



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

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Money and Elections

Pacs, SuperPacs, Small Donors: Should There Be Restrictions?

September's program takes on the timely topic of how our political campaigns are financed. The Supreme Court's decision in the Citizens United case against the Federal Election Commission halted in its tracks long-trending efforts to limit the effects of campaign donations on the outcome of elections. New LWVFA program co-director Karole McKalip has answered the call made at the LWVUS convention in June to educate our members and the communities on the ins and outs of the current status of election funding and has written this concise review. Get ready to sort out at last the identity of the FEC and the FECA, and what is a PAC, a Super PAC, and the goals of the DISCLOSE Act, among other things. Then spread the word to your neighbors.

Calendar

September

- 3 Labor Day
- 4 VOTER deadline, FCPS begins
- 7 LWVNCA Board meeting
- 8 Kick-off, Briefing and At-Large meeting
- 10-13 Unit meetings – Money and Elections**
- 11 Patriot Day
- 14 LWV-VA Board meeting
- 15 LWV-VA Workshops – Richmond
- 16 Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown
- 17 Constitution Day
- 19 Board meeting**
- 23 Fairfax Cable Access election
- 25 Yom Kippur begins at sundown
- 25 LWVUS Voter Registration Day
- 29-30 LWV-VA Voter Registration Weekend

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Presidents' Message



Your new LWVFA Board has been busy all summer with plans for our new League year. We thank all the Board members who have finished their terms, especially Janey George as President, and welcome those new members or ones with different portfolios. We have an excellent mix of experienced and newer League members. Look at your leadership list and think about volunteering for one of the vacant positions.

Some of our activities have included: attending LWVUS national Convention, leading a retreat to discuss and plan for the future, working on the new Policies and Procedures document to formalize our day-to-day activities, participating in Sharon Bulova's Evolution of Fairfax meetings, moving to our new office space in the Packard Center, working at the Dogfish Head Ale House Fundraiser, attending County Board of Election's registration training, learning about Facebook and our new page, enrolling in Constant Contact seminars to help manage social networking, and helping with restructuring Kick-off. It has been fun and enlightening to be working for you.

This fall our emphasis will be on Voter Service. In response to several units' requests, we are reorganizing our efforts. Instead of a one day blitz (Super Saturday), we are encouraging more localized events. The units have been asked to find places and volunteers in their localities to set up voter registration booths. In this way, we hope to reach unregistered voters. We have members going to farmers' markets, libraries, multicultural festivals, senior centers, and health clinics. If you have an idea of a place where we might make a difference, give us, your unit chair, or the office a call or email.

This League year will Kick-off on Saturday, September 8 at 9 a.m., with time to chat with friends before the business begins at 9:45. We hope that many of you will come, especially our new members, as we plan to have a break-out featuring League procedures and lingo. There will also be discussions on retaining and increasing our membership.

Stay well, happy and involved!!

Julie and Helen

In Memoriam

Betty Fingeret, a longtime member of the League of Women Voters, died in late June. She retained her membership in the Fairfax LWV, and the Reston Day unit, even after she moved to Loudoun County several years ago. She had lost her husband, Avie, the latter part of April.

Reminder: Annual Dues Are Payable Now

Treasurer Bill Thomas reminds members that the LWVFA's membership year began on July 1, 2012. If you have not yet sent in your dues, please do it today. The October *VOTER* will be the last newsletter members with outstanding dues will receive. Check the back page for the dues form and mailing address.

"The earlier you pay, the easier it is for the Board to budget the funds carry out the numerous operational programs the League supports," stated Thomas.

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or call 703-658-9150

Includes Program Briefing/At-Large Unit Meeting . . .

“Kick Off” September 8 Marks Beginning of League Year

By Charleen Deasy, Unit Coordinator

The Fall Kick-off officially opens the beginning of the League year. This is an important year for Voter Services activities, so there will be a lot of print materials to help you that will need to be carried home with you. There is too much for the Unit Leader alone to handle. All unit members are welcome to attend and there will be a special session for our new members along with other break-out sessions.

Kick-off schedule starts at 9 a.m., with coffee, networking time, and registration at the Hunter Crossing Conference Center in building 7430 at Greenspring Senior Living Community. It's very centrally located in the county for everyone's convenience.

The kick-off agenda with times will be sent to Unit Leaders for your preview; please plan to attend the entire morning. Lots of new information and review of some older familiar information with updates will be available. Time to hear your ideas and answer your questions.

All units should be represented either by unit officers or other unit members.

Program Briefing for the September Unit Meeting will begin at 11:30; those planning to stay for the briefing bring a bag lunch of your preference. Briefing is also considered a member at-large meeting for the month.

Greenspring Retirement Living Community is at 7410 Spring Village Drive, Springfield 22150; this is off the Franconia Parkway, route 7900. From the north use the Fairfax Parkway (route 286) and watch for the change to route 7900. Continue a short distance to Spring Village Drive. More complete directions for building #7430 will be sent to each unit leader.

Board Meeting Notes . . .

