



# Fairfax VOTER

September 2019

Volume 72, Issue 1

## Fall Elections Are Coming: All About the Ballot

After a summer of family and community events, it's time to get back to work. This fall's elections are the perfect opportunity for activism and education. Inform yourself, encourage community participation, and help get out the vote! Read what will be on the ballot, why it matters and how you can be involved in All About the Ballot.

### Calendar

#### Virginia Voter Registration Month

- 1 *Fairfax Voter* Deadline for the October Issue
- 6 LWNCA Board Meeting,
- 9-12 LWVFA Unit Meetings
- 13 LWV-VA Board Meeting and Fall Workshops,  
Fredericksburg, VA
- 14 LWVFA Restoration of Voting Rights Meeting,  
Packard Center, Annandale, 10 a.m. to noon
- 17 Constitution and Citizenship Day
- 18 LWVFA Board Mtg, Packard Center, 10 a.m.
- 20 In-Person Absentee Voting Begins
- 22-28 Northern Virginia Voter Registration Week
- 24 National Voter Registration Day; Kick Off for  
FCPS HS Voter Registration Challenge
- 24 LWNCA Voter Registration Drive at  
Washington Nationals Stadium,
- 27 Reston Community Center Election.
- 28 Reston Multicultural Festival and Voter  
Registration Drive, Lake Anne, Reston
- 29 Fairfax Cable Access Corp. Comm Election

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## Presidents' Message



Hope everyone had a great summer! We would like to start by welcoming all our new members, incoming office bearers and new board members.

This coming year is going to be a big one for us! We have so much going on that we will be on our toes for the next fall and spring! Candidate Forums galore, High School Voter registration with Census promotion and the Centennial celebrations will be front and center stage.

We had a nice Board retreat on July 17 attended by almost 30 members. Yummy food (always our focus) was enjoyed by everyone and we had many interesting discussions. We thought it might be a good idea to fill you all in.

We talked about Branding and Messaging and concluded that we need to cooperate and work with other organizations such as Moms Demand Action, One Virginia 2021, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, to name just a few. We absolutely need to improve and expand our social media presence and we hope that our student interns will be able to help. We are in the process of creating a new voter education pamphlet and will be distributing it in schools and elsewhere.

Beth Tudan talked about our High School Voter Registration initiative and brought us up to speed on that. We have a fairly streamlined system now and are confident that this year will be a big one. We have already registered about 1700 kids in classrooms alone. Our partner organization Inspire Virginia has folded due to a lack of funds so the League will have to go it alone. To that end, we will need more volunteers and we hope you all will step up.

As you all might know our league is working with the Census Bureau and Fairfax County on the Complete Count Committee. The importance of getting an accurate count cannot be stressed enough. We are planning to incorporate promotion for the Census into this program and have already spoken to FCPS to grant us access into all the FCPS High Schools. Stay tuned!

Wendy Fox-Grage talked to us about Action and Advocacy. It was suggested that we should try to attend more of

the Women's Legislative Round Tables that are held in Richmond every week when the legislature is in session. We heard from Ruth Hoffman about Gun Violence Prevention. It doesn't look very promising, but we will stay the course. We are working and will continue to work with the VA Ratify ERA people on getting the Equal Rights Amendment passed. August 26<sup>th</sup> is Women's Equality Day and we are trying to organize an event along with them. Redistricting reform continues to be a priority, and this could be our last chance to get it done. This will be the focus of our Action Forum on November 17. We hope everyone will attend.

We talked about a lot of other things and were all quite energized and encouraged. The Annual Kick off meeting is on August 24<sup>th</sup> at the Government Center and we will move full speed ahead!

We are very excited, and we hope you will join us on this wonderful journey over the next several months.

*Anu & Nancy*

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

### LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2019 - 2020

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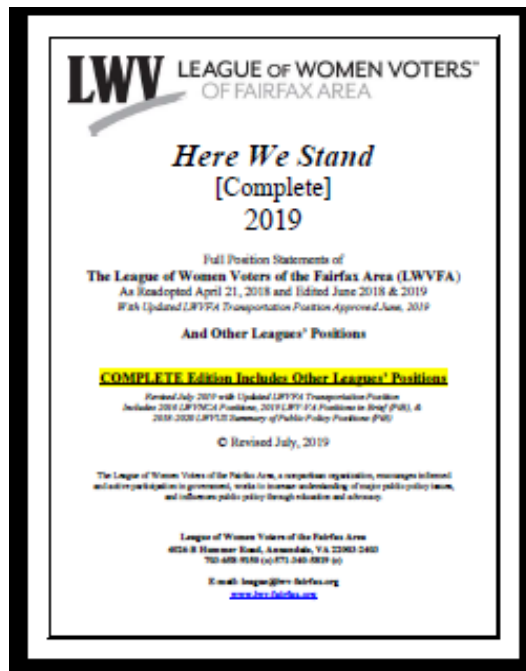
## “Here We Stand” on Transportation Has Been Revised

By Sherry Zachry, former LWVFA Program Director

On June 19, 2019, the LWVFA Board approved the wording of the new LWVFA Transportation Position. The committee read all of the feedback from the May units and made some adjustments based on those suggestions. This means that LWVFA can advocate more fully on transportation issues in the area based on the updated (and “up-to-the-minute”) position.

The new position and its Position in Brief (PiB) are now incorporated in the newly revised 2019 version of *HERE WE STAND*. We’ve also updated *HERE WE STAND – COMPLETE* with the latest positions in brief from LWV-VA (2019) and from LWVUS (Summary of Public Policy Positions in IMPACT ON ISSUES, 2018-2020) with links to the documents on the LWV-VA and LWVUS websites.

Both editions of 2019 *HERE WE STAND*– LWVFA **Only** and **COMPLETE** – are posted on the LWVFA website under the “Positions” tab, at <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/positions>. Check them out!



## Spotlight on Voter Services As Kalkwarf Takes Over From Johnson

The Voter Services volunteer team focuses on registering people to vote, getting out the vote, providing educational and informational public services, and initiating outreach programs to groups of potential voters.

