



# DEMOCRACY DEFENDERS

## Concerned Citizens Defending Democracy

*Promoting Democratic Institutions, Deliberative Dialogues, and Racial Justice and Reconciliation*

*By Building Bridges and Strengthening Partnerships*

<https://www.cddus.org/>

June 2022

### Events of Interest

#### Ensuring LGBTQ+ Inclusion in Local Democracy

Wednesday, June 1, 2022; 1:00-2:00pm ET

This webinar will discuss the importance of LGBTQ+ inclusion in local democracy, special considerations for ensuring that LGBTQ+ voters are able to cast their ballots and how local leaders can create space for queer voices on local issues. Hosted by National League of Cities.



#### Who Gets to Be an American: Race, Fear, and Surveillance in Domestic Policy

Wednesday, June 8, 2022; 1:00-2:00pm ET

Law enforcement agencies often treat communities of color as inherently suspicious, casting doubt on their American identity and limiting participation in our democracy. Hosted by The Brennan Center for Justice.



#### January 6 Select Committee Hearings: Watch Event

Thursday, June 9, 2022; 7:30-9:00pm ET (Various Cities)

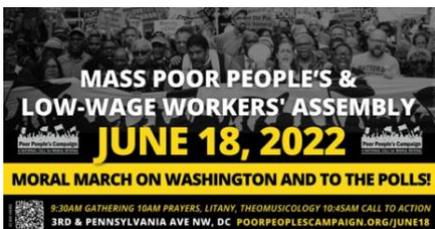
The Declaration for American Democracy Coalition will hold watch events nationwide so we can bring together people committed to protecting our democracy to discuss our plan to hold those responsible to account.



#### Poor People's Campaign March on Washington

Saturday, June 18, 2022; 9:30am ET Gathering

Many of us wonder, *what would it have been like to march with Dr. King?* Some may feel wistful that they missed the glory days of the civil rights movement of the 1960s. June 18<sup>th</sup> is your chance. In a reconstitution of the movement birthed by Dr. King, the [Poor People's Campaign](#) is rallying people from across the nation to march against systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, the denial of health care, militarism and the war economy, and the false moral narrative of religious nationalism. This is not just a single day of action, but rather a resetting of the national agenda on behalf of the 140 million people who are poor or have low-incomes in the United States. Co-chair Rev. William Barber II calls out: "poverty doesn't have to exist. It's our creation, not God's. The truth is, we shouldn't be asking, "How much does it cost?" to address poverty, but how much is it costing us NOT to? The truth is: moral policies are also good economic policy." Spread the word, get ready to march and gather on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at Pennsylvania Ave and 3<sup>rd</sup> St NW. Yes, we shall overcome.



### Opinion

#### Creating Sustained Multicultural Democratic Communities Through the Development of Grassroots Public Policy Institutes

By Deborah A. Wilcox, PhD, Confluency Consultants and Associates

More and more everyday people say they are frustrated by a lack of progress and actions stemming from current discussions that attempt to address concerns and the need for leadership and societal change. All too often these discussions have been divisive, with people pointing fingers at each other placing blame for difficult problems on the leadership in the community, politics, and government. Often discussions turn into narrowly focused debates and *quick fix solution wars* focused on the best strategy for action. As a result, communities and organizations never move beyond these apparent needs to discuss the larger, underlying deeply rooted issues. Pervasive in many communities, discussions on leadership and social justice change become dominated by a handful of people, often labeled as experts, leaving little room for a larger grassroots public conversation tied to how the community works and what type of change is desired by everyday people. Frequently, the voices of everyday people are not heard, included nor valued in shaping the public policy for their local communities they want to see.

The Grassroots Public Policy Institute™ (GPPI) establishes a cutting-edge approach for the development of sustained public policy that opens opportunities for the creation of *civic democratic spaces* within organizations, local governments, and communities to address the critical need for everyday people to engage in sustained *deliberative dialogue conversations (Speaking into Listening)*. This GPPI approach facilitates inclusive and equitable public policy creation to codify justice and parity with people who are traditionally marginalized and disenfranchised within society. Additionally, GPPI promotes the building of healthy relationships across cultural and human differences displayed in *race, class, ethnicity, gender, ability, sexual orientation, age, and more*, by building community among and between people who do not normally *talk and listen to one another*.

