

The Banner

An Online Monthly e-Newsletter for the Democratic Party

By Authority: FCDCC, Tony Soltero, Treasurer

August 2020

Central Committee

(Front Row L – R)
Lauren Beacham, Bill Reid, Deb Reynolds,
Mari Lee, Tom Slater, Deborah Carter,
Regan Riley (Back Row L-R)
Renee Knapp, Gabriel Cassutto, Tony
Soltero, Josh Cramer, Antonio Bowens

The Chair's Corner-

On behalf of the Frederick County Democratic Central Committee, I recently wrote an open letter to Governor Hogan, urging him to heed the requests of the Maryland Association of Elections Officials, the League of Women Voters, Attorney General Brian Frosh, and many others to implement mail-in voting for the November 3 election.

Ordering the in-person polling places to remain open for both early voting and election day is impractical and dangerous, as Senator Young points out elsewhere in this edition of the Banner. I would like to reinforce his points here. Jurisdictions are already announcing that they will have to consolidate locations because their boards of election can't get enough poll workers to staff them all. School buildings, where many precincts go to vote across the state, will be closed - as well they should be. As Maryland's COVID cases are on the rise, voting in person presents a public health risk that we cannot take

In addition, what happens when some voters refuse to wear a mask to the polls? We have seen enough violence from "anti-maskers" at retail stores to know that we can probably expect belligerent unmasked voters to likewise behave badly: to cough on poll workers, spit on paperwork, and otherwise endanger their neighbors. Why invite trouble?



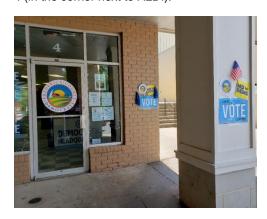
Voting by mail is obviously safer, and it's also less expensive than what the governor is proposing. By automatically mailing all voters the application for a ballot, instead of the ballots themselves, he potentially doubles the cost to the taxpayers. The Maryland Association of Elections Officials says that where this system has been tried, it was found to be "costly, inefficient and unsuccessful."

Please see Senator Young's additional reasons in the following pages, along with important information about how to request a ballot.

Two more quick items: Sadly, we couldn't have a gala this year, but look for news about our virtual rally and fundraiser, to be scheduled for sometime in October. As I write this, the details are being hammered out, but hopefully our events committee has made the important decisions in time to get a save-the-date into this issue of the Banner. If not, watch our Facebook page in the coming days – and I'm sure we'll have full event information for you next month.

Finally, be sure to stop by our office to pick up your Biden yard signs! For the month of August, we are open Mondays 12:00-5:00, Wednesdays 3:00-7:00, and

Saturdays 10:00-2:00. Any changes to those hours will be posted on our Facebook page. Remember that we pay for every sign we get, so donations – while not required – are much appreciated. Any donations we receive at the office will be spent on replenishing our supply of Biden campaign materials. The address is 1080 West Patrick Street, suite 4 (in the corner next to ALDI).



-Deborah Carter, Chair

August 2020 - At-a-Glance



The Women's Democratic League (WDL)
Monday, August 17th at 7 p.m.
For info please visit WDL Frederick.org

Frederick Co. Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC) Meeting
Thursday, August 20th at 6:00 pm
The meeting will be virtual.



Senator Ron Young- District 3

Last month, Governor Hogan indicated that Maryland would hold an in-person presidential election this November, despite safety concerns over the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

I support sending each registered voter a mail-in ballot (formerly called "absentee" ballot) for the general election. We need to ensure that everyone has the option to cast their ballot safely.

One cause for concern with the election is the possibility that we will not have enough election judges or polling locations. Many people who tend to serve as election judges are seniors and fall into the high-risk category. Many may opt, out of concern for their safety, not to work the polls this November.

It is a shame that Governor Hogan has dug his heels in and is playing President Trump's game to suppress the vote. We need everyone to be mailed a ballot. We could have a hybrid system with about a third to a half of the polls open in each county. We could find enough poll workers to open this many polls. There is still time to adapt the system if the governor would put the health and convenience of our citizens above politics.

