



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE FAIRFAX AREA

Fairfax VOTER

February 2018

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LWVFA Co-Sponsors Redistricting Forum With OneVirginia2021

LWVFA, in partnership with OneVirginia2021, is holding a Redistricting Forum on Sunday, February 25, from 1 – 5 P.M., at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030. Everyone is invited to learn about redistricting in Virginia and the latest updates on pending litigation in Virginia and at the U.S. Supreme Court. In preparation for this event we have prepared a document of Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) with Answers—along with League positions on the topic—about redistricting reform, including: what is fair redistricting and how can it be achieved through state and judicial actions? Read this VOTER for background and come to the Forum to discuss. See registration form with speakers and other information about this free event included elsewhere in this VOTER.

Note: there are no scheduled unit meetings (or At-Large Meeting) in February; however regular units are always free to meet if they wish.

Calendar

February 2018

Note: **No unit meetings this month. Attend the Redistricting Forum instead.**

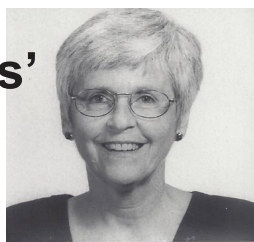
- 1-28 Black History Month
- 2 LWNCA Board meeting
- 5 *Fairfax VOTER* deadline
- 6 LWV-VA Board meeting, Richmond
- 7 **League Lobby Day and LWV-VA WLRT, Richmond**
- 14 LWV founded (98th anniversary)
- 14 LWV-VA WLRT, Credit Union House of Virginia, 108 N. 8th St, Richmond
- 21 LWVFA Board meeting
- 21 LWV-VA WLRT, Richmond
- 25 **Redistricting Forum with OneVirginia2021, Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax**
- 28 LWV-VA WLRT, Richmond

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Presidents' Message



Dear Leaguers,

Did you know that the League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 on Valentine's Day? Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Anniversary, fellow League members! We have much to celebrate.

Our League has teamed up with Inspire Virginia and the Fairfax County Council of PTAs to create the 2018 Fairfax County Public Schools High School Voter Registration Challenge. Under the leadership of our Executive Director Beth Tudan we are spearheading this challenge because fewer than 20 percent of eligible FCPS students were registered during school in the 2017-2018 school year. Beth was eager to create this Challenge when her oldest son, a recent FCPS graduate, was not registered to vote during high school. Spurred to find out if this was unique to her son's school, she did research and found out low voter registration rates was a system-wide issue.

We can do better!

Here is how the Challenge works. All high schools in FCPS can participate. We challenge them to register as many eligible students in their schools by the voter registration deadline of May 21, 2018. Each school has a unique website link so we can keep track of the voter registrations. Participating schools will be recognized.

Voting is a fundamental civic duty and right of all eligible U.S. citizens and one of the primary ways we make our voices heard. For youths who come of voting age, it is an important rite of passage. This Challenge aims to help ensure that the torch of civic engagement is passed on to the next generation of voters. We are grateful for a private family foundation grant that we received which is helping to fund this activity.

To learn more about the high school challenge, go to: <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/hchallenge/>

In addition to voter education, we are focused this month on one of our highest priorities: redistricting reform. We hope you will attend our Redistricting Forum with OneVirginia2021 on February 25. Please see the flyer and

corresponding frequently-asked questions in this *VOTER*. Registration is free of charge, but we ask that you please register for this event online at lwv-fairfax.org/redistricting-forum/. If you would prefer to register by phone please call Wendy Fox-Grage at 703-319-4114. We will be holding this Redistricting Forum rather than our unit meetings this month so we encourage you and your friends to attend. Light refreshments will be served, and all are welcome.

Wendy & Judy

**Fairfax County 24-hr.
Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline:
703-360-7273; 711 TTY**

Food for Thought

"I am neither bitter nor cynical but I do wish there was less immaturity in political thinking." Franklin D. Roosevelt

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2017 - 2018

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

Fairfax County Community Services Board Project a Success

Project Expansion Planned –
We Need a Few Good People!

By Sherri Gillam, Candy Butler, Sidney Johnson and Bob Meredith

In 2017 the LWVFA partnered with the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) in Merrifield on a voter registration and education pilot project implemented at the Peer Resource Center (PRC), a drop-in center for adults with serious mental illness. The goal of this pilot was to reach out on a regular basis with voter registration services and voting education to an often underserved, and thus disenfranchised, part of our community.

