

Fairfax VOTER

February 2023

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MONEY IN POLITICS

The analysis and proposed positions developed by this Campaign Finance Reform LWV-VA Consensus Study will cover the full scope of financing from a donation through its expenditure including:

- Public disclosure of the donor
- Transparency in actual use of funds before and after the election
- Limits on personal use, and
- The Virginia Executive Branch structure to conduct effective oversight and enforcement.

Members of the LWVFA Units will review, discuss, and reach or not reach consensus on the study recommendations and the consensus questions that are included in this issue of the *VOTER*. The full report and resource materials are posted on the LWVFA website, www.lwv-fairfax.org.

If you are unable to attend or do not usually attend a unit meeting but wish to comment on this study, please complete the Consensus Question Form and send to judy.helein@lwv-fairfax.org.

Calendar

February 2023

Happy 103rd Anniversary, LWV!

Black History Month

- 1 National Freedom Day (13th Amendment)
- 1 Fiscal 2023-24 Budgets Due for Review
- 1 Annual Meeting Agenda & Elements Due for Review
- 1 LWV-VA Women’s Legislative Roundtable
- 3 Fairfax Voter Deadline for the March 2023 issue
- 4 LWVFA Briefing and At-Large Meeting, 10 a.m.
- 8-13 LWVFA Unit Meetings at various locations around Fairfax County
- 8 LWV-VA Women’s Legislative Roundtable
- 11 International Day of Women and Girls
- 14 LWV’s birthday (103rd anniversary)
- 15 LWVFA Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Virtual

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Presidents' Message

Dear Fellow Leaguers,

We have gotten off to a great start in 2023, and hope you are ready for it to get even busier!

We participated in the Women's Legislative Roundtables in Richmond, including a very busy League Day. If you were there and would like to share your experience for the *VOTER*, we'd love to hear from you! We also presented testimony before the Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly on our legislative priorities for this year - focused on voting rights - and restarted voter registration activities. We have received several grants to support our voter registration activities and were approved for a project with the George Mason University Honors Program to evaluate our fundraising needs and opportunities. We are getting ready to celebrate our 75th anniversary in April, then will be fully into election season, with the primaries in June. We will plan candidate forums, contribute to Vote411 and have major voter education initiatives. There will be many opportunities to help out, either in individual projects, or in Board positions.

Stay tuned, or reach out if you want to jump in!

Pat and Katherine

Greenspring Uses Ranked Choice Voting

What do you do when you have seven choices of books and you can not agree on the top choice? You do what the Greenspring unit did. You use ranked choice voting!

The Greenspring unit decided at its December meeting to use ranked choice voting to select the book for its March discussion. No one book received a majority of votes on the first ballot. So, the last place book, *The Night Watchman*, was eliminated and votes for the failed book were moved to those individuals' second choice. After just two rounds, a winner appeared! It was *Fascism: A Warning*, by Madeleine Albright.

At the final accounting the Madeleine Albright book was the first or second choice for all but one member. Ranked choice voting really works and served us very well in the Greenspring unit.

Judy Smith
Chair, Greenspring Unit

LWVFA Celebrates our 75th Anniversary

On April 15, 1947, the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area received their charter. Much has happened since those first women met and worked to become more informed voters.

Come celebrate on Sunday, April 30, 2023, from 2-4 p.m. at Historic Blenheim on Old Lee Highway in Fairfax. Details will be coming soon. Save the date!

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

LWVFA Fairfax *VOTER* 2022 - 2023

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



LWVFA Policies

The LWVFA Board adopted two policies in December. These policies are important because they are used to guide Board decisions and actions of League members. Previous versions of these policies were in place; however, the updated versions are more specific.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

The Board adopted the policy created by the LWV-US. It states that there are no barriers of any type that limit participation in our work to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy.

Nonpartisan Policy

This policy is summarized on our website’s home page. It states, “The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate. We encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.”

The adopted policy states that members must keep their League activities and any political activities separate. For example, members must not state their political preferences while engaging in League activities, such as voter registration, voter education, or unit discussions. Board members cannot hold political office or hold an official position in a political party and remain on the Board. In addition, the League membership roster cannot be made available for non-League use.

