

General Meeting on Redistricting Strategies

In lieu of unit meetings this month, the LWVFA has partnered with OneVirginia2021 and local Leagues in the region to hold a forum on getting redistricting reform on the ballot. Brian Cannon, Executive Director of OneVirginia2021, will speak, along with Andre Parvenu of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, whose years-long effort has had important successes. We expect several state legislators to participate as well.

Ending gerrymandering has been one of the key issues of the League for the past five years. Learn more about this issue and what it will take to allow citizens to pick their candidates. Plan now to attend this key forum at the Sherwood Center on November 17th.

Calendar

No LWVFA Unit Meetings This Month

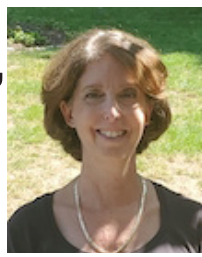
- 1 FCPS End of First Quarter
- 1 LWVNCA Board Meeting, LWVUS Board Room
- 2 Final Day for In-Person Absentee Voting
- 3 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 4 *Fairfax Voter* Deadline for the Dec. 2019 issue
- 4 Sequoyah Condo Election, Sequoyah Community Center, 8010 Seven Woods Dr., Alexandria 22309, 6 to 8 p.m.
- 4-5 FCPS Student Holidays
- 5 Election Day; Polls Open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- 5 Absentee Ballot Return Deadline by 7 p.m.
- 10 LWV-VA 99th Birthday
- 11 Veterans' Day
- 13 LWVFA Legacy Committee Meeting, Packard Center, 2 to 4 p.m.
- 17 LWVFA General Meeting, "LWVFA Action / Advocacy Forum / Legislative Forum," Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA, 1 to 4 p.m.
- 18 Virginia General Assembly Pre-Filing Begins
- 20 LWVFA Board Meeting, Packard Center 10 a.m.
- 27-29 FCPS School Holiday for Thanksgiving Break
- 28 Thanksgiving

Inside This Issue

Presidents' Message	2
Path to Redistricting	3
Redistricting Forum Flyer	4
Program Planning for December	EF-1
Environmental Update	6
Feedback to September Voter	6
zMOD Zoning Ordinance	6
Rules for Signs in Right-of-Way	6
Governor Announces High School Registration Challenge	6
Spotlight on Voter Services	7
League Assists Voters With Disabilities	7
Hospital Health Care Workers Can Vote Absentee	8
Senior Citizens Informed About Voting	8
Welcome New Members	9
Domestic Abuse – Emotional Abuse	10
Beck Lecture: Sounding the Alarm	10
Visionary Environmental Awards Presentation	10



Presidents' Message



Warm greetings to all fellow Leaguers!

'Tis the season of elections and we have been up to our ears in it, haven't we?

We have had so many candidate forums and a pretty amazing turnout given that it is not a presidential election year. Northern Virginia is slowly turning into a more engaged electorate and we are so happy to be able to play a role in it. Vote 411 has been getting way more hits than we have before and we seem to attract a lot more people to our voter registration/education booths. People want to come and talk and learn about the League and our activities along with information about voting. This is an extremely encouraging and rewarding experience. As we come up to our Centennial, we find ourselves in the privileged position of being increasingly relevant. Our membership continues to grow and that is very heartening.

We are looking forward to our Redistricting Forum on November 17th which will be held at the Sherwood Center in Fairfax. The lineup of speakers is very impressive and it promises to be a great event. Hope to see many of you there!

This December we will be discussing our positions at our unit meetings. This is a vital opportunity for all of us to make our presence felt at our program planning unit meetings. LWVFA has an expansive range of advocacy positions that you can read online on our website. Each position is important, even those that we have been fighting for over many years are still relevant. So please, take your time and go through them. See what we need to change or keep as is. Some of them need to be revised and updated. So, make yourself a nice cup of coffee, put on some warm slippers and start reading and making notes!

We have also been posting information and articles on various UN conventions and treaties, like the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) for example. These articles have been written by some of our League members who are UN observers. Please look them up on the website under Publications. Perhaps you can see some synergy between these global issues and our local

issues. Like we say, think globally, act locally.

As you all are aware, we are planning our Centennial celebration and we are quite excited about it. It will be on February 23, 2020 so please mark your calendars! Details will follow soon.

As always, please remind all friends, family members, acquaintances, colleagues and neighbors to go out and vote!

LWVFA Donors and Supporters

The LWVFA Board extends an overwhelming thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their amazing support! (Sept 5 – Oct 5, 2019)

Edith Appel, Bernice Colvard, Anne Kanter, Peggy Knight, Ann Parham and Network for Good and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

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

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2019 - 2020

This newsletter, partially funded by the League of Women Voters of Fairfax Area Education Fund, is published 10 times each year from September to June by:

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area
4026-B Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003-2403
703-658-9150 (Info/fax/answering machine)
www.lwv-fairfax.org league@lwv-fairfax.org

Co-Presidents: Anu Sahai 703-303-8498
President2@lwv-fairfax.org
Nancy Roodberg 703-867-9403
President1@lwv-fairfax.org
Editor: Katherine Ingmanson 571-265-9745
kmingmanson@yahoo.com
Layout Editor Vacant

Subscriptions to the *Fairfax VOTER* are available to non-Fairfax League members for \$15 per annum. Send your check to the above address and request a subscription.

