



# Fairfax VOTER

December 2015

Volume 68, Issue 4

## Money in Politics: Introduction and Overview

For the second month in a row, you will have a chance to influence and update a LWVUS position. It will be hard work to do this right. The questions are long and require very thoughtful answers.

The issue: Money in Politics. We will be considering the rights of individuals and organizations, under the First Amendment, to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities. Additionally, we will consider how these rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current position.

Do yourself a favor and try to digest this material. It will make your discussion experience so much richer.

### Calendar

#### December 2015

- 1 LWV-VA Board meeting
- 2 WLRT Pre-Session  
and luncheon, Richmond
- 4 LWNCA Board meeting
- 5 **LWVFA Briefing and At-Large meeting**
- 7 *VOTER* deadline
- 8-14 **LWVFA Unit meetings**
- 15 Bill of Rights Day
- 16 **LWVFA Board meeting**
- 31 New Year's Eve

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## Presidents' Message



Whew!! It was a VERY busy fall and hopefully we can rest up a bit before the holiday frenzy is upon us. Many, many thanks again to Sidney Johnson and all the volunteers who worked so hard to make the Meet and Greets a success. One of the candidates thanked us for the opportunity to “interact with the voters” in a “meaningful” way. Ever since our presentation to high school social studies teachers, more students have volunteered to fulfill their community service hours at our Meet and Greets. One of our student volunteers sent us a thank you note stating that “...being involved in local elections is the backbone of this nations’ politics” and she was encouraged by the League members “passion and commitment.” And as we reach a wider audience, more community groups have asked us about co-sponsoring our candidate forums. The voters’ guide in VOTE411 was very popular with Fairfax County residents of all ages. Thank you, Sheila Iskra. Beth Tudan has been doing a great job increasing our presence in social media. All these efforts are increasing our visibility in the community. We have received many requests for voter information. We even had a request for information about how to find a registered parliamentarian.

We congratulate Sidney Johnson for winning the prestigious Barbara Varon Award. She received the award for superhuman efforts in managing the details of this 13-event Meet and Greet season. The Board of Supervisors presented the award on November 17.

Maggi Luca, Beth Tudan and Sidney Johnson joined us in presentations to six Government classes at South Lakes High School in October and November. It was fun to be in the classroom engaging the students in the electoral process and explaining what the League does. We had an interesting exchange of ideas. Surprisingly, about half the students liked the later school time start to be able to sleep later or work on homework in the morning. The other half expressed such concerns as getting home late from sports or band practice and middle school siblings waiting for a ride home or being home alone. The students also had some good insight on school budget issues and why supporting the schools is important to the tax payers who don’t have children in school. They said, “We are the future voters

and law makers.” We at LWVFA will continue to develop a relationship with the teachers and schools.

As you will be hearing and reading, it is already time to think about who will replace some of our officers and board members as they re-focus their energies in other areas. Think about what active role you would like either on or off the Board. The nominating committee is busy trying to fill the upcoming vacancies. Thank you to Sherry Zachry and the Nominating Committee. The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is such a great League because of all the time, skills and energy that you so willingly donate. A special thank you goes out to Anne Thomas for agreeing to be Community Elections Coordinator.

We want to give you a last minute reminder about the LWV-VA Women’s Legislative Roundtable Pre-session & luncheon on December 2. Carpools are available at SignUp Genius on our website. We hope to see many of you there. With the help of Mary Valder and Viveka Fuenzalida, we are also busy planning the General Meeting on January 23. There are more details in this *VOTER*.

As we look forward to an exciting 2016, we wish you peace and happiness for the holidays and in 2016.

*Peggy and Helen*

### LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2015 - 2016

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# Harris to Keynote January 23 General Meeting

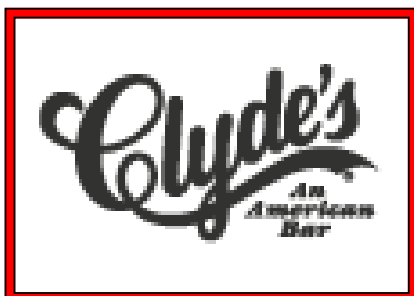
We are delighted that Wylecia Wiggs Harris, the new executive director of the LWVUS, will be our General Meeting speaker on January 23. Dr. Harris previously served 11 years at the American Nurses Association Enterprise and 17 years with the American Heart Association. She was executive director for both the Center for American Nurses and Sister to Sister – Everyone Has a Heart Foundation, a national organization supporting women's health issues and heart disease education.