Our new Voter Services Coordinator is Cindy Kalkwarf who joined the League in June 2018 and began helping with the Candidate Forums, voter registration, and as Membership Chair for her Reston Evening Unit. She is working closely with Sidney Johnson, former Coordinator, to take on these broad responsibilities.

The Voter Services Coordinator stays abreast of the status of the various initiatives, provides support where needed and acts as a liaison to the Board for these critical activities. She keeps members informed of voter services activities through monthly entries in the Unit Chair Letter and the Fairfax Voter:

- Voter Registration activities at festivals and events, high schools, libraries, and Unit-led drives;
- Voter Education materials development: What’s on the Ballot, Facts for Voters, Vote 411 and new educational products funded by grants;
- Candidate Forums providing face-to-face interactions among candidates and the public;
- Outreach programs: health care workers, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, Restoration of Rights, diverse cultural and language groups.

We always welcome new volunteers to help us achieve these efforts and develop new projects. We have an enthusiastic and energetic team. You can volunteer for a one-off event or get further involved in ongoing activities. Please reach out to Cindy to learn more. [Cindy.Kalkwarf@lwv-fairfax.org](mailto:Cindy.Kalkwarf@lwv-fairfax.org).

**MAKING  
DEMOCRACY WORK®**

# Fairfax Station Unit Visits the Water Treatment Plant and Learns Some History!

By Sherry Zachry, FXS Unit Co-chair

In June, some members of the Fairfax Station Unit, plus other members, visited the Griffith Water Treatment Plant (WTP) on Ox Road (Route 123) in Lorton to see how Fairfax Water processes drinking water for the southern portion of Fairfax County. Before the tour, we enjoyed a delicious lunch at Brickmakers Café in Occoquan Regional Park, located next to the new events pavilion, River View at the Jean R. Packard Center, and near the spot where the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial will be built.

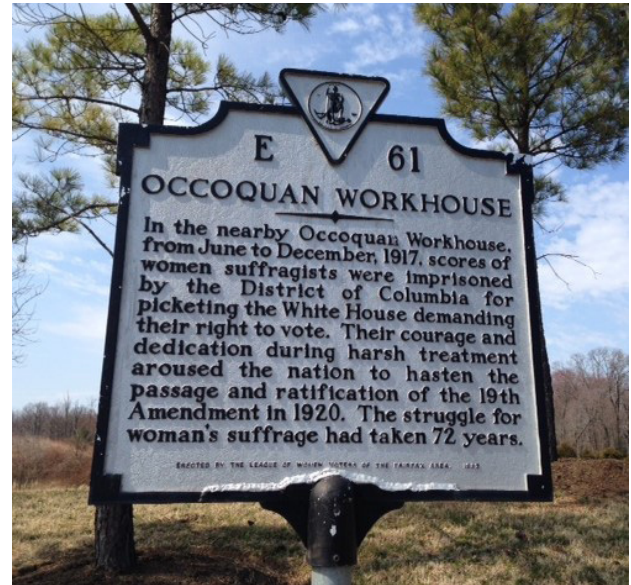
The WTP tour began with a review of the history of the area, including the Workhouse Arts Center and Museum across the road, and its importance to the women’s suffrage movement in America. The infamous Occoquan Workhouse was originally located on the land where the Griffith plant is now built. In the auditorium, there is a “history wall” of pictures depicting Alice Paul, Lucy Stone, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and other people and places involved in the suffrage movement.

As was pointed out (and we Leaguers know!), some of the women picketing the White House in 1917 were incarcerated at the Occoquan Workhouse—then a wooden building—and were mistreated there over a period of months. Alice Paul was sent to the jail in D.C. because they wanted her separated from Lucy Stone and the other protesters. After word of the abuse at the Workhouse leaked out in the press,

President Wilson and others in Congress were persuaded to pass the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. We were reminded 100 years after its passage that we were standing on the grounds where the suffrage movement gained its final momentum.

LWVFA commissioned a Historical Marker to be placed on Ox Road at the site of the Workhouse (where Griffith WTP is now) and it was first dedicated in 1983. After Griffith was built, the marker was reinstalled (and rededicated in 2008) on the grounds near the entrance to the plant. We were unable to see the marker on this trip, but are going to investigate further to make sure it is still there.

Along with the history lesson, the science and process of treating water to make it safe to drink and use is fascinating and we all enjoyed learning about it. Arrangements for tours can be made through the Public Affairs Department of Fairfax Water, [pr@fairfaxwater.com](mailto:pr@fairfaxwater.com).



## Jones Announces a Varied List of Programs for Upcoming Year

Julie Jones, Program Director

LWVFA has varied programs for the 2019-20 League year. All programs are planned to promote more informed voting citizens. We hope that you will become active participants in these activities and discussions.

- **September:** All About the Ballot
- **October:** LWVUS Concurrence on Elections and Information on Rank Choice Voting
- **November:** General Meeting - Action/

- Advocacy Forum and Redistricting
- **December:** Program Planning for LWVFA and LWVUS
- **January:** LWVFA Reads about Suffrage
- **February:** Celebrate 100th Anniversary of LWV with a Tea Party
- **March:** Women and Alcohol
- **April:** Annual Meeting
- **May:** Status of Virginia Education
- **June:** TBA



## All About The Ballot: The November 5, 2019

### General Election

By Rona Ackerman, Julia Jones, and Jill Meyer

*Nine offices with more than 90 candidates across Fairfax County and City--are you ready for the November 5th General Election? Become informed, spread the word, and help get out the vote!*

The November 5, 2019 General Election will provide voters with an opportunity to choose candidates running for nine offices. Both Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax will elect:

- Member, Virginia Senate
- Member, House of Delegates
- Commonwealth's Attorney
- Sheriff

In addition, Fairfax County residents will elect:

- Chairman, Board of Supervisors
- Member, Board of Supervisors
- Members, School Board at Large (3)
- Member, School Board
- Soil and Water Conservation Directors (3)

Information on the history; powers and responsibilities; and terms, qualifications, and remuneration for each of these offices is provided below. Become informed, spread the word, and help get out the vote!

#### THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**History:** The Virginia General Assembly is the oldest continuous law-making body in the Western Hemisphere. On July 30, 1619, Governor Yeardley convened the first General Assembly in Jamestown. The unicameral Assembly was composed of the Governor, a Council of State and 22 locally-elected representatives. In 1642, a bicameral legislature was implemented; the House of Burgesses was formed and met separately from the Council of State. In 1776, the colony became the independent Commonwealth of Virginia and created the Constitution of Virginia with a new General Assembly composed of an elected Senate and an elected House of Delegates. The House of Burgesses became the House of Delegates.

General Assembly meetings were held in various locations in Jamestown from 1619-1699, and then in Williamsburg until 1780 when Richmond was declared the capital. Since 1788, the General Assembly has met in the Capitol building. Every four years the Virginia General Assembly traditionally leaves the Capitol and meets for one day in the restored Capitol building in Colonial Williamsburg. This building is a reconstruction of the original building after both the

original and reconstructed buildings burned down. The next commemorative session will be held in January 2020.

**Powers and Responsibilities:** The General Assembly convenes in annual Regular Session on the second Wednesday of January. In even-numbered years, the legislature meets for 60 calendar days; in odd-numbered years it meets for 30 days but customarily extends to 46 days. A session may be extended for up to 30 days. A Special Session may be called by the Governor at any time and the legislature may call itself into Special Session if two-thirds of each house approve. Since 1980, the legislature has constitutionally been required to convene a Reconvened Session on the sixth Wednesday after adjournment of any Session (Regular or Special) to consider any Governor's amendments or vetoes of legislation passed. The Reconvened Session typically lasts one day but may be extended an additional seven days.

The bicameral legislature works alongside the Governor to create laws and establish a state budget. Legislative authority and responsibilities include passing bills on public policy matters, setting levels for state spending, raising and lowering taxes, and voting to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes. Members are responsible for representing the citizens of their districts in the formulation of public policy via legislative process, which involves the introduction of a bill, committee meetings, voting, deliberations between the Senate and House and other interested parties, and approval by the Governor. In addition, members elect the judges that serve the Commonwealth in the various levels of the judiciary. The Senate and House Courts of Justice Committees interview judicial candidates and make recommendations to the floor for the entire membership of each house to vote on.

The General Assembly has 25 standing committees on which members serve, 14 in the House and 11 in the Senate. There are no joint legislative committees. Both houses have six standing committees: Commerce and Labor; Courts of Justice; Finance; Privileges and Elections; Rules; and Transportation. Additional standing committees of the House are: Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources; Appropriations; Counties, Cities and Towns; Education; General Laws; Health, Welfare and Institutions; Militia, Police and Public Safety; and Science and Technology. Additional Senate standing committees are: Agriculture,

Conservation and Natural Resources; Education and Health; General Laws and Technology; Local Government; and Rehabilitation and Social Services.

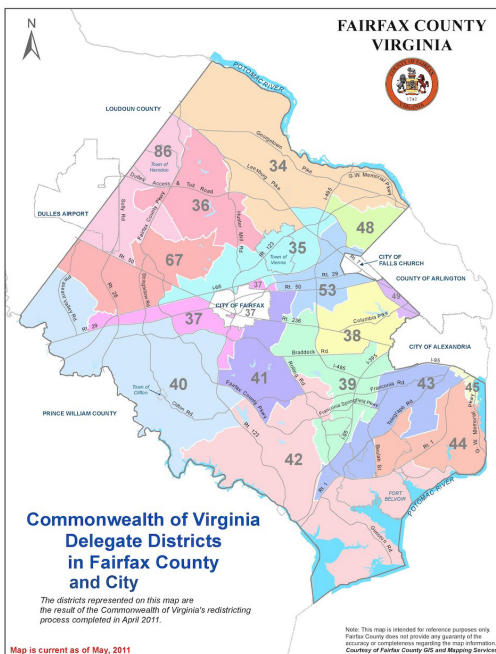
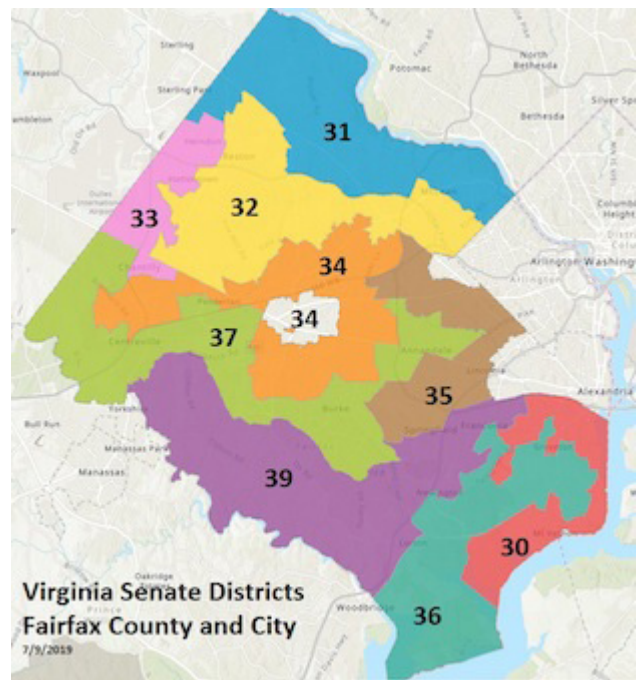
Finally, all legislators serve the people of their district throughout the year, assisting their constituents with various public services at the local, state, and federal levels of government.

**Term, Qualifications, and Remuneration:** The Virginia Constitution adopted in 1970 provides for a 33-40 member Senate and a 90-100 member House. All members are elected by voters within his/her district. Members may not hold any other elected public office during their term, must be at least 21 years of age at the time of election, reside in the district they represent, be qualified to vote for members of the General Assembly, and a resident of Virginia for the year preceding election. If a member moves from his/her district, he/she must vacate the office. There are no term limits.

