



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

Fairfax VOTER

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BOS Looks to League for Budget Input

Fairfax County has some crucial decisions to make. Just as is true in your household, how the revenue coming in should be allocated is a question loaded with considerable conflict or at least serious discussion. Many citizens are willing to leave the question of how to spend 3 and one-half billion dollars up to the officials, albeit with grumbling at the outcome if things don't match up with their expectations. But not the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area! For a number of years, County budget officials have actually attended our Board meetings (open to the entire membership) before the upcoming budget is adopted and have asked for our input. This year, in the face of difficult economic times and uncertain national fiscal issues, the County is seeking citizen input even earlier in the process. In the interest of having our membership fully informed about the major questions, your program chairs have decided to use December's unit meetings to inform and be informed so that we are fully prepared when our meeting does occur. In the midst of whatever holiday festivities your unit devises, dig into this ever-important budget proposal that truly does have a huge impact on your lives.

Calendar

December

- 1 Briefing and At-Large meeting**
- 3 January *VOTER* deadline
- 4 LWV-VA Board meeting
- 5 Women's Roundtable (WRT) Pre-Session & Lunch**
- 7 LWNCA Board meeting
- 8 Chanukah begins at sundown and runs through December 16
- 10-13 Units – Budget Impact in Fairfax County**
- 15 Bill of Rights Day
- 19 Board meeting**
- 24 FCPS holiday begins
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Kwanzaa begins
- 31 Happy New Year

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Presidents' Message



Another calendar year is coming to an end. We have accomplished much: gained members, learned more about many topics, helped inform voters in many ways, and survived a long election cycle.

We want to thank Rona Ackerman and Olga Hernandez, who are doing great things updating our website. Check it out! Let us know if you have suggestions to make it still more user friendly. Are you following us on Facebook? Please "like" us and tell your friends. We are trying to keep both sites up-to-date with useful and pertinent information.

Our Voter Service efforts are being evaluated. If you haven't reported your personal or unit activities in registering or informing voters, please send your information to the office. We know that we can always do more and better, but we need your help in providing the data. Do you have places for outreach that really worked or that didn't? We especially appreciate all the efforts of Olga Hernandez, who did more than her share of Voter Service activities.

The program at the January 26 General Meeting will be a showing of the movie, *Patriocracy*. This documentary was a popular part of the June LWV-US convention. We hope you will bring friends to see the film, discuss its main points, enjoy lunch in a pleasant location, and meet with other League members.

You will see information about LWV-VA Women's Round Table (WRT) sessions in this edition of the Fairfax Voter. We encourage you to attend the Pre-session on Wednesday, December 5 and the regular Wednesday gatherings during the January and February General Assembly session. You will learn so much about how our state government works and will have information to share with family and friends.

You have our warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

Julia & Helen

Marilyn Hedges - Long-time Member Leaves Fairfax Area

Fairfax Leaguers will miss Marilyn Hedges, who has moved to Galesburg, IL to be with her son John, after the death of her daughter. A member of LWV for 53 years, she hopes to join the League there. Marilyn would be delighted to hear from members who knew her at: 1513 Harrison St., Galesburg IL 61401. Her new email is mbhedges@jokerhenry3.com.

An Important Reminder from LWV-VA: Email Lists

It came to my attention today that somebody shared email addresses and a distribution list with somebody who is not an LWV member. As a result, I find it necessary to remind everybody that we do not share emails or distribution lists with non-members. Should anybody receive such a request in the future, please refer them directly to me.

Thanks.

Lynn Gordon, President,
League of Women Voters of Virginia

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2012 - 2013

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

Follow-up Report . . .

Privatization in Virginia: A Done Deal?

By Wendy Fox-Grage and Beth Henson Tudan,
Program Co-Chairs

In October, units of the LWFVA discussed how privatization is affecting the state's public universities, the ABC stores, and the funding of the Dulles Toll Road and the Greenway. The October *VOTER* study grew out of LWFVA members' desire to know more about privatization in Virginia after they had studied privatization nationally through a LWFVUS consensus study in March 2012.

As the Fairfax City/Vienna unit noted, "...we especially enjoy the locally produced studies about local issues." In general, the units were grateful for the easy-to-read and clear information on these topics that have been in the news.

ABC Stores: Governor McDonnell's proposal to privatize liquor sales in Virginia was an example of true privatization. His proposal failed because the State would receive less annual income, and no one in the state legislature supported it. Several units felt that the issue will not be raised again anytime soon.

Higher Education: The issues around higher education generated quite a bit more attention in the units. Many of

the units were concerned about declining State support for higher education. For example, members of the Mount Vernon Day unit agreed that "a public education helps build the middle class, develops an educated citizenry and keeps Virginia competitive." Many units, such as the At Large unit and Reston Evening, also discussed the value of community colleges and reasons for the large cost increases in college tuition.

Toll Roads: Unit members' views on the privatization of toll roads were more mixed. Units saw the pros, which include getting much-needed roads built by having drivers pay for them. Units, however, also noted the cons, which include slowing down traffic and the rise of the tolls. As a result, most units felt that the State should maintain some control and oversight over the toll roads to ensure that public interest is protected.

