

# Fairfax VOTER

December 2020

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## 2021-2023 Program Planning for LWV-VA and LWVNCA

This month we are reviewing the positions of the League of Women Voters of Virginia and League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area. Program planning is the time to express your opinions on what the respective League’s focus should be for the next two years. We review our positions and determine if a new position should be added for study, if past positions should be restudied, and/or if advocacy for a position is appropriate in the League’s next biennium.

### Calendar

- 1 Giving Tuesday
- 1 LWV-VA Board Meeting, Virtual
- 2 LWV-VA Women’s Roundtable Pre-session, Virtual, <https://bit.ly/32bDAmz>
- 4 LWVNCA Virtual Board Meeting, Zoom
- 5 LWVFA Briefing and At-Large Meeting, 10 a.m., Zoom
- 7 Fairfax Voter Deadline for the January Issue
- 9-14 LWVFA Virtual Unit Meetings
- 15 Bill of Rights’ Day
- 15 The Fountains’ Condo Elections, The Fountains Condominiums, Alexandria, 4 to 9 p.m.
- 16 LWVFA Board meeting, Virtual, 10 a.m.

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## Presidents' Message



As we head into 2021, the LWVFA will continue our efforts on both education and advocacy. We will continue to celebrate the progress we have made as we build upon those achievements heading into a new year.

Wishing everyone health, peace and well-being,

*Anu and Nancy*

From the vote to the White House!

It may have taken 100 years, but, as the memes are saying “Make sure to wear shoes, Ladies. There is glass everywhere!”

No matter what your politics or party affiliation, we can all join together to celebrate this tremendous achievement! Kamala Harris represents:

- The first woman elected to the office of Vice President of the United States;
- The first Black woman to be so elected;
- The first woman of South Asian descent to reach this high office.

Since its very inception, and as its very first mission, the League of Women Voters has worked to bring the power of the vote to women and to educate all Americans about voting and government while encouraging their participation. This election may have been very stressful and required one have patience while all votes were counted, but the United States marked its greatest number of engaged voters in our history! This is also a milestone worth celebrating! This is the reason we are volunteering and dedicating our intellect, the sweat of our efforts and our hearts – so all those who are eligible can vote their voice and make a difference. We should all take a moment to be very proud of all that we have achieved.

This is not to say that our job is done. The League has united us, not only in this mission to register voters, but to educate and advocate as well. There is no better example of this role as teacher and supporter than that of our advocacy conference held this year, virtually, on Nov. 22nd. The LWVFA joined with One Fairfax to discuss the important issue of racial equity. The panelists included: Jeff McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Dr. Scott Brabrand, Superintendent of the Fairfax County Public Schools, and Karla Bruce, Program Director of One Fairfax. The topics are always timely, the information given is always informative, and the discussion is always lively.



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

### LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2020 - 2021

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Please e-mail address corrections to the office  
or call 703-658-9150.

## Spotlight on Voter Services

By Cindy Kalkwarf, Voter Services Chair

*The Voter Services volunteer team focuses on providing educational and informational public services, registering people to vote, getting out the vote, and initiating outreach programs to groups of potential voters. Interested in joining our team? Contact [cindy.kalkwarf@lwv-fairfax.org](mailto:cindy.kalkwarf@lwv-fairfax.org).*

## LWV Helps New Citizens Register to Vote

By Bob Meredith and Arina van Breda

On Tuesday, October 13th, the last scheduled day of voter registration in Virginia, the LWV-Fairfax teamed up with representatives of LWV-Arlington, plus some other hardy volunteers, to register 135 brand-new citizens at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office in Merrifield. News of the event came via the Arlington LWV, a member of the NAACP, and an immigration attorney who learned of it from her hairdresser. Eleven people responded to this opportunity organized by Bob Meredith, Voter Registration Chair, and the Voter Registration team.

Due to Covid-19, small groups over the course of the day were naturalized. The first group of 20 new citizens was greeted after their 7 am ceremony outside the building, the last after 2 pm. We believe nearly all the new citizens were registered for this year's important election. Despite the outdoor venue, made more difficult by windy weather, everyone pitched in to make it a very successful voter registration event.

Thank you to our volunteers: Robert Meredith, Sidney Johnson, Arina van Breda, Anu Sahai, Lindy Roux, Laurie Corkey, Katherine Perry, Dorry Kee, Martha Furniss, and Diana Watkins.



There were a lot of smiles and also some tears of happiness - amongst both the new citizens and the volunteers registering them. It was so inspiring to see these new Americans embrace the responsibility and privilege of voting as their first official act as citizens! Thanks to the efforts of our

volunteers, we were able to deliver all the registrations to the Board of Elections before the deadline at the end of the day. The fact that the Virginia State Elections website was down for technical reasons for the bulk of the day made it all the more important that we were able to get this done. (Subsequently, the Governor and Legislature agreed to extend the deadline for registration until Oct 15.)

Due to the success of this event the League is seeking to extend this service to new citizens on a regular basis. For volunteers who love voter registration events - this one is for you! Watch for sign-ups in the near future.



Photos by Bob Meredith

# Program Director Notes

by Jessica Storrs

In October, our unit meetings discussed the new Affordable Housing study from the League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA) and we received valuable feedback from our discussions. This comprehensive report will be the basis of a new LWV-VA position with the final version to be voted on at the next convention in May 2021.

The consensus questions that garnered the least agreement were #3, regarding landlords being required to accept housing vouchers, and #5, which proposed that State laws provide more tenant protections. Issues raised included potential government overreach as well as questions on discrimination protections. We also had requests for more thorough definitions of key concepts.