Members and Board members can continue to attend political informational meetings or campaign events in a non-leadership capacity, attend nominating meetings in the absence of primaries, and serve as election officials. To read the full text of both policies go to the For Members tab on our website: [lwv-fairfax.org/members-info](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org/members-info)

Volunteers Needed

Watergate at Landmark’s Annual Election for their Board of Directors is Monday, March 6, 2023. (211 Yoakum Parkway, Alexandria, VA) To sign up to volunteer at this election, go to the Volunteer Calendar under the Volunteer tab on our website, <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/volunteer-calendar>.

Volunteers should arrive at 6:30 to receive instructions before the meeting and voting begins at 7 p.m. Leaguers open, organize, and count the paper ballots. Our work should be done before 9 p.m. A light meal is provided.

For more information contact Julia Jones at Julie.Jones@lwv-fairfax.org or 703-476-8347.

Fairfax Facts, 2023

Volunteers under the leadership of Maggi Lucca created the 2023 edition of Fairfax Facts, formerly known as Facts for Voters. The volunteers double- and triple-checked the contact information for public officials to ensure that it is correct.

You can use the information in Fairfax Facts to contact anyone from the President to the local dog catcher (animal control). Share your views with public officials. Inform them about issues that are important to you. This often promotes action and helps them make decisions based on information.

Supported by your donations, Fairfax Facts is distributed free of charge to the public. If you want a paper copy, visit a public library near you. You can also view it on our website. It is posted on the homepage and under the Publications tab.

LWVFA 2023 Testimony before the Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, Barbara Boardman, Action and Advocacy Co-Director, testified before the Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly on January 7th. She addressed our priority initiatives for this upcoming legislative session. These priorities include:

- Legislation that promotes equitable and efficient participation in elections. Barbara also shared our concern about the potential unanticipated consequences of recent changes in election law (§ 24.2-124.1 to the Code of Virginia, the so-called “Zuckerberg Rule”) which we believe should be amended or repealed.
- Appropriate, full funding for K-12 public education for all Virginia students.
- Measures that address climate challenges and support a transition to cleaner sustainable energy sources.
- Funds and actions to increase the availability of affordable housing and retention of existing local land use authority.
- Funds for public safety and mental health services.

Overall, Barbara urged our legislators to enact legislation with sufficient supporting resources that improves the quality of life for all Virginians. Democracy and our freedoms cannot be sustained unless elections are fair, and we endorse the fight for laws that ensure fair and equitable access to voting.

To read the entire statement, go to our website and click on Our Advocacy under the Action and Advocacy tab (<https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/our-advocacy>)



Barbara Boardman, Action and Advocacy Co-Director

Busy Election Season Ahead for LWV Members and All Virginians

The upcoming state and local elections will allow Virginia voters to shape the direction of our collective future. Not only is the entire Virginia legislature, including every seat in the House of Delegates and State Senate, up for election, but locally we will also have elections for Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Commonwealth’s Attorney, Sheriff, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Fairfax County School Board, and Directors of the Soil and Water Conservation District! And all this in a year when there are significant changes in district lines due to the decennial redistricting.

LWV members are also alert to the possibility of revisions to election laws depending on the outcome of this year’s legislative session in Richmond. That, coupled with changes in membership and leadership of both state and local Electoral Boards, which reflect the party of the Governor, will mandate all of us staying abreast of developments in election regulations and procedures. We need to inform the public of any changes in a timely manner and continue to advocate for fair, transparent, and accessible elections for all Virginia citizens.

We need your assistance during this busy year! If you are interested in helping to create materials, monitor legislation, or advocate for voting rights, please contact any member of the board, check our website for volunteer opportunities or check the *VOTER* or the weekly *ENews* for opportunities as they occur.

Money in Politics Study: Recommendations and Consensus Questions

Campaign Contribution Limits:

Recommendations: Virginia should limit campaign contributions, determined by the type of donor. Utilities should be banned from contributing to campaigns.

Questions:

1. Should VA pass legislation to ban utilities from contributing to campaigns?

Yes No No Consensus.

Comments:

2. Should Virginia pass legislation to limit HOW MUCH can be contributed?

Yes No No Consensus.

Comments:

3. Should Virginia pass legislation to limit contribution by the type of donor?

Yes No No Consensus.

