

DONKEY TRACKS

JANUARY, 2023

#bluetotheore

Visit our web site at:

www.womensdemo.com

Women's Democratic Club of Clark County



@womensdemocc



Marla Turner
President



Donna Darden
1st Vice President



Esther Rodriguez
2nd Vice President



Dawn Dudas,
Treasurer



ShaRhonda Ramos
Corresponding Secretary



Mary Ella Holloway
Recording Secretary



Ida Gaines
Inspirationalist



Assemblywomen/men

Steve Yeager	Speaker Elect
Daniele Monroe Moreno	Speaker Pro Tempore
Sandra Jauregui	Floor Majority Leader
Cameron "CH" Miller	Ass't Floor Majority Leader
Howard Watts	Majority Whip
Sarah Peters	Ass't Majority Whip (North)
Selena Torres	Ass't Majority Whip (South)



Senators

Nicole Cannizzaro	Senate Majority Leader
Pat Spearman	President Pro Tempore
Roberta Lange	Ass't Majority Leader
Melanie Scheible	Ass't Whip
Fabian Donate	Ass't Whip

A Message from our President

Happy New Year!

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our annual holiday party. As always, the **Honorable Shelley Berkley and Dr. Larry Lehrner** were the consummate hosts, and a good time was had by all. Check our [Facebook page for photos](#).



The New year brings both a time to pause and reflect on the year gone and also a time to dream of better things for the year ahead. Here at Women's Demo, we are already planning ahead. Here are some quotes I love when thinking of the future:

We spend January 1 walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives, not looking for flaws, but for potential.

~ Ellen Goodman

Set your life on fire. Seek those who fan your flames.

~ Rumi

Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can.

~ Danny Kaye

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 12th at 11:30 am at the Mardi Gras Hotel. **Assembly Speaker-Elect Steve Yeager** will join us to discuss what's on tap for the 2023 legislative session and how you and I can help.

2023 membership dues are now, well – due. They are \$35 and you may [pay now](#) or pay when you come to our next meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,



Marla Turner

President

Women's Democratic Club of Clark County



To Do:



CALL MOM



PAY DUES

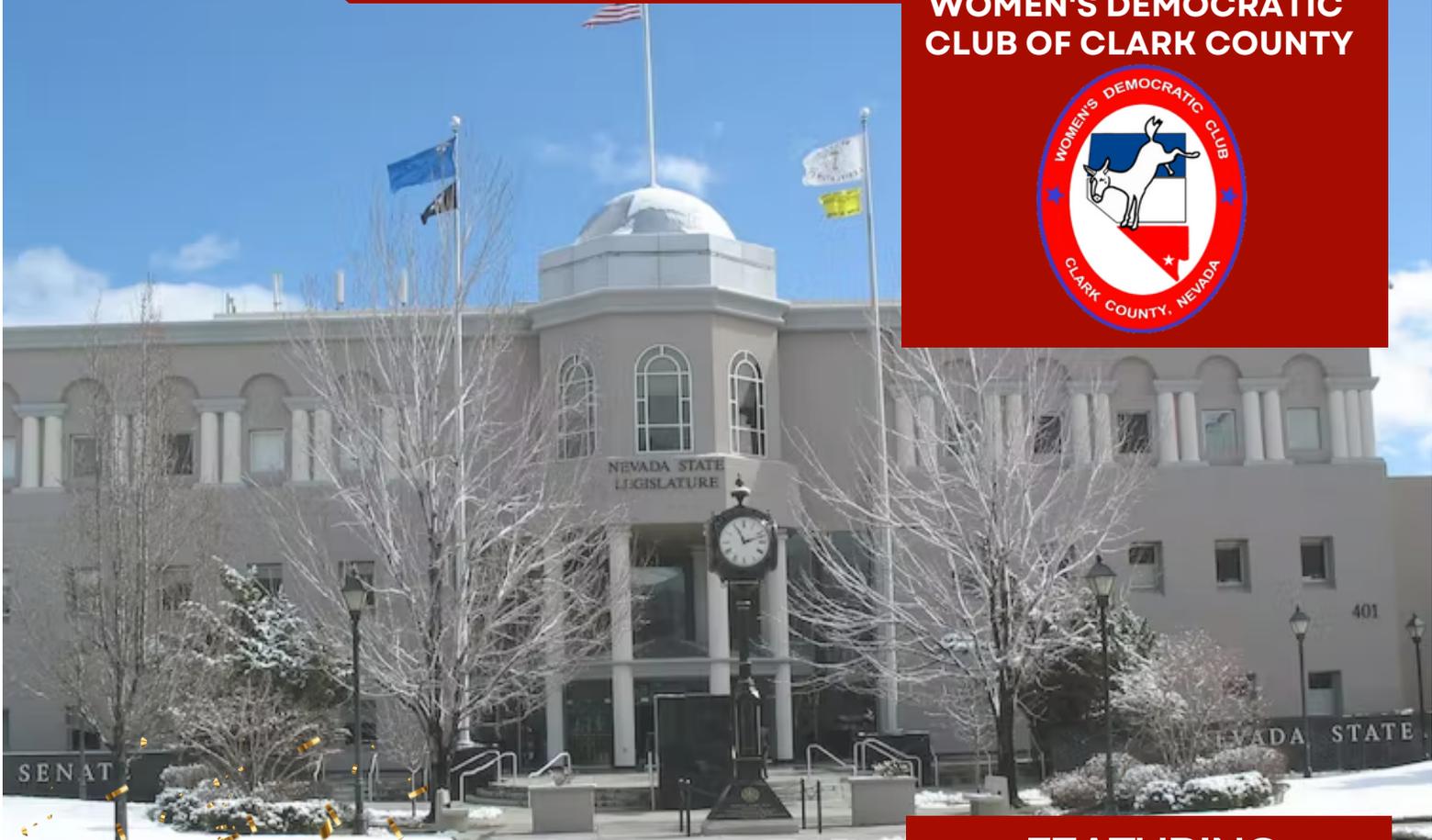


PAY DUES

\$35 for the year

[HTTPS://WWW.WOMENSDEMO.COM/MEMBERSHIP.HTM](https://www.womensdemo.com/membership.htm)

**WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC
CLUB OF CLARK COUNTY**



2023

**ASSEMBLY SPEAKER-ELECT
STEVE YEAGER**

AND OFFICER INSTALLATION

**January 12, 2023
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Mardi Gras Hotel Banquet Room
3500 Paradise Road | LV, NV 89169**

Lunch is \$21 online, \$20 in person

Please [pre-pay online](#) to reserve your seat or [RSVP here](#) that you'll be attending and paying at the door.

FEATURING



Assembly Speaker-Elect
Steve Yeager

SWEARING IN BY



The Honorable
Justice Court Judge
Tierra Jones

Critical Race Theory

What exactly is it and
why do we need it?

Join us for what is sure to be
an illuminating and
informative evening.

February 9, 2023

5:30 - 7:30 PM

Location: TBA

\$21 in advance. \$20 at door

[Pay online here](#)

[RSVP here](#) and pay at door



WOMENS DEMOCRATIC
CLUB OF CLARK COUNTY



Guest Speaker: Claytee White

**All Democrats
welcome!**

Printed In-House

www.womensdemo.com

On Legacy and Advocacy

by Judy Klein

Now that the holidays and celebration of New Year's is behind us, it's time to congratulate our new 2023 Board:

Marla Turner, President
Donna Darden, 1st Vice President
Esther Rodriguez, 2nd Vice President
Dawn Dudas, Treasurer
ShaRhonda Ramos, Corresponding Secretary
Mary Ella Holloway, Recording Secretary
Ida Gaines, Inspirationalist



I remember the 1st Spotlight Dinner. We celebrated our First Lady, Bonnie Bryan and women of the legislature. Through the decades, we have honored many and have been fortunate to have keynote speakers from across the United States!

The Spotlight begins with a Committee, working together, to make our dinner a huge success. Everything we do, we do out of love for WDC and Democrats! Everyone is a volunteer, and they give their time and energy to create an evening that all who attend can enjoy. You will be updated more about this event as we get further into the 2023.