Issues for Future Related Studies:

- The new 495 express lanes
- Public funding for community colleges, land grant colleges, and different levels of education
- Prisons: interest in reform and the Northern Virginia Training Center

Your Help is Needed . . .

Nominating Committee Looking for People Who Want to Make a Difference

The LWFVA Nominating Committee is looking for capable people to fill slots on and off the Board— **and we need your help.** We know some of you have "been there, done that," but that doesn't mean you couldn't return to serve again. All these jobs have been made easier with e-mail and faxes. Please think about the Leaguers whom you know who could serve in some capacity.

What about you? What have you done for the League lately? Are you giving your best for the voters in the Fairfax area? and your fellow League Members. Just fill out the form below and send or e-mail it to Viveka Fuenzalida, 703-404-0498 or vivfuenza@verizon.net. We appreciate your cooperation!

Recommendations for Nominating Committee

Name _____ Unit _____ Phone No. _____

Area of interest or preference _____

Update on Urbanizing Tysons Corner

From Sharon Bulova's newsletter:

"Last Tuesday our Board, in a unanimous vote, approved Capital One's proposal to redevelop their property at Tysons Corner. This is the first major rezoning following the Georgelas demonstration project, Spring Hill, which is under construction. The Capital One expansion and redevelopment project is a great step forward for Tysons. The expansion not only adheres to the vision of Tysons as a strong economic and residential center, but also achieves the goals of the Tysons Corner Comprehensive Plan by addressing transportation needs and providing community amenities. The expansion project includes over \$63 million in transportation improvements, a pedestrian-oriented design, and park spaces. When completed, the project will frame the existing Capital One 14-story headquarters building with a mix of high-rise office, residential, and hotel buildings within easy walking distance of Tysons East Metrorail (3.1 million square feet of office space, four high-rise residential buildings with as many as 1,200 units, a hotel and 100,000 square feet of restaurants and retail)."

Women's Legislative Roundtable Kicks Off January 16 in Richmond

LWV-VA will again be offering free hotel rooms, double occupancy, for up to four people on Tuesday nights before the Women's Legislative Roundtable (WRT) meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday mornings. These rooms will be available on Tuesday nights throughout the Session (this is the 45-day session) for League members who would like to attend the WRT and observe the General Assembly at work.

The WRT begins January 16 and will run through February 13, 2013. Room reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. Names of the person(s) wanting the room(s) must be sent to Molly McClenon at mccle-non@cstone.net seven days prior to the selected Tuesday date. This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in the legislature.

The presence of League members would be a great help to the LWV-VA lobbyist and to Action Director Carol Lindstrom. As part of taking advantage of the free hotel rooms, you should encourage elected officials and other groups

visiting the General Assembly to attend WRT on Wednesday mornings. Later, you can attend various hearings and report back to our lobbyist and our action director. You are also encouraged to visit with legislators as individuals (not members of LWV) discussing topics that are important to you and to LWV-VA.

Voter Service Needs You!

Governor's Race in 2013 Means Extra Work for League

By Olga Hernandez, Voters Service Coordinator

This fall's Voter Service activities have been vast. We've done registration drives, produced "What's on the Ballot," produced our Voter ID cards, published a Voters' Guide and taped a promo for voter registration in Spanish/English for the Office of Election as well as doing an interview for a Danish Public Station!

But much was accomplished by only few people. Members are missing the point of this volunteer organization. Much more can be done if everyone takes on a little piece of the action. We were not able to hold a debate or forum on any of the constitutional amendments or do much about the bond issues. Why? Because we need you to help.

Our election work is widely respected, but we can only accomplish what we have members willing to do. Are you in? In Virginia, Voter Service is an annual event; in 2013 we have the governor's race, which starts the whole process again. We need to be able to have new models and ideas of how we get the work done. We need members who can use technology, organize events to help get our message out. A committee has met to debrief volunteers post the election and to try to come up with a plan. Can we count on you to say, yes, I will help?

Domestic Violence Hotline
(703) 360-7273

Fairfax County Budget Crafters Ask For More Citizen Input

By Judy Helein, Therese Martin, Karole McKalip and Sherry Zachry

Introduction

Development of the fiscal year 2014 Fairfax County budget is already underway. Although the County has reached out and asked for citizen input every year, the difficulty and magnitude of budget decisions in more difficult economic times has resulted in recent requests for citizen input much earlier in the process. It is no longer enough to testify on the advertised budget in March, when major budget parameters have been set; citizens need to give their opinions about the issues that affect their everyday lives now. As interested and educated citizens and taxpayers of the County, we have responsibilities to understand not only the processes involved, but to make our voices heard as our elected officials proceed in this important task. In this article we will examine how the budget is developed and highlight its key elements. We will look at the sources of revenue and at past and proposed disbursements—where does the money come from and where is it going?

Description of the County

The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (EDA) describes the county as a thriving business center with among other things “a large and exceptionally qualified workforce...easy access to major airports...close proximity to the U.S. government...world-class universities and research centers...”

The following profile of the County is taken from the official county website.

- Fairfax is the most populous county in Virginia with over one million residents [2011 (1,096,798)] with expected continued growth [2015 (1,116,371)].
- According to the 2010 census, 31.8% percent of the population are under 24 years; 43.6% are between 35 and 64; and 9.8% are over 65.
- While the median (the midpoint in

distribution) household income is \$105,241, the percentage of people below the poverty level is 4.9%. This number represents family income of \$25,000 or less.

