



Electing a President

We are in the midst of a significant period in our country. Every four years citizens have the opportunity to have a voice in who will lead the nation. As voters enter voting booths in November, they will make important decisions for both the state and the country. Of great significance for our nation this year is the choice for president. Thus, as we approach this election, our topic for October is very timely. We will examine the current presidential electoral process and consider whether changes are in order. Currently, we rely on the Electoral College to make the final decision. What is the basis for its existence? But who are the electors? We will look at relevant articles in our Constitution and examine its pros and cons. Should we switch to a direct popular vote? Additional voter information is included as well.

Calendar

October 2016

- 1-31 U.S. Voter Education Month
- 1-31 Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- 1 LWVFA Briefing and At-Large meeting**
- 3 *Fairfax VOTER* deadline
- 4 Vice Presidential debate, Longwood U.
- 4 Lafayette Park Condo election
- 9 Second presidential debate
- 10-13 LWVFA Unit Meetings**
- 10 LWVFA speakers' presentation at
Alternative House's Assisting Young
Mothers' program
- 13 Woodlake Towers community election
- 14 LWNCA Board meeting & presidents'
luncheon
- 17 Voter registration deadline for the
November 8 election
- 19 Third presidential debate
- 19 LWVFA Board meeting.**
- 27 "Under the Gun" screening and expert
panel, McLean Community Center

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Presidents' Message



We are thrilled to be working together as co-presidents! Election season is underway, and our league is busier than ever.

At the end of August, we had a wonderful kick-off event thanks to the leadership of Charleen Deasy and the village of volunteers who worked on documents, arrangements, and presentations. Beth Tudan and Peggy Knight also led a presentation and workshop about our league and the election at the Fairfax County Public Schools' in-service for social studies teachers.

On September 19, we hosted candidates from the 8th District in a televised Candidate Forum at the Fairfax Public Access TV station. It was broadcasted and streamed live on *Inside Scoop* to reach a wide viewership through TV and web.

As we write this letter, our league has been out in full force during National Voter Registration Week from September 25-October 1. Thank you to our organizer, Sidney Johnson, and all of our volunteers who are working the voter drives at Northern Virginia Community College, Pimmit Hills High School and Adult Center, Adult High School at W.T. Woodson High School, West Potomac High School, and back-to-school nights at Hayfield Middle and Secondary schools. These are great opportunities to inform voters and educate them about the less widely known two Constitutional questions, three bond issues, and a referendum on the ballot in addition to the candidates up for election.

Our nonpartisan educational materials are top notch, and we thank all of our members who worked tirelessly on them. We are distributing them at the many voter service drives and locations throughout the county.

One of the items on the November ballot will be the meals tax. Our league supports this tax on restaurant meals as a needed revenue source for our county, and we thank Helen Kelly for her call to action. To learn more and get involved, please go to www.lwv-fairfax.org/MealsTax.html.

We hope you will join us for our league event at McLean Community Center on October 27 from 7-10 p.m. We will watch the highly acclaimed documentary, *Under the Gun*, followed by an expert panel. Thank you to our organizer, Ruth Hoffman.

We have many community elections to staff this month.

This is a major fundraiser for us, and we need your help. If you haven't already done so, please sign up to volunteer at <http://www.lwv-fairfax.org/CommunityElectionVolunteers.html> or contact our community elections coordinator, Anne Thomas, at annethomas@gmail.com or 571-291-3206. Thank you to Anne!

On November 20, our LWVFA General Meeting will be at Adarsh Trehan's lovely home in McLean, thanks to her warmth and generosity. Stay tuned for more details and the agenda.

We look forward to seeing you at many of this month's important voter and community service events.

Peggy and Wendy



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

Alexandria's Alfred Street Baptist Church Holds Unique Voter Outreach Event: LWVFA Participates

By Ann Parham

In late June, the LWVFA office received a request from Latonia Bullock, Social Justice Outreach Coordinator at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, to participate in the church's "Voter Canvassing" event on Saturday, July 9, 2016. Ms. Bullock asked for volunteers and materials to hand out from the Leagues of Women Voters of Arlington and Fairfax Area. Speakers Bureau Coordinator Sherry Zachry disseminated the request to LWV Arlington and to Fairfax Area members who live near Alexandria.

Ann Parham responded to Mount Vernon Day Unit Chair Gail Richmond's email to the unit saying she would be happy to attend the event and take any materials from LWVFA. Beth Tudan assembled a packet of materials for Ann to pick up from the LWVFA office. The packet included 1) Photo ID info cards, 2) "VOTE411 Info" cards & 3) "Virginia Voter Information" cards—the last two cards were created by LWVFA member **Ronna Pazdral** at the request of Sidney Johnson and LWVFA board. As you can see, League work does "take a village" and creates a community of involvement!

Following is **Ann Parham's** account of her day with Latonia Bullock and the Alfred St. Church people, along with two photographs she took.

I attended the Alfred Street Baptist Church voter-canvassing event on Saturday, July 9. I had the opportunity to not only deliver the materials that Beth provided but also to participate in the morning session of the voter canvassing. The target groups were returning citizens whose voting rights have recently been restored and minorities, in general.

The church had identified 14 "hot spots" in Alexandria, Arlington, and Falls Church where they expected to find these target populations of unregistered voters. The plan was for shuttle buses to drop off two or three volunteers at each hot spot for about an hour so they could do door-to-door canvassing or approach people on the street. Most of the volunteers had received the VA voter registration training.

