



*The Baltimore County Democratic State Central Committee Presents*

15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
UNITY CELEBRATION

*Protecting Our Right to Vote*

*Thursday, October 7, 2021*

*7:00 pm to 9:00 pm EDT  
Virtually on Zoom*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/  
j/4323765798](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4323765798)

# *The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Democratic Party Unity Celebration*

## *Check in Begins (6:30 pm)*

You may join any of our Networking Breakout Rooms to say hello to fellow attendees.  
Slideshow begins at 6:55pm

## *Welcome (7:00 pm)*

Dr. Crystal R. Francis, Chair, Baltimore County Democratic State Central Committee

## *Musical Tribute (7:05 pm)*

Maryland My Maryland, Composed by: Jamie Raskin

## *Special Message (7:10 pm)*

Jaime Harrison, Chair of the Democratic National Committee

## *Greetings (7:15 pm)*

Honorable Ben Cardin, United States Senate, Maryland

Honorable John Sarbanes, U.S. House of Representatives, Congressional District 3

Honorable Kweisi Mfume, U.S. House of Representatives, Congressional District 7

Honorable Dutch Ruppersberger, U.S. House of Representatives, Congressional District 2

Honorable Adrienne Jones, Speaker of the House, Maryland General Assembly

Honorable John Olszewski, Jr., Baltimore County Executive

Honorable Chris Van Hollen, United States Senate, Maryland

## *Spoken Word Entertainment (7:35 pm)*

Keith Snipes, Performing Artist

## ***Remarks (7:45 pm)***

Noureen Badwi, Maryland Young Democrats

Yvette Lewis, Chair of the Maryland Democratic Party

Dr. Maya Rockeymoore-Cummings, Former Chair of the Maryland Democratic Party

## ***Keynote Address (8:00 pm)***

Honorable Jamie Raskin, U.S. House of Representatives, Congressional District 8

*“Protecting Our Vote”*

## ***Remarks (8:15 pm)***

Maria Town, American Association of People with Disabilities, President and CEO

Wes Moore, Author *The Other Wes Moore*

## ***Comedy Entertainment (8:30 pm)***

*“The Debate!”*

Featuring: Michael Furr, Todd Fleming, Jason Garber, Eva Lewis, Bunny Themelis

## ***Presentation of the 2021 Democratic Party Service Awards (8:50 pm)***

Jason Garber, First Vice Chair, Baltimore County Democratic Party

## ***2021 Honorees***

Voter Protection, Voting Rights, & Election Advocate: Honorable John Sarbanes

Criminal Justice Reform Advocate: Dana Vickers Shelley

Democratic Advocate (Central Committee Member): Danyell Winkey-Smith

Democratic Advocate (Community Member): Sachin Hebbar

## ***Acknowledgements & Closing Remarks (9:00 pm)***

Crystal R. Francis, Chair, Baltimore County Democratic Party

## *Baltimore County Democratic Party Special Guests*

### *Keynote Speaker*



The **Honorable Jamie Raskin** is the U.S. Representative for Maryland's 8th Congressional District. He previously served as the Lead House Manager in the second Senate impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump, which ended with a 57-43 vote to convict the president for inciting a violent insurrection against the government to overthrow the 2020 presidential election. This summer, he was appointed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to serve on the Select Committee to investigate the January 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol. He is currently serving his third term on the Judiciary, House Oversight and House Administration Committees and is serving his second term on the Rules Committee. Prior to his time in Congress, Raskin was a three-term State Senator in Maryland and a professor of constitutional law for more than

a quarter-century at American University Washington College of Law. He is a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, where he served as an Editor of the Harvard Law Review. He has authored several books, including *We the Students*, the Washington Post best-seller *Overruling Democracy: The Supreme Court versus the American People*, and the forthcoming *Unthinkable: Trauma, Truth and the Trials of American Democracy* (2022).

### *Guest Speakers*

**Noureen Badwi** is the President of the Young Democrats of Maryland. Ms. Badwi is a graduate of the Towson High School Law and Public Policy Magnet Program. While in high school, Ms. Badwi served as the student board member for the Maryland State Board of Education. She also served as the vice-chair and then chair of the Maryland Youth Advisory Council. Ms. Badwi presently attends the Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies to obtain her Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies with a Government Concentration.



**Maria Town** is the President and CEO of the American Association of People with Disabilities. In this role, she works to increase the political and economic power of people with disabilities.