- Regarding the educational characteristics, 56.1% of citizens age 25 and older are college graduates with bachelor degrees or greater.
- There are 580,000 jobs in the County, according to the 2010 census and 54.7% of those jobs are held

by county residents with the remainder being held by workers commuting from outside the county.

- Federal, state, and local governments employ 22.5% of county residents.

The County operates under an urban county executive form of government and has limited powers under the Virginia Constitution, statutes, and application of the “Dillon Rule.” (See the 2004 LWVFA publication on the Dillon Rule posted on the LWVFA website.) As a result, the County is limited in areas such

Explanation of the School Transfer and the Level of Authority

The Fairfax County School Board is a legally separate entity that serves as the local education agency providing educational services to Fairfax County students. Since the School Board has no taxing authority, it is fiscally dependent on Fairfax County Government. Each year, the Board of Supervisors approves a transfer from County funds to the school system to finance school operations.

It is the duty of the Fairfax County Public Schools to prepare the public education budget estimates. These must be submitted to the Board of Supervisors by April 1 each year. The estimate for public education submitted to the Board of Supervisors must show the amount of money estimated to be received from the State Basic School Aid Fund and the amount needed for the support of public schools, including instruction, operating and maintenance costs, the capital reserve fund and other costs. In adjusting the school budget, the Board of Supervisors may make changes only in the total amount or in the amounts of major categories like the ones shown above. The Board of Supervisors may not adjust individual line items since this would overreach upon the School Board’s statutory requirements to operate the school system. The Board of Supervisors must adopt the school budget no later than May 1.

as raising revenue and cannot take certain actions without appropriate action from the state. For example, the state limits, controls or caps nearly 90 percent of the County's non-real-estate tax revenue; and levies and collects all income taxes. Local governments in Virginia cannot levy personal income taxes.

A 10-member elected Board of Supervisors (BOS) governs the County—nine members elected by magisterial district and a chair (currently Sharon Bulova) elected at-large. The members are elected for four-year terms, with no limit to number of terms served. The BOS appoints the County Executive (currently Edward L. Long, Jr.), who is the administrative head of the County government and responsible for the administration of all County affairs for which the Board has authority to control.

Preliminary Comments about the Fairfax County Budget

Although the general fund accounts for slightly over a half of the County's annual expenditures, it receives the most attention from County citizens. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that it covers spending for services such as police and fire services, parks, libraries, human services, elections, Connector bus, and the transfers to the County schools and Community Service Board (CSB). It is also the fund that reflects the income from the real-estate and personal property taxes paid directly by the citizens.

The other funds covered by the budget include those for debt service, capital projects, special revenues, proprietary and internal services. Here you will find funding for items such as construction projects, aging grants and programs, Dulles rail, housing assistance, refuse disposal, County transit systems and storm water services.

Since the transfer to Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is over 50 percent of the general fund expenditures, it is understandable that a major budget issue/decision each year is the size of the general fund transfer to FCPS. The BOS issues guidance to FCPS for the size of the transfer it will consider each year; it has been routinely ignored.

Fiscal Year 2013 Adopted Budget Plan

The BOS adopted the FY 2013 (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013) Budget Plan on May 1, 2012. The proposal estimates revenues of \$3.47 billion coming primarily from real estate taxes (60.9 percent), local taxes (16.0 percent) and personnel property taxes (15.9 percent). (See Figure 1.) On

the expenditure side, the largest two are for schools (62.2 percent) and public safety (12.4 percent). (See Figure 2.)

The Real Estate Tax Rate approved by the Board for FY 2013 was \$1.075 per \$100 of assessed value, an increase of 0.005, and the Personal Property Tax remained at \$4.57 per \$100 of assessed value for most classes of personal property. Personal Property is property other than real estate identified for purposes of taxation including personally owned items as well as corporate and business equipment and property. For most residents, this means their automobiles. Pursuant to the 1998 Personal Property Tax Relief legislation, the amount paid on the first \$20,000 of the vehicle's value is reduced by an amount determined annually. In addition to these taxes, the stormwater tax rate on real estate was increased from .015 to 0.02 per \$100 of assessed value. The BOS believed it was needed to help protect public safety, preserve property values and support environmental mandates, such as those aimed at protecting the Chesapeake Bay and the water quality of other local jurisdictional waterways.

The schools transfer was increased over the adopted FY 2012 level by 4.5% to \$1.68 billion. This budget item and that of employee benefits have been the budget items responsible for ¾ of budget increases since 2009. The greatest budget decreases (percentage) during that time have occurred in parks, libraries, community development and legislative-executive central services. Between FY 2012 and FY 2013, the areas showing the greatest decreases in funding or revenue adjustments were: housing and community development, land development services, parks, libraries, health, family services, sheriff, County construction, Connector buses, and the CSB.