LWVFA Board Announces New Appointments

At its July 18 meeting, the Board made the following appointments:

- Diane Hardcastle and Jane Pacelli to the audit committee,
- Viveka Fuenzalida as chair of the Nominating Committee and Mia Merin and Barbara Nunes as members from the Board,
- Leslie Vandivere to FCPS Superintendent's Business and Community Advisory Council (BCAC).

Highlight Will Be on Fundraising . . .

LWV-VA Schedules Fall Workshops

LWV-VA workshops are being held on Saturday, September 17 at the Richmond Airport DoubleTree Hotel from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. In addition to six workshops, LWVUS Board member Mary Klentz will speak on behalf of the national Board. Katie Gilstrap, a member of the adjunct faculty at the University of Richmond's Institute of Philanthropy, will give the lunch speech, "Fundraising: The Real Deal." Registrations are due by September 5 and can be found on both the LWV-VA and LWVFA websites. We hope to see many of you there.

June Unit Attendees Look Forward to a Tysons Corner With Fewer Traffic Headaches

By Liz Brooke



At June unit meetings, members had no trouble citing problems in and around present day Tysons Corner. They found it difficult and frustrating because of Beltway construction, constantly changing traffic patterns and poor signage, traffic volume, limited parking, and missing landmarks. All remarked on the difficulty and danger for pedestrians. Several members said

they simply don't go there anymore.

Members were pleased that County planners sought input from the public as Tysons moves from a car-oriented area to an urban center. They hope for better bus service and other public transportation, access to the toll road, and pedestrian skywalks. Units listed other amenities that will be needed for the transformation to be successful, including service businesses such as food stores and dry cleaners. Other needs often mentioned were sidewalks and buses between the major shopping malls, aggressive law enforcement, open plazas, bike-friendly areas, parks and playgrounds. McLean specifically supports the inclusion of workforce housing. Reston Evening noted there are many areas far from Metro

and people will still need to drive unless there are many buses—and people can be persuaded to use them.

Cooperation of the private sector will be key; all agreed that oversight and control by the County will be necessary. Mt. Vernon Day unit worries that piecemeal development may make it difficult if not impossible to coordinate.

Funding is a major concern. Both public and private money will be needed. Fairfax Day/Vienna believes sources must be as broad as possible, including Fairfax County funds, bonds, special taxes and a separate tax district. Members wondered how State funds, if available, could be used. Reston Day and Mt. Vernon Day concluded that no sources were reliable; Reston Evening said any funding is at risk. Centreville/Chantilly described it as “iffy.” The Dinner unit was skeptical of the ability of the County to pay for all the wish list items and not convinced it could even pay for the needs list.

Mt. Vernon Day members commented that the emphasis on Tysons takes away from transit needs in their part of the County. Fairfax Station wondered if the County is looking to do something similar for the Springfield area. In general, members were impressed that the plans were so extensive and available. McLean said the topic brought out two guests. And Springfield reported that their discussion proved to be more interesting than the written material.

LWVUS Announces New Position on Privatization

In June, the LWV national Board announced a new position on privatization, summarized below. The entire position can be found on the LWVUS website <http://www.lwv.org/content/privatization-position>.

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that when governmental entities consider the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector, the community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered. Further, the LWV believes that transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good must be ensured.

The League believes that some government provided services could be delivered more efficiently by private entities; however, privatization is not appropriate in all circumstances.

Privatization is not appropriate when the provision of services by the government is necessary to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society. While the League recognizes that the definition of core government services will vary by level of government and community values, services fundamental to the governance of a democratic society should not be privatized in their entirety. These services include the electoral process, justice system, military, public safety, public health, education, transportation, environmental protection and programs that protect and provide basic human needs.

The decision to privatize a public service should be made after an informed, transparent planning process and thorough analysis of the implications of privatizing service delivery.

Money and Elections: Where Is the Balance Point?

By Karole McKalip

“The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public’s right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.”¹

Introduction

At the 2012 LWVUS Convention, delegates voted to educate members and communities on campaign finance. This article addresses issues, decisions, and organizations that have had a financial influence on elections. Money has always been a key element in the U.S. electoral processes. In 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt, recognizing the need for campaign finance reform, called for legislation to ban corporate contributions for political purposes. Over the years, Congress has enacted laws to limit contributions, regulate spending, and mandate public disclosure. Passage of The Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) in 1971 consolidated many of these earlier reform efforts. Congress amended this Act in 1974 in the aftermath of Watergate and created an independent agency called the Federal Election Commission (FEC). Additional amendments provided for a system of public financing of presidential contests and established limits on contributions and spending.

In the early 1970s, public funding of federal elections began to take shape. The first publicly funded presidential election occurred in 1976. In the 1984 presidential campaign, Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale each accepted \$40 million in public funds. But in the 1990s some FEC rulings on spending led to a rise of donations to the political parties. In 2002, a major campaign finance law called the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) sponsored by Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Russell Feingold (D-WI), banned these unlimited donations, placed restrictions on ads and tried to limit the impact of self-funding millionaire candidates. These laws were effectively overruled in the case of *Citizens United v. FEC*. In 2009, the Supreme Court of the United States heard arguments in a suit on campaign finance brought by Citizens United against the Federal Election Commission. The Court pronounced its decision in January 2010 in favor of Citizens United. What constitutes the decision, who are

the players, and how has the election process been changed?

