

# Fairfax VOTER

February 2024

Volume 76, Issue 6

**Another Hot Topic!** The article this month focuses on the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area’s (LWVFA) positions on schools and public libraries. The policies of the Fairfax County Schools and the Fairfax County Public Libraries regarding book selections and book challenges or reconsiderations are also highlighted.

In March 2024 during LWVFA’s “Reading a Banned Book Club” the focus is on specific challenges and banned books in general. February and March meetings will feature some very interesting discussions. Remember to put into practice all that we learned about Civil Discourse.

## Calendar

**February 2024: Happy 104th Anniversary, LWV!**

### **Black History Month**

- 1 National Freedom Day (13th Amendment)
- 1 Fiscal 2025 Budgets Due for Review
- 1 Annual Meeting Agenda & Elements Due for Review
- 3 Fairfax *Voter* Deadline for the March 2024 issue
- 3 LWVFA Briefing and At-Large Meeting, 10 a.m.
- 7 League Day in Richmond
- 8-13 LWVFA Unit Meetings at various locations around Fairfax County
- 11 International Day of Women and Girls
- 14 LWV’s birthday (104th anniversary)
- 14 WLRT Session, 8:30 a.m.
- 21 WLRT Session, 8:30 a.m.
- 21 LWVFA Board Meeting, 10 a.m.
- 28 WLRT Session, 8:30 a.m.

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Presidents' Message:

Dear Fellow Leaguers,

It is only February, but 2024 is in full swing. We are busy with High School Voter registrations, new citizen events, and early voting for the Presidential Primary has already begun! On February 7, we will participate in LWV-VA's League Day at the General Assembly in Richmond. Even if you can't attend in person, we hope you have had a chance to attend the virtual meetings of the Women's Legislative Roundtable on Wednesday mornings.

In early January, we attended a lunch with other members of the LWV-NCA (National Capital Area). We were privileged to have Dianna Wynn, a member of the LWVUS Board, as a speaker. She reported that in 2023, the League provided information on 52,000 candidates nationally and contacted over 27 million voters, and in the last biennium participated in 70 lawsuits in over half the states.

Most importantly, she gave us an update on the "Framing the Future" project, which will significantly restructure membership across the different levels of the League. We will be sharing more information as the process becomes clearer over the coming months. In the meantime, we will proceed as normal with our budgeting and planning processes and will ask you to renew your membership as usual. We expect that changes will roll out sometime in early 2025. Stay Tuned!

Pat and Katherine

## ***Save the Date: March 12***

### **Women's History Month 2024**

**Submitted by Amy Leeson**

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is partnering with the Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) system and the Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Center (HRC) to share some of their fascinating early-voting records of Fairfax County.

The event will be held at the City of Fairfax Regional Library on 12 March, beginning at 7:00 PM. Several unique records will be available for viewing including early-voter registration rolls, information about the women of Fairfax County, who registered women to vote for the first time, and other fun finds! A short 30-minute discussion of the records will be led by Dr. Jennifer Ritterhouse of the George Mason History and Art History College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Tours of the Virginia Room of the City of Fairfax Library will also be available during the event.

A sign-up will be available through Fairfax County Library and in our weekly e-newsletter sometime in February.

Mark your calendars for this very special event now. We hope to see many of you there!

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

### **LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2023-2024**

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

## Civil Discourse and Food Insecurity Report

by Julie Jones

The December 2023 virtual program was open to all members in order to reach more LWVFA members than just the “regulars.” It was scheduled in the evening to attract more working members and the general public.

Maya Mahdi, a young new member, presented a well-thought-out presentation on civil discourse—what it is and what it isn’t. Some unit respondents thought that what she said was not new and only common sense. (“Set for a younger and less knowledgeable audience”) All her points were practical and well-stated. During lobbying and advocating for our League positions, civil discourse principles could be useful, especially with lawmakers who have opposing views.

The technical aspects of the virtual breakout sessions worked well for a first-time attempt. Many thought it was an acceptable replacement for in-person meetings. Many thought that as practice for civil discourse, the topic of food insecurity was too non-controversial. All agreed that governmental agencies and volunteers have more to do to help solve the food crisis. Several groups veered into discussions about how to solve poverty. One unit even changed the discussion to atheism vs theocracy to generate more diverse opinions.



