

Fairfax VOTER

December 2023

Volume 76, Issue 4

CIVIL DISCOURSE/FOOD INSECURITY

The holidays are upon us! While preparing to celebrate with family and friends we might be making notes of sensitive topics to avoid when we are together. Talking about polarizing issues is difficult! No doubt about it. We avoid talking about these topics, then we lose out on building deeper relationships, hearing new ideas and promoting progress.

Join the League on Wednesday, December 6, on Zoom at 7 pm to learn about tools and resources necessary for civil discourse and then get a chance to practice those skills during a conversation about food insecurity. If you go to a Unit meeting you will have another chance to practice those skills.

This meeting is open to all members and will also serve as the briefing for December Unit Discussion Leaders. If you have not already registered for this meeting, information to register is found on the League Website – www.lwv-fairfax.

You may also go to the website if you want to access the online *VOTER* and delve deeper into the resources used to write the articles on Civil Discourse. The links to the resources are activated there.

Calendar

December 2023

Note: LWVFA Unit Meetings will meet in December

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1 | LWVNCA Presidential Meeting, 10:00 a.m. |
| 3 | Fairfax Voter Deadline for the January 2024 Issue |
| 6 | LWV-VA Women's Roundtable Pre-session, 10:00 a.m. |
| 6 | LWVFA Briefing - Civil Discourse and At-Large Meeting, 7:00 p.m. |
| 7 | Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day |
| 7-14 | LWVFA Unit Meetings at various locations around Fairfax County |
| 20 | LWVFA Board meeting, 10 a.m. |

Inside This Issue

Presidents' Message	2
Register Now for Legislative Pre-Session	2
Food Insecurity	3-4
Civil Discourse Year in Review – Voter Registration Team	4-5
A Round of Applause	6
Program Notes from September and October 2023	6
In Memory	8
Discussion Questions for December Unit Meetings	8
Unit Discussions	10

Presidents' Message

Dear Friends,

First, a huge thank you and congratulations to everyone. You truly made a difference in registering and informing voters and there was a robust turnout as voters realized how important this year's election was. And the rest of November was still busy:

We had a wonderful time at our second annual Volunteer Appreciation party on November 15, and had a great discussion on Women in Politics at our General Meeting on November 19. We hope you were able to enjoy and reflect on our many successes, both personal and of the League over the holiday.

With a new and very changed Virginia Legislature, the League's advocacy at the next General Assembly will be more important than ever. Please consider joining the pre-session held by LWV-VA on December 6. Registration information and a link are below.

As this year comes to a close, we are both grateful for all you do and awed by the efforts you make. We wish you a bright holiday season filled with the warmth of family and friends.

Pat and Katherine

Register Now for Legislative Pre-Session

LWV Virginia's annual Pre-Session Event where we hear from the Advocacy Team and those of our many partners will be held on **December 6, 2023**, from **9:00 am–2:30 pm**. It will be a free, virtual event. (There will be a morning and afternoon break as well as a lunch break.)

Guests Include:

- Susan Beals, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Elections
- Stephen E. Cummings, Secretary of Finance, Commonwealth of Virginia
- Brian Koziol, Executive Director Virginia Housing Alliance
- Kathy Harkey, Executive Director, Virginia Alliance on Mental Illness
- Jamie Lockhart, Executive Director, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia, Planned Parenthood Virginia PAC
- Helena Burger and Susan Lydick, Co-Chairs RevUP Virginia
- Kim Bobo, Executive Director, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
- And more...There will be more than 20 partners in attendance.

Tickets for Pre-session are available now at Eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/league-of-women-voters-of-virginia-pre-session-2023-tickets-717420121897>

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

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2023-2024

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/answering machine)
www.lwv-fairfax.org league@lwv-fairfax.org

Co-Presidents: Pat Fege
Pat.fege@lwv-fairfax.org
Katherine Ingmanson
Katherine@lwv-fairfax.org
Editor: Laura Hamilton
Editor@lwv-fairfax.org

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.

