

Fairfax VOTER

December 2019

Volume 72, Issue 4

2020-2022 Program Planning For LWVUS and LWVFA

This month we are discussing suggestions for the national League (LWVUS) and for the local League (LWVFA) to study (or restudy) and/or which position(s) to emphasize for League action in the 2020-2022 biennium. Please review the current positions and come prepared to discuss any ideas you have for these or for new studies, including anything that is now outdated.

Calendar

Note: LWVFA Units will meet in December

- 2 Fairfax Voter Deadline for January 2020
- 3 Giving Tuesday
- 3 LWV-VA Board Meeting, Richmond
- 4 LWV-VA Women's Roundtable Pre-session Luncheon and Discussion, Hotel John Marshall, Richmond
- 6 LWNCA Board Meeting, LWVUS Board Room, 1730 M Street NW, Washington, DC, 10:30 a.m.
- 7 LWVFA Briefing and At-Large Meeting, Packard Center in Annandale, 10 a.m.
- 9-12 LWVFA Unit Meetings
- 16 Fountains' Condo Elections, The Fountains Condominiums, 301 N Beauregard, Alexandria, VA 22312, 4 to 9 p.m.
- 18 LWVFA Board meeting, Packard Center, Annandale, 10 a.m.

Inside This Issue

Presidents' Message	2
October Discussion Report	3
In Memoriam: Louise Leask Meade	4
LWVFA Donors and Supporters	4
Save on Taxes	4
Program Planning	EF-1
Spotlight on Voters Services	5
Domestic Violence Update	6
LWVFA Membership Report	7
Environment Update	8
December Unit Meetings	9



Presidents' Message



Happy December everyone! It is hard to believe that we are entering the last month of the year! We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving full of friends and family and, of course, good food! We are all so blessed, and we should share our good fortune with those who are not so lucky. I do believe that is the true spirit of Thanksgiving. So, while we were all enjoying our turkey, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie, we hope that everyone remembered what is really important.

Giving Tuesday will soon be upon us. It is the time of year to reflect and share, helping those in our community. When doing so, please keep our League in mind. Together, we accomplished so much this year! Yet, there is still so much more to be done. Educational material, such as What's on the Ballot and Know Before You Go, cannot be produced and distributed without your financial support. Programs such as our high school voter registration and education efforts, community education events, like our forums, and critical issue support, such as the goal of fair redistricting, all need donations to make them happen. Giving Tuesday is December 3rd this year. Please consider donating to the LWVFA so that we can continue all our positive efforts! Giving Tuesday is one of our biggest fundraising pushes for the year – please contribute. The League appreciates your generosity on this date and throughout the year!

Along with financial support, our League has another critical shortfall – volunteers! There are many of you who lead committees and plan events. And, there are many of you who support these efforts with your own time and energy. But, we need more of our members to step up and get involved! As you all know, all office holders and Board members have fixed terms. Many of these terms will be ending this summer, both at the local level and the State level. Put your skills and enthusiasm to good use! Step up, get involved and help our League continue to empower voters and defend democracy! Go online to our website. You can choose from the many positions that need to be filled. Some of the roles require only a few hours a month. There are so many opportunities -- there's bound to be a few that pique your interest. Make a difference! Every person has so much to offer. Contact your unit leader or email us at president@lww-fairfax.org.

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our very own Beth Hansen Tudan who received the Barbara Varon Volunteer award from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors! This award is given annually to a Fairfax County resident whose dedication to improving the community through volunteer service honors the memory of Ms. Varon, a former Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Beth received this award in recognition of all her work in voter registration, especially in high schools! We are so proud of you, Beth!

Congratulations!!

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

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2019 - 2020

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The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area
4026-B Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003-2403
703-658-9150 (Info/fax/answering machine)
www.lww-fairfax.org league@lww-fairfax.org

Co-Presidents: Anu Sahai 703-303-8498
President2@lww-fairfax.org
Nancy Roodberg 703-867-9403
President1@lww-fairfax.org
Editor: Katherine Ingmanson 571-265-9745
kmingmanson@yahoo.com

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

We wish you all a warm and festive Holiday season with family and friends!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Centennial Tea on February 23rd and at the Annual Meeting April 25th of the new year.

Season's greetings and a Happy New Year!

Anu and Nancy



Ranked Choice Voting Provokes Lively October Discussion

By Karole McKalip

October unit discussions included an exploration of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). Members discussed the pros and cons of RCV as a possible step in correcting some problems many local and state elections currently experience.