Town is the former senior associate director in the Obama White House Office of Public Engagement where she managed the White House's engagement with the disability community and older Americans. She also managed the place-based portfolio and coordinated engagement across Federal agencies. While at the White House, Town hosted an inclusive fashion show that highlighted the efforts of makers and designers to enhance disability integration. Prior to this, Town was a policy advisor at the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy. While at ODEP, Town led and coordinated numerous efforts to improve employment outcomes for youth and young adults with disabilities. She has particular expertise in areas of youth development and leadership and promoting college and career readiness for all youth. In addition to her disability policy work, Town is the creator of the popular CP Shoes blog where she writes about fashion, design, and disability. She was recently named to the Susan Daniel's Disability Mentoring Hall of Fame and to the inaugural class of Emory University's 40 Under 40. She hails from Louisiana, where her family still resides.



**Dr. Maya Rockey Moore Cummings** is the Founder, President and CEO of Global Policy Solutions LLC, a firm that helps corporate, philanthropic, governmental, and nonprofit clients meet their strategic objectives. She is also the immediate past board chair of the National Association of Counties Financial Services Corporation and has served on a number of nonprofit boards including the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, National Academy of Social Insurance, National Council on Aging, and Baltimore Museum of Art.

Dr. Rockey Moore Cummings has more than a quarter century working on innovative public policy and multimillion dollar social change initiatives. She directed the strategy to elevate closing the racial wealth gap on the national policy agenda, led a multi-million dollar initiative to reverse childhood obesity and promote healthy communities, was at the forefront of efforts to strengthen and expand Social Security, and was the architect of the first-ever study examining the impact of level 5 autonomous vehicle technology on the U.S. labor market. She has testified before both houses of the U.S. Congress and spoken at events sponsored by numerous

organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and NASDAQ to name only a few. Her quotes and articles have been featured in publications such as the New York Times, Washington Post, The Atlantic, and Wired.com and she has appeared on MSNBC, CNN, ABC, CBS, Fox News, and NPR among many other outlets.

Dr. Rockey Moore Cummings earned her Ph.D. and M.A. in political science with an emphasis in public policy from Purdue University and her B.A. in political science from Prairie View A&M University. The former Chair of the Maryland Democratic Party and widow of the late Congressman Elijah Cummings, Maya lives in Baltimore City with her dog Andy.

## *The Honorees*



### *Voter Protection, Voting Rights, & Election Advocate Award: Honorable John Sarbanes*

**The Honorable John Sarbanes** represents Maryland's 3rd Congressional District and is a lifelong Marylander. In Congress, he serves on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, where he is the Vice Chair of the House Subcommittee on Health, and a member of the House Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change. He also sits on the House Committee on Oversight and its Government Operations subcommittee. Congressman Sarbanes chairs the Democracy Reform Task Force and is the author of H.R. 1, the For the People Act, to fix our democracy and give voice back to the people. He has worked tirelessly to bring Covid relief to Maryland families during the current crisis.

The **For the People Act** passed in the House of Representatives on March 3, 2021 on a near party-line vote of 220-210. It then advanced to the Senate, which is split 50-50 between Democrats and Republicans -- Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris is the tie-breaking vote. On June 22, 2021, the first vote on the bill was held in the Senate. It received unified support from the Democratic caucus, but Senate Republicans blocked the bill with a filibuster.

### *Criminal Justice Reform Advocate Award: Dana Vickers Shelley*

#### **Justice in Policing**

After the police killing of George Floyd, the ACLU Maryland, led by Executive Director Dana Vickers Shelley, ran a successful campaign to "pass impactful police reforms" in 2021. ACLU partners with a coalition of over 90 national, statewide, and local organizations to demand justice in policing.

These efforts led to the General Assembly passing the following four police reforms:

1. Repeal the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights (LEOBR).
2. Control of the Baltimore City Police Department must be restored to Baltimore City residents.
3. Investigations into police misconduct must be transparent.
4. Limit the use of force by law enforcement.

Dana is a Grown-Up Girl Scout and Rabble Rouser. After growing up in the Midwest, and living in Washington, D.C. after college, Dana was excited to move to Maryland and channel her leadership to make a big difference. Her life mantra: "Life is short; therefore I shall be a crusader in the struggle against ignorance and fear, beginning with myself." Dana lives in Baltimore County with her husband Bob Glasner, a Vietnam Era Purple Heart recipient.



