



NEWSLETTER

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

WOMEN'S MARCH OCTOBER 2nd STANDING UP FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN SALISBURY AND ACROSS THE NATION



Young demonstrators joined their older counterparts listening to speakers at the rally on the Government Plaza in Salisbury.



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2021-2022

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Harriet Batis, *Ways and Means*

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Gwen Lehman,
Editor DCWC Newsletter



A Message from Your President

Vicky Wallace, DCWC President

Hello, everyone! On Thursday, October 28, the DCWC will welcome Worcester County Commissioner Diana Purnell (D). Please join us for our second in-person meeting of 2021. The meeting will be held in the Assateague Room at the Ocean Pines Community Center. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Due to Covid-19, we are asking that all attendees wear a mask, just to be extra cautious. We look forward to seeing you there!

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the date for the November general meeting has been changed to November 18. DCWC will welcome representatives from Diakonia. Diakonia, located in West Ocean City, provides temporary shelter to homeless families and veterans in Worcester County. The non-profit assists families and veterans in finding permanent housing while providing clothing and shelter.

As we are all in need of a little celebration, DCWC is planning a holiday dinner. Open to all fellow Democrats, the dinner is planned for December 5. Arrangements are still being made. More information will follow shortly.



DIANA PURNELL

Worcester County Commissioner, District 2

Diana Purnell, was first elected as a County Commissioner in 2014 and is currently serving her second term in office. Commissioner Purnell served as the president of the County Commissioners in 2017 and 2018. She represents the County Commissioners as a voting member of the Tri-County Council (TCC) for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, and as a member of the Social Services Board and the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council. Commissioner Purnell is the first African American woman elected as a Worcester County Commissioner.

ARE THERE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO RECEIVING THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

By Steve Cohen

The first amendment specifically guarantees that the government cannot prohibit “the free exercise” of religion. In plain English, that means every individual has the right to hold their own religious beliefs and to engage in actions or practices in support of those religious beliefs without government intrusion.

Except the First Amendment doesn’t exactly mean that. The freedom of belief is absolute, but the freedom to engage in actions in support of that belief is not.

As far back as the late 19th century, the Supreme Court has acknowledged it would be absurd to allow people to opt out of many generally applicable laws by simply claiming their religious beliefs compelled contrary action. In 1879, the Supreme Court said, “Suppose one believed that human sacrifices were a necessary part of religious worship; would it be seriously contended that the civil government under which he lived could not interfere to prevent a sacrifice?” That would make laws optional for people claiming a religious exemption. Each person would be in charge of which laws he/she wanted to comply with and when. **Reynolds v. United States 98 US 145 (1878).**

Fast forward to 1990, when the Supreme Court said the government can regulate conduct - in that case ingesting peyote - without an exception for an individual’s religious beliefs. Legally, the key is to make sure the law is neutral and generally applicable. This essentially means the law applies to everyone who engages in that conduct, regardless of their religious beliefs. Conservative Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, writing for a majority of the court, concluded then that to rule otherwise “would open the prospect of constitutionally required religious exemptions from civic obligations of almost every conceivable kind,” including, he wrote, “compulsory vaccination laws.” **Employment Div. v. Smith, 494 U.S. 872 (1990).**

Each person would be in charge of which laws she wanted to comply with and when. “The protection of society” would surely seem to include obtaining a vaccine to protect oneself and others from a deadly virus.

So, we know the government can sometimes impose regulations, even if those regulations burden actions taken in furtherance of religious beliefs. But when? The Supreme Court concluded in 1940, “Conduct remains subject to regulation for the *(Continued on page 4.)*

