

# NEWSLETTER

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



Maryland Democratic Party   
on Thursday

Thanks to the hard work of Rep. John Sarbanes, the House passed the “For the People Act” — the largest voting rights and democracy reform bill in a decade.

Every American who can vote should be able to do so with ease and without undue barriers.



NPR.ORG

## House Approves Major Election Reform And Voting Rights Bill

The "For the People Act" would dramatically overhaul the U.S. voting syst...

The 2021 For the People Act, HR1, is a reboot of a 2019 [bill of the same name](#). At the time, the House passed the bill along party lines, but it never had a chance to move forward in the Senate, which was controlled then by Republicans. The legislation seeks "to expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anti-corruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy, and for other purposes."

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*Editor DCWC Newsletter*



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# A Message from Your President

Vicky Wallace, DCWC President

## President's Message – March 2021

We have many reasons to celebrate this March. Not only is spring on the way, but COVID vaccinations are on the rise in Maryland and elsewhere with the addition of the Johnson/Johanson vaccine. There is light at the end of the Covid tunnel!

March is designated as Women's History Month. One cannot help but think of how women struggled to get the VOTE and how women in the 2020 election exercised that right, contributing significantly to the Biden/Harris victory. Now, after this year's centennial of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, is the perfect opportunity to continue recognizing women from all backgrounds who have labored to lay the groundwork for cultural changes in this country.

