



Hues of Blue



National Volunteer Month:
Elections and Earth Day 2024



Writing the Vision and Staying the Course

Michigan Democratic Party Chair
Lavora Barnes

Major Political Dates 2024



April McClain Delaney in April - Common Sense, Common Ground

Maryland Sixth Congressional District Candidate
April McClain Delaney



**Get Involved!
Volunteer Today!**

**Let's celebrate
April birthdays!**



Celebrate Earth Day!



Publisher's Note

by June Owens

Greetings!

Welcome to the National Volunteer Month: Elections and Earth Day 2024 Edition. I am beyond excited to share this edition with all of you.

Growing up in the urban core of Des Moines, Iowa, my parents taught me that I was blessed to be a blessing and instilled in me the importance of service. Both of my parents— my mother a Volunteer Coordinator at a low to no income childcare center and my father a Korean War Navy Veteran— demonstrated through their lived experiences the importance of being of service and giving of yourself for causes that are bigger than oneself. This is why volunteerism has always been important to me.

Whether it has been serving on a non-profit board or serving as a Precinct Captain on a Presidential Campaign, serving as Vice Chair of the Iowa Democratic Party or participating in an Earth Day project, it has been important to me to give back.

This edition, you will hear from two phenomenal women and incredible leaders – Michigan Democratic Party Chair Lavora Barnes and Maryland Sixth Congressional District Candidate April McClain Delaney! Both of these amazing visionaries will tell you about the wonderful work they are doing and ways to get involved.



Chair Lavora Barnes is a visionary and a historical first. A trailblazer, Lavora Barnes is the first Black person elected to serve as Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party. Under Chair Barnes’ outstanding strategic leadership, the Michigan Democratic Party is a blueprint for organizing and electoral success.

April McClain Delaney is a compassionate, experienced servant leader who is ready to lead Maryland’s Sixth Congressional District on Day One. Learn more about April McClain Delaney and her vision for Maryland’s Sixth Congressional District in advance of the May 14th primary election.

There are so many ways to get involved this election cycle and there are plenty of Democratic Parties, Democratic Campaigns and Progressive Organizations that could use your time, energy and talent to help elect more democrats up and down the ballot. I encourage you to read the “Get Involved! Volunteer Today!” section, as well as look into progressive organizations you are passionate about, to discover ways to volunteer.

Organize everywhere! There are plenty of exciting races to watch this year in addition to the Presidential Election! Be sure to visit the “Major Political Dates 2024” Page and encourage family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and others in your network across this great nation to tune in, show up, speak up and vote.

There is only one planet Earth. Read about ways you can give back and make the Earth a little greener for Earth Day 2024.

Let’s celebrate! Birthday wishes are in order for our Federal Democratic Elected Officials who are celebrating birthdays in the Amazing Month of April!

Please share this edition with others, give us a like on Facebook (facebook.com/huesofblue1) and follow us on X (@HuesofBlue2019).

Have content ideas? Know of Democrats doing impactful work? Feel free to let us know. We love hearing from our Hues of Blue readers.

Much heartfelt gratitude for all of the ways many of you have shown kindness and encouragement. Whether it has been following Hues of Blue on Social Media, helping to share the publication with your networks or by providing a kind note, you have helped to make a difference.

A sincere thank you to Michigan Democratic Party Chair Lavora Barnes and Maryland Sixth Congressional Candidate April McClain Delaney for their participation in this month’s edition. Thank you for sharing your vision and pearls of wisdom with our readers. On a personal note, both of you are blessings.

Family and friends, much love and gratitude to you.

As always, thank you, Hues of Blue Readers! Enjoy this edition and stay tuned for ways to support as we expand and turn communities brilliant hues of blue.

Happy Reading!

June



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Writing the Vision and Staying the Course

**Michigan Democratic
Party Chair**

Lavora Barnes

Introduce yourself. Tell us a bit more about yourself. Tell us more about the organization/ organizations that you lead and what are some of your objectives?

