

# Fairfax VOTER

January 2023

Volume 75, Issue 5

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: LWV-VA CONSENSUS STUDY

The League of Women Voters of Virginia’s Environmental Issues Group proposed to re-study LWV-VA’s Natural Resources positions by using the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) lens to see how to address continuing environmental justice issues. The League has a long-standing commitment to environmental quality and a more recent commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. These intersect in environmental justice. The League’s state positions do not specifically speak about environmental justice. How to use our existing positions, whether to revise any of them, and whether to add a position are questions for a study to prepare us for continuing efforts to secure environmental justice through legislative and regulatory action, and to face continuing resistance to change.

The EPA defines “environmental justice” as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. The study reviews how Virginia can best implement environmental justice to promote fairness and halt and prevent future racial and economic inequities. The study committee recommends significant strategies for addressing these issues.

You will find the Study Committee’s Recommendations and Consensus Questions Form in this issue of the VOTER. The full report is not in this issue of the VOTER because it is too long, but it can be found on the Fairfax League’s website, [www.lwv-fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org) under the publications or the unit tab.

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](mailto:judy.helein@lwv-fairfax.org).

### Calendar

January 2023

Note: LWVFA Unit Meetings will meet in January

- 3 Fairfax Voter Deadline for the February 2023 issue
- 7 LWNCA Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
- 7 League presents testimony to the Fairfax Delegation for the General Assembly
- 7 LWVFA Briefing and At-Large Meeting, 10 a.m.
- 9 LWV-VA Board Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 11 General Assembly Convenes (Short session in odd year)
- 11 LWV-VA Women’s Legislative Roundtable (WLRT)
- 16 Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday Day
- 18 LWVFA Board Meeting, 10 a.m.
- 18 LWV-VA Women’s Legislative Roundtable (WLRT)
- 25 LWV-VA League Day (formerly Lobby Day)

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# Presidents' Message

January, 2023

A very Happy New Year to everyone! We hope you were able to enjoy the holidays in whatever way was most meaningful to you.

Last year was amazing, and very busy, but 2023 promises to be even bigger. We will celebrate our (LWV-FA) 75th Anniversary with a party – details to come! It is also one of Virginia’s very big election years. We will elect many State Senators, a full House of Delegates, School Board, County Board of Supervisors and a variety of other County officials. And all under new districts!

We'll restart voter registration efforts this month, and will start gearing up for the June primaries early in the spring. We will need lots of help – from general volunteers, to folks willing to take on specific roles such as Vote411 Coordinator or willing to take on elected Board roles.

Please contact one of us or anyone on the Board if you think you might be interested.

Pat and Katherine



## Call for Future LWV-Fairfax Area Leaders

LWV-Fairfax Area will have eight officers and directors whose terms expire in 2023. We encourage you to volunteer and become a future director and board member. It's an amazing experience where you will develop leadership skills, meet wonderful people, and get involved! To learn more, please contact Wendy Fox-Grage, Nominating Committee Chair, at [wendy.foxgrage@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.foxgrage@gmail.com).



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

## LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2022 - 2023

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:

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

## Be Alert! Be Informed! Be Involved!

The Virginia General Assembly begins on January 11. To keep informed about what is happening, attend the Women's Legislative Roundtable (WLRT). The LWV-VA provides this nonpartisan forum on Wednesdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m., to discuss and share information on issues and legislation.

The Roundtable sessions will be hybrid (Zoom and in-person). The WLRT dates and topics are listed below along with the League Day on January 25.