### Lobbying, Advocating, Acting

By Judy Helein and Julie Jones

League of Women Voters members lobby, advocate, and take action on League positions, which were established and decided by consensus or concurrence of members at each League level. Look at the positions at our local level and at the national level. [lwv-fairfax.org](http://lwv-fairfax.org) - Look under Action and Advocacy and then League Positions.

Members of the League are interested in so many topics. We care for things that affect our daily lives—from voting rights, secure elections, transportation, firearm safety, affordable housing, reproductive freedom, immigration, education, natural resources, and more. All of these issues are in the purview of our government

officials who make laws, regulations, and decisions.

Check out “Where We Stand” (Fairfax Positions) and “Impact on Issues” (National Positions).

If you see a position that needs updating or eliminating, or if you have a topic which you would like to pursue for a future position, let us know. We want to hear from you!

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## LIBRARY BOOKS

Compiled by Julie Jones

*How books are selected and How they are challenged*

Stories of the availability of books to students in school and public libraries have been prominent in the news. Articles about challenges to certain books and book bans appear frequently. The controversy about the book selections in library collections and the appropriateness of these choices for children of all ages seems to be intensifying.

This article features the positions of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) on school and public libraries. The American Library Association (ALA) statement about libraries is included. Policies of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and Fairfax County Public Libraries (FCPL) on book selections and book challenges or reconsiderations are highlighted.

In March 2024, during LWVFA’S “Reading a Banned Book Club,” the focus is on specific challenges and banned books in general.

### LWVFA’S POSITION ON SCHOOL LIBRARIES - Books and Other Materials (Here We Stand)

The LWVFA believes that the goal of FCPS policies and procedures for selecting books and other mate-

rials for use in classrooms and school media centers should be to support and enhance the instructional program. The LWVFA believes that there should be a clearly defined efficient process for questioning FCPS books and materials selections and resolving challenges equitably and in a timely manner, while protecting the quality of education and the breadth of materials available to students. The challenge procedures should be communicated widely and easily available to parents and the school community.

The LWVFA believes that both instructional materials selection and challenge procedures should include the participation of school professionals, parents and other residents of Fairfax County/City.

### **LWVFA's POSITION ON PUBLIC LIBRARIES (Here We Stand)**

The LWVFA strongly believes that the selection policies and procedures of the Fairfax County Public Libraries (FCPL) should ensure that its collection contains a wide variety of books, digital resources, and other materials representing a diversity of views to serve the educational, informational and recreational needs of the residents of Fairfax County/City. (1984, amended 2006). The LWVFA believes that the residents of Fairfax County/City should have the opportunity to question FCPL selections through formal processes that ensure fair and equitable resolution.

The LWVFA supports:

- Selection and challenge policies and procedures that are clearly defined and communicated to the public, which the system serves. (1984)
- Procedures that include the active and regular participation of a group of professional librarians working together in making selection decisions in each materials category. (1984) The authority of a locally appointed Library Board that is responsible for all policies governing the library system (2006)
- Adequate financing for FCPL, which means funding levels that would enable it to meet the needs of the area's growing population and changing demographics. (2006)

### **LIBRARIES: AN AMERICAN VALUE**

(Adopted February 3, 1999, by the Council of the American Library Association)

Libraries in America are cornerstones of the communities they serve. Free access to the books, ideas, resources, and information in America's libraries is imperative for education, employment, enjoyment, and self-government.

Libraries are a legacy to each generation, offering the

heritage of the past and the promise of the future. To ensure that libraries flourish and have the freedom to promote and protect the public good in the 21st century, we believe certain principles must be guaranteed. To that end, we affirm this contract with the people we serve:

- We defend the constitutional rights of all individuals, including children and teenagers, to use the library's resources and services;
- We value our nation's diversity and strive to reflect that diversity by providing a full spectrum of resources and services to the communities we serve;
- We affirm the responsibility and the right of all parents and guardians to guide their own children's use of the library and its resources and services;
- We connect people and ideas by helping each person select from and effectively use the library's resources;
- We protect each individual's privacy and confidentiality in the use of library resources and services;
- We protect the rights of individuals to express their opinions about library resources and services;
- We celebrate and preserve our democratic society by making available the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions and ideas, so that all individuals have the opportunity to become lifelong learners - informed, literate, educated, and culturally enriched.