Food Insecurity

by Maya Mahdi and edited by Judy Helein

During Thanksgiving, soup kitchens and food banks received an influx of volunteers and donations. For a holiday largely centered around eating, it reminds us how lucky we are to have food on the table. Food insecurity is a growing problem in this country. We all feel the effects of inflation and supply chain disruptions. It means that things like groceries are more expensive and not as readily available as they were before. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, food costs have increased up to 13%. Of course, this affects peoples’ access to affordable, available, and culturally appropriate food.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 10.2% of households in 2021 were food insecure. These households were unable to acquire enough food to meet the needs of all their members because they had insufficient money or other resources for food. This rate is higher for households with children (12.5%). This translates to 8.6 million adults and 5 million children facing food insecurity. Available nutritious and affordable food is a basic necessity that no person should go without.

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Food Insecurity Rate</u>
Households with Children	12.5%
Single Mother	23.4%
Single Father	16.2%
Black Households	19.8%
Hispanic Households	16.2%
Women Living Alone	13.2%
Men Living Alone	12.3%

Virginia is not immune to inflation or food insecurity. In Virginia, the Federation of Virginia Food Banks estimated 8.1% of Virginians and 8.8% of children were food insecure. This means over 704,000 adults and more than 164,000 children did not have access to regular food. Fairfax County is not immune either. Even with a median household income of \$127,866 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020), 5.8% of Fairfax County residents were food insecure in 2021. Similar to national trends, people of color face higher rates of food insecurity. Note: Hispanic respondents between the ages of 55 and 59 reported the lowest rating for availability of affordable, quality food.

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Food Insecurity Rate</u>
Children < 18	2.2%
Black Residents	13%
Latino (Hispanic) Residents	11%
White (non-Hispanic) Residents	2%

Let’s break down the 2.2% of children under 18 fac-

ing food insecurity.

- 3.5% of 8th, 10th, and 12th grade White students reported hunger due to a lack of food in the home.
- 13.8% of Hispanic students reported hunger due to a lack of food in the home.

While 2.2% may not seem like a lot of children, we still see racial disparities. In addition, a possible explanation for the low rates of food insecurity among children could be the food assistance programs available for children.

- 60,000 children qualify for free and reduced meals in Fairfax County Public Schools.
- 13,000 participants in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program

There are additional food assistance programs in Virginia that could help combat food insecurity.

1. Food Banks

Food banks are classified as 501(c)(3) nonprofits meaning they are exempt from taxation. They use donations to purchase food to give to those in need. These function independently from the government and serve their local communities. This means in places without a local food bank or pantry, individuals may not have access to free food. In addition, the food these food banks have may not always be culturally or religiously appropriate. For example, those who eat only Kosher or Halal may not find options that work for them at their local food bank. There is a layer of autonomy removed when one uses a food bank since they don’t always have the ability to pick and choose. Some food banks have accommodated this by designing their food banks as grocery stores. Participants can pick and choose what they want to take home instead of receiving pre-packaged meals or goods. Virginia incentivizes farmers to donate fresh produce to food banks through the Virginia Food Crop Donation Tax Credit. Otherwise, food banks function due to donations and volunteers.

1,000 served through Meals on Wheels

2. Expanding State and Federal Food Assistance Programs

Federal food assistance programs include the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) and the “Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)” program. Fairfax County has aimed to expand these programs through the Food Access and Literacy Work Group. They aim to make SNAP and WIC accepted at retail stores, particularly at international markets in communities of need. These international markets can be more culturally and religiously appropriate than a traditional grocery store and help minority populations get the food they want and need. Virginia also

has a program that doubles the value of SNAP called the Virginia Fresh Match (VFM). VFM is a state-wide network of farmers and food stores that offer incentives to encourage shoppers to buy more fresh, healthy produce. VFM matches customers' purchases when using their EBT card for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables. This is not an official government program.

43,000 SNAP recipients in Fairfax County

There's always more to be done. No person should ever go hungry, especially when we live in a country with an abundance of food and resources. Please join the League of Women Voters on Wednesday, December 6th at 7pm on Zoom for a night of civil discourse surrounding this very important issue. Come learn more about the issue and discuss the different ways by which we can reduce food insecurity. Information on how to register can be found on the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area website: www.lwv-fairfax.org.