### January 11, 2023, WLRT

- Remove witness requirement for absentee ballot envelopes
- Funding of elections (including amending or repealing Zucker Buck bill passed in 2022 session, SB80)

### January 18, 2023, WLRT

- Push for campaign finance reform
- Support RCV (ranked choice voting)

### January 25, 2023, League Day

This is our first in-person League Day in two years! Make your voice heard in Richmond! The day will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a buffet breakfast at the Truist Center Auditorium, 919 East Main Street, Richmond, VA

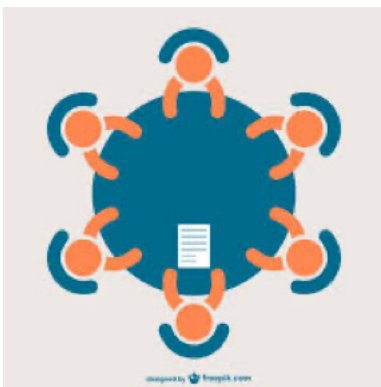
### February 1, 2023, WLRT

- Support funding of public education and not diverting funds to private education
- Protecting Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

### February 8, 2023, WLRT

- Support right to marry amendment
- GVP (ghost guns, secure storage, GVP Center)

To register, go to the Events tab on our website ([lww-fairfax.org](http://lww-fairfax.org)) and click on Women's Legislative Roundtable. This webpage has the links to register for the WLRT sessions and League Day on January 25.



## LWV-VA NATURAL RESOURCES POSITIONS

### LWV-VA Positioned For Action Spring, 2021

Now is your chance to review LWV-VA's current positions on Natural Resources. The study and consensus discussion this month on Environmental Justice has 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 an other 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@lww-fairfax.org](mailto:judy.Helein@lww-fairfax.org) or [Julie.Jones@lww-fairfax.org](mailto:Julie.Jones@lww-fairfax.org).

### AIR QUALITY

Support for achieving and maintaining acceptable air quality through:

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

### EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

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

Absent a moratorium, the League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that the Commonwealth of Virginia, including all relevant state departments and state agencies, and local governments, have a responsibility to safeguard Virginia's critical features and to ensure the public's safety, health, and welfare by:

- 1) adopting strict systems for monitoring, regulation, and oversight of the hydraulic fracturing, including all related facilities, and fracking impacts on critical features (e.g. ground and surface water resources and recharge areas; geologic resources and seismic zones; historic sites and districts), public facilities (e.g. recreation areas, schools, wildlife preserves), local and regional infrastructure, and local and regional economies;
- 2) developing and implementing systems of financial assurance so all fracking-related expenses incurred by the Commonwealth and the local jurisdictions are borne by the industry;
- 3) granting localities authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing operations;
- 4) providing state funding to local governments to offset the costs incurred by local governments;

5) developing a state-level system for long-term monitoring of local impacts and enforcement of regulation throughout the full life cycle of the hydraulic.

#### LAND USE

Support for state policies that include:

- Create state long-range comprehensive land use plan coordinated with local and regional plans.
- Protection of critical environmental areas through some land use controls.
- Assistance to and increased flexibility for localities in land use planning and control. (1975)

#### WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION

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

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

#### The VAWA Reauthorization of 2022:

- [Expands]” special criminal jurisdiction of Tribal courts to cover non-Native perpetrators of sexual assault, child abuse, stalking, sex trafficking, and assaults on tribal law enforcement officers on tribal lands; and [supports] the development of a pilot project to enhance access to safety for survivors in Alaska Native villages.” <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/03/16/fact-sheet-reauthorization-of-the-violence-against-women-act-vaawa/>
- “Intends to close gaps in federal sex crimes statutes and promote accountability for law enforcement officers.
- Enhances efforts to reduce homicides through enforcement of federal and state firearms law; and,
- improves access to justice for survivors by expanding grant funding for legal services and authorizing post-conviction legal assistance.” <https://ovc.ojp.gov/news/announcement/ovc-leadership-attend-signing-violence-against-women-act-reauthorization>

Why does this article focus on the provision that expands, “special criminal jurisdiction of Tribal courts to cover non-Native perpetrators of sexual assault, child abuse, stalking, sex trafficking?” Domestic violence affects people regardless of their socio-economic status, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, or ethnic origin. But the incidence is so much higher for American Indian and Alaska Native women as compared to other female populations and most of us are not aware of it. The provision will help Tribal courts bring non-Indian perpetrators to justice and prevent them from continuing to abuse their victims without being afraid of punishment.