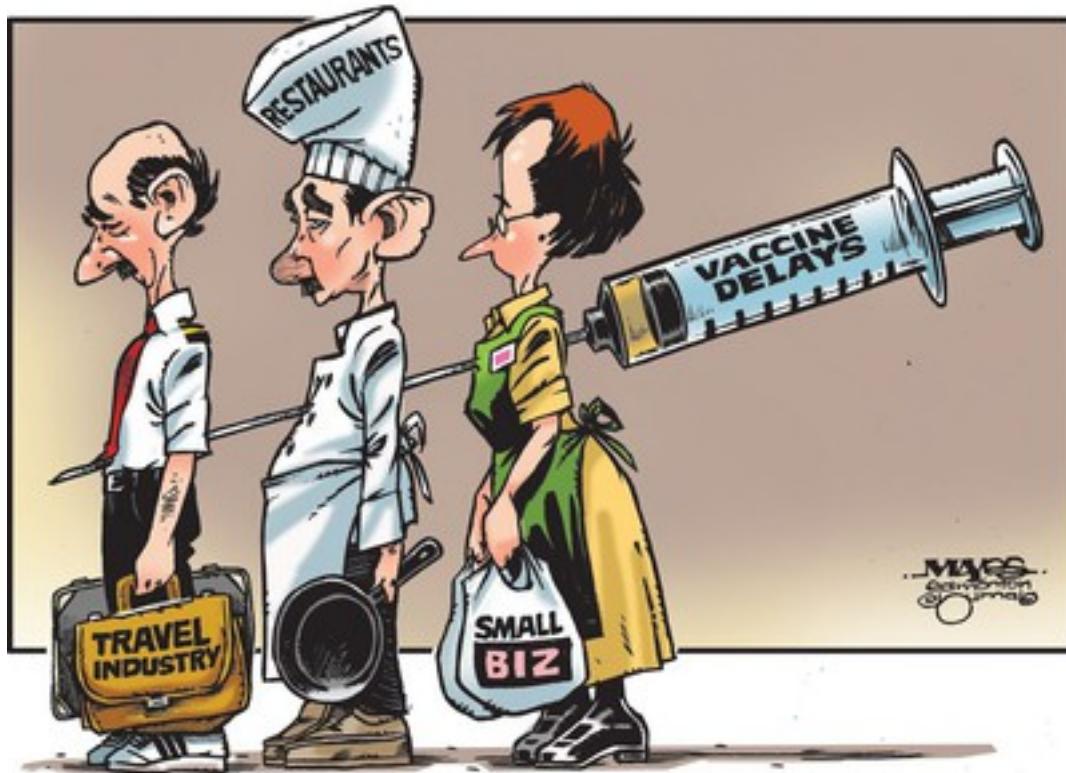
ARE THERE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO RECEIVING THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

(Continued from page 3.)

By Steve Cohen

protection of society." **Cantwell v. State of Connecticut, et. Al 310 US 296 (1940).**

It is clear that laws exempting Covid-19 vaccines are clearly unconstitutional because vaccines helps protect the public. Even the Pope concluded that there are no religious exemptions for Covid-19 vaccines.



JOIN THE FIGHT FOR CLEAN ENERGY! IN MARYLAND, HERE IS HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Offshore wind energy is Maryland's largest clean energy resource. While supporters of the US Wind and Skipjack wind projects had a good turnout at the Public Service Commission's hearings, we still need your help. Please consider submitting written comments in support of offshore wind by November 19th, following the directions below. Questions can be directed to Cindy Dillon, Chair, Lower Eastern Shore Group of the MD Sierra Club (cindy.dillon@mdsierra.org).

*Written comments on this matter may be submitted electronically
or by first-class mail by November 19, 2021.*

*Comments submitted electronically must be submitted through the Commission's
Public Comment Dropbox, which can be accessed through the Commission's
website at www.psc.state.md.us.*

*Instructions for logging into the Public Comment Dropbox are located under the
"Tools" section of the Commission's website under the "Make a Public Comment"
tab, which can be accessed via the following link:*

<https://www.psc.state.md.us/make-a-public-comment/>.

*Commenters using the Public Comment Dropbox for the first-time are required to
complete a one-time registration.*

All comments must include a reference to Case No. 9666.

If submitted by first-class mail, comments must be addressed to:

*Mr. Andrew S. Johnston, Executive Secretary,
Maryland Public Service Commission
William Donald Schaefer Tower
6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202*

SIGNS OF THE TIMES



Signs at the Women's March & Rally in Salisbury on October 2nd, 2021. The fight goes on.

MORE THAN SNIPPETS

NEWS YOU NEED TO SEE GATHERED FROM A FACEBOOK FEED

202 House Republicans voted to acquit a man who violated a subpoena and publicly encouraged the insurrection on January 6. That same party is 5 seats away from a majority in 2022.

-Brian Taylor Cohen

LET THAT SINK IN!



**MICHELE GREGORY
ROAD TO ANNAPOLIS
FUNDRAISER**

Tuesday, November 9

5 to 7 p.m.

2 Riverside Drive, Pocomoke
Michelle is running to unseat
Mary Beth Carozza.
Check out her website!

The wealthiest 10% of Americans own a record 89% of all U.S. stocks.