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

Don't Forget VOTE411 is a Valuable Election Tool



Before you vote, be sure to check Vote411, and encourage your friends and neighbors to do so! We

have 43 races for Fairfax County, and 86 candidates. A majority of candidates have responded to our questions, and more continue to do so every day, so it is worth checking back. With so many non-party races (such as School Board and Soil and Water Conservation Director), seeing the responses to our questions is particularly important. This year's elections will have far-reaching policy implications for the County. Vote411 is your go-to resource to see what all the candidates in your precinct are proposing.

One recycled aluminum can saves enough energy to power a television or computer for three hours or a 100-watt light bulb for 20 hours. A six-pack of recycled aluminum cans saves enough energy to drive a car five miles

Path to Redistricting: Constitutional Amendment

1. March 2019: SJ306 passed the Virginia General Assembly:

Established 16-member commission:

8 legislators (4 Senators, 4 Delegates; 2 from each of the major parties)

8 citizens (selected by 5 retired circuit court judges)

You are "here" in the process

2. November 5, 2019: Virginia General Assembly Elections for all state senators and delegates.

3. The constitutional amendment must pass again in the 2020 General Assembly session exactly as it passed in 2019. A separate enabling bill that determines how district lines will be drawn (specifically prohibiting favoring or disfavoring a party or individual; keeping intact communities of interest; compactness; other implementation requirements) will also need to pass in 2020.

4. November 3, 2020: the constitutional amendment, having passed twice, with an election in between, will go on the ballot for Virginia voters to approve this method for fair redistricting:

Once the Redistricting Amendment passes:

5. 2020 Census data will be collected and released in 2021.

6. 2021: A fairer means of establishing district boundaries will be in place when 2020 census data is used to establish new districts based upon new population totals.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF VIRGINIA

www.lwv-va.org

map By Drl5n - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=48539470>



REDISTRICTING FORUM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019: 1 – 4 P.M.

SHERWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER
1740 OLD LEE HIGHWAY, FAIRFAX, VA 22030

Join us to discuss “How to Pass” redistricting in Virginia in 2020!

State Legislators

Sen. George Barker
Sen. Dave Marsden
Del. Karrie Delaney
Del. Mark Keam
Del. Kaye Kory
Del. Mark Sickles

Del. Mark Levine
Del. Ken Plum
Del. Ibraheem Sanirah
Del. Marcus Simon
Del. Rip Sullivan, Jr.

Andre Parvenu, California Citizens Redistricting Commission

Brian Cannon, OneVirginia2021
Deb Wake, League of Women Voters of Virginia
Wendy Fox-Grage, League of Women Voters of Fairfax Area

Register Here: <lww2019.eventbrite.com>

All are welcome to this FREE event! Donations always appreciated.



Program Planning for LWVFA is in December - Be Prepared

From: *Here We Stand* www.lwv-fairfax.org (for members)

December is your chance to be heard in at our program planning unit meetings. LWVFA has an expansive list of positions. Many positions are decades old; but, if you read them, most are relevant today. This month and next you will have the opportunity to take time to read and study our positions in depth. What do you agree with? What would you change? How would you change the Position: add something, delete something? Do you have ideas for rewording for updating (using current terms) or consistency with other positions? Do you see a lack of a position on the local level that we should have? Are you interested enough to be a leader or part of a study committee to research a new position?

The Basics . . .

Fairfax League Positions

The LWV of the Fairfax Area can lobby, advocate and take action based upon League positions. All League positions are reached after studying the issue and coming to consensus or concurrence.

What Is A League “Position”?

A League [at all levels] takes action on an issue or advocates for a cause when there is an existing League “position” that supports the issue or speaks to the cause. The purpose of having a League position is to use that position to influence public policy.

Definition of a Position:

In the League, a “position” is a statement of the League’s point of view on an issue, arrived at through member study and agreement (consensus or concurrence) and approved by the appropriate League board, which is used as a basis for League action.

How Is a Position Formed?

There are four major steps in developing a position:

- The League selects an issue to be studied. The process

for developing positions begins with the selection and adoption of the “program” for the respective level of League (local, state or national). Ideas for new study issues start at the “grassroots” level, reflecting a particular interest of an individual member, unit or League (called “program planning”).

- The League [committee] conducts thorough research on the issue and presents the findings of the research [study] to the members in an unbiased and objective manner along with questions to elicit members’ feedback about the issue.
- Members come to agreement (or not), using either the process of consensus or concurrence. Members give feedback to questions about the topic where, if there is enough member agreement on answers to the questions, a series of statements can be formulated about that topic. Those statements are called a position.
- Based upon the result of member feedback, a position statement is formed, adopted by the respective League board, and subsequently approved by the League membership at an annual meeting or convention. Once a League board approves the wording of the position, it can be used by that League for advocacy and action (before subsequent approval by a convention or annual meeting).

Our Positions . . .

Below are several positions for you to review -The Position in Brief is listed first followed by the Full Position.

