

# The Banner

An Online Monthly e-Newsletter for the Democratic Party

By Authority: FCDCC, Tony Soltero, Treasurer

May 2021



#### **Frederick County Democratic State Central Committee**

(From left to right: Lauren Beacham- Secretary, Renee Knapp, William Reid, Deb Reynolds, Gabe Cassutto, Mari Lee – Vice Chair, Tony Soltero – Treasurer, Tom Slater, Josh Cramer, Deborah Carter – Chair, Regan Riley, Antonio Bowens)

#### Chair's Corner

It's May Day, and more than a third of Frederick County residents are now fully vaccinated! We have hope that we can again hold our annual Democratic dinner in person this year. This dinner – recently called the Gala, and previously the Jefferson-Jackson dinner – is an evolving tradition.

The dinner is intended as a fundraising event, and funds are needed now more than ever. So every year, we try to balance the desire to hold a formal event and the

need to charge an affordable ticket price. We know that we can't please everyone; post-dinner feedback in previous years has included complaints as diverse as, "There were no rolls on the tables," and "It was billed as a gala, so I was expecting white tie!"

This year, we'd like to get your feedback before we plan the event. Do you want to get all dressed up to celebrate a return to normal, or do you want to keep it comfy and casual? Should we charge more up front for an open bar, or should we have a cash bar for those who

imbibe? Let us know your thoughts in this five-question survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DK PSGMG



The Central Committee has regretfully accepted the resignations of Lauren Beacham and Gabriel Cassutto. We are now accepting applications to fill these two seats. To qualify, you must be a resident of Frederick County and a registered Democrat.

We are looking for applicants with the time and commitment to work to grow the Democratic Party in Frederick County. Our regular meetings are held (currently via Zoom) the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. In addition, each member serves on at least one subcommittee. We encourage interested candidates to attend the May 20 meeting to get a feel for what we do.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Democratic Central Committee, please submit a letter of interest that includes your name, address, email and phone number, along with a brief resume.

Applications should be emailed no later than May 22 to info@frederickdemocrats.org.

Applicants must also be available for a brief Zoom interview on the evening of May 24.

Finally, four Frederick County municipalities have elections this month. If you live in Rosemont, your election is TODAY; Mount Airy is Monday (and we highly recommend a vote for Heather Hobbs); Woodsboro is May 8; New Market is May 11. Although these are nonpartisan races, we strongly encourage everyone to get involved. The decisions made at the local level often have a greater impact on our daily lives than those made on the federal level.

And maybe you'll run for office yourself? Walkersville, Emmitsburg, and Thurmont have town elections coming up later this year. If you live in one of those municipalities and would like to get more involved, we can help you out.

-Deborah Carter



Senator Ron Young

It has been a tough session with all the virtual meetings and social distancing, but I think we have passed some good bills this year. All bills that pass both houses are sent to the governor. The governor can sign the bill into law, or he can refuse to sign the bill and after a set time it will become law anyway, or he can veto the bill. After a veto, the legislature can override the veto if they have enough votes. Given that the Democrats have a supermajority, there is often an override of the governor's vetoes. By the time they reach the governor, many bills are often rather different from where they started because of amendments made by the House and/or reconciliation of bills that were differently constructed at the start by the two houses. Here, then, are a few of the major bills that got through to the governor (and their status) from this session. Some are House bills because only one bill will become law if the bills from each house are similar.

### Police Reform Bills: Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021

HB670 Police Discipline and Law Enforcement. (Gubernatorial Veto Override) Repealing the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights and substituting it with a new officer disciplinary process; etc.

SB71 Body-Worn Cameras, Employee Programs, & Use of Force. (Gubernatorial Veto Override) Requiring use of body-worn cameras, officers trained in de-escalation of force and a system to identify officers who are at risk of using excessive force; etc.

SB178 Search Warrants and Inspection of Records (Anton's Law). (Gubernatorial Veto Override) Tightens rules for obtaining no-knock search warrants and allows police misconduct records to be available etc.