We are pleased to report that the LWVFA achieved its goal. In fact, during the course of the project the LWVFA was invited to expand the partnership to include the other four Fairfax County Peer-Run Recovery and Drop-in Centers. Discussions on how to accomplish this are beginning.

We want to build on the success of the Merrifield Peer Resource Center project, but we'll need additional volunteers to make it work. If you have an interest in being a part of this very exciting volunteer opportunity please contact Sherri Gillam (sherri.gillam@gmail.com) or Candy Butler (candy@edandcandy.com).

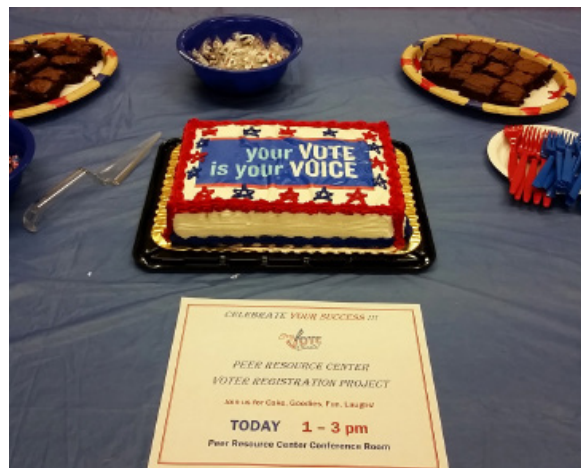
How did the Community Services Board Project happen?

The planning began in April. Two LWVFA volunteers, Sherri Gillam and Candy Butler, developed the project plan; they presented it to the Board staff and the Peer Resource Center staff. After upbeat discussions it was decided that a regular rotation of visits, on Thursday afternoons each week, would be the best way to introduce ourselves to the Peer Resource community. The first step was to build trust and be regarded as a reliable resource for information on voter registration and other issues related to voting, including

rights restoration.

Beginning in June 2017, Sherri and Candy made weekly two-hour visits to the Peer Resource Center, setting up an information table, ready to answer questions and register anyone who wanted to register. The interest and enthusiasm of the peers and staff of the PRC was energizing.

During the five-month effort, Sherri and Candy believe they were successful in creating that all-important connection of trust with the individuals who visit the Peer Resource Center. Twelve individuals were registered to vote. In addition, Sherri and Candy fielded numerous questions about the voting process. They also answered a number of questions about Virginia's rights restoration process, helping three individuals through the online process to either learn the status of their rights or to apply to have their rights restored.



The special election held in late August offered an opportunity to encourage Peer Resource Center staff and clients to vote in that election. Questions about polling place locations were answered. After the special election we were told by several individuals we had helped in this manner that they did vote.

On Nov. 2, 2017, the pilot project concluded with a small celebration, complete with cake, at the Peer

Resource Center.

We look forward to returning to the Merrifield PRC - and hopefully, to additional Centers - this coming April to continue our voter registration and education efforts.

State Seeks Comments on Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality, Air Pollution Control Board has called for comments on reducing and capping carbon dioxide from fossil-fuel-fired electric power generating facilities. Please remember to only share your personal views and not those of the League.

See <http://www.townhall.virginia.gov/L/comments.cfm?stageid=8130> for further information and to comment through April 9.

Kelly Reiterates League's Positions to Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly

January 6, 2018

Good morning, Senator Saslaw and members of our Delegation to the General Assembly. I am Helen Kelly, Action Director of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

You play a key role in giving us a voice in public affairs and in keeping us safe. That's why we urge you to support:

1. Dedicated Funding for Metro
2. Adequate Funding for Elections
3. Non-Partisan Redistricting
4. Background Checks for All Gun Purchases

Businesses and new college graduates are attracted to Northern Virginia because of the opportunities created by Metro. This translates into \$600M in revenue for Virginia's General Fund – enough money to pay for higher education and for the State police. Please provide funding that will allow Metro to maintain its infrastructure and equipment to better meet the transportation needs of our region and the

financial needs of the Commonwealth.