Change is constant, but these principles transcend change and endure in a dynamic technological, social, and political environment. By embracing these principles, libraries in the United States can contribute to a future that values and protects freedom of speech in a world that celebrates both our similarities and our differences, respects individuals and their beliefs, and holds all persons truly equal and free.

### **FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS LIBRARIES (FCPS website)**

Every school and center in FCPS has a library with professional staff, which has been proven to increase student reading and comprehension. Today's libraries are high-tech and full of activities for students beyond the books. Whether you're searching for an engrossing biography, doing research for a project, looking for the latest issue of a favorite magazine, or seeking a quiet place to study, the school library fits the bill. Students of all ages are welcome in FCPS school libraries, where school librarians contribute in rich and diverse ways to the intellectual life of a school, and to the development of students who can function in a complex and increasingly digital information environment.

Schools follow established guidelines to offer books and resources in their libraries that reflect the diversity found in society. School libraries function based on student choice, and inclusion of material in the library does not imply a book or resource is approved for instruction.

### **FCPS LIBRARY SELECTION PROCESS (Regulation 3013.2)**

Materials selected for inclusion in school library collections will meet at least one of the following purposes: (From Regulation 3009.6 reviewed and adopted May 7, 2020. Regulation 3009.12 reviewed and adopted 6/09/2023 offers more details)

- Enrich and support the FCPS Program of Studies and the Virginia Standards of Learning;
- Encourage and support informational and recreational reading, viewing, or listening and help students develop the skills necessary to become lifelong learners;
- Meet the information needs of students and staff taking into consideration diverse interests, abilities, backgrounds, reading levels, maturity levels, home languages, and students' interests.

The school librarian, under the supervision of the school principal, is required to use at least two positive reviews from professionally recognized library journals when making book and resource selections. When reviews are not available, the librarian must read and evaluate the materials as they align with FCPS Regulation 3013 (link is external), School Library Collection Development. School librarians shall consider recommendations from:

### **FCPS COLLECTION MAINTENANCE**

School librarians annually create a Collection Development policy that outlines the goals and actions related to selecting and removing materials. This policy is reviewed with school administration each year. All FCPS librarians strive to provide a relevant, current, accessible, and appealing collection and undergo a continual evaluation of library books and resources in relation to evolving curriculum, new formats of materials, instructional methods, and the current needs and interests of its users.

### **FCPS CHALLENGED LIBRARY AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

(Regulation 3009.6 reviewed and adopted May 7, 2020)

NOTE: A later revision, Regulation 3009.12 reviewed and adopted 6/09/23, offers much the same procedure but provides more details.

This regulation establishes and maintains clear procedures for handling challenged materials. Any person residing in Fairfax County or Fairfax City, any parent or guardian of a child who attends Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), or any person working for the school system may challenge library materials or instructional materials, whether basal, program, or supplementary. Complainants may request the removal of, restriction of, or expanded access to such materials.

In reviewing challenges, the School Board will give priority to challenges filed by parents or guardians of children who attend FCPS and who are currently and directly affected by the use of specific materials and to challenges filed by FCPS teachers or administrators whose students are currently and directly affected by specific materials.

Procedures are to be specified in the regulations of the school division. Procedures should conserve limited staff resources, discourage the monopolization of the challenge process by a few individuals, and require complainants to submit complete, substantive, and fully researched challenge requests. Procedures shall reflect that the School Board has delegated to the Division Superintendent and to staff members the initial review and decision regarding all challenges and that the Board, after reading the challenged books, will accept for review only those appeals that at least four Board members determine merit such review.

