

**Diana E. Conway**  
**Applicant for Maryland D16 Delegate Vacancy**

June 27, 2024

**Background:**

As the child of a Foreign Service Officer, I grew up overseas in a series of postings across the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and finally to the US in 1979 when I entered high school. Since 1991, my husband Billy and I have lived in Montgomery County. We have three grown children who attended MCPS schools, K-12, and we live in Potomac with two dogs. I speak fluent French and working Spanish.

**Education:**

BA in Public Policy, with honors, Brown University 1987  
JD, University of Virginia 1990

**Democratic work:**

I've been a registered Democrat and active volunteer since the 1984 Mondale-Ferraro campaign while at Brown University. The Democratic values I was raised with took off in earnest as we established our roots here. Right from the start my law degree has bolstered my effectiveness: When we bought a decrepit, historic farmhouse in 1995, I fell into the complex world of county land use and planning, and joined the board of a large civic association focused on those issues, which led me to many other such boards. When our children started school in a building that was 50 years old, nearly 50% over capacity and had lead in the water, I became president of the Potomac ES PTA and worked with the PTA and MCPS to address glaring problems while we waited for our turn in the capital budget. When MCPS' unique, first-in-the-nation Chinese immersion program was at risk of being closed, I formed a countywide coalition of families from all language immersion programs, and together we stopped the rollback and instead obtained an expansion of these programs which have produced hundreds of bilingual MCPS graduates.

**After many years of this work, my driving values have come down to two critical elements: a functioning democracy, and a sustainable climate. Democrats are the champions of both. I'm applying for this D16 vacancy because this is an opportunity to put my experience to work.**

My advocacy has always been on a volunteer basis: the work is its own reward, and the relationships with passionate advocates and dedicated public servants are enriching. I've given countless hours to participating in town halls and public hearings, testifying before our state legislature, the County Council, the Planning Board, the Board of Education, the Board of Elections, and many state and county boards and commissions. This public-facing advocacy is paired with collaboration with elected officials, staff and advocates. I want to help craft legislative solutions for county, state and federal challenges, and I've spent years doing that issue-driven work.

In addition to policy-focused advocacy, I've helped lead granular GOTV work with other leading coalitions and advocates, including door-knocking, standing at metros and early voting sites with candidates' literature, phone-banking, post-carding, etc., working both inside and outside Maryland.

My commitment to the Democratic party is also structural: Five years ago, I became a trustee of the Maryland State Democratic Party, and I've supported the Montgomery County Democratic Party since at least 2015, including through the Forum and Founders programs. Last June I concluded nearly four years as president of the Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club, recognized by our State Democratic Party as Maryland's largest and most active Democratic club. During that time, it was my honor -and a lot of work- to help the Club navigate through Covid and even expand our WDC membership. We built out our advocacy in Annapolis to an even more robust presence. Like so many of the boards and organizations I work with, WDC is a model of collaborative work built on a team of remarkable, committed volunteers. I would carry that model with me to Annapolis.

This activity has given me decades of experience organizing volunteers and fundraising for Democratic candidates and for progressive non-profits. I estimate my husband and I have hosted well over 100 such events in the past decades, including 14 events last year. My goal has always been to introduce voters and activists to great candidates and compelling organizations.

In terms of candidate-events, these have included our Board of Education, the County Council and County Executive, the Maryland General Assembly, our state comptroller, attorney general, and governor, and multiple candidates for Congress. This has consistently included highly diverse candidates, and from both inside and beyond my district, my county, and my state -- candidates who would work for progressive change and could make the best use of our pooled resources.

In addition, I've been a key volunteer or chair for multiple campaigns at the county and state level and was honored to serve as co-chair for western Montgomery County for Jamie Raskin's first congressional race, including hosting his 2015 kick-off. A dozen years earlier I was in Chris Van Hollen's parade crew for his first congressional bid.

The nonprofits I've hosted for include organizations like Emerge Maryland, Tommy's Pantry (named for the late Tommy Raskin), Manna Food Center, the New Pennsylvania Project, Maryland Matters, Trash Free Maryland, Communities United Against Hate, Pro-Choice Maryland, the Maryland League of Conservation Voters and others. I also mentored many newly-minted activists following the 2016 elections, more recently including MCPS students seeking to change the world we are leaving them. I continue to be a core member of multiple state and county organizations and coalitions.

**I want to take my energy, skills and network to Annapolis, to work for change and progress on behalf of D16 residents, our county, and our state.**

I ask for your vote to fill the D16 delegate vacancy.

Respectfully,

Diana Conway

## **Experience:**

President, Women's Democratic Club, 2019 -2023; Board member 2017 - present; founder and Chair of Advocacy Subcommittee on the Environment, 2023 – present

President and founding member, Safe Healthy Playing Fields Inc., 2019 – present; founding coalition member, 2009-2019

Board Member, Emerge Maryland, 2024 to present

Appointee, Maryland Environmental Trust, 2020 - present

Trustee, Maryland State Democratic Party, 2020 - present

Founding member, Montgomery Countryside Alliance, Board member and former president, 2001 - present

Founding member, C&O Canal Trust, 2007

Member, County Executive Elrich's Transition Team, 2019

Member, County Executive Leggett's Sustainability Working Group, 2008-10

Two-term appointee, president and vice president, West Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) 2004-10

Member, Montgomery County Zoning Advisory Panel, 2009-10

Member, Potomac Master Plan Advisory Group, 2000-2002

Board member, West Montgomery County Citizens Association, 1999-2011  
President and board member, Potomac ES PTA 2003-08

Delegate to MCCPTA, 2005-08

Founding member, Hoover MS Parent Foundation, 2008-2010

Board member, St. James' Children's School, 1997-2000

Reading for the Blind, 1988-89

Migrant Farm Worker Justice Program, 1989-90

Clinic escort and coordinator, Women's Political Task Force of Brown, 1985-87

**Recognition:**

- \*MCDCC *Kelsey Cook Volunteer of the Year Award*, presented by Rep. David Trone, 2023
- \*Special Congressional Recognition awarded by Rep. Jamie Raskin, 2023
- \*Montgomery Countryside Alliance Award for Service, 2013
- \*The Sentinel Award of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, 2012
- \*Citizen of the Year of the Potomac Chamber of Commerce, 2003
- \*Citation for service to the Potomac Master Plan Advisory Group, 2002
- \*Inducted into the Raven Society of the University of Virginia, 1990
- \*Honors thesis on Rhode Island's proposed constitutional amendment for a paramount right to life from conception, Brown University, 1987

**Professional:**

Research analyst, Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, for Iraq, North Korea, Pakistan, India and Brazil, 1991-96

Associate, Wickens, Koches & Cale LLC, 1990-91