In Maryland, voters do have the option of requesting a mail-in ballot without having to provide a reason explaining why they cannot vote in person. I encourage voters to request a ballot for several reasons. First, this is the safest way to vote as it allows you to maintain social distancing and reduces the risk of potential exposure to the virus. Second, if more voters opt for a mail-in ballot, this will help reduce lines and wait times at polling locations for those who do vote in person.

You may request a ballot at this link. Requests for a mail-in ballot for Frederick County residents should be sent to the Frederick County Board of elections at 340 A Montevue Ln. Frederick, 21702. If you have any questions about requesting a ballot, you may call them at 301-600-8683 or email them at electionboard@frederickcountym d.gov.

-Ron



Delegate Karen Lewis Young-

District 3A

NOTE FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE: Delegate Lewis Young submitted this piece for the July Banner. We apologize for our oversight in not including it last month.

Work at the state legislature is focusing on three topics: unemployment claims, police reform, and coronavirus planning.

Since the stay-at-home process began, there have been an abundance of unemployment claims that were not processed in a timely manner. Our office has followed up on approximately 90 claims that were backlogged with the Department of Labor. At this point, about 94% of those claims have been resolved.

On June 16, House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones, along with all 98 Democratic delegates, sent a letter to Governor Hogan asking him to issue an executive order for all state policing agencies to take affirmative steps in police reform.

"This is not a partisan issue: I don't care who gets the credit. We need to start implementing policing changes now," said Speaker Jones. "With the stroke

of the pen, Governor Hogan has the power to save someone's life today."

The legislators specifically asked the governor to immediately:

- □ Ban the use of chokeholds;
- ☐ Require that deadly force is used only to "stop an imminent threat of death or seriously bodily injury to the officer or a citizen";
- ☐ Require a duty to intervene for those police officers who see another officer using unnecessary force;
- ☐ Implement an early warning system to identify incidents involving use of force and immediately re-train that officer:
- Ban shooting at vehicles,
- ☐ Require that every officer within a state law enforcement agency sign an affirmative written sanctity of life pledge.

This request reflects existing best practice recommendations by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission but are not required among policing agencies in Maryland. Governor Hogan directly oversees ten policing agencies plus higher education policing agencies within the University System of Maryland.

I believe that this is a good start, but much more work needs to be done with screening police candidates, ongoing psychological testing, and sensitivity training. Also, funds that have been allocated to purchase military style weapons and training should be reallocated to community investments in health care, education, and social programs.

Speaker Jones announced the creation of the House Police Reform and Accountability Workgroup in early June, which will look at comprehensive statutory changes to improve

transparency and implement new requirements to prevent police misconduct. Judiciary's vice chair, Vanessa Atterbeary, will lead the House Workgroup.

Maryland's mental illness challenges are being exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Modeling is predicting 200,000 suicide deaths coming this year nationally, 75,000 of those cases being attributable to COVID-19 related mental health trauma. Many health care experts are predicting that the second wave will be accompanied by mental illness challenges that are equal to, if not greater than, COVID-19 itself

I have been appointed to serve on the Governor's Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health. The commission is tasked with studying mental health in Maryland, including mental illness challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of my role on the commission, I will also serve on the Crisis Services Subcommittee.

These assignments align with my dedication to better address Maryland's mental illness challenges.

-Karen Lewis Young



Delegate Ken Kerr-

District 3B

This is normally the time when we would be thinking about next session and what we hope to accomplish. However, with the current COVID crisis, it's difficult to plan. Honestly, we don't know what the 2021 legislative session will look like.

Last session was an ambitious one, where I introduced twelve pieces of legislation involving access to higher education, agriculture, consumer protection, family medical leave, school safety, medical practice, and the craft beverage industry. It was an aggressive legislative agenda, much of which was undone by the 90-day session being shortened by 19 days. One of my bills, HB0880: Maryland Healthy Working Families Act - Family Member – Definition, passed both houses and was signed by the governor. This clarification FMLA allows the spouse of a legal guardian to provide care for a legal dependent.

HB0882 Financial
Institutions - Abandoned Property
- passed both chambers but an
amendment added by the senate
slowed the bills return to the floor
for concurrence and did not make
it back to the House in time
before we adjourned sine die. It
turns out that banks do not have

fiduciary responsibility to act in the account holder's best interest and need only attempt to notify the account holder one time, by first class mail before turning the assets over to the state. HB0882 directs the financial institution to contact by certified mail return receipt if the assets are \$1000 or more. With the shortened session, we were unable to reconcile the difference before sine die. I will prefile this bill after working with all constituencies to agree upon a number that works for everyone.