CNBC headline

I AM NOT SURE WHEN DEMOCRATS IN POWER ARE GOING TO RECOGNIZE THE SEVERITY OF THE EMERGENCY, BUT THERE IS A SYSTEMATIC REPUBLICAN EFFORT TO REPLACE ELECTION OFFICIALS WITH AUTHORITARIAN EXTREMISTS - AND IT'S STEADILY DEMOLISHING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY. - BRIAN KLASS

CALLING ON MEMBERS! CALL YOUR
FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, COLLEAGUES
TO JOIN US IN THE DCWC!

PHONE A FRIEND! INVITE THEM TO JOIN!

Dear Members & Friends of the Democratic Club of Worcester County:

We are asking you to extend an invitation to your like-minded friends, neighbors, and colleagues throughout Worcester County to join us in the Democratic Club of Worcester County! Along with other local Democratic clubs, the DCWC strives to make a difference in the county, the state, and the nation by engaging in positive political action. Membership dues are \$15 for an individual or \$25 for a couple.

DCWC regularly meets the 4th Thursday of the month. In-person meetings resumed in September. Meetings are held in the Assateague Room at the Ocean Pines Community Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. Bring a mask, social distance, and enjoy the guest speaker. For more information contact President Vicky Wallace at vick1947@aol.com

If you are already a member, but not sure you have paid your 2022 membership dues, contact Tom Butler at thomasebutler@mediacombb.net

DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY

The Democratic Club of Worcester County is organized to unite Democrats across the county. DCWC's regular meeting time is the 4th Thursday of every month in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.

With the drive to seat more Democrats in our local and state governments and to increase the number of Democrats in the House and Senate, we must work together. Democracy itself is on the line. If you are a member, we ask that you renew your membership now for 2022. Send in your membership application renewal by completing the form below and mailing it, along with your check made out to DCWC. Send to DCWC, P.O. Box 1664, Berlin, Maryland 21811.

Dues are fifteen dollars (\$15) for a single membership and twenty-five dollars (\$25) for a family membership.

PLEASE JOIN AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON THE EASTERN SHORE!

2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your Name _____

Your Primary Address _____

Phone #: _____ (H) Phone # _____ (Cell)

Email: _____

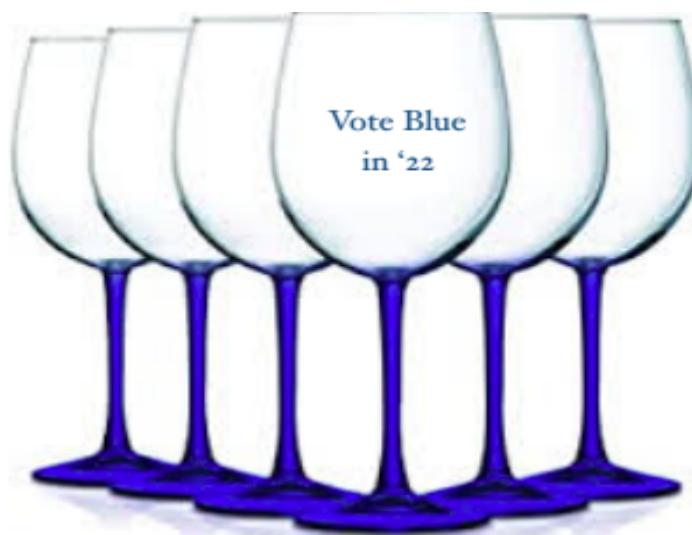
DUES: \$15 Single \$25 Family Make checks payable to DCWC.

Print this form and send with your check to: DCWC, P.O. 1664, Berlin, MD 21811

VOTE BLUE IN '22 WINEGLASSES

DCWC NOW ACCEPTING ORDERS

FOR 10 OUNCE VOTE BLUE In' 22 WINEGLASSES



With the original order of our 10 ounce Libby blue wineglasses sold out, the Democratic Club of Worcester County is taking orders. If you are interested in making a purchase of one or more Vote Blue in '22 wineglasses, please fill in the form below.

Give me, when the glass is hand delivered, a **check made out to DCWC** (Democratic Club of Worcester County) for a glass at \$ 20.00 each.

Provide your name, address both street and Email with your order. Orders will be hand delivered to your doorstep.

