

WNDC

Political Dispatch

Newsletter | September 2018



From the Committee on Public Policy and Political Action

Wondering how you can have an impact in the Midterm Elections? Join WNDC's Mobilize 4 Midterms, Winning Wednesdays!

Every Wednesday evening from September 12 until Election Day, the WNDC will host high-energy, high-impact activism events. We're partnering with other groups, including the Grassroots Coordinating Committee, Swing Left, Arlington Dems, and Ladies Take Your House Seats.

Grab a friend or two and come to our historic Whittemore House near Dupont Circle anytime from 6-9 pm on Wednesdays. No registration required. Just join us to:

1. **Support local candidates:** Several VA races now feature strong women candidates in in-flippable districts. We'll be postcarding, texting, calling, and donating/fundraising to support them.
2. **Join other "Hot Races" around the country.** Each week we'll pick two or three other races that need our help. We'll give an overview of the races and help activists find ways to get involved.
3. **Adopt a Race.** Join a team or pick a great candidate and form your own team of friends and colleagues to support this candidate from now through election day. Teams can meet at WNDC every Wednesday to check in, postcard/call/text for their candidate, share success stories with other teams, and plan the next week's activities. Get creative and competitive! We'll have an "activist award" ceremony on October 31 to celebrate the teamwork so far and **prepare for the "Last Weekend"** final push.

If you bring your energy, skills and experience, we'll match it with:

- **Special guests** knowledgeable about key campaigns and high-impact activist opportunities. On the roster already are Lauren Underwood (IL-14), Gina Ortiz Jones (TX-23), and Jessica Morse (CA-4).
- **Updates** on emerging hot races.
- **E-tools** to help you educate, register, raise funds, and get voters to the polls.
- **Opportunities to match your interests and skills** with the campaigns' needs for:
 - Phone banking
 - Text banking
 - Postcard writing
 - Early and absentee voting
 - Fundraising
 - Volunteer recruitment
 - Signing up for canvassing
- **Sign up sheets for the "Last Weekend" volunteer push**, voter protection teams, voter registration drives, canvassing, and other key activities.
- **Occasional special programs** on topics such as voter protection and mobilizing young voters.
- **A cash bar and snacks!**

The Pros and Cons of the Trade War

President Trump has engaged in a trade war with Asian and European nations, which in the United States is affecting diverse sections of the economy from farming to investors. In the U.S., many of our products are made in other places like China or the European Union. We are dependent on China as a source for low-cost goods and on the EU for cars and other items. China has turned to the European Union to form a front against Trump's impulsive trade policies. A list of items that have been caught in the crossfire of the trade war include: solar panels, jeans, motorcycles, pork, soybeans, steel, aluminum, cars, insect repellent, tilapia, lobsters, cranberries, and cheese.

Pros

- Trump has said "trade wars are good, and easy to win." If this proves true, it would be a positive.
- Trump thinks this will improve U.S.' bilateral trade balances with trading partners, which would be a positive.
- The performance of U.S. markets relative to China and others is better.
- Trump supporters feel that there would be benefits to the trade war in the long-term.
- It would "rattle the market" but (Allen) It is doing damage to American economy for the past month, there has been nearly no dialogue between the U.S. and China, so things may be cooling down.
- India could begin exporting more to China and the U.S., which would be good for their economy and provide us with another trading partner.

Cons

- \$34bn of goods from China are affected and he has threatened to impose more barriers, at least up to \$200 bn.
- China put 25 percent duties on U.S. goods, which is roughly the same amount affected by U.S. trade barriers. This reduces demand for U.S. goods.
- The threats to impose 20 percent on tariffs on cars from EU would make them more expensive for U.S. consumers.
- Unpredictability is bad for the U.S. stock market and businesses.
- It is doing damage to the American economy.
- Trump is making threats, which are likely just threats; he won't follow through with them. If he is just being aggressive, China can wait Trump out.
- There is less of a demand for goods that are exported, so American workers are being laid off.
- This is bad for farmers because it hits them directly and can cause them to have a loss for a year.
- There is no sign the war is going to end soon; it has been almost six months.
- China threatened "to hit \$60 billion worth of U.S. exports to China with tariffs ranging from 5 percent to 25 percent. If China follows through on the threat, nearly 90 percent of all U.S. goods heading to China will be subject to tariffs." (Bryan)

Trump may end the trade war sooner rather than later so the media don't criticize him. Trump is not a fan of NAFTA, the agreement with Mexico and Canada, and does not like how the EU "put up barriers so that we can't sell our farm products." China has stolen intellectual property from America, which has prompted Trump to impose trade barriers with it.