Dr. Harris holds a PhD in organizational development from Capella University in Minneapolis, a master of management from Northwestern University, and a bachelor's degree from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. (For more information, see the recent article on page 12 of the fall issue of *The Virginia Voter* [http://www.lwv-va.org/files/viter\\_2015\\_24\\_10\\_octissue\\_rpage.pdf](http://www.lwv-va.org/files/viter_2015_24_10_octissue_rpage.pdf))

She is an excellent speaker, and we are sure you will enjoy listening to her as she talks about the two national initiatives, Structures of Democracy: "Amending the U.S. Constitution" and "Money in Politics."

The location of this year's General Meeting has been changed from its usual location at the Fairfax Country Club to Clyde's at Tysons Corner as a result of a remodeling effort at the golf club house. Special thanks are due to Mary Valder and Viveka Fuenzalida for making these arrangements at the last minute. See page 11 of this issue of the *Voter* for the registration form.

All members are encouraged to attend this event to meet Dr. Harris and learn more about what's happening at the national level.



# Suffragette: The Movie

Review by Leslie Vandivere

What fun to walk into the Angelika Film Center at Mosaic and see many familiar faces. Fairfax League members turned out to see *Suffragette*, the story of Maud, played by Oscar Nominee Carey Mulligan. Maud was a working wife and mother who became increasingly involved in the suffragettes' campaign to gain voting rights for women in pre-World War I Great Britain.



As the suffrage movement became more assertive, Maud joined the activists in demonstrations. Along with other suffragettes, she was imprisoned and force fed. When she was released, she found herself locked out of her home, denied access to her young son, and thrown out of her job.

Led by the militant Emmeline Pankhurst (Meryl Streep), the suffragettes turned to civil disobedience, arson, vandalism, and more demonstrations. Maud's friend Emily Davison threw herself under the hooves of the king's horse at the derby, becoming the first martyr of the movement. The movie concludes with black and white film of Emily's funeral procession attended, like that of the real Emily, by tens of thousands of women.

The dramatic violence in the film is surprising. The tactics used by British suffragettes would not have worked in America. LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara explains why. In 1912, American women had more legal rights than British women. Freedom of the American press made media accessible to suffragists in the United States. The government controlled the British press, which drove the suffragettes to resort to extreme measures for attention. Many suffragists, including those who founded the League of Women Voters, felt that these measures were not only unnecessary, but also resulted in resentment that damaged the cause.

President MacNamara wrote a piece on the "different media coverage of the British and American suffrage Movements." after viewing the movie. You can read her thoughts by going to <http://lwv.org/blog/screening-suffragette-differences-media-coverage-british-and-american-suffrage-movements>

# Sidney Johnson Receives Barbara Varon Volunteer Award

On November 17, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors honored Sidney Johnson with the Barbara Varon Award. This award is presented to a Fairfax County resident who “exhibits patriotism by participating in the electoral process, educating others about the rights and privileges of all citizens to participate in the electoral process, and/or participating in voter registration outreach.” As Voter Service Coordinator for the past three years, Sidney has organized and participated in many voter registration drives and a variety of voter outreach projects.

Sidney has reached out to diverse population groups. She has spoken to single mothers, senior citizens, members of the AAUW and high school students. In addition to her Voter Service activities, Sidney worked tirelessly to educate the public about the League of Women Voters: who we are and

what we do. Her activities have helped to inform others about important issues in the community.

With the help of volunteers, this year Sidney organized 13 Meet and Greet Candidate Forums throughout Fairfax County to educate the public and give voters an opportunity to meet with the candidates and learn the candidates’ positions on the important issues. She expanded the League’s partnership with such groups as the Voice of Vietnamese Americans. In an attempt to reach more voters, Sidney helped organize the first televised Meet and Greet forums for the candidates for the Senate, House of Delegates, Sheriff, Clerk of the Court, and Soil and Water Commissioners.