I will also re-introduce HB0428 Health Occupations -Podiatric Physicians, which modernized the professional terminology for podiatrists and HB0675 Education - Public Schools - Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh's Act), About 1.5 million people in America have epilepsy, and 25 percent of new cases of epilepsy occur in children 14 years and younger. This makes it highly likely that a child's first unprovoked seizure will take place at school, and population-based estimates suggest that every year 25,000 to 40,000 children in the United States experience a first unprovoked seizure. Seizures are frightening for everyone having or witnessing one. There was some opposition as to when and where this 45-minute training should take place that needs to be worked out. If we can get that worked out before January, I'll prefile this bill as well with Senator Young as the cross-file once again.

The bills with which I have had the most success are those brought to me by you, my constituents. You are the people most affected by outdated or unfair laws and regulations. Your perspective and your stories are what helps to get unfair and outdated laws fixed and new laws put in place to help families, businesses, the environment and our children's future. So please contact me if I can be of assistance to you.

Stay safe; stay well; wear a mask. We will all get through this if we work together.

-Ken Kerr



Tom Slater- Frederick County Democratic Party Historian

The Rest of the Story

August 17-20 will be the dates for this year's Democratic National Convention. It will be a convention like no others - almost entirely virtual. No delegates, alternates, standing committee members or guests will actually be in Milwaukee, the site of this year's convention. Hopefully, it will be a television spectacular. For those who had planned to attend, either as quests or delegates, it will be a disappointment. Attending a Democratic National Convention is a "political junkie's" heaven. All voting by delegates will occur between August 3 and August 17 and will be via e-mail. The results will not be announced until the week of the convention.

Historically, at least going back to the 1972 convention, Frederick County has a tradition of sending delegates, alternates, and committee members to Democratic National Conventions. Information as to who has been a delegate, alternate or standing committee member is hard to come by. The information I am providing in this column is by memory (with Bob Kresslein's help), which is always suspect, and so if I have left anyone out, I apologize. In addition to quadrennial Democratic National

Conventions, the national Democratic Party has held three midterm conventions in 1974, 1978, and 1982. To the best of my knowledge, the following have been official delegates, alternates, or standing committee members to past conventions:

1972 (DNC in Miami Beach) – Bill Rodgers (McGovern delegate)

Ron Young (McGovern alternate)

1974 (Midterm in Kansas City) – Tom Slater (alternate)

1976 (DNC in N.Y. City) – Ron Young (Carter delegate)

Wilbur Ford (Carter alternate)

1978 (Midterm in Memphis) – Mary Schneider

1980 (DNC in N.Y. City) – Tom Slater (Kennedy delegate)

1982 (Midterm in Philadelphia) – Tom Slater

1984 (DNC in San Francisco) – Geb Byron (Unpledged delegate)

Galen Clagett (Mondale delegate)

Beverly Byron (Member of Congress)

1988 (DNC in Atlanta) – Beverly Byron (Member of Congress)

Karen Blood (Dukakis delegate)

1992 (DNC in N.Y. City) - No one

1996 (DNC in Chicago) – Sue Hecht (Clinton delegate)

2000 (DNC in L.A.) – Sue Hecht (Gore delegate)

Rosemary McDermott (Gore delegate)

2004 (DNC in Boston) – Sue Hecht (Kerry delegate)

Dan Rupli (Kerry delegate)

Jennifer Dougherty (Kerry delegate)

2008 (DNC in Denver) – Ann-Marie Luciano (Obama delegate)

Geb Byron (Obama delegate)

Sue Hecht (Obama delegate)

Tom Slater (Rules Committee)

2012 (DNC in Charlotte) – Tom Slater (Obama delegate)

Bob Kresslein (Obama delegate)

Myrna Whitworth (Obama delegate)

Caitlyn Leiter-Mason (Obama delegate)

Mollie Byron (Obama delegate)

2016 (DNC in Philadelphia) - No one

2020 (DNC virtual in Milwaukee) – Tom Slater (Biden delegate)

William Reid (Biden delegate)

Karen Lewis Young (Biden delegate)

Helen Kerr (Biden delegate)

Diane Fink (Biden delegate)

Jessica Fitzwater (Biden alternate)

As you can see, this year we have a record for the number of Frederick Countians going to the convention – oops, I mean, attending virtually.

