



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

Fairfax VOTER

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Program Planning for LWVUS & LWVFA 2016-2018

Your Chance to Choose League Program

It is that time of year again -- program planning! Think about the LWV program on the National and local levels. Do our long-standing positions still have relevance? Can they be more effective if reworded or re-studied? Are there issues that need the League's voice; and if so, should we embark on a new study?

The LWV derives its strength from being embedded in and reflective of member interest. So tend to your "grass roots" and weigh in on our programs for the next two years and send a message to your National and local Leagues. Attend the General Meeting on January 23 and make your views known. (The registration form is on Page 6.) In addition to our program planning discussions, **Wylecia Wiggs Harris**, the new executive director of the LWVUS, will address the group. Dr. Harris is a dynamic speaker and refers to herself as a "Change Agent". This is a unique opportunity for Fairfax Leaguers to learn about Dr. Harris's goals for the League. The public is invited, so encourage friends and neighbors to come.

Calendar

January 2016

- 1 New Year's Day
- 4 Fairfax *Voter* deadline
- 8 LWVNCA Board meeting
- 13 General Assembly convenes
- 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 20 LWVFA Board meeting**
- 20 Women's Roundtable, General
Assembly Building, Richmond
- 23 LVWFA General Meeting**
- 27 Women's Roundtable, Richmond

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Presidents' Message



Happy New Year! We hope you had a fun holiday that included lots of socializing with family and friends and plenty of good times with great food.

When we think about it, bringing people together is a part of everything the League does.

We'll start on January 23rd with our General Meeting, a great chance for us to catch up with Leaguers we haven't seen for a while and to meet new members. Our speaker will be Wylecia Wiggs Harris, the new Executive Director of LWVUS. She has interesting ideas, and we know you'll want to hear what she has to say. She has referred to herself as a Change Agent. We'll also choose the discussion topics for our unit meetings during the 2016-2017 League year. We hope to see you at Clyde's of Tysons Corner on the 23rd.

February 3rd is League Day, when we meet with the Senators and Delegates who represent us in the General Assembly. They tell us about which of their bills passed and which ones failed or died in committee. We also visit our Fairfax Delegation to distribute the updated *Facts for Voters*. Our Senators and Delegates look forward to our visit, and we look forward to talking with them in their offices.

As we all know, 2016 is a Presidential election year, and our Fairfax League already has a role to play. For the Presidential Voter's Guide, LWVUS will ask the same questions of all the Presidential Primary candidates. Sheila Iskra and Julie Jones have volunteered to enter answers from the Presidential candidates into our League's VOTE411. THANK YOU, Sheila and Julie for helping us connect Fairfax voters with their Presidential candidates.

The League has a history of adopting new technology to bring voters the unbiased information they need to make informed choices in the voting booth. This tradition started in 1928 with "Meet the Candidates," the first radio broadcast of a candidate forum. In the digital age, VOTE411 follows that tradition by offering an online resource for us to register, find candidate or voting information. When we visited high school government classes, with just a few clicks, the students found VOTE411 and explored its various options. This new online resource allows us to reach more voters

at one time, and joins our website, our Facebook page and our Twitter feed in making even more unbiased information available to voters.

The 2016 Presidential campaign started a long time ago, and we have another 10 months of robocalls and political flyers. During that time, we look forward to joining you in giving voters the information they need.

Have a safe and warm month of January.

Helen & Peggy

League Lobby Day: Meet With Your Legislator

League Lobby Day will be February 3, 2016. This is an opportunity for all League members to visit the General Assembly to lobby legislators. No reservations are required. Join League members from all over Virginia.

The LWV-VA Women's Round Table meets every Wednesday morning when the Legislature is in session, beginning January 20 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the 3 West Conference Room in the General Assembly Building.

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2015 - 2016

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

Fairfax League Forwards Views on Constitutional Amendments

The Fairfax Area Board compiled consensus reports from all units' discussions on constitutional amendments and sent the result to LWVUS on November 19. Below is a summary of our views. The national Board will determine a consensus based on reports from all local leagues.

