



Farnsworth and McKay to Keynote General Meeting Discussions

This month, instead of meeting for discussions in our various units, we'll all come together at a General Meeting - and this should be a good one! You'll have the opportunity to meet new and old friends from other units as well as hear two excellent speakers, Dr. Stephen Farnsworth of the University of Mary Washington, and Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay, who will discuss the Impact of the Virginia Election. Please put Saturday, November 18, 1-4 p.m. on your calendar – the event is free and guests are welcome. Find more details in the flyer on Page 3 and register online or by calling Mary Valder (703-319-2185). We look forward to a big crowd!

Calendar

November 2017

- Note: **No LWVFA unit meetings in November**
- 3 LWNCA Board meeting
 - 4 Final day for in-person absentee voting
 - 6 Sequoyah community election
 - 6 *Fairfax VOTER* deadline
 - 7 Election Day: vote for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General and House of Delegates statewide, polls open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 - 7 Absentee ballot return deadline, 7 p.m.
 - 14 New member orientation, Packard Center conference room, 10 a.m.
 - 15 **LWVFA Board meeting**
 - 18 **LWVFA General Meeting, "After Virginia Votes: Impact of the Virginia Election," Virginia International University, 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax VA 22030, 1-4 p.m.**

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Presidents' Message



Busy, Busy

We are so thankful for all of your help with:

- nine candidate forums for House of Delegates, Fairfax City Council, and Fairfax County Public School At-Large School Board Member;
- voter registration and election education at 21 community events;
- four community elections;
- the Metro forum and the LWV-VA workshops; and
- countywide distribution of 9,000 copies of "What's on the Ballot," a guide to the November election.

All of these programs and services assisted our community, and most of these activities informed them of the November 7 election and important issues of the day.

Barbara Varon Volunteer Winner

We are also grateful to Bob Meredith, and we are pleased to announce that Bob is the winner of the 2017 Barbara Varon Volunteer award! This award is given annually to a Fairfax County resident whose dedication to improving the community through volunteer service honors the memory of Barbara Varon, former Chairman of the Fairfax County Electoral Board. Congratulations, Bob!

General Meeting

We encourage everyone to attend our general meeting with an After-Action Analysis:

Impact of the Virginia Election on Saturday, November 18, 2017 from 1- 4 p.m. at Virginia International University, 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. We are excited that our keynote speakers are Dr. Stephen Farnsworth Professor, Political Science and International Affairs, at University of Mary Washington, and Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay, Chair, County Board's Budget Committee, Legislative Committee, & Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. If you have not heard them, you are in for a treat. The event is free of charge, and guests are welcome. See the flyer in this Voter for more information, and please register at: <https://vaelectionimpact.eventbrite.com>. If you do not want to register online, please call Mary Valder at

703-319-2185 who can take your registration over the phone.

Giving Tuesday

This month, LWVFA will participate in the sixth annual #GivingTuesday campaign on November 28, 2017. In the same way that retail stores come together to offer deals on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday brings the nonprofit community together on a universal platform to raise awareness about the importance of supporting our valuable missions and work.

In this time of heightened partisanship, gridlock between policymakers and increased frustration among the public, there has never been a more urgent need for the reasoned, factual and civil voice the League of Women Voters brings to our community.

You, too, can make a difference. Can you support our work and mission with a year-end contribution to the League? Your #GivingTuesday gift to LWVFA will ensure that we can continue to provide these great services to our community in the coming year. Please donate to us through <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/donate/>. We would be honored to list

Domestic Violence Hotline
(703) 360-7273

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2017 - 2018

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Subscriptions to the *Fairfax VOTER* are available to non-Fairfax League members for \$15 per annum. Send your check to the above address and request a subscription.

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

your name in our new Donors and Supporters feature that will appear in each issue of the Voter, so we can thank you and others for your charitable contributions to the League.

Thank you for your support.

Gobble, gobble. Happy Thanksgiving!!

Wendy & Judy

November 7 - Election Day

Encourage your friends, neighbors, and family members to participate in this important election that will shape Virginia's future.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

presents

Our General Meeting *with an* After Action Analysis: Impact of the Virginia Election

Saturday, November 18, 2017

1 - 4 p.m.