We ask you to provide realistic funding for Virginia's electoral system. This includes adequate funding for the Department of Elections staffing, systems and support of elections and for the funding that supports these services at the local level. Over the years, demands made on election offices have increased while funding has decreased. We urge you to do your part to protect our right to vote by providing adequate resources to all election offices in Virginia.

Another requirement for fair elections is nonpartisan redistricting. We strongly urge you to work toward this goal with a process that includes: 1- Specific timelines for the steps leading to a redistricting plan; 2- Full disclosure throughout the process; 3- Public hearings on the plan proposed for adoption; and 4- All meetings subject to open meeting laws. Now is the time to pass legislation that gives Virginia's voters their full voice in our elections.

In March of this year, the District Attorney of Brooklyn, New York, announced the arrest of 22 Virginia residents in the largest gun bust in Brooklyn history. Based on ATF data, Virginia ranks among the top 10 states supplying crime guns to other states. Exit polls showed that gun policy was the second most important issue after health care in the 2017 election. Now is the time for Virginia to pass laws mandating universal background checks on all gun purchases to reduce gun trafficking and to protect all of us.

Visiting the General Assembly at the Pocahontas Building

General Assembly members and staff currently in the General Assembly Building (GAB) have been relocated to the Pocahontas Building, located at [900 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219](https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/900-East-Main-Street-Richmond-Virginia-23219). The Pocahontas Building will house the individual offices for the 140 members of the General Assembly as well as committee rooms and offices for legislative staff while the new GAB is being constructed. One legislative agency, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee, will be relocated to the [SunTrust Building](https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/SunTrust-Building). The move was completed at the end of June and the Pocahontas Building will be open to the public later in the summer. Updates on the move, information on access to the Pocahontas Building and other pertinent resources will be provided from a designated section on the General Assembly homepage, viriniageneralassembly.gov, throughout the project.



The Pocahontas Building at [900 East Main Street in Richmond, Virginia 23219](https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/900-East-Main-Street-Richmond-Virginia-23219)

The former GAB, located at the northwest corner of Capitol Square, was closed to the public at the end of June, 2017 as construction on a new GAB commenced.

Redistricting Reform in Virginia

As background for the February 25 Redistricting Forum, OneVirginia2021 Fairfax Local Action Group and the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) prepared this document with help from the OneVirginia2021 Foundation. We hope this document will serve as a primer for a better understanding of redistricting reform in the Commonwealth, but it is not meant to be an official position statement or endorsement of a singular fix to the problem of gerrymandering. We hope that you will find this information helpful.

The issues surrounding gerrymandering and the call for redistricting reform are increasingly becoming front and center in the national dialogue about our politics. Virginia and New Jersey, because of their off-year elections, redraw districts in 2021. That is a year before the other 48 states do so. Since New Jersey has a type of redistricting reform all eyes are on Virginia to fix its process or to see the results of the latest round of hyper-gerrymandering fueled by increasingly complex algorithms in the hands of partisans.

The recent Virginia gubernatorial and House of Delegate elections increase the chances that both houses of the legislature could move forward on redistricting reform with support from Governor Northam.

The U.S. Supreme Court, historically hesitant to weigh in on partisan gerrymandering, now has two cases focusing on this issue under consideration, the first originating in Wisconsin (*Gill v. Whitford*) and the second, accepted on December 8, 2017, originating in Maryland (*Benisek v. Lamone*).

As stated above, on February 25, LWVFA—with OneVirginia2021—will hold a Redistricting Forum. In preparation for this event, here are the answers to frequently asked questions about redistricting reform: what is fair redistricting, and how can it be achieved through state and judicial actions?

In addition to the following FAQ article, see “The League’s Efforts Regarding Redistricting,” including the League positions.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: Is this reform effort really nonpartisan?

A: We are often asked this question because there are few truly nonpartisan issues in politics. Often, redistricting reform has been advocated by whichever party was out of power.

Virginia, however, is in a unique position because we aren’t a Republican or a Democratic gerrymandered state. Rather, in 2011, Democrats controlled Virginia’s Senate and Republicans controlled Virginia’s House of Delegates. They both gerrymandered their own chambers (in the House with bi-partisan support) and passed the others’ plan in exchange for safe passage of their own plan. It was a bi-partisan gerrymander, also known as an incumbent-protection plan.