“Mask Up” and be well,  
Vicky

## TAKE ACTION NOW

### **SB 223 PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION ACT**

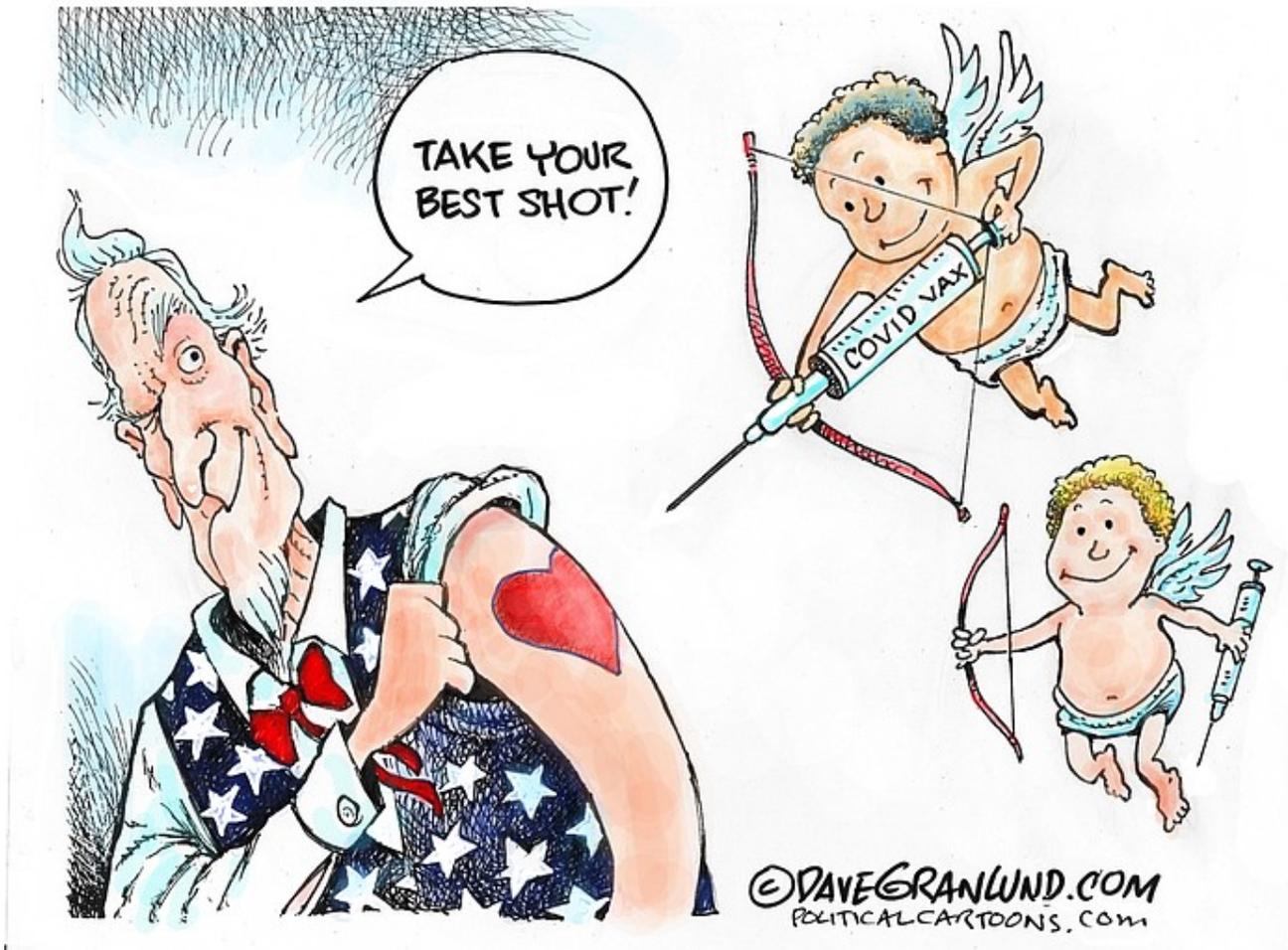
**Call or email Mary Beth Carozza**

(410) 841-3645

e-mail: [marybeth.carozza@senate.state.md.us](mailto:marybeth.carozza@senate.state.md.us)

#### Message:

I am your constituent and I want you to support the Plastic Bag Reduction Act (SB223) to reduce plastic bag litter, plastic pollution, harm to wildlife, and potential health consequences to humans. This bill is important to me and is long-overdue. We have to act NOW to stop contributing to the plastic pollution crisis.



★ **HERE'S TO** ★  
★ **STRONG** ★  
★ **WOMEN.** ★

May we know them.

★ May we be them. ★

May we raise them.

You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, 'I lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.' You must do the thing you think you cannot do.

-Eleanor Roosevelt

## EXCEPTIONS TO CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH PART 2

By Steve Cohen

*This a follow-up article on the exceptions to the constitutional right of freedom speech. As we learned from the last article the right of freedom of speech does not include words of insurrection, sedition and coup d'etat.*

Although the First Amendment to the Constitution states, “Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech,” Americans don’t have the luxury of always saying whatever they want. Your right to free speech is limited by where you are, what you say, and how you say it.

### OBSCENITY

Obscenity is not protected by the Constitution, but it has been difficult to define what is obscene. In 1973, the Supreme Court, in *Miller v. California*, came up with a three-part definition of obscene material. A work is legally considered obscene if

an average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the material appeals to

prurient (appealing to sexual desire) interest.

the work depicts or describes, in an offensive way, sexual conduct or excretory functions, specifically defined by applicable state law.

taken as a whole, the material lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

### LIES

Lying is covered by the First Amendment, except when it’s not. You can be prosecuted for lying under oath in court (perjury). You can also be charged with misleading authorized investigators. It is also illegal to run dishonest advertisements. And if you deliberately tell lies about. *(Continued on page 5.)*

## First Amendment Exceptions (Continued from page 4.)

people, you can be hit with a lawsuit in civil court for either libel (if published) or slander (if spoken).

Politicians, on the other hand, have broad protections against being prosecuted for lying, and citizens largely have free rein to criticize their governments, even if the comments are false.

### VIOLENCE

See last month's article

### STUDENT SPEECH

Students have limited rights of free speech while in school. In 1986, *Bethel School District v. Fraser* upheld the right of a school to suspend a student for making an obscene speech. *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, 1988, supported a school's right to censor student newspapers. However, many states are now passing laws to grant broader First Amendment protections to student speech.

### OFFENDING COWORKERS AND FRIENDS

You don't have the right to say whatever you want in someone else's home or other private setting. And, as an employee, believe it or not, you have no free-speech rights at your workplace. The Constitution's right to free speech applies only when the government — not a private entity — is trying to restrict it. For example, an employer can legally fire an employee whose car bears a campaign bumper sticker he doesn't like.

It's a different matter for government employees. In *Elrod v. Burns*, the Supreme Court ruled in 1976 that the Constitution prohibits government employers from discharging or demoting employees for supporting a particular political candidate.

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

A TIME TO CELEBRATE THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY WOMEN IN SCIENCE, SPORTS, SOCIAL JUSTICE, GOVERNANCE, MEDICINE, PHYSICS, LITERATURE, THE ARTS, SPYCRAFT, CIVIL RIGHTS, WORKERS RIGHTS, MATHEMATICS, JOURNALISM, EDUCATION, BUSINESS, CINEMA, SUFFRAGE, AND SO MUCH MORE!

**VIRGINIA HALL** A Maryland-born operative with a wooden leg and a sobriquet, "The Limping Lady," Hall was considered one of the most effective Allied spies leading the French resistance. She organized agent networks, assisted escaped POWs, and recruited French men and women to run safe houses.

-Ian Shapiro WaPo



**DOLORES HUERTA** An organizer, labor leader and civil rights activist in California. In 1962, she and Cesar Chavez founded the National Farm Workers Association (now the United Farm Workers), through which they led boycotts and negotiated better conditions and pay for farm workers.

