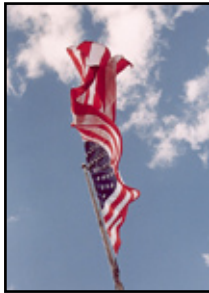




A Look at Issues Critical to Democracy



This month we take up several issues that are crucial to our democracy. The first involves the League’s partnership with the U.S Census Bureau to urge an accurate count of our population, thus ensuring just representation in Congress and adequate Federal funds coming our way. Materials will be on hand to suggest ways we can reach out to Hard to Count populations (HC). We also have the opportunity to get an early look at “What’s on the Ballot?” Members can get a head start at familiarizing themselves with candidates and issues. Also in this issue is the outline of voting issues the statewide LWV-VA Election Study Committee will be taking up. This will give us the opportunity to step in during the formative stages and send our concerns on to the state committee.

Calendar

September

- 17 Constitution Day
- 18-19 Rosh Hashanah
- 26 Middle East Panel
- 28 Yom Kippur

October

- 02 President’s Brunch &
NCA Board Meeting
- 12 LWVMD Fall Workshop
- 12 LWV-VA “The People’s Debate
- 24 LWVFA Board Meeting
- 24 NCA Lincoln Tour Event
- 24 United Nation’s Day

November

- 03 VA General Election
- 06 NCA Board Meeting
- 21 LWVFA Board Meeting

Inside This Issue

President’s Message	2
Warm Welcome to New Members	2
New Member Reception Planned	2
Make the League More Visible	3
Units Raise Over \$4,000	3
BRAC Road Construction Proceeds	4
Former Envoy Addresses Vienna Unit	4
Study of VA Election Laws	EF-1
Election Procedures Questioned	EF-3
What’s on the Ballot	EF-4
Panel to Encourage Mideast Dialogue	EF-6
In the Spotlight	5
Units Briefed on Census Partnership	6
LWV-VA Provides Update on Efforts	7
League Sponsors Gubernatorial Debate	8
LWVFA Update Voters Guide	8
League Members to Register Voters	8
Unit Meetings Locations	9



The President's Message

The League of Women Voters is known for its work in registering voters, educating the public and doing it in a nonpartisan manner. I believe 89 years ago it was somewhat of a defensive tactic – why should anyone pay attention to what women had to say? But the League kept its nonpartisanship, studied the issues, spoke using solid information and earned the respect of all. Now that our voice is heard by everyone, we need to be nonpartisan more than ever. In today's political world where voting or acting the "party" way seems more important than solving our country's problems, a nonpartisan voice may be the only one listened to and is more valuable than ever.

Like Caesar's wife, appearance can be as crucial. We need to be careful about what we say and how it is said. Today, it's a "catch ya" world; consequently it is more important than ever that when we are doing League work we act, talk, and write ever mindful of how essential it is to not only **be** nonpartisan but to **appear** nonpartisan as well. So, talk about the issues, not the people, and keep all reference to political parties nonpartisan.

Never give the impression that you are speaking for the League. Although only a League president or her designee can represent the League, as an individual you are encouraged to work for what you believe and for whom you believe. Just make sure there is a division between your personal political activity and Voters Service or any work you may be doing for the League. Other than that, have fun!

Janey George

Correction

The September *VOTER* notice about using Pay Pal to pay annual dues was incorrect.

Although it might be possible in the future, LWVFA is not yet able to accept credit card payments for membership dues. At this time, our Pay Pal arrangements are set up to receive only donations--for both the LWVFA general fund (not tax deductible) and Education Fund (tax deductible).

New Member News . . .

A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Members

We are happy to welcome nine new members, all of whom joined at the national level: **Tylee Smith, Jennifer Elsea, Alik Bryant, Merrilee Miller, Kathryn Ives, Dorothy Carlson, Barbara Harding, Sara Wachspress and Les Whitmore.** Please join us at the new member reception on November 18.

Reception Planned for November 18

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area will hold a reception and orientation for new members on Wednesday, November 18, at 1:00 p.m. in the Packard Center -- 4026 Hummer Road in Annandale. The reception will be hosted by the Board Members of the Fairfax League and will also be attended by members of local units. Light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to the League Office at 703-658-9150. Any member who has joined within the last year or so will find this a fun and informative get-together.

Think Green . . .

About 75 percent of the water we use in our homes is used in the bathroom. (California Energy Commission, 2006)

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2008 - 2009

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

Make the League More Visible – Help Out in the Community

By Sherry Zachry, LWVFA Outreach and
Speakers Bureau Coordinator

October brings more opportunities to help out at League events. You can register voters (the deadline for the November 3 election is October 5), hand out League materials, and work at a community election or candidate event. Please read on to see where you can fit in.

We always need volunteers to staff the community/condo elections that LWVFA supervises. Remember, these events provide a major source of revenue for the League. There are four community elections scheduled for this Fall: Fairfax Cable Access Corporation (FCAC); Woodlake Towers Condo Association; Reston Community Center Preference Poll (RCC); and Sequoyah Condo Association. See dates below.

LWVFA likes to participate in candidate events, too. So far, we have been asked to work with the **McLean Community Center** in sponsoring a candidates' event for the House of Delegates races in the McLean/Vienna area (34th District). The date will be sometime after October 12 – if you want to help, let us know and we'll keep you informed. Also, if you know of other debates around the county and would like to get LWVFA involved, please give us the dates and organization sponsoring. We will look into it.

The following are dates for the outreach events and condo elections known at press time (September 1). To volunteer, either sign up at your Unit meetings; or contact **Sherry Zachry** at events@lwg-fairfax.org (703-730-8118) and the LWVFA office at league@lwg-fairfax.org (703-658-9150) to leave a

message). Contact **Una White** for community elections at unawhite@gmail.com (703-922-8721). Remember, many hands make light work for everyone!

Outreach schedule:

Reminder - September 26 (Saturday) LWVFA “Super Saturday,” voter registration at eight regional libraries in Fairfax County and City from 10a.m. to 2 p.m.