Some units felt it was a “possible” answer but RCV needs a more informative study to make a decision. Some discussion occurred about the number of candidates on the ballot—two, three, more? Units felt the exercise used to illustrate RCV was helpful.

Units did not come to general agreement on using RCV in Virginia. Some thought more information and education would be needed for voters to accept it. Some comments on RCV included:

- Did areas with RCV vote for this method?
- A primary election with many candidates might be a good place to test RCV.

- It could encourage third-party candidates to run and eliminate run-off elections.
- Local jurisdictions could test the process.
- One challenge might be elections in which candidates are not listed by party.
- Several units indicated an interest in trying RCV in Virginia.
- Are there additional costs in using RCV?

Most units were not willing to give up single member districts. They felt more education and discussion are needed for this complicated subject.

Some final comments and questions on the overall study, including from Reston Evening:

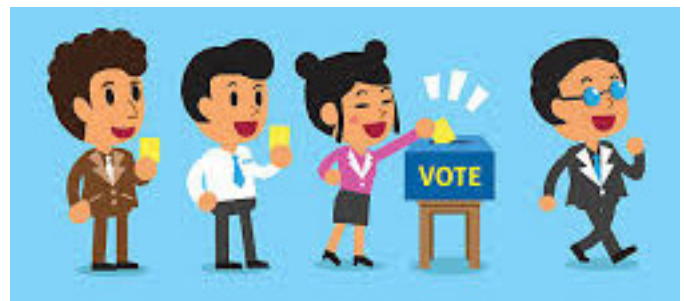
- How would multi-member districts work in areas with large populations?
- What would determine the lines of the district/voting areas?
- The study would benefit from a more detailed discussion of Fair Representation.
- Could RCV be a state study?
- What is the definition of a single-seat election?
- Some supported Electoral College in proportion, not winner-take-all.

Some would prefer changing from Tuesday voting to a weekend or holiday, which would be better for voters and polling place workers.

The local example of Tacoma Park, MD suggests it could work for our School Board elections.

Several members supported RCV but were unsure of implementation. In Virginia the parties would have to decide, and there is a cost with voting machine software and ballot changes. There was some discussion about Fair Vote.

Finally, RCV is being discussed and implemented across our country. Unit members agreed that the League of Women Voters should continue to explore alternative electoral methods and support localities in choosing voting options.



IN MEMORIAM – LOUISE LEASK MEADE

By Edith Appel

It is with great sadness that we report the unexpected death of Louise Meade on Tuesday, October 1, 2019. Louise was born in 1934 in California and graduated from Stanford University before moving to Washington D.C, where she married Tom Meade, her husband of 57 years. She and Tom lived in the Mount Vernon Area of Fairfax County, where they raised four sons. Louise became a tireless volunteer in a variety of organizations that reflected her diverse interests, all of which benefited from her compassion, dedication and energy.

Louise served on the Board of the LWVFA as Voters Service Chair and contributed to the publication of the first Facts for Voters brochure in 1977. She was an active participant of the Mount Vernon Day Unit and, more recently, as a member of the Mount Vernon Evening Unit. Along with her League involvement, Louise was a member of the Mount Vernon Branch of AAUW, with particular interest in its Book and Gourmet groups, which reflected her love of reading and cooking.

Louise’s empathy for those in need led her to Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services. After spending many years as a volunteer, she joined its staff. Her long-term dedication to this cause bettered the lives of many in her community.

One of Louise’s most visible roles was as a member of the Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees. Appointed by the Supervisor of the Mount Vernon District in the early 1980s, she became Chair at a pivotal time, when computer technology was being implemented and integrated into the library system.

Louise was devoted to her family, friends and her community. We will miss her common sense, smiling face and her love of life. A celebration of her life will take place at 11:00 AM on January 2, 2020, at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309.

THANK YOU!

LWVFA Donors and Supporters

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

Oct 6 – Nov 4, 2019

- Debra Butler
- Susan Cowart
- Janice Fair
- Cindy Kalkwarf
- Mayur Maniar
- Rhonda Paterson
- Judy Robison
- Sue Smyth
- Elaine Tholen

and

Donors through Eventbrite

Save on Taxes and Make a Tax-Free Charitable Donation

By Anne Kanter, Secretary, Legacy Fund

Want to see your money working while you’re still around? A good way to support us, and reduce your tax load, is to donate from your IRA account. If you are 70 ½ years and older, a donation directly from your IRA to the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) entity, counts as part of your annual required minimum distribution (RMD) but is not taxed as income.