-KK Ottersen



**MARISOL ESCOBAR** Known simply as "Marisol," she was born to Venezuelan parents. She became a major sculptor in the '60s and a key figure at the beginning of pop art. She is considered one of America's greatest artists

-Sebastian Smeed



**OPHA MAY JOHNSON** In 1918, she could not vote, but rushed to serve her country. It was close to the end of World War I when the Marine Corps decided to fill some of the gaps left behind by all the men fighting overseas. Johnson was the first of 300 women who showed up to take one of those jobs.

-Petula Dvorak



*Celebrating female leaders*  
By Washington Post staff  
Published March 6, 2021  
Find the entire article online.

# 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.



Color	How Many Pots	Price per pot	Extended amount	
Red		\$ 6.00		
White		\$ 6.00		
Bright pink		\$ 6.00		
Cherry		\$ 6.00		
Rose		\$ 6.00		
Salmon		\$ 6.00		
Lavender		\$ 6.00		
Blue		\$ 6.00		
Watermelon		\$ 6.00		
		Grand Total		
Your Name			Phone	Email

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!



HELP IS HERE

# THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

*\$1400 CHECKS & SHOTS IN ARMS*



## MARYLAND REPUBLICANS OPPOSE LIFESAVING AID

*Maryland's Two Highest Ranking Republicans Oppose the American Rescue Plan*

**MARYLAND** — Tuesday, March 16th, as Marylanders across the state begin to see direct relief checks in their bank accounts, Maryland's two highest-ranking Republicans — Governor Larry Hogan and Representative Andy Harris — spent their week opposing the lifesaving aid to families.

The American Rescue Plan, signed into law by President Biden last Thursday, is a historic \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package that will put money in the pockets of Marylanders, increase vaccination efforts, and **lift 52,000 Maryland children out of poverty**. Yet, Governor Hogan and Rep. Harris opposed this package with Hogan saying "[I don't think I would have \[voted for it\]](#)" and Rep. Harris repeatedly voting against the life-saving package.

Rep. Harris directly criticized the \$1,400 relief checks received by 3.4 million Maryland adults and 1.2 million Maryland children, calling them "[morally bankrupt](#)" and saying that they're "[way too much](#)." With [33% of all adults statewide](#) reporting difficulty covering normal household expenses, and [17% of renters](#) in the state behind on rent, Harris' claims are simply absurd.

Governor Hogan called for striking a trillion dollars from the American Rescue Plan, [specifically signaling out pensions](#) to be slashed as [10% of all adults](#) in the state report not having enough food to eat.

*[Continued on page 9.]*

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**MARYLAND REPUBLICANS OPPOSE LIFESAVING AID***Maryland's Two Highest Ranking Republicans Oppose the American Rescue Plan**[Continued on page 8.]*

“The attacks on the American Rescue Plan by Governor Hogan and Representative Harris shows the clear contrast between our two parties. Democrats have delivered aid to the American people – putting money in pockets and shots in arms. Republicans have done nothing but obstruct and play games with the help families are counting on,” said Maryland Democratic Party Chair Yvette Lewis. “Governor Hogan’s suggestion that the American Rescue Plan should have slashed pensions is deeply out of touch with reality. Marylanders are struggling, and they simply cannot afford to sacrifice life-saving aid in the name of Washington bipartisanship. Over 70% of Americans supported this package, that’s a true bipartisan consensus. Help is here – and it’s thanks to President Biden and the Democratic Party.”

The American Rescue Plan will deliver \$3.816 billion in Maryland state fiscal relief, \$2.092 in Maryland local fiscal relief, and will send more than \$2.013 billion in relief to Maryland K-12 schools. You can find more information on the American Recovery Plan’s impact on Maryland and its contents [here](#).



**From:** "Maryland Democratic Party"

<[media@mddems.org](mailto:media@mddems.org)>

**To:** "Maryland Democratic Party"

<[media@mddems.org](mailto:media@mddems.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:00:00 PM

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## **Decency For District One**

This is a PAC created to educate voters about the real Andy Harris and return Decency back to MD-01. They are launching an education campaign designed to defeat Andy Harris and remove this pro insurrectionist.

To donate go to:

[Decency can win IN MD-01.](#)

You can watch one of their 1<sup>st</sup> ads here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxyTwNhiFFA>

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



THE DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY invites you to join us for our March general meeting. Meeting over Zoom on Thursday, March 25th at 7 pm, the meeting will feature Brooke Lierman as our speaker. Brooke is a candidate for Comptroller of the State of Maryland.