September 26 (separate event, same day) Kingstowne Library outreach.

October 11 (Sunday), Clifton Day held in the Town of Clifton from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

October 26 thru November 3: Answering the League phone from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for ten days before Election Day, phone is forwarded to your home telephone for one day—you pick the day. Booklet with voter information is provided.

Community Elections:

- **September 27** (Sunday), FCAC election, at their offices in Merrifield from 12:30 to 4 p.m. – four people needed.
- **October 13** (Tuesday), Woodlake Towers Condos on Route 50 in Seven Corners area—ten people needed from 5 to 10 p.m.
- **October 17** (Saturday), RCC, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at **two** locations in Reston (NOTE: RCC is trying a new process in 2009 – electronic voting—so fewer people will be needed, maybe ten). Since not as many people will be called for RCC this year, consider working one of the other elections.
- **November 17** (Tuesday), Sequoyah Condos election.

Units Raise Over \$4,000 in 2008

By Bernice Colvard, Finance Director

This is our unit project wrap-up report for last year (FY 09). These proceeds were received after the final June *Fairfax VOTER* deadline: CHD \$100; MCL \$75; MVE \$400 (plus #50 matching Funds); Spf \$365 (second event); and VE \$50 (additional). These additions bring total unit efforts for 2008-2009 to over \$4,000— which support the nuts and bolts of League operations. To our units we say: “TAKE A BOW! YOU ARE GREAT!”

Pat yourselves on the back and at the October or November

unit meetings, decide on your unit project activity for this new fiscal year (FY10). As always -- Thank You!

LWVFA Needs to Move!

Packard Center is Closing!

If you know of a small office space for share, sublet or lease, please contact Rona Ackerman 703-476-5758 ackermanrona2@gmail.com. Conference room accessibility preferred!

Action Faction . . .

BRAC Road Construction Continues to Proceed

By Jane Hilder, Action Director

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) met June 22, July 13 and August 3. At the July 13 meeting the Board endorsed final design plans for Mulligan Road, to eventually replace Woodlawn Road through Fort Belvoir that was closed to the public on September 11, 2001, in rapid response to the terrorist attack. Woodlawn Road was a major four-lane artery for south county travel, substantially improved with state highway money. Open to the public, it cut across Fort Belvoir between Richmond Highway (Route 1) and Telegraph Road. Prior to 9/11 Fort Belvoir was completely open to the public. Local children's sports teams used the playing fields and civilian cars could drive across the base without having to check in at a military gate.

The closures of 9/11 cut off the Mount Vernon area residents from the rest of the county. Supervisors and county members of Congress have been trying for years to reopen Woodlawn Road, but when that proved impossible, to build a replacement. Among other impacts of the closure, INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital, located on the east side of Richmond Highway, was considered for closure due to a drop off in patients and revenues. Potential patients from west of Fort Belvoir could no longer cut across the base. Only a public campaign by Supervisors and citizens, followed by a new hospital director and major improvements there by INOVA, saved the hospital and its finances.

Access to and from the Mount Vernon area was further impeded because a 2.5 mile section of the Fairfax County Parkway which would have crossed part of Fort Belvoir west of I-95 was not completed. A section of the Parkway that ran south of the main part of Fort Belvoir on the east side of I-95 was completed years ago, but did not connect other than to the interstate. Mount Vernon residents using that route made a major detour south and then north again to pick up the parkway in Springfield.

Land clearing has begun for Mulligan Road which will extend 1.5 miles from Richmond Highway adjacent to Woodlawn Plantation 1.5 miles to Telegraph Road just on the northern border of Fort Belvoir and south of Huntley Meadows Park. Telegraph Road will be widened from Mulligan Road south to Beulah Street so that traffic can connect to the Franconia Springfield Parkway and thence to Interstate 95/395 or the Fairfax County Parkway. The cost will be paid by the Defense Access Road program, county, state and other federal funds.

Initial funding only covered construction of a two-lane road. The county dedicated its own highway money from commercial and industrial transportation taxes to make it possible to build four lanes. The project will also include bike lanes and a pedestrian trail. The planned completion is summer 2011.

Meanwhile, the placement of the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, as part of BRAC expansion, on Fort Belvoir land west of I-95 necessitated rapid completion of the missing part of the Fairfax County Parkway. That construction is ongoing now, with funding from the state and a big infusion of federal stimulus dollars.

In August the BOS agreed to hold community meetings again in the fall to elicit budget suggestions from the public. Supervisor Herrity asked that the format not be identical to last year when meeting attendees were organized into small groups to develop recommendations on potential budget cuts and items that should not be cut. He felt that system made no allowance for expression of minority viewpoints.

Former Middle East Envoy Addresses Vienna Evening Unit

Ambassador Edward L. Peck was a guest at the Vienna Evening Unit meeting on September 8. Ambassador Peck spoke eloquently of the imbalanced role the United States government plays in the conflict between the Israeli government and the Palestinian state. He described how American supporters of Israel, chiefly the American Israel Public Affairs Committee or AIPAC, have channeled economic, military, and political resources toward the Israeli cause, and how fruitless have been the various peace initiatives through the years because of the unwillingness of the United States and the European powers to confront Israel when it acts to negate or frustrate the goals of those accords.

During his career in the State Department, Ambassador Peck served as the Deputy Director of the Cabinet Task Force on Terrorism during the Reagan Administration and as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. He was Chief of Mission in Iraq and Mauritania, and also served as an embassy officer in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, and Sweden.

The ambassador's appearance was arranged by Ellen Hunt, who was also a guest at the meeting. Ellen works with the Council for the National Interest Foundation. The Foundation seeks a two-state solution for Palestine and a balanced approach to U.S. Mideast Policy.

Election Potpourri . . .

Update on LWV-VA's Study of Virginia Election Laws and Its Current Position

By Sherry Zachry (based on information from Study Chair Betsy Mayr)

At the LWV-VA State Convention in May 2009, delegates voted to study/update the LWV-VA position on Virginia Election Laws, which will be a two-year process (2009-2011). It has been many years since LWV-VA's position has been updated and with technology changes moving at a fast pace, we need to determine if we are in sync with today's technology. Our goal is to ensure that all qualified residents in Virginia will be able to register, vote easily and have each vote counted.