Here are the links in the Food Insecurity Article (in the order they appear):

https://www.dss.virginia.gov/community/food_security/index.cgi#:~:text=Food%20insecurity%20rates%20differ%20across,insecurity%20rate%20of%20almost%208%25

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/key-statistics-graphics>

<https://vafoodbanks.org/about-us/hunger-in-virginia/#:~:text=As%20of%202021%2C%20Virginia%20s%20food,from%20on%20any%20given%20day>

<https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2021/overall/virginia/county/fairfax>

https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/food-council/sites/food-council/files/assets/documents/pdf/va_food_crop_taxcredit_foodforothers.pdf

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/food-council/food-access>

<http://vafma.org/programs/virginia-fresh-match>



CIVIL DISCOURSE

by Maya Mahdi and edited by Judy Helein

During the holidays families all over America prepare to see their relatives and friends and celebrate over some good food and gift giving. The holidays can also cause some anxiety. While preparing to welcome our relatives and friends we might also be making notes of sensitive topics to avoid at the dinner table. Abortion. Immigration. Gun control.

Talking about polarizing issues is difficult. Often our political beliefs are not just political. They are influenced by our personal experiences, religious and moral beliefs, as well as facts and data. So, we avoid these topics at the dinner table as a form of self-preservation. However, if we avoid talking about these topics, then we lose out on building deeper relationships, hearing new perspectives, and promoting progress.

While these conversations can be gut wrenching and emotional, if we avoid having honest and respectful conversations about the issues affecting our communities, we lose out on so much. These honest conversations help us build deeper relationships and hear perspectives we have never considered.

An alternative to avoiding polarizing topics is civil discourse. Civil discourse is an approach to conversation that is about listening and talking to have truthful and productive conversations. The goal is not to change someone's mind, but to understand their perspective, communicate your perspective, and find common ground. This is what makes civil discourse different from arguing over a holiday meal. You will find that we can all agree on a lot. Most of the time, we have the same core values.

Civil discourse is founded on respect - respect for the individual, respect for their beliefs, and respect for their experiences. This means when someone expresses an opinion opposing yours, you do not immediately write them off or label them as "stupid." Civil discourse requires humility - knowing that you might not have all the answers and every person has unique and valuable insight. We accept that other responsible and moral people can have different opinions that we can learn from.

"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend." - Thomas Jefferson

A real-life example of the success of civil discourse is the friendship of world-renowned political philosophers Robert George and Cornel West. They are on

opposite ends of the political spectrum, yet they sustain a deep and meaningful friendship. They do not avoid difficult topics in their friendship, but they start conversations with mutual respect and feverously engage in productive conversation about the issues plaguing our country. To hear more about their experiences, listen to them speak about civil discourse, why it is important, and how to have it.

Since civil discourse has an end-goal of creating understanding - rather than changing someone's mind, it can help us find common ground. And as it turns out, Americans can find a lot of common ground with each other. While polarizing issues dominate the 24-hour news cycle, our country is not as divided as it may seem. The University of Maryland reports that a majority of both Republicans and Democrats agree on almost 150 issues including immigration, social security, campaign finance, and poverty programs. In addition, despite extreme polarization in our country, Congress is making waves through bipartisanship. Working across the aisle and forming coalitions has proven successful in passing meaningful legislation according to a study from the Center for Effective Lawmaking.

Engaging in civil discourse is the responsibility of each individual speaker. You may engage in conversation founded in respect with the goal of finding common ground, but your partner may not. That is ok. Here are some best practices and techniques to facilitate civil discourse that you and others should follow:

- Listen twice as much as you speak.
- Listen to understand, not to respond
- Ask clarifying and probing questions to understand what you don't know.
- Attack issues and ideas, not people.
- Remember that 90% of communication is non-verbal. Be aware of your body language and maintain an opening and inviting atmosphere.

