

VIRGINIA EDUCATION REPORT CARD

This month, we look at where LWVFA stands regarding our positions on Education in relation to developments in the most recent session of the Virginia General Assembly. The issues we examine include charter schools, scholarship and vouchers to private schools, and online schools. Ultimately, the League of Women Voters believes that K-12 public schools should prevail as the highest priority for school choice in Virginia.

Calendar

- 1 LWVNCA Board Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Conference Call
- 2 LWVNCA Annual Convention, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., via Zoom Conference Call: my.lwv.org/district-columbia/national-capital-area
- 2 LWVFA Briefing and At-Large Meeting via Conference Call. See <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/units>
- 4 Fairfax Voter Deadline for the June 2020 issue
- 5 Municipal Elections for the Towns of Clifton and Vienna and for the City of Fairfax (TBC)
- 11-14 LWVFA Unit Meetings via Conference Call: See <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/units>
- 13 LWVFA Legacy Committee via Conference Call
- 16 McLean Community Center Election. Conducted by Mail.
- 20 LWVFA Board Meeting via Conference Call

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Presidents' Message



We hope everyone is having a safe and healthy spring. It has really been quite surreal: Stay at Home orders!!! Working from home, college and school classes being conducted solely online! This whole business of social distancing!

Every day and in every which way we are all going against all our instincts. No touching your face, no shaking of hands, absolutely no hugging your friends and family. When we see a friend on the street, we immediately cross over to the other side. Keep our distance.

The WHO says we need to change the nomenclature of this social distancing and call it physical distancing. We need to stay connected with our loved ones. Human beings are social by nature and we can't even imagine the mental toll this is taking on all of us. Virtual happy hours with friends and family, and frequent FaceTime chats are all we can do to stay connected. Thank God for modern technology! In our home, kids disappear after dinner to "hang out" with their friends. They watch Netflix movies "together"! Even play cards and other board games. If anyone had told us a couple of months back that this is what we would all be doing, none of us would have believed it, would we?

Hopefully, we will be getting back to some semblance of normalcy in the not-too-distant future. In the meantime, let's try to stay in touch with our fellow League members and conduct our Unit meetings virtually. This month we will be doing our meetings via video conferencing. We have decided to use Free Conference Call. Some of you may already be familiar with it. We are sending out details to Unit leaders and they in turn will reach out to everyone.

It's been a very gloomy few weeks and we figured maybe a look back at all our achievements of last year might make us all feel a little more cheerful. We have had a very eventful year at LWV Fairfax, that is until we were all paralyzed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have a membership of 413 members. Some members did not renew but many new members have joined.

Our Action and Advocacy group under the able leadership of Wendy Fox-Grage has done a superb job. We held an Action Forum on November 17, 2019, at the Sherwood

Community Center in Fairfax. The topic was Redistricting and we had Senators Barker and Marsden and Delegates Delaney, Keam, Kory, Levine, Plum, Samirah, Simon and Sullivan who all addressed the 100-strong audience. The other speakers were Andre Parvenu from the California Citizens Redistricting Commission and Brian Cannon from One Virginia 2021. We testified before our State legislative representatives. We participated in many postcard and email advocacy campaigns. We were very successful during this legislative session in the General Assembly on our priority issues: Redistricting, voting access, the ERA, gun violence prevention, and more.

Voter Services: We are very proud to inform you that we held *13 Candidate Forms in 2019!* It was quite an achievement and hats off to our Voter Services.

Voter Registration & Education Events: We interacted with over 1,400 potential voters at 16 different events, such as fairs, festivals, libraries, retail establishments.

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

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2019 - 2020

This newsletter, partially funded by the League of Women Voters of Fairfax Area Education Fund, is published 10 times each year from September to June by:

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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.

Voter education materials: We distributed approximately:

- 5,000 Vote411 cards, in 6 languages
- 1,800 Leaflets: *What officials are we voting for this year?*
- 17,000 *Facts for Voters*
- 700 *Voters with Disability* cards
- 10,600 *What's On The Ballot*
- 200 *Restoration of Rights* info cards
- 500 GOTV (Get Out the Vote) postcards

Voter education outreach programs:

- Restoration of Rights, including visits/training at Adult Detention Center
- Healthcare Worker Outreach
- Senior Centers Outreach
- Persons with Disabilities

Our **High School Voter Education and Registration (HS-VER)** program has been beyond successful and we hope to pick up where we left off in September when schools re-open. LWVFA has registered almost half of the 6,000 or so students registered as part of the FCPS High School Voter Registration Challenge. We are continuing to reach out to the high schools, developing a virtual curriculum. We are training more and more members (22 to be exact) to do High School Voter Registration as well.

Our 100th Anniversary Tea on February 23rd was a fabulous and fun event with a great turnout. We had Delegate Vivian Watts as the keynote speaker. We also created some swag to commemorate the event and they sold well. We still have a lot and you can buy them and pick them up as soon as we get the all clear from the Governor!

In the meantime, try to stay positive and active. This too shall pass.

In the words of Dr. Wayne W. Dyer “What is hope but a feeling of optimism, a thought that says things will improve, it won’t always be bleak (and) there’s a way to rise above the present circumstances.”

Anu and Nancy



WOMEN AND ALCOHOL: SUMMARY OF UNIT DISCUSSIONS

Compiled by Judy Helein

LWVFA Units met during the month of March to discuss the informational article, “*Women and Alcohol.*” Many League members were surprised to learn:

- consumption of alcohol increases risks for many (not just breast) cancers, hepatitis, and brain damage
- what constitutes heavy alcohol use
- differences from one time period to another in alcohol consumption by women
- alcohol was the third leading preventable cause of death in the U.S.
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) had an agency devoted entirely to alcohol – National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Members agreed that the amount of drinking was under-reported. Most thought the reason for this was because of the stigma associated with women who drink too much. Most members also believed that the consumption of alcohol by women has increased. However, one unit reported that there was a question concerning the validity of this assumption and the sources that were used in the article.

Discussions centered around the following facts:

- life is stressful – women are trying to balance work and family;
- women drink because of underlying problems – loneliness, depression, poverty and hopelessness;
- cultural norms have changed; and
- marketing to women – TV, retail stores and greeting cards promoting drinking to women.

