

# NEWSLETTER

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



## JOIN US ON ZOOM

**January 27th at 6 p.m.**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 878 9541 2076**

**Zoom Passcode: 957140**

**OR USE THE FOLLOWING LINK:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87895412076?  
pwd=UFRoQ0dRcm5ReDZuYWJRjaTFxVlFuQT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87895412076?pwd=UFRoQ0dRcm5ReDZuYWJRjaTFxVlFuQT09)

Due to the rise in cases of the Covid-19 omicron variant in Worcester County, the DCWC Executive Board has made the decision to conduct January and February general membership meetings via Zoom. This month's meeting will be held on Thursday, January 27th at 6 p.m. DCWC will welcome guest speaker Monica Brooks, an environmental and social activist. Monica has organized against the expansion of mega-poultry complexes on the Eastern Shore. She is the co-founder of *Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFOs*. Her organization stopped the construction of what would have been the largest-ever poultry complex in Maryland. Monica serves on the board of the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable communities.

A brief business meeting will following, allowing members to join a 7 pm Zoom sponsored by the Sierra Club featuring Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin. Rabbi Cardin, an Executive Member of the Sierra Club, will speak on the Environment Human Rights Amendment that is now pending in the Maryland General Assembly. The amendment would assure all Marylanders the right to clean water and a healthy environment. Sierra Club members have been encouraged to join the DCWC zoom. We encourage DCWC to sign into the 7 pm discussion.

### DCWC Officers

**2021-2022**

#### *Executive Board*

Vicky Wallace, *President*

Tim Tarr, *Vice-President*

Larry Batis, *Secretary*

Jan Nissen-Hawkins, *Treasurer*

Tom Butler, *Acting Treasurer*

#### *Members-at-Large*

Francis Fox

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Harriet Batis



Harriet Batis, *Ways and Means*

Tim Tarr, *Ways and Means*

Gwen Lehman,

*Editor DCWC Newsletter*

JOIN US



ON  
ZOOM!



# A Message from Your President

Vicky Wallace, DCWC President

Hello Fellow Democrats,

2022 has arrived with a vengeance. We in Worcester County, like all counties, are feeling the effects of environmental changes from global warming. We are having extremely cold weather for the beach, and snow. Back in the day, snow on the Eastern Shore was a rarity. For those of us who are retired, it is a treat to sit back and watch the snow cover the trees in Ocean Pines, knowing there is no reason to leave home. We just enjoy what nature has given us. Our backyards really become a winter wonderland.

On January 17, we celebrated Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, but sadly, without the passage of the voting rights legislation that President Biden and a majority of Democrats have proposed. Dr. King would be disappointed, but he would continue the fight, and so should we. We must all work to secure voting rights for everyone.

The DCWC Executive Board has decided to return to Zoom for general meetings for the next two months. With the increased spread of the omicron variant in our county, we have erred on the side of personal safety. The Zoom information for Thursday, January 27th's general meeting is contained in this newsletter. Our January speaker is Monica Brooks from Salisbury, Md. Monica is an environmental and social activist and founder of Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFO's, an organization successful in stopping the construction of the largest-ever poultry complex in Maryland.

In March, we will be trying a new time for our general meeting. We will meet from 4 until 6 p.m. rather than at our usual 6 to 8 p.m. meeting time.

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**We learn from history that we do not learn from history.**

-Georg Hegel

# CAN TRUMP BE CONSTITUTIONALLY BARRED FROM RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT

By Steve Cohen

Donald Trump might already be ineligible to serve as president of the United States in the future. That's true even without an impeachment process that ends with a formal ban from future public office.

The relevant constitutional provision is Section 3 of the 14th Amendment, enacted in the aftermath of the Civil War. The provision bars a person from holding any office "under the United States" if the person has sworn an oath of allegiance to the Constitution and then "engaged in insurrection or rebellion" against the government or "given aid to the enemies" of the U.S.

Trump took an oath to uphold the Constitution when he became president. The trickier question is the second part: Has Trump's conduct amounted to insurrection? You can be sure that, if Trump runs for office in the future, someone will go to court charging that he is ineligible to become president because of his conduct leading up to, on, and following January 6, 2021. Because this is a constitutional question, the courts will have to adjudicate it.

The first question is whether the attack on the Capitol was an insurrection against the government of the United States. The Constitution doesn't define insurrection. Neither does the Insurrection Act, the federal statute that you might expect to include a definition. Most dictionary definitions of insurrection call it a violent uprising against the government. The upshot is that, at least with regard to the mob itself, it seems possible that a court could conclude that an insurrection was happening on January 6. It isn't a slam-dunk case; the authors of the 14th Amendment almost certainly had in mind an insurrection much more like the Civil War. But a court would certainly have enough reason to find that January 6 involved an insurrection for it to be worthwhile for us to go on to the next question.