Although I could not do the registration, I went along for the ride. I joined the first shift and was dropped off along with Dallas and Thelma at the Sequoyah Community Center in Alexandria. Unfortunately, we learned that solicitors were not allowed to go door to door in the community. As

a result, we called the shuttle to return to pick us up and we, along with the other four volunteers, went to the Mt. Vernon Shopping Center on Route 1 where we spent about an hour. My group of three volunteers registered about four people.



Volunteers for both shifts (10-12; 12-2). **Richard (far right, leaning)**, is from the Richmond area is an expert on restoration of voting rights.

LWVUS Offers 2016 Debate Watching Kit

Candidate debates have a long history in American politics. At every level – from city council government to state legislature, from Congress to President of the United States – candidates participate in debates to help voters understand who they are and what they stand for.

Watching debates is one of the best ways that we can educate ourselves before we head to the voting booth. Luckily, when it comes to figuring out how to get the most out of debate-watching (and having fun while doing it!), LWV has your back. Whether you already know who you want to vote for or are totally undecided, watching alone or hosting/attending a debate-watching party, here are some tips and information to make sure you get the most of the debate-watching experience.

Download our handy guides < <http://lwv.org/content/2016-debate-watching-kit> > that include:

- Tips for hosting a debate watch party
- Debate Watching 101
- Tips for evaluating candidates
- Sample social media content to join the conversation about debates

Successful League Kick Off Emphasizes Keeping Yourself Informed

By Mary Valder and Charleen Deasy, Unit Co- Coordinators

Thank you to all who attended the LWVFA 2016 annual Fall Kick Off workshop. There was excellent attendance, and moving the Kick Off date to the last Saturday in August was not a problem. Mark your calendar now for next year's workshop--August 26, 2017.

To be able to participate in many League activities as the year progresses, please open and read all the communications sent by various means. Beth's weekly UPDATE is just one way of keeping everyone informed; the monthly Unit Chair's letter is another essential item for information. VOTER Express, the e-newsletter message from LWV-VA is critical for statewide news. The *VOTER* from both LWVFA and LWV-VA are key monthly publications. If you have not been getting any of the above items, please let Co-President Peggy Knight know at peggy.knight1@verizon.net.

Always check the LWVFA website, www.LWV-fairfax.org, as well. (Remember, always refresh your browser when checking each page of website.) Beth keeps the calendar up to date, and other timely events are posted also. While you're on your computer, please check the LWVFA Facebook page for great information. On the lower left corner of the website home page, click on the "f" for a direct link to the LWVFA Facebook page. You'll find lots of timely pictures and information.

All the information above is important for the latest in volunteer opportunities as well. Member involvement is a key part in the success of LWVFA.

The use of Internet communication to members accomplishes timely contact while keeping costs low. Our intent is to both keep all members up-to-date and to keep dues at the present level.

Best Wishes to all LWVFA members for a great 2016-17 year!

Membership Criteria Changed at LWVUS Convention

Delegates to the 2016 LWVUS National Convention approved amendments to League bylaws regarding membership requirements. "Voting membership is now open to non-citizens and to individuals 16 years of age or older." The new language replaces previous membership requirements that members be "citizens at least 18 years of age..."

Welcome to New and Reinstated Members For 2016

LWVFA is delighted to announce the following 25 new members who have joined us in the past six months, as well as five who were reinstated. To the Centreville-Chantilly unit: **Denise Cheslack** and **Gabrielle DeVincenzo**; Fairfax Station: **Thelma Weiner**; Fairfax-Vienna: **Donna Blake** and **Frieda Hugley**; to McLean: **Ellen Barial**, **Sheena Bhasin**, **J. Rachael Hamlet**, **Anu Sahai**, and **Diana and Stephen Watkins**; Mount Vernon Day: **Mary Barnett** and **Margaret Zebrowski**; Mount Vernon Evening: **Vera (Vicky) Sharp**; Reston Evening: **Carrie Nagla** and **Kevin Pullen**; Springfield: **Carol Stiller**, **Lanita R. Thweatt** and **Janice Yohai**; as well as unaffiliated members **Theresa Brion**, **Melanie Fedri**, **Mary Schifferli**, **Karen Spradlin**, **Paul Tudan** and **Patricia Depew Wirth**.

We welcome you all and challenge each one to find an area of interest in the action.



Electing a President

By Karole McKalip and Olga Hernandez

The presidential primaries, caucuses, and party conventions are over. On Tuesday, November 8, 2016, registered voters will cast their votes for president and vice president in the 58th presidential election. Many voters will also vote absentee on or before Election Day in many states. By voting, citizens choose the electors who will represent their states in the Electoral College that will meet at noon on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December following their election (December 19, 2016) to cast their ballots as prescribed by law. This article is intended to review the processes, the players, and the timing of this quadrennial event.

As defined in the U.S. Constitution, Article II, to be elected as president, a candidate must be a natural born citizen, with a minimum age of 35 years, and be a U.S. resident for at least 14 years. Prospective candidates must go through four steps to be elected: 1) nominated through state primaries, conventions, or caucuses; 2) confirmed in national conventions if representing a party; 3) participated in the general election; and 4) receive a majority in the Electoral College vote.