In Memoriam:

Democrats and the nation lost a great one last month – Congressman John Lewis was one of the most admired and respected leaders of the civil rights movement and was an outstanding member of Congress.

Former delegate George Littrell lost his beloved wife, Mary Sue; Ron Young lost his older brother Fred; and Ryan Trout lost his grandfather. May they rest in peace.

Pictures:

Frederick resident Mary Schneider was selected to be a delegate to the 1978 Midterm Conference by a caucus held at Hood College (shown with Jim Kraft, from Howard County, who was also chosen as a delegate from the 6th C.D. and Tom Slater, Caucus Chair)



Democratic National Convention delegates from Maryland who were also National Education Association members with Governor Harry Hughes at the 1980 Democratic National Convention



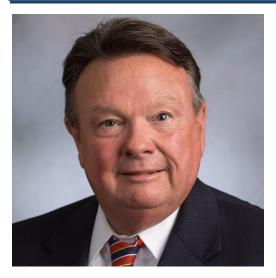
Tom Slater at the 2012 Democratic National Convention with former Governor Parris Glendening



Congressman John Lewis at the 2006 Progressive Maryland dinner



The Banner



FROM YOUR REPRESENTATIVE on the DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

By Bob Kresslein

Last month, I was honored to be elected by the Maryland Democratic State Central Committee to serve as Democratic National Committeeman for the State of Maryland as one of four members of the National Committee from Maryland, serving alongside of Bel Leong Hong of Montgomery County, Cheryl Landis of Prince George's County, and Robbie Leonard of Baltimore County. My term will begin immediately after the upcoming (virtual) Democratic National Convention and span for the following four years.

As a member of the National Committee. I will be involved in subcommittee work shaping the future of the party. I hope that my experience as a member and past President of the United Democrats of Frederick County and long-time involvement with our local Central Committee will assist me in focusing the National Committee on the importance of party building and collaboration in exurban and rural "red" and "purple" counties. It is important to have a relevant and vital party in all areas of the country, lest we risk losing the presidency again despite garnering a majority of the national popular vote.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Deborah Carter and the members of the Frederick County Democratic State Central Committee for supporting my nomination. I would especially like to thank my good friend Tom Slater, my political mentor and colleague, with whom I have wound my way through the folkways of Maryland politics.

More activism to come!



Rae Gallagher

Board of Education 2020 candidate

In January 2020, I was appointed to the Board of Education by County Executive Jan Gardner to fill the vacancy of Joy Schaefer. Wow! What a time to be joining the BOE! As soon as I felt I was becoming acclimated to the role of the Board, visiting schools and programs throughout the county, the COVID-19 pandemic began and changed the way we operated not just in daily life, but within our education system. Despite the challenges faced across our state. our county, and our education system as a result of the pandemic, my commitment to FCPS remains unwavering. I seek your vote as I run for election in 2020 to retain a seat on the Board.

I am a parent of school-aged children. a strong advocate for our public education system, and I bring experience working with schools and districts through my non-profit background. As a Board member, I am continuing to work to ensure that all students can access resources and programs in an equitable environment where they can thrive. I believe that within our school system, every educator should possess the resources that they need to be successful in and outside the classroom: competitive salary and benefits, access to collaboration and planning, meaningful professional development, smaller class sizes, and support in meeting the many unique needs of our diverse student population.

I also believe as a Board member, it is critically important to work in deep collaboration with our schools, with our teachers, with parents, and most critically - with our students. The needs of our schools and county are varied - and in some areas, rapidly changing. Our BOE members need to continue to listen and collaborate with those most affected by our decisions. Beyond the immediacy of determining how to best meet the needs of our community during the pandemic - we need members on the Board of Education who will work together toward positive change.