Unit members offered the following suggestions of what action the League might take with regard to this issue:

- continuing education including information about places where a person could get help;
- using short “elevator”-type messages on social media might be the most effective;
- encouraging use of the interactive website, Rethinking Drinking; and
- printing a number in the VOTER to call if a person wants to seek help for a potential problem.

In Memoriam

Nancy Larson

League Members were saddened to learn of the passing of Nancy Larson who died on March 13, 2020, at the age of 93. Nancy was a Life member of LWVFA. Our condolences go to her family and friends.

GMU Archives House Special Collection of LWVFA Materials

By Julie Jones

The Fairfax Area League's Special Collection was born in early 1995, thanks to the efforts of Bernice Colvard, LWVFA Historian. Many Leaguers, especially LWVFA Presidents, have contributed to preserving our records. Vivian Watts began compiling our Bulletins from the late 1950s; this project has been continued to provide an LWVFA chronicle. GMU Special Collections & Archives (SC&A) has been receiving our Bulletins (now VOTERs) from the inception of our special collection. Olga Hernandez thoroughly sorted office files during her Presidency and Administrative Aide Baba Freeman made many stops at Bernice's door with materials for transfer to GMU. Sherry Zachry and others have continued the practice.

The Collection includes:

- General and Education Fund administrative files with Board agendas, minutes, annual meeting kits, Board lists, membership directories, budgets, Action testimony files, and extensive Voters' Service files.
- Publications: *Tracing Our Roots*, *Remember the Ladies*, our Recycling Guide, flyers, and, of course, our Voters Service products: *What's on the Ballot*, *Voters Guide*, and our signature publication, *Facts for Voters*. GMU has a complete set of *Facts for Voters* from its inception in the early 1970s.
- Oral histories include numerous Leaguers as well as some elected officials. Leaguer Sibyl Vanneman, who recalled for us her Suffragist mother, Augusta Street, is the most recent oral history. (We will add interviews of many 50-year members.)
- Correspondence (both pieces) is particularly prized and we have made efforts to secure such items.
- Artifacts such as buttons, banners, ribbons, posters, and bookmarks are much appreciated as they add color and variety to displays.
- Perhaps the most appreciated items are properly identified photographs.

To find a specific item, or to peruse the Collection, a "Finding Guide" is online and/or GMU may be visited in person. The SC&A is located on the Fairfax Campus in the Fenwick Library. For questions regarding the collections or directions, phone 703-993-2220 or email speccoll@gmu.edu. To access the Finding Guide, go to: <http://sca.gmu.edu>. On the Home Page, click on "Collections;" scroll to next screen and click on "L" and an alphabetical listing appears; click on "League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area" to bring up our Finding Guide. Click on the desired

topic which should then show the box and folder numbers of the desired material. At this point, someone in GMU's SC&A department would need to retrieve the desired document(s).

We are pleased to have a nearby repository to safeguard LWVFA materials of all kinds that tell the story of the League of Women Voters in Fairfax County and City. The partnership with GMU Special Collections and Archives is a valued asset for the League. (This article was reprinted, with edits, from the March 2014 VOTER, p. 3.)



LWVFA Donors and Supporters

The LWVFA Board extends an overwhelming thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their amazing support!

February 4, 2020 – April 4, 2020

Diane Blackwell
Monroe Freeman
Gloria Haher
Cindy Kalkwarf

Pledgeling Foundation

LWVFA Anniversary Tea

Anne Andrews
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Karen Gibson
Cindy Kalkwarf
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Sue O'Neill
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In memory of Elaine Bronez
Gail Stuhmiller

Facts for Voters donors
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Report Card: Public Education in Virginia—2020

By Diana White and Lois Page

LWV-Virginia adopted a study/update to its education position at the June 2017 biennial state convention. A group of State League members had become increasingly aware that the position in place was out of date. What was missing was deciding where we as an organization stood on the issues surrounding increasing pressures nationwide to create alternatives to public education.

The League School Choice Committee was formed to look at the status of these choices in Virginia which included charter schools, scholarships and vouchers to private schools, and online schools. A year of hard work produced an updated position that was adopted at the biennial LWV-VA Council meeting in June 2018.

The new position includes the following language in the section “Positions in Brief”:

The League of Women Voters believes that K-12 public schools should prevail as the highest priority for school choice in Virginia because public schools:

- Sustain democracy by being open to all children,
- Serve the public and prepare citizens to maintain our government,
- Allow the public to vote on school governance and school policy, and
- Allow the exchange of ideas and participation in decision-making.

To support this priority the LWV-VA believes all K-12 school programs that receive public funds should be required to meet certain standards and criteria for their approval, administration, accountability, oversight, transparency, nondiscrimination, assessment, fiscal management, and operations:

- LWV-VA believes that no public funds should go to sectarian schools.
- LWV-VA supports the option of public charter schools that follow the extensive regulations in the 2018 Virginia Code for their establishment and administration.
- LWV-VA opposes “tuition tax credit” programs that provide scholarships to private schools Education Improvement Scholarship Tax Credits Program (EISTC).
- LWV-VA opposes “vouchers” (“Parental Choice Education Savings Accounts”).
- LWV-VA supports virtual online programs provided by public schools that follow the 2018 regulations and requirements for oversight by the Department of Education (DOE) and local public administrators.
- LWV-VA opposes private profit-making providers of virtual online programs.

The purpose of this study is to look at our positions in relation to developments in the just-completed session of the State Legislature. We also continue to be concerned about education funding. We are convinced that if schools are adequately funded, and teachers are adequately paid, the need for school choice will largely dissipate.

Report Card Subject #1: *The League of Women Voters of Virginia believes State funding for elementary and secondary public schools should ensure a high-quality education with equal educational opportunities for all children.*

Until the just completed session of the Legislature, State funding for education had fallen behind. State Senator Scott Surovell (D-36) in 2019 summarized the problem in northern Virginia where we tend to think we do pretty well. After last year’s legislative session Surovell offered the following observations:

“First, Virginia’s median family income is 9th in the United States. It is largely driven by Northern Virginia counties: Fairfax County (3rd – \$106,690), Stafford County (5th – \$95,927), and Prince William County (6th – \$93,011).