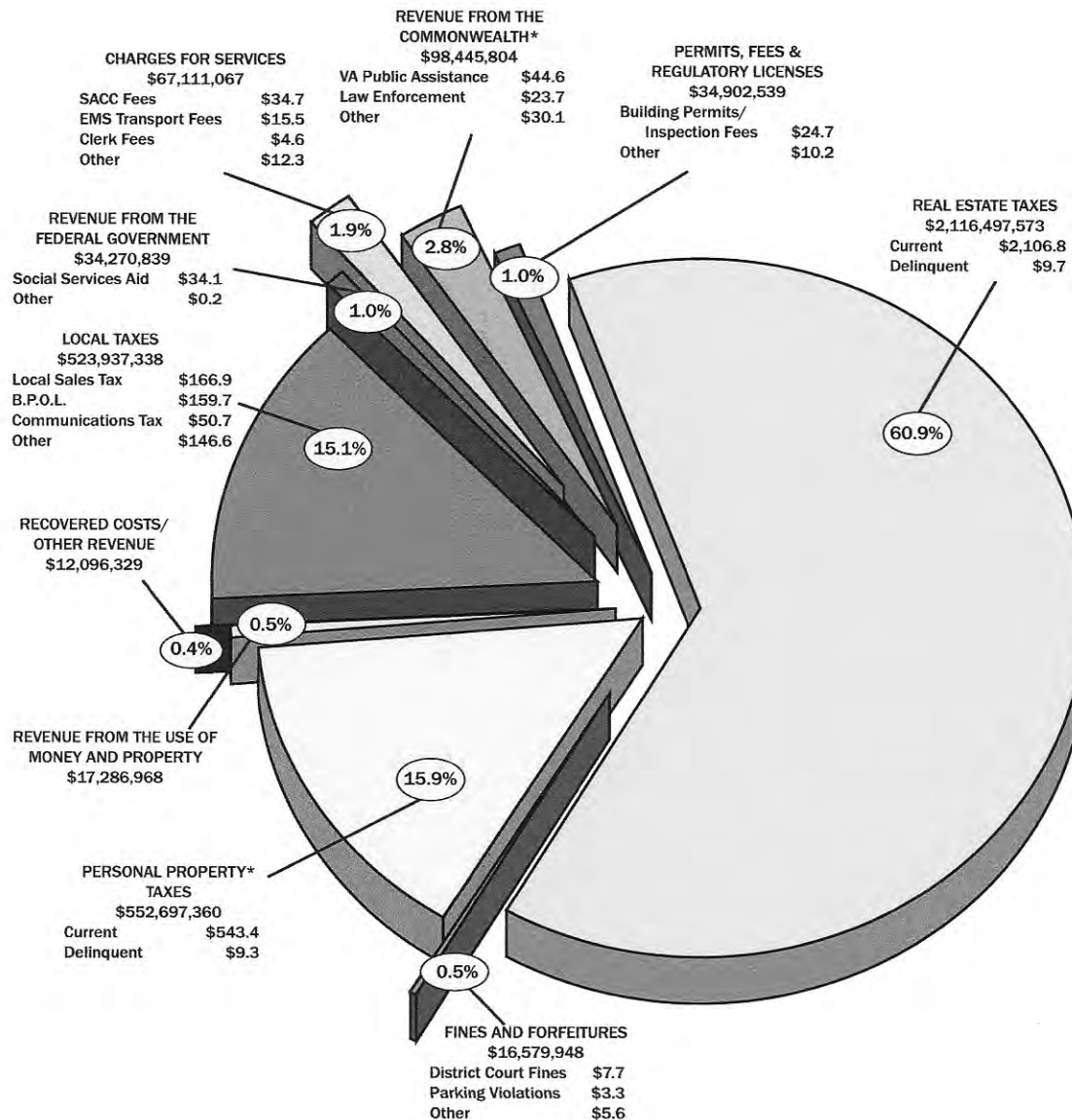
Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014) Budget Guidelines

On April 24, 2012, the County BOS approved the following budget guidelines for FY 2013 and FY 2014 and directed the County Executive to provide a financial forecast for FY 2014 by the fall of 2012 to assist it in decision making and provide guidance to the County and the Schools on strategic priorities and the budgetary support for programs and services in FY 2014. Following are some of the highlights of the FY 2014 Budget Guidelines.

- The BOS directed the County Executive to prepare a FY 2014 budget proposal that continues to consider affordability of taxes for County residents and businesses.

FY 2013 GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS **

Where it comes from . . .
(subcategories in millions)



FY 2013 GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS = \$3,473,825,765 **

* For presentation purposes, Personal Property Taxes of \$211,313,944 that are reimbursed by the Commonwealth as a result of the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998 are included in the Personal Property Taxes category.

** Total County resources include the receipts shown here, as well as a beginning balance and transfers in from other funds.