*Democratic Advocate Award  
Community Member:  
Dr. Sachin Hebbar*

**Indivisible, North Baltimore County**



**Sachin Hebbar** is a long-time grassroots activist. He founded the grassroots action group Indivisible North Baltimore County to create a greater Democratic presence in Legislative District 42. Sachin has worked tirelessly to help fundraise, door canvass, and recruit volunteers in an effort to help Democrats win back seats lost. Each year the margin for Democrats grew bigger and in 2019 Democrats helped now Delegate Michelle Guyton win a House of Delegates Seat in 42B. Outside of this, Sachin was appointed by County Executive Johnny Olszewski to the Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee. Sachin also serves as the co-chair of the Baltimore County Department of Aging Transportation

Subcommittee, and as the Secretary of the Maryland Transit Administration Citizens Advisory Committee, and the President of Hunt Valley Indian Association. He carries his Democratic pride and values everywhere he goes.

*Democratic Advocate Award, Central Committee: Danyell Winkey-Smith*

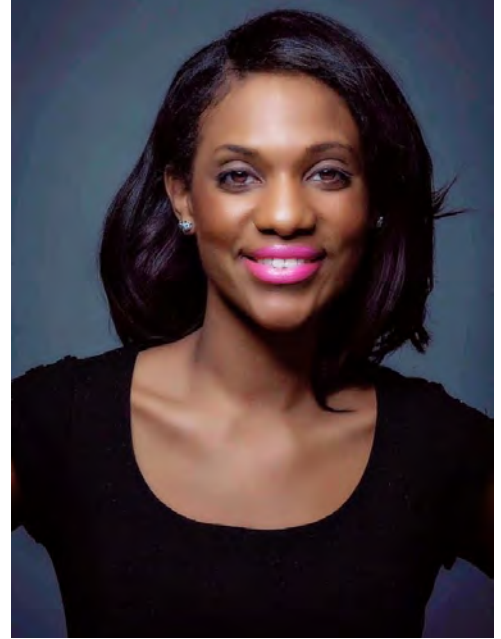
**Leadership, Dedication, and Community Advocacy**

**Danyell Smith** is the immediate past 2nd Vice Chair of the BCDSCC and a member of the 10th District. She has served the Committee for over seven years working on voter registration, education and mobilization. She is an active leader in her community and is very active in national, state, and local organizations, including her sorority (Delta Sigma Theta), Black Women for Biden, Black Girls Vote, League of Women Voters, Moms Demand Action, and the Positive Change Foundation to name a few. She acts to advance the interests of the Democratic Party, our Central Committee, her organizations, and community at all times. She often quotes her mantra for the importance for diverse communities to “have a seat at the table”. She has shown support for schools within her community and has spoken out on several issues within her general community. She works hard on the committees in which she is a member (e.g., Bylaws and Nominations) and even on committees where she is not a member but help is needed (Fairs and Festivals, Unity Celebration). She provided substantial help with the voter protection efforts in 2020 and maintained a regular presence at the polls throughout the election. When something needs to get done, Danyell typically volunteers to do it. Danyell puts a lot of her time, energy, money, and effort into the Democratic Party, voting issues, women's issues, criminal justice reform, empowering others, and raising awareness of issues.



## *Tonight's Master of Ceremonies*

**Dr. Crystal R. Francis** was elected Chair of the Baltimore County Democratic State Central Committee on July 21, 2020. She is the youngest person to hold the office. She has been an active member of the Democratic Party for over 16 years and has served the local Central Committee since 2014. The daughter of two U.S. Army Veterans, Dr. Francis has a heart for the community. Her leadership efforts have kindled new energy and excitement for local politics. She has helped lead the party with success throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with record level engagement and involvement with volunteers and community members. She is committed to building the bench of future leaders, diversifying the party's membership, and ensuring that everyone not only has a voice but also a seat at the table. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy & Administration from Walden University, a Master of Science degree in Homeland Security Management from Towson University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the Fulbright Association.



