



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

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How Elections Work in Fairfax County and Fairfax City

Boards of Elections decide policy, but **General Registrars** carry out these policies. The General Registrar of Fairfax County, Gary Scott, and the General Registrar of Fairfax City, Brenda Cabrera, were interviewed by members of LWVFA recently. Read about their responsibilities and their opinions on current election issues and come to a unit meeting to discuss.

February Calendar

- 1 National Freedom Day
(13th Amendment)
- 2 LWVFA Briefing and At-Large
meeting, Packard Center, 10 a.m.
- 4 *Fairfax Voter* deadline
- 5 LWV-VA Board meeting, Richmond
- 6 **League Day**: Hotel John
Marshall, 101 N. 5th St, Richmond
- 9 LWVFA new member orientation,
Packard Center, 10 a.m.
- 11-14 **LWVFA unit meetings**
- 13 LWV-VA Women's Legislative
Roundtable, Richmond, 8:30 a.m. to
9:30 a.m.
- 14 League of Women Voters founded
(99th anniversary)
- 20 **LWVFA Board meeting**
- 20 LWV-VA Women's Legislative
Roundtable, Richmond, 8:30 a.m. to
9:30 a.m.
- 23 General Assembly *Sine Die* (ends the
session)

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Presidents' Message



February is the month to celebrate love. Valentine's Day kitsch is everywhere. It got us thinking about love, and what it means. There are so many kinds of love. The romantic love for your significant other, the love a parent feels for a child, filial love ... oh, so many kinds of love. But the love we are thinking about is a love for your country.

What exactly is a love for your country? Is it the same thing as patriotism? Perhaps it is. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary patriotism is defined as "love for or devotion to one's country."

To us, love for our country is the tremendous surge of pride and joy we feel when we see the flag flying high. It is hearing the national anthem before a sporting event or when we win a gold medal at the Olympics. It is the satisfaction of seeing how we are almost always the first to rush in with aid in the event of a disaster anywhere in the world. It could even be making sure that our neighbors have a way to get to the polls and vote!

There is good love where you see your lovers for who they are and love them anyway. There is the love where you can't see the faults in your lovers and love them with a blind devotion, and that is a very dangerous love. Then there is the jealous and possessive love where the lover wants the loved one only for himself and does not wish to share with anyone else. Love is a very powerful emotion. It can be one's greatest strength, but the wrong kind of love can be one's undoing.

Love for one's country and patriotism seem to be synonymous, and so patriotism, like love, can be of many kinds and equally potent.

According to William Sloane Coffin, "There are three kinds of patriots, two bad, one good. The bad ones are the uncritical lovers and the loveless critics. Good patriots carry on a lover's quarrel with their country, a reflection of God's lover's quarrel with all the world."

Patriotism as a concept is quite complex. It's more than just pledging your allegiance to the flag and standing up and putting your hand over your heart when the national anthem

is played or sung. It is more than an emotional attachment to one's country.

To many people patriotism is all about our troops and a pride in them. To others it is about participating in elections and voting; and to some it is in embracing the rights of all citizens to live free and protest against all the inequalities and injustices that exist in our society. There are even some people who see a symbolic act at a sporting event as patriotism or a lack thereof!

We tend to agree with Mr. Coffin that a good patriot is one who has a lover's quarrel with her country. This country was built on ideas to which a patriot can pledge allegiance. The idea that all men are created equal and are endowed with certain inalienable rights like the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. When these liberties are threatened, then a true patriot and a lover of her country has to stand up and question it and show her disapproval. According to Thomas Jefferson, "dissent is the highest form of patriotism."

*Fairfax County 24-hr.
Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline:
703-360-7273; 711 TTY*

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2018 - 2019

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In today's world we tend to question the patriotism of a person who chooses to question anything. Patriotism is to a country and its people and not necessarily to the administration or government. If that were the case, then at any given point of time almost half of the electorate would be considered to be unpatriotic since they voted for the candidate that lost an election.

A true patriot is loyal to his or her country but not blind to her faults. He sees the beauty in his country and appreciates all that is wonderful about her. But the way to prove his loyalty is to not to look the other way when something is wrong or to pretend everything is OK when it is not. A true lover or patriot steps up and points out where his country is going wrong and endeavors to correct it.

For a lot of Americans, America is not the country of their birth but their adopted country. Does that mean that they love America less than those who were born here? We don't think so. This is a love for a land they choose to call their own. In some ways it is a stronger, deeper love. A more thoughtful love. A love that has developed after they have seen what

other countries have to offer.

Another point to ponder is what seems to be blurred lines for some people between patriotism and nationalism. The love of the nationalist for his country comes under the possessive love of a lover for his loved one. He feels the loved one is only for him and not for others and does not wish to share at all. Today's nationalists consider themselves to be true patriots but they're not. As the song goes, "this land is your land, this land is my land."

Another thing is that love for your country cannot be love for some of the people of the land and hatred for others. The Bible teaches us to love our neighbors. We don't think it means to love your neighbor only if the neighbor looks like you or talks like you or is like you. It just says to love your neighbor.

To sum up, love for your country or patriotism is a powerful emotion and the best, perhaps the only, steward for the survival of the America our founders dreamt of and fought to create. Without it our very existence is threatened - and that is not an exaggeration.

Judy & Anu

In Memoriam: Audrey Moore

We were saddened to learn of the passing of **Audrey Moore**, who died peacefully on December 12, 2018.

