

# Fairfax VOTER

January 2024

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## The Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy

Between 2005 and 2020, one quarter of the nation’s newspapers closed, leaving 1800 communities with no local news outlets. Several national studies have shown the impact of these closures on various aspects of our society, particularly those that are fundamental to our democratic system of government. Studies have shown that there is a direct correlation between low voter turnout and increased partisan politics in areas with no local paper.

Washington State Leaguers embarked on a study of the news industry in their state. Until this report, there had been no comprehensive study of the situation as it pertained to Washington state. At the of the process ... they developed new positions for the Washington State League (LWVWA). Now they would like other leagues to concur with their positions and then have their positions approved at the LWVUS national convention in June 2024.

### Calendar

#### January 2024

- 3 Fairfax Voter Deadline for the February 2024 issue
- 3 LWVFA Briefing and At-Large Mtg., 7 p.m.
- 5 LWVNCA Virtual Board Mtg., 10:00 a.m.
- 6 Testimony to the Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly
- 8-11 LWVFA Unit Meetings at various locations around Fairfax County
- 10 WLRT Session, 8:30 a.m.
- 10 General Assembly Convenes
- 17 LWVFA Board Meeting, time TBD
- 17 WLRT Session, 8:30 a.m.
- 24 WLRT Session, 8:30 a.m.
- 31 WLRT Session, 8:30 a.m.

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## Presidents' Message

Dear League Friends,

We want to thank you all for a wonderful and successful 2023. The year was so busy, and flew by so fast. When you have small children, they tell you the days are long, but the years are short. I think that describes what we have been experiencing.

We hope that everyone has had a chance to enjoy some time with friends and family over the holidays and reflect on the many blessings we all enjoy. For us, you—your energy, ideas and commitment—definitely are a great blessing.

Of course, the work is never done! We are getting ready to register more voters, provide information on the upcoming elections, encourage all voters to VOTE, and join with our colleagues from around Virginia to lobby our state legislators during the upcoming session.

With your help, we will succeed.

A very Happy New Year to everyone,  
Pat and Katherine



### A Grassroots Organization - That's the League

By Julie Jones

LWVFA Members' voices and ideas are important. In the coming months, Leaguers can suggest studies for new positions, updates or revisions of current positions or deletions of any out-dated positions for LWVUS and LWVFA.

A League position is a statement of a League's point of view on an issue. Positions develop through a process of membership study, membership agreement (consensus or concurrence), and approval by the appropriate League board. Leaguers act only when we have a position on an issue. With the backing of our positions, we can lobby government officials to enact legislation and rules which reflect these positions.

We use LWVFA positions and positions of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWV-US), the League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA), and the League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA) to advocate.

In 2024, we review LWVFA and LWVUS positions which can be found in brief and in full at [www.lwv-fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org) under the heading "Action and Advocacy."

By February 15, 2024, send your ideas for new studies or changes to: [judy.helein@lwv-fairfax.org](mailto:judy.helein@lwv-fairfax.org).

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.



## Attend the Women's Legislative Round Table Sessions

The Women's Legislative Round Table (WLRT) was founded in January 1981, following work by female legislators to educate and equip themselves and other women to learn more about proposed legislation. Today, this nonpartisan forum is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Virginia and includes legislators, partner organizations, and the public.

The 2024 Virginia General Assembly begins on Wednesday, January 10, which is also the date of the first WLRT session. The WLRT sessions are scheduled for every Wednesday (except February 7) at 8:30 via Zoom and in-person until March 6.

February 7 is League Day in Richmond, and we hope that LWVFA members will attend this important in-person event. Traditionally, this is the day when we distribute "Fairfax Facts" to the Fairfax delegation. More information about League Day will be coming soon.

For details and to register for the WLRT sessions, go to the LWVFA website's home page, <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/>



## Women's Legislative Roundtable



## Out with the Electoral College?

By Katherine Ingmanson

With Presidential elections in 2024, we wanted to remind you that the League of Women Voters supports the direct election of the President by popular vote (abolishing the electoral college). In her message played at the LWV-VA convention in June, LWV President Dr. Deborah Turner described this effort as a fifty-year "moon shot." The official LWV position is:

### Direct Election of the President by Popular Vote

- The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice President is essential to representative government.
- The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished.
- We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for the election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished.