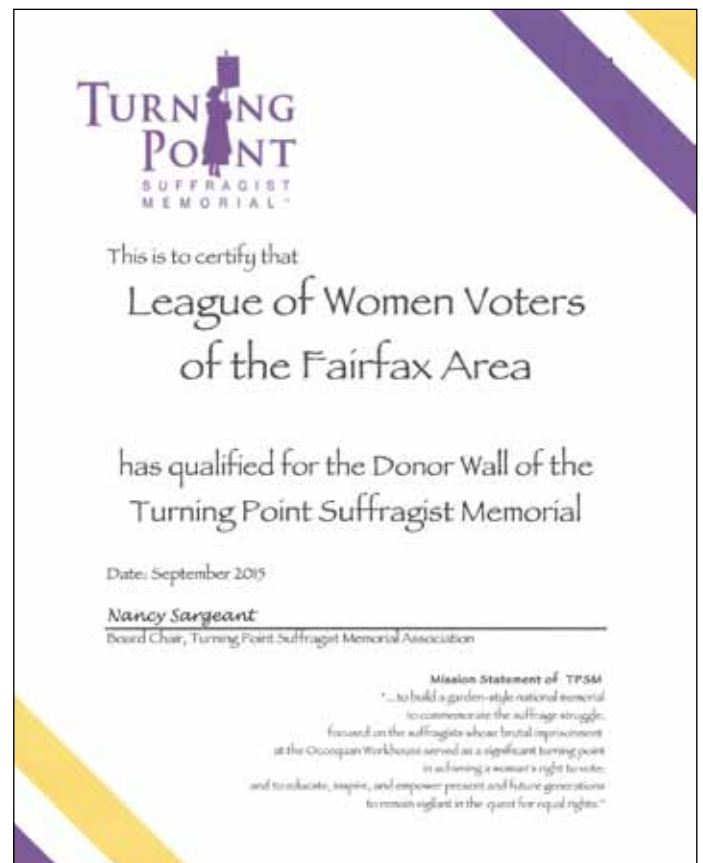
With her many efforts in community outreach and voter service, Sidney has embodied the spirit of Barbara Varon, who donated time and money for many community causes and who “fought for the rights and privileges of all citizens to participate in the electoral process.” We wish to congratulate Sidney Johnson for receiving the prestigious Barbara Varon Award.

# Fairfax Area League Gets Its Own Spot on Turning Point Donor Wall

Although members of LWVFA have donated generously in the past to the successful campaign to raise \$1,000 from Virginia Leaguers so that the state League would be listed on the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial’s Donor Wall, a recent development has added a new dimension.

A recent anonymous donor has designated her \$1,000 donation to give Fairfax a separate listing on the Donor Wall. This is very appropriate since the Fairfax League was the founding member of the effort to build a memorial not only to the suffrage movement in general, but to the suffragists in particular who were imprisoned and tortured at the Occoquan Workhouse. Their “crime” was picketing the White House.

Lois Page, LWV-VA Co-president, said, “This is a lovely gift and a much deserved tribute to the leadership the Fairfax League exerted in the early days of the memorial planning.” The Fairfax Area League, The Virginia League, and LWVUS are all partner organizations with the memorial effort.



# MONEY IN POLITICS: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW



## Introduction and Brief History of Campaign Laws

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 Federal Election Commission (FEC).

Over the next three decades, other activities occurred related to campaign financing.

- 1976 *Buckley v. Valeo* stated that expenditures were a form of constitutionally protected free speech.
- 1990's Some FEC rulings on spending led to a rise in donations to the political parties.
- 2002 Passage of **Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA)** or the McCain-Feingold Act banned unlimited donations, placed restrictions on ads, and tried to limit the impact of self-funding millionaire candidates.
- 2004 Rise of non-affiliated, non-profit organizations
- 2010 *Citizens United v. FEC* held that the First Amendment prohibited the government from restricting independent political expenditures by corporations and unions.
- 2014 *McCutcheon, et al. v. FEC* struck down the aggregate limits on the amount an individual may contribute during a two-year period to all federal candidates, parties, and political action committees combined. Biennial aggregate limits are unconstitutional under the First Amendment.

Because the influx of money in election campaigns affects who can or cannot run for office, may affect the behavior of elected officials, and may cause the public to become cynical about the actions and votes of their representatives, groups such as the League of Women Voters are attempting to examine and clarify their positions on the issue pertaining to money in politics.

(The following article comes from the national LWV website)

## LWV Update on Campaign Finance Position

For the 2014-2016 biennium, the LWVUS Board recommended and the June 2014 LWVUS Convention adopted a multi-part program including, "A review and update of the League position on campaign finance in light of 40 years of changes since the Watergate reforms, in order to enhance member understanding of the new schemes and structures used to influence elections and erode

protections against corruption in our political process, and to review possible responses to counter them in the current environment."

After Convention 2014, we worked diligently to develop solid operational details for the committee. Our efforts led us to conclude that a gap exists in the LWV campaign finance position with regard to the First Amendment.

Adopted in 1974, the League's campaign finance position focuses only on the financing of election campaigns as it relates to the democratic process, i.e., opportunities for undue influence, opportunities to ensure equity among candidates, protection of the public right to know and to fully participate. In 1976, the United States Supreme Court approached the question of financing of election campaigns from the point of view of what the money actually funds and the interests of donors, candidates and independent spenders in preserving their ability to express political views through the activities being financed.