Would you like to follow the generous example of Fran Silver and Phyllis Hechtman? Consider including the LWVFA in your will. There are two paths of donation: you may add to the Legacy Fund by designating the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, or if you want to donate just to voter service and education, designate the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area Education Fund.

Contact LWVFA Treasurer, Ronna Pazdral, at treasurer@lww-fairfax.org for required IRS and transfer information.

2020-2022 Program Planning For LWVUS and LWVFA

By Julia Jones, LWVFA Program Director

“Program planning” –it must be December! This year we are discussing suggestions for the national League (LWVUS) and for the local League (LWVFA) to study (or restudy) and/or which position(s) to emphasize for League action in the 2020-2022 biennium. This article was first compiled by Sherry Zachry for the Dec. 2017 VOTER and is updated to reflect current positions.

Remember that “League Program” has a different meaning from deciding who will be the speaker for an event or which monthly informational topic to discuss. League Program is defined as the process by which positions are adopted (selecting an issue at a program planning meeting, studying the issue, reaching consensus /concurrence, and formulating the position). Adopting a program (which includes existing positions that are re-adopted) is voted on at a Convention or Annual Meeting. It is that adopted “program” which will guide the respective League’s focus for the next biennium. The biennial League Program includes both study and action and sometimes can be composed entirely of advocacy and lobbying (action) on specific League’s positions.

LWVUS’ IMPACT ON ISSUES has the official statements of position for each program area and reflects the program adopted by the most recent national Convention. Impact on Issues is designed to help League members use LWVUS public policy positions effectively at the national, regional, state, and local levels. LWVUS says: “League advocacy is based on member study and agreement on selected issues and involves concerted efforts to achieve public policies consistent with League positions. League lobbying promotes or opposes specific pieces of legislation.” The intention is to inspire Leagues to use national positions to act in their own communities. <http://lww.org/content/impact-issues>

LWVUS *League Basics* states that public policy positions, published in *IMPACT ON ISSUES*, are the official statements of position for each program area and reflect the program adopted by the most recent national Convention (2018). LWVFA’s positions, published in *Here We Stand*, reflect the program adopted by the 2018 LWVFA Annual Meeting (which included program adoption).

We are including in this article the positions in abbreviated form for LWVUS and LWVFA. As you look at the brief wording you are advised to find the **complete wording** of the positions, usually including the history of the position, in the respective publications: at <http://lww.org/content/impact-issues> and <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/positions/>.

The League’s adopted positions are used to influence public policy (advocacy and lobbying) at all levels of government—national, regional, state and local. LWVUS says: “League advocacy is based on member study and agreement on selected issues and involves concerted efforts to achieve public policies consistent with League positions. League lobbying promotes or opposes specific pieces of legislation.” (From LEAGUE BASICS: 10. Advocacy)

A response form for input from the units that the LWVFA Board will consider for recommendations to LWVUS and for recommendations to the LWVFA Annual Meeting will

be handed out at the briefing on December 7, 2019 and is posted on the LWVFA website <www.lwv-fairfax.org>. Members who do not attend a unit discussion meeting can fill out the response form as an individual or attend the At-Large meeting and discussion leaders’ briefing on Saturday, December 7.

When considering items to propose be guided by the following: Is there widespread member interest? Is this a timely issue? Is government action the most effective way to address the problem? Are there members willing to work on the issue? The Discussion Questions for this month, posted at the end of this article, consist of things to consider when suggesting ideas.

PLEASE REVIEW THE FOLLOWING CURRENT POSITIONS OF LWVUS AND LWVFA, discuss and give your input. This is your chance to affect the League’s advocacy on public policies!

LWVUS: Note: at the time of this writing the LWVUS had not yet given guidance on future national program suggestions. LWVUS positions pertain to legislative policies of the U.S. Congress and Executive Branch of government. Some topics on which we already have positions are: abandoning the Electoral College; Equal

Rights Amendment (ERA) and equal rights for all; health care; immigration policies; gun control, etc. If you think we need to expand or restudy any of the positions, make a suggestion. Updated information from LWVUS, if any, will be provided to the discussion leaders at the December 7 briefing.

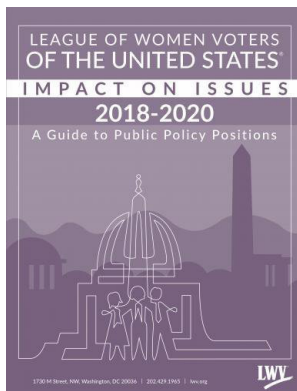
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

League of Women Voters® of the United States

Page numbers refer to *IMPACT ON ISSUES 2018-2020*;

for complete wording, go to

<http://lwv.org/content/impact-issues>



REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive (page 10).