Citizens United

Citizens United is a nonprofit organization whose president and chair is David Bossie. As noted in Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia,² Citizens United describes its mission as being dedicated to restoring the United States government to “citizens’ control” and to “assert American values of limited government, freedom of enterprise, strong families, and national sovereignty and security.” The group was founded in 1988, has offices in Washington, D.C., and is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

Federal Election Commission (FEC)

According to its website,³ the FEC is an independent regulatory agency charged with administering and enforcing the federal campaign finance law. There are six voting members who serve staggered six-year terms. Commissioners are appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate. It has jurisdiction over the financing of campaigns for the U.S. House, Senate, Presidency and Vice Presidency. Federal campaign finance law covers three broad areas:

- Public disclosure of funds raised and spent to influence federal elections
- Restrictions on contributions and expenditures made to influence federal elections
- Public financing of presidential campaigns

Political Action Committee (PAC)

A political action committee is any organization in the U.S. that campaigns for or against political candidates, ballot initiatives or legislation.⁴ At the federal level, an organization becomes a PAC when it receives or spends more than \$1,000 for the purpose of influencing a federal election, according to the Federal Elections Campaign Act (1971). At the state level, an organization becomes a PAC according to the state’s election laws.

FECA and FEC established rules under which a PAC could operate. Included among the rules were:

- No direct contributions from corporations and unions to federal PACS
- Individual contributions limited to \$5,000
- Contributions from corporate or labor union treasuries are illegal

But in 2010, as a result of the decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*, so-called super PACS were born.

The Supreme Court and *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*⁵

The nonprofit corporation Citizens United wanted to air a film critical of Hillary Clinton and to advertise the film during television broadcasts in violation of the 2002 Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act. In July 2008, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled that such airings constituted an electioneering communication mentioning a candidate within 60 days of a general election or 30 days of a primary and was a prohibited expenditure by any corporations or unions. Thus *Hillary: The Movie* was prohibited from being advertised or shown on television.

An appeal of this decision reached the Supreme Court in 2009. In 2010, the Court pronounced its decision. It held that the First Amendment prohibited the government from restricting independent political expenditures by corporations and unions, thus reversing the lower courts and striking down the provision of BCRA that prohibited corporations (including nonprofit corporations) and unions from spending on “electioneering communication.” The Court said that laws prohibiting corporate and union political expenditures were unconstitutional. The decision made it legal for corporations and unions to spend from their general treasuries to finance independent expenditures that did not specifically endorse candidates; however, the federal ban on direct corporate or union contributions to candidate campaigns or political parties remains illegal in races for federal office.

First Amendment advocates argue that challenges to the decision will fail. They believe that this is a “pro-free speech, pro-democracy decision” that has enhanced political competition and participation. Critics say Citizens United has led to unprecedented levels of outside money to flow into our election campaigns. This money is raised not from

corporations but from wealthy individuals and spent by super PACS and other independent groups. The ruling has made it easier for wealthy individuals and the groups they support to spend unlimited money on politics. The results of the decision have resonated into 2012 as the U.S. prepares for November elections. The ramifications of *Citizens United v. FEC* at the national level have created a storm of controversy and opinions as evidenced in the almost daily discussions in our public media. As an aftermath of the decision, huge amounts of money are playing a significant role in this year’s elections.

Super PACS

One of the more significant aspects of Citizens United was to change campaign finance law. Chris Cillizza wrote in the *Washington Post* the decision “...got rid of the ban on outside groups expressly advocating for the election or defeat of a candidate. From that ruling came super PACS, political committees that are free to accept unlimited donations and directly advocate for or against a candidate.”⁶

Eliza Newlin Carney, a staff writer covering lobbying and influence for *CQ Roll Call*, is credited for coining the term “super PAC.”⁷ In June 2010 in the *National Journal*, she identified a group called Workers’ Voices as a kind of “super PAC” that could become increasingly popular the post-Citizens United world. Money from these PACS is not only flowing into the presidential race but also into the congressional races.

According to the FEC, super PACS are not allowed to coordinate directly with candidates or political parties; however, it is legal for candidates and super PAC managers to discuss campaign strategy and tactics through the media. In the 2012 election campaign most of the money has come from wealthy individuals. According to data from the Center for Responsive Politics, the top 100 individual super PAC donors in 2011-2012 made up 3.7 percent of contributors but accounted for more than 80 percent of the money raised.