Part I - Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals

1. Which of these should or should not be a consideration in identifying an appropriate and well-crafted amendment?
 - a) Whether the public policy objective addresses matters of such acute and abiding importance that the fundamental charter of our nation must be changed. **X Should**
 - b) Whether the amendment as written would be effective in achieving its policy objective. **X Should**
 - c) Whether the amendment would either make our political system more democratic or protect individual rights. **X No consensus**
 - d) Whether the policy objective can be achieved by a legislative or political approach that is less difficult than a constitutional amendment. **X No consensus**
 - e) Whether the public policy objective is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach. **X Should**

Part II - Aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention

2. What conditions should be in place for an Article V Constitutional Convention initiated by the states?
 - a) The Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret. **X Agree**
 - b) Representation at the Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote. **X No consensus**
 - c) State delegates must be elected rather than appointed. **X No consensus**
 - d) Voting at the Convention must be by delegate, not by state. **X No consensus**
 - e) The Convention must be limited to a specific topic. **X Agree**
 - f) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Convention must be called. **X Agree**
 - g) The validity of state "calls" for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by

the most recent action of the state. If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission should be respected by Congress. **X Agree**

3. Should the League oppose an Article V Constitutional Convention to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution because of unresolved questions about the powers and processes of such a convention? **X No consensus**

Part III – Balancing Questions

4. Should the League consider supporting a Constitutional amendment that will advance a League position even if:
 - a) *There are significant problems with the actual amendment as proposed?* **X No consensus**
 - b) *It is being put forward by a procedural process the League would otherwise oppose?* **X No consensus**

Comment Section (max. 500 words)

The National Board should be complimented for bringing our attention to this topic. We should have established guidelines so the League can be prepared. While we had plenty of information, this is a very complex issue. The wording of the questions themselves came under criticism by several units.

Comments such as the following were voiced:

- Questions were "leading" or set up a false dichotomy, which created confusion and difficulty in coming to a consensus
- Some questions were poorly worded and difficult to understand. Some questions contained double negatives.
- We liked the definition of the Constitution offered by one of our members: The Constitution is the "fundamental contract between the US government and the governed." Our unit wants to emphasize that the League should approach any proposal of an "Article V Convention" with extreme caution because of the significant dangers involved.
- The driving force for an Article V Constitutional Convention should be the issue.
- The words "should consider" are key because the opportunity to consider puts us at the table for any Article V Constitutional Convention discussion, especially when it pertains to a League position.

New Year—New Initiatives

By Sidney Johnson, Voter Service Chair

We have new challenges this presidential election year, even though we have only three congressional races in Fairfax County and the mayoral and council elections in the towns of Clifton, Herndon, and Vienna. There is always an upswing in participation during presidential election years, but many persons still do not get involved. We saw in our September study that one of the most effective ways to improve voter interest is by person-to-person encouragement. That is what we hope to do.

There will be a meeting at the Packard Center on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, at 10:30 a.m. to launch this year's effort to encourage local social service agencies to engage in voter registration and education. Any member who would like to participate—whether in a big or a small way—is invited to attend. We will be following the Non-Profit Vote methods, as we have done in our pilot program with the United Community Ministries in Mount Vernon. We hope to broaden our activities this year.

After five years, our Meet and Greets are on the map. Candidates and the public look forward to them. They are our most visible public service. We need to form a team to organize the Meet and Greets for the fall of 2016. We are trying to find ways of sharing the responsibilities among several people, but the ones who actually volunteer will be the ones who decide what works best for them. We have several experienced members to provide guidance, but they will not be leading the team. Anyone interested in being part

of the team should contact Sidney.

In addition, there are some short-term projects that could be organized by one or two members.