Comments:

Campaign Expenditure Limits:

Recommendations: The General Assembly should pass legislation on the following: ban personal use of campaign funds; restrict use of funds for campaign-related expenses, while ensuring that payments for dependent care that arise as a direct result of campaigning are allowed; allow use of campaign funds to reimburse candidates for wages lost as a direct result of campaigning; and merge the current 'base' salaries of legislators with the current 'office expense' allowance, while adding a separate, vouchered expense allowance for payments of legislative office expenses.

Questions:

4. Virginia currently has no laws prohibiting candidates (or officeholders who intend to run again for re-election) from using campaign funds to pay personal expenses.

Should the General Assembly pass legislation that would ban personal use of campaign funds?

Yes No No Consensus.

Comments:

5. Virginia currently has no specific laws that address how candidates (or officeholders who intend to run again for re-election) are allowed to use money that has been contributed to their campaigns. If the General Assembly were to pass legislation that provides a list of acceptable uses of campaign funds, would you favor restricting these to campaign-related expenses, as the states of Washington and Connecticut have done?

Yes No No Consensus.

Comments:

6. Should a list of acceptable uses of campaign funds include provisions that ensure that payments for childcare/dependent care that arise as a direct result of campaigning are allowed?

Yes No No Consensus.

Comments:

7. Should Virginia follow Washington state and federal law and allow candidates to use campaign funds to reimburse themselves for wages lost as a direct result of campaigning?

Yes No No Consensus.

Comments:

8. Should the General Assembly follow the recommendations of the McAuliffe Ethics Committee and merge the current 'base' salaries of legislators with the current 'office expense' allowance, while adding a separate, vouchered expense allowance for payments of legislative office expenses?

Yes No No Consensus.

Comments:

Oversight and Enforcement:

Recommendations: The Virginia General Assembly should adopt legislation regarding campaign finance activity in Virginia; increased oversight and enforcement; and establishment of an independent state agency for the purpose of increased oversight and enforcement.

Questions:

9. Should Virginia pass legislation to increase oversight and enforcement of campaign finance activity in Virginia?

Yes No No Consensus.

Comments:

10. Should Virginia pass legislation to create an independent state agency for the purpose of increased oversight and enforcement of campaign finance activity in Virginia?

Yes No No Consensus.

Comments:

Dark Money:

Recommendations: Virginia should enact laws to address the following issues: regulate and limit all dark money donations and expenditures by imposing a transparency requirement and protecting the public by preventing a foreign government from interfering with our state elections, including requiring all ad sponsors to disclose their donors.

Questions:

11. Should Virginia enact laws to require transparency and full disclosure of donations by individuals, organizations, PACs and Super PACs, therefore eliminating dark money?

Yes No No Consensus.

Comments:

12. Should Virginia pass legislation to curb further the coordination of activities between candidates for election and nonprofit organizations?

Yes No No Consensus.

Comments:

13. Should Virginia pass legislation to protect the public by preventing a foreign government from interfering with our state elections, including requiring all ad sponsors to disclose their donors? This legislation would allow the public to better analyze the ad content with the knowledge of its sponsors.

Yes No No Consensus.

Comments:



LWV-VA EDUCATION CONSENSUS STUDY

How Virginia Funds Its Public Schools

By Julia Jones, Program Co-Director

LWVFA members felt that the LWV-VA study was “super, very interesting, and vital.” Unit members reached full consensus on five of the eight questions. They agreed that minimum standards should be provided for curriculum and for building construction, renovation, and maintenance. These **minimum** Standards of Quality should be fully funded on the state level so all Virginia students have a high-quality education in better than adequate facilities. They also felt that the Virginia Constitution should be amended to legally **require** the General Assembly to provide a high-quality public education for all students. The last favorable consensus question, about efforts to educate the public about the benefits of high-quality public education and to develop partnerships with other interested state organizations, was best answered with this comment: “Who better than the LWV?”

On the question about devising a new funding formula, members cautioned that wealthy Virginia areas also have challenges which should be considered. Members could not reach consensus on whether Virginia’s funding of PreK-12 education should be comparable to other similarly wealthy states. Many unit members were not clear about how to compare other “wealthy” states with Virginia. The other question that had no consensus was: Should Virginia increase teacher salaries and benefits, making them comparable to average teacher salaries across the nation and reducing the disparities between teacher salaries and salaries of other professionals with similar training and experience? Members wanted an increase in teacher salaries, but were unclear on how to compare teachers’ income with that of other professionals.