Email your Order to Frank Fox at fox65917@gmail.com 757-824-4023

Name _____ Email _____

Phone# _____ Cell# _____

Street Address: _____

Number of Wineglasses: _____ x \$20.00= \$ _____

JUST FOR A BIT OF FUN! IT's NOT *THE ONION*, BUT IT'S FAKE!
Happy Halloween 2021!

BIG NEWS FOR HALLOWEEN! LOCAL WRITER HAS SCRIPT APPROVAL FOR MAJOR MOVIE TO BE SHOT ON EAST COAST
MAGA Zombie Apocalypse

Local writer F. Fox recently announced the sale of his newest screenplay, *MAGA Zombie Apocalypse*, to the Xenophobe Studios in Florida. In describing his film concept, he indicated a heavy reliance on CGI for the visible aerosol droplets of COVID-24 which will emanate from the unvaccinated and from the “definitely” unmasked Zombies. The heroes, wearing N95 masks, will battle the Zombie hordes who have returned to plague the hospitals where they died, clogging the emergency areas and ripping open ambulance doors to breathe on the latest victims of the 21st century plague.

Casting agents are currently screening actors who bear uncanny resemblances to Greg Abbott, Ted Cruz, and Ron DeSantis. It is reported that few have willingly responded to audition for the roles of the **More Aggravating GOP Assailants**, but big salary offers should lure them in. The role of the leader of the science contingent has already been filled but producers are not announcing any of the actors hired until all casting is complete.

The author has hinted at a happy ending to his latest thriller. “Will protecting humanity prevail?” he was asked. “Our personal choices dictate our fate,” he responded. “Will voters who’ve felt used and threatened by political leaders who protected themselves but not the people, subjecting their own constituents to infection, illness, and death, turn on those leaders? Who knows? Buy a ticket,” he added.

-Francis Fox w. G. Lehman, ed.



It's Hard to Know Where to Begin

by Gwen Lehman

I am not sure what it means to be patriotic anymore. Maybe I never did. I hated saying the Pledge of Allegiance everyday when I was teaching. It seemed such a stupid thing to do. Every weekday morning - I did not pledge on weekends - putting my hand over my heart and reciting the pledge with students, as if that would secure everybody's devotion. I used to wonder: did they (admins/politicians) think we'd forget we're Americans if we didn't recite the Pledge everyday? Forget to vote now or in the future? Forget to pay our taxes? Fail to root for American Olympic athletes? What exactly was/is the point? Now, if someone had given me a replica of our Constitution and asked me to pledge my allegiance to it every weekday, I would gladly have done so and thrown in the weekends, as well. There is something to that pledge that has real meaning. Or should.

I am, however, seeing lots of U.S. Representatives and Senators, mostly Republicans, who have placed their right hands on Bibles, and Korans - well maybe not Korans, we are talking Rs here - and sworn allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, BUT who seemingly have as little regard for that pledge as I did for the daily Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Their oaths of office apparently mean little to nothing to them. How can you not want to enforce Congressional subpoenas when you're a member of Congress? Do you think if you fail to enforce a congressional subpoena now that anyone will obey them in the future? People remember this stuff. If they don't, someone will remind them - a journalist, their lawyer - *Bannon failed to answer, so you can, too, What are they gonna do to you? Nuthing. Ignore 'em.*

I actually keep a small blue booklet on the shelf near my reading chair. It is a copy of the U. S. Constitution. I like to keep it handy. I used to carry it in my tote when I was teaching. I'm not sure why, except I like to keep it handy. It's a reminder of one of the things that has made this country a model and a beacon.

We are certainly not a particularly good model at the moment. Maybe we've never been as good as we liked to think. But it is aspiration that is at the heart of our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution. It is at the heart of who we are as a people. We ASPIRE to greatness. We may even have, at times, achieved it. We are not achieving it now. Far from it. I fear all the symbolism of pledging allegiance to the flag has become more important to Americans than pledging to uphold the Constitution and to amend it when necessary to give broader civil rights; and I fear that the aspirational goals of the brilliant Declaration of Independence have become so trampled as to be nearly lost.

Mini-Calendar

Thursday, October 28

DCWC in-person meeting
Assateague Room, OP Community Center, 6:30 p.m.

Speaker: Diana Purnell, Worcester County Commissioner, District 2

Thursday, November 18

DCWC General Meeting
Assateague Room, OP Community Center, 6:30 p.m.
Speakers from Diakonia

December 5

DCWC Holiday Dinner
Details to be announced