Audrey was a fervent believer in the power of government to change people's lives for the better. Her commitment to public service was first and foremost, and her sense of collegiality and respect for those who worked for and closely with her, is fondly remembered across Fairfax County. As Chairman of the Board of Supervisors from 1988 to 1992, and as Annandale (now Braddock) District Supervisor before that, Audrey believed in smart growth through good governance. She was instrumental in committing the County to a path that led, ultimately, to our collective support for vital programs to advance the health and the opportunities for economic well-being of all our residents. Our condolences go to her family and friends.

February 6 Is League Day in Richmond

Plan now to attend this annual event. The day kicks off at 8:30 a.m. with the Women's Legislative Roundtable at the Sun Trust Center, 919 E Main St., 1st floor Tilgham Room.

This will be followed by visiting legislative offices from 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. and a trip to the Capitol Gallery for recognition ceremonies in the House and Senate, starting at noon.

An Italian Feast Buffet and networking lunch will be held at the Berkeley Hotel at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$35. Register online for lunch by February 1:

<https://goo.gl/forms/FOMwhHqayeqP4nBf2>

Payment by PayPal or by check to LWV-VA Ed Fund and mail to LWV 2019 League Day, 804 Ridge Place, Falls Church, VA 22046-3630.



Annual Meeting

Keynote Speaker: Stacey Kincaid
Fairfax County Sheriff

Saturday, April 6, 2019

Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax, VA 22033

9:30 a.m. Registration & Coffee

10:00 a.m. Meeting Begins

Noon Lunch

12:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker

1:15 p.m. Meeting Reconvenes

2:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourns

LWVFA Members & Their Guests: \$40 each, includes coffee, luncheon, and speaker

General Public: \$50 each, includes coffee, luncheon, and speaker

Registration

To register and pay online, visit lwv-fairfax2019am.eventbrite.com

To register by check, fill out the following form, make checks payable to **LWVFA**, and mail to:

2019 Annual Meeting, c/o Viveka Fuenzalida, 11020 Burywood Lane, Reston, VA 20194

Members' and their Guests' Lunch _____ @\$40 each;. Members' Name _____

Members' Guest(s)' Name(s) _____

Non-Members' Lunch _____ @\$50 each; Name(s) _____

Phone Number & E-mail _____ Total Amount enclosed _____

Luncheon Menu: House Salad, Chicken Piccata (chicken cooked in herb & cheese batter served with a lemon capers sauce), Virginia-Style Green Beans & Honey-Glazed Carrots, Bread and Butter, Dessert, Coffee Service

Special dietary needs or questions? Please Call Viveka Fuenzalida at 703-404-0498.

Registration Deadline: Thursday, March 21st

For more, visit www.lwv-fairfax.org/2019-annual-meeting/

How Elections Work in Fairfax County and Fairfax City

by Wendy Fox-Grage, Cindy Kalkwarf, and Julie Jones

To enhance LWVFA members' understanding of the electoral process and elections, a committee interviewed two local registrars - Gary Scott from Fairfax County and Brenda Cabrera from Fairfax City. They were very cooperative in giving their time and insights and appreciative of what the League does.

The duties of the General Registrar are listed in the Virginia Code and can be found in detail by visiting the website: elections.virginia.gov. The General Registrar is responsible for:

- Forms of registration verified and submitted to the Virginia database
- Absentee voting
- Officer training, recruiting and pay
- Voting-machine maintenance, set-up, and distribution
- Set up and testing of electronic poll books
- Printing the "stuff" that is needed (forms, signs, envelopes, Election Day Guide for officers, etc.)
- Packing officer/election materials (getting them to the right precinct)
- Media relations
- Maintaining a modern, professional office
- Administration of staff
- Expertise in: Virginia Election Law, Federal Election Law, budgets, documentations, handicapped accessibility, etc.



Gary Scott was appointed in July 2018 as General Registrar and Director of Elections in Fairfax County. Scott has worked for the County's Office of Elections for 22 years. He had been the deputy registrar for the County since 1997, with responsibilities including managing voter registration, absentee voting and outreach

programs. Prior to becoming deputy registrar, he was the office manager for the County's Office of the General Registrar. During this time in Fairfax, he received professional certificates in all aspects of his job. A native of Texas, Scott served as an officer in the U.S. Navy from 1975 to 1994 and graduated cum laude from Texas Tech University in 1975.



Brenda Cabrera is the Director of Elections/General Registrar for the City of Fairfax. After 31 years working in both large (Prince William County) and small Virginia jurisdictions, Brenda knows that securing elections is vital to voter engagement

and confidence. Brenda believes that voting is the backbone of our democratic system and takes great joy in assisting voters in exercising their franchise, particularly first-time voters. In just the last three years the City has held 10 elections, one of which was a three-vote margin recount, and has embarked on a pilot for the first post-election audit in the state of Virginia. Brenda Cabrera is a REO* and CERA* graduate.

The following comments are edited responses from both Mr. Scott and Ms Cabrera. (Abbreviations marked with an * are explained in the appendix.)

How did you become interested in elections and voting?

Scott: By accident. I had retired from the Navy and the position of office manager in the Office of Elections was open. Then I became Deputy Registrar six months later. There is only one center for election certification, and it is in Houston, Texas. Only 1,000 professionals have this certification, and I am one of them.