## *Tonight's Entertainers*



**Keith Snipes** is an actor, narrator, poet and vocalist. Known for his distinctive baritone voice, he has performed classic and contemporary works such as, Aaron Copeland's "Lincoln Portrait" and Henry William Curry's "Eulogy For A Dream." Keith can also be heard as the narrator of "New Visions New Voices, Moments of the Movement," a joint audio project of the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture, featuring first person accounts from participants in the Civil Rights Movement. Keith has portrayed a number of iconic figures, such as Frederick Douglass, James Baldwin, Malcolm X and most notably, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He has also played lead roles in numerous ensemble stage productions. Among them are "Jitney," "The Meeting," "A Raisin in the Sun," "Sty of the Blind Pig" and "Fences." As a lyricist, Keith has written jazz and choral pieces. Most recently, in collaboration with composer, Judah Adashi of the Peabody Conservatory, he wrote the lyrics to "For Martin," arranged by Adashi exclusively for the famed a cappella group, the "Whiffenpoofs" of Yale University.

Keith has also written and performed his original socially conscious vignettes and poems, including "Do Something with Your Hands" and "A Stone of Hope," featuring portrayals of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. respectively. More recently he has performed with Baltimore's Chesapeake Shakespeare Company in "Anne of the Thousand Days," "Romeo and Juliet," "Henry IV" and "Julius Caesar."



**Todd Fleming** is an educator, a stand-up comedian, professional voice-over artist, and Regional Sales Director for a global technology company. He is one of the more sought out comedians in the DMV with his knack for impressions and unique characters. He has provided voice over work for such companies as Chevron, Johnson & Johnson, GlaxoSmithKline, Regions Bank, Rockwell Collins, AmSouth Bank, and Pearson as well as several cartoon and film projects. As a teacher for 17 years, Todd has taught nearly every subject imaginable from Architectural Drawing to English to Physical Education. In addition to being an avid football fan, Todd enjoys playing golf and creating both comical and informative content for social media. He holds a bachelor's degree from Hampton University in Virginia and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education.



**Michael Furr** is a Baltimore based stand-up & improvisational comedian, director and producer. Michael Furr is the premiere LGBT comic on the Mid-Atlantic comedy scene today (according to his mom). His special "Straight Acting" is on Amazon Prime Video, Spotify and iTunes and his new special "I Didn't Die" will be released on Amazon Prime Video (open to everyone) later this year. Michael is also the Booking Manager for the Lou Costello Room Comedy Club in Baltimore.

**Eva Lewis** is the Executive Director for the Maryland Democratic Party. She served as the Northeast Regional Director for the Association of Democratic State Committees (ASDC) at the Democratic National Committee (DNC) advising and building the groundwork for Democratic State Parties to win up and down the ballot. Prior to the DNC, Eva served as the Political Director for the Maryland Democratic Party building and implementing statewide political programs and managing the Party's political relationships with local committees, candidates, and organizations. She has worked many years as an attorney, grassroots organizer and political operative building coalitions and increasing political engagement.



Eva is a proud resident of Prince George's County. She graduated from Spelman College in Atlanta, GA and Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago, IL. When not engaging the community, Eva enjoys performing improv comedy in the Washington, DC area.



**Bunny Themelis** is a Baltimore-bred comedian, artist and writer. When she's not doing stand-up, she helps brands make content for the internet. Bunny is on a somewhat inappropriately named podcast that is supposedly about politics and can be found on all media channels @bunnythemelis.

**Jason Garber** is the First Vice Chair of the Baltimore County Democratic Central Committee and member from District 42A. Jason works as an attorney for Moore & Jackson, LLC located in Towson. He is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association and Baltimore County Bar Association. He also presently serves as the PTO President for Cromwell Valley Elementary School. Before family and life caught up, he performed improv, sketch, and stand-up comedy for seven years. During that time, he created tonight's show "The Debate!" and is amazed that it is now used at a political event.



## *This Evening's Sponsors & Supporters*

*The Baltimore County Democratic Party thanks the following for their support!*

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### *Special Recognition*

John Holman

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*By Authority: Baltimore County Democratic Central Committee, Kathleen M. Dott, Treasurer.*

*Baltimore County Democratic State Central Committee Members*

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Francis, Crystal  
Holliday, Justin  
Holupka, Scott  
Washington, Eric

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Livingston, Ed  
Sugar, Julie  
Varela, Rene

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Cooke, Emily  
Forte, Margaret  
McHugh, Nina

***District 10***

Blount, Danny  
Jalisi, Jay  
Kelley, Delores  
Kelly, Pat  
Smith, Danyell

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Herbst, Jon  
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Kindra, Samay  
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Philipsen, Nayna  
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