So, critiquing the current Virginia redistricting is not a criticism of one party or another but a criticism of the process being self-serving for incumbent politicians. OneVirginia2021 is an organization of people from all across the political spectrum who believe that these voting districts belong to Virginians, not to any party or politician. The LWV has an almost-100-year history of advocating for good government issues such as redistricting reform.

Q: How do you fix this, and can the fix genuinely be nonpartisan?

A: There are three major elements needed for redistricting reform: transparency, clear rules for how to draw lines, and map-drawers who aren’t the elected politicians running under those maps. Those three elements (discussed in more detail below) will take the process from the hyper-partisan status it is today to a much more technocratic exercise to

adjust districts per the new census data every decade.

But no commission or structure is perfect. There are flaws in every model we've studied from around the country. However, all of the reforms are better than our current system in Virginia. In short, let's not let *perfect* be the enemy of *good* (or better than we have now). There are a lot of ways to improve the current system.

Here is a more detailed discussion of the three elements:

1. Transparency: Redistricting by members of the legislature is subject to legislative privilege. Proceedings of a commission would be available through Freedom of Information Act requests and, hopefully, additionally chosen transparency measures. Auditability would make specifics of the decision process transparent. Studies show that public hearings don't bear fruit if they are held after maps are drawn.
2. Criteria:
 - By Federal constitution or court mandate, districts must:
 - Have nearly equal population (no mal-apportionment)
 - Comply with the Voting Rights Act.
 - By Virginia constitutional requirements, districts must:
 - Be contiguous
 - Be compact* (though there is a debate about the possibility that compactness may disadvantage minority groups in voting).
 - Not required, but for good government districts should also:
 - Respect local jurisdictional boundaries
 - Respect communities of interest
 - Increase competition by not tailoring district lines to incumbents.

*There is a tension between compactness and respect for communities of interest that needs to be balanced. There is also a tension between preserving political boundaries versus creating competition within districts. The amount of local jurisdictional splitting used to draw districts to make them more competitive should be carefully considered. *Pie slicing* to improve competitiveness can disadvantage other criteria, i.e. communities of interest. *Self-sorting* is the tendency of voters to live in geographic proximity to others who share

their political affiliation, but gerrymandering still accounts for much of the difference between the popular vote and greater number of elected officials from one party in power. Recent experience in California indicates that respecting jurisdictional lines and communities of interest leads to more competitive districts.

3. Specify who draws the maps: OneVirginia2021 proposes a seven-member commission composed of:
 - Two Republican members—picked by the General Assembly—who are not lobbyists, legislators, nor spouses of legislators.
 - Two Democrat members—picked by the General Assembly—who are not lobbyists, legislators, nor spouses of legislators.
 - Three independent members:
 - the executive director of the State Bar,
 - the auditor of public accounts appointed by the General Assembly, and
 - the state inspector general appointed by the governor and confirmed by the General Assembly.

It would take five votes to get a map passed. If two “no” votes are from members of the same political party, those members can stop the plan and it goes to the courts for resolution. This eliminates the swing-vote problem many commissions have and allows a partisan “emergency brake” if the three independent members are sneaky partisan plants for the other team.

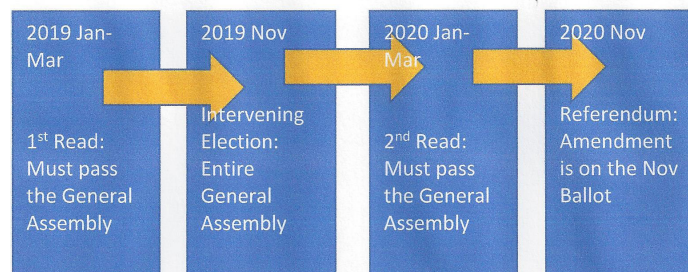
Effectively measuring the above criteria and balancing each are required for an effective system. While there are tradeoffs in any approach, not having politicians draw their own lines and taking the process out of the smoke-filled back room of political deals will dramatically improve the process.

Q: So how do we get a commission?

A: We have to amend the Virginia Constitution. We can't fix the problem by changing the Code of Virginia because it cannot “bind the hands of future Legislatures.” We must have a constitutional amendment because it's the only way to control what the General Assembly does.

An amendment must pass the General Assembly twice (in exactly the same text, down to the commas) with an intervening election. Then it goes to the people for a

referendum. It requires a simple majority each time to pass in the General Assembly and on the referendum. The governor is not involved. Here is the process in graphic format:



Q: What is the role of the governor in the current approval process for redistricting plans? Can he/she veto plans?