“Fairfax, Stafford and Prince William counties rank in the top 1% of all American jurisdictions – 3rd, 19th and 20th in the entire United States.

“However, per-pupil investment in elementary and secondary education ranks orders of magnitude lower. Virginia is 22nd in the country in per-pupil spending, averaging around \$11,432. Arlington County leads Virginia at \$19,348 per student even with a lower median income than Fairfax County.

“Fairfax County ‘fully funds’ Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) by spending 21% less than Arlington or \$15,293 per student; Prince William spends \$12,427 and Stafford spends \$11,319.

“In Virginia, public education is a shared state and local government obligation. After the General Assembly was captured by the ‘no new taxes’ craze of the 1990s, State elementary and secondary education funding has lagged.

“The “Great Recession” of 2009 inflicted significant cuts and while the State appropriations have recovered to pre-2009 levels, they still lag on an inflation-adjusted, per-pupil basis, and increasing education appropriations continues to be a priority for the House and Senate Democratic Caucuses.”¹

Delegate Vivian Watts (D-39) agrees that before the 2020 session State funding was still 10% behind what it was before the recession, “Yes, the dollars have increased but so has the school population.” As for Fairfax County, Del. Watts has for years pointed out the injustice of the State formula. The 40-year-old Local Composite Index has not made it possible for the County to supplement the source of school taxes, namely, 50% of real estate and 10 % of sales taxes. This will be helped with the recent passage of the equalization of taxing ability of cities and counties.

FCPS is also at a disadvantage because the “cost to compete” is not taken into account for education. While police in our area receive a 26% cost of living pay differential, teachers receive 2%. Statewide it is assumed that Fairfax is rich and does not need extra consideration but in truth, we have a wide divergence of income levels and large numbers of “at risk” students. No adjustment is being made for cost of living in relation to poverty levels.²

However, the good news is that the recent legislative session voted in a number of positive funding changes. The following summary by Ned Oliver of the Virginia Mercury in March of this year headlined \$1.4 billion in new spending on Virginia’s schools which lawmakers claim restores us to pre-2008 recession levels. It is \$128 million over what the governor asked for. Oliver lists the following additions:

- 2 percent raises for teachers each year of the two-year budget,
- an additional \$148 million for high-poverty schools,
- \$10.6 million to lower the costs of reduced-price lunches, and
- \$4.6 million to boost shrinking rural school districts.³

Delegate Kathy Tran (D-42) provided Diana White a more expansive list of the funding increases in an email following the 2020 session:

- 4 percent pay raise for our hardworking teachers over the biennium.
- Increases of per-pupil K-12 funding above the Fiscal

¹Scott Surovell. “Surovell: Public school funding still lagging in Northern Virginia.” *Fort Hunt Herald*, April 30, 2019.

²Vivian Watts. Interview with Lois Page. Richmond, Va., February 12, 2020.

³Ned Oliver. “Schools, Welfare, and a Tunnel: How new Democratic majorities put their mark on their first budget.” virginiamercury.com, March 25, 2020.

Year 2008 levels for the first time since the Great Recession. Part of this will go to needed capital expenditures like roof repairs, building renovations, and new buses. Local governments will be able to use the remainder to meet their unique needs.

- \$46 million increase to lower the school counselor-to-student ratio in public K-12 schools starting in the Fiscal Year 2022.
- \$88 million increase for the Virginia Preschool Initiative to make sure vulnerable families have access to early childhood education.
- \$61 million in supplemental funding for school districts with high poverty rates.
- \$80 million to freeze tuition at Virginia’s public universities. Additionally, the budget includes \$60 million for need-based financial aid for in-state students.
- \$69 million to implement Governor Northam’s “Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back” (G3) program, which will allow low-income students to graduate from community college debt free if they major in certain in-demand occupations.⁴

Grade for Subject #1: B Plus. Rationale: As Oliver points out in the article above, “It is a \$128 million increase over what Northam had proposed, though still millions short of what the State Board of Education has said it needs to meet Standards of Quality they adopted.”

Report Card Subject #2: *Charter Schools: LWV-VA supports the option of public charter schools that follows the extensive regulations in the 2018 Virginia Code for their establishment and administration.*

Historically, the two types of charter schools, Public and Private, operate very differently. Virginia requires they be public, namely that they are “tuition-free schools of choice” that are publicly funded but independently operated. Public charter schools mean public, non-religious or non-home-based alternative schools located within a private school division. In Virginia all charter schools face a robust approval process, extensive parameters and reporting processes, and DOE regulations and oversight. This is not always true of public charter schools in other states.

Private charter schools, on the other hand, as Arianna Prothero explained in a 2018 *Education Week* article, are privately managed and exempt from regulations that public schools must follow. Private charter schools receive funds via vouchers, tax credits, and education savings accounts, and tend to be, however, more regulated by their separate boards than public charters. Whether charter schools are private or public is debatable. In some cases, they classify

⁴Kathy Tran. Email to Diana White, March 16, 2020.

themselves as private charter schools when involved in litigation and public when they compete for public funds.⁵

Although supporters insist charter schools can provide a lifeline for students in failing school districts and should be left free to proceed without the regulation public schools face, Leaguers are very supportive of the tight and robust regulations that Virginia has in place regarding public charter schools. Some have suggested that, especially in urban areas, charter schools can provide needed competition with public schools and in turn boost the effectiveness of public schools. However, the need remains to keep charter schools public and with effective oversight. If the result is to drain the public schools of local talent and support, the experiment has failed.