Environmental Quality

Support for measures to protect the public and the environment and to encourage alternative methods of disposal of solid and hazardous wastes; support for a comprehensive hazardous materials program.

Solid Waste

Support measures to protect the public and the environment and to encourage alternative methods of disposal of solid wastes. Source reduction, as well as reuse and recycling, should be emphasized over incineration and landfills. (1980-1990)

The LWV of the Fairfax Area believes:

- The County should dispose of its sludge by recycling methods; for example, composting to convert it to soil-enhancing material. (1980)



➤ It is important to recover recyclable materials and favors a County program to achieve this goal.(1982)

➤ The broadly accepted components of a solid waste management system: source reduction,

reuse and recycling, incineration (waste to energy), and land filling are important in a waste management system in Fairfax. Source reduction as well as reuse and recycling should be emphasized over incineration and land filling. (1990)

- Materials separation to recover recyclables and remove toxics is important prior to both incineration and land filling. (1990)
- Local governments should be encouraged to pursue all available avenues to support source reduction and reuse and recycling. (1990)

Hazardous Materials

Support establishment and maintenance by Fairfax County and Fairfax City of a comprehensive local hazardous materials program, including safe disposal of hazardous



waste, to protect the public and environment. (1985-1994)

The LWVFA strongly supports the establishment and maintenance by Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax of comprehensive local hazardous materials programs to protect the public and the environment. Such programs should include dissemination of information to and education of the public and businesses on the safe storage and disposal of hazardous materials. In order to increase its capacity for dealing with hazardous materials, Fairfax County should:

- Establish land-use controls for the siting of industries using or generating hazardous materials.
- Establish and maintain a database and central information system on hazardous materials.
- Establish and maintain a collection program for accepting and disposing of household hazardous materials.
- Establish and maintain a collection program for busi-

nesses generating small amounts of hazardous materials.

- Seek greater authority to regulate underground storage tanks to prevent or remedy leakage from tanks holding hazardous materials. (1985)

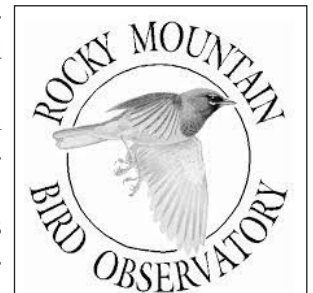
The LWVFA promotes the following methods of disposing of hazardous wastes: waste reduction; recycling by waste generators; recycling through a hazardous waste exchange; and treatment or disposal at a professional hazardous waste facility. In some circumstances and for certain materials, disposal through high temperature incineration or chemical or biological treatment. Temporary, retrievable storage is acceptable pending safe, permanent disposal. Sanitary landfills and lined or unlined lagoons should not be used for holding any hazardous materials, and unregulated dumping should be vigorously prosecuted. (1985, amended 1994)

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Protect destruction of non-tidal wetlands from being converted to other uses. Support for protecting both tidal and non-tidal wetlands against damage from sedimentation and pollution. (1988-1994)

The LWVFA believes non-tidal wetlands are a valuable resource that is in need of protection from destruction by conversion to other uses. Both tidal and non-tidal wetlands should be protected against damage from sedimentation and pollution. In order to protect wetlands, flood plains and other environmentally sensitive areas in Fairfax County the Board of Supervisors should:

- Identify and map such areas.
- Incorporate improved wetland and Environmental Quality Corridor protection into the zoning and site plan review process.
- Include an open space plan as part of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Upgrade the effectiveness of erosion and sedimentation and pollution controls.
- Promote state and local wetlands laws.
- Create environmental overlay districts to be applied to environmentally valuable sites for preservation in a natural state and/or protection from pollution. (1994)
- Acquire such areas either by purchase or builder dedication.
- Provide for citizen education, particularly through the



school system, on the value of wetlands and environmentally sensitive areas.

The LWVFA believes that the siting and building of roads and other public projects that do not fall under the federal umbrella should have independent environmental assessments. It should be Fairfax County policy to have such assessments, which evaluate the environmental, social and economic impacts of such projects.

Air Quality

Support for achieving and maintaining acceptable air quality with development of less polluting alternative fuels with preference for natural gas, electricity and hydrogen. Support for change in parking subsidies to favor high occupancy vehicles and efficient transportation modes. (1992)

In order to achieve and maintain acceptable air quality, the LWVFA:

- Believes that adoption of the California Standards for low emission vehicles is necessary to achieve and maintain compliance with the Clean Air Act of 1990.
- Believes that the development of less polluting alternative fuels should be a high priority with preference for compressed natural gas, reformulated gasoline, electricity and hydrogen. The total environmental impact of a fuel should be considered, including tail pipe emissions and pollution produced during manufacture and disposal.
- Advocates a change in parking subsidies away from those favoring low occupancy vehicles to those favoring efficient transportation modes, and greater emphasis on local programs and regulations encouraging employers to institute transportation management systems that foster efficient transportation modes.



Climate Change - Local

Support for localities playing a significant role in addressing the causes of climate change. Encourage the County and City of Fairfax to adopt and carry out programs that will minimize the causes and effects of climate change, and coordinate these efforts with other localities. (2009)



Rapid climate change is imperiling the earth's life system and human civilization. It both affects and is affected

by the actions taken by nations, states, localities and individuals.

