

# Fairfax VOTER

November 2023

Volume 76, Issue 3

## **General Meeting: Women in Politics**

Data shows that when women run for local office, they are as likely to be elected as their male counterparts. However, women are less likely to enter the political fray. Now that the elections are over, we will have a discussion with three women from different political perspectives on why they ran for office, what the barriers are for women, and how we can encourage more women to run in the future.

Next month, units will gather again. We will have a special program on Civil Discourse focussing on the issue of Food Insecurity.

### **Calendar**

Note: No LWVFA Unit Meetings in November

1-30	Native American Indian Heritage Month
3	Fairfax <i>Voter</i> Deadline for the December 2023 issue
3	LWVNCA Virtual Board Mtg, 10 a.m.
7	Election Day: Polls, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.
7	Absentee Ballot Return Deadline, 12 noon if mailed on or before Nov. 7
8	LWVFA Legacy Committee Meeting
10	LWV-VA 103rd Birthday
15	LWVFA Board Meeting, Virtual, 10 a.m.
19	LWVFA General Meeting 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
28	Giving Tuesday

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## Presidents' Message

Dear Fellow Leaguers,

Have you voted yet? Have you made a plan to vote on Election Day, November 7? Have you asked your friends/family/neighbors if they have a plan? If you still aren't sure who to support, check out Vote411 and the recordings of candidate forums on our website. There are some very significant differences between candidates; this was particularly clear in the forums.

We have been all about the elections this fall, and now we are at the finish line. Everyone deserves a break, but the work doesn't stop. As you'll see elsewhere in this edition of the *Voter*, we will have our General Meeting later this month, and we are planning a special event to thank our many volunteers and the incredibly hard and effective work you all put in.

And, we hope you will all have a chance to join family and friends on Thanksgiving to reflect on the many blessings we all enjoy.

Pat and Katherine



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

### LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2023-2024

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.

## Nominating Committee Recruitment

By Mary Valder

It is hard to believe, but the Nominating Committee of LWVFA is starting to think about and plan for the next slate of officers to lead our League in 2024-2025. 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 to 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 women and men 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
- Voter Services
- Treasurer
- Unit Coordinator

Off-board committees:

- Budget
- Community Elections
- Legacy

Contact Peggy Knight, chair of the Nominating Committee, for more information and let us know if you are interested.

She can be reached at [peggyknight49@gmail.com](mailto:peggyknight49@gmail.com); 703-772-4939. The other members of the committee are 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.



## General Meeting of the LWV of Fairfax Area November 19, pm to 4 pm via Zoom

The LWV Fairfax will hold a general meeting with an invited panel of three local women who have run for elected office. Data indicates that women who run are as likely as their male counterparts to be elected but women are less likely to choose to run.

Studies indicate various possible barriers. Women may be less likely than men to be willing to endure the rigors of a political campaign. They may be less likely than men to be recruited to run for office. They may be less likely than men to have the freedom to reconcile work and family obligations with a political career. They may be less likely than men to think they are “qualified” to run for office. Finally, they may be less likely than men to perceive a fair political environment.

We will hear from our panelists about their experiences and advice to other women who are thinking of running for office.

The Meeting will be held via Zoom November 19 from 2-4 pm

To Register please use the QR code below.



## 2023-24 School Board Update

by **Diana White**  
LWVFA School Board Observer

The 2023-24 School Board held its first meeting of the year on August 31, 2023. With the new school year, the School Board is faced with many changes concerning new members, policies, budget and procedures. The Superintendent, Dr. Michelle Reid, has presented her new initiatives and the strategic plan for the year. More changes are upcoming for the Board as the November elections are approaching. Finally, the Board continues to address significant and challenging issues facing the schools and the community. The great news is the state passing the new budget and giving the VA schools over 420 million dollars, finally.

A major change this year is the transfer of leadership. Racha Sizemore Heizer stepped down as Chair and Elaine Tholen has been elected to be the new Chair of the Board. The new Vice-Chair is Karl Frisch. There are two other board members who are not returning next year, Cohen and McLaughlin. A couple of board members are expected to run for Delegate or Senate races in November. The Board continues to serve the students, staff, and community even though we may see different board members in the coming year.

Dr. Reid was excited to present and update her new Strategic Plan (2023-30) to the Board. This plan has admin, staff, student and community input and totally a collaborative plan. The plan is the “North Star” for aligning on excellence, equity, and opportunity for each and every student in FCPS. The plan has Five Goals:

- Strong Start: PreK-12
- Safe, Supported, Included and Empowered
- Academic Growth and Excellence
- Equitable Access and Opportunity
- Leading for Tomorrow’s Innovation

This plan has been a truly collaborative effort, and we look forward to witnessing the growth and potential as the plan is implemented.