Cabrera: I started as an election officer, when I was a stay-at-home mom. I worked part-time in Prince William County Office of Elections, first as an assistant registrar. I left elections in 2002 to take a full-time job in publishing for four years before returning to Prince William as Deputy and then Chief Deputy of the Office of Elections. In 2015, I accepted the position here in the City. It's been a total of 31 years.

How many staff members work in your office and what is your budget? Is it adequate? How many registered voters are in the County/city?

Scott: I have 30 positions plus 30 to 60 seasonal employees. I have three openings now. We will ramp up to an additional 300 seasonal employees for the next election plus 3,000 to 3,500 election officers. We get about \$3.5 million a year, but it increases for the presidential election. We have been very fortunate, and our County has been very generous and supportive.

We have 1.1 million residents in Fairfax County, of whom 850,000 are adults. Of those, our County has 764,955

registered voters as of Dec. 14, 2018. That number will probably drop by 20,000 in January because we will remove some of the inactive voters as part of the NVRA* list maintenance program. We are actually running out of polling places and need more. Ninety-five percent of voter registration in Fairfax County is done online. The registrar's office must process all applications, verify them, and if incomplete will send a denial notice along with a new application.

"It is expensive to run an election well. It is very expensive to not run it well." Chesterfield, VA is an example of where problems happened when some polls opened late and then the Court ordered them to stay open an extra two hours. "Fairfax is a large County. It could not follow small county processes and run a good election, but the small counties could follow Fairfax and run it well."

Cabrera: We have 2.5 full-time equivalents. We budget by number of elections in a year, which varies from one to four. The budget for this coming year is about \$360,000. We have about 16,000 registered voters. Election officials have a reputation for fiscal responsibility. Here in the city, we are grateful to have a responsive mayor and council. If we have a special election I can go to my budget people and ask for necessary funds. In 2015 our voting equipment was decertified. The City responded by approving the expenditure to replace the equipment with a Unisyn OpenElect system, which is certified. At the moment, I am trying to make our part-time person full-time to accommodate increasing demands.

Do we have voter fraud in the County/city?

Scott: It's very over-hyped. Yes, individuals occasionally try to commit fraud but it doesn't really affect elections. We have records when people vote absentee. It is connected to a statewide database. There are two databases that we use to cross-check voter registration across state lines, but not all states participate in those databases.

Cabrera: We have turned over applications that we thought were being falsely populated by a third-party organization. After talking with that organization, we think there was one person involved who was trying to make money. False applications have been documented but no votes were cast. The matter was turned over to the Commonwealth's Attorney for investigation. However, I don't see absentee fraud. If fraud is happening, it is rare and small.

Are you worried about election security and hacking?

Scott: There are two aspects: 1) the registration database,

which is managed by the State elections office, and 2) the voting machines. Our voting machines are stand-alone, and are not connected to the Internet. If there was hacking, it would be to the State registration database. There has been hacking or security infiltration attempts that were stopped. The State is in the process of implementing new security procedures. Fairfax Office of Elections has its own IT department. Fairfax has 243 different polling places plus satellite offices, so it would be difficult to attack each one.

Cabrera: Sure. We've taken lots of steps to prevent that. The IT department is involved, and we have protocols in place.

How are ballots designed? Have there ever been any problems?

Scott: We will have 76 ballot combinations for the November 2019 General Election. Our team designs the ballots in-house. Registrars are analogous to wedding planners in that we send out invitations to all registered voters. But registered voters don't have to RSVP. So we have to estimate high on how many ballots to print. Smaller jurisdictions use their voting machine vendor to design their ballots. For the January 2018 Special Election the team had the first 100 paper absentee ballots mailed out the morning after the determination of the candidates.

In the 2018 General Election our office originally estimated a sixty-five percent turnout. Then with the high absentee ballot casting we increased the estimate to an eighty-five percent turnout. Better to have too many ballots than not enough.

Cabrera: The State made the news that it adopted new ballot standards but it really just clarified the standards. The ballots were redesigned this election, but we couldn't make too many changes because the machines are set and would have to be re-certified if we made significant changes. The ballots need to be designed in a certain way for the machines to read the ballots. Our ballots are pretty simple.

What has been your experience with the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) and voter registration?

Scott: Most citizens register through the DMV. There are some concerns about DMV processes as they don't always check for valid addresses.

Cabrera: We do not have a seamless system with the DMV, so there are concerns about accuracy. We spend a fair amount of time verifying peoples' addresses.

If we could have NO EXCUSE Absentee Voting would there be a cost to the city/County? Do you support it? Is there a difference in mail or in-person?

Scott: Yes, there will be a high cost, but we have been advocating for No Excuse Absentee Voting for years. It would make things simpler but it will increase demand. For the 2020 presidential election, I am predicting 150,000 absentee voters. We are opening up more satellite voting locations because our satellites are at full capacity. Herndon and Lorton are the most underserved areas. Any voting location must be owned or leased by the County and use the County's IT infrastructure for security reasons. In 2018, 20 percent of votes were cast via absentee ballot. In 2016 it was 23 percent. We project 2020 will be more than 25 percent.

Cabrera: The fiscal impact needs studying; there would be an increased cost. Mail ballots take more time to process than in-person; they are more labor intensive. We have one absentee voting location in our office and right now we don't have a lot of space for increasing absentee voting, but we could find a way to make it work.