The study committee has determined the following plan for addressing the update.

I. Scope

A. In Scope

1. Voter Registration
2. Funding
3. Election Day
4. Absentee Voting

B. Out of Scope

1. Candidates
2. Campaign Finance

II. Voter Registration

A. Purpose of voter registration

B. What is required to register?

1. Currently, no ID is required to register.
2. Currently, a signature is required to register.

C. Ease of registration

D. ID issues

E. Domicile/abode issues

1. College students in college towns

F. Registration by party is not currently available in Virginia.

1. Open vs. closed primaries

III. Funding

A. Costs

B. Who provides funds?

C. Mandates

1. Funded vs. unfunded

- a. HAVA (Help America Vote Act) provided funds for new voting machines.

2. State vs. Federal

3. Costs

4. Desirability

D. Responsibilities of State Board of Elections (SBE) vs. local Board of Elections/Registrar

1. SBE trains local registrars.

IV. Election Day

A. Election Officers

1. Training
2. Hours

B. Voting Equipment

1. Voting equipment used by each locality

2. Certification by Commonwealth of Virginia

C. Precincts/Polling Places

1. Hours open

D. Release time from work to vote

V. Absentee Voting

A. Early voting (i.e., "no excuse" voting)

B. Overseas voters

C. Internet (online) voting

The study has been divided into two parts, to be covered in two years; each year will have consensus questions on its part. Part I covers Voter Registration; Part II (second year) will cover Election Day and Absentee Voting. Consensus questions and material on Part I will be sent to the local leagues in Virginia by the first part of January, 2010. The deadline for responses from the Leagues is June 1, 2010. The Fairfax Area League has scheduled Part I consensus to occur at the May, 2010 unit meetings.

With the exception of the introductory portion of the current position on Election Laws, it is anticipated by the committee that the entire section will be rewritten, rather than updated, as it is so out of date. Our position in full is repeated below and also can be accessed on the LWV-VA members' web site. The link to Virginia Election Code is: www.law.justia.com/virginia/codes/toc2402000/toc2402000.html

At the August 29 Workshops, the study committee handed out the following questions to each local League, asking for a response as soon as possible. The purpose of the questionnaire was to determine how voter registration is handled in different parts of the state and if the practices vary. The questions were: 1) What is required to register to vote? 2) What is the purpose of voter registration? 3) Are there any ID issues related to registration? and 4) Is it easy to register in your community? If not, why not?

Any League member interested in being part of this study group, either as an active member or as a resource person, should contact Study Chair Betsy Mayr (from Loudoun Co.

LWV), at studychair@lwv-va.org, 703-777-9425 (h) or 703-624-3924 (c). Betsy's address is 1109 Nickels Place SW, Leesburg, VA 20175. We have heard that the Secretary of the State Board of Elections is very interested in our study; so it is not too late to become involved in this exciting venture which embodies the *essence* of the League of Women Voters, no previous experience required.

The complete wording of the current LWV-VA position reads as follows:

ELECTION LAWS POSITION (from complete positions book, *LWV-VA Positioned For Action-2009*)

Position in Brief:

Support for recognition that voting is the right of citizens, including laws and policies that facilitate and increase registration and voting; requirements for convenient local registration places and times for all segments of the community; procedures that facilitate and expand the use of absentee ballots; mandatory training for election officials; and extension of voting period up to one month, including Saturday and Sunday voting.

The League's Position

The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens; that registration and voting should be made as easy as possible and that voting is a right and a responsibility.

Election laws should:

- Be designed to facilitate and increase registration and voting with uniform standards and administration;
- Require adequate mandatory training for election officials;
- Ensure availability of registered voter lists for election purposes;
- Ensure right to an absentee ballot for qualified voters;
- Provide party identification of candidates on the ballot;
- Assess cost of recount in a close election to the government.

Absentee Voting:

The LWV-VA believes that the emphasis of absentee voting provisions should expand opportunities for voting. Effective administration should be used to prevent fraud. We support the following measures to permit any eligible voter to vote an absentee ballot:

- Use of a statement, under oath, that the applicant will be unable to vote in person on election day;
- That written requests signed by the applicant should be acceptable;
- The use of Federal Post Card application or simplified VA form should be readily available. Methods used in other states to provide last minute absentee voting in case of emergency should be considered by the Virginia Board of Elections.

Early Voting

The League believes that extending the voting period to more than one day will increase participation in the voting process and improve the turnout in elections.

The League supports:

- The extension of the voting period up to one month;
- The ability of qualified voters to vote on Saturdays and Sundays;
- Voting in person without specifying reason;
- Choice of voting locations to ensure greatest participation should consider population diversity and distance but cost should not be a primary deterrent;
- Measures to ensure secrecy, security, and integrity of the ballot.

Registration

The League believes that the primary purpose of registration should be to:

- Prevent fraud;
- Preserve an orderly system of voting; and
- Facilitate election procedures.

To prevent fraud we support:

- A system of signature identification be used with an alternative means for those unable to sign their names.

To create and preserve an orderly system of voting we support:

- A requirement for state responsibility for initiating accessible voting registration for all with uniformity across the state. State law should require local election officials to provide registration opportunities at a variety of well publicized locations and at times convenient to all segments of the community.

To facilitate election procedures we support:

- The redefinition of domicile for the purpose of voting to ensure each citizen his right to vote.

- A statement under oath, but not subject to evaluation or interpretation, should be considered a declaration of intent to vote in one locality and no other. (1995)

Election Procedures Questioned

by Lois Page, Program Director

Last September and October's LWVFA programs on voting issues raised questions and requests for more information about election processes. As a result, during program planning time last December, LWVFA recommended a statewide re-study of election laws. Our request prevailed and the two-year study is underway. Here is a review of questions and issues that were raised.