Virginia International University
4401 Village Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030



Stephen Farnsworth, Ph.D.

Professor, Political Science and International Affairs
Director, Center for Leadership and Media Studies, University of Mary Washington

Supervisor Jeff McKay

Lee District Supervisor
Chair, County Board's Budget Committee, Legislative Committee, &
Northern Virginia Transportation Commission



Register at: <https://vaelectionimpact.eventbrite.com>

Free Admission

Guests Welcome

Donations Appreciated

Remember: Elections Have Consequences



Highlights from the LWV-VA Fall Workshops . . .

Enhancing League Engagement

By Judy Helein, Co-President

Ten members of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area attended the Virginia League Fall Workshops in Fredericksburg on September 22. What follows are what I consider to be the highlights of the day.

- 1) It was a wonderful opportunity to network with League members throughout the state.
- 2) Marty Rollins, the LWV-VA Secretary and Parliamentarian and Fairfax League’s Board Liaison, led a lively early bird session “Review of Robert’s Rules.” Marty covered the procedure for handling a motion, forms of voting and an example of a typical agenda. I learned in this session that the secretary does not need to record the name of the seconder of a motion in the minutes. In fact, many motions do not even need a second because the majority of motions come from a committee.
- 3) During one of the panel presentations, “Engaging with the Public,” Linda Garvelink, the LWV-VA 1st VP, spoke about the Observer Corps. Understanding how our local government works is BASIC to League effectiveness. A local League observer is the eyes and ears of the League. Observers learn how the governing bodies work and about issues that are or may become items for local study and action. Consistent League presence at these meetings adds to the League’s visibility and credibility. Peggy Knight, Observer Corps Coordinator, is working to rebuild the LWVFA Observer Corps. Several members of the Fairfax Area League currently serve as observers.
 - a. Olga Hernandez – Fairfax County Electoral Board
 - b. Jessica Storrs – Fairfax County Library Board
 - c. Deb Wake – Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee
 - d. In addition, Jill Follows serves as Observer to the United Nations for the LWVUS.
- 4) During the panel presentation, “Engaging With the League,” I learned that LWV-VA has established

Facebook groups. If a member of the League is interested in issues such as transportation, behavioral health, fracking, redistricting, climate change, healthcare, gun safety, they may join a Facebook group and interact with other members of the League in Virginia who have the same interest. Join a Facebook group by going to LWV-VA.org, clicking on Members’ Corner and then clicking on LWV-VA Official Facebook Groups.

- 5) In the afternoon, workshop participants could choose to attend two out of three breakout sessions.
 - a. “Behavioral Health Study” – This is a major update/restudy to include substance abuse, group homes, changes in courts to put mentally ill in treatment facilities not jails, and inclusion of broader services provided by Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. I have joined the Study Committee. Linda Rice, from the LWV Williamsburg is the Chair.
 - b. “School Choice Task Force” – This group is researching various options to traditional public education. They are looking at charter schools, vouchers, tuition, tax credits and virtual schools. Each of these options is being evaluated with consideration of the Virginia standards/requirements for a quality education. The differences between Virtual Virginia and Virginia Virtual Academy were also discussed.
 - c. “The Women’s Rights Task Force” is looking for a leader and additional members.
- 6) And last, but not least, mark your calendars and plan ahead. The LWV-VA Pre-session Luncheon and Information Session will be held on December 6, 2017 in Richmond.

General Meeting

November 18 - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Virginia International University

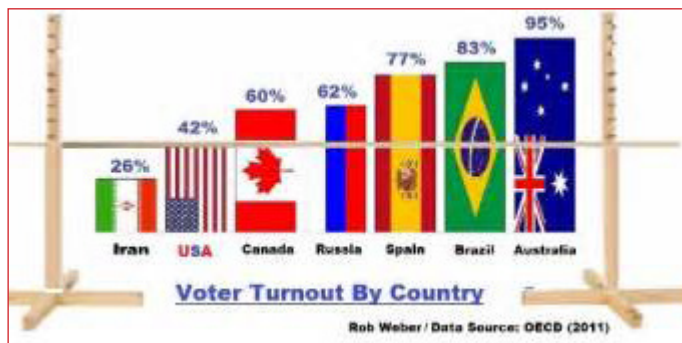
LWVFA Discussion Group Feedback and Questions on

Elections Have Consequences

By Sherry Zachry & Diana Willers,
Program Committee

From the responses received, the discussions about the topic of “Elections Have Consequences” engaged our members. In this article, we attempt to summarize the feedback from September’s unit meetings (Part I) and to answer some questions raised, using material and sources from both September’s and October’s article (Part II). Although specific feedback on discussion questions for Part II (October) has not been received as of this writing (October 3), several of September’s questions are answered in Part II, which we will explain as we go along.