That question is, assuming the march on the Capitol was an insurrection: Did Trump himself engage in insurrection when he spoke to the crowd and encouraged or incited the march? If a court says "yes," Trump isn't eligible to be president again. Answering this question in a constitutional way will not be simple. If this were a criminal prosecution, the First

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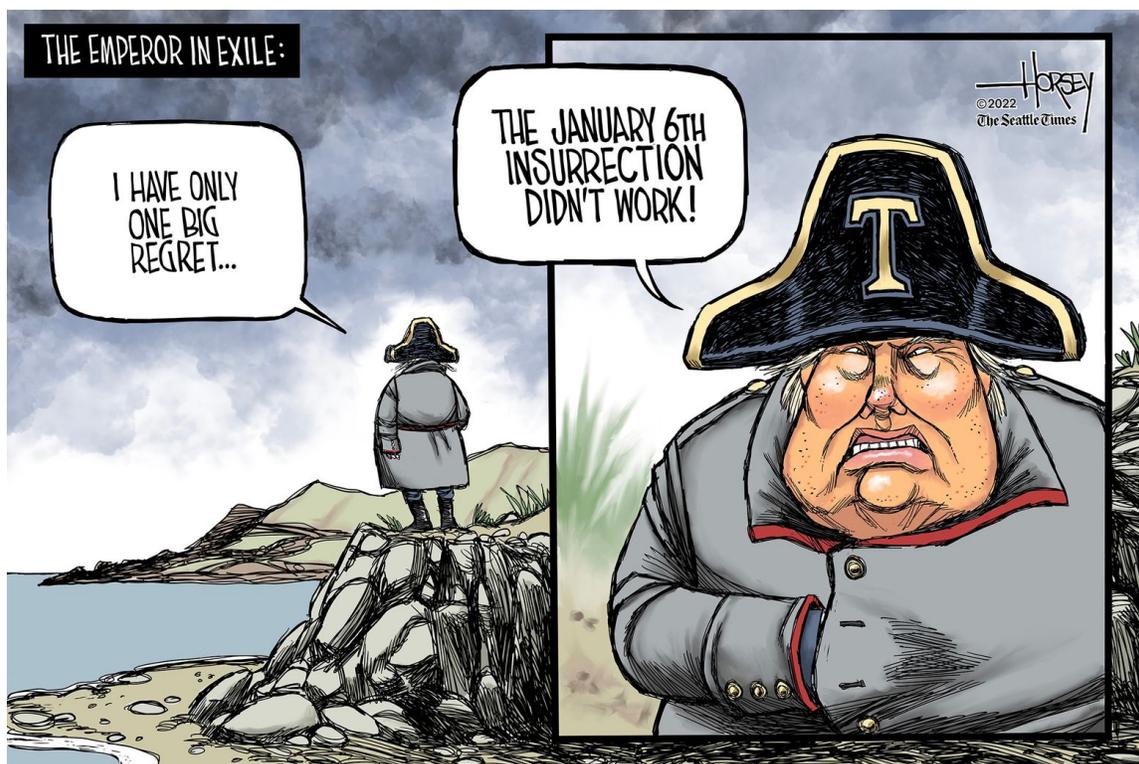
**CAN TRUMP BE CONSTITUTIONALLY BARRED FROM RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT***(Continued from page 3.)*

Amendment would apply, and the relevant test would be the one drawn from the landmark 1969 case *Brandenburg v. Ohio* [ 395 U.S. 444 (1969)]. The case says that the government can't punish speech advocating force unless the speech is "directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action and is likely to produce such action."

Ah, but Section 3 of the 14th Amendment is not a criminal sanction! And because the provision is in the Constitution, it arguably is not limited by the First Amendment. So, a court could still conclude that Trump's words counted as insurrection for the purposes of the 14th Amendment even if they would not have qualified as incitement under the *Brandenburg* standard. That means Trump could be barred from holding office for an act that would not get him thrown in jail.

In practice, it's unlikely that a court would be prepared to disqualify a former president from running for office again. But it's a close issue — and one the Supreme Court may have to take up if Trump announces a 2024 candidacy.

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# URGENT ACTION ALERT

**Send your comments to Kristen Tremblay  
Worcester County Zoning Administrator**

**[ktremblay@worcester.md.us](mailto:ktremblay@worcester.md.us)**

**By January 28th**



The Worcester County Planning and Zoning Commission will review an amendment to the A1 (agriculture) zoning to allow slaughterhouses that are presently prohibited to be built in Worcester County. We are surrounded by A1 zoned land. Many of the A1 parcels are owned by corporations, not by local family farms. We do not want slaughterhouses dumping their waste water into local waterways. We do not want holding ponds that can pollute local well water. The proposed amendment would allow for both the dumping of waste water into local waterways and the construction of waste water holding ponds.