By now, all of us are aware of the January 6th Report. If you would like to be able to read its contents, please use the link below:

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/12/22/politics/full-jan-6-report/index.html>

Part of our legacy is to follow bills as they go through their respective committees. Let's make sure our legislature has our input. You can testify in-person or by Zoom at the Grant Sawyer State Office Building. This is how we stay informed and educate our family and friends as to what is going on in Carson City and take a sense of pride in being part of the process.

As we begin 2023, I would like to give a shout out, in heaven, to my mentor, Marie Ripps. Marie was one of the five (5) original Democratic women that began our Club. She served as president twice, a few years apart. Marie was the backbone and spirit of our Club. She never missed a meeting. In her later years, Marie and her worker bees did check in for the longest time. She was the first smile you saw as you entered the room for the luncheon/program.

Marie was that face for me! She took me under her wings and, together, we would form an unbreakable bond for decades! I would call her "mom" and my children would call her "Grandma Marie"! We lived blocks from each other so my children would come by and check on her and stay to talk under her family moved her to California. Marie was Women's Demo and Women's Demo was Marie! She was an amazing and beautiful woman who loved us with all her heart.

Who Will Guard the Guardians Themselves? ©Carol Chesnut



This is a question that is key to maintaining an uncorrupted system of government. It occurred first, so far as we know, in the Satires of Juvenal, a Roman poet and satirist, who attributed it to an older husband of a beautiful young wife whose chastity he wished to ensure. His friends proposed that he lock her up and put guards on her door. His response was that the guards would be the first ones she would seduce. And he asked them that question, “Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?”

How do we hold those in power accountable? It is a question asked by Plato in “The Republic”, and it was one of Socrates questions. (He said one had to “train the souls” of the powerful, an enterprise which has proven to be filled with human potholes!) John Stewart Mill also examined it in his treatise on representative government.

Donald J. Trump and his handlers have given the question new urgency. The “Oath Keepers” they called on to man their insurrection, and the rest of the terrorist white-supremacist militias they allied with, have been shown to recruit their members from Homeland Security, our US military, and other groups who have sworn to keep us safe from our enemies and to maintain law and order.

And yet Homeland Security had reports of incipient violence on January 6th which the agency chose not to share with local police including the Capital Police. So corrupted enforcers of the law do more harm than good. They provide the illusion of safety where there is, in fact, none. The remedy prescribed by law is the strict and swift enforcement of the laws in effect at the time the crime is committed. We have already noted that there has been no swift verdict, although the guilty verdicts are beginning to come in. It will take more time to find out whether those at the top of the planning of the insurrection are ever convicted and jailed. And that, in turn, will indicate whether we already too corrupted to maintain the Rule of Law or even the choice of government by the majority of our citizens. We may, as a matter of how things actually work, be past the point of no return, already ruled by far-right multibillionaires who incessantly work to grow their power and influence.

So, indeed the fatal, final question *is*, who will guard the guardians themselves. Only time will tell whether anyone is still up to the task.

A one-million-vote nose-dive in turnout was well-concealed by GOP Gov. Brian Kemp to cover up the effects of “Jim Crow 2.0” at the launch his presidential campaign.

by [GREG PALAST](#)

via [Truthdig](#)



Sen. Raphael Warnock speaks to a small rally of supporters in DeKalb County on Nov. 3, 2022 thanking them for their support and asking them to find at least one person who hadn't yet voted and get them to the polls. Photo: Zach D. Roberts

[Dec 14, 2022: Atlanta, GA] From the New York Times to the Wall Street Journal, math-challenged reporters have repeated the completely upside-down fable of a “record turnout” in the Georgia Senate runoff.

Record turnout? My ass! The official count, tucked away in the Georgia Secretary of State’s files, shows the turnout fell by a breathtaking one-million votes.

Facts matter. The faux “record turnout” is used by Republican pols to discredit the grossly partisan and racially poisonous effects of SB202, the law signed last year by [Georgia’s Gov. Brian Kemp that the NAACP dubs “Jim Crow 2.0”](#) It has become the model for vote suppression legislation already marching into legislatures from Texas to Wisconsin.