Overall observations: We were happy to note that our members learned something new about the cause and effect of voter turnout in determining election results and the corresponding policies our elected officials enact. Over half of the units mentioned how voter turnout is affected by competition and high-visibility contests that can be skewed by party decisions on primaries, noting that, among other things: “Uncontested elections suppress voter turnout.”



In discussing the United States’ poor showing (28th out of 35 developed countries—mostly democracies) for presidential elections when compared with voting records of other developed countries, most were surprised to learn that Switzerland had a lower turnout that did the U.S. Several units mentioned other countries’ strategies for voting, i.e. compulsory voting, linking voting to receiving services, automatic voter registration (AVR), etc. We discuss AVR in the U.S. later in this article.

Clarifying reporting statistics: We noted in the feedback that some clarification is needed on the various methods used to report voter turnout, globally, nationally, and in Virginia.

Here is a bit more explanation of the methods of reporting voter turnout that were discussed in the article:

1. VAP – Voting Age Population: this figure is the total population of people 18 years and older, regardless of registration, citizenship status or whether they reported that they voted in 2016 as in: “The 55.7% VAP turnout in last year’s election puts the U.S. behind most of its peers in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), <http://www.oecd.org/>.”

2. On the other hand, “overall voter turnout, defined as the share of adult **U.S. citizens** who reported casting ballots, was 61.4% in 2016.” This figure is based on the number of **eligible** voters (citizens, etc.) who said they voted in 2016. In Drew Desilver’s May 2017 article for Pew [quoted in September], “Voter Turnout Trails Most Developed Countries”, there were these further explanatory notes about VAP and U.S. citizens who said they voted in 2016:

- a.) Voting-age population (VAP) turnout is derived from estimates of each country’s VAP by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. Registered-voter (RV) turnout is derived from each country’s reported registration data. Because of methodology differences, in some countries estimated VAP is lower than reported RV.

- b.) The U. S. Census bureau estimates that there were 245.5 million Americans ages 18 and older in November 2016, about 157.6 million of whom reported being registered to vote. (While political scientists typically define turnout as votes cast divided by the number of eligible voters; in practice turnout calculations usually are based on the estimated voting-age population, or VAP, since eligibility is affected by many hard-to-measure factors such as citizenship, imprisonment, residency rules and other legal barriers.)

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/05/15/u-s-voter-turnout-trails-most-developed-countries/>

Said another way, and as shown in the chart in September’s *VOTER*, the U.S. turnout in the 2016 presidential elections, reported **as a share of** registered voters – was 86.8 %; Voting age citizens – was 61%;

and of Voting age population – was 55.7%. *Source: Census Bureau (population estimates), House Clerk's office and Pew Research Center (vote totals).*

3. In Virginia: The VA Department of Elections (www.elections.virginia.gov) reports turnout as the *number of registered voters* who voted as a percentage of the **total registered voters** at that time—not as a percentage of *voting age* population (VAP—people 18 years and older). The September article said: In presidential years, Virginians have turned out in the past three cycles with higher percent-ages than the U.S. total turnout. Voting percentages in the last presidential elections were 74.0 percent in 2008, 71.06 percent in 2012, and 72.05 percent in 2016, according to the VA Department of Elections.

However, if total turnout is shown as a **percentage of voting age residents** (VAP), “. . . Virginia's turnout in 2016 is reduced to 60.9 percent.”

As for, “Are more people voting early?” – *voting early* has different meanings in each state, therefore statistics would compare results within each state; not among all states.

Voting every year in Virginia: Half of the units felt that it was either a waste of money or costs too much to have elections every year in Virginia, citing negatives of voter fatigue, cost, and a “flood” of outside money. They noted that having elections every year (sometimes more than one per year) seem “designed to suppress voting.”