In January, we will return to the state Election Laws Update study (Part II) to finalize our feedback for the proposed revisions to the LWV-VA position.

## LWVFA Membership Report

By Carol Bursik

As we head into the holidays we still have 111 members who need to renew for the 2020-2021 membership year, which began on July 1. Let's try to get everyone on board before December 31. Those who have not renewed by January will have to be dropped from the rolls. The easiest way to renew is through the web site at <https://lww-fairfax.org/join>. Renewals can be done entirely online or by submitting a hard copy membership form and a check to the League office in Annandale.

Our membership has grown to 527 as of November 2. We welcome the following new members who joined after publication of the November VOTER. We're happy to have their support and contributions to the League of Women Voters!

- Kelly Alexander
- Jisu Kim (student)
- Anne Moriarty
- Katharine Murphy
- Deborah O'Neill
- Marisa Pedro (student)
- Deja Redding (student)
- Jaime Wise (student)

# Welcome!!

## LWVFA Donors and Supporters

By Lynn Stewart, Treasurer

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

October 1, 2020 – October 31, 2020

- Katherine Ingmanson
- Sidney Johnson
- Doreen Larson
- Ann Parham
- Jane Plum
- Patricia & Douglas Renzetti
- Abigail Santos
- Susan Worden
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

*Did you know?*

*According to Statista.com, 71% of registered voters in Virginia participated in this year's election, while 66.4% did so nationwide.*

## 2021-2023 Program Planning for LWV-VA and LWVNCA

Original article by Julie Jones and Sherry Zachry; edited for 2020 by Jessica Storrs

League Program is the process by which positions are adopted. The process includes: selecting an issue, studying the issue, consensus/formulating a position, and using the position to influence public policy. The “program planning” stage is selecting an issue or position(s) for study, restudy and/or advocacy in the respective League’s next biennium. The process culminates in delegates adopting a program for the next biennium at Convention. The League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA) Convention will be May 22-23, 2021; The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA) Annual Convention will be May 8, 2021.

Note that “League Program” includes both study and action and sometimes can be composed entirely of advocacy (action) on the League’s positions. Advocacy can be holding a forum or seminar on a “hot-button” issue in the community (on which the League has a position) and/or organizing a lobbying effort composed of letters to the editor, lobbying elected officials on legislation, and other efforts. When considering items to propose, be guided by the following: Is there widespread member interest? Is it timely? Are there already League positions (i.e., at the LWVUS level) on the issue? Is government action the most effective way to address the problem? Are there members willing to work on the issue?

When thinking about items to suggest for LWV-VA, we must apply this test: “Is this a Statewide issue for the League?” For LWVNCA positions, we need to consider position appropriateness based on the combined geographic area of the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

### LWV-VA Positions-In-Brief, Updated Spring 2019

*Dates the position was adopted/amended are noted. The full wording of the positions, with historical background, is available on the LWV-VA website ([www.lwv-va.org/action](http://www.lwv-va.org/action)).*

#### **GOVERNMENT: DELEGATION OF POWER**

Support for a balanced partnership between state and local government, including:

- Policies and incentives that promote regional coordination and local action.
- Establishment of uniform powers and responsibilities of local governments by changing the distinctions between cities, counties, and towns.
- Coordination of activities and programs of local jurisdictions. (1972 & 1991)

#### **ELECTION LAWS** (*Note: this position is being updated*)

The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens; that voting is a right and responsibility; and that election laws, regulations and administrative procedures should be uniformly designed and applied, and adequately funded to facilitate and increase voter participation throughout Virginia.

Specifically, the League supports measures to ensure the availability of voter registration and to encourage and facilitate increased voter participation in elections, including: absentee voting by mail and in-person without a reason; an adequate number of voting machines and trained election

officers; the use of satellite voting; split shifts for election officers when needed; and measures that take advantage of technological advances such as online voter registration and the use of electronic poll books. The League also supports the shared funding of Statewide registration and voting systems by the localities and the Commonwealth; providing adequate authority and resources to the Department of Elections (ELECT) and the State Board of Elections (SBE) for oversight and enforcement of laws and standards for registration and elections uniformly throughout the Commonwealth; and the use of secure electronic means to facilitate voter registration and absentee voting for Virginia’s military and overseas voters. (2011, 2015)

#### **FISCAL POLICY**

Support for a responsible State fiscal policy that includes:

- A flexible and diverse tax structure that is based on a progressive income tax.
- Continuous evaluation of all programs for need, effectiveness, efficiency, and economy.
- Flexibility in developing local sources of revenue.
- Increased State commitment to funding of State-mandated programs.
- Opposition to Constitutional or statutory limits on State/local government spending or revenue sources. (1964, 1977 & 1979)

#### **REAPPORTIONMENT & REDISTRICTING**

Support for the establishment, in law, of a politically balanced and independent Reapportionment Commission for each decennial redistricting to prepare, with the Virginia

Department of Legislative Services, a plan for submission to the Legislature as specified by the Virginia Constitution. The Commission should be bi-partisan and be composed of individuals who are not elected officials; they should represent the geographical distribution and demographic diversity of the State, and consist of an uneven number of members.