The Virginia House of Delegates consists of 100 members. There are currently 17 Delegate Districts in Fairfax County (see map). Each Delegate is elected for a two-year term and all terms begin and end at the same time. The House reorganizes after each election and elects its leadership (Speaker of the House, Clerk of the House, and Sergeant at Arms) and adopts the Rules of the House. Each Delegate represents approximately 85,000 citizens and receives an annual salary of \$17,640. The Speaker of the House serves as the presiding officer of the House. The duties of the Speaker include assigning all bills to House committees and

appointing the chairs and members of each of the 14 standing committees of the House. The Speaker presides over the daily session of the House and guides the legislative process of the House pursuant to the Constitution and the Rules.

The Senate of Virginia consists of 40 members. There are currently nine Senate Districts in Fairfax County (see map). Each Senator is elected for a four-year term and all terms begin and end at the same time. Each Senator receives an annual salary of \$18,000 and represents approximately 212,000 citizens. The Lieutenant Governor is the presiding officer of the Senate. In his/her absence, the President pro tempore carries out these duties. The Senate reorganizes after each election, electing a President pro tempore, Clerk of the Senate, and Sergeant at Arms.



**THE FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**History:** In 1870, under the new Virginia constitution, local control in Fairfax County changed from government by county court, which had existed since 1742, to government by Board of Supervisors. Initially, the board had six members, one from each of the magisterial districts of Centreville, Dranesville, Falls Church, Lee, Mount Vernon and Providence, with the chairman elected from among the members of the board to a one-year term. In 1953, the county redistricted, forming the new Mason district from parts of the Falls Church, Lee, and Mount Vernon districts, and adding a seventh member to the board. In 1966, with the

adoption of the urban county executive form of government in a referendum, the chairman became an at-large position directly elected by county voters. The county was again redistricted, with the Falls Church district abolished and the new Annandale and Springfield districts established, creating a nine-seat board. In the 1991 redistricting, the Annandale District was renamed the Braddock District and the new Sully District was created in western Fairfax County, bringing the total number of seats on the board to ten. The Centreville District, which had not actually contained Centreville since 1971, was renamed the Hunter Mill District in 1993. Supervisor is technically a part-time job. A December 1993 vote by the Board of Supervisors to officially convert itself to a full-time, rather than a part-time body was not approved by the General Assembly.

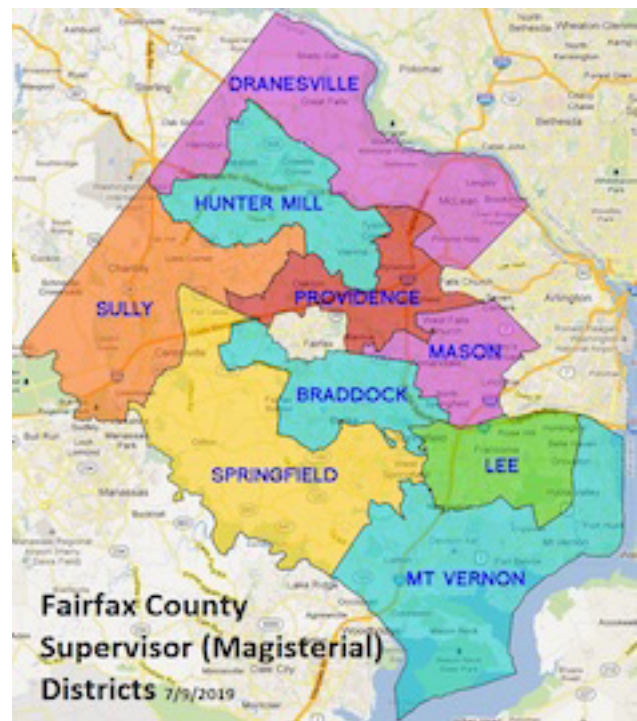
**Powers and Responsibilities:** The Board of Supervisors establishes county government policy, passes resolutions and ordinances (within the limits of its authority established by the Virginia General Assembly), approves the budget, sets local tax rates, approves land use plans, and makes appointments to various positions. All discussions are held in public, with the exception of issues exempt from the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, such as legal or personnel issues. Board meetings are open to the public and conducted according to the Board's Rules of Procedure based on Robert's Rules of Order. The Board usually meets two Tuesdays per month in the Fairfax County Government Center.

The chairman presides at Board meetings and has all the rights and duties of other Board members including one vote, but does not have independent executive authority or a legislative veto. The board elects a vice-chairman from its membership. The chairman, subject to Board approval, calls special meetings; sets the Board agenda; appoints representatives to boards, authorities, and commissions; and creates committees and appoints presiding members. The Board also controls by its appointment power the board membership of several locally important authorities, including the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, the Fairfax County Park Authority, the Fairfax County Water Authority, and the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

The Board exercises its taxation power primarily by setting the county's real property tax rate, which accounts for more than 63% of the general fund revenue. Other financially important tax rates set by the board include the personal property tax rate, which is applied to the value of vehicles in the county, and the business, professional and occupational license (BPOL) tax, which is applied to the gross receipts of businesses in the county.

In accordance with the Code of Virginia, the Board appoints a full-time urban county executive and fixes his/her compensation. The County Executive is the administrative head of the county and is responsible for carrying out ordinances enacted by the Board. The County Executive keeps the Board fully advised about the county's financial condition, develops and submits a proposed annual budget, and executes the budget as adopted. He/she cannot be a Board member or simultaneously hold any elected office, and is not required to be a county resident.

**Term, Qualifications, and Remuneration:** Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors consists of nine members elected by district (see map), plus a chairman elected at-large. The law requires that districts be of approximately equal population (currently about 120,000 residents). A supervisor must be both a resident and a qualified voter of her/his district, and is elected only by voters living in that district. All voters in the County may vote for the chairman, who must live in the County. Board members are elected for four-year terms, and there are no term limits. Each Board member receives annual compensation of \$95,000 per year, except the chairman who receives \$100,000 per year.



**CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS:** Article VII, Section 4 of the Constitution of Virginia states, "There shall be elected by the qualified voters of each county and city a treasurer, a sheriff, an attorney for the Commonwealth, a

clerk, who shall be clerk of the court in the office of which deeds are recorded, and a commissioner of revenue.” The Constitution establishes these positions, and defines the broad powers of the officeholder. The General Assembly establishes the minimum salaries paid, based on the jurisdiction’s population and/or level of responsibility. Local governments can authorize a salary supplement, paid from local funds, for Constitutional Officers. Since Fairfax County operates under the urban county executive form of government, neither a treasurer nor a commissioner of revenue is elected in the County.

### THE COMMONWEALTH’S ATTORNEY

**History:** Commonwealth’s Attorney is the title given to the elected prosecutor of felony crimes in Kentucky and Virginia. In other states, the prosecutor is called district attorney or state’s attorney. The official name of Virginia is “Commonwealth of Virginia.” Originally three states (Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts) used Commonwealth. Virginia chose to title its official prosecutors as Commonwealth’s Attorney while the other two did not. When Kentucky was formed in 1792, it used the laws and titles of Virginia.

**Powers and Responsibilities:** The Office of the Fairfax Commonwealth’s Attorney is charged primarily with the prosecution of crimes that occur in Fairfax County and felonies that occur in Fairfax City and the Towns of Herndon and Vienna (misdemeanor criminal and traffic offenses are prosecuted locally). The Office prosecutes many criminal and traffic matters in the Fairfax County General District Court, criminal and delinquency matters in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, and all criminal cases in the Fairfax County Circuit Court. The Office prosecutes both the violation of County ordinances and the violation of state statutes.

On a daily basis, the Office of the Fairfax Commonwealth’s Attorney works with numerous law enforcement entities (Virginia State Police, Fairfax County Police, Fairfax City Police, Town of Herndon Police, and Town of Vienna Police) in the course of investigations and in response to questions concerning criminal law. The prosecutors decide what criminal charges to bring, and when and where a person will answer to those charges. In carrying out their duties, prosecutors have the authority to investigate persons, grant immunity to witnesses and accused criminals, and plea bargain with defendants. They are the legal party responsible for presenting the case against an individual suspected of breaking the law, initiating and directing further criminal investigations, guiding and recommending the

sentencing of offenders, and are the only attorneys allowed to participate in grand jury proceedings.

The Fairfax Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office has partnered with other Fairfax County agencies and community-based service providers and established a Veterans Treatment Docket, a Drug Court, Diversion First, and a pilot Mental Health/Supervised Release Program Docket.

**Terms, Qualification, and Remuneration:** The Commonwealth’s Attorney is elected for a four-year term, is not term-limited, and is a full-time job. The candidate must be an attorney, 18 years old, a resident of Virginia for at least a year, and reside and be registered to vote in the district they wish to represent. Since the population of Fairfax County and City is over 250,000, the base salary mandated by the state is \$143,757; the supplement provided by Fairfax County is \$50,315, for a total salary of \$194,072. Per Fairfax County Office of Management and Budget, these figures were valid through 6/9/19.

### THE OFFICE OF SHERIFF

**History:** The office of Sheriff began in colonial times and initially the Sheriff was not only the chief law enforcement officer, but also the election supervisor and tax collector. The year 1742 saw both the formation of the County of Fairfax and its Sheriff’s Office. Since that time there have been 77 sheriffs. The Sheriff’s Office was the primary law enforcement agency in the County until 1940 when the Fairfax County Police Department became a separate agency under the control of the Board of Supervisors.

**Powers and Responsibilities:** The Sheriff oversees and guides the Office of the Sheriff which is comprised of over 600 employees and is one of three public agencies responsible for the safety and well-being of the million plus residents of Fairfax County, as well as residents of the City of Fairfax and the towns of Herndon and Vienna. Though the Office of the Sheriff provides many different services, its primary obligations are to:

- Operate and manage the Adult Detention Center (ADC)
- *The ADC serves as the County Jail in Fairfax and houses over 1000 individuals. Inmates have committed a variety of offenses and are in the ADC to await trial, sentencing, or release.*
- Provide security for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts and the Fairfax County Judicial Center as well as courts in the towns of Vienna, Her-



don, and the City of Fairfax.

- *Security for judges, staff, and visitors is provided by the Sheriff's Office which also escorts over 17,000 prisoners to and from the courts each year.*
- Process, service, and execute legal documents on individuals and businesses in civil matters on behalf of the court in Fairfax County and in the towns of Vienna, Herndon, and the City of Fairfax.
- *Included among the documents originating in the Virginia Court System that are processed and served by the Sheriff's Office to citizens and businesses are eviction orders and levies.*
- Oversee the sale of seized vehicles.

**Terms, Qualifications and Remuneration:** The residents of Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the towns of Herndon and Vienna elect their Sheriff every four years. There are no term limits. Candidates for the Office of Sheriff must be a resident of Virginia for one year immediately preceding the election, and a resident of and registered to vote in the county, city, or town in which they are seeking office. Most candidates have a background in police work. The minimum salary for a sheriff with jail responsibility in a jurisdiction with population over 250,000 is \$148,507; the supplement provided by Fairfax County is \$49,345, for a total salary of \$197,852. Per Fairfax County Office of Management and Budget, these figures were valid through 6/9/19.

## FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

**History:** Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) was established in 1870 with the passage of the Virginia Public Free Schools Act, part of the new Virginia Constitution. This constitution instituted a system of free education for all children in Virginia for the first time. Prior to 1870, education was primarily done at home or at private schools.

FCPS operated as one school system with two sets of schools defined by race. Most children attended school in one-room schoolhouses. In 1870 there were 28 schools for white students and 13 schools for African-American students. By 1900, there was a total of 99 schools spread throughout the county. The Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v Board of Education* changed segregation laws in 1954, but Fairfax County did not participate in desegregation until 1960.