SB494 The Juvenile Restoration Act. (Gubernatorial Veto Override)
Prohibits life without parole sentences for juvenile offenders and allows juvenile offenders who were convicted as adults and had served at least 20 years to have their convictions re-assessed. This law brings Maryland more in line with the rest of the country.

### Sports Betting and where the money goes.

HB940-Fantasy Gaming and Sports Wagering (Passed Enrolled)
Establishes and regulates sports betting. Distributes revenues to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund and the Problem Gambling Fund.

Digital Connectivity Act of 2021

SB66 Department of Housing and Community Development (Approved by Governor). Establishes Office of Statewide Broadband to ensure every resident has high-quality affordable broadband internet service.

### Alcoholic Beverages after the pandemic

SB205 Sale or Delivery for Off-Premises Consumption (Passed Enrolled) Extends Governor's Covid-19 state of emergency expansion of alcohol access by authorizing counties to allow restaurants, bars and taverns to sell and deliver alcoholic beverages.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

The comprehensive Climate Change bill was not passed. Legislators could not agree on the Senate bill that I highlighted in an earlier newsletter. Here are two bills that contain elements of the original bill.

HB991 Tree Solutions Now Act of 2021. (Passed enrolled). This bill includes specified "qualified conservation" of forests under the Forest Conservation Act. It includes a technical study to review changes in forest cover and tree canopy in the State.

SB137. Maryland Transit Administration- Zero-Emission. (Returned Passed) Prohibits (MTA) from purchasing non-zero emission buses beginning in 2023.

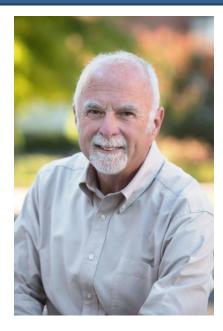
-Ron

## The **BIG** Picture Elected Officials



Frederick County residents: Confused about who your elected officials are?

Click <u>here</u> to find your representatives.



Delegate Ken Kerr

The 2021 session ended two weeks ago and was the third "not-normal" session in a row. In my first year, our speaker. Mike Busch was ill throughout most of the session and died on the penultimate day. My second year, we were sent home 19 days early from the pandemic outbreak, leaving much of the pending legislation to die on the vine. This year, we were separated into two chambers, watched each other on a large video monitor and voted on iPads. There were no delegation nights, no constituents visiting the office, no face-to-face meetings with constituents and stakeholders—but it was surprisingly productive. Some even say it was historically productive.

For Frederick County, it was productive almost exclusively because of the hardworking Democrats of District 3. While the Republicans of District 4 spent their session making floor speeches and grabbing cringeworthy headlines, your Democratic delegation quietly and professionally got the job done.

The four Republicans in District 4 (Ciliberti, Cox, Pippy, and Hough) sponsored a total of 33

pieces of legislation. Most never made it past a first reader and

committee hearing, but Delegate Pippy was able to get two of his bills to the governor's desk. All the others in District 4 came up empty.

Your Democrats in District 3, however, all put points on the board. The delegates (Kerr, Krimm, and Lewis Young) sponsored a combined total of 26 bills, seeing eight reach the governor.

Amazingly, Senator Ron Young shepherded a total of 25 bills through the legislature, getting ten of those across the finish line and to the governor's desk.

In baseball terms, the District 4
Republicans batted .060, and your
District 3 Democrats batted .352
(which, by the way, is better than Hall
of Famer Ted Williams's all-time MLB
record batting average of .344). We
would all have made the 2021
Legislative All-Star Roster if there
were such a thing.

Whether you are a Democrat, Republican, or Unaffiliated resident of Frederick County, your District 3 Democrats came through for you, for the environment, for police reform, for education funding, for economic development, tax relief, healthcare affordability, mental health access, agriculture, the community colleges, criminal justice reform, and aid to working families.

While we may not be grabbing headlines, making a lot of noise, and calling attention to ourselves, we are getting the job done for you.