In addition to the Virginia Constitutional requirement of equal population, contiguous and compact districts and the need for protecting the voting strength of minority groups, the League supports the following considerations in redistricting:

- Natural geographic boundaries;
- Jurisdictional boundaries;
- Communities of interest; and
- Competitiveness

The Virginia Constitution should be amended to provide that redistricting will occur on a decennial basis only. (1985, 2007)

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Support for regionally-balanced transportation systems which efficiently and economically meet regional needs without adversely affecting planned growth or the environment.

- Regional organizations that set policy for a multi-modal public transportation program, that plan, coordinate, and are the designated recipients of Federal and State funds, that operate or contract for services, and that could have taxing power.
- A mixture of public (Federal, State, and local) and private funding for public transportation.
- Increased local participation with some public funds utilized to encourage private support and the use of innovative financing methods, such as tax incentives to encourage private sector participation.
- Provision for a variety of incentives to increase the use of public transportation. (1996)

### **WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND VIRGINIA LAW**

Support for the legal recognition of marriage as an equal partnership, including:

- Policies that recognize both non-monetary and monetary contributions to a marriage by each partner.
- Surviving spouse policies that specify that if one spouse dies without a will, the surviving spouse should inherit all property.
- Divorce policies that recognize separately acquired property before marriage and during marriage through gifts or inheritance.
- Elimination of the concept of "fault" in the court's

division of marital property.

- Legal recognition of valid pre-nuptial contracts. (1980 & 1983)
- Opposition to sexual harassment by The League of Women Voters of Virginia. (2019)

### **NATURAL RESOURCES: AIR QUALITY**

Support for achieving and maintaining acceptable air quality through:

- Adoption of strict vehicle emission standards.
- Development of less polluting alternative fuels.
- Programs and regulations that foster efficient transportation modes. (1993)

### **EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES: HYDRAULIC FRAC- TURING**

The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing in the Commonwealth of Virginia until there is sufficient evidence from robust studies to show that hydraulic fracturing will not have a negative impact on the health, safety, and well-being of citizens, local jurisdictions, or the natural environment.

Absent a moratorium, the League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that the Commonwealth of Virginia, including all relevant State departments and State agencies, and local governments, have a responsibility to safeguard Virginia's critical features and to ensure the public's safety, health, and welfare by 1) adopting strict systems for monitoring, regulation, and oversight of hydraulic fracturing, including all related facilities, and fracking impacts on critical features (e.g., ground and surface water resources and recharge areas; geologic resources and seismic zones; historic sites and districts), public facilities (e.g., recreation areas, schools, wildlife preserves), local and regional infrastructure, and local and regional economies; 2) developing and implementing systems of financial assurance so all fracking-related expenses incurred by the Commonwealth and the local jurisdictions are borne by the industry; 3) granting localities authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing operations; 4) providing State funding to local governments to offset the costs incurred by local governments; 5) developing a State-level system for long-term monitoring of local impacts and enforcement of regulation throughout the full life cycle of the hydraulic fracturing operation; and 6) creating programs and policies designed to help local jurisdictions address the long-term economic and social impacts of hydraulic fracturing and its expected "boom and bust" cycles.

### **LAND USE**

Support for State policies that include:

- Creation of a State long-range comprehensive land-

use plan coordinated with local and regional plans.

- State protection of critical environmental areas (i.e., wetlands, agricultural lands, unique wildlife habitats) through some land use controls.
- Assistance to and increased flexibility for localities in land use planning and control. (1975)

### **WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION**

Support for a comprehensive State effort to protect the water supplies, including:

- Recognition of the connection between ground and surface water.
- Decision-making based on the concept of sharing in the use of ground water.
- State responsibility for the collection of information on water resources and planning for future use.
- Land use policies that guarantee protection of water resources.
- Moratorium on uranium mining until modern, enforceable and effective best practices are approved by an independent assessment team. (1983, 2014)

### ***SOCIAL POLICY: ADULT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE***

Support for addressing the crime of adult domestic violence through:

- Uniform law enforcement including mandatory arrest and reporting.
- Educational and training programs for medical, clerical, law enforcement personnel, and the public on the problem of adult domestic violence as well as conflict resolution.
- Assistance and job training for victims. (1992)

### **ADULT JUSTICE**

Support for an adequately funded judicial and corrections system that serves all people without discrimination, and incorporates restorative justice practices. Such a system includes:

- Judicial selection by the General Assembly through a nominating commission of laypersons and lawyers.
- Sentencing by judges, not juries, with the availability of a pre-sentencing report.
- A corrections system that is adequately funded, efficiently administered, and humane.
- A corrections system that protects society and rehabilitates offenders while offering deterrence, diversion, protection, and restitution programs.
- Local jails and community-based corrections facilities that are professionally administered, and use of alternatives to incarceration and community resources in rehabilitation and treatment of prisoners. (2013)

### **CHILD CARE**

Support for state policies that promote quality childcare that is affordable, accessible, and available, including:

- Minimum comprehensive State license standards for child care facilities.
- Incentives for development of child care programs.
- Financial assistance for low-income families.
- Coordinated resource and referral systems.
- Training for caregivers and parents.