What are your major priorities for your office?

Scott: Staffing and training is the biggest priority. One third of our positions were vacant when I started this year (2018). Our voting machines (DS200 Optical Scanners) are halfway toward their life span, normally 10 years. We will be replacing them and will ask the Board of Supervisors to set aside funding over the next three years to replace the machines.

Making sure that our equipment performs well is also important. The voting machine vendor performs annual maintenance. Last year they proactively replaced the batteries in every voting machine.

Other items include looking ahead to 2021 and redistricting. Ballot design is important since in 2019 there will be 76 different ballot combinations. We also will begin preparations for the 2020 election by making sure we will have enough voting equipment, including spares.

Cabrera: We need to get new electronic poll books. Voter registration and elections are obvious priorities. We are scanning all of the voter registration applications to enter into the state's database.

A new State law went into effect in July 2018 requiring selected jurisdictions to perform Risk-Limiting Audits

(RLA's)* on their election results. The city just finished the pilot program for this new type of election auditing. I have been actively working with the State to create policies and procedures for implementing the current law. It's currently vague enough for some flexibility.

How would changing the date of the June Primaries to the third Tuesday affect your department?

Scott: We were one of the first advocates for it. We think it would be a great step forward because the schools would be out. School security is an issue because parents are concerned about strangers going into their children's schools. Also, it would get us away from the County fair, which is a barrier to people accessing the Government Center.

Cabrera: It doesn't impact the work in our office but it could help with security in the schools. The opposition to it is about school being out and people being on vacation. The city is not supporting it.

What are your views about the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commissions (JLARC)* report on elections?

Scott: It was probably two years overdue. Many issues in the JLARC report really addressed previous leadership. The significant recommendation is that they replace the statewide registration system, which was implemented in February 2007 and was problematic from the start.

Cabrera: I feel that it was written about an administration that is no longer there.

In what ways has the Electoral Assistance Commission (EAC)* been helpful to the registrars at the city, county and state level?

Scott: At our level we don't see much from them. The funding from the Electoral Assistance Commission goes to the State, and it is mostly used for State programs. One area that EAC does help with is in translating specific election terms to other languages where the translation is difficult.

Cabrera: At the State level their role is to implement the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)*. They got off to a slow start but they are curating a lot of well-researched information and they distributed the federal funds. I would hate to see EAC go away, which seems to be a fear. At the city level, they put on good conferences and put out good information. They bring together a lot of experts, and I can go to

their meetings in D.C. They work to bring people together around election security and other hot topics.

What are your opinions on restructuring the State Board of Elections and establishing professional leadership of the Department of Elections instead of changing with each new administration?

Scott: It is badly overdue, and they have not really implemented it yet. They are starved for funds from the General Assembly. They do not have the staff that is needed; however, they are getting there.

Cabrera: I understand the reasons behind it but I'm not sure how long it will take us to get there. I see the advantages of depoliticizing it, but elections are political. I don't know if the governor will give up making these appointments.

What are the advantages or disadvantages of automatic voter registration? If allowed, how would this be implemented?

Scott: I'm against it because how are you going to do it? We should not force people to vote. Also, people could accidentally register to vote twice in two States if we had automatic voter registration. Or, they could be dropped from their home State's rolls if they temporarily reside here, such as military members.

The advantages would mean fewer people on Election Day who are not registered. My concern is old addresses and people who are not keeping up with their voter registration when they move. If implemented, I hope it would be done carefully.

Do you have an opinion on rank-order voting*?

Scott: Not really because I'm not familiar with it.

Cabrera: No. I don't know that much about it. That is not a priority for Virginia. I don't think our voting machines are set up to handle that. It would be expensive on a state-wide basis.

How can the League of Women Voters best help with voting and elections in the County/city?

Scott: The biggest area where we need help is the recruitment of election officers. Filling the Republican election officer slots in Mount Vernon is difficult. We need to cast our net wider to include election officers who speak other languages, too. For election officers there is a requirement

that there are an even number of Republicans and Democrats and no more than one-third of them be independents.

Cabrera: I appreciate the League's help with high school registration because the League does it correctly. The League does it with high quality and is a trusted source of voter registration. The League also has a good reputation for voter advocacy.

APPENDIX

CERA - Certified Elections Registration Administrator

<https://www.electioncenter.org/overview-of-professional-education-program.html>

The Professional Education Program is the only program of continuing professional education which specializes in voter registration and elections administration. Participants receive continuing education units (CEUs) from Auburn University and Election Center credit towards the achievement of the profession's highest designation. The Election Center (The National Association of Elected Officials) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting, preserving, and improving democracy. Its members are government employees whose profession is to serve in voter registration and elections administration.