FCPS is the 10th largest school division in the US with 198 schools and centers. It serves a diverse student population of more than 187,000 students in grades pre-kindergarten

through 12, speaking over 200 languages. Over 31% of the total student population is Economically Disadvantaged; 14.5% are reported as Students with Disabilities, and more than 29% of students are English Learners. Demographically, 40.7% of FCPS students are White, 27.4% are Hispanic, 20.8% are Asian, 10.6% are Black, 5.5% are two or more races, 0.2% are American Indian and 0.1% are Native Hawaiian. The district employs more than 23,500 workers.

**Powers and Responsibilities:** The Board sets general policy, establishes guidelines, addresses school boundary changes, and makes decisions on student discipline issues. The governing process is outlined in the Strategic Governance Manual, which was revised in 2015. The Governance Manual includes the Board's student achievement goals (expected performance outcomes for students) and operational expectations in areas such as human resources, financial planning, technology and more.

The School Board hires and evaluates the performance of the Superintendent, and adopts operating and capital budgets. It reports regularly to the community on student achievement, operational goals and challenges, and initiatives to improve achievement and effectiveness of division. In addition, the School Board ensures that FCPS responds respectfully and in a timely manner to issues raised by parents, guardians, and members of the community. It works with employees and employee organizations and reasonably involves them in decisions that affect them. Finally, the School Board advocates for FCPS's needs with local, state, and federal elected and appointed officials.

**Term, Qualifications, and Remuneration:** The board is composed of 12 members, nine representatives of districts and three members at large. They serve a four-year term with no term limits, are considered part-time, and receive a salary of \$32,000. A student representative, selected for a one-year term by the Student Advisory Council, sits with the Board at all public meetings and participates in discussions, but does not vote. Candidates must be 18 years old, resident of Virginia for at least a year, and reside and be registered to vote in the district they wish to represent. At-large members may reside anywhere in the county.

## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS

**History:** Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) were established in the 1930s to develop comprehensive programs and plans to conserve soil resources, control and prevent soil erosion, prevent floods and conserve, develop, utilize and dispose of water. Founded in 1945 by

citizens concerned about conserving natural resources, the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) is now one of 47 conservation districts in Virginia and approximately 3,000 nationwide. NVSWCD is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, governed by a five-member Board of Directors. Its boundaries are the same as those of Fairfax County.

**Powers and Responsibilities:** Soil and water conservation district directors promote conservation and provide technical expertise to Fairfax County residences free of charge. “Our vision is engaged communities working together to protect and restore natural resources. Our mission is to promote sustainable urban and suburban activities and stewardship to conserve our soil, water, air, plants, and animal resources in Fairfax County - vital components of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.”

NVSWCD is not a regulatory agency. Instead, it serves the residents of Fairfax County directly and through partners to provide conservation information, technical services, educational programs and volunteer opportunities to residents on many aspects of water quality, non-point source pollution and ecological health and connects residents with environmental initiatives and opportunities.

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District receives financial support and administrative assistance from Fairfax County, the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

As an advisory body, NVSWCD aims to share the best available information with our local and state government partners, Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners, community associations, businesses, non-profit organizations, and individual residents. They connect residents with environmental initiatives and opportunities through the Watershed Calendar, Green Breakfast and [Conservation Currents](#) news updates. NVSWCD provides technical and financial incentives to implement energy and water conservation projects including low-E windows, porous paver pathways, and conservation landscaping.

**Term, Qualifications, and Remuneration:** Three directors are elected every four years with no term limits. Two additional directors are appointed by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board. The two appointed directors must be qualified and experienced. One will be the county extension agent. The other appointed and the elected district directors must reside within the boundaries of the district. The board members are part-time, non-salaried and meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Room. Board meetings are open to all.

## HOW TO BECOME A CANDIDATE IN VIRGINIA

To appear on the ballot, candidates must meet certain qualifications and file specific documents, which vary by office. Generally, all candidates must be qualified to vote for and hold the office sought, be a Virginia resident for one year immediately preceding the election, and be a resident of the jurisdiction for local/city/county elections. The Virginia Department of Elections has Candidate Bulletins that provide information about qualifications for a particular office, filing requirements and deadlines, where to file the required forms and documents, and other information about running for a particular office. These forms include:

- Certificate of Candidate Qualification
- Statement of Economic Interest (SOEI)
- Primary Filing Fee (if applicable)
  - Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, §24.2-523, candidates running in primaries are required to pay a primary election filing fee to the appropriate jurisdiction. Candidates who are nominated by a political party by a method **other than a primary election** may be required to pay a filing fee as determined by the rules of the political party. Candidates for School Board and the Soil and Water Conservation District run as independents; therefore, they are not nominated by primary elections and do not have to pay a fee. The Code of Virginia sets the primary filing fee at 2% of the minimum annual salary (see chart).
- Declaration of Candidacy
- Petitions of Qualified Voter form
  - Not required if candidate is participating in non-primary party nomination process
  - Requires a minimum number of certified voters' signatures (see chart)
- Campaign Finance Reports
  - All candidates must comply with state laws regarding campaign finance and advertising.

**References:** Ballotpedia.org Code of Virginia; Fairfax County websites; Virginia Department of Elections website; Virginia Compensation Board website; Virginia General Assembly websites; Wikipedia.org; email K.Panzer, OMB, 7/29/19.

## 2019 Primary Election Filing Fees for Fairfax County Candidates

<i>Office Sought</i>	<i>Base Salary</i>	<i>Primary Election Filing Fee</i>	<i>Certified Voter Signatures Needed</i>
Virginia Senate	\$18,000	\$360.00	250
House of Delegates	\$17,640	\$352.80	125
Clerk of Court	\$140,230	\$2,804.60	125
Commonwealth's Attorney	\$139,958	\$2,799.16	125
Sheriff	\$142,447	\$2,848.94	125
Board of Supervisors	\$95,000	\$1,900.00	125
Chair Bd of Supervisors	\$100,000	\$2,000.00	125
School Board	\$32,000	N/A	125
Soil and Water Comm	\$0	N/A	25

\*From Fairfax County Office of Elections as of 7/29/19

## Discussion Questions:

1. What did you find surprising in the histories of the various offices?
2. The system of Constitutional Officers dates back to Thomas Jefferson and is based on the presumption that the most important services of the government should be made directly accountable to the citizens by popular vote. Why do you think these offices were chosen? Would you pick others?
3. Do you believe the compensation for these nine offices is appropriate? If not, what would you change?
4. For which of these offices would you/wouldn't you consider running? Why or why not?