Also, support for a requirement that professional childcare givers report child abuse /neglect. (1988, 2013)

### **CHILDREN AT RISK**

Support for State and local policies that recognize the basic needs of all children including shelter, family, and community support, health care, food, education, and personal safety, including:

- Fund preventive services, rehabilitative programs, family support programs, crisis services, court costs, and detention.
- Evaluations of programs and services.
- State-mandated case planning and case management systems to assure timely access to services.
- Internal and judicial grievance procedures. (1989, 2013)

### **EDUCATION**

Support for State funding for public schools that insures a high quality education with equal educational opportunities for all children, including:

- Full funding for the Standards of Quality and State mandates;
- Increasing the State's share of education costs;
- Funding for half-day pre-kindergarten programs for at-risk children, and full-day kindergarten programs;
- Funding some portion of capital costs; and
- Improving the funding formula for determining local ability to pay, using it as a basis for distribution of State education funds. (1993)

Support for a challenging curriculum, high expectations of students and teachers in mastering that curriculum, and appropriate assessments of student achievement for a quality education in the public school system K-12. Essential curriculum elements include:

- Core disciplines (English, Math, Science, History and Social Studies);
- Art, Music, Physical Education, Health, and Foreign Languages;
- Analytical skills; integrated technology; strong remedial programs;
- Programs for at-risk, gifted and special needs students;

- Education for students with limited English proficiency, in which emphasis is placed on teaching English; and career and technical education.

Support for professional education for principals and teachers and on-going staff development; class size appropriate to instructional goals; a safe environment for students and staff; and discipline, preventative programs and a consistently enforced, well-defined system of rules; guidance counseling for academics and support services; and parental and community support and involvement. Support for opportunities to select a specific program or school. These opportunities should be based on a system of equity so that all qualified students have equal access. (2003)

Elements of a quality education also include: school-based teamwork, goal-setting and decision-making, application of learning to life experiences, and incentives, recognition, and awards for both students and teachers. (1999)

The League of Women Voters believes that K-12 public schools should prevail as the highest priority for school choice in Virginia because public schools:

- Sustain democracy by being open to all children;
- Serve the public and prepare citizens to maintain our government;
- Allow the public to vote on school governance and school policy; and
- Allow the exchange of ideas and participation in decision-making.

To support this priority the LWV-VA believes that all K-12 school programs that receive public funds should be required to meet certain standards and criteria for their approval, administration, accountability, oversight, transparency, nondiscrimination, assessment, fiscal management, and operations.

- LWV-VA believes that no public funds should go to sectarian schools.
- LWV-VA supports the option of public charter schools that follow the extensive regulations in the 2018 Virginia Code for their establishment and administration.
- LWV-VA opposes “tuition tax credit” programs that provide scholarships to private schools (EISTC).
- LWV-VA opposes “vouchers” (“Parental Choice Education Savings Accounts”).
- LWV-VA supports virtual online programs provided by public schools that follow the 2018 regulations and requirements for oversight by the Department of Education and local public school administrators.
- LWV-VA opposes private profit-making providers of virtual online programs. (2018)

## JUVENILE JUSTICE

Support for an adequately funded and separate Department of Juvenile Justice that emphasizes prevention and rehabilitation, to include:

- Prevention programs for children identified with certain risk factors (i.e. parental incarceration, household history of drug/sexual abuse).
- Rehabilitation programs that provide treatment and training to meet the needs of each child and include counseling, vocational training and accredited academic programs.
- Alternative education programs or community service for juveniles who have been expelled or suspended from school or paroled from correctional facilities.
- In- and out-patient mental health and substance abuse programs oriented to the needs of juveniles.
- Pre- and post-dispositional community-based services.
- Establishment of small therapeutic group or foster homes.
- Removal of juveniles from adult jails.
- Development of activities/programs/training consistent with the principles of restorative justice. (2013)

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Support for comprehensive behavioral health care that includes both mental illness and substance use disorder.

- Access for all people to affordable, quality in- and out-patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services.
- Coordination of comprehensive and integrated care among Health and Human Services (specifically Behavioral Health) and other State departments such as Medical Assistance Services (Medicaid), Public Safety (re-entry planning, identification of behavioral health needs in jails/prisons, patient’s rights, substance abuse, and drug/mental health courts), Housing (Transitional and Permanent Supportive Housing), and Education (health education from early childhood through adult). These agencies must provide this care along with a focus on community-based services such as Community Service Boards (CSBs).
- Realignment of the funding equation so that a higher proportion of funds is provided for CSBs rather than State institutions. This will result in more cost-effective care that is more responsive to clients’ needs.
- Adequate funds and other incentives to ensure sufficient trained staff at all levels of service.
- Continued efforts to decrease the stigmatization of behavioral health problems and care. (2018)



**OFFENDER RE-ENTRY**

Removing Barriers to Employment: The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports the removal of barriers to employment for persons with criminal records. This includes support of what are known colloquially as “Ban the Box” efforts. (2015)

**RESTORATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS FOR VIRGINIA FELONS**

Support for the automatic restoration of the civil rights of felons, regardless of the nature of their crime, upon their release from incarceration or upon completion of probation or parole. The process should be easy to understand, accessible, transparent and fair with information about the process made available to all. (2009) (Re-ordered Social Policy Positions Category, December 2016, by Sherry Zachry.) (Second Update April 2017 by Frances Schutz to include new Fracking Position.)

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***LWVNCA Full Positions, Readopted May 7, 2016***

*Dates the position was adopted/amended are noted.*

**AIRPORTS**

1. Use of the three major metropolitan Washington airports [Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall (BWI), Washington Dulles International (IAD), and Ronald Reagan Washington National (DCA)] should be balanced based on overall airport infrastructure and capacity. Good ground transportation is necessary to all airports.

