



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

Fairfax Voter

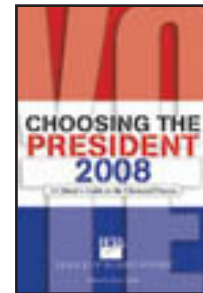
October 2008

(Formerly LWVFA Bulletin)

Volume 61, Issue 2

It's Not Always Easy to Vote

This month's study tackles some issues that have been surprisingly persistent in our democracy—the various barriers that stand in the way of our citizens exercising their right to vote. Over the years certain elements of the population have taken a proprietary attitude toward suffrage, starting with the beginnings of our country when only white male property owners could vote. We have obviously come a long way since then, but our study will demonstrate that we still need to re-craft our election laws to allow anyone who is eligible to vote (and eligibility is still an issue) to exercise that right readily. Why, for example, should it be so hard to register to vote? Do voter ID laws hit certain elements of the population too hard? Why should it be harder to vote absentee in Virginia than it is to vote in person? Why can't we vote on the weekend? And can we trust our voting machines? We hope our study makes you a bit more aware of why we cannot take voting for granted.



Calendar

September

- 22 8th Cong Dist Debate, Fairfax Access Chanel, 7:00 PM
- 26 NCA Reception for LWVUS Board
- 28 *Fairfax Cable Election, 1:00 PM*
- 28 *Kingstowne Library Outreach*
- 30 Rosh Hashana (begins evening of 29th)

October

- 03 November *Fairfax Voter* Deadline
- 03 NCA Presidents' Brunch/NCA Board Mtg
- 04 Briefing/Elections-Part 2/
Packard Ctr 10:00 AM**
- 04 *Fall for Fairfax Outreach*
- 05 *Voter 101 Class: Fairfax Reg. Lib., 2:00 PM*
- 06 Last day to register for Nov. election
- 06 11th Cong Dist. Debates, Fairfax Public Access/Channel 10, 7:00 PM
- 08 *Voter 101 Class: Chantilly Reg. Lib., 7:30 PM*
- 12 *Voter 101 Class: Sherwood Reg. Lib. 2:00 PM*
- 14 *Woodlake Towers Condo Election.*
- 15 *Voter 101 Class: Reston Reg. Lib., 7:30 PM*
- 15 Board Meeting**/Nov. UC Letter Deadline
- 18 RCC Election 10:00 AM-4:00 PM - Reston
- 20-24 *Voter Guides* published
- 27 – Nov.4 VS Phones (turn on Oct.25)
- 31 Halloween

Inside This Issue

President's Message	2
More Help Wanted	2
Welcome to Our New Members	2
What's On the Ballot 2008	3-4
So You Think you Have the Right to Vote	EF1-EF8
Units Kickoff Workshop	5
Action Faction	5
LVW is a Nonpartisan Organization	5
Have a Debate Watching Party!	5
So There's A Proffer . . . Then What?	6
LWV-VA Summer Workshops Successful	6
Unit Meetings and Locations	7
LWVFA Reaches Out To the Public with Voter 101 Classes	7



The President's Message

Election Season is upon us and The League of Women Voters is an "icon" of fairness, neutrality and education during this season. We are doing our part for the community by providing a "course" on elections in Virginia and the City and County of Fairfax. We hope you, as a League member, are sharing the information contained in the September and October *Fairfax Voter* with any and every person you meet.

Also this Fall, in addition to our "What's On The Ballot?" (WOTB- see pages 3 and 4 of this *Voter*) and our *Voters Guide*, LWVFA is providing debates on TV. Thanks to the diligence of **Janey George** as the new Voters Service Outreach Director (and 2nd VP of LWVFA), we have partnered with Channel 10 (Fairfax Public Access; aka, Fairfax Cable Access Corporation) to hold debates for the 8th, 10th & 11th Congressional Districts. The debates are being broadcast 'live' on the internet and in Fairfax County on cable TV (Channel 10). Unfortunately, the 10th District debate was cancelled because two of the candidates chose not to participate. Broadcasts for the other debates are: September 22 for the 8th District, and October 6 for the 11th District, from 7 to 8PM. (See page 5 for more information.) Jim Southworth, CEO of FCAC has been very generous to offer us this broadcasting opportunity. Thank you, Jim!

The Virginia League (LWVVA) had been planning for over a year to hold a debate for the U.S. Senate race in Virginia [between Mark Warner and Jim Gilmore]. CBS offered to moderate and broadcast the debate throughout the state. However, the vagaries of "politics" cancelled the event -- in short, "political expediency" trumped educating the voters of Virginia. We are very disappointed that, once again, the League's efforts to do what we do best, are not utilized.