If you are interested in learning more, Ballotpedia has a substantial article with the latest on the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact here: "National Popular Vote Interstate Compact - Ballotpedia."

And, *Washington Post* recently had an interesting article on how our voting system has built biases into Senate representation, an issue that is adjacent to the Electoral College: Why the Senate is increasingly skewed on race, parties and policy," *Washington Post*. (Both links are accessible online.)

### High School Voter Registration

Why is high school voter registration essential? It is the first step to becoming an active voter. AND when young people are registered, they vote.

According to an article published by *The Civics Center*, more than 75 percent of registered youth (ages 18 to 24) voted in every presidential election from 2004 to 2020.

The LWVFA high school team knows that students are very interested in voting for president. We already have schools reserving multiple days for voter registration. To meet these requests, we will need volunteers almost every week during the second semester of the school year.

As schools send us their class schedules, Sign Up Genius registrations will be created. Watch for calls for volunteers in "ENews" or keep your eye on the Volunteer Calendar under the Volunteer tab on our website.

Help young people become VOTERS!



**WE NEED YOU!  
DEMOCRACY IS NOT AN ARMCHAIR  
SPORT**

**By Margaret Knight**

Are you feeling worried and depressed about the erosion of voting rights and civil liberties? Then consider joining LWVFA's leadership team. Taking an active part in defending our democracy is cheaper than therapy and healthier than taking antidepressants.

The Nominating Committee is busy preparing a slate of officers to lead our League in 2024-2026. We are charged with proposing a full slate of officers to be presented for approval at the February 2024 Board Meeting. No experience is required to be an officer! Just a passion and desire to support and promote the mission and goals of the League of Women Voters here in the Fairfax area is all that is necessary.

Some positions are "on Board," meaning that the individual is expected to attend the monthly board meetings, which are currently on the third Wednesday of each month. Many other positions are "off Board," meaning that they carry out their duties without attending the monthly meetings. An interest and commitment to LWVFA works at various levels of involvement. Information about specific positions and their responsibilities can be found at: <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/members-info>

While the Nominating Committee will be recruiting members to serve on Board and off Board positions, everyone is welcome and encouraged take a more active role in "making our democracy work" by helping to promote and support the activities of our organization. Our League is an active one and all ideas and support are appreciated. The League does not support or endorse any political party or individual; rather, it is non-partisan, promoting voter registration and education. LWVFA is a group of dedicated men and women that informs its members and the public about voting and issues to make our communities better in every way! You are already a part of that organization. Don't pass up this opportunity to become more involved in our organization and make great friendships along the way! We need you!

Two-year positions expiring June 30, 2026

- Co-president
- Programs
- Treasurer
- Unit Coordinator

Off-board committees:

- Budget
- Community/condo Elections
- Legacy
- Development

Contact a member of the Nominating Committee for more information and to let us know if you are interested. The other members of the committee are: Peggy Knight, [peggyknight49@gmail.com](mailto:peggyknight49@gmail.com), 703-772-4939; Mary Valder, [mary.valder@lwv-fairfax.org](mailto:mary.valder@lwv-fairfax.org); Arina van Breda, [arina@lwv-fairfax.org](mailto:arina@lwv-fairfax.org); Alice Reilly [alice.reilly@lwv-fairfax.org](mailto:alice.reilly@lwv-fairfax.org), and Charleen Deasy, [Charleen.deasy@verizon.net](mailto:Charleen.deasy@verizon.net), 703-620-3593. Feel free to reach out to any one of us if you want to learn more.

## The Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy

By Julie Jones

### A Study by The League of Women Voters of Washington

In light of their interest in promoting democracy, Washington State Leaguers embarked on a study of the news industry in their state. At the end of the process, they developed new positions for the Washington State League (LWVWA). Now they would like other states to concur with their positions and then have their position approved at the LWVUS national convention in June 2024.

“The nonprofit League of Women Voters of Washington is committed to the mission of defending democracy and empowering voters. We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.” This is the position that LWVFA is asked to discuss and decide to concur or not:

### The LWVWA Local News Position (adopted 2023)

#### Position in Brief

The League of Women Voters of Washington believes it is the responsibility of the government to provide support for conditions under which credible local journalism can survive and thrive. The League of Women Voters of Washington defines local news as accurate, in-depth coverage of government entities, including but not limited to, city councils, county councils, county boards of commissioners, health departments, schools, and school boards.