- The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area believes that localities must play a significant role in addressing the causes of climate change. The League supports and encourages the County and City of Fairfax to adopt and carry out programs that will minimize the causes and effects of climate change.
- The League also supports the coordination of these efforts with those of other localities.

Land Use Planning

Support for well-coordinated and environmentally sound comprehensive land use planning in Fairfax County/City, efforts to ensure that growth is balanced and orderly, preservation of historic and archaeological sites and areas, coordinated revitalization and redevelopment, and coordination of land use and transportation planning. (1986-2009)



The LWV of the Fairfax Area supports:

- A general master plan for Fairfax County and its effective implementation to ensure that growth is balanced and orderly. (1986)
- Emphatically, the position that the Board of Supervisors should determine and adopt a set of objectives and criteria for judgment to guide future development in the County and a set of policies to achieve these objectives to provide more stability in the County's planning and zoning process.
- The adoption of a conservation policy in the County.
- Conservation planning by the County for stream valleys and the broadening and strengthening of ordinances to protect stream valleys from erosion.
- Reasonable, fair and appropriate means to preserve adequate amounts of open space in Fairfax County, with special emphasis on outright acquisition by public agencies.
- The development of cluster subdivisions as a means of preserving small areas of open space within a community.
- The development of neighborhood parks.
- Timely planning for the preservation of historic and/or archaeological sites and areas. (1984)
- The coordination of land use and transportation planning, and especially urges that land use planning take into account those factors and elements required for

an efficient transportation system and decreased reliance on individual automobile use.

- Measures that will improve communication among the decision-making officials, the planning agency, and the general public with wider dissemination of planning and zoning information.

The LWVFA believes that:

- In order to ensure a balanced community, and in planning for non-residential growth:
 - ☐ Public policies should be developed to reserve land suitable for office/commercial centers and major industrial parks surrounding selected Metro stops.
 - ☐ Provision should be made for adequate highway access to designated commercial industrial centers.
 - ☐ Adequate buffer zones must be required between residential and non-residential usages.
 - ☐ Direct access to non-residential streets must be provided.
- Guidelines should be established to avoid over-saturation of commercial development.
- Planning by local governments should allow for concentrations of higher density in selected areas such as projected Metro stations, for the purposes of more cost-effective public transportation services and energy conservation. Such areas should provide for a combination of uses, including employment centers and residential, commercial and recreational activities with efficient public transportation services.

The LWVFA believes there should be a timing link between a development and the provision of public facilities needed to serve that development, to include roads, schools, public safety facilities and parks and recreation facilities. The following implementation mechanisms should be utilized:

- Public facilities should be scheduled in the Capital Improvements Program for completion within a reasonable time.
- Developers should be required to assume a share of the cost of providing new or expanded public facilities necessitated by their developments. (1986)
- New developments should be channeled to areas that are served, or soon to be served, by public facilities. (1986)

The LWVFA supports a major effort by the county government to revitalize older areas that are deteriorated or beginning to deteriorate.

- We consider preservation or creation of affordable housing and affordable commercial space to be a necessary part of revitalization and in-fill programs.
- The County's updating of its development regula-

tions for in-fill and residential development should include attention to neighborhood compatibility and site design, storm-water management and erosion and sediment control, transportation impacts and tree preservation.

- Open space and community-building places should be accommodated where that is feasible.
- The County should work in partnership in this effort with local citizens and businesses. (2000)

The LWVFA believes that practicing smart growth and creating sustainable communities are essential for the future of Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax.

Powers and Tools

- In order to achieve these goals the county must make more use of the growth control measures available to it and must be granted strengthened powers by the state to manage growth.
- We favor stronger regional planning and would be willing to give up some local authority to advance a regional plan and program. (2000)
- LWVFA supports the preservation of Fairfax County's ability to be flexible in negotiating with developers for the cost of providing new, expanded public facilities and for the resolution of other development issues. (2010)

The City Of Fairfax

The LWVFA supports:

- Funding for maintenance and development of areas for recreational use, balancing open space with equipped play areas.
- Recreational facilities and programs designed for the use of all residents as determined cooperatively by citizens and appropriate governmental bodies.
- The concept of a downtown central area in the City of Fairfax with facilities oriented to the needs of citizens.



Water

Support for measures to protect the Occoquan Reservoir from pollution.