The activities that the U.S. Supreme Court focused on largely involve free speech. Election campaigns develop messages for publication, from speeches and debates to paid advertising in various media. Money is required to coordinate the messaging and pay for the advertising. Under the Court's approach, a system of campaign finance protects the rights of the individual candidate to disseminate her message as well as the rights of her donors to express their own views through her message -- and also protects the rights of other political actors who may wish to make election expenditures independent of the candidates or to advocate in support or opposition to particular public policy issues. To the Court, this campaign speech (as opposed to campaign finance) is central to American democracy and is what the First Amendment was designed to protect.

The League position, with its more collective approach, does not answer the question of whether all or some political activity constitutes free speech protected under the First

Amendment. Because it does not address that question, the position does not balance the First Amendment interests of candidates, donors, independent spenders, and issue advocates against the interest in equitable competition among candidates for office, preventing undue influence, and enhancing voter participation.

For almost 40 years, the Supreme Court's approach and the League's approach intersected in one important aspect. Over that time, the Court recognized the risk that campaign contributions are corrupting or appear corrupting, especially if those contributions are very large or come from the general funds of corporations or unions. Historically, the League has been able to argue successfully through litigation and through legislative action that contribution limits and the exclusion of corporations from participating directly in the political process should be upheld. The position has also allowed us to support enforcement mechanisms and other reforms. That changed with the *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* decision. The Court drastically extended its views on free speech to allow unlimited independent spending in candidate elections by corporations and unions and entirely discounted any danger from any undue influence other than quid pro quo ("something for something") corruption. That radically transformed the election landscape.

Proposed constitutional amendments in response to *Citizens United* and subsequent cases have focused on reversing the Court's rulings that corporations have full political speech rights and that funding a political campaign is protected speech, and give Congress and the states the authority to regulate "the raising and spending of money by candidates and others to influence elections," which the Court has deemed protected speech.

The League is pursuing a strategic, multi-dimensional approach at the federal and state levels to overcome or limit the Court's decision in *Citizens United*. To date, the League has not supported or opposed particular legislation to amend the Constitution. Even putting aside the considerable practical barriers to ratifying an amendment as well as unintended consequences of the various proposed amendments, we believe that our current campaign finance position does not address First Amendment considerations. To update the League position on campaign finance to include the First Amendment requires member understanding and agreement on these issues. The Money in Politics Committee has thus been tasked with undertaking member study and consensus, in addition to educating members and the public broadly about money in politics issues.

### **The League's Position**

*Statement of Position on Campaign Finance, as Announced by National Board, January 1974 and Revised March 1982:*

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. This position is applicable to all federal campaigns for public office — presidential and congressional, primaries as well as general elections. It also may be applied to state and local campaigns.

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.

To varying degrees, current law reflects some League goals: full and timely disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures; one central committee to coordinate, control and report financial transactions for each candidate, party or other committee; an independent body to monitor and enforce the law; and the encouragement of broad-based contributions from citizens.

### **LWV Action on Money in Politics**

Year in and year out since 1974, the League has fought for comprehensive campaign finance reform to address the abuses in the existing system, supporting bills that curbed special-interest contributions and provided public financing for candidates who accepted voluntary spending limits. The League has called for limits to PAC and large contributor donations and for closing the soft-money loophole. It also strongly supports a strong and effective Federal Election Commission.

The League continues to look for ways to limit the size and type of contributions from all sources as a means of combating undue influence in the election process. League action on this issue is built on a careful assessment of all proposed changes in campaign finance law. The League continues to assess proposals that allow challenger and incumbent candidates to compete more equitably. The League favors shortening the time period between primaries and general elections.

The League continues its support for comprehensive reform through multiple channels: lobbying, testimony, grassroots action, and work with the media. Members push for voluntary spending limits; public benefits, such as reduced-cost broadcasting and postal services, for participating candidates; aggregate limits on the total amounts candidates could receive in PAC and large individual contributions; and closing the loopholes that allow huge amounts of special-interest money to influence the system.

The League has also worked at the state level, which has contributed to real progress. Public financing, the “Clean Money Option,” has been adopted in several states, including Connecticut, Arizona, and Maine; other state reform efforts have made progress in Massachusetts and Vermont. Reform measures were on the 2000 ballot in Missouri and Oregon but fell short.

The League expended incredible effort in the five-year campaign for the McCain-Feingold-Shays-Meehan bill, which reached fruition when President Bush signed the legislation into law. The bill, known as the *Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA)*, closed the most significant loopholes in campaign finance regulation – the “soft money” loophole that allowed unlimited corporate, union, and individual contributions, and the “sham” issue ad loophole that allowed undisclosed contributions to campaign advertising advocating particular candidates. The League was instrumental in developing this approach and pushing it – at the grassroots and in Congress – to final enactment.

In more recent Congresses, the League has lobbied actively for the passage of the “Disclose Act” which would close the disclosure loopholes that are allowing outside groups to make secret contributions in federal elections.