Figure 1 - Where the Revenue Comes From

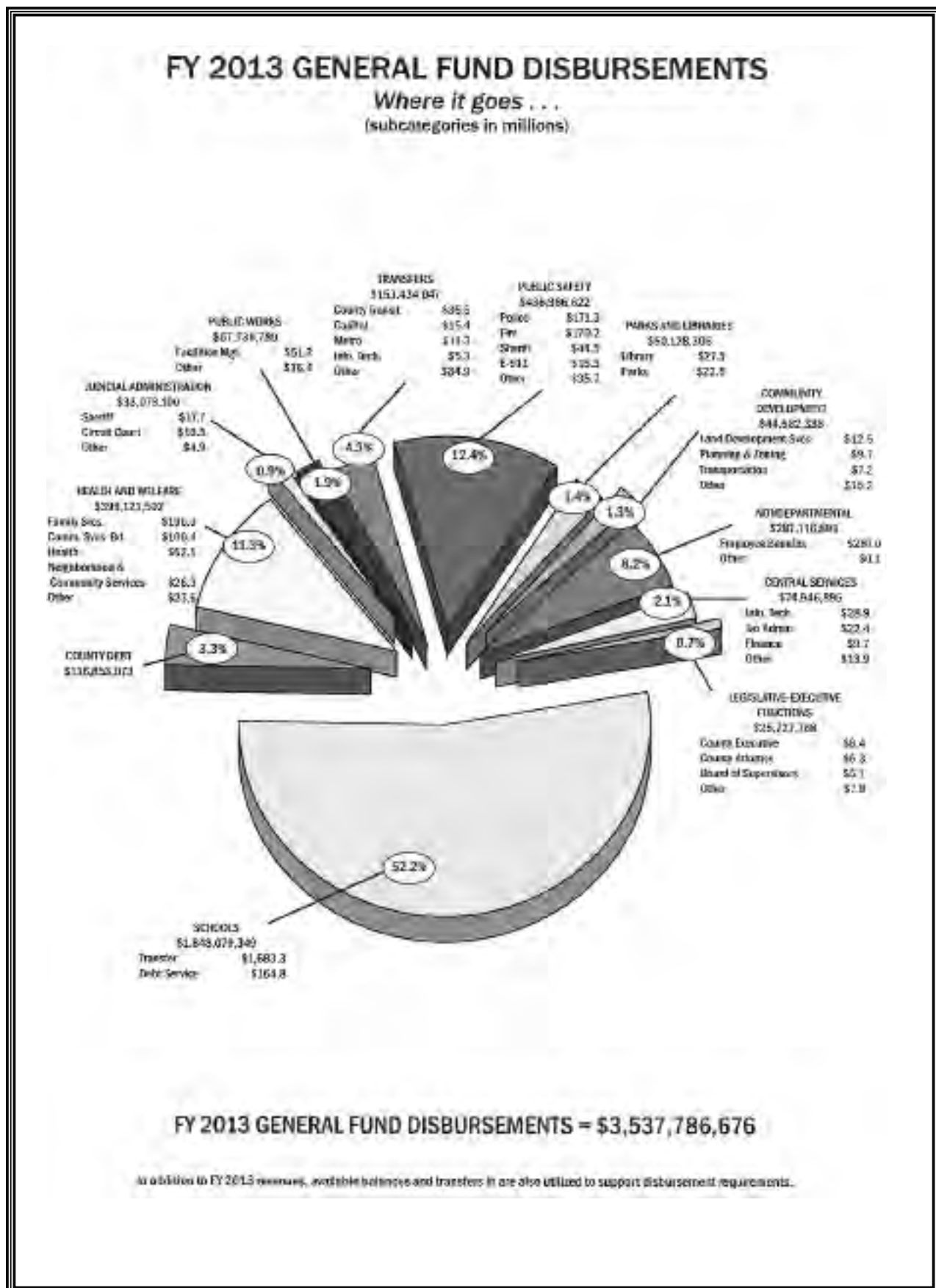


Figure 2 - Where the Revenue Is Spent

- The BOS directed the County Executive to present options to address requirements such as increasing school enrollment, compensation, and long-term needs of the County, including efficiencies, service reductions and revenue opportunities. The FY 2014 budget recommendations should include a multiyear proposal.
- With regard to staff, the reinstitution of a full compensation package in FY 2013 is a critical element in the long-term stability of the workforce. The restitution will not replace increases which were foregone in prior years, nor will adjustments be made to retirement or other benefits as a result of this loss.
- The Community Services Board (CSB) is facing a significant shortfall in FY 2013 as a result of payroll costs that it cannot fund out of the planned allocation and a service shortfall which includes full coverage of the Intellectual Disabilities (ID) high school graduate needs, infant service needs, and of the estimated revenue shortfall in fees for services. The CSB has been working with advocates and community agencies to address how to establish a new service model for all services recognizing that some services may require additional resources based on increased caseloads and clients in need of services.
- Housing Blueprint. The FY 2013 Blueprint identifies specific requirements to fund Blueprint for Affordable Housing activities in the upcoming year. Included in the Blueprint is the development/acquisition of an additional 200 units of affordable housing. It is important to note that in addition to the 200-unit project, the Blueprint includes a Community Challenge to fund approximately \$2.6 million, which will be needed to close the gap between the County's goals and anticipated resources to serve 307 households. The BOS is providing \$1.3 million as a match for this purpose, but the Community Challenge is dependent on resources from outside the County's budget.
- Partners in Prevention. The BOS supported the Human Services Council's recommendation to replenish the Partners in Prevention Fund. The Fund provides a necessary source of resources to address a variety of prevention related activities which generate long-term savings in Human Services and Public Safety. Staff was also directed to review and make recommendations for modifying and perhaps streamlining sliding fee scales within Human Services as part of the FY 2014 Budget process.
- The BOS directed staff to review the Rent Relief Program in the context of overall services to individuals in need and report back to the Human Services Committee.
- Schools. The BOS stated that it will continue to pursue opportunities for further County and School collaborations that can result in efficiencies, reductions and improvements. In recognition of the critical importance of early learning and development to a child's future academic potential as well as to the community's economic development and the quality of life, members of the County and School Boards will work collaboratively to ensure that all children entering kindergarten are well prepared to succeed. In February 2012, the School Board approved funding of a best practices study on early education.
- Lorton Arts Foundation (LAF). LAF operates the Center for the Arts at the former Lorton Prison site. The Board is committed to identifying solutions for the current fiscal stress being experienced by LAF. During the economic recession fundraising has been a challenge for LAF, the level of patronage has not been what was projected and serious deterioration has been identified to such an extent that LAF is on the verge of failure unless additional funds can be found to push through the recession and provide a chance for recovery.