How do states with less stringent registration, such as North Dakota with no registration required, avoid fraud or overworked registrars? Could registration be made easier by having it in malls and shortening the time between registration and voting? One unit suggested we have a national voting registry to avoid voter fraud. How do states, such as Maryland, that have a shorter time process registrations? Several recent articles in the Washington Post have pushed for simplified and unified voter registration procedures so perhaps this is an issue whose time has come

There are two forms of Absentee Ballot Applications and Voter Registration forms for Virginia circulating. Do they both work? The answer is yes. The new forms are formatted for readability but the main difference is that only the last 4 digits of one's Social Security number (SSN) are requested on the new ones, in response to recent legislation requiring safeguards for SSNs. The new Voter Card you received replaces the SSN with a new voter identification number.

There is still confusion about what ID is truly required at the polls. One of our members was made to return to her car in the rain for picture ID that was erroneously required. Another question involved ID when voting in your old precinct if you moved within the state and had not yet re-registered. You may vote in your old precinct for a limited period of time. One's Voter Card from the previous location would be the best form of ID, especially if your other ID has your new address. If you move from another state and haven't had time to change your registration, you may still vote in your new location in a presidential election year as you may request a presidential ballot that does not include local contests.

Someone wanted to know about the B envelope in an Absentee Ballot. This is where you place your completed ballot to return to the Office of Elections. If the information requested on that envelope is not completed, your ballot will be rejected. This includes some information, often overlooked, such as the date. What happens when a person votes absentee and then dies? Carol Hawn, LWVFA Voters Service Director, who also worked with the Board of Elections, responded: "To the best of my knowledge, the Registrar does not receive death certificates. If a person mails in a ballot (or votes absentee in person) prior to Election Day, the Office of Elections may be unable to retrieve the ballot, and wouldn't know the person died unless family notifies the Registrar. Often, the Office of Elections may receive notification when an annual absentee ballot is returned because the person has passed." As to when absentee ballots are counted, Carol answered, "Absentee ballots are counted after 7:00 p.m. on Election Day." They are processed in the Central Absentee Precinct (CAP)." Among the areas for further discussion are the need for absentee voting to be easier and especially the need to eliminate having to state a reason for wanting to vote absentee. The Virginia study is taking up the issue of absentee ballots, so watch for more information on this

Other questions included: Are the lists purged if people do not vote after 4 years? Must people be able to speak English in order to vote? Does the Federal Elections Commission play any role in voting problems? How well do Optical Scan machines work?

There was concern about the confusing differences among the states' election procedures and the need to change the way Virginia deals with a widespread emergency that keeps people from the polls. A personal favorite for further discussion is the shocking discovery that many military and overseas persons' votes are not always able to be counted. An article last fall by Deborah Hastings of the Associated Press (*Savannah Morning News*, Oct. 11, 2008) reported that only about 30 percent of overseas military ballots were tallied in the 2004 presidential election, according to data from the Federal Election Assistance Commission. She reports, "The mail-in process can take up to 60 days from start to finish, even though some ballots weren't available until October."

So bring your favorite election questions and complaints to the October units and we will pass them along to the election laws study committee that is currently hard at work. If you have last September and October Voters on hand, bring them along as they might spark some discussion.



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 3, 2009

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

For additional information on the November 3, 2009 General and Special Elections, including voter registration, absentee voting, district in which you reside, or precinct polling locations, contact:

Fairfax County General Registrar	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. The order of the candidates
 ★ affiliated with political parties was determined by lot at the State Board of Elections.
 ★ Independent candidates are listed in alphabetical order.
 ★
 ★ Ballot Order and Political Party Abbreviations: (R) = Republican; (D) = Democrat;
 ★ (IG) = Independent Green; (L) = Libertarian; (I) = Independent * = Incumbent
 ★

Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia

Robert F. “Bob” McDonnell (R)
www.bobmcdonnell.com

R. Creigh Deeds (D)
www.deedsforvirginia.com

Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia

William T. “Bill” Bolling (R)*
www.billbolling.com

Jody M. Wagner (D)
www.jodyforva.com

Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Virginia

Ken T. Cuccinelli II (R)
www.cuccinelli.com

Stephen C. Shannon (D)
www.shannon2009.com

Fall 2009 Voters' Guide

The League of Women Voters of Virginia sent a questionnaire to all candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General qualified for the November 3, 2009 General Election ballot. In addition, the Northern Virginia Leagues of Women Voters sent a questionnaire to all other qualified candidates. Candidate responses can be read in the *Fall 2009 Voters' Guide*, to be published in editions of *The Connection Newspapers* the week of October 19, 2009, and available for viewing on the LWVFA website, www.lwv-fairfax.org.

Disclaimer: Candidate contact and other information provided in What's on the Ballot? was furnished by the campaigns to the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA), or obtained from the Virginia State Board of Elections, Fairfax County Office of Elections, or official campaign or political party websites. The LWVFA is not responsible for any changes or inaccuracies in those listings. Information is current as of the date of printing. This is not an official publication for any candidate or campaign, but for informational purposes only.

A nonpartisan political membership organization, the League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Funds for the publication of What's on the Ballot? provided by the LWVFA Education Fund. 09/09/09



The LWVFA is a proud partner in the Census 2010 effort.