Many respondents felt that the study addressed issues that have been around for a long time but are even more important now. Members suggested a follow up with finding models and mechanisms from other states that have found successful ways of funding schools equitably.

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS LWV-VA EDUCATION STUDY

Results from LWVFA Unit Discussions

1. Should the General Assembly fully fund the recommendations of the State Board of Education as stated in the Standards of Quality?

CONSENSUS - YES

A unit group suggested that we should update the Standards of

Quality (SOQ) before talking about full state funding. One unit’s yes was “that is endorsing the ideal. We recognize that implementation and funding are separate and difficult issues.” Another group commented that we should fund more than the minimum of the SOQs.

2. Should Virginia’s funding of PreK-12 education be comparable to other similarly wealthy states?

NO CONSENSUS

Many unit members were not clear about how to compare other “wealthy” states with Virginia. “Is it adjusted to reflect that some states have higher costs of living than others? Does it relate to educational experiences as a percentage of income or tax base?”

3. Should the General Assembly identify and adopt a school funding model or formula that—after adjusting for local cost factors—guarantees a funding stream that will allow all school divisions to offer programs and services at comparable levels, regardless of the local tax base?

CONSENSUS - YES, but...

Unit members want to make sure that local cost factors are truly included in any formula. The state needs to “take into account what a school system needs.” Some school systems have a large ESL population or students with special needs, others are lacking wifi, and some rural counties may not have enough students to make an AP class. Several members voiced the issue of richer counties sending money from their taxpayers to poor divisions. How would you convince citizens that an equal education is good for all Virginians? Others asked why schools are almost solely funded by property taxes and not other revenue streams, such as meal taxes or lottery profits.

4. Should Virginia increase teacher salaries and benefits, making them comparable to average teacher salaries across the nation and reducing the disparities between teacher salaries and salaries of other professionals with similar training and experience?

NO CONSENSUS

Most members totally agreed with the first part of the question, to make Virginia’s teacher salaries comparable with those across the nation (but this needs to reflect geographic cost differences). Comparing teachers’ salaries to other professionals was harder to reach a consensus since salaries are due to many factors. “We can encourage society to value teachers, but the market will set the pay levels of other professionals.”

5. Should Virginia change its long-time position and accept that fiscal responsibility for the construction and maintenance of safe and up-to-date public school facilities for Virginia’s PreK-12 student population is a state obligation, not just a local obligation?

CONSENSUS - YES

6. Should Virginia expand its Standards of Quality to set minimum standards for school construction, renovation, and maintenance?

CONSENSUS - YES

There should be standards for facilities as well as educational performance. Most unit members felt that there should be minimum standards for construction and that the standards should meet acceptable local building codes. There was a question of who will fund these requirements/standards? Will it become another unfunded mandate?

7. Should Virginia amend its Constitution to replace aspirational language with language that will legally require the General Assembly to provide a high-quality public education for all students?

CONSENSUS - YES

One unit asked if other states' constitutions use similar language. Members also felt that a high-quality public education should be defined and be specific. As one group put it, "Sure. Go ahead. Try." Another group felt that this objective should only come after "we revise the formula for equalizing funding."

8. Should the LWV-VA continue its efforts to educate the public about the benefits of high-quality public education, to develop partnerships with other interested state organizations, to advocate actively for improved and more equitable school funding, and to improve the narratives that are told about our schools?

CONSENSUS - YES

"Who better than the LWV?" "The League has had a long commitment to public education, so it was a no-brainer for our unit to vote YES to continue these efforts." We should not delay to identify partners.

OVERALL COMMENT ON THE STUDY

LWVFA members felt that the study was "super," very interesting and vital. It addressed issues that have been around for a long time but are even more important now.

Members suggested a follow up with finding models and mechanisms from other states that have found successful ways of funding schools equitably. One unit thought "the study was comprehensive, but didn't paint a complete picture. We felt that the viewpoint mainly came from members of leagues that were not located in Northern Virginia. For example, although Fairfax County Public Schools can be viewed as a "wealthy" school system, it is actually stretched thin with large class sizes and many unmet needs. Because there are several school systems within Northern Virginia, there is also great variation in funding and resources among the school systems, so they can not be characterized together."

Another group added "Where will the money come from? Taxes? What will be ignored? How do the top ten states fund their education programs? Would it take into account the cost of living? What is the definition of per pupil spending? What is the definition of teachers' salaries? Does it include benefits? LWV should include advocating for community colleges to encourage rural communities to break out of the cycle of low educational expectations."