Voting Rights

- **Citizen's Right to Vote.** Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote (page 13).
- **DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation.** Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress (page 19).

Election Process

- **Apportionment.** Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population (page 20).
- **Redistricting** - Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation. (page 21)
- **Money in Politics** - Campaign finance regulation should enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative

democracy from distortion by big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. The League believes that campaign spending must be restricted but not banned. The League supports public financing, full disclosure, abolishing SuperPACs and creating an effective enforcement agency (page 23).

- **Selection of the President.** Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates (page 28).

➤ *Citizen Rights*

- **Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation.** Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making (page 29).
- **Individual Liberties.** Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights (page 31).
- **Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals and Constitutional Conventions**
 - ***Amendment Proposals.** Consider whether a proposal addresses matters of abiding importance, makes our political system more democratic, protects individual rights, could be achieved by a constitutional amendment or legislative proposal, and is consistent with other League positions.- (page 32).
 - ***Constitutional Conventions** - Hold Constitutional Conventions only when certain conditions are in place, such as: limited to a specific topic, full transparency, delegates selected by population, and voting by delegates not by states. (page 32).
 - **Public Policy on Reproductive Choices.** Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices (page 33).

Congress and the Presidency

- **Congress.** Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance (page 35).
- **The Presidency.** Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution (page 36).

Privatization

Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when

considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector (page 37).

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations (page 39).

United Nations

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people (page 39).

Trade

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade, and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals (page 42).

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries.

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries (page 44).

Arms Control

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures (page 47).

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs (page 49).

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest (page 51).

Resource Management and Protection

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government (page 52).

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment (page 54).

- **Air Quality.** Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources (page 58).
- **Energy.** Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation, and encourage the use of renewable resources (page 59).

- **Land Use.** Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship (page 59).
- **Water Resources.** Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water and set up a process to evaluate inter-basin water transfers. (page 59).
- **Waste Management.** Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes (page 60).
- **Nuclear Issues.** Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment (page 61).
- **Climate Change.** The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and our planet. (page 63)

Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision-making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources (page 64).

Agriculture Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically-viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices, and increased reliance on the free market (page 65).

- **Federal Agriculture Policies.** Provide financial support to subsidize agriculture in specific instances, enforce federal antitrust laws to ensure competitive agricultural markets, and apply clean air and water regulations to all animal and aquaculture production. The federal government should fund basic agricultural research to provide adequate safety of our food supply (page 65).

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans (page 68).

Equality of Opportunity

- **Education, Employment and Housing.** Support equal access to education, employment, and housing (page 68).
- **Equal Rights.** Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA. (page 71)

Federal Role in Public Education.

Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12 (page 75).

Fiscal Policy

- **Tax Policy.** Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax (page 76).
- **Federal Deficit.** Promote responsible deficit policies (page 77).
- **Funding of Entitlements.** Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, and survivors, disability and health insurance (page 78).

Healthcare

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides affordable behavioral health that is integrated with and achieves parity with the physical health care system (page 78).

Immigration

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status (page 81).

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families (page 82).

- **Income Assistance.** Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter (page 83).
- **Support Services.** Provide essential support services (page 84).
- **Housing Supply.** Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family (page 85).

Child Care

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it (page 86).

Early Intervention for Children at Risk Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children (page 87).

Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in communities (page 87).

Gun Policy

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety (page 87).

Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life (page 88)

Death Penalty

The LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty (page 90).

Sentencing Policy

The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses (page 90).

Human Trafficking

Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking (page 90).

PRINCIPLES

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement, and well-defined channels for citizen input and review.

LWVFA: Although our Positions in Brief are listed, we recommend reviewing the full wording contained in *LWVFA Here We Stand* and considering if there are any issues not already covered by LWV-VA, LWNCA or LWVUS positions that are needed for **local advocacy**. Remember, local positions pertain to governmental policies of Fairfax County and Fairfax City **only**. <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/positions/>.

Some of LWVFA's positions may need updating or expanding as new **local** issues arise, but keep the following parameters in mind when giving feedback: Are there other level positions we can use? Is there widespread member interest? Is this a timely issue? Is

government action the most effective way to address the problem? Are there members willing to work on the issue? Following are LWVFA's positions in brief.