Selecting the Candidates (Primaries/ Caucuses and Conventions)

Various methods have been used during our nation's history to select which candidates will represent their parties in a general election. The earliest method of nominating candidates was the caucus, adopted in colonial times for local office and continuing into the 19th century for state and national offices. The primary system came into general use in the 20th century and serves to select candidates to run for public office. States that still use the caucus system allow party members to select candidates through a series of meetings and votes. These are run by the parties, which also set the dates to convene. Over 20 political jurisdictions use the caucus process.

Primaries may be closed (partisan), open (nonpartisan), or semi-closed (hybrid). Open primaries allow participation by independents. Closed primaries tend to promote party unity and keep those with no party allegiance from influencing a choice. They also may be either direct, where the voters decide on their party's candidates, or indirect, where the voters elect delegates who then choose the candidates at a nominating convention. In a semi-closed primary, voters who have not previously chosen a political party have the option to choose in which party's primary to vote, while voters registered with a party may vote only in that party's primary. This system represents a middle ground in that independent or unaffiliated voters can still participate, but voters cannot vote outside of their designated party. Virginia does not register voters by party; thus our primaries are open for all to participate, but you can only vote in one.

The official selection of a party's nominee is a part of its national convention. If no nominee has a party's majority of delegates going into its convention, the delegates choose



their presidential candidate in a brokered or contested convention. Here party rules prevail. Pledged delegates usually have to vote for the candidate they were awarded to in the first round of voting, while unpledged delegates do not. Pledged delegates may be allowed to choose any candidate in subsequent rounds of voting. Balloting continues until one nominee receives the required majority to win. During the 1980s, in order to enhance the power of party leaders and officials, the Democratic Party created a category of "super delegates" - unelected and unpledged - to include members of the Democratic National Committee and other elected state officials. Being a party nominee provides benefits such as access to federal public financing.

General Election

Since 1845, the date set for general elections is the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. When voters make their selections, they are not voting directly for a president. They are, in fact, choosing the electors who will represent their states in the Electoral College. The framers of the Constitution were devoted to a divided, limited, and balanced government and distrusted an unchecked

democracy, i.e., rule by a simple majority. They were not willing to allow voters to select the president directly and feared that people would not be sufficiently well informed to make wise selections. They feared “tyranny of the majority.”

After the elections, between mid-November and mid-December, the governors of each state prepare Certificates of Ascertainment. One Certificate is sent to the U.S. Archivist; the others are held for use at the meeting of the Electors (December 19, 2016). In Virginia the meeting takes place in the House of Delegates.

The Electoral College

The Electoral College, written into the Constitution in 1787, is not an entity but a meeting of people selected to be the electors of their party. It is responsible for formally electing the next president and vice president of the United States. In Virginia electors are paid \$50 plus mileage. This method was designed to preserve the role of the states in governing and it reflected the fundamental federal nature of our country - the United States of America.

The Constitution provides that the president and the vice president are to be chosen by electors, each state having a number of electors equal to the number of U.S. senators and representatives to which it is entitled (Article II, Section I, Paragraph 2). The establishment of the Electoral College served as a compromise between election of the president by a vote in Congress and election of the president by a popular vote of qualified citizens. To counter the politically volatile environment of the late 18th century, it was intended to balance the states’ and people’s interests.

When the Constitution was written, our nation was new and still struggling in many ways, including politically. Of primary concern was the possibility of a nationwide election breaking down into chaos and confusion. The idea of mass communication and the dominant two-party political system we take for granted today were not anticipated by our country’s first leaders as they wrestled with the problems of the early republic.

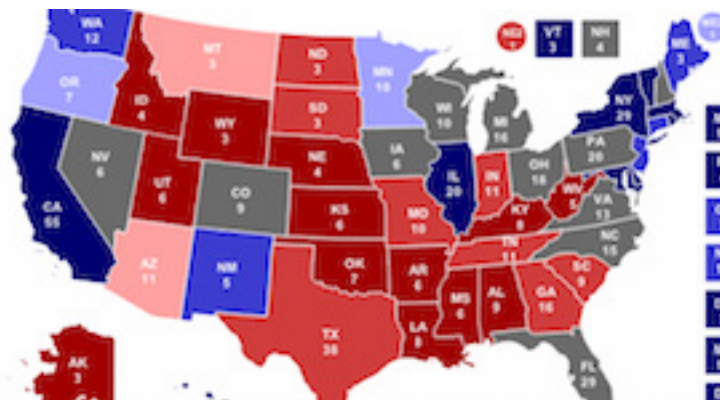
Currently there are a total of 538 electors, and a candidate

needs the vote of more than half plus one (270) to win the presidential election. U.S. territories are not represented in the Electoral College. Because of the 23rd Amendment, the District of Columbia does have representation. If no candidate receives a majority, the election is decided in the House of Representatives, with each state having one vote (Thomas Jefferson in 1800 and John Quincy Adams in 1824).

All the electoral votes from almost all states are cast for the candidate who won that state’s popular vote. However, in Maine and Nebraska, electors are not awarded on a winner-take-all basis. Instead, electors are generally apportioned by the voting results in the various Congressional Districts.

In Congress on January 6, the vice president opens all the certificates from the states and the electoral votes are counted. In today’s instant communication, this is anticlimactic as the results usually are known by then. On January 20 at noon, on the steps of the U.S. Capitol Building, the new president and vice president will take the oath of office.