When designed back in the early 1900s, holding different level elections every year was intended to manipulate turnout to achieve a certain outcome, but today, some advantages can result. Positives mentioned were: “more attention can be paid by the media so the public is better informed;” “detangles presidential from gubernatorial race;” and four units said: “it makes it [voting] a habit.”

A quarter of the units favored elections every two years linked with federal elections, but acknowledged that the ballot would be very long and “local positions would get lost in the noise.” As these comments illustrate, there are valid pros and cons for the current system suggesting that may be why there has not been much movement for change—voting every year in Virginia does have its advantages to focus the electorate.

Why are local elections [cities and towns] in May? What are the key dates? City and Town elections originally were established to be in May every four years, but in 2000, the

General Assembly enacted legislation to allow town and city elections in November. The Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT) and State Board of Elections (SBE) are encouraging the localities to save money by moving their elections to November now that appropriation language has been included in the VA Budget that requires “municipalities to pay all expenses associated with May elections after June 30, 2009, including those costs incurred by the Department of Elections.” Some localities in Virginia have done that (Town of Herndon and City of Falls Church, for example) after the residents voted to move the election date—the decision is left to the localities.

Key election dates, as established in the VA Code, are the first Tuesday in November [when preceded by the first Monday] for General Elections and first Tuesday in May for towns and cities that observe May dates. Primary dates vary by type of election—presidential or statewide office; presidential primary dates are set by the state political parties in conjunction with the national political party; the 2016 presidential primary in Virginia was March 1, 2016. The state political party determines the method of selection—either a primary or caucus—for state level candidates. If a primary is held, it is usually the second Tuesday in June for statewide offices such as gubernatorial and General Assembly candidates.

Speaking of primaries: Seven of the units believe the open primary system is the best system, commenting that “anything to give the voters more power” is preferable. The consensus was that all political parties should use the open primary system to discourage extreme candidates. Although we agree, we must note that sometimes a party may not want to discourage extreme candidates, depending on the ideologies of the party leadership. As stated before, it is the decision of the party, not the government, whether to hold a primary or caucus.

Our members like Virginia's open primary system and encourage the League “to help make it widely known that anyone can vote in Virginia primary elections and no party registration is required.” We reply: the League is trying to do that and would like to note that it is important to have more than one candidate per party, per office (competition) to create the need for a primary.

Redistricting: Everyone knew how state elections affect the redistricting process and would like to see an independent commission to draw the lines in Virginia. There is a common understanding among League members, and increasingly nationwide, that the current system of “elected officials choosing their voters” is hurting democracy. Quotes from



our members: “Incumbents run the show; It makes a difference who draws the lines;” and “Elections have consequences.”

Suggestions for change: Our members offered several suggestions for changing voting systems to make it easier to vote and to potentially increase turnout. Among the suggestions, followed by comments:

Change voting day to perhaps Saturday and Sunday, or make absentee voting easier. Comment: these suggestions are good, but would require national legislation to change the day from the first Tuesday in November; absentee voting varies by state and needs to be addressed at the state legislative level.

Mail-in ballot system: Instituting a mail-in ballot in Virginia would require major changes in Virginia’s election laws and processes—probably unlikely to happen. However, three states have implemented mail-in ballots: Oregon (the first), Washington and Colorado [see Part II in October’s *VOTER*].

Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) – This process was covered in October’s *VOTER* in Part II, as follows: As of August 2017, the Brennan Center reports that 10 states and the District of Columbia have approved AVR (automatic voter registration) and that 32 states introduced automatic registration this year (2017)—including Virginia. AVR legislation provides that people are registered to vote unless they “opt out”—rather than having to “opt in” to be registered. In Virginia, potential registrants are asked if they want to register to vote, not exactly automatic.