Virginia House of Delegates

34th District

Barbara J. Comstock (R)
www.comstockfordelegate.com
Margaret G. Vanderhye (D)*
www.vanderhye.com

35th District

James E. "Jim" Hyland (R)
www.hylandfordelegate.com
Mark L. Keam (D)
www.markkeam.com

36th District

Hugh M. "Mac" Cannon (R)
www.cannonfordelegate.com
Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum (D)*
www.kenplum.com

37th District

David L. Bulova (D)*
www.davidbulova.com
Anna M. Choi (IG)
www.votejoinrun.us
Christopher F. DeCarlo (I)
cdecarlo@fairfaxpropane.com

38th District

Danny R. Smith (R)
www.dannyfordelegate.com
L. Kaye Kory (D)
www.kayekory.com

39th District

Joseph G. "Joe" Bury (R)
www.joebury.com
Vivian E. Watts (D)*
www.vivianwatts.com

James L. "Jim" Leslie (IG)
www.pulsarnet.com/jimleslie

Matt J. Cholko (L)
www.mattcholko.com

40th District

Timothy D. Hugo (R)*
www.timhugo.com

Susan S. Conrad (D)
www.susanconrad.com

41st District

Kerry D. Bolognese (R)
www.bolognesefordelegate.com

Dave W. Marsden (D)*
www.marsdenfordelegate.com

C. Monique Berry (IG)
www.votejoinrun.us

42nd District

David B. Albo (R)*
www.davealbo.com

Greg A. Werkheiser (D)
www.gregfordelegate.com

43rd District

Tim D. Nank (R)
www.timnank.com

Mark D. Sickles (D)*
http://marksickles.com

44th District

James E. "Jay" McConville (R)
www.gojay.org

Scott A. Surovell (D)
www.surovell2009.com

Glenda Gail Parker (IG)
www.gailparker.us

45th District

Vicki L. Vasques (R)
www.vasquesforva.com

David L. Englin (D)*
www.davidenglin.org

46th District

Sasha Gong (R)
www.sashagong.net

Charniele L. Herring (D)*
www.herringfordelegate.com

49th District

Adam P. Ebbin (D)*
www.adamebbin.com

53rd District

Christopher D. Merola (R)
www.merola09.com

James M. "Jim" Scott (D)*
www.delegatejimscott.com

67th District

James M. "Jim" LeMunyon (R)
www.lemunyon09.com

C. Chuck Caputo (D)*
www.delegatecaputo.com

86th District

Thomas Davis Rust (R)*
www.tomrust.org

Stevens R. Miller (D)
www.stevensmiller.com



The final day of voter registration is Monday, October 5, 2009.

Contact your General Registrar for more information.

Fairfax County School Bond

Visit www.fcps.edu/news/bond09.htm for more information on the Fairfax County School Bond, below.

Question: Shall the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue capital improvement bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$232,580,000 for the purposes of providing funds, in addition to funds from school bonds previously authorized and any other available funds, to finance, including reimbursement to the County for temporary financing for, the costs of school improvements, including acquiring, building, expanding and renovating properties, including new sites, new buildings or additions, renovations and improvements to existing buildings, and furnishings and equipment, for the Fairfax County public school system?

Fairfax County School Board

Providence District

This election is to fill the vacated Providence District seat on the Fairfax County School Board. Only voters residing in Providence District are eligible to vote. School Board candidates are not identified by political party affiliation.

Christopher F. DeCarlo
cdecarlo@fairfaxpropane.com

John N. Jennison
www.johnjennison.com

Patricia S. "Patty" Reed
www.reedforschoolboard.com

CITY OF FAIRFAX

COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE

William Page Johnson II (I)*

TREASURER

Stephen L. Moloney (I)*

LWVFA Panel to “Encourage Public Conversation” About the Middle East

By: Lois Page, 2nd Vice President/ Program Director

“Peace in the Middle East” Does the U.S Have an Effective Role to Play?” will be the subject of a panel discussion, Sunday, October 18, at Pohick Regional Library in Burke.

A distinguished panel of experts has agreed to participate in the discussion which will encourage input from the audience. They will be introduced by Janey George, LWVFA President.



Moderator **Ambassador Thomas Pickering**, whose five-decade diplomatic career has allowed him to be bestowed with the title of “Career Ambassador,” will moderate the panel. In the course of his career, Ambassador Pickering has served his country in so many capacities. From the State Department website comes this information: On May 27, 1997, Thomas R. Pickering was

sworn in as Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. He holds the personal rank of Career Ambassador, the highest in the United States Foreign Service. Prior to becoming Under Secretary, he served as the President of the Eurasia Foundation, a Washington-based organization which makes small grants and loans in the states of the former Soviet Union in support of democracy and economic reform. He previously served as Ambassador to the Russian Federation from May 1993 until November 1996. He also served as Ambassador to India from 1992-1993, Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 1989-1992, Ambassador to Israel from 1985-1988, to El Salvador from 1983-1985, and to Nigeria from 1981-1983. He was Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs from 1978 to 1981. From 1974 until 1978, Ambassador Pickering was the United States Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Panelist **Ambassador Warren Clark** joined the Foreign Service in 1963, and his first assignment was vice consul at the U.S. consulate in Aleppo, Syria, 1964 - 1966. He then became an economic officer at Embassy Luxembourg, 1966 - 1968, to be followed by an assignment to the State Department as an economist, 1968 - 1971. Mr. Clark then

served as the Libyan desk officer for a couple of years before another assignment as an economist in the Department of State, 1974 - 1976. He then went to the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, Canada, as a Treasury representative, 1977 - 1981. He was designated Deputy Representative on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations where he served for a year before becoming Minister-Counselor (Political and Security) at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. From 1985 to 1986, Mr. Clark was economic counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Lagos, Nigeria, and in 1986 he served as deputy chief of mission in Lagos. In 1987 he was named Ambassador to the Gabonese Republic and as Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. He worked on Middle East Oil price negotiations, was desk officer for Libya, and represented the U.S. on the UN Security Council for Middle East and African issues. In 2008 Ambassador Clark became Executive Director of Churches for Middle East Peace.



Panelist **Mohammed Abu-Nimer** is Professor of the International Peace and Conflict Resolution program at American University’s School of International Service as well as the university’s Director of Peacebuilding and Development Institute. Dr. Nimer is considered an expert on conflict resolution and dialogue for peace, having conducted

research among Palestinians and Jews in Israel. He has conducted interreligious conflict and resolution training in many conflict areas around the world and has written extensively on the subject. He is co-author of *Unity and Diversity: Interfaith Dialogue in the Middle East*.