The purpose of charter schools has changed since their origin. Diane Ravitch in her 2013 book *Reign of Error*, devotes a chapter to charter schools, describing their beginnings in the mind of Albert Shanker, longtime president of the American Federation of Teachers. Sometime around 1988 Shanker promoted his idea of charter schools to help disengaged students temporarily, and “collaborate with the public school system, not compete with it.”⁶ A school system would set up charter schools for a set period of time, work with at-risk students, and at some point declare the work completed and return students to public schools. Shanker later turned against charter schools when he saw they were heading toward privatization. He began to warn the true aim of some charter advocates was to “smash the public schools.”⁷

In 2012, the DOE required states to lift the limits on charter schools in their states to be eligible for billions of dollars under President Obama’s “Rise to the Top” competition. Forty-two states passed legislation authorizing charter schools. Louisiana increased charter schools and 80% of students in New Orleans attended them. In the District of Columbia, 50% of students attended charter schools.⁸

In the article in *Education Week* mentioned above, Prothero notes there are charter schools in 44 states. There are 7000 schools and 3 million students in those schools. This equates to 6% of all American students attending charter schools. In some cities, the percentage has increased to 30%. Some schools are non-profit and some are for-profit funded by state and local monies based on the number of students. This significant competition with the traditional

5 Arianna Prothero, “What Are Charter Schools?” *Education Week*, Aug 9, 2018.

6 Diane Ravitch. *Reign of Error*. New York: Random House, 2013, p. 156.

7 Ravitch, *Reign...*, p. 157.

8 Ravitch, *Reign...*, p.158.

system of public schools and direct competition for tight resources has become an ongoing controversy and debate.

As we look at how our schools have evolved, we can still define public schools as being run by a school board elected by the public and open admission to all. In contrast, charter schools are often without public oversight and can often pick and choose their students, leaving public schools with students who are less motivated or with less-involved parents.

Diane Ravitch reminds us why we need to remain vigilant in keeping charter schools from turning into some of the horror stories she describes in her two books, *Reign of Error*, and her 2020 book, *Slaying Goliath, The Passionate Resistance to Privatization and the Fight to Save America's Schools*.⁹ The latter was reviewed recently in the *Washington Post* by Melanie McCabe, a Yorktown High School English teacher. Ravitch labeled the people seeking to privatize public schools as “disrupters,” who think schools should be operated like businesses.

McCabe continues summarizing Ravitch: “The disrupters are not supporters of education, Ravitch argues; rather they pursue the money to be made not only by running charter schools, but also through involvement in such lucrative industries as student testing, hardware and software development and consulting services.”¹⁰

In a *Washington Post* article on February 9, 2020, “As Charter Networks grow, so do Questions,” Perry Stein states that some charter schools are on the brink of closing in the District, and have turned to bigger public charter schools such as Friendship Public Charter and KIPP DDC to rescue them. His question, “How big is too big for an education sector that began with a promise of a collection of independent campuses meant to stand as an alternative to the bureaucratic thicket of the traditional school system?” Scott Pearson, chair of the D.C. Public Charter School Board has acknowledged the issue and is prepared to deal with a charter school becoming “too big to fail.” Currently, they are able to close a single campus in a charter network instead of the entire network. Of course, displacing students is a big concern in this set of circumstances.¹¹

It is crucial that Virginia charter schools continue to be public, which they are not in a number of states, and sub-

9 Diane Ravitch.. *Slaying Goliath: The Passionate Resistance to Privatization and the Fight to Save America's Schools*. New York, Random House, 2020.

10 Melanie McCabe, “An indictment of education reformers, and a call to fight back,” *Washington Post*, Jan 30, 2020.

11 Perry Stein. “As Charter Networks grow, so do Questions,” *Washington Post*, February 9, 2020.

ject to reasonable regulations. They should also be created to serve a specific need and not simply to divert a community from the need to dig in and insist on improvements in their regular public system.

Grade for Subject #2: A (but beware of attempts to change this)

Report Card Subject #3: *LWV-VA believes that no public funds should go to sectarian schools. LWV-VA opposes “tuition tax credit” programs that provide scholarships to private schools.*

Virginia currently has the EISTC program enacted in 2012. It allows businesses and individuals to donate to foundations that grant scholarships for private-school tuition.

The program was actually expanded by the Legislature in 2019 (SB1365). The expanded version reads: “Education Improvement Scholarships tax credits; benefits and eligibility requirements; eligible students with a disability. Increases the scholarship amount available for an eligible student with a disability from 100 percent to 300 percent of the per pupil amount distributed to the local school division as the State’s share of the standards of quality costs, or the actual qualified educational expenses of the student, whichever is less.” The bill broadens the definition of “eligible student with a disability” to include any child who is a resident of Virginia for whom an Individualized Education Plan has been written and finalized in accordance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In addition, the family household income of the eligible student with a disability receiving the scholarship must not exceed 400 percent of the Federal poverty level.¹²

The program is overseen by the State DOE. Foundations must apply to participate. The 36 foundations that received donations in 2019 included 11 whose titles indicated they were religious organizations.¹³

On the Federal level under the current Administration, the requirement for public taxes not supporting religious schools is being increasingly challenged.

Private schools in the program also must apply and show they are accredited. However, they do not seem to be required to have open admission policies. One of the receiving schools that the School Choice study discovered, Timberlake Christian School, stated openly, “Thus Timberlake Christian Schools retains the right to refuse enrollment or

expel any student who engages in sexual immorality, including any student who professes to be a homosexual/bisexual/transgender person or who engages in or practices homosexual/bisexual/transgender behavior, as well as any student who condones, supports or otherwise promotes such practices.”¹⁴

The discrimination issue came up more recently in a *Washington Post* article (February 10, 2020) regarding school vouchers and tax credit programs for private school in Florida. Entitled “Banks exit schools fund over Anti-LGBTQ stance,” the article reported that two major banks in Florida had pulled support for the Florida school voucher program because of anti-LGBTQ policies.¹⁵

Delegate David Bulova (D-37) sponsored the bill (HB 521) early in the 2020 session to repeal the state-provided tax credits for Education Improvement Scholarships. The elimination of this credit would have saved the General Fund \$5.6 million in FY 2022 and \$11.2 million in FY 2023 and every year thereafter. The program was implemented in 2013 as a means of skirting the limits on State funding for private education. Donors are permitted to claim tax credits equal to 65% of the monetary or marketable securities donation they make to a “qualifying scholarship foundation.” Donors are also allowed to take a State tax deduction and a Federal tax deduction for a charitable donation. (However the Federal deduction may be eliminated due to recent charitable deduction limitations.) The legislature capped the annual credits at \$25 million though efforts to raise that cap continue.

The scholarship program has become increasingly expensive; in 2019 a total of 4,471 scholarships were reported. The following chart¹⁶ indicates how the cost to the state has increased in the past few years:

Taxable Year	Amount Granted
2014	\$4.8 million
2015	\$6.7 million
2016	\$9.1 million
2017	\$11.7 million
2018	\$11.2 million

The repeal did have support from entities such as Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and the League of Women Voters 2018 position on school choice.