Following are the sections of our Constitution, including amendments, that relate to the election of the president.



Article II, Section 1

Article II, Section 1 defines the executive powers of the president, the length of term of the office, and the manner of election. Clause 3 spelled out the original procedure by which the Electoral College was created and how it subsequently functioned.

12th Amendment to the Constitution (ratified June 15, 1804)

The 12th Amendment details the necessary procedure for electing the president and vice president. This amendment replaced Article II, Section 1, Clause 3. It was ratified after problems were evident following the elections of 1796, when John Adams (Federalist) and Thomas Jefferson (Democratic-Republican) who were members of parties with opposing philosophies were elected and served as president and vice president, and 1800, when the House of Representatives decided the tie vote between two Democratic-Republicans, electing Jefferson president, and Aaron Burr as vice president.

20th Amendment to the Constitution (ratified January 23, 1933)

This amendment changed the date of the presidential inauguration and set the congressional session to begin January. Section 3 deals with the death of a president elect before inauguration.

Section 1. The terms of the president and vice president shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3rd day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

Section 2. The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3rd day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

Section 3. If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the president, the president elect shall have died, the vice president elect shall become president. If a president shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the president elect shall have failed to qualify, then the vice president elect shall act as president until a president shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a president elect nor a vice president elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as president, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a president or vice president shall have qualified.

22nd Amendment to the Constitution (ratified February 27, 1951)

Ratified after Franklin Roosevelt was elected to a fourth term, this amendment provides that no person shall be elected to the office of the president more than twice.

23rd Amendment to the Constitution (ratified March 29, 1961)

The District of Columbia is allocated as many electors as it would have if it were a state, but no more electors than the least populous state. The least populous state (which is Wyoming according to the 2010 Census) has three electors; thus, D.C. cannot have more than three electors. Even if D.C. were a state, its population would entitle it to only three electors; based on its population per electoral vote, D.C. has the second highest per capita Electoral College representation, after Wyoming.

Other amendments expanded the pool of eligible voters to minorities (14th), women (19th) and 18 year olds (26th).

According to information located in the U.S. Archives,

over the years, changes to the Electoral College system have been considered on numerous occasions. More than 700 constitutional amendments - more than on any other subject - have been proposed (and failed) to reform or eliminate it. Most proposals would eliminate the electors in favor of direct popular election of the president. The American Bar Association called the College archaic and ambiguous. Sixty-nine percent of lawyers favored abolishing it (1987). Surveys of political scientists have supported its continuation. Public opinion polls indicate Americans favor abolishing it. In no more than four of the nation's 58 presidential elections since 1789 has the electoral vote winner not been the candidate who won the popular vote. The League of Women Voters supports abolishing the Electoral College in favor of a direct popular vote. See the League's positions below.

Electoral College Pros

- ✓ It contributes to the cohesiveness of the country by requiring a distribution of popular support to be elected president.
- ✓ The winner has a clear majority.
- ✓ Direct popular vote may result in a winner who did not win a majority of states.
- ✓ Direct vote system could encourage more splinter candidates.
- ✓ The college enhances the status of minority interests.
- ✓ It contributes to the political stability of the nation by encouraging a two-party system.
- ✓ It maintains a balance of power between the national and state governments.
- ✓ It forces candidates to campaign in other than the most populous states.
- ✓ It maintains a federal system of government and representation.

Electoral College Cons

- ✓ Possibility of electing a president who did not receive a majority of the popular vote (Gore v. Bush - 2000).
- ✓ There is a risk of so-called "faithless" electors.
- ✓ It is viewed as a complicated and undemocratic system.

- ✓ The possible role of the Electoral College in depressing voter turnout.
- ✓ It negatively affects the campaign. Candidates pay more attention to some states and no attention to other states, or they may concentrate their efforts in states without clear favorites but with many possible electors (i.e., swing states).
- ✓ Undemocratic and may fail to accurately reflect the national popular will.
- ✓ It causes unnecessary delays to a costly system.

The LWVUS's Position (Impact on Issues)

Selection of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates. (2010-2012)

National Popular Vote. The 2008 Convention voted to conduct a study of the National Popular Vote proposal, which would establish the popular election of the President through a compact among the states governing how they would cast their votes in the Electoral College. The 2010 Convention amended the national position to support the National Popular Vote compact as another method of selecting the President until such time as the Electoral College is abolished.

Statement of Position on Selection of the President, as Announced by National Board, January 1970, Revised March 1982, Updated June 2004 and Revised by the 2010 Convention:

“The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system – from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and

their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.”

The LWV-VA Position

Election Laws. The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens; that voting is a right and responsibility; and that election laws, regulations and administrative procedures should be uniformly designed and applied, and adequately funded to facilitate and increase voter participation throughout Virginia.

Specifically, the League supports measures to ensure the availability of voter registration and to encourage and facilitate increased voter participation in elections, including: absentee voting by mail and in-person without a reason; an adequate number of voting machines and trained election officers; the use of satellite voting; split shifts for election officers when needed; and measures that take advantage of technological advances such as online voter registration and the use of electronic poll books. The League also supports the shared funding of statewide registration and voting systems by the localities and the Commonwealth; providing adequate authority and resources to the Department of Elections (ELECT) and the State Board of Elections (SBE) for oversight and enforcement of laws and standards for registration and elections uniformly throughout the Commonwealth; and the use of secure electronic means to facilitate voter registration and absentee voting for Virginia's military and overseas voters. (2011, 2015)

Virginia's Situation

Virginia is an important swing state in the 2016 presidential election, and we live in the largest jurisdiction in the state with 700,000 registered voters. Virginia holds 13 electoral votes (11 for its representatives and 2 for its senators). Primaries for the nomination of candidates for the office of President of the United States are held on the first Tuesday in March preceding the November general election.