Don't forget to check the calendar on our web site to keep up with Democratic meetings, candidate events, and more!

http://www.frederickdemocrats.org/events/calendar



Delegate Karen Lewis Young
<u>A Consequential Legislative</u>

Session

Several members of the media have labeled the recent legislative session as being consequential. Despite precautions instituted to stay as safe as possible during the pandemic, we were able to pass several bills issues dealing with police reform, expanded voting rights, pandemic relief, criminal justice reform, energy and the environment, health equity, and housing relief. Given space limitations, I will partially address four of these topics.

Police Reform and Accountability Act of 2021:

SB 600: Maryland Police
Accountability Act of 2021 - Surplus
Military Equipment and Investigation
of Deaths Caused by Police
Officers Senate Bill 600 requires an
independent investigative unit in the
Office of the Attorney General to
investigate alleged or potential
police—involved deaths of civilians.
The bill also prohibits a law
enforcement agency from receiving
certain equipment from a program
operated by the federal government
for the transfer of surplus military
equipment.

Independent Investigations

- Independent Criminal Investigations: Police agencies will no longer investigate their own in police-involved civilian deaths. A new, independent investigative agency in the Office of the Attorney General will now be responsible for investigating criminal police misconduct involving death.
- Staffing: The independent investigative agency may detail state police officers and other civilian personnel as needed.
- Military Surplus
- Acquisition Banned: Weaponized aircraft, drones, and vehicles, as well as other military style weapons, may not be purchased from federal military surplus programs.

Criminal Justice Reform:

HB 16 - Dignity Not Detention Act

House Bill 16 bans private immigration prisons in Maryland stopping new detention center contracts and grandfathers its three existing detention centers. Maryland should not profit off the unnecessary incarceration of immigrants or be complicit in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) inhumane treatment of immigrants held in its detention centers.

SB 202 – Correctional Services - Parole - Life Imprisonment

Decisions about parole should never be political. Senate Bill 202 takes the governor out of parole decisions for those who are sentenced to life in prison after 20 years. Maryland will now join the majority of states who follow this model. This bill ensures the parole process is independent and fair.

SB 494: Juvenile Restoration Act

Senate Bill 494 ends juvenile life sentences without parole; individuals who were convicted as adults for an offense committed as a minor can be considered for parole after being imprisoned for at least 20 years for the offense.

HB 742 - The Walter Lomax Act

House Bill 742 provides appropriate compensation through the BPW for individuals who are erroneously convicted, sentenced and jailed. There needs to be a consistent process in place to provide restitution and adequate resources so those who have been exonerated can have a better quality of life when they reenter society.

Election Reform:

HB 745: Election Law - Early Voting Centers

This bill modernizes the state's formula for early voting centers and will result in over a dozen new centers across the state for the 2022 election. The House has embraced early voting as a practical and helpful option for voters to improve accessibility to the ballot box. This legislation also requires local boards of elections to take into account equity and maximizing participation when placing early voting centers. Other factors local boards must consider include: historically disenfranchised communities, access to public transportation, and proximity to dense populations.

HB 1048 - Permanent Absentee Ballot List

The House passed HB1048 to make voting easier and more convenient by creating a permanent mail-in ballot option. Marylanders who want to vote by mail in future elections will not need to request a ballot for every election. Elections during the pandemic have shown us that our existing mail-in voting process works and that voters should be able to choose the option that works best for them. This is an important step towards a more accessible and equitable democracy.

Housing Relief

HB 18 – Right to Counsel in Specific Eviction Cases

The House took an historic step by passing legislation for Maryland to become the first state in the county to grant tenants a right to counsel in specific eviction cases. Under this

legislation, individuals who make 50% or less of the state median income will be eligible for a lawyer to argue defenses in eviction cases, including but not limited to, retaliatory actions by a landlord, rent escrow disputes, and lead hazards.

Ninety-six percent of landlords come to court with a lawyer, as opposed to only 1% of tenants. This bill aims to bring more balance to legal proceedings while granting representation to those who need it most.



Mayor Michael O'Connor – City of Frederick



Budget Reflects Commitment to Engagement, Opportunity, and Resilience

It is difficult to describe the community impact of the last fourteen months. The effects of COVID-19 have been felt personally by every resident, worker, and business in our city. It is against the backdrop of 2020 that last month I presented a fiscal year 2022 budget. This budget is responsive to applying the principles of engagement, opportunity, and

resilience to support our community post-pandemic and continue moving Frederick forward.