A: Under the current redistricting provisions, governors can veto redistricting maps but they do not determine the redistricting process.

Q: What presently happens if the General Assembly and the governor cannot agree on a plan?

A: The General Assembly draws the district maps. The governor can appoint an advisory/blue ribbon commission in advance and can veto plans drawn by the legislature. If the legislature and governor can't agree the Supreme Court of Virginia or a Federal Court will intervene. The court can consider or reject an advisory commission plan or hire an expert to do the drawing for the Court (e.g. using an academic such as Bernard Grothman, who was a Court-appointed "Special Master" of Virginia's 2015 redistricting case).

Q: What does the U.S. Supreme Court's review of the Wisconsin gerrymandering case mean for Virginia redistricting reform efforts?

A: The Supreme Court will consider *efficiency gap measures*--the difference between the number of Democrat and Republican *wasted votes* divided by the total number of votes cast (*wasted votes* are those cast for winning candidates that are beyond the number needed to win plus all those cast for losing candidates). Independent votes are not properly accounted for in the efficiency gap calculation. Wisconsin has a 13 percent efficiency gap in favor of one political party, of which 7 percent is due to residential self-sorting.

If the Supreme Court rules against gerrymandering it's just

a matter of putting a good system in place to adhere to the ruling. An anti-gerrymandering ruling won't impact Virginia

Wasted Votes =

Number of votes cast beyond those needed to win; also, Number of votes cast to the losing candidates.

Efficiency Gap =

Difference between Democratic and Republican Wasted Votes divided by Total Number of Votes cast.

now, but it will for 2021.

Q: What does the U.S. Supreme Court's review of the Maryland gerrymandering case mean?

A: The focus of this case is on Maryland's 6th Congressional District, where seven voters from one political party say that the State's 2011 redistricting violated their First Amendment rights. Justice Anthony Kennedy has written that the First Amendment could be used as a basis of a redistricting lawsuit if plaintiffs could argue that a state law disfavored some voters based on their political views. In addition to the Wisconsin case, this second gerrymandering case before the U.S. Supreme Court suggests that redistricting reform will feature prominently during this court's term.

Q: What is the status of OneVirginia2021's lawsuit in the Virginia court system?

A: Although the March 31 decision went against OneVirginia2021, the judge supported the underlying argument which allowed the appeal to go forward. Three amicus briefs were filed by various experts, including the League of Women Voters, A.E. Dick Howard (a writer of the Virginia Constitution and current University of Virginia law professor), and former Virginia attorneys general. The OneVirginia2021 lawsuit claimed that the redistricting plans for six Senate districts and five House districts did not use measurable nor sufficiently rigorous compactness criteria and therefore violated the Virginia constitutional requirement for compact districts. It also claimed that non-mandatory criteria were prioritized over mandatory.

Two racial bias cases were also filed. The cases claim criteria for compactness should be based on an analysis of each district's unique voting patterns (whether voters vote

mostly along racial lines or across racial lines). These cases opposed applying a rigid and unfair requirement for creating a majority-minority district with the voting age population being comprised of at least 55 percent black voters. Virginia had erred in basing its consideration of racial matters in drawing district lines everywhere in the state on data from just one jurisdiction in the southeastern corner of Virginia.

ADVOCACY

Q: Given Virginia's recent election results from this past November is redistricting reform really needed?

A: Yes. Gerrymandering still leads to unfair representation. For example, if it weren't for gerrymandering Democrats would definitely control the House of Delegates rather than its current division. That's not a statement for Democrats (since a lot of Democrats voted for the current maps), but rather a statement of fact. Democrats were +9 percent in the recent elections over their Republican counterparts in the House of Delegates. Yet that number will likely generate

only 50 percent of the seats for the House of Delegates. When Republicans won by that same margin of 9 percent in 2015 it generated 66 percent of the seats for them. That lack of symmetry is a problem in a representative democracy.

Given the new political climate in Virginia, now is the time to advocate for a nonpartisan model on the books.

Q: How can we best advocate for fair redistricting reform? How can someone get involved?