The League has also used litigation strategies to advance and protect campaign finance reform by filing amicus curiae briefs, which are documents supporting one side or another in a court case without actually being party to the case, or joining in those of others. The League filed amicus briefs in both the *Citizens United v. FEC* and *McCutcheon v. FEC* cases in support of minority views on the Court.

Of course, litigation has recently overturned significant aspects of what has been achieved over the years with the *Citizens United v. FEC* case. The impact of *Citizens United* has dramatically changed the political landscape, and the League’s current work is directed towards finding feasible ways to correct the massive problems created by the decision. Further inroads were made by the *McCutcheon v. FEC* decision.\*

### **Why Money in Politics Matters to the League of Women Voters**

Money in politics matters because the goal of campaigning is to convince voters, either for or against a candidate or issue. Thus, campaigning is ultimately about communication. In our modern age, this includes speech and money. It is very important that one continually keeps combining campaign, communication, free speech, and money in their thinking.

### **Purpose of a Campaign Finance System**

A campaign finance system is intended to control and limit the money spent on election campaigns. Why do that? The first reason is to protect the right of voters to know who is spending money to influence their vote. The second reason is to prevent corruption. The only corruption that the current U.S. Supreme Court acknowledges is *quid pro quo* which, in the context of political campaign finance, refers to an explicit agreement by a candidate or elected official to perform a specific act in exchange for something of value. But reformers believe that money in politics should be controlled because it may allow undue access or influence. Third, reformers want to control money out of a belief that unlimited spending gives an unfair advantage to candidates and spenders. Finally, there is a concern that the rise in spending corrupts representative government by downplaying the role of the voters and allowing for unfair competition, possibly leading to lower voter turnout.

### **Conclusion**

Whatever else it may or may not have done, the United States Supreme Court’s decisions in the 2010 *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and 2014 *McCutcheon, et al. v. FEC* cases galvanized the campaign finance reform movement. Any education and discussion of these issues must attempt to be comprehensive, which means complex. The task of the Money in Politics Committee is to make the issues understandable to the members of LWV and all citizens. Work done by the 2012-2014 LWVUS Campaign Finance Task Force and LWV of Massachusetts Campaign Finance Study Committee (presented at the LWVUS Convention in June 2014) contributed immensely to this project.

[\* Ed. Note: For a more complete and detailed history of the League’s activities in the area of campaign finance reform, consult “Representative Government” in *Impact on Issues*. To access the study go to <http://lwv.org/content/impact-issues> ]

## MONEY IN POLITICS CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

This update on Money in Politics builds on the League's current position on campaign finance. The consensus questions in Part I address the goals of campaign finance regulation in terms of democratic values. The questions in Part II relate to the extent to which First Amendment protections like free speech and freedom of the press should apply to various speakers and activities in the campaign finance context. Part III asks about methods of campaign finance regulation. **You are asked to respond to the questions without regard for the Supreme Court's current views on the First Amendment.** In responding to each question, please interpret the words in their most general sense. Keep in mind that the LWV intentionally words positions that are derived from member study in the broadest possible way so that our positions have relevance for many years. Future national Boards will determine when and how to apply our positions.

An optional comment section is included at the end of each of the three parts. Please note that while comments will be read and considered, only responses to questions can be tabulated.

### **PART I QUESTIONS: Democratic Values and Interests with Respect to Financing Political Campaigns**

#### **1. What should be the goals and purposes of campaign finance regulation?**

*(Please respond to each item in Question 1.)*

- a. Seek political equality for all citizens.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- b. Protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- c. Enable candidates to compete equitably for public office.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- d. Ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- e. Ensure that economic and corporate interests are part of election dialogue.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- f. Provide voters sufficient information about candidates and campaign issues to make informed choices.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- g. Ensure the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- h. Combat corruption and undue influence in government.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus

#### **2. Evaluate whether the following activities are types of political corruption:**

*(Please respond to each item in Question 2.)*

- a. A candidate or officeholder agrees to vote or work in favor of a donor's interests in exchange for a campaign contribution.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus



- b. An officeholder or her/his staff gives greater access to donors.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- c. An officeholder votes or works to support policies that reflect the preferences of individuals or organizations in order to attract contributions from them.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- d. An officeholder seeks political contributions implying that there will be retribution unless a donation is given.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- e. The results of the political process consistently favor the interests of significant campaign contributors.  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus

**OPTIONAL COMMENTS (250 word limit):**

**PART II QUESTIONS: First Amendment Protections for Speakers and Activities in Political Campaigns**

This set of questions is designed to determine the extent to which the First Amendment protections of free speech and freedom of the press should apply to different speakers or activities in the regulation of campaign finance. Free speech and free press provide essentially the same protections to speakers, writers, publishers and advertising, whether or not they are part of the institutional press, and largely regardless of the medium. Essentially, these protections extend to any conduct that is expressive. Many of the options below would be found unconstitutional by the current Supreme Court, but we are seeking your League's views, not those of the Court. These are broad, overarching questions about spending to influence an election, including independent spending, contributions to candidates, broadcast news and other communication expenditures.