If elected in November, you can count on my steadfast commitment to advocating for the resources we need, ensuring we prioritize programs that allow our students to remain competitive in college and careers, and making decisions to help attract and retain high-quality, diverse educators for our classrooms and beyond. I am proud to be a current member of the Board of Education as we seek solutions to the various challenges facing our school system. I would love to connect with you and hear about your thoughts on the direction of our schools in Frederick County or if you are interested in getting involved with my campaign. I can be reached at RaeforFC@gmail.com. www.raeforfc.com, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/raeforfc.



Lois Jarman - Board of Education

2020 has really been a year of challenges for the Frederick County Board of Education. I am proud of the work that we are doing as a board! While distance learning is not ideal for our FCPS students, our staff and TEACHERS came together to meet the challenge of the COVID health crisis. The community support and the work of parents in assisting students was essential to the completion of the academic year. Graduations were not what anyone would have expected or hoped for, but FCPS celebrated our graduates in an amazing way! The board will meet soon to determine our plan for the fall semester. This will probably be one of the most difficult decisions that I, as an individual, will make. The safety of our students and staff MUST be a priority.

In June, our BOE published a statement in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. FCPS needs to create an environment where all are welcome, and we need a rich curriculum filled with the stories of many people of color. FCPS has established a racial equity committee and an equity policy to drive our system towards a more equitable setting. We have a way to go, but we are making progress. I am proud of the work we are doing.

Redistricting, facilities, celebrations, and budgets-in addition to the 2020 challenges: all on the workload of the board. I am running to retain my seat on the Board of Education. We have much work to do; I am proud of the work we have done, and I hope to continue to serve. Please consider supporting me with your vote.

Lois Jarman





I want to take a moment to update you on the campaign. With the support of many of you, I earned nearly 16,000 votes in the primary election and finished in 5th place. I am proud to have connected with voters throughout the process and I look forward to continuing to connect with voters and advance my vision for our schools.



For Frederick Board of Education

July has been a busy month for the campaign. The Frederick News Post published my letter to the editor, which addresses racial inequities in our schools. I am seeing momentum from the Frederick (City) Board of Aldermen and the Frederick County Council on addressing systemic racism. I argue we need that same urgency from the Board of Education to address systemic racism in our schools. This month has also brought two new volunteers to the campaign: a recent University of Maryland graduate who majored in marketing, and a current high school student involved in athletics and student government. They have brought additional energy and ideas to the campaign. They also will help with our social media efforts! Be sure to follow @bassforfrederick on facebook & twitter and @davidbass4frederick on Instagram!

Finally, on July 29th, I will be the first guest on 'Next on the Mic,' hosted by Tarolyn Thrasher.

Tarolyn has recognized the challenges of campaigning during COVID, and created a platform for candidates to discuss our ideas for the Frederick County Public Schools. I look forward to a great conversation, which will be on Facebook live and the recording will be reposted.

As always, please reach out with any ideas and questions at davidbass4frederick@gmail.com—I want to hear from you!

My best, David Bass



Campaigning in a new age, in a world of COVID-19, has been a challenge to say the least! One member of our community, Ms. Tarolyn Thrasher, is using her Facebook platform, Next on the Mic, to interview various Board of Education candidates so that voters can be more informed in their decision making.

Learn more about Board of Education candidate Sue Johnson, as she joins Tarolyn Thrasher for a Facebook Live session on August 10 at 7:00 p.m. on Ms. Thrasher's Facebook page, Next on the Mic.

Ms. Thrasher will interview Sue Johnson, who will discuss her campaign, education, and why she deserves your vote.

https://www.facebook.com/Next-on-the-Mic-101202831686906/

Virtual Activism

By Melanie Galloway and Kap Kaplowitz

What is virtual activism? Simply, it's taking actions from anywhere via computer, phone, or other device to get out the vote for Democrats. And with many of us doing this in Frederick County and combining with others throughout Maryland, and everywhere in the country, we become a powerful grassroots force for Democratic victories up and down ballots in November. In this pandemic, contacting voters face-to-face is not possible so virtual interaction is the only way to reach voters.

Virtual activism can take several forms. The most common include phone banking, texting, and postcardand letter-writing. Each of these is beneficial in reaching out to voters, especially those who do not always vote, and giving them the motivation that they need to vote in November. We may need to reach some voters multiple times in order to effect action on their part – this too is where the multiple means of outreach are beneficial. Some we won't be able to reach by phone, so sending them a piece of mail might work instead.