¹⁴ Timberlake Christian Schools-Admissions online (<https://tcs-va.client.renweb.com/oa/?memberid=1278>)

¹⁵ Valerie Strauss. “Banks exit schools fund over Anti-LGBTQ stance,” *Washington Post*, Feb. 10, 2020.

¹⁶ Virginia Department of Taxation. 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement. Chart: “Tax Credits 2014-2018,” Jan. 11, 2020.

¹² [lis.virginia.gov](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604) > [cgi-bin](#) > [legp604](#) > [191+sum+SB1365](#)

¹³ Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credit program. [www.doe.virginia.gov](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/school_finance/scholarships_tax_credits) > [school_finance](#) > [scholarships_tax_credits](#)

However, in the face of strong pushback from sectarian private schools, with “heart-breaking requests that the scholarships would save certain students from terrible school situations,” Delegate Bulova, in consultation with his caucus, decided to look more closely at the issue. The bill was not stricken and will likely be carried over next session.

Bulova admits that limiting church provisions for early childhood education, which depends extensively on religious providers, is simply not feasible. He questions, however, that public funds be used to provide K-12 religious education. The private schools that serve the scholarship recipients are not open to all students.

He pointed out that, yes, one student gets helped by the scholarship but if the reason is an inadequate public system where that student lives, then a lot of kids are being left behind. “So does this help public education by removing one kid? No, the school he leaves still has to provide teachers and buildings for those left behind.”¹⁷

The State League position pointed out that a better use of that \$11 million being given as tax credits would be to improve the schools for more of the “left-behinds.” Not only are public funds being diverted for private schools, but taxpayers have no control over the admission requirements, or that these private institutions may--and likely do--have discriminatory policies. It seems that a number of parents have found a way to receive free religious education. Those unhappy with their local schools have options to join PTAs, lobby their local governments and school boards, and get involved. Not always easy but worth it.

Subject #3 Grade: C Minus. Leaguers agree this program should be eliminated altogether with rare exceptions.

Report Card Item #4: *League of Women Voters of Virginia opposes “vouchers” (Education Savings Accounts - ESAs.) LWV-VA believes that no public funds should go to sectarian schools.*

The Virginia Constitution prohibits funding of private schools (Article VIII, Section 10), ESAs would allow payment directly to a family from the local school district. Payment is based on the local school district’s Standards of Quality (districts’ share of state funds per pupil), not the need of the family or the cost. There is no quality control such as approval process or accreditation required. Teacher qualification standards may be minimal. This results in a direct loss of public school funding to private schools.

ESAs also have high startup and administration costs for the Departments of Education, especially for more staff.

Sean Cavanagh, writing for *Education Week*, commented on voucher programs. Twenty-four school-choice programs now exist, in 14 states and the District of Columbia. The National School Boards Association opposes the use of public money for vouchers to send students to private schools. Polling results show half the people favor vouchers, but a majority of those polled were not in favor of public schools losing their monies to support the vouchers.¹⁸

In the legislative session this year, Del. David LaRock (R-33) introduced a bill to establish these ESAs calling it “Parental Choice Education Savings Accounts” (HB678). It is not called a “voucher program” but this may be a way to get around the name “voucher” by promoting it as “parental choice” and a “savings account.” HB678 would have established vouchers allowing the transfer of local public-school funds to parents to use for their children’s private schooling.

Parental Choice Education Savings Accounts consist of an amount equivalent to a certain percentage of all applicable annual Standards of Quality per-pupil State funds appropriated for public school purposes and apportioned to the school division in which the student resides, including the per-pupil share of State sales tax funding in basic aid and any State per-pupil share of special education funding for which the student is eligible. The bill permits the parent to use the money in such an account for certain education-related expenses of the student, including tuition, deposits, fees, and required textbooks at private elementary or secondary schools located in the Commonwealth. This bill also contains provisions relating to auditing, rescinding and reviewing expenses made from such accounts.

Ravitch, in *Reign of Error*, traces the development of what she calls the myth that arose in the late 20th century of failing schools. It was claimed that principals, teachers and teachers’ unions were to blame: “...they had become comfortable with the status quo of low expectation and low achievement.” Thus began the push to judge teachers by their students’ test scores, and close schools that were failing based on some sort of objective test. Above all, public school critics urged that students must be given choices as to where they could escape these failing schools. One should add that Ravitch says the schools were not failing at all: “the diagnosis is wrong and the solutions of the corporate reformers are wrong. Our urban schools are in trouble

¹⁷ David Bulova, Interview with Lois Page. Richmond, February 12, 2020

¹⁸ Sean Cavanagh. “Vouchers Improve Public Schools (Pro Voucher Group Says)”, *Education Week*, Feb. 20, 2009.

because of poverty and racial segregation.”¹⁹

The League opposes these ESAs. This bill has been on the Committee docket more than once, but this year it did not make it out of Committee. It was not actually presented by the patron so it was quietly dismissed. One can see a need for this on a very emergency basis, such as when a school district admits it simply cannot provide for the needs of a specific student. Once again a full-on scholarship program would divert funding from public schools, and hamper oversight of discriminatory policies.

Since this bill has been on the Committee docket in the past, we expect it to continue to be introduced in the future.

An additional challenge to those opposed to these raids on school funding: on the Federal level HR 895/S.148 has been proposed by Senator Marco Rubio (FL) and Representative Todd Rokita (IN). It would create a Federal tuition tax credit program called the Educational Opportunities Act. Both legislators hail from states with broad tuition tax credit programs and would like to see these programs at the Federal level as well.

According to the Institute of Taxation and Economic Policy, the Economic Opportunities Act would provide dollar for dollar tax credits to individuals and corporations that donate to nonprofits providing vouchers for low-income students to attend private schools. Low-income is defined in the statute as less than 250% of the poverty level -- less than \$60,750 per year for a family of four.²⁰ This legislation is in some ways a combination of EISTCs and the proposed voucher program for Virginia.