Each state sets its own requirements on how to get on the ballot. In some states you just pay a fee. In Virginia each candidate, unless nominated by a party, must obtain 5,000



signatures of registered voters, 200 of which have to come from each of the 11 congressional districts. (Independent Evan McMullin is now trying to get on the ballot this way.) In Virginia, once the standard is met, the State Board of Elections conducts a drawing at a public meeting to determine the ballot order. The two major parties appear first and second, followed by the minor parties. Other states rotate the ballot order or use other methods to determine the order in which the names appear.

For candidates of the major parties, the party's slates of electors are usually chosen at each party's state conventions or through appointment by the state party leaders. Independent or non-party candidates that qualify for inclusion on the statewide ballot submit their slates of electors as well. Virginia law requires that the electors cast their vote for the candidate to which they are pledged.

November 8, 2016 General & Special Elections

On Election Day, polls are open from 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Unofficial Election Results are available after the polls close on election night. To determine whether you are eligible to vote in this election, please visit the Virginia Department of Elections website or call our office at 703-222-0776.

- ✓ **Voter Photo ID Requirements - Effective July 1, 2014**
- ✓ **September 23:** In-Person Absentee Voting Begins
- ✓ **October 17:** Voter Registration Deadline - In-Person: 5:00 p.m., Online: 11:59 p.m.
- ✓ **November 1:** Last Day to Apply for an Absentee Ballot by Mail, Fax, Email or Online: 5:00 p.m.
- ✓ **November 5:** Final Day for In-Person Absentee Voting
- ✓ **November 8:** Absentee Ballot Return Deadline: 7:00 p.m.

(from: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>)

Procedures for Possible Presidential Candidate Vacancies

“Both parties have procedures for filling vacancies on their tickets. If the presidential or vice presidential candidate of the Republican Party becomes vacant ‘by reason of death,



declination, or otherwise’ that office can be filled by the Republican National Committee or the Republican National Committee can reconvene the national convention.... The Democrats have a similar provision in Article Two of their party rules.... the Democrats award national committee members according to size...the RNC is composed of three members per state.

“One of the problems that filling a vacancy would create would be changing the name of the candidate of president or vice president on the ballots in all the states.... But even if the vacancy and replacement came too late to change many ballots, it wouldn’t change who the actual candidates are.

“Electors, not voters, make the final call... The assumption is that these people will vote with the political party that nominated them. Although there have been examples throughout history of ‘faithless electors’ by and large the electors are very loyal party people. Thus the electors vote for the new nominee even if the votes cast are for the old one whose name is on the ballot. So there is a fairly straightforward process for replacing nominees after the convention.... However, there is no process for revoking a nomination.”

by Elaine Kamarck as cited in <https://www.brookings.edu/2016/08/03>

Some Interesting Facts

1. Only twice in our history the election of the president and vice president has been decided by a vote in the House of Representatives (1800 and in 1824).
2. Four times in our history a president was elected who did not have the largest popular vote: in 1824, 1876, 1888, and 2000.
3. U.S. citizens in territories can and do participate in presidential nominations (i.e., selecting party candidates), but are barred from voting in general elections.

4. November presidential candidates include: Hillary Clinton (D), Donald Trump (R), Gary Johnson (L), Jill Stein (Green). Some states with easier ballot access have other candidates.
5. On December 19, 2016, the Electoral College electors will meet at their state capitals.
6. On January 6, 2017, Congress meets in joint session to count the electoral votes.
7. On January 20, 2017 at noon, the president-elect takes the Oath of Office and becomes the President of the United States.

Sources

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Dissussion Questions

1. Why did our Founders choose to create an Electoral College to select a president rather than permitting an election by popular vote?
2. How does an individual become a candidate for the presidency? Describe the process.
3. What changes were made to the Electoral College through the various amendments? Why did they occur?
4. Discuss the pros and cons of the Electoral College. Do you support electing the president by a national popular vote?
5. What are some issues not mentioned in the article that can influence the election of a president?

6. Discuss any events relevant to the election that occurred after this article was written?

Volunteer Opportunities Available

Whether you have an ever changing schedule or need to plan your activities weeks in advance, we can meet your scheduling needs. There are many League events year round and especially in the fall. We generally plan events weeks or months in advance. However, frequently we get requests to staff an event or speak at various events with very little notice. We are trying to establish an “on-call” list of volunteers who need very little notice. If you have a flexible schedule or an ever changing schedule and would like to be considered for these short-term notices, please contact Peggy Knight, Co-president, at peggy.knight1@verizon.net, 703-772-4939, or go to the LWVFA website, League Volunteers at <http://www.lwv-fairfax.org/Volunteer.html>.

For Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote drives, you can volunteer through Signup Genius on our website, <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d48afa82fa7f94-lwvfa>, or by contacting Sidney Johnson, sidneyjohnson3@verizon.net or 703-476-0581.