I am Lavora Barnes, the Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party. I was first elected in February 2019, and am the first Black person elected to this post.

I am the architect of Project 83, named for the 83 counties in Michigan, which is the blueprint for a successful organizing model now being adopted by other states in the country, hoping to mirror Michigan’s successes. MDP’s year round organizing was rewarded with a full sweep of the statewide partisan offices in 2018, flipping 2 congressional seats and gaining a majority on the Michigan Supreme Court. Staying the course and increasing capacity, the 2020 cycle validated my vision again, turning Michigan blue for Biden, sweeping the statewide partisan offices and defending all of Michigan’s congressional seats. And in 2022, the re-election of the Governor, Secretary of State and Attorney General, winning all of the statewide partisan offices, maintaining the majority on the Michigan Supreme Court were victories made even more powerful as for the first time in decades, Michigan Democrats won majorities in both the State Senate and the State House, far surpassing even the most optimistic expectations for the cycle. Another key win in 2022 was the flipping of a Congressional seat on the west side of Michigan, making inroads on ground that only a few cycles ago was safe republican territory.

While the headlines reflect the important top of the ticket race wins, I am most proud of the fact that of the 232 school board races the MDP organizers worked in 2022, they won 197 of them.

I am a graduate of The College of William and Mary in Virginia, and began my political career in Virginia. I am the mother of 3 and the grandmother of 2, which continues to be my inspiration for doing this important work.

“We win when we work together as a Democratic family.”

Volunteers are the lifeblood for Political Parties, Candidates, Campaigns and Progressive Organizations. Please share with us some volunteer needs your organization/organizations may have. What are ways people can get more involved with volunteering?

Capacity is the most important resource a campaign or a state party has. We work very hard in Michigan to make sure anyone that wants to help us here has the ability to do so. I call them my onramps to involvement. We have growing needs for volunteers in our voter protection program, and always in our field programs for our coordinated and down ballot races. I always try to encourage volunteers to work on races that impact them personally and are close to where they live, but we are grateful for the many non-Michiganders that help us with our phone and text banking programs and some even travel here and assist with doors and election day slots.

Is there anything else you would like to share with our readers?

Politics is a team sport. When I get a chance I like to remind all of our folks that we are truly a big tent party. We win when we work together as a Democratic family.

April McClain Delaney in April – Common Sense, Common Ground

Maryland Sixth Congressional
District Candidate
**April McClain
Delaney**



Introduce yourself. Tell us a bit more about yourself.

I am April McClain Delaney, born and raised in Buhl, Idaho – the second daughter of an Idaho potato farmer. In that rural, close-knit community, I watched both Grandfather Chet and father Tom work long farming hours; it taught me life lessons about working hard, setting goals, the importance of education, and giving back to your local community. Given June Owens is the creator of Hues of Blue, I must state that having traveled extensively across the state of Iowa with my husband John, I saw those same values in full display across the state and how community places such an important part of people’s lives.

Further, as I am the mom of four daughters, I relate to the challenges families face each day from a good living wage, to health care (and mental health) and big tech’s assault on our kids and their well-being.

I am running in Maryland on a “common sense, common ground” platform with over 30 years of leadership experience in nonprofit and corporate sectors and as a senior official in the Biden Administration. Across my life I have worked tirelessly to expand broadband access, tackle online harassment, boost innovation, and strengthen national network security, including the First Responders. Over the last two years as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Communications at Commerce, I focused on rolling out the 65 billion broadband program to connect all Americans to affordable high speed internet, worked on driving investment and workforce training into rural communities nationwide and enhanced privacy and internet governance, and fortifying public safety communications.

My main priorities are codifying choice and reproductive freedoms, fighting against Big Tech regarding our kids’ privacy and well-being, driving investment and good paying jobs and expanding health care and mental health care resources. Most importantly we need to come together against MAGA extremism, to find common sense solutions and to uphold our democracy against domestic and foreign threats.