1. Many different individuals and organizations use a variety of methods to communicate their views to voters in candidate elections. Should spending to influence an election by any of the following be limited?

*(Please respond to each item in Question 1.)*

- a. Individual citizens, including wealthy individuals like George Soros and the Koch Brothers.  
 Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus
- b. Political Action Committees, sponsored by an organization, such as the League of Conservation Voters, Chevron, the American Bankers Association, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), whose campaign spending comes from contributions by individuals associated with the sponsoring organization, such as employees, stockholders, members and volunteers.  
 Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus
- c. For-profit organizations, like Exxon, Ben and Jerry's, General Motors, and Starbucks, from their corporate treasury funds.  
 Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus
- d. Trade associations, like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Wind Energy Association, and the American Petroleum Institute, from the association's general treasury funds.  
 Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus

e. Labor unions, like the United Autoworkers and Service Employees International, from the union's general treasury funds.

Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus

f. Non-profit organizations, like the Sierra Club, Wisconsin Right to Life, Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, American Crossroads, and Priorities USA, from the organization's general treasury funds.

Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus

g. Non-partisan voter registration and GOTV (get out the vote) organizations and activities, like the LWV and Nonprofit Vote.

Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus

h. Political parties like the Republicans, Libertarians, and Democrats.

Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus

i. Candidates for public office spending money the candidate has raised from contributors.

Spending banned    some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus

j. Candidates for public office spending their own money.

Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus

**2. The press plays a major role in candidate elections through editorial endorsements, news coverage, and other communications directly to the public that are often important to the outcome. Should such spending to influence an election by any of the following be limited?**

*(Please respond to each item in Question 2.)*

a. Newspapers, like the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.

Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus

b. Television and other electronic media, like Fox News, CNN, MSNBC and CBS.

Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus

c. Internet communications, like Huffington Post, Breitbart, Daily Kos, and individual bloggers.

Spending banned    Some spending limits    Unlimited spending    No consensus

**OPTIONAL COMMENTS (250 word limit):**

**PART III QUESTIONS: Methods for Regulating Campaign Finance to Protect the Democratic Process**

**1. In order to achieve the goals for campaign finance regulation, should the League support?**

**(Please respond to each item in Question 1 a and b.)**

**a. Abolishing SuperPACs and spending coordinated or directed by candidates, other than a candidate's own single campaign committee.**

Agree    Disagree    No consensus

- b. Restrictions on direct donations and bundling by lobbyists? (Restrictions may include monetary limits as well as other regulations.)  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- c. Public funding for candidates? Should the League support:  
 (You may respond to more than one item in Question 1 c.)
- i. Voluntary public financing of elections where candidates who choose to participate must also abide by reasonable spending limits?  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- ii. Mandatory public financing of elections where candidates must participate and abide by reasonable spending limits?  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
- iii. Public financing without spending limits on candidates?  
 Agree    Disagree    No consensus
2. How should campaign finance regulations be administered and enforced?  
 (You may choose more than one response for Question 2.)
- a. By an even-numbered commission with equal representation by the two major political parties to ensure partisan fairness (current Federal Election Commission [FEC] structure)?
- b. By an odd-numbered commission with at least one independent or nonpartisan commissioner to ensure decisions can be made in case of partisan deadlock?
- c. By structural and budget changes to the FEC (e.g., commission appointments, staffing, security, budget, decision making process) that would allow the agency to function effectively and meet its legislative and regulatory mandates.
- d. No consensus.

OPTIONAL COMMENTS (250 word limit):

## Less State Spending on Schools Since 2005

A new legislative report shows a decline in state spending in Virginia on K-12 public education in the past decade, with 7 percent less spent per pupil since 2005. In a report, entitled “Efficiency and Effectiveness of K-12 Spending,” released in September, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission found an increasing financial burden on local school divisions, a decreasing ratio of teachers to students, and fewer support services for teachers faced with a huge swell in the number of students living in poverty or unable to speak English.

### Recommended by the Committee

#### Legislative action

- Provide funding for VDOE to hire several staff to provide school divisions with guidance and

facilitate information sharing on facilities and transportation management best practices.

- Option: Provide funding for VDOE to employ additional staff to support school divisions with teacher training and curriculum development.

