



NEWSLETTER

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

MARYLAND A LEADER IN POLICE REFORM



The Maryland Legislature passed a number of measures to reform policing in the state of Maryland. House Bill 670 includes a repeal of the Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights. This is an effort to increase transparency and accountability by eliminating “qualified immunity” for police. Legislation also limits the use of “no-knock” warrants.

Senate Bill 71 (SB71) requires the widespread use of body cameras. SB600 establishes an independent investigative unit to review deaths caused by police officers. SB178, *Anton’s Law* allows the misconduct records of police officers to be made public, and SB786, shifts control of the Baltimore City Police Department to the city, removing it from state control.

The body camera and police bills go into effect on June 1. *Anton’s Law* and the investigative unit go into effect on October 1. The bill of rights law goes into effect on July 1, 2022.

Since Maryland’s passage of police reform legislation, New Mexico’s governor, Lujan Grisham, signed the New Mexico Civil Rights Act into law. The New Mexico legislation eliminates qualified immunity across all government entities. Bills addressing qualified immunity have been introduced in 19 states and in the U.S. Congress.

DCWC Officers

2021-2022

Executive Board

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Harriet Batis, *Ways and Means*

Tim Tarr, *Ways and Means*

Gwen Lehman,

Editor DCWC Newsletter



A Message from Your President

Vicky Wallace, DCWC President

Hello, Friends! Mark your calendars for September 13th, a Monday night. The KENNEDY-KING DEMOCRATIC DINNER is in the planning stages at the DUNES MANOR in Ocean City. It is a wonderful opportunity to support the Worcester County Central Committee and to socialize with your Democratic friends. Cost of the dinner and menu options are still to be determined. More information will be released soon.

In APRIL, we celebrate National Friend's Week. Enjoy these words of wisdom from Andy Rooney:

I've learned:

Being kind is more important than being right,
That the best classroom is at the feet of an elderly person,
That having a child fall asleep in your arms is the most peaceful feeling,
That when you are in love it shows,
That money does not buy class,
That someone saying, "You made my day!" makes my day,
That you should never say no to a gift from a child,
That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold, an understanding heart,
That everyone needs a friend to act goofy with,
That life is like a roll of toilet paper, the closer it gets to the end the faster it goes,
That to ignore the facts does not change the facts,
That everyone wants to be loved and appreciated, and
That love, not time, heals all wounds.

-Andy Rooney

Thank you my friend, Linda Linzey, for sharing.

In hopes that we can meet in person again soon, have a wonderful Spring.
Vicky Wallace

2nd AMENDMENT RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS IS NOT ABSOLUTE

By Steve Cohen

The second amendment to the United States Constitution protects the right to keep and bear arms. It was ratified on December 15, 1791, along with nine other articles of the Bill of Rights.

In *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the Supreme Court affirmed for the first time that the right belongs to individuals, for self-defense in the home, while also including, as *dicta*, that the right is not unlimited and does not preclude the existence of such long-standing prohibitions as those forbidding the “possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill” or the “carrying of dangerous and unusual weapons.” In *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, the Supreme Court ruled that state and local governments are limited to the same extent as the federal government from infringing upon this right.

Heller said, ‘yes, there is an individual right, but it can be limited.’ The extent of the limits was not really clear. Dozens of judges have ruled since then, and overwhelmingly they have upheld district gun laws. They’ve said, “Yes, there is an individual right, but society, too, has a right to protect itself.” So maybe Heller’s importance is not so great. As the judicial consensus has developed across the county to uphold gun laws, we have not yet heard from the Supreme Court one more time. I believe the Supreme Court is not done yet.

Most U.S. citizens have a Second Amendment right to own and carry firearms, but that doesn’t mean all gun control is unconstitutional.

Lower courts have ruled that restrictions on who can own a gun, certain types of guns, carrying guns in public, and buying and selling guns can remain.

Until the Supreme Court rules on the extent of this right, there will be confusion among the states.



The Need for Action in Maryland

For decades, infrastructure in Maryland has suffered from a systemic lack of investment. The need for action is clear. Maryland's infrastructure received a C grade on its Infrastructure Report Card. The American Jobs Plan will make a historic investment in our nation's infrastructure, including in our state.