## Board Announces Fall Candidate Forums Dates

We have an ambitious schedule for our candidate forums this year! Forums will be held all over the county for voters to meet and greet candidates for their District's Supervisor and School Board member, as well as Senate and House seats of the General Assembly. A forum for Chair of the Board of Supervisors and the At-Large School Board candidates will be centrally located.

Forum dates and locations include:

- Sept 4 - Mount Vernon Candidate Forum, Sherwood Meeting Room, Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306, 7 p.m.
- Sept 23 - At-Large School Board & Chair of the Board of Supervisors Candidate Forum, 7 p.m., Fairfax County Government Center
- Sept 25 - Sully Candidate Forum, Supervisor and School Board, Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly, VA 20151, 7:30 p.m.

Two live broadcasts on Channel 10 are also available for candidates to reach voters county-wide for General Assembly seats and the constitutional office of Commonwealth Attorney. The public can hear from Soil and Water Conservation District candidates in a taped TV forum. Recorded forums will be posted on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCt0Kc18tmz5Apivh04JaUrw>.

**You can support our forums by attending, volunteering, telling your friends and family, and submitting your own questions to the candidates.**

Sign up to volunteer at <https://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/23676da05a1cfe9c24-mgall>. Or write to or call Cathy Gruber at [cathy.gruber@lwv-fairfax.org](mailto:cathy.gruber@lwv-fairfax.org); 703-651-6390. Just choose a position and join us!

## Environmental Update: Lifelong Learning

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Congratulations to **Ana Humphrey** of T.C. Williams High School on winning the top prize for student scientists in the Regeneration Science Talent Search. At age 10, Ana created a website to teach kids about how mountaintop-removal coal mining devastates ecosystems and community health. In 8th grade, she started the Watershed Warriors Initiative to engage 5th graders in hands-on experiences caring for wetland gardens. Ana also worked with the VA DEQ to prepare her digital image analysis application that counts E. coli colonies for field use by citizen scientists. Now, she's heading to Harvard with a Frances and Sydney Lewis Environmental Science Scholarship while completing her elected term on the board of Earth Force, a national NGO empowering students to become active citizens.

These recent environmental reads could be in her book bag:

***Champion: The Comeback Tale of the American Chestnut Tree*** - Sally M. Walker tells the story of losing and restoring this valuable resource in this beautifully-photographed middle-grade book.

***Congo Tales: Told by the People of Mbomo*** - Enhanced by renowned fine art portrait photographer Pieter Henket, this part of a multimedia education-and-conservation project exploring the environment, culture, and folklore of the people of the Congo Basin increases awareness about the Basin, the world's second largest rainforest. Its optimistic message about trust and cooperation is aimed at the next generation of policy makers.

***Deadly Harvest*** - Global risk management expert Thomas Ramey's illustrated novel projects what will happen between now and 2150. Climate change, pollution, pesticides and war create a planet where humans and animals disappear. It includes a list of books and websites with actions that can lead to a more hopeful future.

***The End of Ice: Bearing Witness and Finding Meaning in the Path of Climate Disruption*** - Journalist Dahr Jamail offers an illustrated, first-hand chronicle of his worldwide journey, today's catastrophic reality, and the need to enjoy our vulnerable, fragile planet while we still can.

***Field to Palette: Dialogues on Soil and Art in the Anthropocene*** - Lead editor Dr. Alexandra Toland, a visual artist and environmental planner, investigates the cultural meanings, representations, and values of soil in a time of

planetary change. Topics include groundwater pollution, desertification, and biodiversity loss. Diverse forms of resilience are celebrated.

***Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men*** - Economist Caroline Criado-Perez explores how a "male norm" persists in everything from seat belts to cancer studies.

***Manual for Survival: A Chernobyl Guide to the Future*** - A 2006 U.N. report stating that Chernobyl caused only 54 deaths motivated award-winning MIT historian of environmental and nuclear history Kate Brown to write this book. She was the first historian to examine certain regional archives where the medical response to Chernobyl was most extensively chronicled, casting new light on the story. Combined with on-the-ground reporting, she examined the full range of ways radiation has affected residents across the region. Her previous book, ***Plutopia*** (2013), won seven academic prizes.

***Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster*** - Journalist Adam Higginbotham conducted hundreds of hours of interviews over more than a decade and drew upon letters, unpublished memoirs, and documents from recently-declassified archives for this powerful investigation into how propaganda, secrecy, and misinformation obscured the true story of the 1986 accident. The result is a masterful nonfiction thriller more terrifying than the Soviet myth, yet a story of human resilience and ingenuity with lessons that could be applied toward climate change and other threats.

***Superpower: One Man's Quest to Transform American Energy*** - Russell Gold, senior energy reporter for The Wall Street Journal, writes about wind-energy pioneer Michael Skelly's role in creating the second largest wind power company in the United States. The San Francisco Chronicle called his previous book, ***The Boom*** (2014), "the best all-around book yet on fracking."

*It's Never too Late to Learn*

*Expand Your Horizons*

*Read, Read, Read*

# LWVFA Donors and Supporters

*The LWVFA Board extends an overwhelming thank you to the following individuals for their amazing support!*

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## LWVFA Reads About Women's Suffrage

Julie Jones, Program Director

Want to learn more about the fight for women to vote? Do you know more than one or two women who led the campaign? Can you name the founder of the League of Women Voters?