SUMMARY OF LWVFA POSITIONS League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

as Readopted April 21, 2018

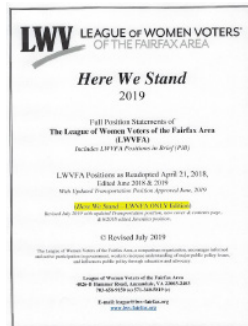
Edited June 2018 & 2019

For complete wording including updated Transportation Position approved June 2019, see *Here We Stand, Readopted April 2016* at: <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/positions/>

GOVERNMENT

Fairfax County & City of Fairfax (1987-1996)

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



Fiscal (1970s-2008)

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

Public Libraries (1984-2006)

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

Registration and Voting

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

Transportation (6/20/19)

Support for an effective, well-coordinated, safe, and adequately financed multimodal system of public transit and transportation infrastructure for Fairfax County / City. Additionally, this system should employ the most up-to-date, proven technology and be designed with input from and meets the needs of its residents and businesses. Transportation and land use planning should be transparent and coordinated to ensure that the system and its components are cost-effective, consistent with environmental, land use, social and economic goals. This will provide efficient and seamless mobility across all modes of transportation throughout the region. (2019)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Environmental Quality (E.Q)

Support for measures to protect the public and the environment and to encourage alternative methods of disposal of solid and hazardous wastes; support for a comprehensive hazardous materials program.

➤ **Solid Waste (1980-1990)**

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

➤ **Hazardous Materials (1985-1994)**

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

➤ **Sensitive Areas (1988-1994)**

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

➤ **Air Quality (1992)**

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

occupancy vehicles to those favoring efficient transportation modes.

Climate Change (2009)

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

Land Use Planning (1984-2000)

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

Water (1990s)

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

SOCIAL POLICY

Health Care (1984-1988)

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

Human Services (1976-1990)

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

Judicial System (2000)

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

given a clear assignment of responsibility and adequate financing; require proper planning and coordination between related agencies; and encourage the active and informed participation of citizens.

Juvenile Problems (1994)

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

Schools (2007-2008, 2010)

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

Discussion Questions

Members are asked to review the positions of LWVUS and LWVFA and decide for each:

- 1) Where there any questions or issues with the full positions that were published in the Nov. 2019 VOTER?
- 2) Are there any **new issues** that should be studied? Why? Prioritize new issue(s) to study.
- 3) Do any of the current positions need **updating** (restudy)? Explain why and prioritize position(s) needing restudy.
- 4) Are there any positions on issues that should have **Priority for action?** Why is action needed and prioritize items in order of importance.
- 5) Are there positions that **should be abandoned** (deleted) because they no longer apply or have been accomplished? If so, explain why.
- 6) **Who is willing to work** on the issue/position? (Names and contact information should be included)

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.

Fall 2019 was our busiest season! 13 Candidate Forums. 16 Voter Registration & Education events reaching more than 1,400 people. Get Out The Vote postcard campaign to over 500 registered voters. Teams of Leaguers at five different metro stations reminding people to vote. Plus our High School Voter Registration Challenge. Whew!

At nearly 40%, turnout was unusually high across Virginia for this year of State and county elections. Virginia voter turnout for the last two presidential elections was in the low 70%. The years immediately prior to the presidential election were always the lowest turnout in the high 20%. Our goal was to raise that rate in this year's election, and we succeeded.

Learn about our Voter Registration & Education Activities and our first ever Get Out The Vote post card campaign in the articles below. We will feature the High School Voter Registration Challenge (led by Beth Tudan) as well as the 2019 Candidate Forums (led by Cathy Gruber) in next month's Voter.

LWVFA Engages in Voter Registration and Voter Education

By Bob Meredith, Voter Registration Coordinator

We reached more than 1,400 people! Voter Registration & Education events this year varied greatly and while many were at locations used in prior years, there were many new venues as well. All of our Units received voter registration bags at Kick Off, so that they will be equipped for events of their own. Many Units focus on Get Out The Vote events at Metro stations or other venues in their neighborhoods.

Outdoor events ranged from a modest neighborhood event celebration National Night Out in Chantilly to large festivals involving thousands such as Celebrate Fairfax, Taste of Annandale and the Reston Multi-Cultural Festival. Others were inside – the Penny Post paper goods store in Alexandria, a Starbucks in Burke Centre, the Reston YMCA, and at the Schlesinger Auditorium for an Alexandria Symphony concert.

Most reached out to the general public while others focused on specific groups, e.g., the American-Turkish Friendship Association, the Bailey Community Center, the Fairfax Venture into Volunteering Fair, the Dar Al-Hijrah Mosque, the Chinese residents of the Fellowship Square Foundation houses in Reston, the Cornerstones agency, and the Korean advocacy group, NAKASEC.

