

NEWSLETTER

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

WE STAND WITH UKRAINE

DCWC to MEET MAY 26th at 4 p.m.

**Guest Speaker Katie Curran O'Malley
Candidate for MD Attorney General**



“I have the experience and knowledge of our criminal justice system that our Attorney General will need to do the job on day one. I will fight every day to protect all Marylanders and ensure that everyone is treated equally because everyone deserves justice and a fair chance.” - Katie Curran O'Malley

Join DCWC on Thursday, May 26th, at 4 p.m. via Zoom and meet Katie Curran O'Malley, Democratic candidate for Maryland Attorney General. Born and raised in Baltimore, Katie O'Malley is the daughter of the longest-serving Maryland Attorney General J. Joseph Curran, Jr. A graduate of Towson University and the University of Baltimore Law School, Mrs. O'Malley has served as an Assistant Attorney General and as a District Court Judge. But she began her career as a public service attorney helping victims and defendants navigate Maryland's legal system.

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2022-2023

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A Message from Your President

Vicky Wallace, DCWC President

Fellow Democrats,

The other side has tipped its hand. It is their full intention to suppress the vote, remove a woman's right to choice, and to deconstruct the machinery of America. The Rule of Law appears to be optional to the followers of the twice-impeached and thoroughly disgraced former president. We here on the Eastern Shore are well aware of the total incompetence of our current U.S. Representative and our State Representatives (M-1). You can correct this travesty by

PLEDGING & VOTING !!!

The Democratic Central Committee of Worcester County is asking you to support its 2022 Blue Pledge Initiative. The Blue Pledge 2022 will allow the DCCWC to have a sustainable source of income which will enable it to help plan and to help fund Democratic activities in our county. The central committee establishes a campaign office during elections. It provides yard signs and other signage throughout the county. It allows us to establish a web presence (wcmddems.org). We need you to **PLEDGE & VOTE!!!**

There are numerous vital races that need to be won by Democrats, including the races for Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Worcester County Council, and seats on the Worcester County Board of Education.

Support the Blue Pledge by completing the Pledge form included in this newsletter. **PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT & VOTE !!!!** In our lifetimes, it has never been more important that ALL Democrats, all like-minded Independents, and all horrified Republicans or former Republicans **VOTE BLUE**. In our lifetimes, there has never been more at stake. Support the Blue Pledge '22!



BLUE PLEDGE 2022

DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

WORCESTER COUNTY

Blue Pledge is a Democratic Central Committee fundraising event. Over the past 8 years, the DCCWC has been successful in raising funds through this annual Blue Pledge campaign. Your pledge of \$100 will help support local Democratic candidates, pay for campaign office space, materials, supplies, and signage. The Worcester County Democratic Party needs a sustainable, and predictable, source of income with which to support Democratic candidates locally and at the state level and national level. If you have pledged before, we thank you and hope you will renew your pledge ASAP. If this is your first Blue Pledge, we urge you to pledge NOW! The need is great, the issues many. Please support Worcester County Democrats as we fight to move our county, our state, and our nation forward into a future of equal rights and justice for all Americans.

DCCWC, P.O. Box 34, BERLIN, MARYLAND 21811

Name of Contributor _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Occupation: _____ . Employer _____

(The above information is required by law.)

___ Gold Pledge of \$100 (1 time payment enclosed.)

___ Gold Pledge of \$100 (4 quarterly payments of \$25 each)

___ Platinum Pledge of \$200 (1 time payment enclosed)

___ Platinum Pledge of \$200 (4 quarterly payments of \$50 each)

___ Diamond Pledge of \$ _____

Call Vicky Wallace, Treasurer at 410-208-2969 to discuss payments.

Mail your check made out to DCCWC to P.O. Box 34, Berlin, MD 21811.

Contributions to the DCCWC are not tax deductible. Thank you for your pledge.

THE “RATIONAL BASIS” TEST

By Steve Cohen

United States v. Vaello Madero, which the Supreme Court decided on Thursday, is a heartbreaking case. It asks whether many of the poorest and most vulnerable Americans can be cut off by their own government simply because they live in the wrong part of the United States.

But *Vaello Madero* is also a case about democracy, and whether democratic governments can enact policies that are needlessly cruel. In an 8-1 decision joined by every justice but Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the Court effectively answered that question in the affirmative.

The case involves Jose Luis Vaello Madero, an American citizen who is very poor. After Vaello Madero became seriously ill in 2011, he started receiving benefits under a federal program called Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which provides financial assistance to aged, blind, or disabled individuals who lack the means to support themselves.

About a year after he started receiving benefits, Vaello Madero moved from New York to Puerto Rico so that he could be closer to his family, and the government continued to deposit his SSI benefits into his bank account for a few years after that. In 2016, however, Vaello Madero filed for additional Social Security benefits, and the federal government learned for the first time that he'd relocated to Puerto Rico.