#### Executive Action

- VDOE should provide guidance and facilitate information sharing among divisions regarding facilities and transportation management best practices.
- As the number of students participating in virtual learning increases, VDOE should analyze and report student effectiveness data and develop a cost methodology.

To read more details from the report go to <http://jlarc.virginia.gov/k-12-spending.asp>

# Big Turnout for 2016 Elections Anticipated - Election Officials Needed

Fairfax County had a smooth Election Day last month. But with a much larger turnout expected for the 2016 presidential contest, the Office of Elections is currently recruiting voters to serve as Election Officers. They will be needed at each of the 241 precincts in the County to run the polls and assist the voters.

In order to be an Election Officer, you must:

- Be fluent in English
- Be a registered voter in the Commonwealth of Virginia
- Be able to fulfill the Federal I-9 employment eligibility requirements
- Attend a 3-hour training class
- Arrive at the polling place at 5:00 am and remain until all work has been completed after the polls close at 7pm
- Have basic computer skills

The Election Officer's main priority is to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the election process. A typical Election Day consists of:

- Arriving one hour before polls open to set up voting equipment

**¿Habla español?**

**فارسی حرف میزنین؟**

**Parlez-vous français?**

**한국말 하세요?**

**Quý vị có nói tiếng Việt không?**

**你说中文?**

**हिन्दी**

Earn

## \$175

### Serve your community as an ELECTION OFFICER




Are you . . .

- An American citizen & a Virginia registered voter?
- 18 years old by November General Election
- Fluent in English? (bilingual voters encouraged)
- Comfortable using basic technology?

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections)

(703) 324-4735 TTY: 711

[elect@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:elect@fairfaxcounty.gov)

- Hanging up pertinent signage
- Preparing the polling room for voting
- Processing voters throughout the day
- Assisting with operating voting equipment
- Securing voting equipment and closing down the polling place at the end of the day

Election Officers are offered a stipend of \$175 for serving a full day. If you don't feel able to work a full day, you may work a ½ day shift if you or the Office of Elections can find someone who can split the day with you. Half-day workers are paid \$87.50. Bilingual citizens are especially encouraged to serve as language assistance is needed in many precincts. Residency in Fairfax County is not required.

It is a wonderful opportunity for those interested in the election process or public service, and we need civic-minded individuals to help make Election Day a success! To apply, call the office at (703) 324-4735. You can also [email](#) or visit the Office of Elections [website](#) for more information. [View the "Being an Election Officer" Video](#)

Domestic Violence Hotline  
(703) 360-7273



## Voter Service Is Assessing Progress in 2015

By Sidney Johnson, Voter Service Coordinator

The Meet and Greets have had their fifth anniversary. The candidates and the public are now asking for them, and we have new community groups, notably several district councils, interested in partnering with us. Approximately 45 League members volunteered to help at the events, along with about 40 members of other groups, especially the AAUW, the PTA, and Zeta Phi Beta. Seven high schools students volunteered, too. Many of these volunteers came to multiple events. There was a wonderful spirit of participation.

In the next few months we will be considering what went well and what needs improvement. We will be planning ahead, not only for the Meet and Greets of 2016, but also for 2019, the next big challenge presented by the County and State elections. Please contact Sidney Johnson with any suggestions for the future.

Our innovation this year was the Vote411 information card, designed by Sheila Iskra. This card is relevant for years ahead. It explains how citizens from any county can go to the League's nationwide Vote411 site and follow the directions to get information about the candidates in their districts, as well as other pertinent information about voting in their own localities. The card was well received by Prince William and Loudoun county residents whom we encountered at our voter registration and Get Out the Vote events. Sheila has become the tutor for members of other local Leagues in getting their candidates' information into the website.

People look to us to provide "FACTS FOR VOTERS" and "WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT." Mr. Rounds says that he never has too many FACTS for the information desk at the Government Center. We have followed up with the library distribution center to ensure that there is a consistent supply of WOTBs and our other literature in all the libraries. We still need to find more outlets and methods for distributing these valued documents.

Onward to next year. Let's not let the presidential election overshadow our efforts to engage voters in the very important changes we need to make in Virginia.

Questions? Comments? 703-477-0581 or [sidneyjohnson3@verizon.net](mailto:sidneyjohnson3@verizon.net)

## Redistricting News Update

Although no decisions have been announced on Virginia's redistricting cases since our October unit discussions, the following news was reported by the Associated Press and the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*:

A federal court has appointed an expert to assist it in redrawing Virginia's congressional boundaries. Judge Albert Diaz of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said in a court filing that a judicial panel has selected Bernard Grofman, an economics and political science professor at the University of California, Irvine.