The states that have approved AVR are: Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, plus Washington D.C. The Brennan Center explains AVR this way:

Automatic voter registration makes two transformative, yet simple, changes to voter registration: Eligible citizens who interact with government agencies are registered to vote unless they decline, and agencies transfer voter registration information electronically to election officials. These two changes create a seamless process that is more convenient and less error-prone for both voters and government officials. This policy boosts registration rates, cleans up the rolls, makes voting more convenient, and reduces

the potential for voter fraud, all while lowering costs. Brennan Center for Justice - <https://www.brennancenter.org/analysis/automatic-voter-registration>

Questions & Answers

How have changes to the VRA affected turnout? Other than what was explained in September *VOTER*, see sources for independent study, like Pew Research or Brennan Center for Justice. We know changes to the VRA have resulted in many states trying to control the vote through new voting restrictions and requirements such as stringent photo ID—some of which have been overturned by the courts. But overall nationwide, more voting laws that tend to restrict or suppress the vote have been enacted since June 2013, when the Supreme Court removed the Section 4 requirement for prior federal approval by the Justice Department for election law changes (including redistricting) in specific states. Analysis and studies are ongoing—see reference to Milwaukee’s voter turnout in 2016, compared with 2012. Restoring Section 4 of the VRA, a prime action item for the LWV, must be implemented by Congress; LWVUS is active in getting such legislation proposed.

Has photo ID requirement had an impact on voter participation? See above. For Virginia only, an effect has not yet been determined, but overall turnout in the 2016 Presidential elections does not appear to be less when compared with 2012 *as a percentage of registered voters*—in fact, it was greater in 2016 as shown by these statistics: 71.06% in 2012, and 72.05% in 2016.

What can we do, as Leaguers and as individuals to take “action”? Units sent suggestions on how to reach people who need voter information and how to increase turnout: Become involved in the ongoing LWV-VA and LWVFA Voter registration efforts, as described by Sidney Johnson and Bob Meredith (LWVFA Voter Service Directors) in the *Fairfax VOTER* and in weekly news updates from LWVFA office. Note all the registration opportunities to reach underserved communities, college and high school students; the many candidate forums for House of Delegate candidates; places to distribute flyers and “What’s on the Ballot” (WOTB) and participate in get-out-the-vote (GOTV) activities - such as using the postcard created by LWV-VA - to encourage voting on November 7. Volunteer to help with any and all of these activities—contact information is always included. Talk to your neighbors, friends, community organizations and places of worship and remind them to vote.

In addition to promoting voting in the General Election, the League (national and state) has engaged in promoting voter

education and GOTV activities for primary elections in 2016 (presidential) and in 2017 (statewide elections). As one unit stated: “Given gerrymandering, people need to, but probably don’t, realize that the primary could be more important than the election.” We couldn’t agree more.

As noted in a separate article in the October *VOTER*, we want to share (again) a first-hand example of how PR and candidate forums can affect turnout. LWVFA and the Fairfax County Council of PTAs (FCCPTA) co-sponsored a candidate forum for the FCPS At-Large Board member seat for which a special election was held on August 30, 2017. There was record attendance at the forum and significant media attention; in addition, information about the special election was provided by several outlets. Although the timing of the special election seemed to predict a very low turnout, actual turnout topped 10 percent countywide, which is unusual for a local special election. We say, “Yay” for voters paying attention and going to the polls; we believe those efforts made a difference.

In conclusion, we must spread the word to everyone we know that voting in local and state elections (and primaries—if offered) is as important as voting in presidential elections. Repeating a quote from August 30, 2017 *Richmond Times Dispatch* editorial:

Local government is closest to the people, and its errors and accomplishments can have swift

and powerful effects on citizens. We’ve believed (long before the 2016 election) that Americans have developed an unhealthy obsession with presidential politics, which has resulted in a tendency to forget the elections that may have the largest impact on their daily lives and livelihoods: the contests for mayors, city council members, county supervisors, sheriffs, school board members — whose importance is magnified when disaster strikes. Our advice is to pay attention, choose wisely, and stay informed about your community — and those who seek to lead it.

http://www.richmond.com/opinion/our-opinion/editorial-vote-local-as-if-your-life-depended-on-it/article_8cc85796-7ac7-5fd8-8761-5dd010087438.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

The bottom line is: the electorate— nationwide and at home—needs to understand the imperative of voting in local and state elections; thus the reason for LWVFA discussing this topic.

LWVFA Thanks Donors and Supporters

The LWVFA Board wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations for their recent generous support.