Taxpayers might be hoodwinked into thinking that this does not reduce support for public education, but notice this provides a 100% tax break for a donation. Even Virginia’s EISTC donations allowed only 65%. (The additional ability to take a Federal charitable deduction as well seems to have been eliminated.) What happens when you reduce the amount of tax revenue for public school use?

Grade for Item #4: A (But once again we must be on guard against proposed changes)

Report Card Subject #5: *LWV-VA believes in quality public education.*

Carol Noggle, lobbyist for LWV-VA and Chair of the School Choice Committee, summed up the accomplish-

ments of the 2020 Virginia Legislature: “The considerable increase in funding for public education and teachers was definitely a highlight for education legislation this year. A wide array of helpful legislation passed including increased teacher pay, improving discipline and interaction with Resource Officers, curriculum additions, an increase in curriculum hours for all kindergarten children, requirements for a nondiscriminatory dress code (Dress Code Equity Act), appropriate treatment of transgender students, giving advance notice to parents regarding lockdown drills, adding extra planning time for teachers (did not pass), access to graded work for suspended students, online mental health awareness training required for public school employees, parental education materials on tobacco and nicotine vapor products, in-State tuition for certain refugees and immigrants, expanded training of school resource officers to include mediation and conflict resolution and alternatives to physical restraint, and increased minimum staffing ratio for school counselors and school nurses.”²¹

Grade for Item #5: A Minus. We can always do more to put “quality” in education.



Discussion questions

1. What surprised you about this report?
2. What concerns you the most about any of these issues?
3. What have been your experiences, if any, with charter schools?
4. Author Diane Ravitch is encouraged that the country is trending away from privatizing public education. Is this a concern of yours?
5. Are there any situations under which you would approve of public funds supporting religious schools?
6. Is there still a statewide education issue that should be monitored?

¹⁹ Ravitch, p. 4

²⁰ Carol Davis, Institute of Taxation and Economic Policy, <http://itep.org/>, May 17, 2017.

²¹ Carol Noggle. Email to LWV-VA School Choice Committee, March 16, 2020.

Spotlight on Voter Services

By Cindy Kalkwarf, Voter Services Chair

The Voter Services volunteer team focuses on registering people to vote, getting out the vote, providing educational and informational public services, and initiating outreach programs to groups of potential voters.

Wow, what progress Virginia is making to expand our citizens' access to voting. No-excuse absentee voting, expansion of Voter IDs, DMV Automatic Voter Registration, Election Day is now a holiday, and more! Learn about these critical pieces of legislation in the *Virginia Voting Bill in 2020* article below, first published in the *Virginia Voter*, April 2020.

Did you know that many Virginia voters are unaware that Virginia holds elections each and every year, what offices are on the ballots each year, and what the office holders responsibilities are? Our League's Voter Education Committee is developing the annual leaflets to help educate the public. Learn more about this important initiative in the article below, *Yes, Virginia, There Is an Election Every Year*.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: The Virginia Department of Elections encourages voters to protect their health during the COVID-19 outbreak. Voting absentee by mail in the June Primary Election is strongly encouraged. Voters may choose reason "2A My disability or illness" for Absentee voting.

Virginia Voting Bill in 2020

by Julia Tanner, LWV-VA Action Coordinator
(first published in the *Virginia Voter*, April 2020)

Finally, we have No-Excuse Absentee Voting! Starting July 1, the law will no longer require voters to give a reason for voting early. Starting 45 days before each election, voters can simply vote. The bills that passed were HB1 (Herring), HB207 (VanValkenburg), SB111 (Howell).

Expansion of Voter IDs will also ease voting. Starting July 1, polling places will accept, in addition to a valid Virginia driver's license, U.S. passport, or employee photo ID:

- any other ID issued by Virginia, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States;
- voter registration confirmation documents;
- any valid student ID card issued by any institution of higher education or private school located in the Commonwealth, or any institution of higher education in any other U.S. state or territory; or
- a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter's name and address.

Also new: the expiration date of a Virginia driver's license will no longer be considered when determining its validity for voter identification purposes.

Most voters who do not show one of the listed IDs will be allowed to vote after signing a statement, subject to felony penalties, that s/he is the named voter. If the voter does not sign, a provisional ballot will be offered. Bills: HB19 (Lindsey), HB213 (Sullivan), SB65 (Locke).

Eligible Virginians can register to vote easily at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), thanks to Automatic Voter Registration! Any person eligible to vote in Virginia who visits the DMV, in person or online, and applies for, replaces, or renews their driver's license will be registered to vote unless they opt out, instead of needing to opt in and fill out a voter registration application. The relevant bills are HB235 (J. Cole) and SB219 (Marsden).

Extensive work fighting gerrymandering resulted in passage of the Redistricting Constitutional Amendment and its criteria bill and voter referendum bill. This means Virginia voters will decide whether to pass the Constitutional Amendment on the ballot this November. For more information, see our update and FAQ at bit.ly/RedistrictingInfo. Legislation: Constitutional Amendment SJ18 (Barker), Criteria Bill SB717 (McClellan) / HB1255 (Price), Voter Referendum HB784 (VanValkenburg) / SB236 (Barker).

Recognizing that the significance of a State holiday on election day is the exercise of the franchise in our representative democracy, and better aligning the State's election calendar with diversity, equity, and inclusion, Election Day will become a State Holiday, and Lee-Jackson Day will no longer be a State holiday. The bills making this change are HB108 (Lindsey) and SB610 (Lucas).

The General Assembly repealed numerous outdated laws based on race, including old Acts of Assembly relating to voting restrictions, poll taxes, and registration records separated on the basis of race. Bills cleaning up the election laws in this regard are HB1086 (Price) and SB555 (Spruill).

HB 1491 could kick High School Voter Registration drives into higher gear. It requires all high schools to provide eligible students with voter registration applications and information, and the opportunity to apply during the school day. The League of Women Voters of Virginia is working on plans to help Local Leagues, and high schools in areas where there are no Local Leagues, fulfill the requirements of this bill. For more information, please contact Joan at firstvp@lwv-va.org. The bill adding these requirements is HB1491 (Guy).

Several bills will take effect after 2020:

Same Day Registration & Voting, via HB201 (Ayala), will allow a qualified person to register on the same day they vote if they provide proof of residency. This will go into effect October 1, 2022.