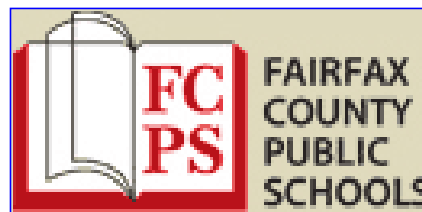
The three judges who will redraw Virginia's 3rd Congressional District authorized the posting on a state website of the 10 proposed maps and supporting materials submitted to the court. The judges ruled in favor of Attorney General Mark Herring, who made the motion on behalf of members of the State Board of Elections, the original defendants in the case.

## How Do You Trim \$75 Million From the School Board Budget?

The Fairfax County Public School system is preparing its budget for the coming year and despite several years of large reductions, it is facing a critical shortfall in the neighborhood of \$75 million.

As part of the budget process, ideas on what to cut, reduce, or redesign as well as how to increase revenue through fees have been developed by the Budget Task Force with input from the community this past summer.

Now FCPS is asking the community at large for their ideas on how to address the projected budget shortfall. The Task Force report is available online at [http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/A44NCN576C4D/\\$file/FY%202017%20Budget%20Task%20Force%20Recommendations.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/A44NCN576C4D/$file/FY%202017%20Budget%20Task%20Force%20Recommendations.pdf) Watch for notifications of opportunities to participate in this community exercise. Lend your voice as a citizen and to further understand the effect of reductions needed to meet the shortfall.





~ You are cordially invited to attend ~

**The LWV of the Fairfax Area  
General Meeting**

**Saturday, January 23, 2016**

**Speaker: Dr. Wylecia Wiggs Harris,**  
Executive Director,  
League of Women Voters of U.S.

**Clyde's of Tysons Corner (New Location)**  
8332 Leesburg Pike  
Vienna, Virginia

9:30 a.m. – Registration & Coffee  
12:00 noon – Luncheon  
Reservations required for luncheon only

\*\*\*\*\*  
Luncheon Reservation  
Deadline January 13, 2016-- Cost: \$36 per person  
**No reservations accepted after this date.**  
Program is free; Luncheon is \$36 per person.

**To register and pay online:** go to [lwv-fairfax.org/GeneralMeeting2016](http://lwv-fairfax.org/GeneralMeeting2016)  
**To register and pay by check:** fill out the following form, make checks payable to LWVFA and mail to: 2016 General Meeting, 10172 Turnberry Place, Oakton, VA 22124

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch @\$36 ea. \_\_\_\_\_  
Choose one – Pan-Seared Salmon \_\_\_ Chicken Marsala \_\_\_ Vegetable Pasta \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number & E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s)' Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch @\$36 \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Directions from I-495:** Take Exit 47 (Tysons Corner), Rte 7 West (Leesburg Pike). Go west for .9 miles to a right turn on Westpark Drive (after going under the Rte. 123 overpass). Take next right at light onto Greensboro Drive. At the next traffic light, make a right onto Pinnacle Drive. At the end of the road, turn right. Clyde's is 150 yards down on your right.

# This Month's Unit Meeting Locations

## Topic: Money in 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 November 1, 2015, 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, Dec 5

#### **10 a.m. At-Large Unit and Briefing**

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

#### **9:45 a.m. Mt. Vernon Day (MVD)**

Mt. Vernon Dist. Government Center  
2511 Parkers Lane  
Alexandria 22306  
Contact: Gail, 703-360-6561

#### **9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)**

Packard Center  
4026 Hummer Road  
Annandale 22003  
Contact: Marge 703-451-0589

### Tuesday, Dec 8

#### **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

#### **10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)**

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

#### **10 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CCD)**

Luncheon meeting  
Call for time and location  
Contact: Leslie, 571-213-6384

### Wednesday, Dec 9

#### **9:30 a.m. McLean Day (McL)**

StarNut Café  
1445 Laughlin Ave.  
McLean 22101  
Contact: Sharone 703-734-1048  
or Adarsh (703) 795-7281

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

**\*\*NEW LOCATION\*\***  
Hunter Mill District Community Room B  
1801 Cameron Glen Drive  
Reston 21090  
Contact: Kelly 202-263-1311

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

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

### Thursday, Dec 10

#### **9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)**

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

### Monday, Dec 14

#### **1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)**

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

# January: General Meeting

## Clyde's at Tysons Corner



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.  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Merrifield, VA  
 Permit No. 1202

**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER ©  
 December, 2015  
 Peggy Knight, 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, 2016.)

**Membership Category:** Individual \$65 \_\_\_ Household (2 persons-1 *VOTER*) \$90 \_\_\_ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student \$32.50 \_\_\_ (Coll. Attending \_\_\_\_\_)

**Membership is:** New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ Reinstatement \_\_\_ 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