“More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence, and more than 1 in 2 have experienced sexual violence. Alaska Native women continue to suffer the highest rate of forcible sexual assault and have reported rates of domestic violence up to 10 times higher than in the rest of the United States. [But, until this reauthorization], Indian nations were unable to prosecute non-Indians, who reportedly commit the vast majority (96%) of sexual violence against Native women. Indians now comprise 76% of the population on tribal lands and 68% of the population in Alaska Native villages. Many Native women have married non-Indians. However, it [has been] unacceptable that a non-Indian who chooses to marry a Native woman, live on her reservation, and commit acts of domestic violence against her, [could not] be criminally prosecuted by an Indian nation, and more often than not, will never be prosecuted by any government.”

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

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

### The Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2022 and Native Americans

By Adarsh Trehan, Chair, Domestic Violence Committee

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022, which includes the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization, was signed by President Joseph Biden on March 15, 2022. This reauthorization is effective through 2027. VAWA was initially passed in 1994 and has been reauthorized in 2000, 2005, and 2013. Incidents of domestic violence and sexual assault have decreased notably since VAWA became law in 1994 and with its subsequent reauthorizations. It is administered by the Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

## League of Women Voters of Virginia Environmental Justice Study Recommendations & Consensus Questions

### Study Recommendations

After each recommendation we have listed the government or other entity which has the power to act. “Regional” refers to agencies like the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Planning District Commissions. Many of our recommendations do not involve legislation but rather regulatory and permitting bodies that work year around. Thus, an additional recommendation is that League members learn about the organization of the executive branch and expect to advocate throughout the year, even when the General Assembly is not in session.

1. Acknowledge that too often environmental burdens have been greatest for those who have received the least benefit, and that this is due, at least in part, to deliberate decisions in the past. Therefore, government bodies must study hazard maps, scrutinize historic zoning decisions, examine their procedures and processes, and continually work to end the perpetuation of unequal burdens on environmental justice communities. (Action – State/Regional/Local Agencies, Boards and Commissions)

#### Consensus Question:

Should LWV-VA advocate for government bodies to study environmental justice data and change procedures and processes that perpetuate unequal burdens on environmental justice communities?

Yes  No  No consensus.

Comments:

2. Require and hold accountable state and local permitting agencies for considering cumulative and long-term impacts of projects and permits, including downstream impacts, rather than considering each project request only on its own, ignoring what has preceded it. Cumulative impacts can harm health as a result of degradation of air, water, and overall quality of life. Continuing to site projects and issue permits that affect the same place because the land is cheap and the residents lack capacity to oppose the decisions.

#### Consensus Question:

Should LWV-VA advocate for government bodies to be held accountable for considering cumulative impacts of projects and permits?

Yes  No  No consensus.

Comments:

3. Require and hold accountable permitting agencies and boards for considering all effects of a project on people living adjacent to it or downstream from it. A healthy environment requires more than avoidance of safety hazards or air, water, and land pollution. Loud noises and vibrations, nighttime lights, strong odors, lack of tree canopy or green spaces, and loss of historic or cultural touchstones are among the factors that can degrade the health of a human environment. (Action – State/Local Agencies and Boards)

#### Consensus Question:

Should LWV-VA advocate for government bodies to be held accountable for considering all effects that a project might have on people living around it?

Yes  No  No consensus.

Yes  No  No consensus.

Comments:



4. Require and hold accountable DEQ and other state, regional, and local agencies and boards for communicating early in a project's inception, not only with state, regional, and/or local regulators, but with all other stakeholders "in the community, both organized and individual. DEQ must provide more transparent, accessible, and real-time environmental information to the public, and make significant outreach to local residents who may be unaware or lack the expertise to understand the impacts of the proposed projects. (Action – DEQ, State/Regional/Local Agencies)

**Consensus Question:**

Should LWV-VA advocate for government bodies to be held accountable for communicating early in a project's inception with all stakeholders in the affected community?

Yes  No  No consensus.