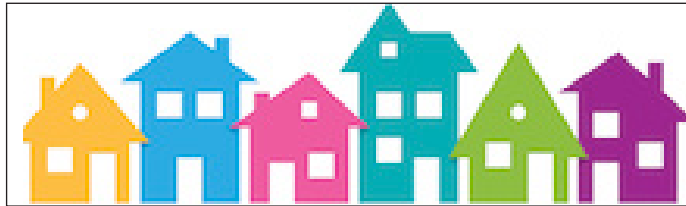
The LWVFA feels that the Occoquan Reservoir should be protected from pollution, and believes that Fairfax County

should take those measures which are necessary and effective to achieve this purpose. (1990s)

Housing

The LWVFA is concerned about the continuing insufficiency of housing for low-and moderate-income persons. The LWVFA emphatically supports the principle of open occupancy. (1976) The LWVFA is emphatic in its conviction that the County/City should assume the responsibility to see that adequate housing is provided for the low-income families in Fairfax County/City who cannot afford housing meeting minimum standards for health and safety; and to this end:

- Supports establishment of assisted housing programs using federal funds.
- Advocates that changes in building codes, construction techniques and subdivision regulations should be made to encourage the building of more low-and moderate-income housing. These changes should apply to all housing.
- Believes the Housing Hygiene Code should be a positive tool to help individuals improve their housing. The goal should be the improvement of housing conditions, not the displacement of people. We believe displacement should depend upon the availability of better alternative housing.
- Believes assisted housing programs should include leasing and acquisition, as well as building of new housing.
- Favors a variety of housing types built of good materials in an attractive manner. The housing should be in small concentrations on sites scattered throughout the County/City.
- Believes assisted housing programs should be conducted in such a way as to make people and the housing involved an integral part of their neighborhood.
- Believes the County/City should work with blighted areas to work out comprehensive feasible solutions to their housing and housing-related problems.
- Supports implementation of an affordable dwelling unit ordinance, which would require developers to dedicate a portion of their developments to low- and moderate-income housing. (amended 1994)
- Supports programs to challenge the concerns and misconceptions that work against establishment of low-and moderate-income housing.(1976)
- Believes that local government should establish a linkage program through which commercial devel-



opers can contribute to low-and moderate- income housing. (1990)

- Believes that local government can encourage the production of low-and moderate-income housing by allowing developers of that housing to “fast track” through the system of applications and rezonings and inspections. (1990)

The LWVFA strongly believes that the responsibility for housing mentally disabled adults must be shared by the various levels of government, the families, and private organizations. The LWVFA further believes that:

- A wide range of housing arrangements to suit the various degrees of mental disability should be available.
- The government should assist financially in meeting the housing needs of the mentally disabled.(1985)

The LWVFA believes that:

- Permanent shelters should be maintained to meet the needs of homeless families and individuals (amended 1994)
- Responsibility for providing these shelters should be shared by local government and the private sector; however, the major responsibility for providing and maintaining shelters rests with the government. (1985)

The LWVFA believes that non-profit housing groups have a vital role to play in the provision and maintenance of low-and moderate-income housing. We support their efforts and believe that local government should act as a clearing-house for grants, loans and information and encourage and assist these organizations. The LWVFA strongly believes that local government should establish policies which:

- Encourage the distribution of low-and moderate- income housing throughout the county.
- Preserve and maintain the existing low-and moderate-income housing stock. (1990)

*Remind Your Friends
and Neighbors to Vote
on November 5*

Environmental Update: Local Progress

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Thanks to Vice Chairman George Lamb and Treasurer Elaine Tholen for serving on the **Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) Board**. Be sure to look on the ballot for the candidates offering to succeed them, as discussed on pages EF-5 and EF-6 of the September Fairfax VOTER. They want to help the County make decisions to protect streams and other natural resources. The Board is involved with projects ranging from backyard Virginia Conservation Assistance Program runoff reduction to Pohick Dams upgrades. It focuses on providing technical assistance, trying new ideas, and forming partnerships.

Congratulations to the NVSWCD on celebrating its 100th Green Breakfast on September 14th. Green Breakfasts typically feature a presentation about local environmental topics as described on their website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/green-breakfast>. This special event was a walking tour of stormwater management projects at the County's Government Center and Herry Building with recognition of past NVSWCD Board member Sally Ormsby, who started the Green Breakfasts. Take the tour virtually at <<https://fairfaxcountygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=0152ff15556442bcbfaab27243d882d0#map>> or follow the map around the Government Center for a self-guided tour.

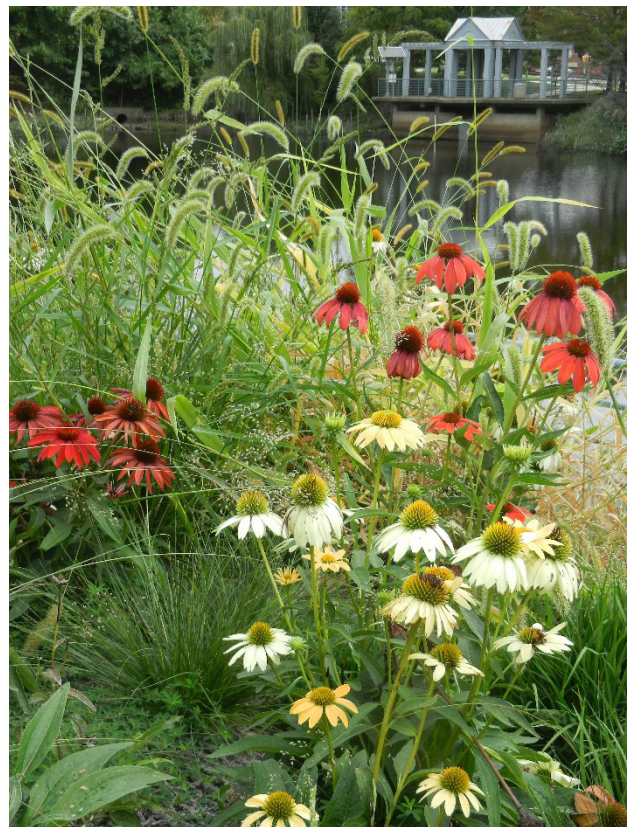
Next, a defunct pond and fountain in front of the County's Herry Building will be replaced with an area for pedestrian use, including sidewalks surrounding a small bubbler fountain and a bioretention basin. The new fountain's water will be supplied by rainwater runoff collected from the parking garage behind the building and stored in a cistern. At a similar stormwater project, watch Braddock Elementary School students install native plants at <<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/stormwater/watershed-education-and-outreach>>