REO - Registered Election Official Program

The program and its courses are designed to help Election Administrators, Count Clerks, Voter Registrars and their respective staffs better understand the steps and processes involved in administering an election. The program consists of eight courses:

1. Voting equipment acquisition, operation and maintenance
2. Ballot access, design and preparation
3. Poll workers: recruiting, maintaining, training and managing
4. Federal and Constitutional law on voter registration and elections
5. Voter registration process
6. Integrity of elections
7. Requirements for precincts and polling places
8. Managing the voter registration and election office

RLA - RISK-LIMITING AUDITS

https://www.eac.gov/assets/1/6/Risk-Limiting_Audits_-_Practical_Application_Jerome_Lovato.pdf 2018-RLA-Report-City-of-Fairfax-VA

Risk-limiting audits implement a simple, compelling idea: instead of relying on the accuracy of voting machines,

check enough ballots by hand to obtain strong evidence that the declared winner(s) of each audited contest really got more votes. A recent consensus report of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine declares that within a decade, “risk-limiting audits should be conducted for all federal and state election contests, and for local contests where feasible.” But risk-limiting audits are widely perceived as complicated. Largely this is a function of unfamiliarity, compounded by the intrinsic complexity and variety of election practices that intersect with RLAs. A risk-limiting audit is a post-election audit that provides strong statistical evidence that the election outcome is correct, and has a high probability of correcting a wrong outcome. An RLA manually checks a sample of ballots, or voter-verifiable paper records, until there is sufficient evidence that the reported outcome is correct. An RLA could eventually lead to a full manual recount if there is not enough evidence to prove that the reported outcome is correct.

HAVA - HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT of 2002 was passed by the United States Congress to make sweeping reforms to the nation’s voting process. HAVA addresses improvements to voting systems and voter access that were identified following the 2000 election. HAVA creates new mandatory minimum standards for states to follow in several key areas of election administration. The law provides funding to help states meet these new standards, replace voting systems and improve election administration. HAVA established the Election Assistance Commission (EAC). Among the provisions listed are procedures for:

- Provisional Voting
- Voting Information
- Updated and Upgraded Voting Equipment
- Statewide Voter Registration Databases
- Voter Identification Procedures
- Administrative Complaint Procedures

EAC - ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION assists the states regarding HAVA compliance and distributing HAVA funds to the states. It is also charged with creating voting system guidelines and operating the federal government’s first voting system certification program. EAC is also responsible for maintaining the National Voter Registration form, conducting research, and administering a national clearinghouse on elections that includes shared practices, information for voters and other resources to improve elections. In carrying out its duties the Commission shall, on an ongoing basis, disseminate to the public (through the Internet, published reports, and such other methods as the Commission considers appropriate) infor-

mation on the activities carried out under this Act.

JLARC - JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT AND REVIEW COMMISSION directed its staff in 2017 to study the operations and performance of the Virginia Department of Elections. The Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT) is responsible for supervising the local administration of elections in Virginia. Elections are administered by general registrars and local electoral boards which are responsible for operating polling locations on election day and for numerous other functions during the rest of the year.

These are some of the findings of the JLARC study:

1. Virginia uses a fairly robust process to maintain its voter registration list but can further improve process and guidance.
2. IT system maintained by ELECT is not sufficiently functional or reliable.
3. ELECT’s oversight does not provide full assurance of election integrity and uniformity though guidance and training is generally useful.
4. ELECT has lacked continuity of leadership and is susceptible to political influence.

Data Checks Between States (from 7/26/2018 National Conference of State Legislatures)

HAVA requires states to identify duplicate records on the registration list. States identify duplicates within their borders, and they can also cooperate with other states to identify potential duplicate records across state lines. If a new voter in a state fills out a voter registration form and indicates that he was a registered voter in another state previously, jurisdictions will typically inform the other state that the voter has moved.

There are two programs that allow states to compare data to identify duplicate registration or inaccuracies:

- The Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) has 24 member-states (plus the District of Columbia) as of July 26, 2018. The mission of ERIC is to assist states in improving the accuracy of voter rolls, and also to increase access to voter registration for eligible citizens. It provides states with a proactive rather than a reactive method of keeping up with their voter lists, and is a good way to keep up with a mobile population. ERIC also uses resources such as the Social Security death index and NCOA data, which means it can be a

“one-stop shop” for many list-maintenance and data-comparison activities. It provides monthly reports to the states.

- The Interstate Crosscheck Program has recently had 25 to 30 member-states, with participation varying from year to year. The stated purpose of the program is to identify possible duplicate registrations among states. It provides its information to participating states some months before each general election. For more information, contact the Kansas Secretary of State’s office.

Some states have found that their current statutes allow them to participate in an interstate cross-check program without new legislation. Other states have needed authorizing legislation to participate in these programs. Typically, this legislation provides the chief elections officer authority to share voter registration data and other vital data with other states for voter registration purposes. These bills commonly include language requiring the chief elections officer to do whatever is necessary to protect private data from disclosure. In 2013 Virginia permitted the State Elections Board to cooperate with other states and jurisdictions to develop systems to compare voters, voter history and voter registration lists (Va. Code §24.2-404).

Ranked Choice Voting / Instant Runoff Vote

Ranked choice voting (RCV) describes voting systems that allow voters to rank candidates in order of preference, and then uses those rankings to elect candidates able to combine strong first choice support with the ability to earn second and third choice support. www.fairvote.org/rcv. Various communities in California, Minnesota, Maryland, and Maine have used this system for years.

The League of Women Voters of Vermont has a blog post of pros and cons of Rank Choice Voting/Instant Runoff. www.my.lwv.vermont/article/pros-and-cons-instant-runoff-ranked-choice-voting:

PROs of RCV/IRV

Promotes majority support - The voting continues until one candidate has the majority of votes, so the final winner has support of the majority of voters.

Discourages negative campaigning - Candidates who use negative campaigning may lose the second-choice vote of those whose first choice was treated poorly.

Provides more choice for voters.