2. It is necessary to place limitations on the use of DCA. Support the enforcement of:

- a. The current High Density and Perimeter Rules, and noise abatement procedures;
  - b. Other methods to limit aircraft types.
3. With regard to all three airports, jurisdictions should:
- a. Enact responsible, comprehensive planning and zoning policies that limit development to industrial and/or commercial uses in the immediate vicinity of the airports;
  - b. Restrict residential development within the area directly affected by the presence and operations of the airports;
  - c. Consider potential development height when evaluating land use changes. (1985, 2007)

**BELTWAY SAFETY**

1. In order to control speeding and unsafe driving on the Capital Beltway and its feeder roads, we support:

- a. The use of additional patrol officers for visibility and enforcement;
- b. The use of automated photographic speed enforcement devices as an additional system of speed enforcement.

2. Support measures to increase truck safety on the Capital Beltway and its connector roads that include:

- a. Mandatory commercial vehicle safety inspections in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia;
  - b. Increased fines for truck safety violations;
  - c. limiting hazardous material carriers to certain hours.
3. Weight and length limitations for commercial vehicles using the Capital Beltway and its feeder roads should not be increased.
4. Efforts among Federal, State and local governments to improve coordination of inspection and enforcement activities on the Beltway should be an ongoing process (1991, 2016).

**COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLANNING**

1. LWVNCA supports:

- a. Governmental regulations of health planning (1976, 89);
  - b. Regional coordination among healthcare systems and agencies in the Washington Metropolitan Area to include gathering data, sharing information, avoiding duplication of facilities and services, and controlling costs (1976, 89);
  - c. Regional health education and information services to the public (1977, 89, 2016).
2. In order to increase the availability of medical services, LWV supports the concept of 24-hour clinics & the use of para-professionals (1977, 89).
3. There should be improved care for the elderly and an emphasis on community support as an alternative to long-term institutional nursing care (1977, 89).

**CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

1. Support for legislation to permit the use of marijuana and heroin for medicinal purposes (1989).
2. Testing for illegal drug use is a justifiable invasion of privacy when required as part of the hiring process for jobs affecting public safety and national security (1989).
3. Employees who test positive should be:
  - a. Retested prior to any disciplinary action (1976, 89);
  - b. Allowed to continue working or put on administrative leave;
  - c. Required in each case to participate in an employee assistance program;
  - d. Subjected to random drug tests for a one-year period following a positive test (1989).
4. Measures for solving the drug problem should include interdiction, enforcement, education/prevention, and treatment. Education and treatment should receive special emphasis and should be stressed over criminal justice sanctions (1989, 91).
5. Drug treatment programs that should be given public funding priority include detoxification and self-help pro-

grams, outpatient care, and the use of therapeutic communities, with aftercare as part of all programs (1991).

6. Treatment programs for drug users under 18 and for pregnant women should receive priority for public funding (1991).

7. Drug treatment should be incorporated into the sentence for any juvenile or adult convicted of a crime who tested positive at the time of arrest (1989).

8. Pregnant drug users should not be subjected to criminal prosecution just because they are pregnant. Pregnant drug users who are before the court for crimes other than the use of drugs should be placed in mandatory treatment through a justice system diversion program. We support the use of outreach nurses and counselors for pregnant drug users without the threat of legal penalties (1991).

9. Financial responsibility for drug treatment should fall, to some extent, on all of the following: insurance, patients, patients' families, governments (Federal, State, and local), employers, and labor unions (1989).

10. Each jurisdiction in the metropolitan Washington area should set up its own treatment programs for drug users (1989).

11. The area jurisdictions should establish a public/private partnership through the Council of Governments (COG) to develop a long-range plan to meet treatment needs and to identify financial and in-kind resources. This partnership should include the private sector and citizen groups (1989).

### D.C. FINANCING

1. Budget Autonomy. The District of Columbia should have autonomy in budgeting locally-raised revenue. The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA) supports legislation eliminating the annual Congressional D.C. appropriations budget-approval process.

2. Federal Payment. To address the District of Columbia's need for a stronger revenue base, the LWVNCA supports Congressional legislation setting forth the factors for determining an annual, predictable Federal payment. The most important factors to be considered are:

- a. Taxes that the District of Columbia cannot levy because of Congressional prohibitions on the District's ability to tax; and
- b. The cost of services provided by the District to the Federal government.

Other factors might include the cost of state services provided by the District and the percentages of revenue that other U.S. cities receive from external sources. (2003)

### LAND USE/HOUSING

1. Regional land use planning for the Washington Metropolitan area should include a coordinated and comprehensive approach to meet housing needs. The goal of the hous-

ing component of a regional land use plan should be to:

- a. Provide adequate housing for all income levels;
- b. Promote a balanced distribution of housing and employment for all income levels;
- c. improve the quality of housing and neighborhood environments (1975, reaffirmed 1989).

### REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

1. We accept the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) as the basic instrument for cooperative regional planning. (1966, 82, 2016).

2. We support granting COG sufficient authority so that it can resolve governmental problems that cannot be solved by local governments, planning boards and agencies (1973, 82, 87, 89, 2016).

3. Because COG should have some funding powers, we support assessments of member jurisdictions, user fees, and State and Federal grants.

4. We support regional-level citizen participation for COG and other inter-jurisdictional agencies (1973, 83, 2016).

### TRANSPORTATION

1. In support of the concept that there be some form of public transportation available for all, we endorse public policy in services and planning that:

- a. Supports a coordinated public transportation system which includes bus and rapid rail transit (1964, 70, 83, 89);
- b. Promotes and improves the present and proposed public transportation systems to encourage the use of mass transit (1963, 70, 89).