Conversation Cubed: Understanding What Influences Our Opinions and Beliefs

You and I may agree that a particular policy is good for our nation, but we may have different reasons for saying so. You and I may disagree on policy solutions, but may find that we have similar value systems or experiences. Finding out and communicating those reasons, values, and experiences is at the core of civil discourse. Conversations are complex and there are multiple lenses through which we communicate our beliefs and opinions. These lenses include:

- Emotions and intuition
- Networks - our relationships and affinities to oth-

- ers
- Lived/personal experiences
- Values, ethics, and interests
- Interpretation of information and evidence

This framework was developed by Dr. Todd Schenk at Virginia Tech.

Being able to have a productive conversation with those who are different from you seems like a lost art these days. It is a valuable art form nonetheless. Join the League of Women Voters of Fairfax (LWVFA) on December 6th at 7pm on Zoom to learn more about civil discourse, why it is important, and how to have it. You will learn about the tools and resources necessary for civil discourse and get a chance to practice those skills during a conversation about food insecurity. Bring a friend or family member you might disagree with. This might be your chance to find some common ground.

Information to register for the event can be found on the LWVFA website: www.lwv-fairfax.org.

Footnotes: Here are the links for the Civil Discourse Article (as they appear):

<https://www.american.edu/spa/civildiscourse/what-is-civil-discourse.cfm>

<https://nicd.arizona.edu/engaging-differences-key-concepts-and-best-practices>

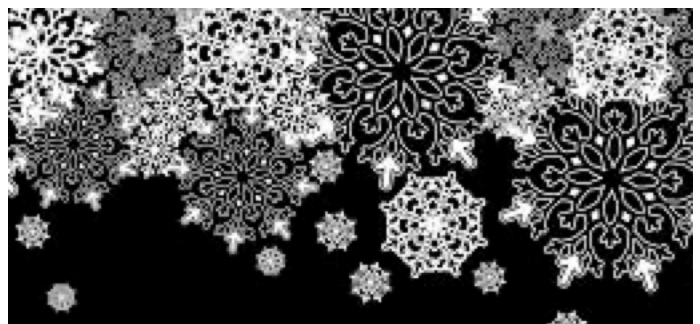
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=FAWADCUCVuA&feature=youtu.be>

<https://publicconsultation.org/defense-budget/major-report-shows-nearly-150-issues-on-which-majorities-of-republicans-democrats-agree>

<https://batten.virginia.edu/bipartisanship-secret-sauce-effective-lawmaking-despite-rising-polarization-congress>

<https://thelawmakers.org>

Note: Discussion questions can be found on page 8.



Year in Review – Voter Registration Team

By Arina van Breda

2023 might be considered an off-year election to the rest of the country but not in Virginia, and definitely not by your LWVFA voter registration volunteers. We have a lot to be proud of! We registered over 5,000 voters this year and helped thousands of others.

Our proficient High School Voter Registration team, led by Alice Reilly, Camille Milks, and Pat Fege and a legion of volunteers held a total of 29 classroom and on-line based events in 16 of our area high schools and registered a whopping total of 1953 students to vote. Some of these were pre-registrations for those not yet age eligible to vote, but the remainder were registered so they would be able to vote in the 2023 election and beyond! Let's hope these new voters turn out and vote now that they are registered.

Our other Voter Registration team held a total of 69 events with over 140 volunteers, including a sizable number from sister Leagues, all donating time ranging from as few as 2 hours to more than 50 hours over the course of the year! And with all that work we were able to register 3048 voters, at minimum (others may have been motivated to register from our many hand-out materials, but we don't capture all of those). We spoke to nearly 8000 people during all these efforts and distributed many thousands of flyers and over 800 "Fairfax Facts."

Our events included:

17 New Citizen events, which represent both our most demanding challenge to coordinate and execute but also are some of the most rewarding. At these events alone we registered 2896 voters! We also ran several data entry sessions just to input all these names and help get them delivered to the correct registrars.

Multiple community festivals throughout the year in all corners of the county- including in rain, heat, sun, wind and cold! These included Mosaic District Spring and Fall Festivals, the City of Vienna Oktoberfest, Reston Pride festival, and the City of Fairfax Fall Festival, as well as a number of smaller neighborhood events. As we have in the past, we tried to have a presence in as many communities of need as possible. It's a big county and a big job but our members stepped up to help.