A pilot program for Ranked Choice Voting at the option of

local governing bodies, whereby voters will vote for county board or city council members by ranking their chosen candidates, will go into effect July 1, 2021, and expire July 1, 2031. The decision whether to conduct an election by ranked choice voting shall be made by majority vote of the county board or city council, in consultation with the local electoral board and general registrar. Bill: HB1103 (Hudson).

A bill to Extend Polling Hours Until 8PM will take effect only if passed again by the General Assembly in the 2021 session. Bill: HB1678 (Lindsey).

Our 2020 Get Out the Vote Plans will do well to include educating voters about these changes. Voters need to know about these improvements to access. While much remains to be done, we can celebrate long strides that will empower Virginia voters.

Yes, Virginia, There Is an Election Every Year

By Sydney Johnson

Last spring, I explained to a woman at a voter registration table that we would vote for a State Senator in 2019, among many other offices. She said she had voted for a Senator the year before and added, “You mean there are two Senators?” This is just one illustration of the need for understanding Virginia’s four-year election cycle.

Last fall, our Fairfax League gave out the first in a series of leaflets showing the races in each year of the cycle of elections. The leaflets explain which offices come up for election each year and what the officials do. They are printed in landscape orientation and folded in fourths, resulting in eight columns. Our League’s Voter Education Committee is developing the leaflets, and Nancy Roodberg, our Co-President, is designing them. The first had all the state and local offices up for election in 2019 in Fairfax County, including Clifton, Vienna, and Herndon, and the City of Fairfax. It explained the officials’ main responsibilities, the duration of their terms, and whether they are compensated financially. It was written in plain language, but there is a column defining of technical words.

We printed a second leaflet for 2020. This one has the responsibilities of the President, Vice President, and U.S. Representatives. We had enough space to devote one column to an explanation of the Federal, State, and local levels of government. This leaflet is in the office while we wait for social contact to be possible again.

The design and initial printing of these leaflets was funded by a grant to the northern Virginia Leagues from the Greater Washington Community Foundation. The first thousand of last year’s leaflets went out so quickly that we were able to go into a second printing, thanks to the generosity of Anne Kanter. We are now designing and seeking funding for the leaflets for the next two years. In 2021 the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, some City of Fairfax and town officials, and State Delegates are elected. In 2022 U.S. Representatives are elected, and Clifton, Vienna, Herndon, and City of Fairfax have races.



We see these as perennial leaflets, not fixed to a particular year, but demonstrating the cyclic nature of elections in Virginia. That is why we have not put the numerical year on them. In each year we plan to display only the leaflets suitable for that year to avoid confusion.

Our Voter Education Committee is currently meeting by conference call. We are Nancy Roodberg, Celeste Land, Ann Parham, Sherri Gillam, and Sidney Johnson. Sherri Gillam’s Powerpoint presentation of voting information for persons with some cognitive limitations will be the subject of a future article. We welcome new members and more ideas. Please contact Sidney Johnson at sidneyjohnson3@verizon.net or 703-476-0581.

Environmental Update: Good News for Waterbodies from the State

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Litter. The 2020 General Assembly took action to reduce litter in our communities and waterways, creating the Plastic Pollution Prevention Advisory Council to recommend actions Virginia can take to reduce plastic pollution. The Council will report to the Governor and General Assembly by November on how to eliminate single-use plastic bags and limit polystyrene cups and food service containers.

Every Virginia manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor and retailer in various categories related to food, beverage, cigarette, newspaper, and containers is subject to Virginia's litter tax. For 43 years, the tax rate has been \$10 per business location plus \$15 for each location that manufactures, sells, or distributes groceries, soft drinks, or beer. The General Assembly doubled these rates. The funds are intended for litter mitigation.

Chesapeake Bay. Governor Northam's 2021-2022 budget proposal provided strong support for implementing the final phase of Virginia's Clean Water Blueprint, a detailed plan of pollution-reduction commitments to restore the Bay and its rivers and streams by 2025. The General Assembly approved a record \$240+ million to improve water quality across the Commonwealth, including:

- technical and other assistance to help farmers fence cattle out of streams, implement nutrient management plans on cropland, and adopt other conservation practices,
- matching grants for wetland construction, living shorelines, stream restoration, and rain gardens to reduce polluted runoff from urban and suburban lands,
- grants to wastewater treatment plants to upgrade, protecting ratepayers from absorbing high costs,
- expanding oyster replenishment and restoration,
- \$25 million for the City of Alexandria's combined sewer overflow project, and
- \$250,000 per year for environmental education to ensure Virginia's schoolchildren get hands-on experience investigating local environmental issues.

Beyond the budget, the General Assembly banned offshore drilling off the coast of Virginia.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation encourages you to help the Bay by:

- replacing hard surfaces with pervious pavement to allow water to soak through, improving water quality and minimizing polluted runoff and flooding;
- installing a downspout rain barrel to collect storm-

water from your roof and store it to use later for watering your lawn and garden; and

- having septic systems inspected annually to ensure proper functioning to prevent leaks into the groundwater and eventually local waterways and the Bay.

COVID-19. On March 26th, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency allowed regulated facilities to forgo routine monitoring and reporting when "not reasonably practicable due to COVID-19." The following week, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Director David Paylor announced, "All regulated entities are expected to make every effort to comply with environmental compliance obligations, adhere to permit limits and maintain the safe and environmentally protective operation of their facilities." DEQ will consider non-compliance issues resulting from COVID-19 on a case-by-case basis.

Domestic Violence: Stalking and Cyber-Stalking

By Adarsh Trehan

Domestic violence consists of various kinds of abuse: physical, emotional, sexual, and/or financial, stalking and cyberstalking. It is important to realize that domestic violence is NEVER the victim's fault! Often, the violence results in physical injuries, but sometimes it doesn't.

What is stalking?

Stalking is a form of domestic violence involving repeated and unwanted behavior to "...intentionally create a fear of harm or death for the victim..." (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)). As with other forms of domestic violence, the abuser is intentionally trying to gain or regain power over and to control the victim.

What are some examples of stalking?

