Lord
- Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison
- Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston
- The Bluest Eye*, Toni Morrison
- I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou
- Hunger*, Roxane Gay
- The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic of America's Great Migration*, Isabel Wilkerson

INVENTIONS CONTRIBUTED BY BLACK AMERICANS

We don't often think of any of the people who invented the many things we use in our everyday lives. We certainly do not wonder how many of them might be people of color. Below is a partial list.

- Three-light traffic light *Garrett Morgan*
- Refrigerated trucks. *Frederick M. Jones*
- Automatic elevator doors. *Alexander Miles*
- Microphones *James E. West* (co-inventor)
- Carbon light bulb filament *Lewis Latimer*
- Color IBM PC Monitor and Gigahertz chip
Mark Dean (co-inventor)
- Home Security System *Mary Van Brittan*
- The potato chip *George Crum*
- Induction telegraph system *Granville Woods*
- Treatment for glaucoma *Percy Lavon Julian*
- "Father of the Blood Bank" *Charles R. Drew*
- Toilet tissue holder *Mary Beatrice Davidson Kenner*
- Laserphaco, for cataract surgery
Patricia Bath
- Telecommunications research that led to the invention of products such as the touch-tone phone, portable fax, fiber optic cables, and caller ID. *Shirley Jackson*



GERANIUM SALE

Sponsored by the DCWC of Ocean Pines, Maryland



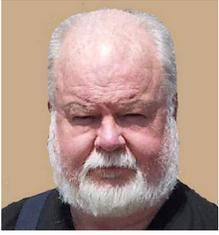
Pre-Order with Pick-up Monday, May 10th, 2021

\$6 per pot. Choose red, white, bright pink, cherry, rose, salmon, lavender, blue, or watermelon.

Send your order to DCWC, P.O. Box 1664, Berlin, MD 21811

Deadline for orders is May 1, 2021.

Checks should be made payable to DCWC. Thank you!



VERIFIABLE

A monthly contribution by Joe Beggs

DECONSTRUCTION

If anything is clear about the events of January 6th, 2021, it's that the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, was absolutely thrilled to watch the attempted occupation of our Capitol. Our highest public servants were threatened by this insurrection, people died in this violent mob action, and Trump reveled in it. The evidence is all there, plain as day.

In order to fully understand Donald Trump's state of mind on that day, we don't have to go back two weeks, or two months, or even a year. We must go back four full years, to February 23rd, 2017. Trump had been in office just about a month when Steve Bannon, at the time the chief strategist and senior counselor to the President, addressed CPAC (the Conservative Political Action Conference). Speaking for Trump's administration, Bannon listed their three top priorities: **National Sovereignty, Economic Nationalism**, and the "**Deconstruction of the Administrative State.**"

[See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPFpTerhAGQ>]

It doesn't take a political science major to understand that those are the three essential pillars of fascism. But it's the third part, the "**Deconstruction**" part, that I want to discuss in this article.

During the presidential transition between Obama and Trump, taking place in late 2016 and early 2017, the "deconstruction" was already beginning. Michael Lewis's great book, ***The Fifth Risk***, published in October of 2018, describes in great detail what happened during this "transition." Agents of the new administration were solely focused on removing political "liberals," and had no interest in perpetuating the vital functions of the various government agencies. During the next four years, all the protections which these agencies represented were reduced, watered down, or in some cases removed entirely. Here are some public examples of this "**deconstruction:**" The hollowing out of the State Department; the wholesale relocation of the Agriculture Department to Kansas City; the silencing and political weaponization of the Justice Department; the rededication of the Interior Department to finding and drilling for oil; the constant attempts to ridicule and demonize the FBI and Intelligence agencies; and, maybe worst of all, the removal of many vital regulations regarding pollution and workplace safety at the EPA. Along the way, Trump vilified the media, championed prejudice in all its forms, and destroyed his own party.

It's obvious that the main object of the Trump Administration (aside from establishing an authoritarian regime) was to diminish the effectiveness of the U.S. Government in its main duties, which are immortalized in the Preamble to the Constitution: to "establish Justice," to "insure domestic Tranquility," and to "promote the general Welfare." The Trump Administration did none of those things. Instead, they promoted chaos and division, without letup, during these last horrible years.

Isn't it a valid question to ask why Donald Trump and his cronies caused all [Continued on page 9.]

DECONSTRUCTION

[Continued from page 8.]

of this disruption and chaos while they were in office? I can come up with only one answer to this question: Donald Trump, a suspected sociopath, was hell-bent on revenge, and he carried other sociopaths with him, like Steve Bannon and Jason Miller. Webster's definition of a sociopath is, "A person with a personality disorder manifesting itself in extreme antisocial attitudes and behavior and a lack of conscience." What a perfect description of Donald Trump. All evidence points to a person with no conscience, that's for sure. The functional destruction (**Deconstruction?**) of our Executive Branch was deliberate, premeditated, and totally unconscionable.

Stay tuned over the next few months, as the truth of the Trump Administration begins to unfold. I predict that, one year from now, the name "Trump" will be synonymous with shame, and he will be cited in future American history as our worst traitor.