Eight events on college campuses, at both NOVA Annandale and GMU, including simultaneous events for National Voter Registration Day. We registered a number of new voters and helped to educate students about their options for voting. We also started a student LWV at George Mason University group who

helped with a number of these events.

Seven events for incarcerated or returning citizens, with five classes held in the Adult Detention center.

Three events at area homeless shelters.

Five senior residence events to assist those wanting to register or apply for absentee ballots.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Amy Leeson, we also had voter education and Get-out-the-vote sessions at all 22 of the Fairfax County Library branches, reminding voters of this year's election while we distributed our valued "What's on YOUR Ballot" and registered voters too! Sherri Gillam, with the help of a number of volunteers, organized distribution of over 18,000 flyers with important election information to many of our local food banks, with three different bi-lingual flyers delivered to the clients of these vital services over the course of the summer. Many other volunteers contributed hours of time and effort to helping with our publications including, under the capable leadership of Maggi Luca, "Fairfax Facts." Others, led by Cindy Kalkwarf worked diligently on "What's on YOUR Ballot." Still others helped with the various Forums for our many Fairfax area candidates. Lyn Lister did a tremendous job in coordinating and organizing these, and we are rightly proud of her efforts!

While we might be tempted to rest on our laurels and take satisfaction in our accomplishments, we can't ignore the fact that the next election season, which will include Presidential and Congressional races, has already begun. So, get ready to volunteer and help make 2024 an even bigger LWVFA success than this past year. You will be needed. Remember our motto: "Democracy is not a spectator sport!"

A Round of Applause

During the election season, Stephanie Abbott, Karen Barr, and Marcia McDevitt talked to voters who left messages on our office telephone. They gave voters information about early voting, their new election districts, who was running for office, how to find information about the candidates, their polling place on election day, and how to obtain a ride to the polls. As a result of their work, people had their questions answered and were able to vote. We are grateful for their work on the "hot line."

Domestic Violence: What Do You Know? Why Should You Care?

By Adarsh Trehan
Chair, Domestic Violence Committee

What does the Council to End Domestic Violence Do? Many articles on the meetings of the Council to End Domestic Violence (CEDV) have been published over the years. You may wonder what this Council does and why is it relevant to the County's efforts to combat domestic violence and help both victims and abusers.

The CEDV was founded in 2003 under the Domestic Violence Prevention, Policy, and Coordinating Council. The 50-member CEDV is affiliated with the Fairfax County Office of Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, that provides it with staffing and support. The Council brings together senior level public officials and community leaders to work together to guide the development of a coordinated and collaborative community response to domestic violence. It advises the Board of Supervisors, providing recommendations to them as well as keeping them informed of the status of domestic violence locally.

Quarterly meetings, as well as an annual meeting, are held to discuss progress and future plans.

The members also work in" collaboration with other coordinated community response bodies such as the Domestic Violence Network, the Step Up 4 Kids Coalition, the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) Team, and the Domestic Violence Action Center to achieve the following goals:

- Engage the community in a collective response for the prevention and intervention of domestic violence.
- Support victim safety and autonomy and promote offender accountability and an opportunity for those who use violence offenders to eliminate violent behavior in all forms.
- Increase coordination and consistency of system and community interventions and service provision.
- Advise the Board of Supervisors on policy and legislative priorities for improving the county's response to domestic violence."

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/boards-authorities-commissions/council-to-end-domestic-violence>

Our League has been involved with the CEDV from the very beginning when League members did court observations. I have been interested in the issue of domestic violence since I have known that it occurs

in all communities but remains more hidden and less talked about in minority and ethnic communities. Victims are embarrassed and ashamed of being abused and often believe that they are being abused because they did something wrong or displeased their partners.

I have attended CEDV meetings for a few years as a member of our League's Domestic Violence Committee, but have been its Chair only recently, after Theresa Brion moved out of the County because of a job transfer. Judy Helein has been a member for many years and has been both an inspiration and role model for me. Our League used to have a Domestic Violence Issue Group, which Barbara Nunes headed up. Barbara, Judy, and I have written articles on domestic violence for a few years to increase our members' knowledge on this subject. We would love to have some of you take over the writing of articles and revive the Domestic Violence Issue Group.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Domestic Violence Committee to help to convert it back into the Domestic Violence Issue Group, please contact me. My email address is adatrehan@gmail.com. My cell phone number is (703) 795-7281.