The New York (state) Office for Prevention of Domestic Violence gives the following examples:

- "The following, monitoring, or surveillance of victim and/or victim's family, friends, co-workers;
- Forgery or criminal impersonation;
- Abuse or killing of pet(s) or other animal(s);
- Repeated threatening communications or attempts to communicate, especially after being clearly informed to stop;
- Violation of any order of protection;
- The kidnapping of the victim or children or threatening to do so; and/or
- Threats of suicide or homicide."(www.ny.gov/professionals/criminal_justice/stalking-infoguide.html)

What is cyberstalking?

“Cyberstalking involves the use of technology to make someone else afraid or concerned about their safety. Most of the time, those who cyberstalk use social media, Internet databases, search engines, and other online resources to intimidate, follow, and cause anxiety or terror to others.”

(www.cyberbullying.org/cyberstalking)

Why do stalking and cyberstalking matter?

According to the NCADV:

- “1 in 7 stalking victims has been forced to move as a result of their victimization;
- 1 in 8 stalking victims has reported losing work because of the stalking;
- Stalking victims suffer much higher rates of depression, anxiety, insomnia, and social dysfunction than

people in the general population;

- 37% victims of stalking fulfill the diagnostic criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder; an additional 18% fulfilled all but one diagnostic criteria;
- 1 in 4 stalking victims contemplate suicide.”

Furthermore, a study of contacts to the National Domestic Violence Hotline found that:

- “76% of women murdered by an intimate partner were stalked first;
- 89% of femicide victims who had been physically assaulted before their murder were also stalked in the last year prior to their murder;
- 54% of femicide victims reported stalking to the police before they were killed by their stalkers.”

LWVFA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Since early January 2020, LWVFA has welcomed a large number of new members: 40 to be exact. In addition six members renewed their membership, bringing the total count to 416 as of April 4th. We are so glad to have the following individuals and households as a part of our League:

Momina Adem (s)

Amy and James Angel

Jehanne Arslan and Robert Tsien

Jessica Bonjorni

Deborah Burke

Catherine Campbell

Brian Conner (s)

Michelle Coon

Dana Dasplit and Michael Dougherty

Patricia Duque-Lewis and Household

Eleanor and Tom Fina (r)

Kendra Ganobsik (r)

Nancy Gleeson

Ann Greenleese

Haley Grage (s)

Terry Greene (r)

Sunny Ho and Jillian Fan (s)

Theresea Holland

Samantha Horner (s)

Diana Katz

Priya and Anirudh Kulkarni

Heather Lee

Chandler Luster (s)

Eileen and Laura Elizabeth Manuel

Gretchen McLeish

Jyoti Minocha

Suzanne Moffitt

Carole Mullarkey

Margaret O’Neil

Joann Phillips

Jane Reese

Betsy Rock

Libby Russler

Lisa Sales (r)

Ronan Steensprang (s)

Janice Ware (r)

Susan Weiderhold

Randi Willis (s)

(s)=student; (r)=reinstated

Currently we have 28 Life Members on our rolls, but there could be more that we don’t know about! The “join date” listed in the national LWVUS database does not always reflect the exact date that a member joined the League, particularly if the member has moved and been affiliated with more than one local League. If you or someone you know has been part of the League since 1970 or earlier and is active in LWVFA, please notify Carol Bursik at cjbursik@icloud.com. We want to recognize all of our Life Members and ensure that they enjoy free membership from this point forward.

Due to COVID-19, face-to-face orientations for new members are suspended temporarily. As soon as there is a new schedule, it will be published in Constant Contact. Anyone who would like to schedule an orientation by telephone should email Judy Helein at judithhelein@aol.com.

Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

Topic: Education Report Card

DUE TO THE VIRGINIA STAY AT HOME ORDER, MAY MEETINGS WILL BE VIRTUAL!
UNIT LEADERS WILL RECEIVE DIRECTIONS FOR SETTING UP A FREECONFERENCECALL ACCOUNT (FROM LWVFA Co-Presidents, Anu Sahai and Nancy Roodberg). THE UNIT LEADERS WILL SET UP THEIR OWN ACCOUNTS, AND THEN WILL SEND THE CALL-IN INFORMATION TO EVERY UNIT MEMBER.

Saturday, May 2, 2020

10 a.m. At-Large Unit and Briefing

Contact: Julie, 703-476-8347

Monday, May 11

1:30 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)

Contact: Edith, 703-644-3970 or Gloria,
703-852-5113

Wednesday, May 13

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

Contact: Susan, 703-893-2229 or Peggy,
peggyknight49@gmail.com

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

Contact: Gail, 703-360-6561 or Diana, 703-
704-5325

10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)

Contact: Sherry, 703-730-8118 or Kathleen,
703-644-1555

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

Contact: Gail, gailvb12@yahoo.com

Thursday, May 14

9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)

Contact: Barbara. (703) 437-0795
or bseandlte@earthlink.net

9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)

Contact: Marge, 703-451-0589

11:30 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CCD)

Contact: Susan, 703-391-0666

1 p.m. Oakton/Vienna (OV)

Contact: Mary, 703-932-3665

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

Contact: Jane, 703-960-6820 or Susan, 703-
587-4790

June Meetings:

To Be Announced



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

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**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER®
 May, 2020**

Anu Sahai, Co-President
 Nancy Roodberg, Co-President
 Katherine Ingmanson, 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.

Please Support Our Work! The LWVFA Education Fund is supported by donations from our members and the public.
<https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/donate>



LWVFA MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Dues year is July 1 – June 30

Membership Dues: Individual \$75 _____ Household \$100 (2 persons; 1 Voter) _____ Student (No fee) _____
 (A subsidy fund is available; check here _____ and include whatever amount you can afford.)

Membership Status: New _____ Renewal _____ Reinstatement _____ Donation _____
 (Dues are not tax deductible.)

Tax deductible donations must be written as a separate check or PayPal Payment to “LWVFA Ed Fund.”
 (Please print clearly)

Name _____ Unit (if renewing) _____

Address _____

City _____ /State/ _____ Zip +4 _____

Phone (C) _____ (H) _____ E-mail _____

Please make checks payable to LWVFA. Mail to LWVFA, 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403
 OR Join online at <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/join>

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

- Providing organization support (graphic 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, etc., 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, or Fairfax County Public Schools).

Other _____