However, the League does not let a few obstacles get in our way of providing the best voter information available. For the first time, LWVUS (the national League) is preparing a Voters Guide for the Presidential race. That publication will be available on Vote411.org, along with links and election information for the entire country. Check it out and be proud that you are a member of this venerable and *venerated* organization!

Sherry

MORE HELP WANTED!!

We still have a few openings in Reston on **Saturday, October 18** for the Reston Community Center election. The money (for LWVFA) is fantastic!

Another opportunity/ opening is on **Tuesday, October 14** at Woodlake Towers - part-time evening only.

HURRY! Positions are filling fast. Call or email Una White at 703-703-922-8721 or unawhite@gmail.com

Welcome to Our New Members

LWVFA has six new members. Please welcome the following members who joined locally: **Raymund Nolan** and **Kathleen Pablo**. We're glad to have the following nationally recruited members: **Lynn Lashlee, Arlene Camm, Maura Yasin, and Judith Carter-Sandford**.

A membership in the LWV is a great gift. If you have friends or neighbors who are not members of the League and who you discover are poll workers, thank them with a gift of membership in the League of Women Voters. For birthdays and holidays consider giving the gift of League to your family. We know how much the League means to you; don't keep it to yourself--share it with your neighbors, friends, and loved ones.

For information about membership gifts or about your membership, please contact Leslie Vandivere at 703 222-4173 or lvandivere@cox.net

LWVFA Fairfax Voter 2008 - 2009

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The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area
4026 Hummer Road, Suite 214
Annandale, VA 22003-2403
703-658-9150 (Info/fax/answering machine)
www.lwv-fairfax.org league@lwv-fairfax.org

President: Sherry Zachry 703-703-8118
szachry@verizon.net
Editor: Ron Page 703-690-0908
pagegolfer@cox.net
Coordinator: Mary Grace Lintz 703-819-8274
mglintz@comcast.net

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



WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

**Prepared by The League of Women Voters®
of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)**

(703) 658-9150 www.lwv-fairfax.org

General and Special Elections - Tuesday, November 4, 2008

Polls open 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Fall 2008 Voters' Guide

* The League of Women Voters of Virginia sent a questionnaire to candidates qualified for the United States Senate and
* the Northern Virginia Leagues of Women Voters sent a questionnaire to candidates qualified for the United States
* House of Representatives, all whose name will appear on the November 4, 2008 General Election ballot. Candidate
* responses can be read in the *Fall 2008 Voters' Guide* to be published in editions of *The Connection Newspapers* the
* week of October 20, 2008, or viewed on the LWVFA website, www.lwv-fairfax.org.

For additional information on the November 4, 2008 General and Special Elections, including voter registration,
district in which you reside, or precinct polling locations, contact:

Fairfax County Office of Elections	703-222-0776	www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb
City of Fairfax General Registrar	703-385-7890	www.fairfaxva.gov/Registrar/GeneralRegistrar.asp
Virginia State Board of Elections	800-552-9745	www.sbe.virginia.gov

Candidates are listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot,
as determined by lot at the State Board of Elections.

Ballot Order and Political Abbreviations: (D) = Democrat; (R) = Republican; (IG) = Independent Green;
(L) = Libertarian; (G) = Green; (I) = Independent * = Incumbent

Electors for President and Vice President of the United States

Barack Obama (D) Joe Biden www.barackobama.com	John McCain (R) Sarah Palin www.johnmccain.com	Chuck Baldwin (IG) Darrell L. Castle www.votejoinrun.us	Bob Barr (L) Wayne A. Root www.bobbarr2008.com
Cynthia McKinney (G) Rosa Clemente http://mckinney-clemente.org		Ralph Nader (I) Matt Gonzalez www.votenader.org	

United States Senate

Mark R. Warner (D) www.markwarner2008.com	James S. "Jim" Gilmore III (R) www.jimgilmoreforsenate.com	Glenda Gail Parker (IG) www.gailparker.us	William B. Redpath (L) www.redpath2008.com
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United States House of Representatives

8th District James P. "Jim" Moran, Jr. (D)* www.jimmoran.org Mark W. Ellmore (R) www.markellmore08.com J. Ron Fisher (IG) www.ronfisherforcongress.com	10th District Judy M. Feder (D) http://judyfeder.com Frank R. Wolf (R)* http://wolfforcongress.com Neeraj C. Nigam (I) www.nigamforcongress.org	11th District Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly (D) www.gerryconnolly.com Keith S. Fimian (R) www.keithfimian.com Joseph P. Oddo (IG) www.indygreen.org
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