This summer, the **Alexandria City Council** voted unanimously to adopt an Environmental Action Plan 2040, an update to Eco-City Alexandria's comprehensive roadmap for creating a thriving, sustainable community, and a Green Building Policy. Key goals and actions in the plan update and policy include:

- Reducing community greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030 and 80 to 100% by 2050,
- Ensuring that all new construction in the community

has Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver green building certification or higher going forward and is carbon neutral by 2030,

- Ensuring that all new City and public school building projects starting in 2020 achieve net-zero energy use,
- Offsetting municipal electricity use with 100% renewable energy credits by 2020 and directly purchasing renewable electricity for 100% of City operations by 2035,
- Replacing 25% of the municipal fleet with electric vehicles by 2027, and 100% by 2040,
- Retrofitting 95% of conventional street lights by 2021 and 75% of City facility conventional lighting by 2023 with energy-efficient LED lighting,
- Increasing Alexandria's tree canopy to 40% by 2035,
- Expanding rail, bus, bike and pedestrian infrastructure to encourage a shift to low-carbon transportation modes, and
- Continuing and strengthening community environmental education efforts.



[Photo Credit: Herry Wet Pond]

Feedback to September VOTER Article “All About the Ballot”

By Julia Jones

There were generally positive responses for the September VOTER discussion topic and article. Many members were surprised about the “part-time designation” of so many office holders when their responsibilities are so time consuming. “How can the ordinary person run for office without having another source of income?” Some comments were that this type of article should be available whenever these offices are on the ballot. Even some long time League members felt that they were unaware of some of the material presented.

zMOD - Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance Modernization Project Update

By Julia Jones

In conjunction with Clarion Associates, the MOD staff is working on the modernization of Fairfax County’s 40+ year old Zoning Ordinance. The Board of Supervisors endorsed the use regulations on July 16, 2019. During the summer of 2019 to early 2020, the county will implement plain language changes and create figures, charts, and graphics. In the spring or summer of 2020, the new consolidated Zoning Ordinance will be released with scheduled public hearings. To follow the progress or find additional information: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/zmod>

zMOD focuses on the following goals:

- Modernizing the permitted uses and their regulations
- Making the Zoning Ordinance easier to understand
- Removing gaps and inconsistencies
- Creating a streamlined, user-friendly document
- Using more tables, graphics, and hyperlinks
- Being usable on multiple platforms

Do You Know About Fairfax County’s Rules for Signs in the ROW?

By Julia Jones

The State Maintained “Right-of-Way” (ROW) is a term denoting land, property, or interest therein, usually in a strip, acquired for or devoted to a highway or transportation use. This area does not belong to individual property owners and must be kept clear for motorist and pedestrian safety and for road maintenance by VDOT crews.

Fairfax County removes signs that are illegally placed on or along roads DESIGNATED in the Illegal Sign Removal Program. This includes signage for political campaigns, advertising, realtors, and more.

Signs will be regularly picked up every week between Tuesday and Thursday by the Sheriff’s Community Labor Force. Signs will not be cleaned up based on public complaints. After the county removes a sign, it will be stored for five calendar days at the I-66 Transfer Station where it may be reclaimed. Signs will be destroyed after five days. However, VDOT’s Adopt-a-Highway groups may collect signs at any time on their designated roads, and they may destroy these signs.

Governor Northam Announces 2019–2020 Governor’s High School Voter Registration Challenge

“RICHMOND—September 26, 2019 Governor Ralph Northam today announced the 2019–2020 Governor’s High School Voter Registration Challenge. High schools across the Commonwealth will have the opportunity to compete to register the highest percentage of their voting-age population. Schools that reach or exceed 65 percent registration of their eligible senior class will receive a congratulatory certificate from the Governor. The Governor’s Challenge was created in 2016 and is a partnership of the Office of the Governor and the Virginia Secretaries of Administration and Education, in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Elections, and the League of Women Voters of Virginia.”

Spotlight on Recent Voter Services Activities

By Cindy Kalkwarf, Voter Services Chair

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.

The LWV has always placed a priority on ensuring voting rights for the disenfranchised and on providing voter education and outreach to underserved populations. Learn about three of these outreach programs in the articles which follow: Persons with Disabilities, Health Care Workers, and Senior Citizens.