Fiscal Year 2012 Carryover Review – September 11, 2012

The Carryover Review is the process to consider the disposition of unspent funds from the fiscal year that has just ended. Each year, Carryover gives the County the opportunity to learn results of the fiscal year that just ended and make the first round of changes to the year that just began.

The FY 2012 Carryover Review focused attention on two major issues. The first addressed the projected CSB shortfall for FY 2013. The second turned attention to challenges facing the County for FY 2014 which includes the looming federal budget showdown and the County's revenue projections which continue to reflect very slow growth. As a result of the latter consideration, a budget

reserve was established. Remaining carryover funds were directed to transportation and relatively minor adjustments in various other budget items.

In its FY 2014 Guidelines:

- The BOS directed that one half of the remaining balances made available at Carryover Review in September that were not required to support critical requirements be identified for transportation funding.
- The other one-half of balances remaining at Carryover should be held in reserve to address FY 2014 Budget challenges, and the BOS requested that the School Board also reserve available balances to meet FY 2014 requirements.
- The CSB was directed to present a final FY 2013 Budget Management Plan to the BOS as part of the FY 2012 Carryover Review, and to report on the ramifications of the closing of the Training Center and options to address residential services for these clients and others in the CSB system.

Addressing the CSB shortfall was extremely challenging given the importance and sensitivity of the services that are provided by the CSB coupled with the timing of the discussion (after the FY 2013 Budget was balanced and ready for adoption) and the size of the projected shortfall (currently projected at \$9.5 million). Reaching a strategy for closing the shortfall engaged staff and the community in a manner that demonstrated commitment to the “safety net” of services that the County values.

The resolution involved a combination of reductions, redesigns and consolidations coupled with funding from the Board’s Reserve. Members of the Human Services Council, representatives of the Community Services Board and the County’s Human Services Advisory Boards, advocates, clients and families participated throughout the process. The plan to address CSB shortfall includes \$3.02 million from the Reserve for State/Federal cuts; \$4.08 million from funding included in Carryover Fringe Benefits and savings based on actions to date; and CSB reductions totaling \$2.38 million.

Reductions include: limiting of Prevention Services (Health Promotion and Wellness) to only those funded by the State/Federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant for youth substance abuse prevention and MH First Aides; consolidating Youth Day treatment Services; maintaining existing managed position vacancies; and

reducing the planned expanded staffing of the Intensive Community Treatment teams that provide intensive community-based services for chronically homeless individuals that have substance abuse, mental health and medical issues. This proposed action eliminates the expansion of this service to three new sites. Four existing teams will be maintained.

Fears of Looming Shortfalls Affect Fiscal Year 2014 Forecast

In August, the County Executive asked agencies to scour for cuts of as much as 5 percent over each of the next two years because of looming budget shortfalls. He did not specify dollar amounts but in a memo told County employees that cuts are necessary because of uncertainty over federal spending and slower than expected growth in Fairfax. He also warned that jobs may have to be eliminated in 2013 and 2014.

County budget officials said that the new projections are based primarily on real estate data for the past five months, a period in which home sales and prices have not been as strong as initially predicted. The County now estimates revenue – more than 60 percent of which comes from real estate taxes – to be less than anticipated.

Officials in Fairfax County, whose relatively strong economy relies heavily on federal jobs and contracts, also have to plan for “sequestration” or billions of dollars in potential mandatory federal spending cuts early next year.

Transportation Funding at a Crossroads

This fall, County transportation staff has begun conducting a number of Town Hall meetings to lay out needs and options and to solicit input on one of the principal policy issues facing the County – whether the County should assume a greater role in secondary road maintenance and construction. The state owns almost every road in Fairfax County. The already awful congestion will get worse as the state has stopped, permanently, all secondary road construction.

County staff believes the County needs \$8 billion dollars to meet its principal transportation needs in the coming decade (this includes items like new construction, road widening and transit, but not maintenance). At current rates, state and federal funding will cover about \$5 billion, leaving a gap of \$3 billion or \$300 million a year.

There is no consensus among the BOS; they want to know what the residents of Fairfax County think.

“Community Engagement Sessions” Set Up to Review FY 14-15

The County is reaching out to organizations, members of the business community, civic associations and residents to obtain ideas on how the County can continue to move forward in a way that protects the quality of life that is valued in our community. A budget represents the priorities of the community. It also represents the appropriate balance of resources and services which are sustainable by the community.