Community Elections is a major funding source for these voter service activities and many other League activities. For information about these opportunities or to sign up, go to: <http://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/23676DA05A1CFE9C24-lwvfairfax> or contact Anne Thomas, Community Elections Coordinator, annethomas@gmail.com or 571-291-3206.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is very respected in the community. We are welcome as representatives on many Fairfax Committees and Commissions. We currently need League representatives on AHOME Foundation (Affordable Housing Opportunity Means Everyone) and Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee. For more information, please contact either Peggy Knight, 703-772-4939, or Wendy Fox-Grage, 703-319-4114, or email them at president@lwv-fairfax.org.

In four short years, the League of Women Voters will reach its centennial. This is a great opportunity for us to celebrate and remind the public of who we are and what we do. We need to begin planning for this Centennial Celebration now. If you would like to be part of an ad hoc committee or just have some ideas, please contact Peggy Knight at peggy.knight1@verizon.net, 703-772-4939.

Boys and Girls Generally Respond Differently to Exposure to Domestic Violence

By Barbara Nunes, Domestic Violence Committee Chair and Adarsh Trehan, a Committee Member.

In the May Fairfax *VOTER*, there was a listing of the effects of domestic violence (DV) on children. Also mentioned in that issue was the staggering number of children affected by DV each year. That number is being repeated here. The Domestic Violence Roundtable located in Sudbury, Mass., states that “Studies show that 3-4 million children between 3 and 17 are at risk of exposure to domestic violence each year.” However, the effects of domestic violence (DV) can vary by gender. Some of the pertinent information includes:

- ✓ DV “involving knives or guns placed children at greater risk of behavior problems than violence exposure where such weapons were not employed,” according to E.N. Jouriles and others, regardless of the gender of the children.
- ✓ “When a male is the perpetrator of child abuse, one study demonstrated that there is a 70 percent chance that any injury to the child will be severe, and 80 percent of child fatalities within the family are attributable to the fathers or father surrogates,” according to Bergman and others.
- ✓ Children exposed to DV exhibit both more externalized and internalized problems compared with their peers. However, boys also appear to demonstrate problems more frequently than girls.
- ✓ Externalized problems include antisocial and aggressive behaviors while internalized problems include physical complaints and depression.
- ✓ According to Linda Exposito, a Los Angeles psychotherapist, “Boys exposed to domestic violence may channel their feelings through aggressive acts such as fighting, hitting younger siblings, and engaging in high-risk behaviors such as using or abusing drugs or joining gangs.”
- ✓ J. E. McIntosh, an Australian researcher on domestic violence, explains that such externalizing behaviors by boys “are linked to their experiencing a higher level of threat from violence exposure,” compared with girls.
- ✓ Such boys often identify with the abuser and grow up thinking that aggressive behavior is masculine and “macho” and that it improves their reputation. They approve of DV as a method of resolving conflicts.
- ✓ Girls appear to exhibit more internalized problems as compared with boys. According to Linda Exposito, “Girls may act out in aggressive ways too, by becoming sexually promiscuous or using drugs, (externalized behaviors), while other girls may internalize their pain and become depressed, isolated or even injure themselves....”
- ✓ “Girls’ internalizing responses are reflective of their experiencing a higher level of self-blame,” compared with boys, according to J. E. McIntosh.
- ✓ Often, when a mother is a victim of DV, her children are at risk of physical and sexual abuse. “Where a mother is assaulted by the father, daughters are exposed to a risk of sexual abuse 6.51 times greater than girls in non-abusive families, according to the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre, Gold Coast, Inc., Australia. Obviously, the sexual assaults they experience will have both short- and long-term negative effects on them.
- ✓ Girls often grow up to have difficulty forming a positive identity and feel that they, like their mothers, deserve DV.

Authors’ Note: The information was gathered from “Child Neglect and Abuse: The International Journal,” the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre, Gold Coast, Inc. (Australia), the VAWnet.org, and cnn.com websites.

Domestic Violence Hotline
(703) 360-7273

Report From 2016 LWV National Convention

By Peggy Knight, LWVFA Co-President

The 2016 League of Women Voters Convention convened June 16-19 at the Wardman Park Marriot in Washington, D.C., filling three and one-half days with inspiring speakers, workshops and caucuses, plenary sessions, networking opportunities with Leaguers from across the country, and the Capitol Steps' performance.

Five delegates represented LWVFA: Peggy Knight, Co-President; Ruth Hoffman, LWV-VA Firearms Safety Co-Chair; Pat Nelson-Douvelis, Membership Chair; Bill Thomas, Development Chair; and Beth Tudan, Executive Director. We also had 19 volunteers helping run the show.

League members kicked off Convention on Thursday, June 16 with League Lobby Day, lobbying our senators and representatives on Capitol Hill. We conducted League business Friday through Sunday. The 674 delegates amended the by-laws and approved positions, resolutions and the budget for the 2016-2018 biennium. We also elected a new board and president. At the Saturday night banquet, four Leagues received awards in three categories. Our neighboring Arlington League won *The Strengthening Democracy Award* for their work in high school voter registration.

Outgoing LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara began the convention with a reminder of our roots in the suffragist movement. She reminded us that our goal is to "...make democracy work for everyone, not just some." Executive Director, Wylecia Wiggs Harris, and newly elected League president, Chris Carson, stressed the need for the League to adapt to changing times. Both identified the need to embrace new technology to attract a younger and more diversified membership.