- **ROADS AND BRIDGES:** In Maryland there are 273 bridges and 2,201 miles of highway in poor condition. Since 2011, commute times have increased by 5.1% in Maryland and on average, each driver pays \$637 per year in costs due to driving on roads in need of repair. The American Jobs Plan will devote more than \$600 billion to transform our nations' transportation infrastructure and make it more resilient, including \$115 billion repairing roads and bridges.
- **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:** Marylanders who take public transportation spend an extra 66.3% of their time commuting and non-White households are 2.7 times more likely to commute via public transportation. 23% of trains and other transit vehicles in the state are past useful life. The American Jobs Plan will modernize public transit with an \$85 billion investment.
- **RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE:** From 2010 to 2020, Maryland has experienced 31 extreme weather events, costing the state up to \$10 billion in damages. The President is calling for \$50 billion to improve the resiliency of our infrastructure and support communities' recovery from disaster.
- **DRINKING WATER:** Over the next 20 years, Maryland's drinking water infrastructure will require \$9.3 billion in additional funding. The American Jobs Plan includes a \$111 billion investment to ensure clean, safe drinking water is a right in all communities.
- **HOUSING:** In part due to a lack of available and affordable housing, 353,000 renters in Maryland are rent-burdened, meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on rent. The President proposes investing over \$200 billion to increase housing supply and address the affordable housing crisis.

(Continued on page 6.)

The Need for Action in Maryland

(Continued from page 5.)

- **BROADBAND:** 3.8% of Marylanders live in areas where, by one definition, there is no broadband infrastructure that provides minimally acceptable speeds. And 34.5% of Marylanders live in areas where there is only one such internet provider. Even where infrastructure is available, broadband may be too expensive to be within reach. 10.9% of Marylanders do not have an internet subscription. The American Jobs Plan will invest \$100 billion to bring universal, reliable, high-speed and affordable coverage to every family in America.
- **CAREGIVING:** Across the country, hundreds of thousands of older adults and people with disabilities are in need of home and community-based services. The President's plan will invest \$400 billion to help more people access care and improve the quality of caregiving jobs.
- **CHILD CARE:** In Maryland, there is an estimated \$615 million gap in what schools need to do for maintenance and to make improvements and 51% of residents live in a childcare desert. The American Jobs Plan will modernize our nation's schools and early learning facilities and build new ones in neighborhoods across Maryland and the country.
- **MANUFACTURING:** Manufacturers account for more than 5.89% of total profit in Maryland, employing 108,000 workers, or 3.92% of the state's workforce. The American Jobs Plan will invest \$300 billion to retool and revitalize American manufacturers.
- **HOME ENERGY:** In Maryland, an average low-income family spends 6-8% of their income on home energy costs, forcing tough choices between paying energy bills and buying food, medicine or other essentials. The American Jobs Plan will upgrade low-income homes to make them more energy efficient through a historic investment in the Weatherization Assistance Program, a new Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator to finance building improvements, and expanded tax credits to support home energy upgrades.
- **CLEAN ENERGY JOBS:** As of 2019, there were 84,549 Marylanders working in clean energy, and the American Jobs Plan invests in creating more good paying union jobs advancing clean energy production by extending and expanding tax credits for clean energy generation, carbon capture and sequestration and clean energy manufacturing.
- **VETERANS HEALTH:** Maryland is home to over 389,600 veterans, 13.3% of whom are women and 42.2% of whom are over the age of 65. The President is calling for \$18 billion to improve the infrastructure of VA health care facilities to ensure the delivery of world-class, state of the art care to veterans enrolled in the VA health care system. This includes improvements to ensure appropriate care for women and older veterans.

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!

The Lincoln Project

#Jan6NeverAgain. #TheBigLie

JAN 6. INSURRECTION: 100 DAYS LATER

147

GOP Members Voted to
Overturn Election

3

Police Officers
Dead

\$30M

In Damages and Rising

140

Officers Injured

2,300

National Guard
Deployed to Capitol

419

Rioters Arrested
and Counting



A REMINDER: Five months ago an insurrection occurred at the United States Capitol, led by violent right-wing extremists the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers, and incited by the rhetoric of Roger Stone, Rudy Giuliani, and Donald Trump on behalf of THE BIG LIE. The scope of the investigation will take months and court cases could take years. We must not forget. We must not excuse. We must not allow this to go unpunished.

Decency For District One

A PAC to educate voters about the real Andy Harris and return Decency back to MD-01. DECENCY FOR DISTRICT ONE is launching an education campaign designed to defeat Andy Harris, to remove this pro insurrectionist from an office he once promised to leave after this term. Has he changed his mind? Yes. So voters need to hold him to that promise and VOTE HIM OUT.