At the 2012 Annual Convention of the LWVNCA, Paul Blumenthal of the *Huffington Post* focused his speech on the influence of the super PACS on elections.⁸ In 2010, he reported, over \$300 million was spent on midterm elections; undisclosed spending constituted over 40 percent of that. Super PACS require disclosure of donors, but these can be corporations, vague groups, or “shell corporations” used to funnel money to candidates. Social welfare and nonprofit groups, which are not required to disclose, are being subverted by political groups. The power and influence of

the very rich (for example, Sheldon Adelson of Las Vegas, Harold Simmons of Dallas, Charles and David Koch of Wichita) are dominating the election processes.

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center (APPC) of the University of Pennsylvania, called upon citizens to “Be a Super PAC Watchdog.”⁹ “This year,” she states, “has seen an unprecedented amount of third-party advertising...The level of inaccuracy in the third-party presidential ads has been high...Because they can charge more for third-party ads than for those by federal candidates, stations earn a windfall airing them.” The APPC is asking the media to insist on the accuracy of ads. The Center has developed a “Stand By Your Ad” page at its website and is encouraging viewers to voice their opinions on deceptive election ads.

In June, Dan Eggen of the *Washington Post* wrote about the activities related to donor disclosure.¹⁰ Politically active nonprofit groups are not required to divulge their largest donors and some are tax-exempt. He states, “The parties have clashed repeatedly over the disclosure issue since the Supreme Court ruled in 2010 that corporations are akin to people when it comes to political speech and can spend unlimited money on elections.” Congressional Democrats have introduced disclosure legislation to force groups to reveal donations over \$10,000 for campaign-related activities. The Republicans have blocked this legislation, seeing it as muzzling donors. Those opposing disclosure want to protect their fundraising base.

Challenge to *Citizens United v. FEC*: the Montana Case

When the decision in *Citizens United* threw out federal limits on independent corporate and union political spending, three Montana corporations sued to overturn a state law limiting independent political spending by corporations. The Montana Supreme Court rejected the challenge to the state’s spending prohibitions even though the statute was technically nullified as a result of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 2010. Before this ruling, two dozen states restricted corporate campaign spending in one form or another.¹¹

The Montana challenge to *Citizens United* was brought before the Supreme Court this spring. In a five to four ruling on June 25, 2012, the Supreme Court reversed the Montana’s court decision. Montana’s law was at odds with *Citizens United*. The First Amendment allows corporations and unions to spend as much as they like to support or oppose political candidates. But the court’s

minority dissent, written by Justice Stephen Breyer stated, ...”this court’s legal conclusion should not bar the Montana Supreme Court’s finding...that independent expenditures by corporations did in fact lead to corruption or the appearance of corruption in Montana. Given the history and political landscape in Montana, that court concluded that the state had a compelling interest in limiting independent expenditures by corporations...Montana’s experience, like considerable experience elsewhere since the court’s decision in *Citizens United*, casts grave doubt on the court’s supposition that independent expenditures do not corrupt or appear to do so.”¹²

A spokesman for the Obama administration, Eric Schultz, said that since the 2010 decision, “we have seen unprecedented amounts of campaign spending, often by groups that won’t disclose their donors. *Citizens United* was wrong when it was decided, and as two Supreme Court Justices have observed since, independent expenditures by corporations are threatening the health of our democracy.”¹³

What the League Is Doing

“The League’s position on Campaign Finance reflects continuing concern for open and honest elections and for maximum citizen participation in the political process. The League’s campaign finance reform strategy has two tracks: 1) achieve incremental reforms where possible in the short term, and 2) build support for public financing as the best long-term solution.” The League works at the state level as well as federal by supporting comprehensive reform through various means: lobbying, testimony, grassroots actions, and work with the media.¹⁴

In an article on the LWV’s website, Elizabeth McNamara, LWVUS President, addresses the implications of the *Citizens United* ruling. “We are all aware that the huge amount of special interest money, particularly in federal races, has been a problem for years...these problems have been magnified by....the case which unleashed corporate spending for supposedly independent campaign expenditures and which has resulted in millions and millions of dollars in secret contributions.”¹⁵

The League is working to get special interest, secret money out of elections by supporting passage of the “DISCLOSE Act,” which will require financial disclosure of all campaign advertising, and pressing the FEC for enforcement of current law on campaign finance. The League has launched radio ads supporting full disclosure.

At the 2012 Annual Convention of the LWFVNA, Nancy Tate, Executive Director of the LWFVUS, discussed some additional activities of the League on the issue of Money and Elections.¹⁶

1. Watching TV campaign ads with a critical eye
2. Calling on state and local leagues to support the “Stand By Your Ad” message to TV and radio stations to disclose sources of money
3. Sending letters to candidates to reveal the source of their money and bundlers.
4. Creating a “Campaign Reform Task Force” to be used as a resource and to provide strategies for reform
5. Asking members to go to the White House website to petition support/action on reform.