My budget maintains the existing municipal property tax rate for the ninth consecutive year and commits support to the necessary and diverse operations of Frederick, from public works, policing, and parks to water and sewer, parking, and the airport. Our residents expect the city to provide services that ensure a high quality of life.

This year's budget includes new proposals, highlighted below, to address sustainable urban planning, social well-being, safe and vibrant community, competitive employment, enhanced mobility, and civic engagement. We will continue to be flexible, thoughtful, and responsive to the changing needs of the community.

The City of Frederick and the O'Connor administration commit to being leaders and engaging in equity, diversity, inclusion, and justice by:

☐ Hiring an Equity Program Administrator to evaluate, administer, and track programs, deficiencies, and impacts in these areas across all city departments.

☐ Implementing recommendations intended to ensure more women and minority owned businesses have access to city contracts while addressing disparities in our procurement process.

☐ Enhancing constituent engagement and services by increasing multilingual and ASL translation capabilities.

☐ Instituting a Mayor's Fellowship Program to create a city-wide student internship program.

The City of Frederick and the O'Connor administration remain proactive in pursuing social, economic, and environmental opportunity by:

☐ Initiating a residential composting/food waste recovery pilot program.

☐ Supporting the creation of a Downtown Ambassador Program to extend resident,

business, and visitor support in one of the most dense and active areas of our city.

☐ Investing in further restructuring of the Department of Housing and Human Services to ensure organization model best able to deliver on its strategic goals.

The City of Frederick and the O'Connor administration continue addressing resilience in public works and mobility by:

☐ Constructing the stormwater improvements and surface flooding mitigation recommended by the Army Corps of Engineers.

☐ Responding to the needs of motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians through new traffic signals, street resurfacing, sidewalk development and retrofit, and ADA intersection improvements.

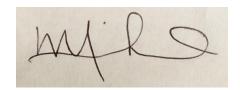
As we continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, I am committed to engaging with our community to create and sustain a community where everyone has the opportunity to live, work, play and thrive.

Finally, I've already reached out to many of you as I raise money for my re-election campaign.

The broad financial support I've received in return is very gratifying. Look for information soon about upcoming events and ways to gather and express support as we continue Moving

Frederick Forward Together.

www.oconnorforfrederick.com





Tom Slater-

#### The Rest of the Story

The speculation is rampant about who might run in next year's Democratic primary for governor of Maryland. Announced candidates include Peter Franchot, John King, Jr., and Ashwani Jain. Franchot seems to be the frontrunner at the moment with lots of endorsements and money in the bank. but the field of candidates is not yet clear. Those exploring the race include former National Democratic Party Chair Tom Perez, former candidate for governor and Maryland attorney general Doug Gansler, Jon Baron, Wes Moore, and former Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker. Speculation as to possible additional entrants in the race include 2018 nominee Ben Jealous. Congressman David Trone. Congressman and 2014 nominee Anthony Brown, and a host of current county executives (Johnny Olszewski, Jr., Steuart Pittman, Angela Alsobrooks, and Calvin Ball).

Is this the first time that Democrats in Maryland have had such a large number of potential candidates for governor? Just look to four years ago when we had nine candidates: Ben Jealous, Rushern Baker, Ralph Jaffe, Kevin Kamenetz, James Jones, Richard Madaleno, Alec Ross, Jim Shea, and Krishanti Vignarajah. Kevin Kamenetz died in May before the primary election; Baker led in terms of endorsements; but Ben Jealous won

the nomination with 39.6% compared to second place finisher Baker at 29.3%.

Going back fifty years in Maryland history, the next most comparable primary was in 1978. Incumbents or strong non-incumbent candidates dominated in the following years:

2014 – Lt.-Governor Anthony Brown won with 51.41% over Doug Gansler, Heather Mizeur and three perennial candidates.

2010 – Incumbent Governor Martin O'Malley dominated the primary with 86.28%

2006 – Baltimore City Mayor O'Malley won 100% in the primary after Montgomery County Executive Doug Duncan dropped out.