Another purpose of the community engagement process is to keep everyone informed about possible impacts to the delivery of services affected by potential budget cuts.

The County will host three “Community Engagement” sessions in different parts of the County during November. For those unable to attend the meetings, the County slide presentation is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget.

Those attending the sessions—and those viewing the slideshow and materials online--will be asked to give their opinions on and rate the following BOS priorities and offer suggestions for cost savings, revenue enhancements and improvements in the budget process:

1. Quality educational system
2. Safe streets and neighborhoods
3. Clean, sustainable environment
4. Living, caring and affordable communities
5. Vibrant economy
6. Efficient transportation system
7. Recreational and cultural opportunities
8. Taxes that are affordable

Following the release of the multiyear budget on February 26, 2013, all proposed adjustments will be available online for review and comment. The public hearings on the FY 2014 budget are scheduled for April 9, 10 and 11, 2013. In addition, online “Chats with the County Executive” will be scheduled. The dates, times and locations for these “Chats” will be publicized when scheduled. League members are also reminded that County staff provides a budget briefing for the League each March, to which all members are invited.

Resources

1. Fairfax County Website www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb
2. County Faces Transportation Funding Crossroads

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/newsletter

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What information in the County profile might be relevant or have an impact on budget decisions and why?
2. Budgeting requires a balance of priorities based on what the community values about Fairfax. How would you rank the priorities of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors? And why?
3. What are your suggested service reductions, cost savings or revenue enhancements to address the FY 2014-2015 shortfall?
4. Secondary road construction, maintenance and repair (or transportation) are high priorities for many citizens. Who should pay for these and who should own the County roads?
5. What would you recommend to improve the budget process?
6. What would you recommend to make the County budget documents more understandable and user friendly?

Chairman Bulova to Recommend Bi-Partisan Election Commission

At the next Board of Supervisors meeting, Fairfax County BOS Chairman Sharon Bulova plans to recommend the creation of a bi-partisan commission to review and make recommendations regarding Fairfax County’s election process. The commission will be asked to concentrate on ways to improve the County’s efficiency on Election Day, with a specific focus on addressing wait times, long lines, and other voting issues.

On November 6, voter turnout in Fairfax County was 80.5%. In the last presidential election the turnout was 78.7% (with 72,501 fewer registered voters than today). Lines and waits varied throughout the County, as the Chairman waited only 20 minutes at Villa precinct Tuesday morning at about 8 a.m. At other locations however, lines snaked around elementary school parking lots and through buildings, and it was not unusual for voters to have a wait over an hour. The last vote in Fairfax County was cast at 10:30 p.m. at the Skyline precinct in Bailey’s Crossroads, which means voters in line by 7 p.m. had to wait three and a half hours before finally casting their ballots.

October Was Domestic Violence Awareness Month . . .**DVAC Holds Open House**

By Barbara Nunes, Domestic Violence chair

In May 2012, the Domestic Violence information study mentioned the Domestic Violence Action Center, supported by a two-year \$800,000 Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women grant to Fairfax County. On October 25, DVAC held an open house after over a year operating. BOS Chairman Sharon Bulova gave opening remarks and Supervisor Penny Gross from the Mason District attended.

DVAC includes the Court Services unit with the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, the Fairfax County Office for Women and Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, Fairfax County offices of the Commonwealth's Attorney, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, the Multicultural Human Services Division of Northern Virginia Family Services, Shelter House Inc., the Tahirih Justice Center, Victim Services section of the Fairfax County Police Department, and the Women's Center. Funding is provided in part by federal grants and in-kind contributions from Fairfax County agencies.

Established in June 2011, DVAC, located in the Historic Courthouse in Fairfax City, has served over 300 victims, prosecuted over 1,000 cases, and served 33 offenders referred by the court. Staffed by County agencies and community nonprofit partners, it provides culturally responsive information and support services for victims of domestic violence and stalking and their families.

All services are free and, when possible, confidential. Services include crisis intervention, emotional support and options counseling; education about the criminal and civil justice systems (including civil protective orders), victim advocacy including safety planning, court accompaniment, criminal injuries compensation, assistance with emergency shelter and other referrals to off-site county and community based resources, legal advice and information sessions, and Children and Youth Services.

You can visit DVAC by making an appointment to stop by and see the facilities and visit with the staff. Call 703-246-4573. Walk-in hours for clients are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Ed. Note: This material did not become available until after press time last month. We feel it is important enough to bring it to your attention in this issue.

Did You Know That:

71% of pet-owning victims entering a domestic violence shelter reported that their batterer had injured, maimed, killed or threatened family pets for revenge or to psychologically control victims?

- 68% of battered women reported violence towards their animals.
- 87% of these incidents occurred in the presence of the victim.
- 75% in the presence of the children, to psychologically control and coerce them.
- 13% of intentional animal abuse cases involve domestic violence.
- Between 25% and 40% of battered women are unable to escape abusive situations because they worry about what will happen to their pets or livestock should they leave.

Thirty-seven percent (37%) of Fairfax residents speak a language other than English at home?