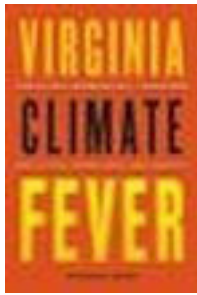
Betty Ellerbee
Wendy Fox-Grage
Bess Johnson (in memory of Sharone Lathrop)
Sidney Johnson
Philip and Claudia Kieffer (in memory of Fran and Jerry Kieffer)
Barbara Male
Nancy Scott
Winnie Shapiro
Kelly & Stephen Stratman (in honor of “Lady Fairfax” Therese Martin)
Voice of Vietnamese Americans
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

Elections Have Environmental Consequences As Well

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Your vote can influence environmental policy. For example, you will choose among the three candidates for governor. In ballot order, their positions on environmental issues are available at <http://ralphnortham.com/issue/environment/>, <https://edforvirginia.com/issue/agriculture-energy-natural-resources/>, and <http://cliffhyra.com/index.php/issues/>.

In his new book, *Virginia Climate Fever: How Global Warming Will Transform Our Cities, Shorelines, and Forests*, University of Richmond visiting senior research scholar Stephen Nash details in citizen’s terms how our climate already is changing and a practical approach to an urgent warning about the impending impact. In a September 24 *Washington Post* opinion piece, Nash called Virginia too slow on climate change. He pointed to risks of breaking national records annually, from hurricanes Harvey and Irma to the



>\$2 billion the Forest Service is spending to fight larger forest fires over a longer season. “Already Norfolk and Virginia Beach have chronic flooding—about half of it the result of sea-level rise caused by global warming,” jeopardizing our protective coastal wetlands. Compared with other states, Virginia is falling behind in the push for home-based solar and plans for sea-level rise impacts. In short, business-as-usual means there’s no need to move to South Carolina when you retire since its climate will be here by mid-century.

Published at the same time, *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*, catalogues impactful existing measures that make economic sense regardless of their climate impact. Each solution is modeled to determine its carbon impact through 2050. The top seven solutions are: 1) refrigerant management, 2) onshore wind turbines for electricity generation, 3) food waste reduction, 4) plant-rich diet, 5) tropical reforestation, 6) education for girls, and 7) family planning. See the complete list at www.drawdown.org. Will your vote encourage the adoption of policies favorable to such solutions?

While the House of Representatives’ 2017/18 budget proposal eliminates EPA’s ability to regulate methane, a less common but more potent greenhouse gas than CO₂, you instead can help keep this world more habitable by:

- Making sustainable and responsible investing choices, some now beating the S&P 500 index and available even in FDIC-insured CDs and savings accounts,
- Calculating your carbon footprint and buying offsets for future plane trips on *NativeEnergy* (see explanation at <http://www.nativeenergy.com/how-carbon-offsets-work.html>) or Cool Effect (cooleffect.org) with an airline like American, Delta, and Jet Blue that offers carbon credits; and
- Checking what new conservation ideas and renewables offers your energy company has. For Dominion Energy, see <https://www.dominionenergy.com/home-and-small-business/ways-to-save>.

Congratulations . . .

to the recipients of the 2017 Environmental Excellence Awards, which were presented at an October 17th ceremony, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/awards.htm>.

Rallying for Fair Maps at the Supreme Court

By: Wylecia Wiggs Harris, Executive Director
LWVUS

On October 3, oral arguments began in the Supreme Court case of *Gill v. Whitford*, a case that challenges partisan redistricting in Wisconsin and could have implications for redistricting nationwide. But the real show was outside the courtroom.

I joined voting rights leaders and a bipartisan group of politicians at a rally calling for an end to gerrymandering. That’s a big word, “gerrymandering”, but its meaning is quite simple. This is the process of politicians unfairly drawing electoral maps to benefit themselves and their political party. Not the voters. The result? Dysfunction. Mistrust. And public policies that do not



reflect the will of the people.

In Wisconsin, in North Carolina, in Ohio and Pennsylvania, and all across the country there are districts that don’t make sense, that cross school districts, that break up communities – and for what? So that the politicians hand-pick their electorate, effectively taking away the rights of voters to decide who will represent them.

It is high time we took charge of this and put an end to partisan gerrymandering. And it can be done.