### **FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY (FCPL website)**

#### **FCPL POLICY REGARDING SELECTION OF MATERIALS (7/13/2023)**

The library shall develop a collection that informs, engages, and inspires the diverse community it serves. Selectors choose materials for varying education levels, reading abilities, age level interests, social/religious customs, and languages. The collection offers users a variety of formats, viewpoints, and subjects that is available on open library shelves and/or through the library's website. Funding for collection development should not fall below 20% of the total library annual budget. Selection of materials is made based on interest, popularity, and informational content representing multiple viewpoints and formats. Selection criteria shall include but not be limited to the following, in no particular order:

- Attention by critics and reviewers;
- Cost of individual materials as well as total library budget;
- Currency or timeliness of materials;
- Importance as a document of the times;

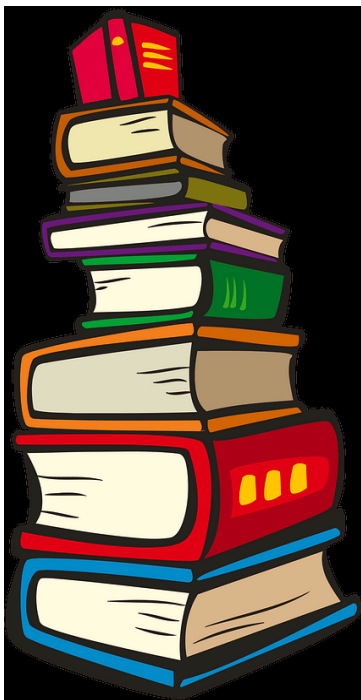
- Potential user appeal;
- Present and potential relevance to community needs;
- Representation of the diverse community;
- Requests by library users or library staff;
- Subject matter coverage in relation to the existing collection;
- Suitability of format for library use;
- Suitability of subject and style for intended audience.

Consideration is given to the work as a whole. Materials need not meet all the above criteria and shall not be excluded solely on any one of the following:

- Race, religion, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, or political views of an author;
- Frankness or coarseness of language;
- Controversial nature of an item including visual aspects;
- Endorsement or disapproval of an item by an individual or organization.

Purchase shall provide the highest possible value to the community through careful management of county funds. Placement shall ensure that circulating materials are available to borrowers in accordance with Policy B Regarding the Availability of Service in Fairfax County and City via:

- A robust holds/reserve system;
- Broad collections of materials for browsing in the digital and physical library branches;
- Access Services department programs
- Interlibrary loan materials do not fall under this policy.



## February and March 2024 are LWFVA Book Club Months

Banned Books stories are in the news almost every day. In February, we will discuss how Fairfax public and school librarians choose the books in their collections and how their choices can be challenged by parents and community members.

With this background information, units will be encouraged to choose a banned book to read in March and discuss why it was selected and challenged. Each unit can pick one or several books to discuss.

### *Some suggestions*

#### Most banned books:

*Gender Queer: A Memoir*, by Maia Kobabe

*All Boys Aren't Blue*, by George M. Johnson

*The Bluest Eye*, by Toni Morrison

*Crank*, by Ellen Hopkins

*Lawn Boy*, by Jonathan Evison

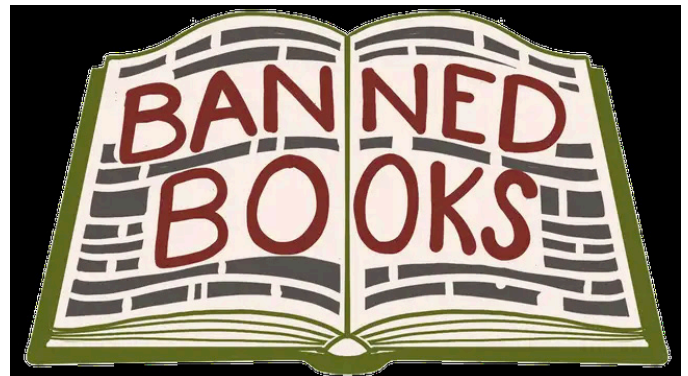
#### Classic Books:

*The Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger

*The Grapes of Wrath*, by John Steinbeck

*To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee

*The Storyteller*, by Jodi Picoult



## Library Books: How books are selected and how they are challenged

*Discussion Questions - Use these questions to initiate conversations.*

1. Do the LWVFA's positions on libraries seem adequate considering they were revised in 2006? Are there changes that you would make?
2. Do the ALA standards seem reasonable? Is there anything you would add?
3. Are challenges to books in the book collections easily understood by parents and the general public?
4. The library policies of FCPS and FCPL are on their websites, but can be difficult to locate. How can these policies be more available/accessible to parents and library patrons?
5. What are the procedures for challenging books in the collections? The library association defines a "challenge" as a "formal, written complaint filed with a library or school requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness." Would you add or change the procedures?