In an e-mail sent to state Leagues on the impact of the *Citizens United* decision on state campaigns and legislation, the LWFV of Washington State at its convention in June 2011 recommended that the state president appoint a committee to investigate how unlimited and undisclosed corporate financing is impacting Washington State campaigns and legislation. The committee proposed that a constitutional amendment be supported by the national League. This amendment is not intended to ban or limit corporation donations, or to prevent corporations or unions from taking part in the political dialog. The goal of such an amendment would be to end the unequal political advantage that artificial people have over real people. “Therefore, be it resolved we, the representatives of local and state Leagues assembled at the 2012 LWFVUS Convention, call upon the LWFVUS Board to support a constitutional amendment which provides that artificial entities are not natural persons, money is not speech, and the freedom of natural people to use public airwaves and to publish in the press, electronic, digital and other media shall not be limited or infringed.”¹⁷

Conclusion

Discussions/arguments/decisions about regulating political contributions and campaign expenditures have been part of our national scene for many years. The decision in *Citizens United* echoed an earlier case (*Buckley v. Valeo*, 1976) before the Supreme Court which ruled that while political contributions could be limited, expenditures was a form of “constitutionally protected free speech.”¹⁸ Public debate continues on whether or not unlimited expenditures give rise to corruption. Do wealthy speakers have more influence in campaigns or do consumers determine the

impact of speech? Does First Amendment protection trump corruption concerns?

In late July, Dan Eggen of the *Washington Post* wrote, “Campaign watchdog groups see a glimmer of hope in a new letter from the Internal Revenue Service, which suggests that the agency might consider changes to the rules governing tax exemptions for politically active groups.” This was in response to “...a petition (from the Campaign Legal Center and Democracy 21) challenging the IRS regulations, calling them overbroad and in defiance of congressional intent and court rulings... Watchdog groups view the (IRS) letter as an important step forward in the push for greater disclosure of political contributions.”¹⁹

Depending on the election, both Democrats and Republicans have argued for and against a variety of restrictions. Legislators from both parties have supported laws which would regulate contributions and spending and create greater transparency. A constitutional amendment to resolve the matter has been suggested. But some would argue that the debates for and against such an amendment “would detract from more practical efforts to tighten rules”²⁰ Debate on these issues is contentious and will not likely be resolved until after the November elections.

Footnotes

¹ LWFVUS, LWFVUS in Action on Campaign Finance

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citizens_United

³ <http://www.fec.gov/>

⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/political_action_committee

⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citizens_United_v._Federal_Election_Commission

⁶ *Washington Post*, July 10, 2012, Chris Cillizza, “Carl Forti, GOP’s super-PAC man

⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/political_action_committee

⁸ Paul Blumenthal, *Huffington Post*, speech at LWFVNA 2012 Convention

⁹ *AARP Bulletin*, June 2012, Kathleen Hall Jamieson, “Be A Super PAC Watchdog”

¹⁰ *Washington Post*, June 24, 2012, Dan Eggen, “Donor Disclosure Fight Breaks Out in Presidential Race”

¹¹ http://www.rollcall.com/news/montana_case_could_challenge-citizens...

¹² <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/26/US/supreme-court-declines>

¹³ <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/26/US/supreme-court-declines>

¹⁴ LWFVUS, LWFVUS in Action on Campaign Finance

¹⁵ <http://www.LWFV.org/blog/money-elections-what-league-doing>

¹⁶ Nancy Tate, Executive Director, LWVUS, speech at LWVNCA 2012 Convention

¹⁷ E-mail: May 31, 2012, Jackie Aase (aase@waypt.com) LWV-WA

¹⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buckley_v._Valeo

¹⁹ *Washington Post*, July 26, 2012, Dan Eggen, “IRS says it will consider changes to nonprofit politics rules”

²⁰ *Washington Post*, June 20, 2012, Ruth Marcus, “Leveling the Campaign Field”

Discussion Questions

1. Do you agree that corporations and unions have the same “Free Speech” rights as do individuals under the First Amendment of the Constitution?
2. Discuss how super PACS have had an impact on the electoral campaigns.
3. Would a constitutional amendment allowing limits on independent contribution/expenditures be a feasible solution or a distraction?
What is the likelihood of passage?
4. Are there legislative or other solutions that would be more effective?
What actions can be taken to ensure transparency in group or individual donations?
5. What can we do individually to affect the integrity of campaigns?
6. Since this article has been written, have there been any events or decisions that should be addressed?

Help Wanted . . .

Action Director Needed to Monitor Governmental Bodies

Do you like to keep an eye on the Board of Supervisors? Or the Virginia General Assembly? We need Action Directors who will keep the Board informed about their activities.

Interested in writing letters to the editor on behalf of the League? Or writing testimony for the League to present to our elected officials? We need Action Directors who can advocate for the League.

We need an Action Director to serve on the Board (3rd Wednesday of every month); and we need Action Directors to lead or participate in our Observer Corps at meetings of the Board of Supervisors, School Board, Town of Clifton, Town of Herndon, Town of Vienna, and City of Fairfax.

Whatever your favorite part of “taking action” encompasses, there is an Action Director position at the League for you! Just tell us you are interested! Contact Helen Kelly or call her at 703-437-3087.

League Schedules Voter Registration in Mount Vernon District

The LWVFA Mt. Vernon units will sponsor a voter registration drive at the Montebello Condominium on Wednesday, Sept. 12, from 4-7 p.m. There will be a registration table in each lobby of the four buildings. Gloria Haher is the primary coordinator and Janey George will be assisting her.