#### Position

- LN-1: The League supports credible and ethical local journalism, in whatever format it is published, as essential to our democracy.
- LN-2: The League of Women Voters of Washington supports efforts to ensure everyone has access to information necessary for casting an informed ballot and that credible local news sources are integral to this pursuit.
- LN-3: The League of Women Voters of Washing-

ton believes that support for the viability of local news may take a variety of forms. Control of the content must remain exclusively with the news organizations.

- LN-4: The League of Women Voters of Washington also believes media literacy and news education, including support for journalism students, is essential. These opportunities should be expanded in schools and throughout communities.
- LN-5: The League of Women Voters of Washington believes that everyone should have access to comprehensive, credible local news and that barriers to access should be removed. These barriers include, but are not limited to, geography, economic status, and education.

#### Concurrence

Concurrence is an agreement among a substantial number of members, reached after study, leading to acceptance, reaffirmation, or rejection of a previously formulated statement of position. According to the LWVUS’s *In League*, the concurrence or consensus reached by members through group discussion is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity; rather it is the overall “sense of the group” as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions, whether in a membership meeting or a series of membership or unit meetings.

Leagues may concur with a statement or position arrived at by another League, a position stated by a study committee based on its research or reflecting widely-held views, or a position of long standing which they wish to reaffirm. The proposed position must be judged exactly as it is written and may not be amplified or made subject to conditions.

From members’ viewpoint, the simplest distinction between the two types of studies is that in reaching concurrence they discuss and vote on a statement; in reaching consensus they discuss and vote on a question or questions (and may or may not then agree on a statement). Ideally, both require a thorough examination of all facets of the issue by a committee and then by League’s members.

The Preface, Executive Summary, and Conclusion of the Washington State study *The Decline of Local*

*News and Its Impact on Democracy* are found below.

The full 134-page report can be found on the websites of Fairfax Area, Virginia and Washington State. <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/>, <https://lwv-va.org/>, and <https://www.lwvwa.org/>. It can also be found on Amazon Books for around \$10.

### Preface

Between 2005 and 2020, one quarter of the nation's newspapers closed, leaving 1,800 communities with no local news outlet. Several national studies have shown the impact of these closures on various aspects of our society, particularly those that are fundamental to our democratic system of government.

Until this report, there has been no comprehensive study of the situation as it pertains to Washington state. At the 2021 convention of the League of Women Voters of Washington, delegates authorized a study of the decline of local news in Washington to support League development of a policy position.

The charge of the study committee was to evaluate the condition of news outlets in Washington. Were they disappearing at the same rate as other states? If so, were Washington residents experiencing the same known impacts of lower political participation, less government oversight, higher government costs, reduced community engagement, and a lack of communication about public health? We consider these elements fundamental to our democracy and system of government.

Using standard reporting techniques, committee members gathered information from more than 50 scholars, journalists, elected officials, and government and civic leaders, including public health professionals. The committee also reviewed more than 500 documents, from scholarly studies to articles in the popular press.

Other efforts included tracking circulation and staffing trends within the state, closures of newspapers and the occasional rise of a new outlet. Newspapers with a general population readership as well as those that serve specific ethnic communities were reviewed.

The committee also examined potential measures to

protect local news — such as legislation, nonprofit ownership, community partnership, and philanthropy.

The task was not to present solutions. Rather it was to provide information to make readers aware of the significance of the issue with a goal of reaching consensus on a League policy.

### Executive Summary

The newspaper in your hands is a shadow of its former self. Or perhaps you don't bother with print and check the news on a tablet or smart phone. Or, like millions who choose not to pay for local news, you get a quick take on what's happening in the wider world via an app such as Facebook, Twitter, or TikTok.

Local newspapers—the vehicle millions have relied on for information for important, even critical, life decisions for decades—are in crisis.

Between 2005 and 2020, more than one fourth of the country's newspapers—2,100 in all—disappeared. Half the journalism jobs went away. So did half of the newspaper subscribers. The losses left residents of 1,800 communities in news deserts, meaning they had no local newspaper.