Program: 2016 - 2018: Delegates approved the 2016-2018 National Program campaign for "Making Democracy Work©". League activities will focus on registering and involving both new voters and the disenfranchised electorate; educating voters about issues and the importance of their vote; election and campaign finance reform; support for redistricting efforts.

The adopted **League Positions and Bylaws** changes on voting membership are described in this month's study on



how the League Is Changing.

LWVUS Budget and Financial Condition: LWVUS has experienced substantial losses in investments. Changes were made in accounting practices and budget reporting. There is a new Chief Financial Officer and an investment advisor. The current plan includes risk management of investments to better match the Leagues' mission and financial needs and to allow the reserve fund to recover. Delegates approved the 2016-2018 budget Sunday morning; the Per Member Payment will remain at \$32. Donations and PMP are the top two sources of revenue for LWVUS.

Resolutions: Janis McMillen, the Resolutions' Committee Chair, presented resolutions addressing gun violence, statehood for D.C. and environmental issues. They were approved. We also held a moment of silence to remember and pray for the 49 victims of the Orlando shooting and their families.

Speakers: Throughout the convention, we had the privilege of listening to speakers who energized us by providing information and strategies to meet our mission and to Make Democracy Work for All. Many of the speeches are available on: <https://www.youtube.com/user/LeagueofWomenVoters>.

Workshops: There was also an extensive choice of caucuses, workshops and information sessions. Details can be found on Fairfax Area, Virginia and US League websites: www.lwv-fairfax.org

Election of LWVUS Leadership: The Convention drew to a close with the election of LWVUS Officers, Directors, and a Nominating Committee. Chris Carson of California is the new LWVUS President. One of the new board members, Amy Hjerstedt, co-chaired the LWV Young People's Task Force. She is a young woman from the Arlington/Falls Church area who has lived in California and Michigan. While in Michigan, she started a League in her area.

League leaders recognized that members are interested in the political process and offered strategies on ways to participate in political discussions. We were encouraged to

avoid using the term “nonpartisan” and simply state that the League does not support any party or any candidate. Leaders offered talking points to address the historic event of the first female presidential candidate for a major party without supporting or advocating for her candidacy. They are available at <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/talking-points-first-woman-nominee-president-major-political-party>,

In her remarks, President Carson reminded the attendees that the League needs to continue to educate the voters, “...curtail the influence of money in politics,” and work for redistricting reform. As communication techniques change, we must also change how we get our message to the voters. We will continue to use the personal touch, but we must also use social media tools and other methods to engage the community.

A report on the 52nd League of Women Voters Convention would not be complete without acknowledging the number of hours that LWVUS staff and all the volunteers worked to have a well-organized, successful convention. We could not have functioned without them. In addition, LWVFA delegates would like to thank LWVFA members for making it possible for them to attend.

Environmental Update . . .

Ecoteering

By Elizabeth Lonoff

You don't have to go far - or even outdoors - to help preserve ecosystems:

Flora. The Library of Virginia's traveling exhibit, *Flora of Virginia*, will be in our area through October 15 at Alexandria's Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. The small exhibition presents artwork and fossils related to the State's 2012 compendium of 3,164 native and naturalized plants, the first published in 250 years. A powerful field-guide app of the seven-pound book will be released soon. In conjunction with this exhibit, the Plant NoVA Natives Campaign has started a lending library with copies of *Hometown Habitat*, *Stories of Bringing Nature Home* for groups such as faith communities interested in stewardship, for which there is a 10-minute segment in the film. This 90-minute documentary shows how and why native plants are critical to the survival and vitality of local ecosystems. For more information, contact plantnovanatives@gmail.com. Also, the Great Falls Garden Club is holding a public screening at 1 pm on October 13 at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike.



www.plantnovanatives.org

Fauna. British and Australian researchers have 100 cameras taking hourly photos for a penguin census. Penguin Watch 2.0 (penguin-watch.org) asks the public to participate online by monitoring nest activity. Other citizen science projects include using a GPS collar to find out where your cat roams (cats.yourwildlife.org), listening to bat calls at BatDetective.org, and tagging animals in camera trap images for SnapshotSerengeti.org.

Landscape. University of Alabama at Birmingham professor Sarah Parcak won the 2016 TED Prize for her innovative use of satellites to locate and protect previously unknown archaeological sites. She has found 17 pyramids, 1,000 tombs, and 3,100 ancient settlements in Egypt. Now, she is using a \$1 million grant to democratize archaeological discovery around the world, starting with a comprehensive survey of Peru to get ahead of looters. You can learn about this online project at http://www.ted.com/talks/sarah_parcak_hunting_for_peru_s_lost_civilizations_with_satellites and how to become a trained volunteer at globalxplorer.org/#new-page-3.



Virginia Legislation On Guns . . .

former family and household members with a child in common.

2016 Family Abuse Final Protective Order Firearm Prohibition Statute Now in Effect

On July 1, 2016, a new provision of the law **prohibits a person who is subject to a family abuse final protective order (respondent) from possessing a firearm** (Va. Code 16.1-279.1). Previously, respondents of family abuse final protective order could not purchase or transport firearms; this provision expands the prohibition to include possession.