Send your comments in opposition to industrial slaughterhouses being built on agricultural land in Worcester County before the deadline of Friday, January 28th. Take action now.

# INTRODUCING MICHELE GREGORY



**DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE  
FOR DISTRICT 38 SEAT  
IN THE MD HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Calling all Lower Shore Democrats. Michele Gregory needs our help to take on incumbent Republican Mary Beth Carozza and win! Volunteer for Michele's campaign, make a campaign donation, visit her website for information on her policy platform, campaign events, and how to donate. Campaigns always need funds.

Visit [www.votemichelegregory.com](http://www.votemichelegregory.com) and make a donation today.

**SUPPORT MICHELE GREGORY.  
A VOTE FOR MICHELE IS A VOTE  
FOR BETTER REPRESENTATION  
FOR DISTRICT 38.**



# SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS HAVE BECOME CRITICAL POLITICAL RACES

By Gwen Lehman

A new movement called the “parents’ rights movement” has become a force throughout the United States. As a movement, it crosses ideological lines. Liberal NYC parents elected school board members who want to expand gifted and talented programs. In Spotsylvania, Virginia, parents elected school board members who advocate burning books. As it spreads, the “parents’ rights movement” is politicizing school board races that have traditionally been non-partisan. A recent *Washington Post* article discussed this trend, focusing primarily on the situation in Virginia. On the day the newly elected Board members took office, the Superintendent was fired, with no reason given and no plan for a replacement. This new board elected as its chair and vice-chair members who support burning books that Christian parents find offensive.

The Virginia governor’s race was impacted by the “parents’ rights movement.” On his first day in office, the new Republican governor signed an executive order ending the mask mandate for schools, which was a rallying cry for parent activists who are seeking more control over public schools.

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## SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS HAVE BECOME CRITICAL POLITICAL RACES

(Continued from page 7.)

By Gwen Lehman

The *Washington Post* article on Education by Hannah Natanson appeared on Wednesday, January 18, and included the following:

*Although parents have long served on school boards, this crop of activists is campaigning to restructure American public education so that parents, whether or not they come from an educational background, can serve as final arbiters for a wide range of issues, from whether masks should be optional to what books are available in children's libraries.*

Fueled by pandemic-related grievances such as school closures, remote learning, and mask mandates, parents became energized, and well-funded, to run for school board positions. While parents running for seats on a school board is not a new or particularly unusual occurrence, the current trend is troubling. The reasons for running seem to be powered more by anger than legitimate concern; an anger that is often unreasonable. It is also far too political and extreme to bode well for students, teachers, or for education.

Natanson cites records from *Ballotpedia* that reveal, on average, 30 attempts to recall members of elected school boards every year since 2009. Then, in 2021, there were 91 recall attempts made against 235 members of local school boards nationwide.

*A Washington Post review of websites and social media accounts identified more than 180 active parent groups in at least 34 states, the vast majority of them formed within the last two years to push for greater parental involvement in public-school education — and many of which fielded or supported candidates in last year's elections. In a December video titled "School Board Bootcamp," the director of the right-leaning 1776 Project PAC, Ryan Girdusky, said his group supported more than 50 school board candidates across seven states last year, 42 of whom he said won their elections. In the same video, Schillinger of the Back to School PA PAC said her group promoted 210 parent candidates just in the state of Pennsylvania, 60 percent of whom won their races. Although Schillinger is conservative and most of the PAC's funding came from one Republican donor, the PAC itself says it is bipartisan and "single-issue," willing to support anyone pushing for school opening.*

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## SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS HAVE BECOME CRITICAL POLITICAL RACES

(Continued from page 8.)

By Gwen Lehman

Clarice Schillinger, activist for the “parents’ rights movement,” is now herself a candidate for lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania. She is quoted in Natanson’s article as saying, “Parents have been boxed out; they’ve not been included. They’ve been shut off and shut down at school board meetings. So, they said ‘well, if you’re not going to listen to me, I’m going to become the one who will listen’.” Ms. Schillinger’s statement, on the surface, sounds reasonable. Certainly parents’ concerns should be addressed. What she does not acknowledge or address is the number of parents who, in fury, have shut down school board meetings. In one infamous instance, a meeting was taken over by parents who declared themselves the new board and began to vote.

Is it appropriate for parents’ concerns to devolve into tirades, heckling, a refusal to abide by the protocols of a public meeting? How many minutes should be allowed to individual speakers? Our society has devolved to such an extent that local, hometown Board of Ed members are receiving death threats. Some are stepping down, resigning their positions after being harangued and insulted by parents at school board meetings. Threats, bullying, insults and intimidation have too often become the means by which some have decided to make their voices heard. And some press their anger over non-existent issues, like the teaching of “critical race theory” - an academic theory taught in law schools, not to eighth graders. If you ask most parents what CRT is, they would not be able to answer correctly.

