

## Breakout Session 2 - Session 4: Women's Rights

Your Rights, Your Power: Understanding Legal and Civic Protections



# Camille E. Brewer, MS, RD

Ms. Brewer is a retired federal senior executive who served at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition as the Director for International Affairs. Working through partnerships with organizations such as the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and sister federal and state agencies, Ms. Brewer and her staff developed and implemented a broad range of public health and scientific cooperation programs pertaining to foods, nutrition, labeling, and cosmetics. She led the US delegation for APEC's Food Safety Cooperation Forum. She is the two-time winner of FDA's Award of Merit, which is the agency's highest honor.

Ms. Brewer volunteers with the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County (LWVMC) and serves on the Making Democracy Work and the Civic Education Action Committees. She is the Co-lead for Redistricting at LWVMC. She recently rotated off the Board of Directors for the League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) and is currently chairing the Nominating Committee for LWVMD. In addition, she is on the Board of Directors of Montgomery History, which has developed several successful joint programs with the League.

Ms. Brewer earned her Masters Degree in Public Health Nutrition from Case Western Reserve University and her Bachelor's degree in political science from Lincoln University. She is married to Beverly Vernon Dennis, Esq. Their daughter, Julia, lives and works in Atlanta.

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# Natali Fani-González

Natali Fani-González brings deep local government experience and a strong background on economic opportunity for all to the Montgomery County Council. Until August of 2021, Natali was the Vice Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board, the local agency that regulates real estate development, plans transportation infrastructure, and manages the park system. During her

seven years on the Planning Board, Natali was a key player in supporting the growth of the County's life sciences sector through master plans in the Great Seneca Science Corridor, White Flint, and Bethesda. With a particular focus on addressing the needs of small, local, and immigrant-owned businesses, she also helped steer the County Growth and Infrastructure Policy, Veirs Mills Corridor Master Plan, Montgomery Hills/Forest Glen Sector Plan, the MARC Rail Community Sector Plan, and the Bicycle Master Plan, among many others.

Prior to her service on the Planning Board and starting her own business, Natali worked for the regional immigrant group CASA, where she successfully fought for the Maryland DREAM act, banking services for the unbanked and other local and state policies to uplift low-income communities.

Natali arrived in the United States as a teenager with her mother without being able to speak English. Nevertheless, she committed herself to her education while working weekends cleaning houses with her mother. She won a full scholarship to Goucher College, where she was awarded degrees in political science and international relations. She served on the

Goucher College Board of Trustees after she graduated. She knows from experience the struggles good, hard-working people face trying to make a better life for themselves and their families.

Washingtonian Magazine honored Natali as one of the “40 Under 40” Changemakers in the Washington DC Region and then named her as a “Woman to Watch.” She is a 2021 Recipient of a State Citation by Governor Larry Hogan for community efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic helping vulnerable communities. The DC metro area’s largest Spanish language newspaper, El Tiempo Latino, recognized Natali as one of the 100 most influential individuals for the DC Hispanic community. Natali lives in Wheaton with her husband, a former United States Marine, and their children.

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# Michelle C. Whittaker

Michelle Whittaker is a dynamic elections reform leader and strategist. She has over 20 years of experience working on local and national campaigns for non-profits, community groups, and political candidates.

She is a leader in Maryland on ranked choice

voting, an innovative voting method to give voters a

stronger voice. As the Executive Director for Ranked Choice Voting Maryland (RCV Maryland), Michelle fosters relationships and collaborates with advocates, community groups, policymakers, and elections administrators to advance reforms that improve voting and expand access. Michelle also works on voting and elections issues at the state and national level, including campaign finance, voting rights, vote-by-mail, and voter registration. She also serves as the Communications Director for Rank the Vote, a national nonpartisan organization focused on election reform. For the past decade, she has been deeply involved in structural electoral reform and grassroots movement building across the country. Along with her passion for voting rights and reform, she is a certified USA Rugby referee and assistant rugby coach for the University of Maryland Women's Rugby Club.