A: This is one of the League's highest priorities. We have a long history of advocacy in this area. We encourage you and your friends to help us in these efforts and to learn more about this complex and ever-changing topic. Please join LWVFA and OneVirginia2021 at:

Redistricting Forum
Sunday, Feb. 25, 2018, 1 - 5 p.m.
Sherwood Community Center
3740 Old Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22030

League Efforts Regarding Redistricting

By Sherry Zachry, LWVFA Program Director

(<https://www.lwv.org/voting-rights/redistricting>).

As further background we offer some history and current information about the League of Women Voters' efforts regarding redistricting in Virginia and nationwide, including the actual position statements. LWVUS states the following on its website about redistricting:

Why It Matters

Political and racial gerrymandering distorts and undermines representative democracy by allowing officials to select their voters rather than voters to elect their officials. When done for purposes of racial discrimination or to ensure the dominance of one political party gerrymandering runs counter to equal voting rights for all eligible voters.

What We're Doing

We promote transparent and accountable redistricting processes and to end hyper-partisan practices that don't benefit constituents. We believe responsibility for fair redistricting should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government. The League works in states across the country to pass ballot initiatives to institute independent redistricting commissions

Many state Leagues around the country have positions in support of nonpartisan redistricting practices with lines being drawn by entities, such as a commission, composed of people who are not elected officials (legislators). In 2016 the LWVUS Convention adopted an all-purpose redistricting concurrence statement based on various state League positions so that all state Leagues would have a position to use for advocacy [see LWVUS position at end of this article]. First however, we want to mention the LWV of Virginia's (LWV-VA) long history on the topic.

League of Women Voters of VA

The LWV of Virginia's position on redistricting has existed since 1985 and was updated in 2007. As a result the LWV-VA has been a leader in coalitions that advocate and lobby for **an independent redistricting process** in Virginia, the latest iteration of which is OneVirginia2021 (www.onevirginia2021.org).

The LWV-VA Redistricting Position specifically mentions our **support for an independent, nonpartisan or bipartisan redistricting commission** (not made up of legislators) **to draw compact, contiguous district lines**

that keep together communities of interest. [See complete wording of position below.]

Information on LWV-VA's efforts regarding redistricting dating from 2015 and earlier can be found on the LWV-VA website, Action & Advocacy/ Redistricting at: <http://lwv-vva.org/action-advocacy/redistricting-in-virginia/>

LWV-VA Position on REAPPORTIONMENT & REDISTRICTING

From *POSITIONED FOR ACTION*, Spring 2017. (http://lwv-vva.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/action-advocacy/positions_2017_04_29_fullwithhistory_schutz.pdf)

Position in Brief: Support for a decennial redistricting plan approved by the General Assembly, including establishment of a bipartisan commission to prepare a plan for legislative approval, and consideration of natural geographic boundaries, jurisdictional boundaries, communities of interest, and competitiveness in addition to the constitutional requirements.

The League's History [of the position]. Reapportionment and redistricting are an integral part of our system of representative government. As a result of the problems encountered in the reapportionment and redistricting process in Virginia in 1981 the League adopted a study at its convention in 1983 on the methods and criteria for redistricting. Members agreed that a reapportionment commission should be established to prepare a plan for legislative approval because such a commission could be objective, devote its full attention to the task, and expedite the redistricting process. The criterion of competitiveness was added in 2007 after an update to this position was adopted as a two-year study at LWV-VA convention in 2005.

The League's Position

The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports the establishment, in law, of a politically balanced and independent Reapportionment Commission for each decennial redistricting to prepare, with the Virginia Department of Legislative Services, a plan for submission to the Legislature as specified by the Virginia Constitution. The Commission should be bi-partisan and be composed of individuals who are not elected officials; they should represent the geographical distribution and demographic diversity of the state, and consist of an uneven number of members.

In addition to the Virginia Constitutional requirement of equal population, contiguous and compact districts and the Voting Rights Act requirements for protecting the voting

strength of minority groups, the League supports the following Considerations in redistricting:

- Natural geographic boundaries;
- Jurisdictional boundaries;
- Communities of interest; and
- Competitiveness

The League believes that the Virginia constitution should be amended to provide that redistricting will occur on a decennial basis only. (1985, 2007)

League of Women Voters of the US

As stated earlier, the LWVUS believes that a reformed redistricting process nationwide is essential for a healthy democracy and has made the issue a part of the 2016-2018 LWVUS Campaign to Make Democracy Work®, recommending the Campaign continue to 2020. The LWVUS position, contained in 2016-2018 IMPACT ON ISSUES/ Representative Government/ The Election Process/ Redistricting reads as follows:

The League of Women Voters believes responsibility for redistricting preferably should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens-at-large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups.