- Voter registration team to respond to requests from senior living establishments or special events. This year we had four requests, but could only respond to two of them. We can refer the activities directors of the senior living facilities to the Office of Elections, but it would be better if we could demonstrate League commitment by responding ourselves. The team members would not have to attend all the events themselves, but they could be responsible for finding members who would.
- Inmate Resource Fair at the Adult Detention Center. We should have a table at these fairs to educate inmates returning to the community on restoration of voting rights and other opportunities for civic service. The Prince William League provides a good model for us to follow.
- Assisting with our new projects in the high schools. Voter registration in the high schools is taken care of by the Office of Elections, but we hope to build on contacts with the teachers of government classes, perhaps to organize an after-school activity related to civic engagement.

Please contact Sidney (sidneyjohnson3@verizon.net 703-476-0581) if you are interested in any of these activities or have an idea for a new initiative of your own. May we all have a productive New Year.

Learn About Today's Technology

In an attempt to grow the League and keep it relevant to our members, we have identified a four-session course entitled: "Today's Technology for Baby Boomers." This course is designed to teach us how to use current technology: our smartphones, iPads and tablets, Facebook, Twitter, sharing digital pictures and more. Andy Livingston, <http://www.ladcommunicationstech.com>, offers these sessions and has been recommended by some of LWVFA's members. He would provide a four-class course that would cost \$99 per person. Each class would be two hours long. Each student would get a USB drive with the course curriculum loaded on it to keep. Students could bring a laptop or tablet to class. We would limit the classes to 12 students and have it at the Packard Center. If there is enough interest, we could repeat the course.

It would include the following information:

- Class 1 - Cell phones/Smartphones, ipod/itunes, Mobile apps
- Class 2 - Social Media such as Facebook, Twitter, Google, You Tube
- Class 3 - Computers (mac/pc/tablet), Skype, Netflix, Cloud computing, Flickr, webcam
- Class 4 - GPS and Mapping, weather sites & other out/about resources

If you are not interested in the topics for Class 4, we could ask for more information about posting League events/info on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. For more information about Mr. Livingston and his classes, go to <http://www.ladcommunicationstech.com>. If you have any questions or would like more information please contact Peggy Knight at peggy.knight1@verizon.net or 703-532-4417.

National and Local Program Planning: Time to Make Your Views Known for 2016-2018

January's General Meeting is a time to reflect on the issues truly important to League members. We cannot do everything, but we are certainly good at having an impact on a few issues at a time. Your views will feed into a consensus that will help decide both local and LWVUS program for the program year that begins in the fall.

One important aspect of League programming is that it includes both study and action. Members will be asked to identify positions that should have the highest priority for action as well as any areas that need to be reviewed for a possible update or studied anew. Reviews or studies lead to concurrence or consensus.

As you evaluate issues, ask yourself these questions: Is there widespread member interest? Is this a timely issue? Is government action the most effective way to address the problem? Do we have the people to work on this? Feedback forms will be available at the General Meeting and will also appear on our website, www.lwv-fairfax.org.

Members will be asked, on both LWVUS and LWVFA levels to 1) decide if there is an issue that they would like to be reviewed; 2) decide if there is an issue on which they would like a new study; 3) decide if there are any issues that should have priority for action; 4) decide if there are any positions that should be abandoned, 5) and very importantly, who is willing to work on the issue. For LWVFA program, you will be asked if there are topics on which you would like informational programs. You may also decide that you have considered everything and do not want to recommend any changes.

Remember that during the past year in our unit meetings, Fairfax Area League members reviewed, studied, and discussed the League's local and national positions on reapportionment/redistricting, gun control, fracking, human trafficking, land use, housing/mental health/ registration/ voting.

I. ABOUT LWVUS (National) PROGRAM PLANNING

We are being asked by LWVUS to provide feedback before March, so that our delegates to the June convention will be attending with a purpose, not subject to pressure by one interest group.