We had a great impetus to reach out to these ethnic groups because of the Greater Washington Community Foundation grant that the Northern Virginia local Leagues received this year. We were able to print Vote 411 cards in Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Arabic and Chinese for use across our region. The cards are not dated and can be used for several years ahead. The grant also provided funding for two printings of the disability information cards that Sherri Gillam described in last month's Voter.

Grant funding covered the first printing of our new election cycle leaflet: What officials are we voting for this year in State and county elections? This is the first of four election cycle leaflets that we plan to produce, one for each year of the election cycle. We are working on the one for the federal year of 2020. The leaflets describe the qualifications and responsibilities of our elected officials in plain language. The second printing was funded by a generous member.

In addition to voter registration, the focus is on voter education. We still provide our annual education materials such as What's on the Ballot and Facts for Voters. Look for the 2020 editions of these next year.

Voter Registration tables were an integral part of nearly all of the 13 Candidate Forums. Tables were set up and staffed inside or just outside most meeting rooms and What's on the Ballot and Facts for Voters were placed on each chair.

We are grateful, as always, to the many League volunteers who take time to distribute these materials. Members of the public always thank us.

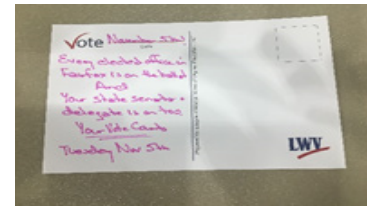
Postcarding Project

By Cindy Kalkwarf, Voter Services Chair

Postcarding is a new and powerful 2019 Get Out The Vote initiative. We sent out close to 600 postcards to voters who typically only vote in Presidential elections. The key messages we wanted to communicate were that every elected office in Fairfax as well as State senators and delegates were on the ballot, and how one single vote can and does make a difference.



Each Unit spent a few minutes in their September and October Unit Meetings and outside of meetings writing these post cards. So a big thank you goes to all of you for all of your writing, addressing, stamping, and mailing of the postcards. Also, a special thank you to Janis Linkov-Johnson, who raised her hand to be the coordinator of our first



ever postcarding campaign.

This first campaign broke new ground, paving the way for next time. Janis researched effective post card campaigns, and tailored our approach accordingly. We obtained a list of over 7,000 registered voters in the diverse Mount Vernon area, including their addresses, and voting records. Janis worked with the data to identify voters who voted in the last presidential election, but not the year prior, and consolidated the addresses by household. She then distributed the names and addresses among the units, tracked each unit's progress and reported the results to the Board. Thank you again, Janis, for leading this important project.

Your Vote Counts!

Domestic Violence Prevention in Fairfax: DV Network Holds Annual Meeting

By Adarsh Trehan

The Domestic Violence (DV) Network for Fairfax County held its annual meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, at the Fairfax County Government Center. The purposes of the meeting were: announcing updates for 2019; awarding its 2019 DV Community Awards; and providing opportunities for networking and information sharing. The DV Network is a valued network across the continuum of services, including advocacy; offender services; service to underserved populations; and legal assistance. Committees have reorganized and two short-term work groups will focus on special concerns regarding advocacy and the establishment of an online resource database.

The meeting began with a montage of video shorts submitted by Network members on the 2019 theme, "Be the One, Play a Part." A quick overview of the Network was presented by Raven Dickerson from Shelter House and Nora Mahoney from the Legal Services of Northern Virginia,

reported on the proposed bylaws for the Domestic Violence Prevention, Policy, and Coordinating Council. This Council, subject to Board of Supervisors' approval, would be renamed the Council to End Domestic Violence. The 49-member Council is comprised of elected officials; leaders of county public safety, public schools, judiciary, and human service agencies; and community members representing the faith community, non-profit organizations, and local universities. The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is one of eight Standing Community Members and is a Standing Member with an unlimited term, with a principal representative (and alternate) who serves at the direction of that Member. The proposed bylaws offer a more structured, balanced approach to its operation than was the case under its current structure.

Shirley Clark, Director, The Women's Center, provided a community perspective on domestic violence in Fairfax County. Captain Thea Pirnat and Jessica Greis-Edwardson offered a report on behalf of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. The ages of the 25 intimate partner victims killed during a year ranged from age 13 to 66 years. Angela Yeboah and Vanessa Cullers offered a report on behalf of the Domestic Violence Action Center. Its efforts include the provision of counseling, advocacy, court accompaniment, and housing affordability assistance.