Our Candidate Forums Were a Hit!

Our YouTube Channel has registered record views for our candidate forums. As of mid-November, the forum for the at-large school board candidates had 975 views, while 553 people had gone to our forum for the candidates for the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board. This is all in addition to those who tuned in live!

Program Notes from September and October 2023

By Judy Helein and Julie Jones

LWVFA Directors of Program

Many of the LWVFA units appreciated the absence of fixed programs for member discussion in September and October. They thought that the four required consensus studies from the last League year were excessive.

This fall, League members were encouraged to participate in voter registration and “get out the vote” activities. Many units reported that they appreciated the flexibility to focus on the November election schedule. Leaguers viewed the four virtual candidate forums and distributed “vast” copies of “WHAT’S ON YOUR BALLOT?”

Some units met and had programs of their own. Oakton/Vienna had a book discussion on *I Never Thought of It that Way*, by Monica Guzman. It’s “How to have fearlessly curious conversations in dangerously divided times.”

Several units met at local restaurants to create a more informal atmosphere and encourage their members to sign-up for out-reach opportunities. The Greenspring unit had an Election Open House with over 100 residents coming for election information and refreshments. They also highlighted over 800 voter registration applications for naturalization and high school events.

The Springfield unit discussed multiple topics, all of which would make excellent topics for educational articles for the Fairfax *VOTER*. (Land use, preserving open spaces and limiting density using the Mosaic Model. Transportation Oriented Development, public transportation for residential and commercial use. Judicial Watch, lawsuits to force states to purge voter rolls with dead or invalid voters. MOVA Act, Military Overseas Voting).

Is anyone interested in following up on these ideas? We just need one leader to begin.

In Memory

“As long as we say their names, their memory lives on.”

Is there a Leaguer that you want to honor and remember? If so, you can designate your donation as a memorial. We will add the name to the Memorials section of “Fairfax Facts” on the back cover.

Please send an email to Emebet at emebet.taddese@lwv-fairfax.org to alert her that your donation is a memorial.



Discussion Questions for December Unit Meetings

- Will there be opportunities for you to practice civil discourse? Examples.
- Has your thinking changed about the issues of civil discourse and/or food insecurity? If so, how?
- Is there something that you feel you can do to combat food insecurity?
- Based on today’s discussion, what are the most important changes or actions needed to address food insecurity in our community?





Both photos: LWVFA members urge people to vote in this year's elections

Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

Topics: Civil Discourse & Food Insecurity

Members and visitors are encouraged to attend any meeting convenient for them, including the “At Large Meeting” and briefing on Wednesday, December 6 when a briefing is listed. As of November 1, 2023, the following information was correct; please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend. The unit meetings may be in person, virtual or hybrid. If virtual, the unit leaders will send login information to every unit

Wednesday, December 6

7:30 p.m. At Large Meeting Briefing - Virtual

All members are welcome. This will serve as a briefing for Unit Discussion leaders.

Contact: Judy, 703-725-9401,

judithhelein@aol.com

Or Julie, 703-476-8347, Julie.

jones@lwv.fairfax.org

Thursday, December 7

7:30 p.m. Mount Vernon Evening (MVE) - In person

Please reach out to the points of contact for information on the meeting location.

Contact: Jane, 703-960-6820,

jane@hilderwilliams.net

Or Susan, 703-587-4790,

scash5002@email.vccs.edu

or Jane, 703-380-3651, jm-byers@att.net

Monday, December 11

1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP) - In Person

Meeting Room: Hunters Crossing Craft Room

7430 Spring Village Drive

Springfield

Contact: Judy, 703-342-3353,

jjsmith64@earthlink.net

Wednesday, December 13

10 a.m. Mount Vernon Day (MVD) - In Person

Mount Vernon Government Center
2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon

Contact: Diana, 703-704-5325,

jfdw1111@gmail.com

10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS) - In Person

7431 Silver Pine Drive, Springfield

Contact: Diana, 707-866-0796

dianawhite@gmail.com

or Sue, 703-266-0272, [sueo-](mailto:sueo-neill1@hotmail.com)

neill1@hotmail.com

3 p.m. McLean Day (McL) - In Person

Dolley Madison Library Conference Room

1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean

Contact: Anne, 703-448-6626,

akanter@cox.net

Thursday, December 14

9:30 a.m. Reston Day (RD) - In Person

North County Governmental Center

12000 Bowman Towne Drive,

Reston

Contact: Charleen, 703-620-3593,

Charleen.deasy@verizon.net

10:00 a.m. Springfield (SPF) - In Person

4468 Edan Mae Court, Annandale

Contact: Jane, 703-256-7834,

patchwork1@verizon.net

11:30 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CC) - In Person

Lunch at the Burger Bar in Wegmans

14361 Newbrook Drive, Chantilly

Contact: Susan, 703-391-0666,

sadill@cox.net

1 p.m. Oakton/Vienna (OV) - In person and Virtual

Oakton Public Library

10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton

Contact: Mary, 703-932-3665,

mmvalder@aol.com

7:30 p.m. Reston Evening (RE) - In Person

North County Governmental Center

12000 Bowman Towne Drive,

Reston

Contact: Wendy, 703-319-4114,

wendy.foxgrage@gmail.com

In the event of conflicting information on meeting dates and times, consider the League of Women Voters - Fairfax website, <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/> to be the authoritative source.

January Meetings:

“The Decline of Local News and the Impact on Democracy”

Annual Giving - 2023

This year, LWVFA was able to register thousands of voters including high school and college students, to provide materials to inform voters and high school teachers, and host candidate forums. This only happened thanks to your generous donations of time and funding.

We know you receive many requests for donations, but if you have funds to contribute, they will be put to good use in the upcoming year when LWVFA will once again be working to inform voters in a crucial election year. Donations are needed for both the General and Education Funds.

General Fund

This fund provides necessary infrastructure, and we cannot work without it. Monies are used to pay for insurance, rent, software, and all office expenses. Although very important, donations to this fund are not tax deductible. If you do not need a tax deduction, please consider donating to this fund. If you are contributing by check, make it out to LWVFA.

Education Fund

This fund fuels the cost of printing materials that we distribute at no cost to the public, such as “What’s on YOUR Ballot,” “Fairfax Facts,” and voter registration materials. Donations to this fund are tax deductible. If you are contributing by check, make it out to LWVFA Ed Fund.

Please donate today!
Donate online: www.lwv-fairfax.org/donate



LWVFA members urge people to vote in this year’s elections

Donate by check: Clip this form and send with your check to:

League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area
4026-B Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003-2403

Write your check to LWVFA Gen Fund OR LWVFA Ed Fund.

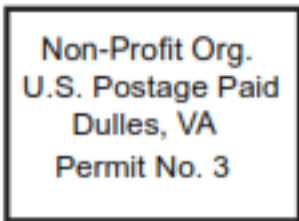
___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ \$500 ___ \$1,000 ___ Other

Name:

Address:



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



**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER®
 December 2023**

Pat Fege, Co-President
 Katherine Ingmanson, Co-President
 Laura Hamilton, 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 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

Name: _____ Unit (if renewing): _____
 Name of Second Household Member (if one): _____
 Street Address: _____ Condo/Apt No: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code +4: _____
 E-mail: _____ Phone: (C) _____ (H) _____

Membership Status: _____ New _____ Renewal

Membership Level (please check one):

Basic Membership:

- Individual (\$75); Household (two members who share the same mailing address) (\$100);
- Limited Income (suggested donation: \$10); Student (Free!)

Membership Plus:

- Suffragist (\$100); Advocate Household (two members who share the same mailing address) (\$150);
- Champion (\$300); Founders' Circle (\$500)

Membership Plus levels include basic membership PLUS a donation to the LWVFA General Fund. This money will support members of limited income, help invest in LWVFA web site technology, and support other priority projects. General Fund donations are not tax deductible.

Please mail this completed form along with payment to:
 LWVFA, 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403