Do you have any suggestions about other communities that need outreach for help in voter registration and voting? If so, please contact me at Cindy.Kalkwarf@LWV-Fairfax.org.—

Local Leagues Produce Information Card for Voters With Disabilities

By Sherri Gillam

Loudon County and Fairfax Area LWV recently collaborated to publish a new voter information card targeting voters with disabilities, entitled “A Quick Guide to Disability Voting Rights.” This card addresses the right to vote, registering to vote, requesting assistance at the polls, utilizing curbside voting, restoration of Voting Rights, and using Vote411.org to obtain information about the election process and candidates.

While distributing this new educational information, I met with representatives from Pathway Homes, a non-profit organization that provides supported, long-term housing for over 400 residents with mental illness, with 80 group houses in Fairfax and Prince William counties. The residents attending the meeting seemed excited to meet with LWV-FA and reported that their members also place a high value on voting. They said they had previously lobbied state legislators in Richmond to expand services for mental health treatment and affordable housing. In addition, individuals shared stories about using curbside voting and in-person absentee voting because of anxiety about crowded polling places, fears about voting the

first time, and having voting rights restored. Pathway Homes participants reported they are pleased to work with LWV-FA to ensure that other members register to vote and feel comfortable exercising their voting rights. Although distribution of the new “A Quick Guide to Disability Voting Rights” is in its first stage, other organizations that have received cards include the ENDependence Centers of Northern Virginia and Loudoun Counties, the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, and Special Education Services through FCPS. If you have ideas of organizations that could benefit from the new educational information, please contact LWVFA volunteer, Sherri Gillam (sherri.gillam@gmail.com).

Are you interested in outreach to voters with Special Needs? We are looking for volunteers. Candy Butler and I initiated bi-weekly outreach to three Wellness Centers in Northern Virginia. These Wellness Centers provide a safe space for participants coping with mental illness and homelessness to find connection in the community as well as receiving education about coping skills and receiving a hot, delicious meal. During our visits we worked to develop trusting relationships with participants and later registered persons to vote, helped participants become aware of issues and upcoming elections and to compare candidates, and finally verified polling places and talked through the actual voting process. Participants reported feeling pleased that LWV-FA recognized them as valid voters and benefited from the contact and information.

League Assists Hospital Health Care Workers to Vote Absentee

By Barbara Boardman

In 2018, a friend was attending to a family member at Virginia Hospital Center where I am a staff pediatrician. She found herself discussing the upcoming election with staff and explaining how they could vote early absentee in Virginia. I realized that my daughter, a “new grad” nurse, had her shifts from 7AM to 7PM making it impossible for her to vote on Election day. So began the League of Women Voters-Fairfax health care workers outreach project.

The health care workers outreach project is a low-budget, small project with a large goal. We are attempting to reach health care workers via electronic messaging throughout Virginia to provide information about absentee voting. A quick data review indicated we had a very large target audience. Virginia Hospital Center, has several hundred employees. The Inova hospital system has over 17,000 employees. With these numbers, outreach with paper leaflets was not feasible.

To gain electronic access to employees, we convinced hospital management that electronic distribution of *non-partisan* voter information would be beneficial to the workers and employers. The excellent non-partisan

reputation of the LWV was the firm foundation of our interaction with management. We developed a one-page electronic “flyer” that management could send to all employees through the hospital employee e-mail system. The “flyer” was designed so that it could also be printed and placed on a break-room bulletin board. It was carefully designed to be educational, without any suggestion that management was pushing a particular candidate or party.

We initially targeted Virginia Hospital Center. We discussed how Election Day voting could disrupt an employee’s 7AM to 7PM shift. Educating employees on how to vote early absentee was helpful to the employer, while encouraging civic engagement. We used personal contacts to expand the project to the Inova hospital system. We also were able to expand our outreach, thanks to the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, which kindly distributed the electronic flyer to their 20,000-member e-mail list. This year we are repeating the project with the same targeted groups. We hope to add distribution to the membership of the Virginia Chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics and the Virginia Medical association.

This project has been simple and low budget. It shows how the League’s reputation for solid non-partisan information leveraged through electronic media, and cooperation with interested employers and associations can lead to improved voter education and voter turnout.

Senior Citizen Outreach Alerts Retirement Communities About Election Information

By Donna Wells Blake

Several years ago, the LWV-Fairfax realized residents in retirement communities may not have ready access to information about registration, photo ID, and absentee voting, if needed, and that we should develop communications to those residents.

Sidney Johnson, then LWV-FA Voter Services Chair, worked with the Fairfax County Office of Elections to

develop information to be sent in a letter to all identified retirement communities in Fairfax County. This letter:

- Provides the names, emails, and phone numbers of the people to contact in the Fairfax County Office of Elections as well as the website with deadlines for voter registration and absentee voting.
- Contains key information about deadlines and voting procedures.
- Encourages the facility manager to make an early appointment for a representative from the Fairfax County Office of Elections to show residents how to register online at the Citizens Portal of the Virginia Department of Elections and then apply to vote absentee, if desired.
- Finishes encouragingly by noting that many residents and relatives are reassured to have the Fairfax

County Office of Elections assist in this important civic activity.