Is your unit planning a registration table this fall? Contact Olga Hernandez, Voter Service Coordinator, for additional information and ideas about what needs to be done to have a successful experience.

This Is What We Are About . . .

Officials Needed to Work at Polling Locations for November Elections

By Anne Kanter

Virginia is a swing state this year and political parties will be working hard to get a big turnout. More election officials than ever will be needed. Election officials (poll workers) are always in short supply and energetic, computer-savvy people needed. The fact that you have email and can open attachments makes you computer savvy, by the way. And the League is here to help.

First, you can just sign up as an election officer. I can help you with that. But if that seems to be too much, in Fairfax County election officers can work split shifts. This means two people work consecutively to fill one position. The first worker works from 5 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and the second works from 12:30 p.m. to closing. You get ½ the standard stipend, \$50 each. One caveat: If your partner doesn't turn up, you will be expected to work their shift, too.

But how can you find a partner? I'm here to help! I have volunteered to be the “yenta” and pair up members who need a match. Just send me the following information and I'll try to find a partner; if not in your precinct, at least nearby. I'll get you in touch and help you contact the Fairfax County Office of Elections.

Just send me your:

1. Name
2. Address and zip
3. Precinct name and number, if known
4. District (Lee, Mason etc.)
5. Preferred time to work: first or second shift

I have names already, and I'm looking for matches! Contact me now! Thanks!

Just email me at akanter@cox.net and send me your info. Or call me, 703-448-6626. I'm here to help!

Healthier Lunches Are Planned for Fairfax Students

By Virginia Fitz Shea

When students return to school in September, they will have new lunch options. In an effort to conform to strict new federal nutrition standards for school meals under the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act, FCPS school lunches will have fewer calories and more fruits and vegetables. Highlights of the new nutrition standards include:

- Reduced calories based on the grade levels of the students (tailored to students in grades K-5, 6-8, and 9-12).
- Reduced meat and meat alternative (protein) portions for grades K-5.
- Increased fruits and vegetables and a new requirement that students must select one serving of vegetables or fruit with lunch.
- Limited number of servings of whole grain-rich breads and cereals.
- Choice of only fat-free flavored or unflavored milk or 1 percent low-fat unflavored milk. (Two years ago FCPS halted the availability of flavored milk in elementary schools, and then put it back on the menu when the vendor eliminated high fructose corn syrup.)
- Focus on reduced saturated fat and sodium and zero trans fats.

The new federal nutrition standards will be largely phased in over a three-year period. Schools will be permitted to focus on changes in the lunches in the first year, with most changes in breakfast phased in during future years. According to Penny McConnell, director, Food and Nutrition Services, Fairfax will implement the new breakfast meal pattern in September 2013.

Registered dietitians and chefs are planning school meals to meet the new requirements and reflect students' personal preferences as determined at monthly student taste parties. The program also supports the Virginia Farm to School program and individual school garden initiatives. Currently fresh produce purchases

exceed \$2.5 million and over 17 percent of all produce purchases are seasonal, locally grown vegetables and fruits. In the past year at the request of some parents, specific additives and preservatives have been reduced by 80 percent.

FCPS also plans to hire a consultant to assess Food and Nutrition Services and "to suggest innovative approaches to preparing food; offering and serving healthier, freshly prepared whole foods for school lunches and breakfasts; and greatly reducing the use of highly-processed foods and artificial additives."

The School Board allocated \$100,000 from the Food and Nutrition Services Fund's Reserve to fund a freshly-prepared-food kitchen renovation pilot program.

The prices for school meals will remain unchanged this year. Prices for 2012-13 are:

	Lunch	Breakfast
Elementary school	\$2.65	\$1.50
Middle school	\$2.75	\$1.50
High and sec'ry school	\$2.75	\$1.50
Reduced-price meals	No charge*	No charge*
Milk, ½ pint	\$.60	\$.60
Soy milk (upon request)	\$.75	\$.75

*Students who qualify for free meals receive breakfast and lunch free. Reduced price-eligible students normally pay \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch. On a pilot basis, Food and Nutrition Services will absorb these costs so the reduced price-eligible students can receive a breakfast and lunch at no charge.

Parents are encouraged to open meal accounts for their children and can designate the account for meals only or for meals and à la carte items. Elementary school students must purchase a lunch or bring a lunch from home to purchase one à la carte snack.

Remember:
"Kick-Off" - September 8

Have You Tried Facebook? . . .

Get the Latest on Our New Facebook Page

By Danielle Ramirez

Many of us use Facebook to keep up with friends and family and to share photos, but did you know it is also a great way to stay up-to-date with LWV events and issues and spread the word about the important work we do to support our democracy?



Simply visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/lwvfairfax and click on the “Like” button to become a fan. Twice weekly updates to the page will appear on your News Feed so you can stay informed about the latest LWV-FA activities, as well as relevant votes in the Virginia

legislature and Fairfax Board of Supervisors, interesting reports on voter suppression and education, and provocative discussions of issues carried over from unit meetings.