Jim Ferguson, also from the Legal Services of Northern Virginia, and Mattie Palmore, a long-time domestic violence survivor and advocate, offered additional thoughts and encouragement from a community perspective. Mattie spoke briefly about her escape from domestic violence thirty-eight years earlier. She also told the audience of her current “office” in the Walmart in the Mount Vernon District, and as she has been asked to speak to Walmart employees on domestic violence.

Brittany Vera and Michele Thames spoke about the StepUp4Kids program and its work through Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Services - Safe Haven. They announced that they received a \$500,000 grant payable over three years, through which they may offer additional intervention services, training, and technical assistance. (Additional statistics and facts about the DV

Network, DVPPCC and DVFRT are posted at <http://www.fairfaxdvcommunity.org/>.)

The DV Network also announced its DV Community Awards. Kristen Sanders from Mason District Station presented the Service Provider Award to Detective Amanda Paris of Mason District. Jyoti Ramesh presented the Community Partner Award to Bina Patel, a volunteer with ASHA for Women. Raven Dickerson presented the Team Award to the Artemis House DV and Supportive Housing Units. Mary Hill presented the DV Community Vanguard Award to Forensic Nurse Diane Burkart, who had served 20 of her 30 years as a forensic nurse examiner. She said that 60 of the 397 patients (15.1 percent) that she has examined since January 2016 were domestic violence victims. Retiring Supervisor John Cook, Braddock District, received the DV Community Vanguard Award.

LWVFA Membership Report

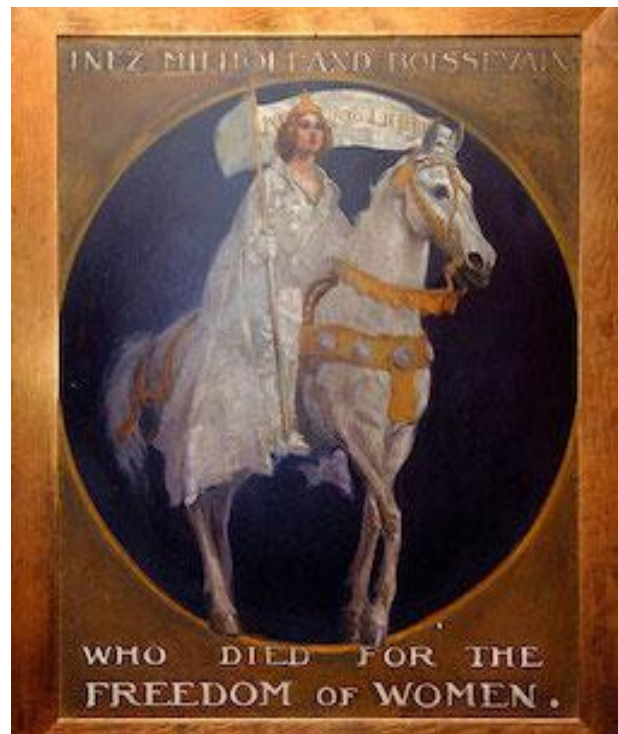
Members who have not already renewed for 2019-2020 should do so as soon as possible. In January 2020 we must delete from the national database anyone who has not renewed in order to avoid paying membership fees to LWVUS for inactive Leaguers.

The Fairfax League web site is the starting point for either electronic or paper renewals at www.lwv-fairfax.org/join. Members may renew online via PayPal OR they may download and print the membership form and send it with a check to the LWVFA office on Hummer Road. Members who pay electronically have the option of automatic online renewal, which is a convenient way to continue membership from year to year.

As of November 4th, we have 463 members. Since early October we welcomed the following new members and reinstatements:

Debra Butler
 Sarah Carmany
 John Dorney (r)
 A. Anne Johnson (h)
 Joan Lowy
 Heather Schulke (s)
 Brian Tumulty
 Susanne Walsh (h)

(r)=reinstated member; (h)=household; (s)=student



A special note of thanks to long-time editors of the Voter, Liz Brooke and Ron Page, for their many years of service, and for being so generous in passing along their wisdom and tips!

Environmental Update – Communicating Climate Change

By Elizabeth Lonoff

Perhaps in September you watched environmental activist Greta Thunberg, 16, stirringly accuse world leaders of inaction and half-measures. Or perhaps you read about the special October UN report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty. Or about Goldman Sachs’ recent report predicting climate change will drive the “largest infrastructure build-out in history” as cities try to mitigate the impact of rising sea levels amid stronger storms and heat waves.