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### Fairfax Board of Supervisors' Session Prior to the General Assembly

The Fairfax Board of Supervisors holds a session before the opening of the general assembly to brief the County's General Assembly Delegates and Senators, followed by input from county residents. The LWVFA Advocacy co-chair presented our priorities. Our oral statement emphasized the need to promote equitable and efficient participation in elections and urged the legislators to pursue automatic restoration of voting rights for citizens with prior felony convictions. This received applause from the legislators and the audience!

The full written testimony follows.

Other citizens and organization presented their views on a range of topics of concern, including school funding, disability support services, gun safety, affordable housing, parks and behavioral health services. There was strong opposition to a proposed Reston casino. Serious concerns were also expressed about data centers and the need to control the large energy use these centers require.



### LWVFA Testimony to the Fairfax County General Assembly Delegation

**Submitted by:**

**Barbara Boardman and Anu Sahai  
Co-Directors, Action and Advocacy, League of  
Women Voters of the Fairfax Area  
Katherine Ingmanson and Pat Fege  
Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters of the  
Fairfax Area**

Jan 6, 2024

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is a nonpartisan volunteer organization with over 300 members. We have supported democracy for over 75 years, through voter registration and voter education, including holding Candidate Forums and voter registration events, and providing fact-based, nonpartisan materials to Fairfax County residents.

Our League supports the 2024 Fairfax County Legislative Program. As an organization with a mission of supporting voter engagement and civic participation, we are especially supportive of the Board's positions on elections. We also highlight funding for public education, including K-12 and early childhood education and child care. We support initiatives in transportation, affordable housing, public safety, behavioral health and human services.

The following issues are high priorities for the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area.

#### Elections and Election Services

We strongly support legislation to promote equitable and efficient participation in elections, such as continuing to facilitate voting by mail, providing for extended polling hours statewide, extending curbside voting to those with nonphysical disabilities, and expanding the use of drop boxes. Adequate state funding for election administration, voting equipment, and systems modernization and security is essential. We support efforts to provide expanded flexibility during emergencies, allowing local election officials to prevent any potential disruptions to election administration. We oppose any curtailment of the early voting period or the number of early voting sites.

We support legislation and funding to encourage public understanding of the safety and security of the Virginia election process.

Virginia's continued denial of the right to vote to some citizens violates a fundamental premise of democracy. Citizens with prior felony convictions should not be excluded from civic participation by an opaque and arbitrary process of rights restoration that is a remnant of the Jim Crow era. We urge you to pursue legislation to allow automatic restoration of voting rights.

We specifically support legislation to change the deadline for local electoral boards to certify elections and submit abstracts, from seven days following the election to ten days following the election. If enacted, this initiative will allow local Offices of Elections the proper time to perform their required duties while protecting the franchise for all Virginia voters.

### **Education: K-12 and Early Childhood**

The League views it as essential that the state fully and appropriately support the education of all our children. Unfortunately, the gap between state funding and the actual costs of providing a high-quality education, particularly in high cost-of-living jurisdictions like Fairfax County, continues to expand. We must address deficiencies and underfunding, including: 1. Correcting the Virginia Standards of Quality to reflect the true local costs of providing a high-quality public education; 2. Recognizing cost-of-living variations throughout the Commonwealth in state funding formulas, particularly in high cost-of-living areas like Northern Virginia; 3. Increasing state funding support for school divisions with high numbers or concentrations of English learners, students living in economically disadvantaged households, and students receiving special education and mental health services; and, 4. Increasing state resources for early childhood education programs, which help young children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed.

We highlight that education support does not occur exclusively in the K-12 school setting. Early childhood education and youth services must also be supported. We support state child care funding for economically disadvantaged families and support an increase in child care service rates. Programs providing early childhood care need to be funded and the reimbursement rates need to be updated on a regular basis to reflect the cost of care. These costs should not be deflected to the localities. The state should continue to assess the family copayment scale to support child care access and affordability. This applies to Early Intervention Services for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities, the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI), and the Children's Services Act (CSA).

