



The New Year: Let the Violence and Hate Stop Let Peace and Justice Prevail

Statement by Progressive Cheverly Condemning the Assault on the U.S. Capitol January 11, 2021

The attempted coup at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th was a deep wound to the American democratic system of government. It was also an intentional challenge to the efforts over nearly 250 years to fulfill the original ideals of the American revolution and build a more just, compassionate and equitable society.

President Trump may have provided the spark that ignited this particular fire, but the seeds of this counterrevolution have been watered for years by a movement willing to embrace “hate, racism, antisemitism, violence, anti-immigrant fear-mongering and authoritarianism”, as we [wrote](#) in our condemnation of the 2017 events in Charlottesville, VA. To these evils we need to add the presence of a coordinated movement of elected leaders, social media, and major media organizations working to destroy the institutional foundations of democracy and promote bizarre conspiracy theories, leading up to the efforts of the President and his enablers to deny in the face of all evidence that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris won in one of the most transparent and honest elections in our nation’s history. The result is that tens of millions of Americans still believe the election was stolen. That will not be easily reversed.

The focus to undo this damage and to strengthen our democratic foundations may right now center on the inauguration on January 20th and the Biden administration, but that work will not be successful if we don’t build on the amazing grass-roots organizing work that helped turn Arizona and Georgia blue. Only a sustained, long-term movement centered on both social and economic justice and with a strong moral compass and consistent opposition to white supremacy can have any hope of prevailing in this battle. We urge all to find their place in this cause.

Right now we call for the immediate removal of this still dangerous President using any available constitutional means. We urge everyone in Cheverly to contact Senator Chris Van Hollen, Senator Ben Cardin and Representative Anthony Brown to express outrage over this violent assault on our democracy and ask them what measures and initiatives they plan to take to hold Trump accountable and to sanction their colleagues who similarly have sought to overturn the results of the election. We also urge them to address the plague of gerrymandering, to ensure voting rights are protected in future elections, to support DC statehood and abolish the electoral college. A good starting point would be [HR-1](#), which addresses election fairness and integrity, the role of big money in our politics, and public corruption, and which passed the House of Representatives in 2019 only to die in the Senate.

But not all important change can or will happen on the national stage. Locally, we applaud the [recent action](#) by the Town of Cheverly to reckon with our own town’s racist history. And the Maryland General Assembly session beginning January 13th will be addressing many critical bills including protections for those most ravaged by the pandemic as well as reforming and restoring trust in our criminal justice system, including the repeal of or amendment to the Law Enforcement Bill of Rights and enactment of Anton’s Law (for greater transparency regarding excessive force complaints). Reach out to your elected officials on these and other bills.

We welcome your feedback. You can send comments to chair@progressivecheverly.org. If you are a member, you can continue the discussion by posting comments to our member discussion list - progressivecheverly@googlegroups.com. Learn more about us at Progressive Cheverly at our [Progressive Cheverly web site](#), including our [organizational principles](#), or on our [Facebook page](#).

Adopted by the Progressive Cheverly Executive Committee, January 11, 2021