Now, you wonder how to talk about climate change. First, more people than you might realize support taking action to mitigate climate change. According to a September, 2018 American Climate Metrics Survey led by ecoAmerica, most Americans are concerned about climate change. A smaller majority thinks those around them share that concern, making them reluctant to talk about this issue. Only half feel comfortable enough to discuss climate solutions even with friends and family.

While 83% of participants agree that clean air is a right, only 25% recognize the connection between climate change and human health. Ninety percent want both political parties to work together to address climate change, focusing on solutions and benefits to health and the economy. Congressional proposals to reduce damage to our climate by developing technologies that remove carbon pollution from the air, to provide training for green jobs, and to speed up the transition to clean energy sources have broad support. Americans want to be for something, instead of being opposed to energy sources like oil, natural gas, and coal that create carbon pollution. They want to hear personal relevance - how climate change could impact them and how they’d benefit from solutions.

Second, climate change data is available. The nationally-recognized Paleontological Research Institute makes the science more accessible through the New York Climate Change Science Clearinghouse and resilientMA online portals. Its lauded 2017 book “The Teacher-Friendly Guide to Climate Change” addresses both the science of climate change and psychological, social, and political issues. The book is available for free through download-

ing, and a crowdfunding effort is underway to reach high school science teachers nationwide.

However, facts aren’t enough to change peoples’ minds according to NPR’s July 22nd episode of “Hidden Brain: The Psychology Of False Beliefs.” Even data based on very good science has to be communicated to tap into people’s needs and wants. Hope is a better motivator than fear, on average, for motivating action. Positive feedback will produce more action than warnings about bad things that can happen in the future.

A 2016 Hidden Brain episode about climate change described why the human mind tends to ignore problems - no matter how important - that are in the future, not absolutely certain to happen, come at a cost, and do not cause immediate harm. Confirmation bias is why facts fail to change strong views: when presented with a statement that challenge their views, people often ignore it.

People act when a situation is perceived as an emergency and identifiable action can be taken. Clear skies, clean water, and happy neighbors are messages that work. Again, “emotional connection is at the heart of what gets people to change.” Psychiatrist Lise Van Susteren advises describing the gravity of the problem using clear language and terms that are easily understood to get their attention and then identifying empowering actions to take to address it. She encourages creating a social norm to shrink your carbon footprint, letting your friends and neighbors know what good things you are doing.



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Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

Topic: Program Planning for 2020 - 2022

Members and visitors are encouraged to attend any meeting convenient for them, including the “At Large Meeting” and briefing on Saturdays when a briefing is listed. As of November 1, 2019, the locations were correct; please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend. Some meetings at restaurants may need reservations.

Saturday, December 7

10 a.m. At-Large Unit and Briefing

League Conference Room
Packard Center (inside Annandale Community Park) 4026 Hummer Road, Annandale, 22003
Contact: Julie, 703-476-8347

Monday, December 9

1:30 p.m. Greenspring(GSP)

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

Wednesday, December 11

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

Star Nut Café
1445 Laughlin Ave.
McLean, 22101
Contact: Susan, 703-893-2229 or Peggy, peggyknight49@gmail.com

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

Mt. Vernon Government Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria, 22306
Contact: Gail, 703-360-6561 or Diana, 703-704-5325

10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)

8739 Cuttermill Place
Springfield, 22153
Contact: Kathleen, 703-644-1555; Sherry, 703-730-8118; or Beverly, 703-451-4438

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

Hunter Mill District Community Room
North County Government Center
1801 Cameron Glen Drive
Reston, 20190
Contact Gail, gailvb12@yahoo.com

Thursday, December 12

9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)

11624 Sourwood Lane

Reston, 20191

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

9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)

4468 Edan Mae Court
Annandale, 22003-5702
Contact: Marge, 703-451-0589

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

Lunch at Food Court, Wegman's
14361 Newbrook Dr.
Chantilly, 20151
Contact: Susan, 703-391-0666

1 p.m. Oakton/Vienna (OV)

Oakton Regional Library
10304 Lynnhaven Place
Oakton, 22124
Contact: Mary, 703-319-2185

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

Paul Spring Retirement Community Mt. Vernon Room
7116 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, 22307
Contact: Jane, 703-960-6820 or Susan, 703-587-4790

January Meetings:

Read a Book About Suffragists!



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®
 December 2019**

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.

LWVFA MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Dues year is July 1 – June 30

Membership Dues: Individual \$65 _____ Household \$90 (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 _____