LWVFA's January 2020 unit meetings will discuss women's struggle for the vote by reading books of your choice. The following books can be found in Fairfax County Public Library or they might be in your personal library. Will different books have the same point of view about women's suffrage? Can you add others to the list?

*The Women's Hour* by Elaine Weiss  
*Votes for Women* by Winifred Conkling  
*Alice Paul and the Fight for Women's Rights*  
 by Deborah Kops

*A Time for Courage - The Suffragette Diary of Kathleen Bowen* by Kathryn Lasky

*The Hello Girls - America's First Women Soldiers* by Elizabeth Cobbs

*Roses and Radicals*: the epic story of how American women won the right to vote by Susan Zimet

*Why They Marched*: untold stories of the women who fought for the right to vote by Susan Ware

*Bold & Brave*: ten heroes who won women the right to vote by Kirsten Gillibrand

*Remember the Ladies*: celebrating those who fought for freedom at the ballot box by Angela P. Dodson

*Suffragists in Washington, D.C.*: the 1913 parade and the fight for the vote by Rebecca Boggs Roberts

*Elizabeth Started All the Trouble* by Doreen Rappaport

*Miss Paul and the President*: the creative campaign for women's right to vote by Dean Robbins

*Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony*: a friendship that changed the world by Penny Colman

*Virginia Women & the Vote, 1909-2009*: The Equal Suffrage League & the League of Women Voters in Virginia by Bernice Colvard

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## In Memoriam: Diane Hardcastle

By Therese Martin

Long-time League member Diane Hardcastle died July 22 at the age of 73 after a brief illness. She is survived by her husband, James, of Reston, and her son, James Jr., of Quakertown, PA.

Born Diane Janiga in Lackawanna, NY, on March 21, 1946, she attended Syracuse University where she met her husband of 53 years, James Hardcastle. She moved to Reston in 1968 when her husband accepted a job in Washington, DC. She received a degree in accounting from George Mason University, and became a tax preparer. Diane and her husband started two newsletters on energy topics. They later acquired the Fairfax Newsletter, a publication focusing on real estate development in Fairfax County, and launched similar publications in Prince William and Loudoun Counties.

Diane became active in community affairs and joined the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) shortly after moving to Reston. She was especially active in the League's voters' service projects. In the late 1960s, although the poll tax had been declared unconstitutional, Virginia continued a number of practices that discouraged African Americans from voting. One of the more pernicious

was the use of assistant registrars (who were generally white) to register voters in their homes, which were often remote from where prospective black voters lived. As part of a LWVFA campaign, Diane and other League members actively recruited African Americans in Herndon and Reston to register to vote and often drove them to the registrar's home and accompanied them during registration. Diane continued her voters' service work with the LWVFA for more than 40 years, reaching out especially to minority populations, and often serving as the Reston Evening Unit's voters' service chair.

Diane took on tasks such as performing League financial reviews and serving as Treasurer. Most recently, she served as a member of the LWVFA Legacy Committee. She remained active in the League until her recent illness.

In other service to the County and particularly the Herndon-Reston area, Diane was appointed to the Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees in 1976, where she launched a successful campaign to build a regional library in Reston. She was elected chairman of the board in 1980. During the 1980s, she was elected to the Board of Directors of Fairfax Opportunities Unlimited, an organization that provided supported employment for people with disabilities, and served as its chairwoman for one term.

A celebration of Diane's life will take place in September; information about the event will be provided to LWVFA members at a later date.

# Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

## Topic: Fall Elections Are Coming: All about the Ballot

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 August 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, August 24

#### **At-Large Unit and Briefing**

Fairfax County Government Center  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, VA 22035  
At-Large Briefing begins at 12:15,  
following Fall Kick Off  
Contact: Julie, 703-861-9616

### Monday, September 9

#### **1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)**

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

### Wednesday, September 11

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

Star Nut Café  
1445 Laughlin Ave.  
McLean, 22101  
Contact: Susan, 703-893-2229 or  
Peggy, peggyknight49@gmail.com

#### **9:45 a.m. Mount Vernon Day (MVD)**

Mt. Vernon Government Center  
2511 Parkers Lane  
Alexandria, 22306

Contact: Gail, 703-360-6561 or  
Diana, 703-704-5325

#### **10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)**

9111 Octavia Ct.  
Springfield, 22153  
Contact: Sherry, 703-730-8118 or  
Beverly, 703-451-4438

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

TBD  
Contact: TBD

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

Hunter Mill District Community  
Room  
North County Government Center  
1801 Cameron Glen Drive  
Reston, 20190  
Contact Gail [gailvb12@yahoo.com](mailto:gailvb12@yahoo.com)

### Thursday, September 12

#### **9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)**

11908 Paradise Lane  
Oak Hill, 20171  
Contact: Barbara (703) 437-0795  
or [bseandlte@earthlink.net](mailto:bseandlte@earthlink.net)

#### **9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)**

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

#### **11:30 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CCD)**

Lunch at Food Court, Wegman's  
14361 Newbrook Dr.  
Chantilly, 20151  
Contact: Susan, 703-391-0666

#### **1 p.m. Oakton/Vienna (OV)**

Oakton Regional Library, Room 1  
10304 Lynnhaven Pl.  
Oakton, 22124  
Contact: Mary, 703-319-2185

#### **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 or  
Susan, 703-587-4790

### **Ready:**

Know the Ballot

### **Set:**

Encourage  
Registration

### **Go:**

Get Out the Vote

## October Meetings:

### General Meeting: Action Advocacy and Redistricting



The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)  
 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403  
 703-658-9150. Web address: www.lwv-fairfax.org

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 September, 2019

Anu Sahai, Co-President  
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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.)

Membership Status: New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ Reinstatement \_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_  
 (Dues are not tax deductible.)

Tax-deductible donations must be written on a separate check or PayPal to “LWVFA Ed Fund.”  
 (Please print clearly)

Name \_\_\_ Unit (if renewing) \_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_ State \_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_  
 Phone (H) \_\_\_ (M) \_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_

Please make checks payable to “LWVFA” mail to:  
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** \_\_\_\_\_