Dr. Reid also presented the data on the summer school program for 2023. It was very successful and well attended. It served 33,398 students, involved 3,826 staff members, 23 programs and 87 sites. Summer School served students in all elementary, middle and high schools. The transportation to and from this program was a huge success due to the great bus drivers and administrators.

Other upcoming changes are the addition of middle school track, algebra for all 7th graders, and the salad bars placed in all elementary schools. Of course, there are many other new initiatives and programs, and we encourage the students to take advantage of all the services available to them.

In summary, the Board is facing many challenges such as transgender policies, legal matters, National Merit Award policies, safe schools, and budget concerns. The community continues to address the Board with its concerns at the School Board meetings that are held every two weeks at Luther Jackson Middle School. I will continue to update the League on upcoming changes and decisions. Feel free to attend board meetings either in person or viewing from home. The meetings are televised on PBS, Channel 99 (9). You can also view the minutes and agenda on the FCPS website under the “School Board Docs.” Stay informed as our students, and staff depend on us.

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### All Citizens Should Vote

The document, “12 Reasons Why Women Should Vote,” was published by the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia in 1916. Passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 allowed some women to vote, but Native American, Asian-American, Latina, and African American women had to continue campaigning for additional decades to obtain voting rights. Today there are still roadblocks that keep citizens from voting. As Leaguers, we must remain on guard against voter suppression and fight so that all citizens have access to voting. Equally as important is the need to improve voter turnout, especially in off-year elections. We must convince citizens that voting in state and local elections is important and that the results will impact their daily lives. Urge your friends, family, and neighbors to vote on or before November 7. Share the early voting dates and locations. (Find the information in the center section of your October *VOTER*) Wear a vote button every day when you go to the grocery store, library, or mall. If ALL LWVFA members wore a button, there will be over 400 walking-around ads for voting. If you need a button, stop by the League office, and get a button from the table in the conference room. As Reason 12 summarizes the reasons for voting, “It is for the common good of all.”

## TWELVE REASONS

### WHY WOMEN SHOULD VOTE

1. BECAUSE it is the foundation of all political liberty that those who obey the Law should have a voice in choosing those who make the Law.
2. BECAUSE most Laws affect women as much as men, and some Laws affect women more than they do men.
3. BECAUSE the Laws which affect women are now passed without consulting them.
4. BECAUSE Laws affecting children should be regarded from the woman's point of view as well as the man's.
5. BECAUSE questions affecting the home come up for consideration in every session of the Legislature and of Congress.
6. BECAUSE women have experience which should be helpfully brought to bear on legislation.
7. BECAUSE to deprive women of the vote is to lower their position in common estimation.
8. BECAUSE the possession of the vote would increase the sense of responsibility among women toward questions of public importance.
9. BECAUSE public-spirited mothers mean public-spirited sons.
10. BECAUSE large numbers of intelligent, thoughtful, hard-working women desire the franchise.
11. BECAUSE the objections raised against their having the franchise are based on sentiment, not on reason.
12. BECAUSE to sum up all reasons in one—IT IS FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF ALL.

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EQUAL SUFFRAGE LEAGUE OF VIRGINIA  
COMMERCIAL BUILDING RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

*Reproduced with permission: Virginia Museum of History & Culture (Broadside 1916: 2)*

**KUDOS!**



Thank you to Lyn Lister, LWVFA Candidate Forums Chair. Due to her tireless efforts, we had successful events, and citizens were able to learn more about the candidates. Eleven co-sponsors worked with us to publicize the forums. We appreciate the work of Ben Zuhl, producer, Deborah Wollen, moderator, and the crew of Fairfax Cable Access who televised the Candidate Forums for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Two LWVFA members served as moderators for the two forums on Zoom. Anu Sahai was the moderator for the Candidate Forum for the Member at Large positions on the Fairfax County School Board, and Sarah Mayhew was the moderator for the Candidate Forum for positions on the Soil and Water Conservation Board.

A list of co-sponsors and videos of all the forums are posted on our website. Go to the Candidate Forum link on our home page [lww-fairfax.org/](http://lww-fairfax.org/).



*Lyn Lister in the control room*



*Shawn Whyte, Alexandria-Fairfax (VA) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc; Susan Burk, American Association of University Women; Mbenoye Diagne, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Lambda Kappa Omega Chapter; Deborah Woolen, moderator; Ryan Adams, Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action*

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

**By Adarsh Trehan  
Chair, Domestic Violence Committee**

On September 29, 2023, President Joseph Biden signed a proclamation designating October as Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. The proclamation states “Domestic violence touches every community in this Nation. Americans of every race, religion, and background are affected; its consequences transcend generations, impacting children

and reshaping whole families. During National Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, we stand with the tens of millions of people who have experienced intimate partner violence, and we thank the first responders, service providers, and community members who work to make sure that every American can live in safety, with dignity and respect.”