2. Priorities in transportation services and planning should include:

- a. Transportation systems services that are convenient, frequent, regular, speedy, and economical to the user and for the benefit of the larger community (1963, 64, 70, 83, 89);
- b. Reduced air pollution through the promotion of mass transportation systems (1970, 89);
- c. Allocation of road space for use of high-occupancy vehicles (buses, carpools, vanpools) to speed services, including traffic control measures.

3. We support public participation and supervision in determining information needed and in evaluating transportation proposals, transportation planning, and operations. Public involvement and decision-making should include

- a. Appointment of citizen members to decision-making boards with full authority to participate in their functions, and enough tenure to master the subject. (These members should be residents of the jurisdictions involved and include consumer advocates who do not have business connections or official roles in the transportation and appropriations process) (1971, 89);

- b. Every effort by local governments to include minorities, senior citizens, economically and/or physically challenged persons and other traditionally under-represented citizens on transportation and land use advisory committees and to facilitate this participation (1997);
  - c. Open public meetings of all regulatory and public management boards (1971, 89);
  - d. Compulsory paid publication in general circulation newspapers of proposals on which public review is to be held (1971, 89);
  - e. Decision-making on the level of services for the regional mass transit system by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority (WMATA) with local input, including citizen input early in the decision-making process (1981, 89).
4. We support financial measures that include:
- a. Informing the public of the total costs of auto use and full public disclosure of the costs of transportation service, of who pays for service and who receives it, and of full cost/benefit information;
  - b. Public investment to finance public transportation systems, to encourage substantially greater use of mass transportation, to increase resources for bus and rail transit, to achieve a realistic alternative to private auto use, to provide funds for bus shelters and information services (1971, 83, 89);
  - c. Reduction of subsidies to auto use, such as tax favors which support parking and free parking for employees paid out of public funds (1971, 89);
  - d. The use of a dedicated tax to help fund public transportation. The objective of such a tax should be to spread the costs of mass transit among the total population and to encourage the use of mass transit instead of the automobile. A sales tax which excludes such necessities as food and medicines would be the best means of financing mass transportation in the metropolitan area. The most important criteria to be used in evaluating particular taxes dedicated to transportation should be revenue potential, timeliness, and reliability (1980).

*Note: the above position applies only to the Washington metropolitan area, and may be acted upon within the context of interstate regional cooperation, despite its partial conflict with the LWVMD, LWV-VA and LWVDC positions.*

5. We support the integration of transportation and land use planning on local and regional levels (1997).
6. We support an interstate compact authority for regional transportation.
- a. Members representing corporate, environmental, social, and political jurisdictions would best promote a regional approach to transportation planning;
  - b. Members representing political jurisdictions would best produce cooperation among/between local jurisdictions and would best promote efficiency and flexibility in

- meeting transportation needs;
- c. The following areas of transportation planning should come within the jurisdiction of a regional transportation authority: roads and highways; urban and suburban transit, including bus and rail; interstate rail, including connections among systems, i.e., Amtrak, Marc, etc.; pedestrian/bike paths; water, i.e., water taxis, ferries, etc.; bridges and tunnels;
- d. Approved projects should be funded through: Federal funds appropriated through transportation authorization act; State and local contributions; user fees, including tolls, fares, and other fees; private funding; bonds; and gasoline taxes (2004).

## WATER RESOURCES

1. In order to ensure a safe and adequate water supply for metropolitan Washington and to restore the quality of our streams and rivers, we support:
- a. Conservation and protection of drinking water and supply sources. Sources of drinking water serving the metropolitan area, such as the Potomac River and Occoquan and Patuxent Reservoirs, must be maintained and protected against pollution from both point and non-point sources;
  - b. Regional demand reduction and water conservation measures to reduce annual per capita use:
    - i) contingency plans should be developed on a regional basis to provide for mandatory restrictions on water use in time of emergency,
    - ii) measures to recycle treated waste water in industrial, agricultural, and other non-potable systems and measures to reduce the use of water of drinking water quality as a conveyer of wastes should be encouraged to the extent consistent with public health and hydrological requirements.
  - c. Water-sharing measures to meet emergencies and protect the physical and biological integrity of the sources,
  - d. protection of ground water;
  - e. official consideration of new drinking water sources:
    - i) sources within the Metropolitan region should be investigated as possible adjuncts to existing water sources,
    - ii) construction of major upstream dams on the Potomac or its tributaries for the purpose of providing additional water supplies for the metropolitan region should not be undertaken unless other options have been found insufficient to meet the essential needs of the region.
2. We support regional planning to improve wastewater treatment management. Final selection for new or expanded wastewater treatment facilities should be based on meeting national clean water objectives, protecting public health, and minimizing environmental, energy, and cost impacts (1979, 89, 2016).

## Discussion Questions

Members are asked to review the positions of LWV-VA and LWFVCA and decide for each:

- 1) Are there any questions or issues with the positions?
- 2) Are there any new issues that should be studied? Why? Prioritize new issue(s) to study.
- 3) Do any of the current positions need updating (restudy)? Explain why and prioritize position(s) needing restudy.
- 4) Are there any positions on issues that should have priority for action? Note why is action needed and prioritize items in order of importance.
- 5) Are there positions that should be abandoned (deleted) because they no longer apply or have been accomplished? If so, explain why.
- 6) Who is willing to work on the issue/position? (Names and contact information should be included)

## Environmental Update: EPA Marks 50th Anniversary

By Elizabeth Lonoff

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established on December 2, 1970, following the inaugural Earth Day, which saw teach-ins and millions taking to the streets to express concern for the future of the planet and protest unchecked pollution. EPA consolidated a variety of Federal environmental responsibilities including research, monitoring, standard-setting, and enforcement activities into one agency. It was charged with protecting human health and the environment.