This data is from Penelope Muse Abernathy, a former journalist and now a faculty member at the University of North Carolina and a visiting professor at Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism.

Abernathy's research represents some of the most comprehensive reporting on the crisis. She is the author of five major research projects on the topic, the most recent published June 29, 2022. In that publication, Abernathy updated the decline: "Newspapers are continuing to vanish at a rapid rate. An average of more than two a week are disappearing." That means the country is on track to lose a third of its newspapers by 2025.

### Why is that important?

Even before our country's founding newspapers were a cornerstone of civic lives, newspapers provided information that enabled readers to be involved in efforts to grow our fledgling democracy. Over the centuries, newspapers have continued to educate readers about

significant issues, including providing information so that we could select leaders to help us build healthy and productive communities.

In subsequent years, the media landscape has changed dramatically. The influence of radio and televised news broadcasts and more recent forms of communication—like online news sites, blogs, and social media—has further shaped how Americans access news and information. Expanding the formats and sources of news has masked the real disappearance of newspapers.

National research shows the loss of newspapers over the past 20 years has caused serious impacts: Fewer people running for office and fewer people voting, less community engagement, increased political partisanship, and negative outcomes in public health and public finance, among other concerns.

The world, according to the American Press Institute, “is awash in communication.” Often these vehicles provide factual, even critical, information. But some of the information these sources provide isn’t journalism. Journalism, according to the institute, is information that features a systematic discipline of verification. That verification not only presents facts, but it presents the truth about the facts.

Newspapers—with staffing that includes fact-checking editors and reporters who consistently track developments in local government—have been the leading producers of this type of information. Over the years, newspapers have provided more in-depth and continuous reporting on city councils, county councils or county boards of commissioners, health departments, schools and the like. This is known as beat reporting, or “accountability reporting,” which, as the American Press Institute explains, is “the work of holding the powerful accountable.” Few local television and radio outlets are able to consistently provide this level of reporting.

The focus of this study is on newspapers because of the preeminent role they play. Countless reports support that premise:

“Despite the economic hardships that local news-

papers have endured, they remain, by far, the most significant providers of journalism in their communities,” according to Duke University researchers, Philip M. Napoli and Jessica Mahone. “Essentially, local newspapers produced more of the local reporting in the communities we studied than television, radio, and online-only outlets combined.”

A 2011 Federal Communications Commission report also noted that newspapers traditionally have fielded the most reporters in a community and set the agenda for the rest of the local media.

This is a good time to explain this report’s use of the term “newspaper.” Recognizing the contributions of an increasing number of online-only publications, this study makes use of an inclusive definition.

*Harbor Now*, a local online-only publication, is considered a newspaper because it provides comprehensive reporting of the area’s people, government agencies, schools, and activities.

This report also reflects the thinking of Rob Curley, executive editor of *The Spokesman-Review* in Spokane. In an interview with Frontline on Dec. 13, 2006, when he was a vice president at *The Washington Post*, Curley explained, “As long as we understand that the most important part of the word ‘newspaper’ is ‘news’ and not ‘paper,’ we are going to be fine.”

#### Why focus on local newspapers?

The nation’s big papers—*The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*—don’t provide daily coverage of the communities where most of us live. Unless you live in greater New York City or in or around the nation’s capital, you won’t learn much from those publications about events and developments that occur near you. And despite the changing media environment, the online circulation of those publications is growing.

This study details efforts to deal with the crisis, including more frequent and thorough online coverage, reductions in print frequency, more robust local coverage, legislation and community fund-raising.

#### What this study uncovered for Washington?

Washington has lost more than two dozen weeklies and three dailies out of the 140 that existed in 2004, roughly 20% of its newspapers. Again, that compares with a national loss of 25%, which is on track to increase to 33% by 2025.

Staffing declines in Washington are greater than the nationwide average. According to Abernathy, newsrooms nationwide have lost more than 50% of their staff. In Washington, Sen. Maria Cantwell reports newsroom losses of 67%.

Both nationally and in Washington, coverage has shrunk dramatically. In perhaps the most egregious case, the newsroom staff at *The News Tribune* in Tacoma, purchased a few years ago by a hedge fund, declined from more than 120 employees to just over more than two dozen.