Minimizes strategic voting - Instead of voters feeling compelled to choose “the lesser of two evils,” as in plural-vote voting, voters can honestly vote for who they believe is

the best candidate.

Saves money compared with running primary elections.

Provides an outcome more reflective of the majority of voters than either primaries (with extreme candidates “playing to their base”) **or run-off elections** (far lower turnout for run-off elections, typically).

CONs of RCV/IRV

It is new - A certain percentage of people don’t like change.

It will require education about how it works - The ballots and the counting of the ballots will be more expensive - It either requires a computer system or is labor intensive to count by hand, with risk of errors.

The “vetting” is less clear.

You could still fail to get a candidate with a majority. If enough voters did not give any votes to their lower choices, then you could fail to get a candidate who ends up with majority, after all.

Discussion Questions

1. How did you become interested in elections and the League of Women Voters?
2. If you are an election officer have you had a good experience with our local department of elections?
3. What was your biggest take-away from these interviews with our local registrars? What additional questions would you ask?
4. Are you concerned about voter fraud and/or election security in the Fairfax area?
5. The League has long supported No Excuse Absentee Voting, but cost is an issue. How do you think we could best address this challenge?
6. What is your opinion of the pros and cons of changing the date of the June primaries to the third Tuesday?
7. The League supports automatic voter registration. What are the advantages and disadvantages?
8. What is your opinion of the risk assessment audit?
9. Do you think Rank Order Voting would be beneficial in Virginia? Why?



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

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2019 Testimony to the Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly

January 5, 2019

Good morning, members of our Delegation to the General Assembly. I am Wendy Fox-Grage, Action Co-chair of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. Our League is a nonprofit volunteer organization that has proudly been active in Fairfax County for 70 years. We want to thank Delegates Keam and Watts and many of you in our Fairfax delegation for recognizing our 70th anniversary through a House of Delegates proclamation. We are very appreciative of this recognition, and we are proud to live and volunteer in Fairfax County.

Our League supports the 2019 Fairfax County Legislative Program. We are especially supportive of the positions on elections, domestic violence, weapons, and behavioral health. We strongly advocate for adequate resources to provide much needed human services and to promote voting in fair and transparent elections.

The following five issues are high priorities for our League:

- **Redistricting Reform** in terms of an independent commission: Action by the General Assembly is needed during this upcoming 2019 legislative session for this reform to be in time for the new Congressional and General Assembly maps to be drawn based on the 2020 Census numbers.
- **Equal Rights Amendment:** It is time to ratify the ERA to guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of gender.
- **Voting Rights:** Let's guarantee voting rights for all citizens ages 18 and older, and provide funding to support the personnel, services, and equipment needed for well-managed, accessible, fair and secure elections throughout the Commonwealth.
- **Gun Violence Prevention:** The enactment of "red flag" laws would allow law enforcement or family members to petition a judge to temporarily restrict a person's access to firearms to avert shootings.
- **Behavioral Health:** We need to ensure that much-needed mental health and substance abuse services are available for those who need it.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area urges you to act on these important election, human rights, and human services issues. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

Jennifer Boysko Wins Special Election to Fill Wexton's Seat



Jennifer Boysko won the special election in the 33rd District on January 8, getting 14,766 votes (70 percent) over her opponent Joe T. May. This election for the 33rd Senate District seat was necessitated when Jennifer

Wexton won the 10th District Election for the US Congress, which opened up her Senate seat in Virginia. Boysko is known as an advocate for "solving problems for those who have difficulty speaking up for themselves: animals, people struggling with addiction, women who need healthcare and find themselves far from the care they need and/or short on the money to pay, women who need menstrual supplies - all women, inmates, women in shelters, and girls in schools, victims of domestic violence and gun violence - all too often both, minorities and women who are treated unfairly in schools, by the criminal justice system and in the workplace."

Update . . .

Metro Area Aircraft Noise and Complaints Continue to Grow

By Julia Jones, Program Director

Airport noise has been in the news on TV, radio and newspapers. Complaints have risen and Maryland has sued, challenging the flight paths at Reagan National. The Fairfax County Airports Advisory Committee is drafting a report to help community members report their experiences with aircraft noise and change in flight paths.

In September 2018 the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority issued its 2017 Annual Aircraft Noise Report for Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport. The following is from that report, which can be found at www.flydulles.com under Annual Aircraft Noise Report.

Summary

The 2017 Annual Aircraft Noise Report provides data analysis of flight operations, noise monitoring data and noise complaint statistics for Ronald Reagan Washington National and Washington Dulles International airports. This report is a public information resource compiled by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, which operates the airports on behalf of the federal government. The Airports Authority does not control or regulate airspace, aircraft operations, aircraft noise levels, airline schedules, airline fleet mix or local land-use zoning.

Background: The National Capital region is unique within the Federal Aviation Administration's National Airspace System because of its high volume and type of aircraft operations, in addition to federally mandated prohibited airspace over the National Mall, White House and Naval Observatory.

Aircraft noise continues to be a concern for neighborhoods in the National Capital region and across the nation. An

increase in complaints at Reagan National and Dulles International has been attributed to community and media awareness of airline schedule changes to accommodate early morning and late-night travel demand, as well as the FAA's implementation of advanced satellite navigation procedures (Next Generation Air Transportation System - NextGen), resulting in more consolidated flight corridors over some neighborhoods.

