



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA**

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The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) has noticed that the County's housing program has become an issue in their year's election, with some questioning whether the County should be involved in this area at all.

Virginia's Governor would disagree with the notion that government does not have an important role to play in housing policy. Governor McDonnell has convened a Workgroup to develop recommendations for a State Housing Policy and has stated that strong housing policies are essential to his plan to attract more businesses and to increase economic development in the Commonwealth.

The County's Economic Development Advisory Committee would also disagree. It has recommended to the Board of Supervisors that County policies include affordable and workforce housing to remain competitive in the search for businesses to locate in the County. Housing advocates maintain that providing housing for families at a variety of income levels helps employers recruit and retain their workforce. If employers cannot attract and keep employees, they will not relocate to Fairfax County.

The LWVFA agrees with Governor McDonnell and with the County's Economic Development Advisory Committee. We believe that providing affordable housing to families of all income levels is good policy. It enables public sector employees like policemen, firemen and teachers to live in the communities they serve. And it lets businesses know that all their employees, from the CEO to the receptionist, can find affordable housing within the County.

The League encourages Fairfax County residents who have questions about the value of the County's housing program to contact the Governor's Workgroup at www.Virginiahousingpolicy.com and the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority at www.Fairfaxcounty.gov/rha.

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