Resources and Volunteer Time

Before recommending a study, review or concurrence, Leagues need to consider the resource commitment required for their own local League as well as for the LWVUS. A recommendation of a new study, review or concurrence is a request to give the recommendation a high priority for the biennium at both the LWVFA and LWVUS levels. If

a recommendation is adopted, local Leagues and LWVUS, with limited resources – money, but even more important volunteer time -- may find it necessary to drop other activities in order to participate. Although technology has made it possible to reduce expenses, there are still significant staff time costs, even with the unbelievable hours of volunteer work by the national study committee. Each study or update includes the process of choosing a committee which then meets for a number of months to work on study materials and consensus questions. So as Leagues consider the scope of any proposed study or update remember that consensus process must be capable of completion between July 2016 and April 2018.

What Positions Are Already on the Books?

The short version is reproduced below. The full text of our LWVUS positions is too long to include in the VOTER but makes for fascinating reading, complete with background of how changes have been made over the years. The LWVUS public policy positions reflect the 2014-2016 program adopted by the 2014 convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States; the "positions in brief" listed summarize the official statements of positions included in the [Impact on Issues 2014](#). Please make every effort to download this guide from the website: www.lwv.org.

II. LWVUS PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS in brief 2014-2016*

A. REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT: Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

1. Voting Rights

- a. **Citizen's Right to Vote.** Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.
- b. **DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation.** Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full

voting representation in both houses of Congress.

2. Election Process

- a. **Apportionment.** Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.
- b. **Campaign Finance.** Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.
- c. **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.

3. Citizen Rights

- a. **Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation.** Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making.
- b. **Individual Liberties.** Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.
- c. **Public Policy on Reproductive Choices.** Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

4. Congress and the Presidency

- a. **Congress.** Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance.
- b. **The Presidency.** Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.
- c. **5. Privatization** Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

B. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

1. United Nations. Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

2. Trade. Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

3. U.S. Relations with Developing Countries. Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

4. Arms Control. Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

5. Military Policy and Defense Spending. Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

C. NATURAL RESOURCES: Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

1. Natural Resources. Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

2. Resource Management. Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

3. Environmental Protection and Pollution Control. Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

- a. **Air Quality.** Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.
Energy. Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

- b. **Land Use.** Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship

- c. **Water Resources.** Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.
- d. **Waste Management.** Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.
- e. **Nuclear Issues.** Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.
- f. **Public Participation** Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.
- 4. Agriculture Policy** Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.
- D. SOCIAL POLICY:** Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.
- 1. Equality of Opportunity**
- a. **Equal Rights.** Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.
- b. **Education, Employment and Housing.** Support equal access to education, employment and housing.
- c. **Federal Role in Public Education.** Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12.
- 2. Fiscal Policy**
- a. **Tax Policy.** Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.
- b. **Federal Deficit.** Promote responsible deficit policies.
- c. **Funding of Entitlements.** Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.
- 3. Health Care.** Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S residents and controls health care costs.
- 4. Immigration** Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.
- 5. Meeting Basic Human Needs** Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.
- a. **Income Assistance.** Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.
- b. **Support Services.** Provide essential support services.
- c. **Housing Supply.** Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.
- 6. Child Care** Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.
- a. **Early Intervention for Children at Risk.** Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.
- b. **Violence Prevention.** Support violence prevention programs in communities.
- 7. Gun Control** Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.
- 8. Urban Policy** Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.
- 9. Death Penalty** The LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty.
- 10. Sentencing Policy** The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.
- 11. Human Trafficking** Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. *Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.*

*From LWVUS.org/content/public-policy-positions (revised 2014)

III. ABOUT LWVFA (LOCAL) PROGRAM PLANNING

The same principles apply for local program planning, except that we adopt our program for the next year at our April Annual Meeting rather than at a June convention.

IV. LWVFA POSITIONS IN BRIEF

A. GOVERNMENT

1. Fairfax County & City of Fairfax (1987-1999)

Support an effective, responsible and accountable form of government that includes opportunities for citizen participation in the decision-making process by scheduling time for public comment at board and council meetings and holding magisterial district town meetings in the county. Support for the concept of an independent auditor for program review.

2. Fiscal (1970s-2008)

Support for an effectively administered, equitable tax system and the sale of bonds for capital improvements including the construction and renewal of school facilities. If additional revenue is needed, and in order to diversify the tax system and reduce reliance on the property tax, a combination of adjusting the rates on existing taxes and/or fees and enacting new taxes and/or fees should be considered.