The trade war started off slowly but has escalated over time. Now, with the trade war continuing, we could have a difficult time getting cheap goods from China if new tariffs are implemented. Despite the fact that Trump thinks we'll win the trade war, since we are such a major global power, the trade war has had serious negative effects on this nation, including weakening our GDP and reducing our access to China's products, which we depend on despite their lower quality, in many cases. The trade war shows no promise of ending.

-- Priya Trehan, WNDU Summer Intern

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Democrats: Forget Worrying about a Local/National Division of Issues: They Are Both the Same

On August 18 the *New York Times* ran a front page analysis of the Democratic Party strategy for 2018 entitled "House Democrats Test a Do-it-Yourself Platform." The article takes the conventional wisdom position that the Democrats should run campaigns based on local issues that theoretically will get them local voters. The article finds a candidate who supports this conventional wisdom saying that Democrats running are "carrying the burden of carrying the national mantle." Another politician the article was happy to quote said Democratic candidates should "run like you are running for mayor."

This article is one more demonstration that conventional wisdom analysis ignores the fact that the local issues are national. As if by accident, the article says the issue candidates will be running on will be something like healthcare: "Protecting what people need to protect— Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security." In other words, candidates will be running on national issues.

Low wages and the economy may be local issues in terms of local employment but the question to be asked is which Trump billionaires are making a pile of money off the tax cuts, or the cutting of emissions standards for a revived coal industry.

The Democratic strategy should not be conceptualized as local versus national.

Indeed, Democrats now are being given the gift of a new national/local issue, i.e., corruption. The Trump base has accused all Democrats of "witch hunts" on the Russia investigation. However, what has happened is that Trump's closest collaborators are simply crooks, who, among other things, have been stealing money, including from voters at the local level.

So let's take this new national/local issue and run with it.

—Elizabeth Spiro Clark, Vice President for Public Policy and Political Action



Remembering Warren Clark

Ambassador Warren Clark, a retired Foreign Service Officer, died on July 24, 2018, in Washington, D.C., at 81 years of age. The cause of death was cancer. In his long and distinguished career, he worked always to make the world a better and safer place.

After serving for four years as a naval air intelligence officer based in Morocco, Ambassador Clark joined the State Department as a career Foreign Service Officer. Ambassador Clark's first foreign service assignment was to the U.S. Consulate in Aleppo in Syria. A later assignment took him back to the Middle East to Beirut. Other overseas assignments were in Europe (Luxembourg); in Africa, where he was the Acting Ambassador in Lagos, Nigeria, and Ambassador in Libreville, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe; in Canada, where he served as the Reassure Representative in Ottawa; and in New York at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. He also served in Washington as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Africa and as Deputy U.S. Representative on the UN Economic and Social Council.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, as a specialist in communications and information technology, Ambassador Clark ran a program helping governments in Central and Eastern Europe move towards a market economy. After his retirement from the State Department in 1996, he worked as a consultant on privatization and liberalization of telecommunications in Eastern Europe.

He later attended the Virginia Theological Seminary, receiving an MTS degree in 2005. He then worked at the Center for Global Justice and Reconciliation at the Washington National Cathedral and as Chair of the Peace Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

For eight years, beginning in 2008 he was Executive Director of Churches for Middle East Peace, a coalition of national church groups that conducts political advocacy and support of the two-state solution for ending the conflict between Israel and Palestine. He advocated with Congressional, State Department, and White House officials, leading an annual delegation of church representatives to the Middle East, and spoke to church groups around the country.

Since retirement in 1996 he had been an active member of Saint Albans Church in Washington, D.C. He was a member of the Cosmos Club of Washington, D.C., and was active in the neighborhood organizations in Cleveland Park, including the Cleveland Park Play Group and the Cleveland Park Citizens Association, where he pursued his love of nature in helping with the planting and maintenance of the trees of the community. He was also an active member of the Woman's National Democratic Club, serving as Chair of the Public Policy Task Force on the Economy.

He is survived by three children from his first marriage to Alice Ritchie: Sarah Stuart Clark, Warren Clark, and Hope Clark; two stepsons, Peter Spiro and Alexander Spiro and eight grandchildren. He is also survived by his wife of 25 years, Elizabeth Petersen Spiro Clark.

Together they shared their great joy in music, in Shakespeare, and in travel and adventure. Highlights included walking Hadrian's Wall, sailing the coast of Turkey visiting Hellenistic ruins, and sailing the fjords of Norway. A most memorable event occurred in the jungles of Costa Rica, when Warren rode a zip line just to keep close to a granddaughter.