Panelist **Dr. Christopher Mitchell** is Professor Emeritus of the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University. His first serious research into conflict sources and dynamics involved work in the Horn of Africa before it was afflicted by the “Cold War,” followed by an examination of peacemaking and peace breaking in the Sudan on the 1970s and 1980s. Later work involved efforts to develop solutions for the conflict over the Falklands/Malvinas Islands, which involved an examination of the intellectual dead ends provided by concepts such as

“territorial sovereignty,” “self determination” and uni-dimensional “national identity.” Most recently, together with his colleagues Wallace Warfield and Kevin Avruch, plus a group of ICAR students, Chris Mitchell has headed the Institute’s “Local Zones of Peace” project, which involves delineating and analyzing local communities’ efforts to establish neutral and secure “zones of peace” in countries suffering from protracted conflicts, such as the Philippines, Colombia and El Salvador. Professor Mitchell is currently supervising a number of doctoral dissertations and working on a textbook that summarizes the current state of our knowledge of the overall field of “Conflict Analysis & Resolution” – actually a replacement for his “classic” *The Structure of International Conflict* – and [with ICAR alumnus Dr Landon Hancock] on editing a book of papers arising from the Zones of Peace Group’s research, tentatively entitled *Seeking Sanctuary*.

Panelist **Norman Howard** served in the U.S. Government for 23 years, including eight years as an intelligence research analyst with the Defense and Commerce Departments from 1965 to 1973, specializing in the Middle East. Beginning in 1977, he served for 11 years in the Department of State’s Bureau of Public Affairs as writer and editor and chief of the Editorial Division. He left government in 1988 to enter private business and retired in 2005. Norm lived in Lebanon during the late 1950s, when his father was stationed there as a

Foreign Service Officer, attending high school at the American Community School in Beirut and graduating in 1960. During the summer of 1962 he studied Arab and Islamic history at the American University of Beirut. While in living in Beirut, Norm visited numerous Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon as well as in Jordan and the Gaza Strip. In 2003 Norm and his wife Maxine



Jaubert participated in an interfaith study tour of Israel/Palestine sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Norm has arranged numerous presentations on the Middle East at his church in Reston and has lectured occasionally on the Palestine problem before other church and business groups.

Pohick Library is located at 6450 Sydenstricker Rd, Burke, VA 22015-4274. The panel will be held in the library conference room at 2:00 pm. Refreshments will be served. For more info, contact Lois Page at loismpage@cox.net or 703-690-0908.

In The Spotlight . . .



Anne Thomas, Public Relations/ Membership Database and Bill Thomas, Budget Chair

Anne first joined the League in Houston in the early 1970s where she and Bill had moved shortly before a November election. “I had no idea about issues and candidates, but I had heard about the League of Women Voters and turned to them to help me become an educated voter.”

The first woman to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.S. in metallurgical engineering, Anne also has an M.S. in materials engineering from Drexel. After the family moved to Fairfax County in 1978, she switched careers and became a software engineer. She also joined LWVFA. Needless to say, she has always been an ardent believer in women’s rights.

Anne was an active member while she was employed but has been even busier since her retirement in 2001. Currently, she wears two hats on the board, managing our public relations as well as maintaining the LWVFA membership database online. She has also been Nominating Committee chair, Bulletin Editor (before it became the VOTER), and chair of our local Housing study.

Bill joined the League around 2002 at Anne’s urging, after observing unit meetings and League activities from the sidelines. He serves LWVFA as budget chairman and has run the Reston Community Center elections for several years. An economist, he spent most of his Washington career working on defense issues at the Congressional Budget Office and continues as an adjunct staff member at the Institute for Defense Analyses and the Rand Corp. Anne and Bill are unit officers and frequent hosts for the Vienna Evening Unit.

With two grown sons and two young grandchildren to spoil, Anne also makes time to be active in Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and is an accomplished seamstress. Bill’s other activities include stamp collecting and fantasy baseball.

Units Briefed on Census Partnership



O.G Harper, LWVFA's Census liaison, briefed attendees at the Unit Kick Off in September about the League's role in the upcoming attempt to ensure every local resident is counted. O.G. then proceeded and will continue to visit as many units as possible in the upcoming months to explain the process to members and hand out materials.

She outlined the roles units can play in the effort:

1. Research in each unit's area to identify organizations (churches, schools etc) that serve Hard to Count (HC) people. O.G is hoping that 2 people from each unit will identify an organization with which they might partner to get the word out for a total of 48 partnerships.
2. Get involved in a way with which each participant is comfortable in the job of getting to know the HC people, seeing if they are willing to partner with us. For example, this might involve going to some of the meetings that the partnership organizations have with their HC people.
3. Evaluate what we are doing and thinking to see if we're accomplishing what is necessary to begin working with the organizations and their Hard to Count people.

O.G. says she knows that all of this cannot be done at unit meetings. She is standing ready to coach the people who take this on as they work independently of the units. She hopes they will report back to the units and perhaps get others involved. Members not affiliated with units who would like to help should call the League office at 703-658-9150 or e-mail league@lwv-fairfax.org. More information about the census effort can also be found on the LWVFA website: www.lwv-fairfax.org.

The message that all Leaguers can begin spreading from now on is as outlined on the census website: (http://2010.census.gov/2010census/about_2010_census/007625.html)

Why fill out the census form?

Every household in the country will receive a questionnaire in 2010. To ensure an accurate and fair count of all populations at all geographic levels in the nation, the Census Bureau needs you or someone in your household to respond to the census questionnaire.

- **It's important.** – Census data affect funding for your

community, your community's representation in Congress and your community leaders' planning decisions.

- **It's easy.** – The census questionnaire takes only a few minutes to answer and return by mail.
- **It's confidential.** – Your responses are protected by law (Title 13, U.S. Code, Section 9). All Census Bureau employees have taken an oath to protect confidentiality and are subject to a jail term, a fine – or both – for disclosing any information that could identify a respondent or household.
- **It's required by law.** – The information you provide is combined with responses provided by your neighbors and other households across the country, to provide summary statistical data that are used by various local, state and federal agencies.

