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To the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors;

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has the opportunity and legal authority to pass an Ordinance prohibiting the carrying of firearms into county-owned or operated parks, buildings, recreation centers and on streets adjacent to permitted events. Fairfax County can, and should, join local communities across the Commonwealth, from Newport News to Alexandria, and enact an Ordinance protecting the welfare and safety of its residents.

The League of Women Voters of Fairfax Area supports such an Ordinance. We believe that public libraries, parks and government buildings should, now and forever, be safe spaces that allow for and encourage open discourse and sharing of ideas without threat or intimidation by gun carrying citizens. We support allocation of funds for this purpose. Our members stand in solidarity with the vast majority of Virginians who support gun safety laws.

- Polls consistently show Virginians support stronger gun safety laws along a range of policies. (86% for background checks, 73% for extreme risk protection order)¹

Our League's advocacy on gun violence prevention goes back many years. The Pohick Public Library hosted the League's educational forum on gun use in domestic violence matters and suicide back on March 22, 2015.² The library was filled with parents and their children and senior citizens. This peaceful and productive day was disrupted by 12-armed attendees, wearing guns on their hips, and coming from as far away as Richmond in response to a last-minute solicitation by gun advocates. The League withstood the armed citizens' intimidation tactics and held the forum. Make no mistake, the gun carrying activists, without just cause, had a chilling effect on the speakers and the members of the public who already feared for their safety from domestic violence.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area supports quick passage of an Ordinance prohibiting the carrying of firearms into county-owned or operated parks, buildings, recreation centers and on streets adjacent to permitted events.

Respectfully submitted,
Anu Sahai, Co-President
League of Women Voters Fairfax Area

¹ https://richmond.com/news/virginia/poll-virginians-favor-strict-gun-laws-oppose-local-control-over-confederate-monuments/article_9cf19af7-66ed-587d-b1eb-7c7900f72817.html
<https://www.13newsnow.com/article/news/local/virginia/cnu-poll-virginia-voters-strongly-back-gun-control-laws/291-66141928-68c9-4e1b-838b-bfede8374c44>
https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/new-poll-finds-virginia-voters-focused-on-gun-policy-ahead-of-pivotal-election/2019/10/03/db034922-e472-11e9-a331-2df12d56a80b_story.html

² <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2015/mar/26/league-women-voters-hosts-forum-firearms-domestic/>