*The push for parents’ rights in education is a break from a more traditional public-school notion in which all residents of a county, not just parents, fund school systems, vote for school board members and hold school officials accountable, said Jack Schneider, associate professor of education at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. “The idea that parents are experiencing less control than they ever have is just wrong. It simply isn’t the case. But it’s an effective message,” Schneider said. “I don’t think that this is an earnest movement. I think it’s a cynical movement and politicians are using it for their own gain.”*

And that is the danger. Like so much in today’s America, this is one more effort on the part of conservatives to seize power and control, to impose on the majority the will of the minority. It is exploitative and dangerous and ultimately carries a political agenda. That education should *never* be used as a “political football,” belies the fact that it frequently is. It should only, and always, be a bipartisan issue with the best interests of our children in mind. In the United States, however, where our children are concerned, we talk a much better game than we have ever played.

# MORE THAN SNIPPETS

NEWS YOU NEED TO SEE GATHERED FROM A FACEBOOK FEED

"There are seasons in every country when noise and impudence pass current for worth; and in popular commotions especially, the clamors of interested and factious men are often mistaken for patriotism."

~ Alexander Hamilton

January 11, 1755/57 – July 12, 1804



AMERICAN NEWSX

## CEO to Worker Pay

1965 21 to 1

1989 61 to 1

2021 351 to 1

**CLARENCE THOMAS WAS THE ONLY SUPREME COURT JUSTICE WHO VOTED AGAINST RELEASING TRUMP'S RECORDS. HIS WIFE WAS A SUPPORTER OF THE JANUARY 6TH INSURRECTION. JUSTICE THOMAS IS COMPROMISED AND SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE COURT.**



Adam Winnie

@Adam\_Winnie

Remember when we gave every business in America a permanent 15% tax reduction a couple years ago and literally nothing got cheaper, most prices went up, and when a pandemic hit all those businesses immediately laid people off?

We are so smart.

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# DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF WORCESTER COUNTY

Members: If you have not yet renewed your membership by remitting your dues of \$15 for a single membership or \$25 for a couple, please do so. The Democratic Club of Worcester County is organized to unite Democrats across the county in an effort to improve our quality of life by increasing the number of Democrats elected in local and state government, as well as nationally, who will address our concerns and support our interests. In order to be effective supporters of democracy itself, we must engage in activities for the 2022 elections. We must be able to pledge financial support as well as volunteer support. Your dues support that mission. Please send your check payable to DCWC to P.O. Box 1664, Berlin, Maryland 21811.

**THE SITUATION IS DIRE. THE CAUSE IS WORTHY.  
PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!**

## 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

# It's Hard to Know Where to Begin

by Gwen Lehman

I don't know how I missed it. It's been evident for quite some time. Been staring me right in the face even: Republicans have abolished SHAME. In its place, they have elevated HYPOCRISY as the most prized trait among its members and adherents. If you don't do hypocrisy well, then you're just not a good Republican.

The following statement I believe to be true. YOU CAN NOT SHAME A REPUBLICAN. It does not matter what the issue; it does not matter how dire the consequences of the issue; it does not matter your previous stance on the issue, nor what you once tweeted, what you might have once said or promised or sworn to (like the Constitution) - none of it matters. They, the Republican Party, in place of a platform, have adopted a list of TRAITS which you must exhibit in order to remain a Republican in good standing. The more often you exhibit these traits, the higher ranking you will achieve in the party.

Top of the list: *The inability to be shamed*. As a result, it does not matter what you say or what you do; how ignoble your cause; how antithetical it might be to your previous declarations, your sworn promises - *what's a promise?* - or your oath of office. No matter that your leopard spots change color - often - YOU MUST NEVER FEEL ASHAMED ABOUT IT. You can lie and then lie your way out of the lie. Someone has you on tape? DENY IT. SAY THAT ISN'T YOU. IT WAS TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT. YOU CAN'T REMEMBER. YOU WERE MISQUOTED. If they call you out on a lie, LIE BIGGER and HARDER.

Abolishing SHAME gives you such privilege. You can grind democracy under your heel, undermine it six ways to Sunday, and still feel good about yourself. Once you can not be shamed, HYPOCRISY, the second of the cardinal traits, will taste sweet on your lips. It will come to suit, as will LYING, the third of the cardinal traits. Republicans have mastered the art of denying reality and are egregiously proud of themselves for doing so. No shame there, except for the rest of us who feel shame for the United States of America.

## Mini-Calendar

**Thursday, January 27th**

DCWC General Meeting

6 p.m. via ZOOM

Speaker: Monica Brooks,  
Environmentalist

**Thursday, February 24th**

DCWC General Meeting

6 p.m. via ZOOM

Speaker: TBA



“We need leaders not in love with money, but in love with justice. Not in love with publicity, but in love with humanity.”

-Martin Luther King, Jr.