March - LWVFA Book Club

The following books are suggested for each unit to choose, read and discuss during their unit meeting. The units members are able to discuss any book of their own choosing.

Robert E. Lee and Me: A Southerner's Reckoning with the Myth of the Lost Cause by Ty Seidule

The Lost Cause myth argued that white southerners fought the Civil War for many reason — protective tariffs, state's rights, freedom, the agrarian dream, defense — all except slavery.

Evicted - Poverty and Profit in the American City

by Matthew Desmond

In the poorest neighborhood of Milwaukee, the author tells the story of eight families on the edge. Today most poor renting families spend more than half their income on housing.

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd

This book centers around two women, a black slave and a southern woman. Both are seeking freedom in surprisingly similar ways.

How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America by Clint Smith

The author visited various places with links to slavery across the US.

The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich

The book is based on the life of the author's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native American dispossession from rural North Dakota to Washington, DC.

Braving the Wilderness by Brene Brown

Brown redefines what it means to truly belong in an age of increased polarization. It is about "both standing alone in your personal beliefs and values and connecting to others in theirs. It's about how to share your most authentic self: to stand both alone and together as part of a community."

Fascism A Warning, by Madeleine Albright

A Facist, observes Albright, "is someone who claims to speak for the whole nation or group, is utterly unconcerned with the rights of others, and is willing to use violence and whatever other means are necessary to achieve the goals he or she might have."

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

By Adarsh Trehan
Chair, Domestic Violence Committee

Black Women Suffer from High Rates of Domestic Violence. February is Black History Month. During this month, it is important to draw attention to and honor the achievements and contributions of African American men and women to our country. It is also a good time to draw attention and discuss domestic violence (DV) in the African American communities.

Domestic violence affects people regardless of their socio-economic status, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, or ethnic origin. However, it is important to acknowledge that female Black survivors of domestic violence experience some of the highest rates of intimate partner violence; only American Indian and Alaska Native women have a higher DV incidence. “More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced [domestic] violence, and more than 1 in 2 have experienced sexual violence.”

<https://indianlaw.org/issue/Ending-Violence-Against-Native-Women>

“According to the 2010-2012 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 45% of Black women experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime...and that approximately 41% of Black women have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime compared to 31% of White women, 30% of Hispanic women and 15% of Asian or Pacific Islander women.”

<https://www.nyscadv.org/newsevents/blog.html/article/2021/02/26/black-history-month>

Why are so many Black women DV victims? Poverty, the lack of economic security, and segregation contribute to DV. There are also economic and social factors. They often work at low wage jobs and have children, so they may have to choose between continuing to be victims along with their children or experiencing homelessness and often may decide that staying in an abusive relationship is the better choice for them.

“Additionally, Black women experience domestic violence differently than white women do because Black women live at the intersection of racism and sexism. This phenomenon is often called misogynoir. For example, Black girls are sexualized and seen as more grown up than white girls of the same age, which contributes to sexual violence based on both gender and race. Black women also face over-sexualization, a stereotype that goes back to European enslavement of Africans, and that was used to justify rape of slaves. The double oppression of racism and sexism increases the burden of domestic violence on Black women.”

<https://www.interfaithpartners.org/post/domestic-violence-and-black-history-month>

Then, there are cultural factors. A victim should not ask for help because she is a “strong woman” and should be able to make her relationship with her man work. If she needs help, she should get it from a pastor or members of her support system. Unfortunately, the pastor or support system members may encourage the victim to remain in the relationship because they tell her that she should be happy that at least she has a man in her life. She may think that her friends and family will put her to shame and think of her as weak. She may be afraid that a police officer will not believe her when she reports what her abuser did to her or believe she was the aggressor, who caused the abuser to do what she claims he did to her. She also may be reluctant to report her abuser to law enforcement because she thinks she will be poorer if he is sentenced to jail or prison. Also, she may worry about him finding her and their children after his release and how much worse will he treat her then? Won’t she be in even greater danger from him?