Key Focus Areas

1. Flight Operations and Aircraft Fleet Mix Statistics: Approximately 4,000 aircraft operate in the Washington airspace each day. While many commercial aircraft operate at Reagan National and Dulles International, other aircraft operate at general aviation airfields and key military installations that host a fleet of government aircraft including Air Force One. In 2017, Reagan National experienced a daily average of 401.4 arrivals and 401.2 departures. Dulles International experienced a daily average of 397.2 arrivals and 395.7 departures.

2 Noise Monitoring Data: The Airports Authority voluntarily funds and operates a noise monitoring system with 34 noise monitors installed around Reagan National and Dulles International. The Airports Authority was the first U.S. airport system to upgrade its noise detection and processing software using Aircraft Noise Event Extraction Methodology (ANEEM). ANEEM improves aircraft, community and mixed noise source classifications based on available aircraft position and flight plan data. Monthly noise event summaries and detailed noise event reports for each monitor are published in this report and online (Noise Reports and Data) as general information to track historical trends only. Federal law prohibits the use of flight track and noise monitoring data to audit, investigate or enforce any regulation.

3. Noise Complaint Statistics: As a public resource, the Airports Authority also voluntarily collects, publishes and forwards noise complaints to the FAA and airlines for their consideration of changes to flight procedures, schedules and fleet mix. In 2017, Reagan National received 75,819 complaints from 1,838 individuals (1,580 households); the



majority of individuals (51%) submitted one complaint. (*One individual registered 15,318 complaints.*) Dulles International received 5,340 complaints from 209 individuals (200 households); the majority of individuals (66%) submitted one complaint.

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is an interstate compact entity that operates Reagan National and Dulles International Airports pursuant to a lease from the United States government. Approximately 800 commercial daily operations occur at each airport, ultimately serving more than 46.6 million passengers annually. In addition to commercial flights, numerous general aviation and military aircraft operate in the greater Washington area, which makes the capital region one of the busiest airspaces in the country. In addition to operating both airports, the Airports Authority oversees two key regional transportation programs: the design and construction of the Metrorail Silver Line extension and the operation and maintenance of the Dulles Toll Road.

Although air travel is an essential element of the metropolitan Washington economy, aircraft noise can disturb residents living near flight paths, particularly during early morning and late-night hours. This is especially true in densely populated neighborhoods adjacent to Reagan National's flight paths along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers and housing developments constructed near Dulles International's runways.

Recently, Reagan National and Dulles International have experienced an increase in aircraft noise complaints; subsequently, several key factors have been identified:

1. Reagan National - Increased Travel Demand: An increase in demand for early morning and late-night

travel has resulted in more arrivals and departures between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. The change has prompted additional complaints from residents who live near the flight paths in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

2. Dulles International – Encroaching Housing Developments: An increase in housing construction near flight paths and runways has resulted in additional complaints from residents.
3. D.C. Metroplex - Procedure Changes: FAA continues the implementation of its nationwide Next Generation Air Transportation System program (NextGen) to improve airspace safety and efficiency. Procedure changes in the D.C. airspace (D.C. Metroplex) have resulted in additional noise complaints from residents near Reagan National and Dulles International.

The Airports Authority operates a Noise Information Office to provide noise-related information, record noise complaints and explain the facts, science and regulations. When public concerns arise over these issues, the Airports Authority's management and Noise Information Office may meet with individuals, groups, elected officials, airline representatives and the FAA to discuss airport operations and potential mitigation measures.

In 2017, the Airports Authority continued to work with the FAA, airlines and community stakeholders to provide information and help identify procedures that may potentially mitigate aircraft noise in neighborhoods near Reagan National and Dulles International airports. The 2017 Annual Aircraft Noise Report includes information related to these efforts as well as flight operations, noise monitoring data and complaint statistics.

Let's Talk About School Issues

By Betty Ellerbee

I'm looking to form a new discussion group, centered around Fairfax County schools. In 2019 we voters will be electing four School Board members (and two members for the Board of Supervisors).

There is bound to be a lot of interest and the League wants to ask good questions for the candidates on our Vote411 platform and in candidate forums. Pat Fege and Alice Reilly bring a wealth of experience to observing Fairfax

County School Board meetings and work sessions. These observations provide a springboard for discussion and development of issues. Please call (707-560-7510) or email me (ellerbetty@aol.com) to indicate your interest in participating in such a group so that we can establish a regular meeting time. We can use our Packard Center conference room much more often than we do now...and we have many new members whose passions and skills we need to engage. Hoping to hear from you!



Environmental Update . . .

Let it Snow!

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Clearing ice from your driveway using salt and harsh chemicals harms groundwater as well as pets and plants, and de-icers are designed only to break up ice enough to shovel it away. If you do use rock salt, which works best above 25°F, stop applying it by late winter, before plants are breaking dormancy and their roots begin to actively absorb water and nutrients.

Use the smallest amount of de-icer and increase as needed; the ice should start to melt within 15 minutes. Don't use de-icer for powdery, dry snow. Shovel or sweep the snow to prevent it from forming hard, packed layers. For heavy, wet snow, use de-icer as soon as you notice the snow. For freezing rain, apply deicer before the freezing rain sets to prevent a buildup of ice. If there is more than two inches of snow you must shovel first since de-icer won't melt enough snow to be helpful. Add de-icer when you get to a packed layer or are near the bottom layer of snow.