This new medium holds great potential for LWV-FA to reach a new set of concerned citizens and to increase our own members’ connections across the county. We hope to see you on Facebook!

Fitz Shea Testifies at School Board Meeting Concerning Timing of Board Votes

[Ed. Note: The following testimony on the increased timeline between new business and board action was given at the June 21, 2012 School Board meeting.]

Good evening Chairman Strauss, members of the board, and Superintendent Dale. My name is Virginia Fitz Shea and I am speaking on behalf of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. We are pleased to note that the school board is considering increasing the timeline between the introduction of new business and board action. This topic is included in tomorrow’s agenda of your Public Engagement Committee.

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active

Voter Registration Efforts Get Underway; More Scheduled



Therese Martin and Viveka Fuenzalida shown manning their voter registration table at the Reston Farmers Market. Their effort exceeded their expectations as they did three actual registrations; gave five applications to people who wanted them for family members; gave out at least six absentee ballot applications; and a whole lot of Facts for Voters and other registration and voting information. Also gave out two LWV membership brochures. And got a lot of thanks for the League from passers-by.

participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen’s right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

The League recommends that the school board should usually allow at least four weeks between the introduction of a new business agenda item and the board vote. This would make it easier for some community groups to have time to consider and comment about a new business item prior to the vote. Our own board meets once a month, so a four-week space between the introduction of the agenda item and the vote would usually give us the time to consider whether or not to comment.

The LWVFA believes there is a continuing need for communication between local governing bodies and their constituents. We think that increasing the timeline between the introduction of new business and board action will result in improved communication between the school board and members of the community.

League's National Convention Updates Program and Educates Delegates

By Helen Kelly, Co-President

During the recent convention, delegates voted to:

- Educate members and communities on campaign finance;
- Adopt LWVDC position on imprisonment: Alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized considering the circumstances and nature of the crime. LWVUS opposes minimum sentences for drug crime.
- Review and update current position on agricultural policy. Review would investigate genetic modification, consolidation in the food industry, money in the regulatory process and the consumer's right to accurate and comprehensive food labeling;
- Support allowing Congress and the States to set reasonable limits on campaign contributions and expenditures;
- Reject edits to the new privatization position stating that privatization is NOT appropriate when provision of services by the government is necessary to preserve the common good, to protect national and local security, and to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society;
- Defeat the motion to establish a cabinet-level Department of Peace.

Delegates also raised the PMP by \$1 and approved the entire slate of nominees to the LWVUS Board.

Convention attendees also enjoyed excellent guest speakers:

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, Washington DC Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, who spoke eloquently about the how District residents pay for lack of truly independent self-government.

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Professor of Communication at the Annenberg School and Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center, University of Pennsylvania, who showed examples of deceptive attack ads, introduced the website flackcheck.org for evaluating attack ads, and the Stand By Your Ad campaign which encourages TV viewers to complain to local stations about ads that contain known lies.

Eric Holder, Attorney General, who gave a well-received speech about protecting Americans' right to vote.

Finally, Elizabeth McNamara moderated the panel discussion **"How Do We Unite and Conquer?"** on the topic of political polarization and what we might do to fix it. Panelists included:

Eleanor Clift, *Newsweek* Political Reporter and *The McLaughlin Group* panelist; **Mickey Edwards**, Director of the Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellowships in Leadership; and former Congressman (R-OK) **Trevor Potter**, President and General Counsel of the Campaign Legal Center and former chair of the Federal Election Commission.

Thanks to the many volunteers from LWVFA, and very special thanks to Anne Kantor, who had major responsibilities, for a successful convention!

Political Ads - Don't You Love Them?

It seems that, being in the swing state of Virginia, we are receiving more than our share of political ads. At the LWVUS national Convention, we had an address by Kathleen Hall Jameson, Professor of Communication at the Annenberg School and Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center, of the University of Pennsylvania. She spoke about how we, as the public, could influence

the media about airing truthful ads. Her organization has two websites, which analyze the ads and offer links to media sites to register opinions.

The Flack Check site uses parody and humor to debunk false political advertising, poke fun at extreme language and hold the media accountable for their reporting on political campaigns. You might want to check them out! www.FactCheck.org and www.Flackcheck.org