LWV-VA Positioned For Action, Spring, 2021

By Julie Jones

Now is your last chance to review LWV-VA’s current positions. The study and consensus discussion this month HAVE the possibility to expand this section of the LWV-VA positions. Remember, we review all positions every two years. As you read current LWV-VA positions, think about the need to retain, delete or update each one. Is another new study needed and would you be willing to lead or belong to a committee? Your individual thoughts and ideas are needed since unit discussions will focus on Environmental Justice consensus questions. Contact the Program Co-Chairs with your ideas and comments. judy.Helein@lwv-fairfax.org or Julie.Jones@lwv-fairfax.org.

GOVERNMENT DELEGATION OF POWER

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

- Laws, policies and incentives that promote regional coordination and local action.
- Establishment of uniform powers and responsibilities of local governments by eliminating any outdated and unnecessary distinctions between cities, counties and towns. (1972 & 1991)

ELECTION LAWS

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. The League further believes that democratic government, at the state as well as federal levels, depends upon the voters' faith in the integrity of election processes and election outcomes. Therefore, the League of Women Voters of Virginia supports election laws, policies, and funding to ensure that elections are secure and the outcomes verified. 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 having to provide a reason; an adequate number of voting machines and trained election officers; the use of satellite voting; split shifts for election officers when needed; online voter registration; the use of electronic poll books; and measures that take advantage of technological advances, as long as they are secure. (2011, 2015, 2021)

The League supports shared funding of statewide voter registration and election 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 facilitation of convenient yet secure voting for Virginia's military and overseas voters. (2011, 2015 & 2021)

The League further supports measures to secure Virginia's voter registration database, processes, and equipment against cyber- and physical threats. The League supports the introduction of ranked choice voting as an alternative to plurality voting. The League believes in increased voter access, removal of barriers to voting, such as a photo identification requirement at voting locations, and the prevention of voter suppression. (2021)

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.
- 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 a decennial redistricting plan approved by the General Assembly, including establishment of a bipartisan commission to prepare a plan for legislative approval and consideration of natural geographic boundaries, jurisdictional boundaries, communities of interest, and competitiveness in addition to the constitutional requirements. In addition to the Virginia constitutional requirement of equal population, contiguous and compact districts and the Voting Rights Act requirements 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 League believes that 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 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.
- 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.
- The use of a variety of incentives to increase the use of public transportation.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND VIRGINIA LAW

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

- Policies that recognize non-monetary as well as 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)
- The League of Women Voters of Virginia Opposes Sexual harassment. (2019)



Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

Topic: LWV-VA Money in Politics Study

Members and visitors are encouraged to attend any meeting convenient for them, including the “At Large Meeting” and briefing on Saturdays when a briefing is listed. As of January 1, 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 member.

Saturday, February 4

10:00 a.m. At Large Meeting /Briefing
– Virtual

Contact: Judy, 703-725-9401,
judithhelein@aol.com or
Julie, 703-476-8347,
Julie.jones@lwv.fairfax.org

Wednesday, February 8

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

Mount Vernon Government Center
2511 Parkers Lane, Mt. Vernon
Contact: Diana, 703-704-5325,
jfdw1111@gmail.com

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

8739 Cuttermill Pl, Springfield
Contact: Bev, 703-451-4438,
rbdahlin@verizon.net
or Sue, 703-266-0272,
sueoneill1@hotmail.com

7:30 p.m. Mount Vernon Evening (MVE) – Expected to be In Person

Contact: Jane, 703-960-6820,
jane@hilderwilliams.net
or Susan, 703-587-4790,
scash5002@email.vccs.edu
or Jane, 703-380-3651;
jmbyers@att.net

Thursday, February 9

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)

– Virtual

Contact: Jane, 703-256-7834,
patchwork1@verizon.net

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

Lunch at Food Court, Wegman’s
14361 Newbrook Drive, Chantilly
Contact: Susan, 703-391-0666,
sadill@cox.net

1 p.m. Oakton/Vienna (OV) – Virtual and In Person

Oakton Public Library
Lynnhaven Pl, 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

Monday, February 13

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

Village Square Classroom
(NOTE NEW LOCATION)
7410 Spring Village Drive, Springfield
Contact: Judy, 703-342-3353,
jjsmith64@earthlink.net

Monday, February 13

10:00 a.m. McLean Day (McL)

– In Person

1913 Virginia Ave. McLean
Contact: Anne, 703-448-6626,
akanter@cox.net

March Meetings: LWVFA Book Club



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

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**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER®
 February, 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.

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<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