2002 – Lt.-Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend easily won the primary with 80% (although the fact that unknown candidate Robert Fustero garnered 20% of the vote foresaw a general election defeat by Republican Bob Ehrlich)

1998 – Incumbent Governor Parris Glendening defeated former Bel Air town commissioner, Maryland House of Delegates member, and Harford Howard County Executive Eileen Rehrmann 70% to 13% with two unknowns gathering a total of a bit more than 16%).

1994 – With 54%, Prince George's County Executive Parris Glendening easily defeated Maryland State Senator and former Delegate American Joe Miedusiewski (18%), former Maryland State Senator and Lt.- Governor Melvin Steinberg (15%), and former Montgomery County Delegate and Senator Mary Boergers (9%).

1990 – Incumbent Governor William Donald Schaefer won re-nomination with 78% of the primary vote.

1986 – Baltimore City Mayor William Donald Schaefer prevailed over Maryland Attorney General Steven Sachs 62% to 35%.

1982 – Incumbent Governor Harry Hughes defeated Baltimore City State Senator Harry McGuirk 67% to 22% with Ocean City Mayor Harry Kelley receiving 10%.

1974 – Incumbent Marvin Mandel overwhelmed challenger Wilson Barnes 66% to 25%.

1978 was an exciting primary election. Former Governor Marvin Mandel had been indicted and convicted and temporarily replaced by Lt. Governor Blair Lee from June 1977 to January 1979. Lee was referred to as Acting Governor Lee. He chose as his running mate in the 1978 primary, Maryland Senate President Steny Hoyer (who, as we all know, is now Maryland's longest-serving member of the U.S. Congress). Lee was from Montgomery County and a former State Senator. The Lee and Blair families had been long involved in Maryland politics. Harry Hughes, a former State Senator from the Eastern Shore, who had served as Mandel's Transportation Secretary, challenged Lee as did Baltimore County Executive Ted Venetoulis. In May 1977. Hughes resigned Transportation Secretary after a dispute with the Mandel administration over a subway contract awarded in Baltimore City. He ran as a reformer. He was a long shot to win and had a hard time finding someone to run with him as Lt. Governor, choosing relatively unknown Prince George's County councilman Samuel Bogley (Bogley was replaced in Hughes's second term with Joe Curren). Also in the race was Baltimore City Council President Wally Orlinsky and his Lt. Governor candidate, Frederick Mayor Ron Young. Much to many people's surprise, Hughes won the primary with 37.23% to Lee's 33.88%, Venetoulis's 24.56% and Orlinsky's 4.4%. Perhaps Maryland's 2022 Democratic primary for governor will be as interesting and exciting as the 1978 primary election was.

It is with sadness that we note the death of Michael Reidy. Mike was a newcomer to Frederick, coming to us from Guam, where he served as a senator. Before the pandemic, he attended frequently "Drinking Liberally." We also recently lost Al Imhoff. Al was a former president of the United Democrats of Frederick County. Al was a dedicated public servant, serving as a Frederick City alderman and on the Planning Commission for many years. He ran for public office as a Democrat, a Republican and an Independent. In addition, the Central Committee

expresses its sincere condolences to former member Gabe Cassutto for the loss of his mother, Teresa Case. Pictures:



#1 – Blair Lee (second from left) in Jefferson at Delegate Charlie Smith's fundraiser in 1978



#2 – Successful gubernatorial candidate Harry Hughes in 1978



#3 – Unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate Mary Boergers in 1994 with Democratic Frederick County Commissioner President Ron Sundergill and Tom Slater



#4 – 2018 nominees for Governor and Lt. Governor, Ben Jealous and Susan Turnbull with Joe Biden during the 2018 gubernatorial campaign.

#### May 2021 At-a-Glance



United Dems of Frederick Co. (UDFC) Monthly Meeting Monday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: Frederick County Public Schools Board of Education President Jay Mason. UnitedDemsFrederick@Yahoo.Com for info.