Given what the [research](#) has shown about the power of decision-making and policy change within local communities by involving everyday people in sustained deliberative dialogues, the use of public deliberative dialogue forums and conversations opens the door to community change. Changing the way people talk can change the way they relate to each other and to their complex community challenges and that behavior can produce an informed community public who are actively engaged in changing the quality of life within their communities. Additionally, sustained deliberative dialogue and conversations through the GPPI is foundational in the establishment of a thriving multicultural democratic infrastructure at the local community level for everyday people and organizations to *work through* and address difficult and persistent issues like the *dismantling of systemic racism* and implementing policies that address the [Social Determinants of Health](#) within local communities through the voices and choices of everyday people.



Please click the following link to contribute content to the newsletter: [Newsletter updates](#)

# Democracy Defenders

June 2022

## Safeguarding our Democracy

### Six on the Sixth

January 6, 2021 was a sad day for our country. To move forward as one nation we need a fact-based investigation like the one the bipartisan January 6 House Select Committee is holding. If we know what went wrong we can take steps to fix the problems. But the first step is getting a full picture of the day's events.

The House Select Committee needs to know that it has the support of the American people. We ask that on the *sixth day of every month at 6:00pm* you commit to celebrating and safeguarding our democracy by sending a tweet or message to Members of Congress; joining neighbors on your street corner with signs in support of the January 6 Committee; going outside, banging on a pot and pan and chanting: "To safeguard our future, examine the past. We support the January 6 Committee."



## Mid-Term Elections

### 2022 United States Congress Elections

A total of 469 seats in the [U.S. Congress](#) (34 [Senate](#) seats and all 435 [House](#) seats) are up for election on November 8, 2022.



### 2022 Midterm Primary Election Calendar

The primaries began with Texas on March 1 and continue through September before the general election on November 8.



### 2022 State Judicial Elections

A total of 384 appellate court seats are up for election in 2022. This includes: 87 supreme court seats and 297 intermediate appellate court seats.



### 2022 State Supreme Court Elections

Thirty-two states are holding state supreme court elections in 2022. In total, 87 of the 344 seats on state supreme courts are up for election.



### What Redistricting Looks Like In Every State

538's tracker of proposed congressional maps and whether they might benefit Democrats or Republicans in the 2022 midterms and beyond.



### 2022 State School Board Elections

School board elections coverage of the 200 largest school districts in the nation by enrollment.



### US Elections Assistance Commission (EAC)

EAC is an independent, bipartisan commission charged with developing guidance to meet [HAVA](#) requirements, adopting voluntary voting system guidelines, and serving as a national clearinghouse of information on election administration.

EAC:

Voting & Election Resources:

## Partnership for American Democracy

PFAD is building a movement by assembling a collective voice for change in order to rebuild the spirit of democracy in America.



## Interwoven Congregations Quarterly

### PCUSA Co-Moderators Offer Vision for Racial Justice

In the May issue of Interwoven Congregations Quarterly, the co-moderators of the Presbyterian Church USA offer their vision and challenge for racial justice to the church and all people of faith, with a special focus on Native American communities. The issue also includes a remembrance of George Floyd and statements regarding the shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde, TX.



## Roe v. Wade Discussion:

*The constitutional right for women to make decisions about their bodies*

### Roe v. Wade Case Summary

*Roe v. Wade* is a 1973 lawsuit that led to the Supreme Court ruling that made access to safe and legal abortion a constitutional right.



### Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization Case

On December 1, 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, a case about an unconstitutional Mississippi law that would ban abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy. This case is a direct challenge to *Roe v. Wade* and the concept of "fetal viability" is at the center.



### Justice Alito Draft Opinion

In May 2022, Politico published a draft of a majority opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito back in February 2022 that would overturn *Roe v. Wade* outright and end the federal constitutional right to abortion.



### Senate Failed To Advance Abortion Bill

In a 49-51 vote, the Senate rejected the Democratic legislation, with Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and all Republicans voting against it. Both Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), who support abortion rights, opposed the Democratic bill saying it was too expansive. This Democratic legislation went beyond codifying *Roe v. Wade* - it banned states from enacting many kinds of abortion restrictions. The House passed similar legislation last fall.



### Abortion Policy in the Absence of Roe

States lawmakers continue to consider and enact abortion laws in anticipation of an eventual overturn of *Roe v. Wade*. Currently, 22 states have laws that could be used to restrict the legal status of abortion and 16 states and the District of Columbia have laws that protect the right to abortion.



### State Legislation Tracker

Visit the Guttmacher Institute's state legislation tracker for policy activity on all sexual and reproductive health topics.

Summary: Tracker by State:

### Timing of Final Decision?

It is expected that the Supreme Court will hand down a decision in the case, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Center* at the end of June or July before the justices adjourn for the summer months.

Please provide any comments or suggestions to:  
[ccdd.connect@gmail.com](mailto:ccdd.connect@gmail.com)