Ambassador Clark was born in Bronxville, New York, and lived for 50 years in the Cleveland Park neighborhood of Washington, D.C. He is a graduate of Williams College. In addition to his Masters in Theological Studies at VTS, Ambassador Clark holds graduate degrees from Johns Hopkins University (SAIS), Georgetown, and the Harvard Kennedy School.

Two memorial services will be held in his honor: On August 18 at the Cavalry Church in Stonington, Connecticut (with reception following), and on September 15 at Saint Albans Church in Washington, D.C.

For those who wish to make a contribution in honor of Ambassador Clark's memory, the family suggests Churches for Middle East Peace (110 Maryland Avenue, N.E., #311, Washington, D.C. 20002.)

Gun Reform and the Midterms

Join WNDC Members for Reception Benefiting Jennifer Wexton, Gun Reform Candidate for Congress in Virginia's 10th Congressional District, Tuesday, October 2, 6:30-8:00 pm.

Members of WNDC are organizing a fundraiser for Virginia State Senator Jennifer Wexton, running in Virginia's 10th Congressional District to unseat Republican incumbent Barbara Comstock, one of the top recipients of NRA money in Congress. Senator Wexton has been serving her constituency in Northern Virginia for almost two decades, as a prosecutor, an advocate for children, and as a legislator focusing on issues of concern to families. She has been endorsed by the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, Giffords PAC, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, Moms Demand Action, and the Pride Fund to End Gun Violence. (As an added plus, she has also been endorsed by Emily's List, J Street, League of Conservation Voters, and Human Rights Campaign.) Read her full bio here. For further information regarding this event, contact Shelly Livingston at sliving7@yahoo.com

NRA Campaign Spending Tracker

"The Trace," an independent, nonprofit news organization dedicated to expanding news coverage of guns in this country, has compiled an NRA campaign spending tracker, which analyzes FEC reports so you can see exactly how much this gun group is putting behind its favored candidates. The data are updated regularly to "provide a real time picture" of the NRA's spending in House and Senate races this November. While the preferred candidates will come as no surprise, the amounts spent so far to either support or oppose certain candidates seem a bit extravagant for an organization that claims to be near bankruptcy. (In addition, last week the organization launched a seven-figure national and regional advertising campaign in an attempt to lock in Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation as the next gun-friendly Supreme Court Justice.) To access the NRA Campaign Spending Tracker, click [here](#).

Moms Demand Action Endorses its "Gun Sense Candidates"

Moms Demand Action has now endorsed its "Gun Sense Candidates." These include those running for U.S. Congress and all state-wide offices. These candidates have pledged to vote on the side of gun safety if elected to office. Send this link to your friends and family across the nation! Simply enter your address and a list of these candidates will appear for you. www.gunsensevoter.org

--Shelly Livingston, Acting Chair, Task Force to Prevent Gun Violence

Get Him Out!

After the startling news of the Manafort convictions and the Cohen admissions - under oath - that he broke the law at the direction of Donald Trump with the explicit purpose of influencing the presidential elections in Trump's favor, lawyers are finally getting serious about options for getting the President out of office. What must be hammered home is that Trump will do anything to stay in office. As a private citizen he will immediately be subject to indictment, suddenly in a landscape minus any looming of the Constitution. He will cling to the office at all costs. Impeachment is still a stretch. The urgency of seeing him out of office means that we should start looking more carefully at negotiations, however repugnant, that would allow him to trade a pardon for leaving office. The main imperative must be to see that he leaves office before he can do any more damage.

—Elizabeth Spiro Clark, Vice President for Public Policy and Political Action

Help Support Jennifer Wexton, Candidate for Virginia's 10th Congressional District

Please Join...

Patricia Anderson – Patricia Bitondo –
Mary Kay Blake – Melinda Burrell –
Dawn Clarke - Marcie Cohen –
Sally Hill Cooper – Pamela Danner –
Hollin Dwiggs and Clarke Thomason –
Ricki Fuechsel - Dave Hunke –
Shelly Livingston – Anne Martin –
Ellen McGovern – Dianne Seltzer –
Aileen Whitfill
(Host Committee in Formation)

For a Reception in Support of Jennifer Wexton

Candidate for Congress
Virginia's 10th Congressional District

**Tuesday, October 2, 2018
6:30 - 8:00pm**

**Woman's National Democratic Club
1526 New Hampshire Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036**

Host - \$350 | Supporter - \$250 | Friend -
\$100 | Young Professional - \$50

Please RSVP to
[https://secure.actblue.com/donate/
wndcreception](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/wndcreception)
and refer questions to Mindy at
mcburrell@hotmail.com