Comments:

5. Implement the recommendations of DEQ's 2020 Environmental Justice Study and complete the first phase of actions to develop staff capacity and clear guidance "to effectively support environmental justice and apply environmental justice considerations throughout DEQ programs." (Action – DEQ and environmental boards)

**Consensus Question:**

Should LWV-VA advocate for implementing the recommendations of DEQ's Environmental Justice Study report?

Yes  No  No consensus.

Comments:

6. Improve information-sharing and coordination among state, regional, and local agencies responsible for agriculture, climate resilience, comprehensive planning, economic development, emergencies & public safety, environment, housing, health, parks, and transportation when evaluating projects with regard to issues such as rezoning and site location. (Action – State/Regional/Local Agencies and Boards)

**Consensus Question:**

Should LWV-VA advocate for improved information-sharing and coordination among state, regional, and local agencies and boards?

Yes  No  No consensus.

Comments:

7. Provide expertise and capacity building support to help localities with a small tax base to assess and find solutions to environmental justice issues. (Action – General Assembly, State Agencies including Higher Education)

**Consensus Question:**

Should LWV-VA advocate for legislation to provide expertise to help localities with a small tax base assess and find solutions in response to environmental justice issues?

Yes  No  No consensus.

Comments:

8. Direct and fund independent environmental justice analyses before major permitting decisions to assess the potential for long-term costs, harm to health and environmental effects on the population. Too often a project is presented with unsubstantiated claims of benefits by a developer to a local governing board. (Action – General Assembly, stakeholder organizations and coalitions)

**Consensus Question:**

Should LWV-VA advocate for legislation to fund independent environmental justice analyses before major permitting decisions?

Yes  No  No consensus.

Comments:

# Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

## Topic: LWV-VA Environmental Justice Study

Members and visitor 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 December 1, 2022, the following information was correct; please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend. The December unit meetings may be in person, virtual or hybrid. If virtual, the unit leaders will send login information to every unit member.

### Saturday, January 7

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

Contact: Judy, 703-725-9401

[judithhelein@aol.com](mailto:judithhelein@aol.com)

or Julie, 703-476-8347

[Julie.jones@lwv.fairfax.org](mailto:Julie.jones@lwv.fairfax.org)

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

8739 Cuttermill Pl, Springfield

Contact: Bev, 703-451-4438

[rbdahlin@verizon.net](mailto:rbdahlin@verizon.net)

or Sue, 703-266-0272

[sueoneill1@hotmail.com](mailto:sueoneill1@hotmail.com)

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

Oakton Public Library

Lynnhaven Pl, Oakton

Contact: Mary, 703-932-3665

[mmvalder@aol.com](mailto:mmvalder@aol.com)

### Monday, January 9

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

Hunters Crossing Craft Room

7430 Spring Village Drive, Springfield

Contact: Judy, 703-342-3353

[jjsmith64@earthlink.net](mailto:jjsmith64@earthlink.net)

### Thursday, January 12

#### **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](mailto:Charleen.deasy@verizon.net)

#### **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](mailto:wendy.foxgrage@gmail.com)

### Tuesday, January 10

#### **2:00 p.m. McLean Day (McL) – In Person**

StarNut Café

1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean

Contact: Anne, 703-448-6626

[akanter@cox.net](mailto:akanter@cox.net)

#### **10:00 a.m. Springfield (SPF) - Virtual**

Contact: Jane, 703-256-7834

[patchwork1@verizon.net](mailto:patchwork1@verizon.net)

#### **7:30 p.m. Mount Vernon Evening (MVE) –**

#### **Expected to be In Person**

Contact: Jane, 703-960-6820

[jane@hilderwilliams.net](mailto:jane@hilderwilliams.net)

or Susan, 703-587-4790

[scash5002@email.vccs.edu](mailto:scash5002@email.vccs.edu)

or Jane, 703-380-3651

[jmbyers@att.net](mailto:jmbyers@att.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](mailto:sadill@cox.net)

### Wednesday, January 11

#### **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](mailto:jfdw1111@gmail.com)

## February Meetings: LWV-VA Finance Reform Study



The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)  
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 703-658-9150. Web address: www.lwv-fairfax.org

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**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER®  
 January, 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, 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.

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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