### **Transportation**

For our region, transportation services are vital and

must have support. To ensure that transportation projects continue to advance in Northern Virginia after decades of state underfunding, the Commonwealth must fully restore the \$102 million of regional funding to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) that was previously diverted to Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). The Commonwealth must also provide dedicated and sustainable funding for WMATA – without diverting resources from other transportation needs in Northern Virginia and the Commonwealth

Transportation safety is a critically important issue for all Virginians, and in the last few years the General Assembly provided localities with additional, common-sense tools to help address these issues. However, the law should be clarified to ensure that VDOT implements recent changes the way it was understood they would be when they were being considered by the GA. If enacted, this initiative will provide localities with tools to further improve transportation safety.

### **Affordable Housing**

The League supports state funding and actions to increase the availability of affordable, accessible, integrated housing. To prevent homelessness, we support expanded investments in tools and programs to address affordable housing needs, particularly in high cost-of-living areas like Northern Virginia. We support retaining existing local land use authority, allowing localities to craft solutions that are appropriate for their communities, including innovative ideas and solutions that require the flexibility and agility to respond to changing conditions.

### **Public Safety**

The Fairfax LWV is in agreement with the Virginia League of Women Voters in advocating for assuring gun safety and protection against domestic violence. We support legislation to address gun violence in Virginia through common sense gun safety measures that will help ensure a safe and resilient community, building on the landmark changes enacted in 2020.

We support additional state funding and efforts to increase the capacity for localities to implement culturally specific prevention and intervention services to eliminate domestic and sexual violence, including continued support for evidence-based, quality programs that provide education and rehabilitation for those who cause harm, to help end the cycle of violence and provide victims more choice in addressing safety concerns and housing needs. We also support legislation to strengthen Protective Orders (po's).





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

### Black Women Suffer from High Rates of Domestic Violence

By Adarsh Trehan  
Chair, Domestic Violence Committee

February is Black History Month. During this month, it is important to honor the achievements and contributions of African American men and women to our country. It is also an appropriate time to discuss domestic violence (DV) in the African American community.

DV affects people regardless of their socio-economic status, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, or ethnic origin. However, African American women experience some of the highest rates of intimate partner violence (more information on this is listed below). “Only American (Native) Indian women and Alaska Native women have a higher DV incidence. More than 4 in 5 American (Native) Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced [domestic] violence, and more than 1 in 2 have experienced sexual violence.”  
<https://www.nyscadv.org/newsevents/blog.html/article/2021/02/26/black-history-monthhttps://indianlaw.org/issue/Ending-Violence-Against-NativeWomen>

Thirty percent of Hispanic women and 15% of Asian or Pacific Islander women also experience domestic violence.

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

According to The Black Women’s Health Project “domestic violence is the number one health issue facing Black women.

- 40% of Black women will experience DV across their lifetimes, compared to 30.2% of White women.
- Black women are three times more likely to die (because) of intimate partner abuse than white women.

<https://www.lacasa.org/blog/2023/2/22/black-history-month-shining-a-light-on-domestic-violence-in-the-african-american-community>

Why? Poverty and the lack of economic security contribute to their victimization. They often work at low wage jobs while having children, so they may have to choose between continuing to be victims

along with their children or experiencing homelessness. They often decide that staying in an abusive relationship is the better choice (but painful) for them.

“These victims also experience DV differently than white women do because of the phenomenon of ‘misogynoir.’ It means that they live at the intersection of racism and sexism. For example, Black girls are sexualized and seen as more grown up than white girls of the same age. Black women also face over-sexualization, a stereotype that goes back to European enslavement of Africans, and that was used to justify the 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>

Sadly, despite all these problems, “Black women experience the public stigma, silence, and victim-blaming that surrounds domestic violence, and it’s magnified by a complex history of oppression, over-policing, and discrimination. As a result, Black survivors experience compounding barriers to safety, to asking for help, and to receiving help when it’s asked for.”

<https://www.lacasa.org/blog/2023/2/22/black-history-month-shining-a-light-on-domestic-violence-in-the-african-american-community>

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



*The League of Women Voters of the United States has a “moonshot” goal of eliminating the electoral college within 50 years.*

## Electoral College in the 2024 presidential election

The Electoral College is the process by which the states and District of Columbia elect the president of the United States. Each state is represented by a number of electors equal to the size of its congressional delegation. There are 538 electors in total. To win the Electoral College, a candidate must receive a majority—at least 270—electoral votes.