3. Public Libraries (1984-2006)

Support for selection policies and procedures of the Fairfax County Public Libraries (FCPL) that ensure its collection contains a wide variety of books, digital resources, and other materials representing a diversity of views to serve the educational, informational and recreational needs of the residents of Fairfax County/City.

4. Registration and Voting

Support efforts to increase voter registration and voter participation in Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax.

5. Transportation (1981-2004)

Support for an effective, well-coordinated and adequately financed system of public transportation in Fairfax County/City, and an active role by Fairfax County in the planning of its road system and the financing of road improvements

B. NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Environmental Quality (EQ)

a. Solid Waste (1980-1990)

Support measures to protect the public and the environment and to encourage alternative methods of disposal of solid wastes. Source reduction, as well as reuse and recycling, should be emphasized over incineration and land filling.

b. Hazardous Materials (1985-1994)

Support establishment and maintenance by Fairfax County and Fairfax City of a comprehensive local hazardous materials program, including safe disposal of hazardous waste, to protect the public and environment.

c. Sensitive Areas (1988-1994)

Non-tidal wetlands are a valuable resource that is in need of protection from destruction by conversion to other uses. Both tidal and non-tidal wetlands should be protected against damage from sedimentation and pollution.

d. Air Quality (1992)

To achieve and maintain acceptable air quality, development of less polluting alternative fuels should be a high priority with preference for compressed natural gas, reformulated gasoline, electricity and hydrogen. Support for a change in parking subsidies away from those favoring low occupancy vehicles to those favoring efficient transportation modes.

e. Climate Change (2009)

Localities must play a significant role in addressing the causes of climate change. The League supports and encourages the County and City of Fairfax to adopt and carry out programs that will minimize the causes and effects of climate change. The League also supports the coordination of these efforts with those of other localities.

2. Land Use Planning (1984-2010)

Support for well-coordinated and environmentally sound comprehensive land use planning in Fairfax County/City, efforts to ensure that growth is balanced and orderly, preservation of historic and archaeological sites and areas, coordinated revitalization and redevelopment, and coordination of land use and transportation planning.

3. Water (1990s)

Support for Fairfax County taking measures necessary to effectively protect the Occoquan Reservoir from pollution.

C. SOCIAL POLICY

1. Health Care (1984-1988)

Support publicly funded health planning to control costs and support Fairfax County/City having a role in the health care of its citizens, which should include participation in programs that subsidize health care for the medically indigent through private physicians and primary care clinics placed in appropriate locations. Support for an aggressive community-based out-reach program to inform the public about available health care programs.

2. Human Services (1976-1998) Support equal opportunity for education, employment and housing; promote provision of services for the elderly; work to ensure adequate, affordable and appropriate housing for low-and moderate-income families and individuals; support a wide range of housing arrangements for mentally disabled adults; and support permanent shelters for homeless families and individuals.

3. Judicial System (2000)

Support court, correctional and law enforcement systems for Fairfax County/City that are conducted in a just and dignified manner; that minister to all people without legal, economic or administrative discrimination; that require efficient administration and competent personnel who are given a clear assignment of responsibility and adequate financing;

that require proper planning and coordination between related agencies; and that encourage the active and informed participation of citizens.

4. Juvenile Problems (1994)

Support measures for problem youth whereby the major goal of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court for Fairfax County/City is the protection and rehabilitation of problem youth. Support for alternatives to detention and a variety of individual and group homes located throughout the county/city, in preference to institutions. These facilities should provide for separation of various types of juveniles according to their individual needs.

5. Schools (2007-2008, 2010)

Promote equal opportunity for a quality education in Fairfax County/City schools. Support for proper planning; competent administration; full-day kindergarten and minimum of 20-minute daily recess in all elementary schools; programs to meet special needs; adequate personnel, facilities and financing; well defined channels for community input and review; and appropriate books and materials to support and enhance the instructional program.