- Of those speaking a language other than English at home:
- 37 percent spoke Spanish.
- 63 percent spoke some other language.
- 40 percent reported that they did not speak English "very well."

Only 10% of primary care physicians routinely screen for intimate partner violence during new patient visits and 9% routinely screen during periodic checkups?

- More than two out of every three providers reported that they do not have adequate referral services for IPV at their workplace
- 67% indicated that, to their knowledge, their workplace did not have any written guidelines

***Domestic Violence Hotline
(703) 360-7273***

League Braves Weather and Provides Election Materials

Despite the weather, Clifton Day was held again this year in October, and the League was there providing election materials as scheduled. The crowd was smaller than usual, but people were still enthusiastic as they toured the various booths crammed with crafts, food and political materials.

The voter information effort was just one of a host of LWVFA efforts this carried out prior to the election. Business at the League booth was steady and many absentee ballot applications were picked up as well as the Voters' Guides.

Co Presidents Julie Jones and Helen Kelly expressed special thanks to Sherry Zachry, Shelia Iskra, Dottie Joslin, Jane Barker and Leslie Vandivere who faithfully withstood the elements to assist the citizens attending the fair. "With members like these dedicated people, the League continues to remain a strong, non-partisan voice for everyone."

The Fairfax Station Unit took the lead in staffing the booth, but was gratified by help from members of AAUW, Prince Williams' MAL and several middle school students. Ron and Lois Page set up and took down the booth that was shared with our Turning Point Memorial partners.

Turning Point Memorial and the LWVFA: Partners in Honoring the Suffragists

Fairfax County, Virginia, is the site of possibly the most significant moment in the fight for women's suffrage in the United States. In 1917, more than 70 suffragists were imprisoned in the Occoquan Workhouse, then part of the Lorton Prison complex, in retaliation for picketing the Woodrow Wilson White House for the right to vote. The reports of inhumane conditions, beatings and force-feeding at the workhouse electrified the country and became the "turning point" in the struggle for the 19th Amendment.

The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Committee is working with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA) and the LWVFA to raise funds to erect a suffragist memorial to commemorate the struggle of these women and educate future generations.

A historical marker identifying the original site of the Occoquan Workhouse can be seen on Route 123 in Lorton.



Staffing the LWVFA/Turning Point booth at Clifton Day are Marilyn Parker (AAUW) and Carol Noggle (LWVPW).

According to The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, this marker was the first to recognize civil or women's rights.

Championed by the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, it was initially erected in 1982 in celebration of the first national Women's History Week. It now stands at the entrance of the Griffith Water Treatment Plant that occupies the former workhouse site.

The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial will be located across the street in Occoquan Regional Park.





~ You are cordially invited to attend ~



The LWV of the Fairfax Area
General Meeting

Saturday, January 26, 2013

COUNTRY CLUB OF FAIRFAX
5110 Ox Road (Route 123 & Braddock Roads)
Fairfax VA 22030
9:00 a.m. – Registration & coffee

9:30 a.m.

“Patriocracy”

A nonpartisan examination of Washington dysfunction

This timely film seeks to answer the questions: How bad is it in Washington? Has the political environment always been this angry, this gridlocked, this broken? What can we do about it?

11:30 – Luncheon
(Reservations required for luncheon only)

Luncheon Reservation Deadline January 13, 2013-- Cost: \$35 per person

Menu: House Salad With Raspberry Vinaigrette, Chicken Capri [Chicken Breast With Basil Butter and Angel Hair Pasta], Chef's Vegetables, Rolls and Butter, Dessert, Coffee Service

Program is free; Luncheon, \$35 per person.

Make checks payable to: **LWVFA** and mail with reservation form to:

2013 General Meeting, 10172 Turnberry Place, Oakton, VA 22124

Name _____ Lunch @\$35

ea. _____

Phone Number &

E-mail _____

Guest(s)'Name(s) _____ Lunch

@\$35ea. _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

For special dietary needs or questions, call Mary at 703-319-2185

This Month's Unit Meeting Locations

Topic: Fairfax County Budget

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 November 10, 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, December 1

10 a.m. At-Large Unit and Briefing

Packard Center
4026 Hummer Rd.
Annandale 22003
Contact: Judy, 703-725-9401

Monday, December 10

12 noon Greenspring (GSP)

Woodland Skies
Spring Village Dr.
Springfield 22150
Contact: Kay, 703-644-2670

Tuesday, December 11

10:30 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CC)

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

Wednesday, December 12

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

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

9:30 a.m. McLean (MCL)

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

10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)

7902 Bracksford Ct..
Fairfax Station 22039
Contact: Lois, 703-690-0908

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

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

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

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

Thursday, December 13

9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)

Margo Sterling
11624 Sourwood Lane
Reston 20191
Contact: Margo, 703-620-9054

9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)

Packard Center
4026 Hummer Rd.
Annandale 22002
Contact: Nancy, 703-256-6570 or
Peg, 703-256-9420

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

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

Martha Washington Library
6614 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria 22307
Contact: Jane, 703-960-6820

January Meetings:

General Meeting/Film "Patriocracy" and Discussion No Unit Meetings



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

Non-Profit Org.
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Permit No. 1202

The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER®

Decemberr, 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