Every redistricting process should include:

1. Specific timelines for the steps leading to a redistricting plan.
2. Full disclosure throughout the process and public hearings on the plan proposed for adoption.
 - a. Redistricting at all levels of government must be accomplished in an open, unbiased manner with citizen participation and access at all levels and steps of the process, and
 - b. Should be subject to open meeting laws.
3. A provision that any redistricting plan should be adopted by the redistricting authority with more than a simple majority vote.
 - a. Remedial provisions established in the event that the redistricting authority fails to enact a plan. Specific provisions should be made for court review of redistricting measures and for courts to require the redistricting authority to act on a specific schedule.
 - i. Time limits should be set for initiating court action for review.
 - ii. The courts should promptly review and rule on any challenge to a

redistricting plan and require adjustments if the standards have not been met.

The standards on which a redistricting plan is based, and on which any plan should be judged, must:

1. Be enforceable in court.
2. Require:
 - a. Substantially equal population
 - b. Geographic contiguity
 - c. Effective representation of racial and linguistic minorities.
3. Provide for (to the extent possible):
 - a. Promotion of partisan fairness
 - b. Preservation and protection of “communities of interest”
 - c. Respect for boundaries of municipalities and counties.
4. Compactness and competitiveness may also be considered as criteria so long as they do not conflict with the above criteria.
5. Explicitly reject;
 - a. Protection of incumbents through such devices as considering an incumbent’s address
 - b. Preferential treatment for a political party through such devices as considering party affiliation, voting history and candidate residence.

Statement of Position on Redistricting, as Adopted by Concurrence, June 2016. This position does not supersede any existing state League redistricting position.

http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/impact_on_issues_2016-2018_full.pdf

Other League Resources:

Online League Redistricting Discussion Groups:

- 1) LWV-VA Facebook Redistricting Discussion Group: link on LWV-VA website, if you have a Facebook account, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1187015848066265/> Scroll through the list of groups on the website, and submit a request to join the group.
- 2) LWVUS Redistricting Google Group, <https://groups.google.com/group/lwv-redistricting>
To post to this group send an email to lwv-redistricting@googlegroups.com.
<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/lwv-redistricting>
- 3) LWV website/ Redistricting: <https://www.lwv.org/voting-rights/redistricting>

Donors and Supporters

The LWVFA Board wishes to thank the following individuals for their generous support, including those still responding to our #Giving Tuesday Fundraiser.

Rona Ackerman
Donna Wells Blake
Carol Bursik
Bernice Colvard
Susan Dill
Anita Eitler
Joanne Field
Eleanor & Thomas Fina
Candy Friedlander
Joyce Hanson
Judy Helein
Peggy & Wayne Knight
Janice Kuch
Celeste Land
Mary Grace Lintz
Carol MacLean
Alice Magelssen
Therese Martin
Karole McKalip
Maureen Melton
Martha Melzow
Glenda Parker
Jane Pacelli
Ronna Pazdral
Laura Schmitz
Rosemary Waring
Heather Widener
Sue Worden

Also individual members who donated cash at the Springfield Unit Book Sale.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE FAIRFAX AREA
With OneVirginia2021



presents

Redistricting Forum

Sunday, February 25, 2018
1 – 5 p.m.
Sherwood Community Center
3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030

Speakers

Delegate Ken Plum

Virginia House of Delegates

Professor Rebecca Green

Co-Director of Election Law Program, College of William & Mary Law School

Brian Cannon

OneVirginia2021

Olga Hernandez

League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

Students from the College of William & Mary Law School

(with their redistricting maps)

Register here: <https://redistrictingvaforum.eventbrite.com>

Free of charge; donations appreciated

Remember: Elections Have Consequences



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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February, 2018**

**Wendy Fox-Grage, Co-President
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.)
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(Dues are not tax deductible. Tax-deductible donations must be written on a separate check or PayPal Payment to “*LWVFA Ed Fund.*”)

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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** _____