The retirement communities have responded positively to these letters, stating that they are grateful to have the relevant information readily available. This year the mailings were expanded to include senior community centers, where seniors don't live but do visit frequently for activities. Nearly 150 letters were mailed this year. The names and addresses for retirement communities

in Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax are obtained from various web sources, including the latest edition of the Retirement Living Sourcebook for DCMetro Area (<https://www.retirementlivingsourcebook.com/>) and are updated every year as new communities are added.

If you know of any retirement communities or senior communities centers that have not received a letter, please contact Cindy Kalkwarf, LWV-FA Voter Services Chair Cindy.Kalkwarf@lwv-fairfax.org.



Welcome New Members

NOW is the time to renew membership in LWVFA! Membership fees remain \$65 for individuals, \$90 for households, and are FREE for students. Nearly 1/3 of our members have not yet renewed; please go online TODAY to make sure you are included for 2019/2020. It promises to be an exciting year!

The Fairfax League web site is the starting point for either electronic or paper renewals at www.lwv-fairfax.org/join. Members may renew online via PayPal **OR** they may download and print the membership form and send it with a check to the LWVFA office on Hummer Road. Members who pay electronically have the option of automatic online renewal, which is a convenient way to continue membership from year to year.

As of September 30, 2019, we have 463 members. In the past several months we have welcomed the following new members:

Amy and Jon Allen	Lyn Lister
Michelle Ascrizzi (s)	Maria Maldonado (s)
Sue Bidwell	Darlene McGiveron
Sara Boyd	Jennifer Perkins
Janet Bradford	Jacqueline Rosier

Carol Bradley	Sidney Roth (s)
Susan Burk	Christine Rudisill
Carol Calvert	Larry Rudwick
Patricia Collins	Sandeep Sahai (h)
Cynthia Gindlesperger	Sara Shoob
Terry Goplerud	Anne Simon
Paula Grossman	Marianne Spiegel
Shyamali Hauth	David Toms (h)
Tove Head	Alexander Tudan (s)
Margaret Irish (h)	Arina van Breda
James Joslin (h)	Kathryn Whitener
Sally Kornfeld	Pat and Jerry Worth

(s) Student (h) household



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

Domestic Violence . . .

Emotional Abuse - What Should You Know? Why Should You Care?

By Adarsh Trehan

Domestic violence can consist of various kinds of abuse: physical, emotional, sexual, and/or financial, or a combination thereof. It is ALWAYS used by the abuser to control the victim. It is important to realize that domestic violence is NEVER the victim's fault! Often, the violence results in physical injuries, but sometimes it doesn't.

What is emotional abuse? "Emotional abuse... may include verbal aggression, intimidation, manipulation, and humiliation, which most often unfolds as a pattern of behavior over time."

A common form of emotional abuse is verbal abuse. It can consist of criticizing, shaming, using sarcasm and threats, raging, cursing, opposing, blaming, discounting, belittling, undermining, and/or insulting the victim. "(It aims to diminish another person's sense of identity, dignity and self-worth."

Even though emotional abuse does not result in broken bones or bruises, Nonetheless may have extremely harmful effects on its victims. "It can cause... anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts or behaviors, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)."

If you know of a person experiencing emotional abuse, encourage them to call the Fairfax County 24-hour Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline: 703-360-7273; 711 TTY.

(Source: joinonelove.org/learn/emotional-abuse-really-means)

More Enviromental News . . .

The Beck Environmental Lecture: Sounding the Alarm

Fall for the Book: The Beck Environmental Lecture

Tuesday, Nov. 19th, 6 pm

GMU Fairfax Campus, Harris Theater

In his travelogue of our near future, *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming*, David Wallace-Wells brings into stark relief the climate troubles that await—food shortages, refugee emergencies, and other crises that will reshape the globe. But the world will be remade by global warming in more profound ways as well, transforming our politics, our culture, our relationship to technology, and our sense of history. Learn how it will be all-encompassing, shaping and distorting nearly every aspect of human life as it is lived today. And yet Wallace-Wells offers hope that because we engineered this problem, we must be able to engineer an escape from it. *The Beck Lecture is sponsored by Robert and Lucy Beck*. This event is free and does not require a ticket.

2019 Visionary Environmental Leaders Awards Presentstion

Among others, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) will honor Kelly Campbell and Regna Merritt, Chapter Leaders of Oregon PSR for environmental health advocacy, and the Sunrise Movement, a youth-led nonprofit pushing immediate political action on climate change. During the 2018 midterms, Sunrise worked to oust candidates who would not refuse funding from the fossil fuel industry and to elect proponents of renewable energy.

Date: Thursday, Nov. 7th

Times: 2:00 - 4:00 pm Free Symposium (register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-visionary-leaders-awards-reception-and-symposium-tickets-65804506049>)

6:00 - 9:00 pm Awards Reception

Place: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC



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

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Dulles, VA
 Permit No. 3

**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER®
 November 2019**

Anu Sahai, Co-President
 Nancy Roodberg, Co-President
 Katherine Ingmanson, Editor
 (Vacant), Layout Editor

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

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

LWVFA MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Dues year is July 1 – June 30

Membership Dues: Individual \$65 _____ Household \$90 (2 persons; 1 Voter _____ Student (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 and Fairfax County Public Schools.

Other _____