This seemingly innocent decision had terrible consequences for Vaello Madero because, by law, SSI benefits are only available to residents of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or the Northern Mariana Islands. Puerto Ricans are eligible for a different program, known as Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (AABD), but the benefits under AABD are far smaller than the benefits available under SSI.

Under existing law, *Vaello Madero* was correctly decided. It's rooted in a longstanding legal rule, known as the “rational basis” test, which provides that courts should typically defer to the policy decisions made by elected branches, especially when those decisions involve economic policy. This rational basis test is one of the *(Continued on page 5.)*

THE “RATIONAL BASIS” TEST

(Continued from page 4.)

hard fought progressive victories of the Franklin Roosevelt administration, because it ensured that the Supreme Court would stop sabotaging New Deal programs.

But, as *Vaello Madero* shows, this sort of judicial deference can be a double-edged sword.

Rational basis, briefly explained

The rational basis test was a liberal Democratic response to early twentieth century Supreme Court decisions that sabotaged progressive legislation, often relying on highly dubious legal reasoning to do so. In the first third of the twentieth century, the Court struck down federal child labor laws, invalidated minimum wage laws, stripped workers of their right to unionize, and struck down laws prohibiting employers from overworking their employees — among many other things.

After the Court started striking down New Deal programs, Roosevelt went to war with the Court’s conservative majority— at one point threatening to add additional seats to the Supreme Court in order to dilute the conservative justices’ votes. Eventually, conservative Justice Owen Roberts broke with his four most right-wing colleagues and started voting with more liberal justices to dismantle the doctrines the Court had used to strike down things like child labor laws.

Basically, under this rational basis test, courts will uphold nearly all legislation so long as the government is able to articulate some rational reason why it should exist. Kavanaugh’s opinion in *Vaello Madero* holds that Congress’s decision not to provide SSI benefits to Puerto Rican residents clears the very low bar set by the rational basis test.

As Kavanaugh notes, “residents of Puerto Rico are typically exempt from most federal income, gift, estate, and excise taxes,” but they do pay “Social Security, Medicare, and unemployment taxes.” Meanwhile, on the (Continued on page 6.)

THE “RATIONAL BASIS” TEST

(Continued from page 5.)

benefits side, residents of Puerto Rico are eligible for some federal benefits — including Medicare, Social Security, and unemployment benefits — but not others.

Given that residents of Puerto Rico, as a whole, pay fewer taxes than residents of the mainland, Kavanaugh concludes that it is rational for those same residents to receive fewer benefits.

As a policy matter, this argument isn't especially convincing. As Sotomayor writes in dissent, SSI is not a program for the territory of Puerto Rico, it is a program for individual Americans. And, because SSI is a program for the poor, “SSI recipients pay few if any taxes at all,” regardless of where they live. If Vaello Madero moved back to New York, it is unlikely that he would pay any federal income taxes, but he would nonetheless be eligible for SSI.

But the rational basis test does not care if a federal policy is actually a good idea — the whole point of this test is to get judges out of the business of second-guessing Congress's policy choices. And so, if you accept that the New Deal Court was correct to stop sabotaging Roosevelt's policies, it's difficult to argue persuasively that the current Court may override Congress's approach to Puerto Rico.



“How does one put together a democracy based on the concept of equality while running an economy with ever greater degrees of economic inequality?”

**—LESTER THUROW
AMERICAN ECONOMIST (1938-2016)**

DCWC MAY GUEST SPEAKER KATIE CURRAN O'MALLEY

Why I'm Running

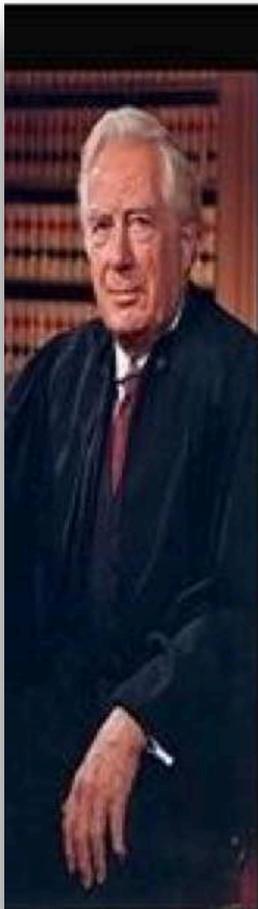
I am running to be Maryland's next Attorney General because I want to continue to help people in Maryland, as I have for my entire career.

I started my career as an Assistant State's Attorney in Baltimore County and for the last twenty years I've been a Baltimore City District Court Judge. I know how our justice system works and I know how it doesn't work. On the bench I was tough, when needed, but I never forgot the values that I grew up with. Everyone needs to be treated equally. Everyone deserves justice. And everyone needs a fair chance. That's the kind of Attorney General I will be for Maryland.