There are many organizations through which you can volunteer virtually. Take a look at this overview presentation on virtual activism to the United Democrats of Frederick County. Most organizations are focused on swing states or elections that Democrats need to defend or are viable to flip. By doing this, the organizations effectively target their efforts and best use volunteers' time.

We need to use every tool in our virtual toolbox to create a Blue Tsunami. No time to waste! Join us in virtual activism to elect Democrats and save our democracy!

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS



Stop the Bounce Back of COVID 19

On April 15, the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) positivity rate was 27.4%. The Frederick County Health Department is reporting, as of June 25, that the positive test rate rose from a low of 3.9% on June 22 to a current 4.4%. Now is not the time for complacency; we are not "out of the woods." Please continue to practice social distancing and wear an appropriate facemask that covers your nose and mouth. Let's work together to prevent a "bounce back" of COVID-19 infections in Frederick, Maryland.

"I wear my facemask to protect you. You wear your facemask to protect me"

-Dr. Jay C. Butler, CDC-



Frederick County Democratic Party Podcasts

Be sure to listen in as we discuss all things of interest to local Dems.

Listen on <u>Soundcloud</u>, <u>iTunes</u> or on your podcast app. Be sure to follow us too!

Important Note: Please help us by spreading the word about the necessity of voting by mail. We must fight the false notion that it will lead to fraud. Contact your representatives and let them know that you support national vote by mail for the general election this November. Fight lies with truth.

-Gabriel Cassutto

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Editor's Corner

Gmail users – Our mail server may cause *The Banner* to be delivered to your email "Promotions" tab instead of your inbox. If you do not receive your monthly edition, please check for it in that tab. If it isn't there, please send me an email and I'll check your subscription. You may also view *The Banner* on our website by clicking here.

Banner Newsletter Ideas?

Send me an email with your ideas, materials, or feedback for consideration.

Hope you enjoyed reading! *Gabriel Cassatto*,

gabe.cassutto@gmail.com

or

Central Committee - info@frederickdemocrats.org



and



with

Frederick County Democrats

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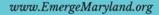
Click on the icons for a direct connection.

Check us out on YouTube too!





EMERGE MARYLAND HAS BIG PLANS FOR YOUR FUTURE.





EMERGE MARYLAND - WOMEN LEADERS FOR A DEMOCRATIC FUTURE

We need you to be the fresh, new voice for your community!

Maryland's premier candidate training program for Democratic women offers you an opportunity to take a 'taste' of our training.

This online offering is designed to help you determine your personal path to political leadership and how to get started.

Volunteer, Activist, Candidate.

One path can lead to the other. This summer offering is a one-day virtual training which includes workshops designed to show you how to lay the foundation and get a head start on your path to political leadership.

We know Maryland because we live here, too.

We will help you navigate your local political landscape, grow and solidify your networks, help you to determine your goals whether it's running for office, being a more effective advocate on issues that matter to you or volunteering to help another woman run her campaign.

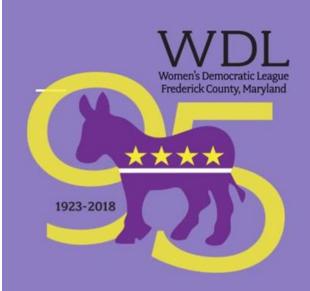
Find the leader in you and become part of the solution.

We will also help you to prepare for our full 5-month signature candidate training program.

Choose the date that works best for you and sign up today. Space is limited!

For more information visit our website www.EmergeMaryland.org

email: contact@EmergeMaryland.org



Monday August 17th Monthly Meeting 7:00pm-8:30pm 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote

Generational Perspectives

Discussion

More information to come!

Check back on our website and Facebook www.wdlfrederick.org WDLFrederick on Facebook

Questions? Email us at wdlfrederick@gmail.com





SAVE THE DATE!

"Give Green-Get Blue"

October 13 7:00-8:30p.m.

JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT FREDERICK COUNTY DEMOCRATS!

No funds raised from this event will be used to support federal candidates for office. By Authority- FCDCC Tony Soltero, Treasurer