DV is not just physical. It can also be sexual, psychological, emotional, financial, or even technological or a combination of any of these abuses. Stalking and verbal and physical threats are other forms of DV. “The distinguishing factor between psychological and emotional abuse is that psychological abuse has stron-

ger effects on a victim's mental capacity. While emotional abuse affects what people feel, psychological abuse affects what people think."

<https://www.kdlawgroup.com/blog/2020/08>

Warning signs of such abuse include:

- Making excuses for injuries.
- Showing personality changes, like low self-esteem in someone who was always confident.
- Constantly checking in with their partner.
- Never having money on hand.
- Overly worried about pleasing their partner.
- Skipping out on work, school, or social outings for no clear reason.
- Wearing clothes that don't fit the season, like long sleeves in summer to cover bruises.

<https://www.webmd.com/mental-health/mental-domestic-abuse-signs>

If you witness the above warning signs of abuse in a friend, family member, or co-worker, take them seriously. Be an active listener, then ask them to call the number below to get help! You may save a LIFE!

**703-360-7273, 711 TTY**



## The Annual Meeting of the Council to End Violence

**By Adarsh Trehan  
Chair, Domestic Violence Committee**

The Annual Meeting of the Council to End Violence was held at the Fairfax County Government Center on October 6, 2023. The theme of the meeting was "Every Person, Every Voice." Supervisor James Walkinshaw (Braddock District), Toni Zollicoffer, Director, Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (DSVS), Stacy Ziebell Program Manager, Countywide Coordination, DSVS, and Joe Meyer, Executive Director and CEO, Shelter House, all lauded the efforts of the County agencies and non-profit organizations that provide much-needed services to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

The highlights of the "County of Fairfax COVID-19 Pandemic After Action Report and Improvement Plan" were presented. It covered the accomplishments of the County agencies in helping victims during the COVID epidemic from January 22, 2020 – March 1, 2023. You can read the report at: [fairfaxcounty.gov/emergencymanagement/sites/emergencymanagement/files/assets/images/covid/aar/fairfax%20coun-](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergencymanagement/sites/emergencymanagement/files/assets/images/covid/aar/fairfax%20coun-ty%20covid%20aar%20final.pdf)

[ty%20covid%20aar%20final.pdf](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergencymanagement/sites/emergencymanagement/files/assets/images/covid/aar/fairfax%20coun-ty%20covid%20aar%20final.pdf).

The first keynote speaker was Judge Gayl Y. Brannum Carr, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court (JDRC). She spoke about how judges have changed their focus

and decision-making processes in a positive direction, since she became an Assistant District Attorney in 1991. They have become more victim rather than punishment focused. There is also a greater focus on access, equity, diversion, inclusion, and fairness.

The second speaker was Ashleigh Conrad, Engagement Manager, Girls on the Run of Northern Virginia. It is an organization that works with girls who are 5-18 years old "to strengthen confidence and other important life skills through dynamic, interactive lessons and physical activity." She not only talked about a Girls on the Run for Grown-Ups exercise, "Recentering Self-Talk and Finding Balance" but also taught it to the attendees. She emphasized that we engage in a lot of negative self-talk every day. We need to reframe that negative self-talk and convert it into positive self-talk.

The last speaker was Rebecca Thomforde Hauser, Associate Director, Domestic Violence Programs, Center for Judicial Innovation (CJI), who joined this meeting

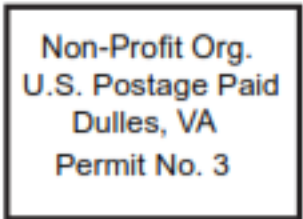
virtually from Vermont. She talked about how CJI has worked with communities to improve their justice systems, through the concept of a "Coordinate Community Response" (CCR). It does this by working not only with the county, city, or state judicial system agencies but also with other community stakeholders, including non-profits, private agencies, victims and survivors, since every voice is valuable. This work involves research, working with operating programs, and providing expert assistance. The DSVS uses a Coordinated Community Response model.

Toni Zollicoffer read the names of and showed a video of domestic violence victims killed by relatives.

There was a DSVS awards presentation. The Community Service Professional of Excellence Award was presented to Elly Wu, Senior Case Manager, Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project. The County Domestic Violence Intake team received the DSVS Community Team Excellence Award. Judge Carr, who is retiring next year, received the DSVS Vanguard Award.



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**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER®  
 November 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 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.

Please Support Our Work! The LWVFA Education Fund is supported by donations from our members and the public.  
<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