After sweeping your driveway early during snowfalls and then repeatedly shoveling down to pavement try a greener alternative to a chemical de-icer where needed:

- Organic salts, such as potassium, calcium magnesium, and sodium acetate, are more biodegradable.

- Organic, salt-free de-icers are available.
- The brine from pickling has less chlorine than rock salt. It prevents ice from sticking to the road, making it easier to remove. You can make your own brine by mixing 2 lbs. of salt in a gallon of water, to which you can add a glass of sugar beet juice.
- Sugar beet juice similarly lowers the melting point of ice and snow, helping to clear your driveway. It has been used on municipal roads in some areas and is one of the few options effective below -10°F. It's safe for people, animals, plants, metals, and concrete. Some commercial products are available for residential use.
- Alfalfa meal is grainy so it also provides traction. It's available at local nurseries.
- The dark color of coffee grounds absorbs heat, which helps to melt snow and ice while providing traction.
- A mixture of one teaspoon of dish soap, one tablespoon of rubbing alcohol, and ½ gallon of hot water can be applied to ice to help break it up or make it passable.

Also, you can de-ice windows by mixing 3 cups of white vinegar with 1 cup of lukewarm water in a spray bottle.

LWVFA Donors and Supporters

The LWVFA Board extends an overwhelming thank you to the following individuals for their generous support.

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Also, Springfield Unit cash donors

Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

Topic: How Elections Work in Fairfax County and Fairfax City

Members and visitors are encouraged to attend any meeting convenient for them, including the “At-Large Meeting” and briefing on Saturdays when a briefing is listed. As of January 1, 2019, the locations were correct; please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend. Some meetings at restaurants may need reservations.

Saturday, February 2

10 a.m. At-Large Unit and Briefing

League Conference Room
Packard Center
(Inside Annandale Community Park)
4026 Hummer Road
Annandale, 22003
Contact: Julie, 703-861-9616

Monday, February 11

1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)

Hunters Crossing Classroom
Spring Village Drive
Springfield, 22150
Contact: Edith, 703-644-3970 or
Gloria, 703-852-5113

Wednesday, February 13

9:30 a.m. McLean Day (McL)

StarNut Café
1445 Laughlin Ave.
McLean, 22101
Contact: Anjali, 703-509-5518 or
Sheena, 703-481-0933

10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)

8739 Cuttermill Place
Springfield, 22153
Contact: Kathleen, 703-644-1555 or
Sherry, 703-730-8118

10 a.m. Mount Vernon Day (MVD)

Mt. Vernon District Government
Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria, 22306
Contact: Gail, 703-360-6561 or
Diana, 703-704-5325

7:15 p.m. Fairfax City Evening (FCE)

The Green Acres Center
4401 Sideburn Road
Fairfax, 22030
Contact: Elizabeth and Amy,
Fairfaxcityunit@lwv-fairfax.org

7:30 p.m. Reston Evening (RE)

Hunter Mill District Community
Room
North County Government Center
1801 Cameron Glen Drive
Reston, 20190
Contact: rachel.roberts.rmr@gmail.com

Thursday, February 14

9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)

1420 Aldenham Lane
Reston 20190
Contact: Barbara (703) 437-0795
or bseandlte@earthlink.net

9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)

Packard Center
4026-B Hummer Road
Annandale, 22003
Contact: Marge, 703-451-0589

10 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CCD)

Sully Government Center
4900 Stonecroft Blvd.
Chantilly, 20151
Contact: Susan, 703-391-0666

1:00 p.m. Oakton/Vienna (OV), formerly Fairfax/Vienna (FX-V)

Oakton Regional Library, Room 1
10304 Lynnhaven Pl.
Oakton, 22124
Contact: Bob, 563-299-5316 or
Liz, 703-281-3380

7:45 p.m. Mount Vernon Evening (MVE)

Paul Spring Retirement Community
Mt. Vernon Room
7116 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, 22307
Contact: Jane, 703-960-6820

March Meetings: Voter Registration and Election Security



The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)
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**Anu Sahai, Co-President
Judy Helein, Co-President
Ron Page, Editor
Liz Brooke, Content Editor**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the public to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, regional and national levels the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any person at least 16 years old, male or female, may become a member.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

LWVFA MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL FORM

Dues year is July 1 – June 30

Membership Dues: Individual \$65 _____ Household \$90 (2 persons, 1 Voter) _____ Student _____ Free _____
(A subsidy fund is available; check here _____ and include whatever amount you can afford.)

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LWVFA, 4026-B Hummer Road Annandale VA 22003-2403

OR

Join Online at: [www. LWV-Fairfax.org/join.ht](http://www.LWV-Fairfax.org/join.ht)

I am interested in becoming involved in (please indicate by circling the appropriate bullet(s)):

- **Providing organizational support** (graphic design, website development/maintenance, fundraising/grant writing)
- **Voter Service** (e.g., voter registration drives, candidate forums, developing Voters’ Guides)
- **Researching/writing about issues in which LWVFA has an interest** (e.g., environment, firearms safety, mental health, schools, domestic violence, criminal justice; or, chairing an LWVFA study committee on voter turnout or human trafficking).
- **Representing the League in governmental fora** (e.g., serving as LWVFA representative on Fairfax County citizens’ committees and agencies, such as affordable housing, Fairfax County Public Schools).
- **Other** _____