More than half of the nation's dailies are owned by large chains, many indebted to finance firms. In Washington, six papers are owned by a hedge fund and all but one have experienced drastic circulation declines.

Particularly distressing is the story at two Chatham Asset Management-owned papers: *The Olympian*, serving the state capital, and *The News Tribune*, which serves the state's second most populated county. Like those across the country, Washington newspapers are suffering because their funding models collapsed in the wake of the expansion and popularity of the internet and Big Tech, including Facebook, Google and Microsoft.

#### What is the impact?

As is the case throughout the nation, the decline has meant Washington, too, is experiencing an explosion of mis- and disinformation, creating significant challenges for public health officials and others.

Coverage of government agencies and elected officials in Washington has dropped significantly, as well. Those changes apparently have been a relief to some officials, but are concerning to the more conscientious. How do people know, for instance, about inappropriate behavior by those in power? Or about a lack of adherence to regulations? Or about construction projects where corners have been cut?

How do people know where to locate the latest vaccine to combat a public health crisis or for support for children whose lives have become chaotic because of a pandemic?

National studies link a drop in voter participation to the newspaper decline. Original research by the news study committee found a similar outcome for Washington. The decline also has meant less community engagement and greater political partisanship. Observers lament the loss of the souls of communities and the glue that holds communities together.

This study confirmed a troubling reality best described by Benjamin Shors, an associate professor at Washington State University's Edward R. Murrow College of Communication: "This is not a journalism problem. It's a democracy problem."

As the Federal Communications Commission detailed in 2011, people need information about the subjects on which reputable newspapers report: health and welfare, emergencies, jobs and businesses, education, transportation, civics and politics. This information is critical for safe and productive lives in healthy communities.

Our country's founders recognized this reality, enshrined protection for a free press in the U.S. Constitution, and took additional steps beyond that to provide support for it. "To Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Thomas Paine, 'freedom of the press' did not simply mean that the government would reject censorship," wrote journalists Robert McChesney and John Nichols. "It meant that the government had the fundamental obligation to see that journalism actually existed, that there was something that the government could not censor."

McChesney, whom the committee interviewed, explained: "A free press required a literate population that had ready access to newspapers. For the first several generations of U.S. history, there was no sense at all that journalism could exist on its own courtesy of market forces without enormous government support."

The League values institutions that serve the public



good, including libraries, public education systems, public health programs and the justice system. Newspapers, too, serve the public good.



### Conclusion

This study makes clear the reality and consequences of the local newspaper decline in Washington state. It also makes clear the expansiveness of the decline, from major metropolitan dailies to small rural weeklies to specialized publications that serve communities of color.

The loss of staffing, the closure of newspapers and the dramatic reduction of coverage affect the communities and lives of Washingtonians. The impact is apparent in at least five areas: less civic engagement, greater political partisanship, reduced political participation by candidates and voters, higher cost of government, and negative developments related to public health.

When our founders established our country, they recognized that a free press is essential to the functioning of a democracy. Testament to that is the protection they provided the press in the First Amendment to the Constitution. The founders established it was appropriate to encourage journalism's survival in the marketplace and created mechanisms for its viability such as reduced postal rates.

As revealed by the individuals the committee interviewed and reports the committee studied, the decline of local news threatens our democracy in very real ways. That reality should prompt action by the League of Women Voters, the leading nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering voters and defending democracy.



## February and March 2024 are LWVFA Book Club Months

### *Libraries: How Books are Chosen & How Books are Challenged*

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.

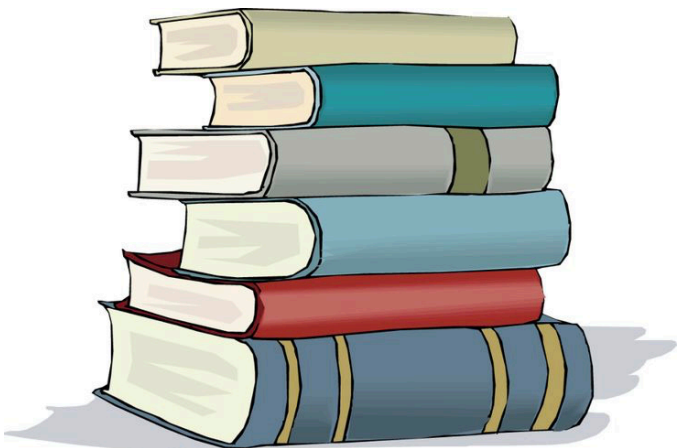
Some suggestions:

#### 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



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

By Adarsh Trehan  
Chair, Domestic Violence Committee

January is both human trafficking awareness month and stalking awareness month. People who are trafficked often live in the households of employers or work in their offices in menial jobs and then suffer from abuse. Stalking is a form of domestic violence.