What office are you running for and what inspired you to run for office?

As stated above, I am a Democrat running for Congress in Maryland’s 6th District. I’m running to build on President Biden’s work - investing in the middle class, defending democracy, protecting Social Security/Medicare and tackling climate. I’m particularly focused on protecting kids from Big Tech, leveraging technology to spur growth, restoring women’s reproductive freedom and addressing the mental health crisis. I’m running to ensure the 6th District has a strong advocate in Congress.

My platform is “Common Sense, Common Ground” - I believe we must work together to make progress. With 30 years’ experience in the private, nonprofit and public sectors, I am ready to hit the ground running on day 1 and drive solutions to get things done.

If elected, what are some of your plans and what do you hope to accomplish?

I believe we must leverage technology to drive economic growth across the 6th District. In the Biden Commerce Department, I led the rollout of rural broadband grants, so I understand the importance of strategic investments to capitalize on our research and education assets. We also must work to protect kids’ online safety and privacy rights and also prioritize addressing the mental health crisis. I am also a supporter of reproductive rights and women’s right to an abortion. I will work to codify Roe into law and ensure that all reproductive healthcare is legal, safe and accessible. I will cosponsor the Women’s Health Protection Act. I am proud that former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi endorsed me partly because of my strong defense of women’s right to choose

Is there anything else you would like to share with our readers?

Congress urgently needs a transformative shift to break through the gridlock. To improve productivity within the House of Representatives, I would work to forge coalitions to get things done. When in non-profit I would often say I was “kid partisan” to forge progress. It’s important to lift up kitchen table issues for everyday Americans. Engaging with constituents and seeking their input on critical issues ensures a more accountable Congress. By promoting a culture of respect, transparency, and compromise, we can overcome partisan divisions - yet always be cognizant of the need to fight against MAGA extremism and uncivil discourse.

I also have spent decades fighting for issues impacting women having served on the boards of the International Center for Research on Women and the Georgetown Institute for Women Peace and Secretary under Former Ambassador Melanne Verveer. Lifting up women politically, economically and socially is key to economic productivity, more world peace and just more good “common sense” in our world. While in the Biden Administration, I served on the Gender Council’s Taskforce

against gender based on line harassment and violence. I also have been a long supporter of Emerge - empowering and training young democratic women to run for office. I helped fund the early stages of Emerge in both Maryland and Iowa. I am also a big support of Congressman Raskin’s Democracy Summer to reach our youth about democracy and grassroots activism. Together we all have a role to play in our democracy and in charting a world which is brighter, more inclusive and more prosperous for everyone.

“Together we all have a role in our democracy and in charting a world which is brighter, more inclusive and more prosperous for everyone.”

DEMOCRAT for CONGRESS MD-6

April McClain Delaney

COMMON SENSE, COMMON GROUND

April has a unique set of life experiences that will make her a hands-on, effective, thoughtful and compassionate Member of Congress. Drawing on a blend of public and private sector work, **April is committed to addressing challenges through a “common sense, common ground” approach.**

ENDORSED BY

Speaker Emeritus
Nancy Pelosi



Learn more about April here:

 **APRIL4CONGRESS.COM**

Major Political Dates 2024

(as of April 1, 2024)

Date	State or Territory
April 2nd	Connecticut, Delaware, New York, Rhode Island and Wisconsin
April 6th	Alaska
April 13th	Wyoming
April 23rd	Pennsylvania
April 28th	Puerto Rico
May 7th	Indiana
May 14th	Maryland, Nebraska, West Virginia and Wyoming
May 21st	Kentucky and Oregon
June 4th	District of Columbia, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico and South Dakota
June 8th	Guam and US Virgin Islands
August 19th-22nd	Democratic National Convention (Chicago)
September 16th	Presidential Debate (Texas State University -San Marcos, Texas)
September 25th	Vice Presidential Debate (Lafayette University -Easton, Pennsylvania)
October 1st	Presidential Debate (Virginia State University - Petersburg, Virginia)
October 9th	Presidential Debate (University of Utah - Salt Lake City, Utah)
November 5th	Election Day
December 17th	Presidential Electors Cast Their Ballots

Get involved! Volunteer today!