Reasons why the census is important

- **Census affects funding in your community**
Census data directly affect how more than \$400 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to communities for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, transportation and much more. That's more than \$4 trillion over a 10-year period. Spending just a few minutes to fill out your census form will help ensure your community gets its fair share of federal and state funding.
- **Census affects your voice in Congress**
Mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the census is also used to apportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and to redistrict state legislatures.
- **Census affects your representation in state and local government**
Census data are used to define legislature districts, school district assignment areas and other important functional areas of government.
- **Census informs your community's decisions**
The census is like a snapshot that helps define who we are as a nation. Data about changes in your community are crucial to many planning decisions, such as where to provide services for the elderly, where to build new roads and schools, or where to

State Board Summary . . .

LWV-VA Provides Update on Efforts

By Sherry Zachry, Outreach/Speakers Bureau

Education Fund:

- The SBE Residency Task Force, meeting in Richmond on Aug. 28 & 29 to discuss comments on the interim report, will issue a final report on Aug 29 which then goes to the Attorney General's office for review and will be submitted to the Justice Department for approval. Olga Hernandez, LWV-VA President, a member of the Residency Task Force, attended the Friday meeting.
- "The Peoples Debate," organized by LWV-VA and AARP will take place Monday, Oct. 12, at 8 p.m., since both gubernatorial candidates McDonnell (R) and Deeds (D) have agreed in writing to participate. Co-produced by Richmond television stations WCVE (PBS affiliate) and WTVR (CBS 6), the debate will be broadcast live from the WCVE studios and carried by CBS and PBS television and radio stations throughout the Commonwealth. Judy Woodruff will moderate. Press release on website.
- *LWV-VA Voters Guide* questionnaires have been sent to candidates for statewide office, responses due to Sue Worden who will get them to Carol Hawn (who assembles the Guides for Northern VA LWVs) and other local Leagues by September 7; will be published in Fall *Virginia Voter* (deadline of October 2).
- Election Laws Study has been split into two parts, over two years, with consensus questions for each year. Part I timeline includes consensus questions on Voter Registration to local Leagues by Jan. 2, 2010, with material to follow and results due back to LWV-VA by June 1, 2010. Part II – Election Day & Absentee Voting –will be covered the next League year (2010-11).
- Decision regarding LWV-VA Ed Fund joining the coalition called the Virginia C-3 Table [*i.e.*, "Network"] was tabled until Lynn Gordon can research advantages/disadvantages with other Leagues around country who have joined (or not joined) their respective C-3 networks. (Note: "C-3" refers to non-profit organizations who carry the IRS 501 "c-3" tax-deductible status)
- Anne Sterling encouraged us to work with the Virginia Supreme Court Office of Executive Secretary in compiling material for the planned LWV-VA publication on the court system in Virginia.

Operating Fund:

- Olga emailed all LWV-VA members with information on Senator Mark Warner's stand on health care reform

earlier in August.

- A letter urging support for health care reform was sent by Olga to entire Virginia congressional delegation in August.
- The Women's Roundtable (WRT) Pre-Session meeting and luncheon will be held Wednesday, December 2, 2009 in the State Capitol Building, House Room 3 and Senate Room 3, respectively. Board meeting and sleeping rooms for December 1 will be at the newly renovated Hilton Garden Inn, 501 W. Broad St. in Richmond (across from Marriott).
- Workshops Agenda includes Membership retention and involvement conducted by Lynn Gordon in the morning, Speaker Marc Johnson of Sorenson Institute before lunch, and Technology in afternoon with panelists Carol Lindstrom (LWVMC) and Vivian Paige (LWVSHR) on blogging and Facebook, Marjorie Lynum (LWVFA) on Twittering, and Sheryl Wolfe on websites and League Easy Web. Luncheon tables will be grouped according to interests such as voters service, program, etc.
- Sue Lewis circulated a draft "Action Priorities for 2010" letter to be included in LWV Presidents' and LWV-VA board members workshop folders; response needed by November 13.
- Sense of board on joining Virginia Press Associate opposition to new rule protecting privacy of jurors was that topic was not in purview of LWV-VA.
- Possibility of new MAL Unit in Newport News/Hampton area is being explored.
- PMP Summary for 2009-10 of amounts due to LWV-VA from local Leagues shows a projected decrease of \$1,500 from FY09 due to decrease in membership.
- End of Year, FY08-09, Treasurer's Report shows balance of \$52,615.91 in Operating Fund account; OF books were reviewed by a Financial Review Committee of Hatsy Cutshall (Loudoun LWV), Doris James (Fairfax Area) and Bonnie Franklin (Arlington) and a draft report indicates that they were found to be in good order..
- Anne Sterling and Lynn Gordon are composing a letter to LWVUS about deficiencies in the 2009 "Virtual Council" process as experienced by them when they participated in the online event.
- Discussion on length of LWV-VA Council in Lynchburg May 2, 2010 resulted in board agreement to encourage attendees to spend Friday evening (May 1) at a social event in Lynchburg, organized by the board, in order to spread travel time for participants over a two-day period. Council would be a one-day event on Saturday.

Live from Richmond . . .

VA League Co-Sponsors Gubernatorial Debate

The League asked and the candidates will come! In conjunction with AARP, The Virginia League of Women Voters (LWV-VA) has organized “The People’s Debate” to be carried live on **CBS and PBS television** and radio stations **at 8 p.m. on Monday, October 12.**

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Creigh Deeds and Republican candidate Bob McDonnell have agreed to debate each other at the studios of Richmond PBS affiliate WCVE. WCVE and CBS 6 WTVR are co-producing the event and distributing it live to all Virginia broadcasters.

The debate will be moderated by Judy Woodruff, veteran political reporter and senior correspondent for *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*. Questions will come from a panel that includes Olga Hernandez, LWV-VA President, Bill Kalio, AARP Virginia state Director, CBS 6 anchor Stephanie Rochon and WCVE’s May-Lily Lee. The public will also be able to participate via the BattleGroundVirginia.com website where the debate will be streamed and questions will be taken from the public.

This event has been designated “The Peoples’ Debate” because it will allow people around the Commonwealth to watch or listen without having to pay a fee or be a member of a select group. As LWV-VA President Hernandez stated in a press release: “We are very excited to give the average Virginian a voice in this debate.”