[Ed. NOTE: For complete wording, see **Here We Stand, revised 2011, on LWVFA website – Action page: www.lwv-fairfax.org**]

LWVFA Nominating Committee Update

We are still looking for a few good people to fill the following positions for the LWVFA 2016-18 Board. The two-year term will start July 1, 2016. These positions need to be filled by February, 2016, in order to be elected at the April 2016 LWVFA Annual Meeting.

Officers:

Co-President

Treasurer

Directors (two of the four have been filled)

Program Director and Program Co-Director (co-director can be an off-board position)

Unit Coordinator

We are also compiling a list of people who would be willing to work **in an off-board capacity** to help the board person in the following areas:

- Program - form a “committee of people” to work on discussion topics for unit meetings and compile unit feedback on topics for 2016-17
- Unit Coordinator (in addition to Wendy Fox-Grage) two or three other people to help get materials ready for September Kick-Off – would need to be available in August 2016
- Voters Service – additional people to help Sidney Johnson with Meet & Greet events and voter registration activities in 2016

We’ve been talking to lots of people, but would love to have more input. If you or someone you know would like to serve on the LWVFA Board or would like to be on a committee, please contact the Nominating Committee (listed below).

If you are interested or wish to suggest someone for a position, contact Sherry Zachry, Chair, szachry@verizon.net 703-730-8118

THANKS – You can help the LWVFA keep its reputation for being the organization that makes a difference in the Fairfax Area!

Environmental Report . . .

President Concurs With State Department: Keystone XL Pipeline Cancelled

By Elizabeth Lonoff

On Sept. 19, 2008, TransCanada Corp. proposed a 1,200-mile Keystone XL pipeline to transport crude oil from Alberta tar sands beds to join 800 miles of pipelines from the Nebraska/Kansas border to Texas. It essentially would duplicate the operating first-phase of the XL project, using a shorter route and a larger-diameter pipe.

Building a pipeline across the border in Montana would require a Presidential Permit, for which a new application was submitted in May 2012. As promised, TransCanada continued to work with Nebraska to identify an alternative route avoiding the environmentally sensitive Sandhills Region. The U.S. State Department conducted environmental assessments, consulted with other federal agencies and the public, and found that approving this pipeline would have little impact on the price of gas for U.S. consumers and on whether or not these tar sands would be developed, as announced by Secretary Kerry (see <http://www.state.gov/secretary/>



[remarks/2015/11/249249.htm](http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2015/11/249249.htm)).

Upon gaining a majority in both house of Congress, Republicans made approving the XL pipeline a priority. President Obama vetoed S.1 in February 2015 to continue the administrative process. On Nov. 6, 2015, President Obama concurred with the State Department's rejection of the application (<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/president-obama-statement-at-white-house/>). He noted that the purported benefits of lower gas prices and lower crude-oil imports had happened during the review without the pipeline. Obama said completing the pipeline to import dirtier crude oil would harm U.S. leadership on curbing global warming. This is one of

many steps he has taken to pressure other countries into taking actions to reduce air pollution. On December 4, 2015, a Nebraska county judge found a remaining case brought by landowners to be moot because TransCanada gave up its eminent domain condemnation claims following the president's announcement.

Keystone XL proponents such as House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton continue to decry the President's "denying American jobs and greater energy security." However, after two years of construction, the pipeline would provide only about 50 jobs. All 2016 Republican presidential candidates favor approving the pipeline; all the Democrats support the president's action.

If, indeed, these reserves are tapped once prices rise enough to make this energy-intensive mining feasible, others contend that a pipeline would be the safest way to transport the oil. However, that would mean destroying thousands of acres of pristine Canadian forest, habitat for caribou and other wildlife. Also, extracting tar sands oil emits about 20 percent

more carbon and uses about 10 times as much water as conventional methods, almost three barrels of water for every barrel of tar sands oil. Once mined, the resulting sludge is stored in big, largely-unregulated ponds, which could impact drinking water.



Domestic Violence Hotline
(703) 360-7273



~ 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 lww-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.



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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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