*What is human trafficking?* Human trafficking is the control and exploitation of another person's labor or commercial sex work by force, fraud, or coercion.

Forcing someone to engage in commercial sex work against their will is a form of sexual violence. Commercial sexual exploitation includes using force, fraud, or coercion to facilitate the exchange of sex acts for anything of value, including money, drugs, or basic needs such as food, clothing, or shelter.

Force can include the use of physical or sexual violence. Coercion can include threats of violence, emotional manipulation, or controlling access to basic needs. Fraud can include someone claiming the victim owes them money or is paying off a debt.

Human sex trafficking may be perpetrated by a victim's intimate partner or family member(s); through a commercial business such as a restaurant, massage parlor, or modeling agency; or through a gang or pimp.

Sexual exploitation of minors is legally considered trafficking regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion are used. Sex trafficking is a crime under United States and Virginia law.

Learn what events and trainings Domestic and Sexual-Violence Services is holding to observe Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

*What is stalking?*

- Repeated and unwanted contact that makes you feel afraid or harassed.
- Serious, often violent, and can escalate over time.
- Common. About 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men have experienced stalking in their lifetime.
- Pervasive. 81% of women who were stalked by a current or former husband or cohabitating partner were physically assaulted by that partner; 31% of women were sexually assaulted.
- Can impact a person's mental well-being. Research shows 83% of stalking victims experience significant levels of anxiety, 75% have trouble sleeping, and 48% lost their appetite. A quarter of

stalking victims say they have attempted suicide or thought about suicide.

- A crime in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- A crime that happens across all ages and genders, though people aged 18 to 24 have the highest rate of stalking victimization.
- A crime with financial repercussions. 1 in 8 stalking victims has reported losing work because of the stalking. More than half of these victims reported losing five or more workdays.
- Starts early. Nearly 54% of female victims and 41% of male victims experienced stalking before the age of 25.

Stalking happens in many types of relationships. Stalking can look like a current or former romantic partner, friend, stranger, family member, community member, boss or coworker who:

- Calls, texts, sends social media messages, or leaves voicemails even after you've asked them to stop.
- Constantly checks in on you at home, work, or school.
- Vandalizes your car or other property.
- Controls your phone, internet or social media.
- Shows up where you are, even when you haven't shared your location with them, and
- Asks friends, family or co-workers for information about you.

Prevention is possible. Everyone can work together to know, name, and stop stalking by:

- Helping to educate others to define and recognize stalking behaviors.
- Engaging men and boys as allies in prevention efforts.
- Creating and supporting safe environments within relationships, schools, and communities through programs and policies that promote healthy relationships."

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/domestic-sexual-violence>

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

# Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

## Topic: Washington Study on the Decline of Newspapers

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 December 1, 2023, 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.

### Wednesday, January 3

#### **7:00 p.m. At Large Meeting / Briefing - Virtual**

This meeting is open to all members and will serve as the briefing for Unit discussion leaders.  
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)

### Monday, January 8

#### **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, January 10

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

Mount Vernon Government Center  
2511 Parkers Lane,  
Mount Vernon  
Contact: Diana, 703-704-5325, [jfdw1111@gmail.com](mailto:jfdw1111@gmail.com)

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

Location to be determined. Please contact the unit leaders for meeting information.  
Contact: Diana, 707-866-0796, [dianawhite@gmail.com](mailto:dianawhite@gmail.com) or Sue, 703-266-0272, [sueoneill1@hotmail.com](mailto:sueoneill1@hotmail.com)

#### **3 p.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)

### Thursday, January 11

#### **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)

#### **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)

#### **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. 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)

#### **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)

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.

## February Meetings: Libraries, An American Value: How Books are Chosen & How Books are Challenged



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®  
 January 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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**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