HATE GROUPS IN MARYLAND

The Southern Poverty Law Center reported 1,020 Hate Groups across the United States in 2018. In 2019, the number dropped to 940 and dropped further, to 835, in 2020. The SPLC's reporting by state lists 15 hate groups active in the state of Maryland. They are:

- American Free Press, *general hate*, Upper Marlboro
- Barnes Review / Foundation for Economic Liberty, *general hate*, White Plains
- Great Millstone, *general hate*, Baltimore
- Help Save Maryland, *anti-immigrant*, Rockville
- In the Spirit of Chartres Community, *radical traditional Catholicism*, Glen Elg
- Israel United in Christ, *general hate*, Upper Marlboro
- Israelite Church of God in Jesus Christ, *general hate*, Baltimore
- Israelite The Branches, *general hate*, Baltimore
- Loyal Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, *KKK ideology*, statewide
- Noble Klansmen of America, *KKK ideology*, statewide
- Patriot Front, *white nationalists*, statewide
- Refugee Settlement Watch, *anti-Muslim*, Fairplay
- The Base, *white nationalists*, statewide
- Watchmen for Israel, *general hate*, statewide

There were 18 hate crimes reported in Maryland in 2019. To date, 8 individuals from Maryland have been arrested for their participation in the Capitol riot/insurrection.

Reported by [patch.com](https://www.patch.com), Annapolis, MD

ZOOM WITH
DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY
FEBRUARY 25TH AT 7 P.M.



Guest Speaker
Kathy Phillips
of Assateague Coastkeepers

Join fellow Democrats for the February 25th meeting of the Democratic Club of Worcester County. The meeting will be held beginning at 7 p.m. via Zoom. This month's Guest Speaker is Kathy Phillips of Assateague Coastkeepers. The Assateague Coastal Trust's mission is to promote the health, productivity, and sustainability of the coastal bay's watershed of Delmarva through advocacy, education, and conservation. A business meeting will follow.

Meeting ID: 876 8588 6998

Passcode: 098657

Dial by your location +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington, D.C.)

It's Hard to Know Where to Begin

by Gwen Lehman

I'm angry. I'm still angry. Not that I dwell on it everyday, but I'm still pretty upset. And even given that I was a terrible math student, the political calculus of a Mitch McConnell just does not add up, square up, calculate or compute or prove a theorem or any of the other things that mathematicians and ordinary people who are good at math do that gives you an answer that is not only correct but makes sense. This does not make sense. He, who shall not be named, is guilty, clearly guilty. Mitch McConnell even said so - AFTER VOTING TO ACQUIT. Oh, and the excuse, "you can't try a president on a charge of impeachment after he leaves office" is so blatantly a corrupt and inane excuse because it is Mitch McConnell who refused to hold the Senate trial while he who cannot be named *was* still in office. Ugh! Does he hypocrite much?

And now, it is being reported that Mitch McConnell is attempting to change the rules in Kentucky so if he dies, the governor can not appoint his replacement. Is there something you're not telling us, Mitch? And just in case you are unaware, the governor of Kentucky is, at this time, a Democrat.

I don't believe poetic justice happens as much as it should and I am not a believer in Fate or Karma. But I do believe that at times that old saying "what goes around, comes around" becomes a truism. That it does not always become a truism is a disappointment, as is so much else in life. Mitch McConnell treated President Obama with such cavalier disrespect; and in doing so showed disrespect for the nation that he harmed through his inaction, obstructionism, and his false equivalences. His approval rating in his own state fell to 18%, but he still won re-election. He remains a multi-millionaire. He has health insurance and a pension and he retains an unearned and deplorable hold on power.

So I wish for some karmic revolution, not that I believe wishing helps anything. But I do dream that those who have wreaked such havoc on the country will get their due, their comeuppance, that Kentuckians will take a big old spoonful of blue grass and decide to start a movement that brings Moscow Mitch down a peg or two or twenty or thirty or forty - well, you get the picture.

And he who shall not be named - well, it would be more than fitting if all the gold fittings in his various palatial homes had to be melted down to pay for the lawsuits, the hundreds and thousands and maybe even millions of lawsuits, glorious lawsuits, and then criminal cases, dozens and hundreds and maybe more that catalogue his crimes, for he has committed many, and even though he has yet to shoot someone on Fifth Avenue, he has thus far gotten away with far too much. I am only slightly loathe to admit that I want his reputation to follow the path of his mentor, the lawyer Roy Cohn, who was in the end disbarred and died in ignominy from a plague-like disease, which he refused to admit he had. Sad story, his; his pupil, not yet. But maybe, just maybe, what goes around, will find its way to him who shall not be named here.

Mini-Calendar

Thursday, February 25

DCWC General Meeting
Speaker Kathy Phillips, Coastkeeper
7 pm via Zoom

Monday, March 8

DCWC Executive Board Meeting
10 AM Via ZOOM

Thursday, March 25

DCWC General Meeting
Speaker: Delegate Brooke Lierman
Candidate for MD Comptroller