Frederick Co. Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC) Meeting
Thursday, May 15 at 6:00 p.m.

https://www.frederickdemocrats.org/events/calendar for info.

Women's Democratic League (WDL) Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, May 17 at 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker – Diane Fink, Executive Director of Emerge Maryland <a href="https://www.wdlfrederick.org">www.wdlfrederick.org</a> for questions and info

Frederick County Dems at the Food Bank Every Friday in May from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Maureen Grayzeck – mgrayzeck2016@gmail.com
Frederick Food Bank Program operated by
Community Action Agency, 14 E. All Saints St, Frederick

Frederick County Democratic Party Headquarters
Every Saturday in May from 10:00am – 2:00pm
1080 W. Patrick Street, suite 4, Frederick.



and



with

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Check us out on YouTube too!





For the month of April, we held two meetings. Our regular monthly meeting was held on Monday, April 5, with newly appointed Frederick Chief of Police, Jason Lando, Chief Lando comes to Frederick from Pittsburgh and is eager to institute his proven methods of community policing to work with our residents to make our city a great place to live. He spoke to us about his support for good police officers and due process. We are so fortunate to have Chief Lando in our community and nothing exemplified his leadership like the response to the April 7 incident at Fort Detrick. We are thankful for our partnership with the WDL to co-host our meetings and expand our audience.

Our May 10 meeting will be another joint event with the WDL, where we will hear from Jay Mason, president of the Frederick Country Board of Education. Mr. Mason will speak to us about his plans to update and improve the FCPS curriculum for students. Please look for our event on Facebook and in your email to register for the event through Eventbrite.

Become a member! Dues are \$20 individual or \$35 family. As a reminder, dues are payable in January of each year. You can contact us at

<u>UnitedDemsFrederick@yahoo.com</u>, by phone at 240-630-4280, or by mail at P.O. Box 3882, Frederick MD 21705. We're also on Facebook, so please "like" the page and interact with us there!



#### **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!

\*\*Tosh Cramer\*.

josh@frederickdemocrats.org

Central Committee - info@frederickdemocrats.org



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!



Join us for our Monthly Meeting Monday, May 17 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Guest Speaker** 

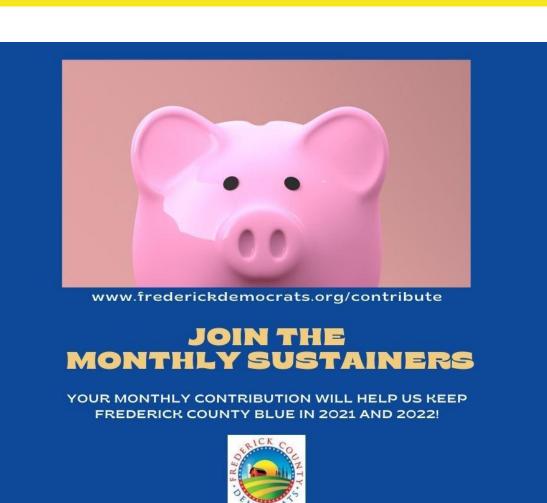
### Diane Fink

**Executive Director of Emerge Maryland** 

Visit our website or Facebook page for more info and to sign up!

www.wdlfrederick.org

Questions? Email us at wdlfrederick@gmail.com WDLFrederick on Facebook



BY AUTHORITY FCDCC TONY SOLTERO, TREASURER



### Help us get more women elected to local offices!

2022 will be a busy election year with a lot of candidates. Help us help them!

We will be training volunteers for the 2022 election: Choose your day or days: https://bit.ly/VolTrain21

Saturday, June 12 - 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Canvassing
Volunteer Coordinating and Recruitment
Data Management

Sunday, June 13 - 3:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Events Coordinator - Scheduler Researcher Social Media Coordinator



SIGN UP HERE: https://bit.ly/VolTrain21

You will need access to ZOOM and will be sent a link to the class via email.

Check your SPAM folder if you don't get an email from us 1 day prior to the event.

Questions? contact@emergemaryland.org

We reserve the right to add or cancel classes for any reason.

Your registration is non-transferable/ non-refundable.

Emerge Maryland does not endorse candidates