In **California**, the League of Women Voters helped spearhead a successful statewide referendum that ended gerrymandering of political districts. We formed a coalition across the political spectrum. The business sector, labor organizations, and concerned members of community groups all came together to create a ballot measure. The intent? To be fair to voters. And that’s what
(Cont’d, page 6, col. 1)

the voters wanted. More equality in the system.

So, working across party lines – we formed an independent commission that redrew the electoral map in California. And it restored the public trust. The districts were drawn for the voters – not for special interest or a particular political party. Around the country in other states, both parties have taken advantage of partisan gerrymandering when they are in power.

But today is the beginning of the end. We know partisan gerrymandering is wrong – and it's even been deemed

unconstitutional. But until now, there hasn't been a test. It is now up to the Justices to set a standard - to determine when partisan gerrymandering is so extreme that it violates the Constitution.

It is up to the Supreme Court to create ground rules that will help restore trust in our electoral system and create a more democratic and fair country. This case is about fairness. Fairness to the voters.

Americans deserve fair, [equal representation](#) in our democracy. Because voters should select their elected representatives. Elected representatives should NOT choose their voters.

A Nonprofit Focuses on Domestic Violence Among Minorities

By Barbara Nunes, Domestic Violence Chair

October was Domestic Violence Awareness month. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors gave a Proclamation to the Domestic Violence Prevention Policy Coordinating Council (DVPPCC) at its September 26 meeting. Accepting the proclamation was the Foundation for Appropriate and Immediate Temporary Help (FAITH), a nonprofit organization in Herndon founded by Muslims in 1999 and one of the DVPPCC members. It was the first social service organization in that area with a DV program. Its area of service is Northern Virginia. Members follow the principles from the Quran and the life of Prophet Mohammed, and most of the staff are Muslim.

In its early years, FAITH was mentored by Loudoun Abused Women Shelter (LAWS). It has grown from

one employee to 18 (speaking 8 different languages). Their approach is holistic. FAITH's primary programs include Domestic Violence: direct services to survivors and their children regardless of religion, ethnicity or gender. The programs also include self-sufficiency, family assistance, children's program, shelter program, food pantry and thrift shop.

FAITH has been working side by side with Fairfax County in enhancing services for its residents with focus on the needs of the minority community. From 2006 to 2012, FAITH was one of the partners in the Legal Assistance for Victims grant providing services to Fairfax County and others. FAITH was part of the project at the old court house for the court advocacy center which gave birth to the Domestic Violence Action Center. FAITH was one of the grant partners along with Fairfax County on the Safe Haven program which is the Supervised Exchange and Supervised Visitation Center for children in Fairfax County.

The Fairfax Area League of Women Voters is a member of the DVPPCC.





Workhouse Arts Center Prison Museum and
Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association
present:

NIGHT OF TERROR

A Centennial Commemoration

Sunday, November 12, 2017

Workhouse Arts Center

Building W-16 – 2:00-5:00 pm

Reservations for W-16 recommended

Donations of \$19.17 is strongly encouraged

Opening – Welcome

Struggle for the Vote – Dr. Elisabeth Griffith

Suffragists – In Their Own Words

PUBLIQuartet – Musical Performance

Capital Harmonia – Anthems of Protest

Ceremonial Bell Ringing – Remembering the 32

Building W-3 - 1:30-5:00 pm

Documentary Video Shorts

Building W-9 - 12:00-5:00 pm

Workhouse Prison Museum



On November 14, 1917, 32 women who had been arrested for picketing the White House for the right to vote were beaten, chained, and force-fed at the Occoquan Workhouse. Because of their indomitable strength and sacrifice, the 19th amendment was passed in 1920. Help us celebrate and commemorate this important turning point in the history of the suffrage movement in the United States and remember these remarkable women known as the *Silent Sentinels*.

Please visit our website for tickets and more information at:

<http://www.workhousearts.org/event/nightofterror/>

PUBLIQuartet performance made possible through a generous contribution from the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation

Workhouse Arts Center Website: www.workhousearts.org

Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association Website: www.suffragistmemorial.org





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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 Judy Helein, Co-President
 Ron Page, Editor
 Liz Brooke, Content Editor

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** _____