I will use the office of Attorney General to protect Maryland families, to fight for a criminal justice system that is equal and fair for everyone, to protect the civil rights of all Marylanders, to protect the environment, and to help ensure that we all have a voice and a vote.



**ZOOM in on Democratic candidate
for Maryland Attorney General
Katie Curran O'Malley
who will join the DCWC on
Thursday, May 26 at 4 p.m.
via Zoom to discuss her candidacy,
her resume, and her campaign's
goals.**



“The Gun Lobby’s interpretation of the Second Amendment is one of the greatest pieces of fraud on the American people by special interest groups that I have ever seen in my lifetime. The real purpose of the Second Amendment was to ensure that state armies – the militia – would be maintained for the defense of the state. The very language of the Second Amendment refutes any argument that it was intended to guarantee every citizen an unfettered right to any kind of weapon he or she desires.”

(Conservative Supreme Court Justice Warren Burger)

#DemVoice1

@LALewman



Honk and Wave for Women's Rights

Friday, May 27, 2022

4:30-6:00 pm

West Ocean City

Park and Ride

(on Rt 50)

12940 Inlet Isle Ln

Ocean City, MD 21842



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 have been held via Zoom and may continue to be in the near future. You can join us on Zoom.

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

MORE THAN SNIPPETS

NEWS YOU NEED TO SEE GATHERED FROM A FACEBOOK FEED

 **Carlos E. Gates**
@CarlosEGates1

Today the SCOTUS decided politicians can use campaign contributors to pay off their debt.

Our SCOTUS is actively encouraging corruption from our politicians.

Have big debts while you're in Congress? Call a donor for a lucrative quid pro quo.

America at its worst.



Remember that feeling you got when the second plane hit the twin towers and you realized what was going on?

You should have that same feeling again right now.

 **Padma Lakshmi**
@PadmaLakshmi

Questions for the people who are scared of becoming a minority: Why is that? Are minorities treated differently?

2ND ANNUAL CRAB FEAST

**JOIN US IN JULY
AT WHITE HORSE PARK IN OCEAN PINES**



The 2nd Annual DCWC Crab Feast will be held on July 14th from noon until 3:00 p.m. in White Horse Park in Ocean Pines. The Crab Feast Fundraiser will raise funds to support local, state, and national Democratic candidates. A major priority is to unseat District 1 U.S. House of Representatives incumbent Andy Harris. There are also local races of extreme importance. These include seats on the Board of Education and Worcester County Commission. Come out in support of Democratic candidates while enjoying a feast of the best hardshell crabs in the world, MARYLAND blue crabs! Side dishes include corn-on-the-cob. Bottled water, beer, wine and sodas will be provided as well as plenty of delicious desserts. Look for more information in the June newsletter.

It's Hard to Know Where to Begin

by Gwen Lehman

It is so hard to know where to begin. One horrible thing after another keeps happening: outrage upon outrage. My outrage is so adrenally-soaked that I don't think my body can keep up its demand for more and more and more. It takes a lot of adrenaline-fueled energy to be this angry for this long. Right now, it seems as if I have been "politically angry" for as long as - well, since I stood on the main thoroughfare in Las Vegas, looked up, and saw the name "Trump" on a tall building way down the street when I was still reeling and in a daze following the election where that megawatt idiot won. There were not enough slot machines in Las Vegas to make up for the tragedy of it all, even if I had hit a jackpot every time.

As a result of that election we are now contending with a conservative Supreme Court packed with right-wing political hacks. (Thank you for the phrase Amy Coney Hack-Barrett.) A "leaked" draft decision indicates that the Court is about to unleash a storm of addle-headed state legislators determined to do their worst. Republicans will not be content with merely overturning Roe, they must punish, shame, intimidate, threaten, destroy their enemy - women who want the right to choose for themselves. That Rs care about children is laughable. That they know so little about reproduction is hideously grotesque. A legislator in Oklahoma said that since an embryo stuck in a fallopian tube still has DNA, it is a person and should not be aborted. Well, golly, I guess it will somehow survive its mother's massive blood loss?

Republican state legislators are slobbering all over themselves in their rabid efforts to see just how draconian they can be in enacting new anti-abortion laws, all with the support of 6 right-wing political-hack judges whose black robes will soon come to symbolize the deaths of thousands of women, many of whom will be people of color.

I saw a young woman after George Floyd's murder who was part of a peaceful protest say that it was a good thing for America that blacks wanted justice rather than revenge. As a woman, right now, I want both.

Mini-Calendar

Thursday, May 26

DCWC General Meeting
Speaker: Katie Curran O'Malley
4:00 p.m. via Zoom

Thursday, June 23

DCWC General Meeting
In Person: Assateague Room
OP Community Building 4:00 p.m.
Speaker: TBA

Thursday, July 14

2nd Annual Crab Feast
White Horse Park
Noon until 3:00 p.m.

There will be no General Membership meeting in July or August. General Membership meetings will resume in September.