The law provides that **after being served** with a final protective order, the respondent has a **24-hour period** to lawfully possess the firearm solely for purpose of **transferring or selling** the firearm to another person who is legally allowed to possess it.

A violation of this law is a Class 6 Felony, punishable up to five years in prison, as well as the loss of certain civil rights, including the right to **possess** a firearm.

The new law does **not** apply to:

- ✓ Emergency or preliminary Family Abuse Protective Orders.
- ✓ Emergency, Preliminary or Final Acts of Violence Protective Orders issued by the General District Court (*GDC Acts of Violence protective orders are not intended to address domestic violence. They apply to situations where the individuals are not current family or household members, or are not*

Why is this legislation important?

The presence of firearm makes it 5 times more likely domestic violence will turn into murder.* Removing firearms from dangerous domestic violence situations, such as when a judge has ordered a family abuse final protective order, can help keep our community safer.

In Fairfax County's first 10 months of administering the Lethality Assessment Program, **29% of victims report that their high-danger offenders either have a gun or can access one easily.**

In the five years of data analyzed by the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (2009-2013), there were 25 intimate partner violence (IPV) related homicides in our community. **17 of these homicides (68%) involved a firearm as the fatal agent.** This is a slightly higher rate than the statewide data from that same time period. **Across Virginia, 65% of IPV homicides involved a firearm.****

*J.C. Campbell, D. Webster, J. Koziol-McLain, C.R; et al. 2003. Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results From A Multi-Site Case Control Study. American Journal of Public Health. 93(7). Accessed from: http://www.futureswithout-violence.org/user/files/file/Children_Families/Guns.pdf

**Virginia Family and intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance Project, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Virginia Department of Health. <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/medExan/familyintimate-partnerviolencehomicidesurveillance.htm>.



Fox-Grage Elected Co-President

At its Fall Kickoff meeting, Wendy Fox-Grage of the Reston Evening Unit was elected to serve as Co-President with Peggy Knight. "I am pleased at this opportunity to serve the League in this important position," stated Wendy upon her election.



Wendy has been a member of the League for 12 years. She is a senior strategic policy advisor for the AARP Public Policy Institute. She works on state long-term care issues, including Medicaid and home and community-based services.

This Month's Unit Meeting Locations

Topic: Electing a President

Members and visitors are encouraged to attend any meeting convenient for them, including the "At Large Meeting" and briefing on Saturdays when a briefing is listed. As of September 1, 2016, the locations were correct; please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend. Some meetings at restaurants may need reservations.

Saturday, October 1

10 a.m. At-Large Unit and Briefing

League Conference Room
Packard Center
4026 Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003
Contact: Sherry 703-730-8118

Monday, Oct 10

1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)

Hunters Crossing Classroom
Spring Village Drive
Springfield, VA 22150
Contact: Edith (703) 644-3970 or
Gloria (703) 852-5113

Wednesday, Oct 12

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

StarNut Café
1445 Laughlin Ave.
McLean, VA 22101
Contact: Adarsh (703) 795-7281
or
Anjali (703) 509-5518

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

Mt. Vernon District Government Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria, VA 22306
Contact: Gail (703) 360-6561 or
Diane (703) 704-5325

10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)

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

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

Hunter Mill District Community Room B
1801 Cameron Glen Drive
Reston, VA 21090
Contact: Kelly, 202-263-1311

Thursday, Oct 13

9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)

21045 Cardinal Pond Terrace #119
Ashburn, VA 20147
Contact: Carolyn 703-729-1133

9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)

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

10 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CCD)

Sully District Government Center
4900 Stonecroft Blvd.
Chantilly, VA 20151
Contact: Leslie, 571-213-6384

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

Oakton Regional Library
Conference Room
10304 Lynnhaven Pl.
Oakton, VA 22124
Contact: Bob 563-299-5316

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

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

November: General Meeting

Sunday, November 20, 2016



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

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**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER ©
 Octoberber, 2016
 Peggy Knight, Co-President
 Wendy Fox-Grage, 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 person at least 16 years old, 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 FORM

Membership Dues: Individual \$65 _____ Household \$90 (2 persons, 1 Voter) _____ Student \$32.50 _____
Dues year is July 1 – June 30 (A subsidy fund is available; check here _____ and include whatever amount you can afford.)
Membership Status: New _____ Renewing _____ Reinstatement _____ Donation _____
(Dues are not tax deductible. Tax-deductible donations must be written on a separate check or PayPal Payment to “LWVFA Ed Fund.”)

(Please print clearly)

Name _____ Unit (if renewing) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____

Phone (H) _____ (M) _____ E-Mail _____

Please make checks payable to “LWVFA” and mail to: LWVFA, 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003-2403.
OR Join Online at: www.LWV-Fairfax.org/join.html

I am interested in becoming involved in (please indicate by circling the appropriate bullet(s)):

- **Providing organizational support** (graphics design, website development/maintenance, fundraising/ grant writing)
- **Voter Services** (e.g., voter registration drives, candidate forums, developing Voters’ Guides)
- **Researching/writing about issues in which LWVFA has an interest** (e.g., environment, firearms safety, mental health, schools, domestic violence, criminal justice; or, chairing an LWVFA study committee on voter turnout or human trafficking).
- **Representing the League in governmental fora** (e.g., serving as LWVFA representative on Fairfax County citizens’ committees and agencies, such as affordable housing, Fairfax County Public Schools).
- **Other** _____