LWVFA Board Contact Information for 2012-2013

Position	Term Ends	Name	Email	Phone	Mobile
Officers					
Co-President	2013E	Julie Jones	Dave,julie.jones@verizon.net	703-476-8347	703-861-9616
Co-President	2014E	Helen Kelly	HMKelly1@verizon.net	703-437-3087	703-314-3087
1st VP/Voting Rights & Advocacy	2014E	Therese Martin	Tbmartin4@verizon.net	703-471-6364	703-424-5785
2nd VP/Unit Coordinator	2014E	Charleen Deasy	Charleen.deasy@verizon.net	703-620-3593	703-283-1598
Treasurer	2014E	Bill Thomas	billthomas4@gmail.com	703-938-7304	703-606-2397
Secretary	2013E	Lois Page	LoisMPage@cox.net	703-690-0908	703-409-0908
Directors					
Action		VACANT			
Domestic Violence	2014E	Barbara Nunes	bnunes@juno.com	703-451-7238	
Human Services	2013A	Baba Freeman	mebff@comcast.net	703-437-1901	
Membership	2013E	Mia Merin	mialwv@gmail.com	703-716-4540	571-426-1369
Program	2014E	Judy Helein	judithhelein@aol.com	703-725-9401	
Public Relations	2013E	Anne Thomas	anneathomas@gmail.com	703-938-7304	703-909-6425
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Executive Director		Rona Ackerman	AckermanRona2@gmail.com	703-476-5758	703-282-2262
Off-Board					
Arrangements-Annual Meeting		Viveka Fuenzalida	VivFuenza@verizon.net	703-4040498	
Arrangements-General Meeting		Mary Valder	mmvalder@aol.com	703-319-2185	
Elections Coordinator		Rona Ackerman	AckermanRona2@gmail.com	703-476-5758	703-282-2262
Historian & Insurance		Bernice Colvard	PBColvard@aol.com	703-978-3227	
Legacy Committee		Bill Thomas, Chair	BillThomas4@gmail.com	703-938-7304	703-606-2397
LWVNCA liaison		Sherry Zachry	SZachry@verizon.net	703-730-8118	703-371-6374
Membership -New Members		Jane Pacelli	Patchwork1@verizon.net	703-256-7834	703-474-1700
Message Retrieval		Edith Appel	djaea@cox.net	703-780-3343	
Nominating Committee		Viveka Fuenzalida, chair	vivfuenza@verizon.net	703-404-0498	
Program Co-Director	2013	Karole McKalip	kdmckalip@verizon.net	703-451-1165	
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Unit Co-Coordinator		Diane Hardcastle	dianehardcastle@yahoo.com	703-860-3566	
Voters Service-Facts for Voters		Maggi Luca	mkluca@aol.com	703-978-4916	
Voters Service- Outreach	2014E	Janey George	JaneyG16@verizon.net	703-631-2293	703-568-8612
Voters Service- Voters Guides		Tom Fina	voterguidefairfax@gmail.com	(703) 768-3174	
Website Administrator		Rona Ackerman	Ackermanrona2@gmail.com	703-476-5758	703-282-2262
Domestic Violence Committee		Barbara Nunes, chair	bnunes@juno.com	703-451-7238	
Environment Committee		VACANT			
Felons' Rights Committee		Jean Audiridge, chair	jeanauld31@gmail.com	703-765-7010	
Justice Committee		VACANT			
Schools Committee		Ginger Shea, chair	Ginger.Shea@verizon.net	703-642-0075	703-309-2394

This Month's Unit Meeting Locations

Topic: Money and Politics

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 August 1, 2012, 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, September 8

11:30 a.m. At-Large Unit and Briefing

Greenspring Senior Living Community
7410 Spring Village Dr.
Springfield 22150
Contact: Judith Helein, (703)725-9401

9:30 a.m. McLean (MCL)

Star Nut Gourmet
1445 Laughlin Ave.
McLean 22101
Contact: Peggy, 703-532-4417 or Sharone, 703-734-1048

9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)

7914 Carrleigh Pkwy.
Springfield 22151
Contact: Nancy, 703-256-6570 or Peg, 703-256-9420

Monday, September 10

1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)

Hunters Crossing Classroom
Spring Village Drive
Springfield 22150
Contact: Kay, 703-644-2670

6:15 p.m. Dinner Unit (DU)

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

1 p.m. Fairfax City/Vienna (FX-V)

Oakton Regional Library
10304 Lynnhaven Pl.
Oakton 22124
Contact: Bobby, 703-938-1486 or Liz, 703-281-3380

Tuesday, September 11

10 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CC)

Sully District Gov. Center
4900 Stonecroft Blvd.
Chantilly, 20151
Contact: Olga, 703-815-1897

7:30 p.m. Reston Evening (RE)

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

7:45 p.m. Mt. Vernon Evening (MVE)

Paul Spring Retirement Community
Mt. Vernon Room
7116 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria 22307
Contact: Jane, 703-960-6820

Wednesday, September 12

9:30 a.m. Mt. Vernon Day (MVD)

Mt. Vernon Dist. Government Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria 22306
Contact: Louise, 703-960-0073

Thursday, September 13

9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)

21045 Cardinal Pond Ter. #119
Ashburn 20147
Contact: Carolyn, 703-729-1133

October Meetings:

"Virginia Privatization" - Successes and Failures



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

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**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER®
September, 2012**

Julie Jones, Co-President
Helen Kelly, Co-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.

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.

LWVFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Dues year is July 1 through June 30. Current dues year ends June 30, 2013.)

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) _____ **(M)** _____ **E-Mail** _____

Thank you for checking off your interests:

<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"/> Affordable Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Problems	<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence

Mail to: LWVFA, 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403