Leaguers around the state are hosting “debate watching parties” – maybe the LWVFA units could do the same thing. The debate will be carried live in Northern Virginia on PBS affiliate WETA. If you want additional information, go to www.lwv-va.org or call the LWVFA office.

Updated Voters Guide, What’s on the Ballot

By Carol Hawn, Voters Service-Publications Director

The Nov. 3, 2009 General and Special Elections are just around the corner, and the LWVFA is gearing up with our annual fall publications. Statewide elections for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General are on the

ballot, as are all 100 seats in the House of Delegates. In Fairfax County, there is a school bond referendum, and in Providence District, a special election to fill the vacant Fairfax County School Board seat. In the City of Fairfax, the Commissioner of the Revenue and Treasurer seats will also appear on the ballot. Although there is not expected to be the voter turn-out like last year, Voters Service wants to ensure the educational materials are in place for everyone to make informed decisions prior to entering their polling booth.

As you can see in this issue of the Voter, *What’s on the Ballot* is available for dissemination. If you haven’t done so, please contact me at cahawn@verizon.net or 703-266-6872 as soon as you know how many copies you would like to distribute; they will be disseminated on a first-come basis. We are printing fewer copies this year, so please get your order in early.

Our *Fall 2009 Voters’ Guide* will again be published in all editions of *The Connection Newspapers* the week of October 19, 2009. *The Connection Newspapers* reaches over 100,000 households in Fairfax County, and as always, we are very appreciative of their continuing support and assistance. The *Guide* will also be available on our website, as well as the LWV-VA and LWVUS websites on or around that date. Please note that, if you check the website, you can view all 12 editions of the Voters’ Guide so you can read the responses of each candidate for the House of Delegates.

Finally, I thank everyone that assisted with our work last year, including proofreading and distributing Voters Service materials. I hope you will again volunteer to assist with our ongoing voter education efforts.

Super Saturday . . .

League Members to Register Voters on September 26

Super Saturday is September 26, and this is our time to shine. It’s the last weekend to register to vote before the November election, and the League will work throughout Fairfax County to make registration available and easy. We’ll have tables outside every regional library, in Centreville, Chantilly, Fairfax City, George Mason, Reston, Pimmit, Pohick and Sherwood, as well as at Oakton and possibly at Kingstowne, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Traffic should be high since the libraries are being used more than ever. For those who are already registered, we’ll have LWVFA material to hand out and a chance to introduce ourselves to the public. It’s a great Voters Service and public relations opportunity.

This Month's Unit Meeting Locations – Topic:

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 September 12, 2009 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.

Saturday, October 3

NO BRIEFING THIS MONTH
Discussion outlines will be sent to discussion leaders.
Contact: Lois, 703-690-0908

Thursday, October 8

9:15 am Fairfax City Day (FXD)
Contact: Joan, 703-978-8715

9:30 am Reston Day (RD)

11908 Paradise Lane
Herndon 20171
Contact: Charleen, 703-620-3593

9:30 am Springfield (SPF)

Packard Center (Lg. Conf. Rm)
4026 Hummer Rd, Annandale
Contact: Nancy, 703-256-6570
or Peg, 703-256-9420

Monday, October 12

1:30 pm Greenspring (GSP)

Hunters Crossing Classroom
Spring Village Drive
Springfield
Contact: Kay, 703-644-2670

6:45 pm Mt. Vernon Eve (MVE)

8305 Brewster Drive
Alexandria 22307
Contact: Anne, 703-780-1773

Tuesday, October 13

12:30 pm McLean (MCL)

Star Nut Gourmet
1445 Laughlin Ave.
McLean 22101
Contact: Gail, 703-356-2851

7:45 pm Vienna Evening (VE)

409 Beulah Road
Vienna, 22180
Contact: Annette, 703-281-9715

Wednesday, October 14

10:00 am Fairfax Station (FXS)

Burke Centre Library
5935 Fred's Oak Road
Burke Centre 22015
Contact: Lois, 703-690-0908

9:30 am Mt. Vernon Day (MVD)

Mt. Vernon District Gov. Center
2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria
Contact: Gail, 703-360-6561

12:00 Noon Chantilly/Herndon (CHD)

Sully District Governmental Center
4900 Stonecroft Blvd.
Centreville 20151
Contact: Susan, 703-780-3902

6:15 pm Dinner Unit (DU)

Yen Cheng Restaurant
Main Street Center
9992 Main Street, Fairfax 22030
Contact: Tin, 703-207-4669

7:30 pm Reston Evening (RE)

Reston Art Gallery at Heron House
Lake Anne Village Center,
Reston 20190
Contact: Lucy, 703-757-5893

November's Meetings:

**Topic: Proffers and the
Virginia State Legislature**



The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)
 4026 Hummer Road, Suite #214 Annandale, VA 22003-2403
 703-658-9150. Web address: www.lwv-fairfax.org

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 October, 2009**

**Jane E. George, President
 Ron Page, Editor
 Liz Brooke, Coordinator**

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 citizen of voting age, male or female, may become a member.

LWVFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Dues year ends June 30, 2010.)

Membership Category: Individual \$65 ____; Household (2 persons–1 *VOTER*) \$90 __; Donation \$ ____
 Student \$32.50 ____; (Coll. Attending _____)

Membership is: New ____; Renewal ____; Reinstate ____; Subsidy Requested ____

We value membership. A subsidy fund is available, check block above and include whatever you can afford.

Dues are not tax deductible. Tax-deductible donations must be written on a separate check payable to LWVFA Ed. Fund.

Please Print Clearly!

Name _____ **Unit** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip + 4** _____

Phone (H) _____ **(W)** _____ **E-Mail** _____

Thank you for checking off your interests:

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|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Govt | <input type="checkbox"/> Voting Procedures | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Libraries | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Judicial Systems | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Problems | |

Mail to: LWVFA, 4026 Hummer Road, Suite 214, Annandale, VA 22003