But here are the cold, hard facts:

- In [Sen. Raphael Warnock’s runoff two years ago, the turnout was 4,484,954](#). This time, the vote plummeted to [3,538,910](#). Since when is a one-million-vote nosedive a “record” turnout?

- **Mail-in ballots fell off a cliff. Absentee ballots — which Warnock won two years ago by a stunning two-to-one margin — plummeted by a breathtaking 83%, from over a million ([1,084,021](#)) in the 2021 runoff to just [191,286](#) last week.**

Where did the repeaters (I dare not call them “reporters”) get this “record turnout” canard, this hot steaming load of fact-defying horse-plop?

It all comes from Brian Kemp and his Jim Crow 2.0 enforcer, GOP Sec. of State Brad Raffensperger’s press releases, like these doozies: [“RECORD BREAKING TURNOUT IN GEORGIA’S RUNOFF ELECTION”](#) and [“RECORD SHATTERING TURNOUT CONTINUES TUESDAY”](#).

That propaganda was quoted as gospel in the headlines of virtually every news outlet in America. However, at the very bottom of the Georgia Secretary of State’s self-congratulating press releases is a little link called “Data Hub.” And the data in the hub files tell a very, very different story, a tale of a record fall-off in voting.

Who's Vote was Lost and Why

Two years ago, [a 400,000-vote plurality of mail-in ballots delivered the victory margin for Warnock and his running mate, Jon Ossoff](#), now Georgia’s other Senator. These “absentee” ballots also won the presidential contest for Joe Biden over Donald Trump for Georgia’s electoral votes.

A stunned Kemp and his GOP-controlled legislature took note and [within mere weeks passed SB202, 98 pages of restrictions](#) that made absentee balloting all but illegal, especially in case of another runoff.

Here are some of SB202’s greatest vote suppression hits.

First, in Atlanta’s four counties the number of dropboxes for mail-in votes was slashed from 107 to just 25 — while at the same time the law ordered an increase in the number of dropboxes in rural, Republican counties. The result: White voters had 315% greater access to dropboxes than Black voters in Atlanta according to the state’s own breakdown of voters by race.

This is a big deal because Kemp’s SB202 also cut the period for the runoff from 60 days to just 28, leaving almost no time for counties to print, send and receive the mail-in votes. (Unlike other states, Georgia requires the ballot be received, not simply postmarked by Election Day, making dropbox access all the more important.)

No, SB202 does not say, “Remove Black voter dropboxes and give them to white voters.” Rather, this new law cutely limits the number of dropboxes to no more than one per 100,000 active voters — a limit that affects only Atlanta.

It gets worse. SB202 crushed the number of early voting days from 17 to just 7. Squeezing early voting opportunities principally hit the Black community, hurting in-person early voting. It also cut deeply into the mail-in vote because of another ugly codicil in SB202: Dropboxes were removed from outside government buildings and locked inside, only available on those 7 early voting days instead of the full 60 days in the last runoff, and worse, only available business hours instead of 24/7 as in the prior runoff.

A cruel twist: all dropboxes were removed on Election Day itself, so this reporter watched Atlanta voters wait two hours in line just to hand in their ballots.

And if you needed an absentee ballot, you had to, for the first time, include ID in your request for the ballot though State officials admitted they found not a single fraudulent mail-in ballot in the prior election.

Want more? SB202 bans the traditional Black churchgoers “Souls to the Polls” voting on the Sunday before the election.

Fun fact: SB202 originally limited early voting to just 16 days to avoid something [officially called, “State Holiday.”](#) This mysterious “holiday” was known for decades as [“Robert E. Lee Day.”](#) Blocking Black voters in honor of the Confederacy was just one Jim Crow jump [too far for the courts.](#)

No Jim Crow?

Because not one major news outlet dissented from the myth of the record high turnout, Kemp and his boosters were able to claim that SB202 did not suppress the vote. [The Wall Street Journal boasted, “Jim Crow 2.0’ Dies Again in Georgia.”](#)

The New York Times went further. A story, [“Ruining Senate Loss, Georgia G.O.P. Asks if Runoff Rule Changes Backfired,”](#) promoted, without fact-checking, a Republican claim that SB202 actually increased Democratic (i.e. Black) turnout.