In celebrating 50 years at <https://www.epa.gov/50>, EPA notes major accomplishments built on its research:

- Removing lead from gasoline.
- Conducting assessments of major aquatic ecosystems, leading to collaborative programs between EPA, States, and Tribes to provide critical, ground-breaking data on the nation's waters.
- Identifying the health risks of second-hand tobacco smoke.
- Extending Americans' life expectancies by half a year through cleaner air.
- Developing faster, more efficient, and far less costly

ways to test and screen chemicals for hazards than traditional methods, helping researchers prioritize chemicals for further in-depth investigation.

Today, EPA is collaborating with the Centers for Disease Control to develop and apply methods for measuring SARS-CoV-2 levels in wastewater and to develop a simple, low cost, non-invasive antibody test using saliva samples. EPA also is studying anti-microbial products and application methods for long-lasting disinfection, as well as ways to disinfect large spaces. EPA additionally is evaluating methods of disinfecting personal protective equipment.



### *Environmental Film Contest*

*Films can inspire positive changes in ourselves and our communities. The 11th annual Richmond Virginia Environmental Film Festival (RVAEFF.org) is open to Virginia residents producing films based on environmental topics pertaining to Virginia. All formats and genres will be considered; the deadline is December 31 via FilmFreeway.com. A juried panel will select the winning films, and prize money will be awarded. Winning entries will be announced on January 15 and shown as part of the free festival, February 12–28.*



Despite now only having half the budget of four decades ago in real terms, EPA has made significant progress in protecting the nation's water, cleaning up our air and land, and safeguarding human health. A draft Report to Congress from the current Administration estimated that, over

the past decade, annual benefits from EPA regulations ranged from \$196 to \$706 billion, while yearly economic costs were between \$54 and \$65 billion. Despite regulatory rollbacks and EPA's reduced attention to mitigating climate change in recent years, EPA continues to be relevant. For example, more than 30,000 citizen scientists have used EPA's bilingual Smoke Sense smartphone app for vital information about wildfire smoke and health.

The EPA Alumni Association likewise has developed a set of reports documenting conditions that prevailed when EPA was created and steps the Agency has taken to curb pollution, protect public health and restore natural resources. Environmental Protection: A Half Century of Progress (<https://www.epaalumni.com/2019-hcp>) also outlines serious remaining pollution challenges. Teachers can request a copy of the Teacher's Guide for the high school Advanced Placement and college levels.

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## Fairfax County DV Community Powers Up in October

By Adarsh P. Trehan & Theresa M. Brion

On October 16, 2020, the Fairfax County Domestic Violence (DV) Community held its annual meeting virtually, with over 120 attendees. The theme was "PowerUp!" reminding members that the DV community can continue to "PowerUp!" for greater impact in challenging the various sources of economic and social injustice and end domestic and sexual violence, despite COVID's challenges.

The virtual gathering prevented an in-person celebration with conversation, but it also permitted the community to host Ruth Glenn, President and CEO of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), as its Keynote speaker. Glenn highlighted the NCADV's work and said the organization is powered by its membership and the survivors of DV. There is a need for far more outreach to victims because it is difficult for them to contact DV organizations for assistance because of the virus, and we know that DV is being greatly underreported.

She emphasized that we need to tackle the root causes of DV in addition to helping victims and survivors. While serving them, she reminded the members to take care of themselves physically and emotionally, keep up their passion and commitment but avoid burnout, and contribute to policy while serving their clients.

She offered encouragement to the DV community for its continued efforts just days ahead of the NCADV's Annual

Conference, with the theme "Recognizing (Y)Our Power." The conference was planned for October 25-28, 2020, in St. Louis and registrants could attend in person or virtually.

After the Keynote address, the community celebrated the unveiling of the DV Community's new website as well as the presentation of DV Community Awards. The awardees included:

- DV Community Service Professional Award: Jacqui Smith, DV Detective, Fairfax County Police Department;
- DV Community Team Excellence Award: DVAC (Fairfax County Domestic Violence Action Center) Onsite and Advocacy Team;
- DV Community Partner Award: VG Systems (Thomas Perry);
- Global Achievement Award: Bessie Chavarria; and
- Fairfax County Vanguard Award: Connie Kirkland, Director of Student Mental Health and Behavior, Northern Virginia Community College.

In most years, this annual celebration also substitutes for the quarterly fall meeting of the Council to End Domestic Violence (CEDV). Because the CEDV had already postponed election of its new chair, it met the following week, on October 22, 2020, to receive workgroup reports and recommendations as well as to hold the election. After listening to summaries of the reports from the four workgroups, the CEDV membership offered thanks and recognition to Chairman John Cook (former Supervisor, Braddock District) for his many years of leadership with respect to DV concerns, along with presenting him with a Kudoboard of appreciations. After this presentation, the two candidates for the next chairperson (a 3-year term), Thomas Goodwin (Representative, At-Large; Thomas Goodwin Communications) and James Walkinshaw (the current Supervisor, Braddock District) offered comments. Braddock Supervisor James Walkinshaw was elected as the Chairperson. The next meeting of the CEDV will be held virtually on January 21, 2021.