You can make the difference!



States and Territories		Party Website
	Alabama	aldemocrats.org
	Alaska	alaskademocrats.org
	American Samoa	facebook.com/asdems
	Arizona	azdems.org
	Arkansas	arkdems.org
	California	cadem.org
	Colorado	coloradodems.org
	Connecticut	ctdems.org
	Delaware	deldems.org
	Democrats Abroad	democratsabroad.org
	District of Columbia	dcdemocraticparty.org
	Florida	floridadems.org
	Georgia	georgiademocrat.org
	Guam	facebook.com/ guamdemocrats

States and Territories		Party Website
	Hawaii	hawaiiidemocrats.org
	Idaho	idahodems.org
	Illinois	ildems.com
	Indiana	indems.org
	Iowa	iowademocrats.org
	Kansas	kansasdems.org
	Kentucky	kydemocrats.org
	Louisiana	louisianademocrats.org
	Maine	mainedems.org
	Maryland	mddems.org
	Massachusetts	massdems.org
	Michigan	michigandems.com
	Minnesota	dfi.org
	Mississippi	mississippidemocrats.com

States and Territories		Party Website
	Missouri	missouridemocrats.org
	Montana	montanademocrats.org
	Nebraska	nebraskademocrats.org
	Nevada	nvdems.com
	New Hampshire	nhdp.org
	New Jersey	njdems.org
	New Mexico	nmdemocrats.org
	New York	nydems.org
	North Carolina	ncdp.org
	North Dakota	demnpl.com
	North Mariana Islands	nmidems.org
	Ohio	ohiodems.org
	Oklahoma	okdemocrats.org
	Oregon	dpo.org
	Pennsylvania	padems.org

States and Territories		Party Website
	Puerto Rico	prdems.org
	Rhode Island	ridemocrats.org
	South Carolina	scdp.org
	South Dakota	sddp.org
	Tennessee	tndp.org
	Texas	txdemocrats.org
	U.S. Virgin Islands	facebook.com/democratsvi
	Utah	utahdemocrats.org
	Vermont	vtdemocrats.org
	Virginia	vademocrats.org
	Washington	wa-democrats.org
	West Virginia	wvdems.org
	Wisconsin	wisdems.org
	Wyoming	wyodems.org



Let’s Celebrate April Birthdays!

United States Senators	
Tina Smith	April 13th
Cory Booker	April 27th

Debbie Stabenow	April 29th
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United States House of Representatives	
Jamaal Bowman	April 1st
Chellie Pingree	April 2nd
Norma Torres	April 4th
Joe Courtney	April 6th
Jesus Garcia	April 12th
Jim Costa	April 13th
Al Green	April 13th
Colin Allred	April 15th
Fred MrVan	April 16th
Gwen Moore	April 18th
Joseph Morelle	April 29th
Robin Kelly	April 30th
Bobby Scott	April 30th

Celebrate Earth Day!

There is no Planet B.

It is up to all of us to do
what we can to be good
stewards on this green
Earth.

Please consider
pitching in to make a
big difference this Earth
Day and every day.


Here are a few ideas you can do in honor
of Earth Day 2024

- Go Paperless
- Start Composting
- Recycle
- Learn more about zero waste living
- Plant a Tree
- Build a terrarium
- Start a community and/or backyard garden
- Make an eco-friendly bird feeder
- Remove invasive species of plants
- Start a carpool or take public transportation
- Clean up litter in your neighborhood
- Pledge to take shorter showers and turn off the lights when leaving the room.

Looking for ways volunteer for Earth Day 2024?

Find an activity near you by visiting:

<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2024/#map>



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April 2024