Join us to meet Brooke Lierman, if only “virtually” and stay for the short business meeting. Then, if you have not already done so, consider joining the DCWC and help us make good things happen there in Worcester County and throughout the state of Maryland.

# GUN VIOLENCE ARCHIVE

GVA - SIX YEAR REVIEW	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Deaths - Willful, Malicious, Accidental	12,418	13,537	15,112	15,679	14,789	15,208
Suicides by Gun	21,386	22,018	22,938	23,854	24,432	PENDING
Injuries - Willful, Malicious, Accidental	22,779	27,033	30,666	31,265	28,233	29,501
Children [age 0-11] Killed or Injured	603	695	671	733	670	692
Teens [aged 12-17] Killed or Injured	2,318	2,695	3,140	3,256	2869	3,068
Mass Shooting	269	335	382	346	337	417
Murder-Suicides	624	530	549	608	621	614
Defensive Use [DGU]	1,531	1,393	2,001	2,107	1888	1,547
Unintentional Shootings	1,605	1,969	2,202	2,039	1662	1,837

Number of Deaths, Injuries, Children, Teens killed/injured [actual numbers]  
 Mass Shooting, Murder-suicides, Defensive Use, Unintentional Shooting [number of incidents]  
 Suicide numbers supplied by CDC End of Year Report [actual numbers]

@gundeaths  
 www.gunviolencearchive.org  
 www.facebook.com/gunviolencearchive

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[gunviolencearchive.org](http://gunviolencearchive.org)

## House of Representatives Passes H.R. 8

The House of Representatives passed a bipartisan bill requiring universal background checks for gun purchases. The vote was 227 to 203. Eight Republicans joined all but one Democrat to send the bill to the Senate. The bill would expand federal oversight of gun sales, requiring unlicensed and private sellers to conduct background checks. Currently, unlicensed sellers, including online sales, gun shows, and sales between family members and friends do not require background checks while licensed gun dealers are required to do background checks.

The battle for H.R. 8 will be a tough one in the Senate. 97% of Americans support background checks. If you are one of them, contact your senators and ask them too support universal background checks for gun sales.

# It's Hard to Know Where to Begin

by Gwen Lehman

Well, it is March and Spring is on its way and hope does “spring eternal” - if you’re into that sort of thing. I might just be rounding the curve into “hoping” again. The Democrats did seem to learn from their high-minded effort to negotiate with their Republican Senate colleagues when Obama was trying to rescue an economy from a terrible recession. This time, they passed a major piece of legislation without kow-towing to Republicans, deciding to just let the Rs sulk.

What Democrats have learned is that you can not in good conscience negotiate with Republicans because you can not find a good conscience among them. During the Obama years, the Dems gave a little, got a little, went to bed at night knowing they had worked in good faith with the opposition. But did Republicans in the end support a relief bill devoted to helping pull the country out of a recession? Did they support it after Democrats tried to appease them, lowering their request for funding? What do you think?

Sorry to burst that hope bubble, but they did *not* support the legislation, complained vociferously, carped and nagged and belittled and carried on to high heaven while trying to duck the obvious. They refused to go along with investing big enough fast enough to push the economy over its recessionary hump. And they didn’t mind doing it, voting against Obama and the country. Their consciences were not a bit disturbed. You have to have a conscience in order for it to keep you awake at night. The only thing keeping Republicans awake at night then was relishing blocking Obama in whatever he wanted to do for the country no matter how good it was.

President Biden, quietly doing the job we elected him to do, is making a difference without Republicans. Would he like to work in a bipartisan fashion? Yes. But when, as an “R,” you bring a “rescue” package to the Oval Office that is embarrassing in its inadequacies, so flawed in its understanding of what is needed, no “R” should expect Biden to place his campaign pledge of “unity” above the actual needs of the American people.

Republicans have an interesting take on bipartisanship and “unity.” For the Republican Party, bipartisanship, and thus “unity,” means they should always get what they want, without having to compromise. Rs should get what they demand, on their terms. They are, after all, unified in this belief. This is how it should be. Democrats are being unfair in not allowing Republicans, who represent far fewer Americans than those Democrats represent, to always have their own way. Compromise with Democrats? NO. Rs don’t compromise with socialists, for we all know that’s what Democrats are. So, rather than legislate, Rs frequently take their marbles and go home, because if they can’t have all the marbles, there will be no marbles for anyone, including the American people. The “bully pulpit” among Republicans is just adult playground bullying with consequences dire indeed.

## Mini-Calendar

### Thursday, March 25

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

### Monday, April 12

Executive Board Meeting  
 10 am Zoom

### Thursday, April. 22

DCWC General Meeting  
 7 pm Zoom