Columbia University law professor Barbara Arnwine, founder of the Transformative Justice Coalition and former Executive Director of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, told Truthdig she was frustrated by, “this irresponsible media narrative.”

Typical of this irresponsibility, ABC News reported, [“Georgia Senate Runoff Race Sees Record Turnout.”](#)

The source? These stories universally relied on the Republican Secretary of State’s press releases, not the official returns. The ABC story and other stories are simply repetitions of Sec. of State Raffensperger’s propaganda, such as the release headlined, [“Record Breaking Turnout in Georgia’s Runoff Election.”](#)

The Republican pol’s press releases are careful to avoid out-and-out lies, carefully selecting stats that he knows number-phobic reporters will never check. In the “Record Breaking Turnout” release, for example, he boasts of “Three single-day all-time voting records during early voting.”

True enough, but that’s an artifact of cutting voting days by more than half. If a bank closes two of three teller booths, the line at the remaining booth will set a “record.”

Raffensperger also seduced reporters with a claim of [“record breaking midterm Early voting.”](#) But this refers only to in-person voting. This minor bump in in-person voting was the result of suppressing the mail-in vote by more than 80% since the last election. Those no longer allowed to vote by mail in 2020 were forced to stand in line, artificially boosting in-person numbers.

While many former mail-in voters reluctantly stood in those hours-long lines, the truth is, as the cold data shows, most simply did not vote.

Nowhere does the state's mouthpiece reveal, nor does a single major media outlet report on, the horrific one-million vote drop in total turnout.

Raffensperger's statistical legerdemain led to the dangerously false narrative that SB202 did not suppress the Black and urban vote.

Take the state's official release:

["LARGEST EARLY VOTING DAY IN HISTORY DISPROVES VOTER SUPPRESSION CLAIMS.](#) *The largest Early Voting Day in Georgia history shows that claims of voter suppression in Georgia are conspiracy theories no more valid than Bigfoot," said Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger. Monday's total is well above previous records of 233,252 voters processed on the final day of Early Voting in the 2018 General Election, and 252,715 voting on the highest day of Early Voting in 2016."*

Crushing 17 days of voting into seven will create longer lines. On that day Raffensperger cites, every single Atlanta polling station reported lines longer than two hours while white-majority counties reported lines of 10 to 30 minutes long.

The danger is that swallowing the politically-infected numbers in the press release leads to the conclusion that, as Kemp said last week in his victory speech over Stacey Abrams:

"Senate Bill 202 — Georgia's Election Integrity Act, you remember; they called it Jim Crow 2.0 and Jim Crow with a suit and tie, according to the media, President Biden and their far-left allies. If you support photo ID on absentee ballots, you're a racist, if you wanted access to secure ballot drop boxes and more opportunities to vote early on the weekend they brought in the Department of Justice."

Rep. Jasmine Crockett of Dallas, a new member of the Congressional Black Caucus, was in Atlanta to personally help hundreds of voters whose ballots were wrongly rejected. The Congresswoman told Truthdig that if the GOP can sell the media and the public on the fraudulent claim it did not impede Black and urban voters, then it's smooth sailing into Texas — and from there into GOP legislatures hungering for ways to cut the Black vote.

President Kemp?

Kemp has the media's love in his pocket, in part based on the apocryphal story of him refusing Trump's entreaties to overturn the election. (Even Kemp does not make that claim.)

But, with his eye on the White House, he had to be cleansed of the stench of Jim Crow. And so the "record turnout" canard. He bathes in the praise of The New York Times (["The Man Who Neutered Trump"](#)) and already has [been endorsed for president by The Wall Street Journal](#) editorial board.

And there is the USA Today trial balloon. [USA Today's headline: "Brian Kemp 2024?"](#) The GOP Georgia governor who stood up to Donald Trump is having a moment."

[CNN commentator Scott Jennings said, "My suspicion is if you](#) dropped someone like that off in Iowa, they'd be quite effective in a retail setting."

And on Fox News, which is desperately hunting for an alternative to Trump, Kemp played coy. Asked whether he might seek the presidency in 2024, Kemp said he had not ["ruled in or out anything."](#)

He most certainly hasn't.