## How to Help Domestic Violence Victims During the Pandemic

By Adarsh Trehan

Domestic violence cases have been more acute in number and intensity during the pandemic, according to the Fairfax County Police Department and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. “For victims of domestic violence, being home may not be the safest place, particularly as people are financially and emotionally stressed,” said Toni Zollicoffer, Division Director, Fairfax County’s Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (*Reston Now*, April 3, 2020). “Victims and survivors of recent sexual and intimate partner violence face unique challenges during this period of extended social distancing and isolation.”

You can help by telling domestic and sexual violence victims you meet or know to:

### Call or Text for Help 24/7

Call Fairfax County’s Domestic and Sexual Violence hotline: 703-360-7273, TTY 711. It’s available for help 24-hours a day, every day.

If it’s not safe to talk, tell them to text **LOVEIS to 22522** to connect with the National Domestic Violence Hotline. They also can do online chats with RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network).

As always, anyone who is in immediate danger should call 9-1-1.

Online information: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/domestic-sexual-violence>

## Member Letter Published by Washington Post

On October 29, 2020, the *Washington Post* published the following Letter to the Editor from long-time LWVFA member Peggy Knight:

*We are suffering from political sepsis. Sepsis is a life-threatening organ dysfunction caused by a dysregulated host response to infection. It is a medical term that normally applies to human responses to bacterial, fungal, protozoal or viral infections, but its definition aptly fits the national dysfunction caused by a dysregulated government response to the coronavirus.*

*Like human sepsis, political sepsis can be fatal. Given the nature of this political disease, we need to concern ourselves first and foremost with saving the life of the nation. We need an organized national response to the virus that follows the recommendations of respected infection-control experts.*

Margaret Knight, McLean



## LWV Statement on 2020 Election Night, 11/4/2020

WASHINGTON – League of Women Voters board president Dr. Deborah Turner and CEO Virginia Kase issued the following joint statement on the 2020 Elections:

“As voters go to bed tonight, they can rest assured that while we don’t have final election results from races across the country, the people have spoken, and democracy is working.

“Because so many millions of voters cast their votes by mail and absentee ballot this year, it will take some time to count every vote. The League celebrates the unprecedented voter turnout in these elections, especially in the middle of a pandemic. The record-breaking early voting turnout is a great indication of how to expand our democratic process and ensure greater voter participation in the future. In the middle of so much stress and anxiety, the determination of Americans to have their voice heard and participate in our elections is a great victory for democracy.

“In the days ahead, as election officials count every ballot and certify each election, we are confident that the will of the people will be heard. We thank the election officials, poll monitors, and League volunteers who helped facilitate our elections and support voters in communities nationwide. We also thank every voter and candidate for their participation, and now we must let the process play out.”

# Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

## Topic: Program Planning

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 November 1, 2020, the following information is correct. Please use phone numbers to advise of your intent to participate. Due to the pandemic, December Unit Meetings will be virtual. The unit leaders will send the login information to every unit member.

### Saturday, December 5

#### **10 a.m. At-Large Unit and Briefing**

Contact: Jessica, 301-704-7854 or  
jessica.storrs@lwv-fairfax.org

### Wednesday, December 9

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

Contact: Susan, 703-893-2229,  
sfcowart@aol.com  
or Peggy, 703-772-4939,  
peggyknight49@gmail.com

#### **10 a.m. Mount Vernon Day (MVD)**

Contact: Diana, 703-704-5325 or  
Jfdw1111@gmail.com

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

Contact: Bev, 703-451-4438,  
rbdahlin@verizon.net  
or Sue, 703-266-0272,  
sueoneill1@hotmail.com

### Thursday, December 10

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

Contact: Barbara (703) 437-0795,  
bseandlte@earthlink.net

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

Contact: Pat, 703-941-9210, Pat.  
Fege@lwv-fairfax.org

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

Contact: Susan, 703-391-0666,  
sadill@cox.net

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

Contact: Mary, 703-932-3665,  
mmvalder@aol.com

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

Contact: Wendy, 703-319-4114,  
wendy.foxgrage@gmail.com

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

Contact: Jane, 703-960-6820,  
jane@hilderwilliams.net  
or Susan, 703-587-4790,  
scash5002@email.vccs.edu

### Monday, December 14

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

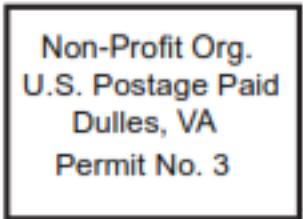
Contact: Pat,  
pmcgrady308@gmail.com

# January Meetings:

## Election Laws Update study (Part II)



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](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org)



**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER®  
 December, 2020**

Anu Sahai, Co-President  
 Nancy Roodberg, Co-President  
 Katherine Ingmanson, 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.

Please Support Our Work! The LWVFA Education Fund is supported by donations from our members and the public.  
<https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/donate>



**LWVFA MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM**

Dues year is July 1 – June 30

Membership Dues: Individual \$75 \_\_\_\_\_ Household \$100 (2 persons; 1 Voter) \_\_\_\_\_ Student (No fee) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (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 as a separate check or PayPal Payment to “LWVFA Ed Fund.”  
 (Please print clearly)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit (if renewing) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ /State/ \_\_\_\_\_ Zip +4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (C) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to LWVFA. Mail to LWVFA, 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403  
 OR Join online at <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/join>

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

- Providing organization support (graphic design, website development/maintenance, fundraising/grant writing)
- Voter Services (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, etc., 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, or Fairfax County Public Schools).

Other \_\_\_\_\_