Thirteen states gained or lost electoral votes following the 2020 Census:

- Texas gained two votes;
- Colorado, Florida, Montana, North Carolina, and Oregon each gained one;
- California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia each lost one.

From: [Electoral College in the 2024 presidential election - Ballotpedia](#)

If you would like to delve deeper into the issues surrounding the Electoral College, the non-partisan Brennan Center for Justice has a thorough explainer posted here: <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/electoral-college-explained>



## LWV Statement on the Three-Year Anniversary of the January 6th Insurrection

January 5, 2024

Today the League of Women Voters of the United States President Dr. Deborah Turner and CEO Virginia Kase Solomón issued the following joint statement on the anniversary of the January 6th attack on the US Capitol:

“Three years ago, our nation’s capital faced an unprecedented threat to our democracy that will be etched in

the memory of our nation forever.”

“The violent attempt to overturn the 2020 election results was a flagrant disregard of the core components of our democracy—the power of the vote and the peaceful transition of presidential power. This must not happen again.”

“As this presidential election cycle begins, and millions of Americans head to the polls to vote for the next president in primaries starting this month, there is more work to be done to defend our democracy. We need Congress to pass federal voting rights legislation to protect our rights, our election officials, and our free and fair elections.”

“At the League of Women Voters, we envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate. The League remains committed to our mission of empowering voters, defending democracy, and ensuring free and fair elections for all.”

## League Day in Richmond

February 7

We are making plans to attend League Day. It is our opportunity to interact with legislators. Watch for updates in ENews.

## Contributions wanted!

Do you have something you would like to share with our League? We would love to have your contributions to publish in *The Fairfax Voter*. Maybe you have a personal story about voting or helping others register to vote? Did you attend one of the sessions of the Women’s Legislative Roundtable and learn something worth sharing? Is there an issue you think we need to know more about?

Send your contributions to [editor@lwv-fairfax.org](mailto:editor@lwv-fairfax.org).

# Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

## Topic: How Books are Chosen and How Books are Challenged

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 4, 2024, the locations were correct; please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend. Some meetings at restaurants may need reservations.

### Saturday, February 3

**10 a.m. - Briefing for Unit Discussion Leaders/Members Welcome - Virtual**

This meeting will serve as the briefing for Unit discussion leaders. Members welcome, but you will need to contact Judy or Julie to receive a zoom invite.

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)

### Thursday, February 8

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

Virginia Kitchen, 450 Elden Street, Herndon  
Contact: Charleen, 703-620-3593,  
[Charleen.deasy@verizon.net](mailto:Charleen.deasy@verizon.net)

**10:00 a.m. Springfield (SPF)**

**- In Person and Virtual**

Packard Center,  
4022 Hummer Road, Annandale  
Contact: Jane, 703-256-7834  
[patchwork1@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:sadill@cox.net)

**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](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)

### Monday, February 12

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

### Wednesday, February 14

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

**- In Person**

8739 Cuttermill Place, Springfield  
Contact: Diana, 707-866-0796  
[dianawhite@gmail.com](mailto:dianawhite@gmail.com)  
or Sue, 703-266-0272,  
[sueoneill1@hotmail.com](mailto:sueoneill1@hotmail.com)

**10 a.m. McLean Day (McL) - In Person**

Dolley Madison Library,  
Conference Room 1  
1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean  
Contact: Anne, 703-448-6626,  
[akanter@cox.net](mailto:akanter@cox.net)

**10:30 a.m. Mount Vernon Day (MVD) - In Person**

Sherwood Library, Room 3, 2501  
Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria  
Contact: Diana, 703-704-5325,  
[jfdw1111@gmail.com](mailto:jfdw1111@gmail.com)

### Thursday, February 15

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

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

Gregorio's Restaurant  
1428 N. Point Village Center  
Reston  
Contact: Wendy, 703-319-4114,  
[wendy.foxgrage@gmail.com](mailto: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.*

**March Meetings:  
LWVFA Book Club—Reading a Banned Book**



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 2024**

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