To donate go to: [Decency can win IN MD-01.](#)



**DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF WORCESTER COUNTY
THE BLUE PLEDGE V , P.O. Box 34, BERLIN, MD 21811**

**2020 BLUE PLEDGE FUNDRAISING EFFORT
HARRIS HAS TO GO
AND WE NEED A DEMOCRAT FOR GOVERNOR**

TIME TO SUPPORT WORCESTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY CAMPAIGN

We have two critical must-win elections: getting rid of Harris and electing a Democrat as Governor. The outcome of these races depends on Worcester County Democrats getting out the vote. Neighborhood networks, phone chains by you and your neighbors, knocking on doors, not just once, but time and time again, is what we must do. All DEMOCRATS MUST VOTE. The Democratic Central Committee of Worcester County, the Democratic Women’s Club, the Democratic Club of Worcester County, and the Democratic Club of Ocean City/Berlin are undertaking an effort to reach every registered Democrat, every registered independent registered, and every voter disenchanted with Trump and Harris, in our county. All registered voters’ votes count; their vote COUNTS! His failure to respond to the needs of the citizens of Worcester County means we must highlight Harris’ failures and faults. Funds from the Blue Pledge V drive will be used to support materials to help our voters understand HOW HARRIS FAILS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CITIZENS OF WORCESTER COUNTY. Funding will help support materials for neighborhood networks, as well as supporting Democrats running for local government and county offices.

A BLUE PLEDGE IS \$100. Fill out the form below, write us a check, and put it in the mail. You can choose to make your pledge in 4 payments of \$25 each over 4 months. Pledges larger than \$100 can be made as well. WRITE THAT CHECK!
~Lanny Hickmam

Name: _____ **Email address:** _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ **Cell Phone #:** _____

Occupation: _____ **(Required by law.)**

Employer: _____ **(Required by law.)**

YOUR PLEDGE AMOUNT: _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ \$ _____

I want to make my \$100 payment in 4 payments of \$25 each. _____

Make your check payable to: DCCWC and mail to P.O. Box 34, Berlin, Md 21811

It's Hard to Know Where to Begin

by Gwen Lehman

First of all, I know that when you are a member of Congress, a voting member, an adult, duly elected, you should not have to be scolded during a hearing about something as serious as the Corona virus pandemic, but, honest to god, I can not stop watching Maxine Waters telling Jim Jordan to "respect the Chair and shut your mouth." And I am not the only one who has watched this over and over and who will probably keep watching it over and over whenever I need a bit of a boost. It is majestic. It is iconic. It is cathartic. Who among us has not, at one time or another, wanted to tell Jim Jordan to 'respect the Chair and shut his mouth.'

That was some "old school" right there. That was Mrs. R in second grade at a time before teachers received training in PBIS (*Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies*) and their behavioral modification strategies often included the implicit "have respect for your teacher" coupled with the explicit "sit down and shut your mouth."

Now, I have long been a fan of B.F. Skinner. Many of my psych professors in college were of the behavioral psychology school. I do believe that Skinner's research demonstrated that behavior is more permanently changed through reward than through punishment. But sometimes some people just need punishing, even if it is just a bit of YouTube and social media replays of being told to shut up by one of your elders who happens to be not your mother, but instead an African-American female colleague. He deserved it.

He will deserve it again. That he continues to display an appalling lack of understanding of the current pandemic - frightening, too, because this will not be the last pandemic - is shameful. Did he do nothing in college but wrestle? Has he never taken a science class? Has he not done due diligence as a member of the House of Representatives and tried to learn the unpredictability of any pandemic? Does he not believe that more than a half million Americans have died of Covid? Can he not wrap what little brain power he has around the notion that the behavior of the population is too often guided by not only *misinformation* but *disinformation* and thus results in behaviors that contribute to disease-spread, surges, and deaths? What sort of a human being is he?

His hectoring of Dr. Fauci, for what ultimate purpose we do not know, has cemented for me the belief that the one thing we know for sure about Jim Jordan is that he's the sort of human being who needs a good scolding, and the oftener the better. If he can not follow Dr. Anthony Fauci's explanation for why a hard and fast date for the end of this pandemic is not possible, he should not be representing any segment of a population subject to the effects of the novel Corona virus, Covid-19. If he has the responsibility, which he wants to appear to carry so heavily on his shoulders, to do something helpful, he should go home to Ohio and visit the relatives of Covid victims. He should listen to their stories. He should kneel at their feet. He should beg their forgiveness, and then, he should respect the chair and shut his mouth.

Mini-Calendar

Thursday, April 22

DCWC General Meeting
Speaker: Josh Nordstrom
7 pm Zoom

Monday, May 10

Executive Board Meeting
10 am Zoom

Thursday, May 27

DCWC General Meeting
Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Leggour, ED of Worcester Youth & Family Counseling
7 pm Zoom

Monday, June 14

Executive Board Meeting
10 am Zoom

Thursday, June 4

DCWC General Meeting
Speaker: Heather Mizour
District 1 Candidate
7 pm Zoom

