



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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### STATE BOARD LETTER

Mid-June 2018

#### LWVMD Calendar

##### June

26 – Primary Election Day

28 – Make Every Vote Count Campaign Kick-Off Event (see page 9)

28 – [LWVUS Convention Begins](#)

##### July

6 – Primary Election Certified

9 – Voter Registration Reopens

15 – Bad Gerry's B-Day Bash (see pages 10-11)

23 – LWVMD Board Retreat, First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ellicott City

Planning your local league calendar? Click [here](#) to see the whole calendar.

### Presidents' Message



The mission of Your LWV is “**Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**” If you were not aware that the LWV is now engaged in self-examination and planning for our next 100 years of involvement and service, reach out to your local leadership. The planning documents are NOT public

information so you won't find them published on a website, but they have been shared electronically down to the local LWV president level. Members who attended our Council gathering on June 9th in Harford County learned more about LWVUS plans from a member of the national Board who is from Virginia, Amy Hjerstedt.

So, if you are planning a trip with the help of AAA you know you will get several levels of travel assistance. You get the 30,000 foot view and then you get close-ups of some of the more complicated intersections. Plus you may get an itinerary. The LWV [Transformation Roadmap](#) is not an itinerary. At this point we have the big picture and we have sent parties out to explore some of the intersections. Having

the overall view is important - that's our shared mission.

Some things envisioned by the Roadmap will not change: (1) Our mission is firm; as is our determination to do civic engagement with a (2) non-partisan approach and (3) we will remain a membership organization. But we have realized that some things will have to change. LWVs that have seen recent growth can attest that membership needs to more closely mirror our communities. Diversity is the key to the League as it is key to democracy! Our efforts to make League more inclusive need to recognize that there are multiple ways to be engaged in League work - while some members excel at research in support of studies, others may have a heart for advocacy and that can be OK!

And finally, LWV will be strengthening our internal networks. Work is afoot to pick a national database in which LWVs at all levels can collaborate. We are

experimenting with ways we can administer LWV work more efficiently. Some LWVs will be exploring ways a "Join at all levels" button can eliminate the need to enter membership information multiple times. Other State Leagues are testing ways of forming new LWV chapters using a streamlined procedure, first announced at LWVUS Council in 2016.

So what is your local LWV doing? Where are you on the roadmap? Your Maryland board took on the cost of one unified approach to membership management and web design by choosing NationBuilder. We took on the cost burden of purchasing event liability insurance and stopped billing local LWVs! What is next? Please stay tuned and stay involved!

*Richard Willson,*  
LWVMD Co-President  
[pres@lwvmd.org](mailto:pres@lwvmd.org)

## Notes from State Council



The LWV State Council went off on June 9, 2018, without a hitch. Harford County Executive Barry Glassman opened to program with a brief talk about LWV and Harford County. Amy Hjerstedt gave [a presentation on the Transformation Road Map](#) which focused on who LWV is and what our main concerns should be. The council then broke into small "work groups" to discuss the presentation and the reactions of the individual members and local LWVs. When discussing the things we either approved of or found concerning, notes were made to the 2018-2019 State Board which will be discussed out the Board Retreat in July.

Meg Heubeck, a professor of Civic Education from the University of Virginia, then spoke on the importance and utilization of Civic Education while Council attendees enjoyed their lunch. [Ms.](#)

[Huebeck](#) hopes to bring back a spirit of discourse, debate, and compromise that seems to be missing in today's culture. She believes that can be accomplished through civic education and working with students.



Many interesting reports were presented to the group on Consensus Studies and plans for the LWVMD in the future. There is at least one study group who hopes to be ready to vote on their issue at next year's Conference (June 7 – 9, 2019) so be ready to put together a consensus meeting in your local League this winter.

Beyond our successful workshops and discussions, several new items for fundraising purposes were unveiled to the group. Many of our honored guests – including all of our *Report from State Circle* contributors – received the stylish LWV Maryland flag pins as a thanks for their hard work over this legislative season. Many of our new items were very popular and we hope to see large sales at the upcoming National Convention in Chicago. Be sure to check out [our wares page](#) on the website to see for yourself. Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Council such a fruitful day. We would like to thank all those who participated in this rewarding event.



*Theresa Freligh*  
LWVMD Secretary  
[secretary@lwvmd.com](mailto:secretary@lwvmd.com)

## True Grit Success on the Eastern Shore

The LWVMD teamed up with the League of Women Voters of Prince George's County to host a Spring Fundraiser over to the Eastern Shore, the highlight of which was a stop at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center where we were greeted personally by one of the park rangers. Exhibits at the Center feature information about Tubman's childhood and young adulthood, living and laboring under slavery in Dorchester and Caroline Counties. The center immerses visitors in the secret networks of the Underground Railroad and Tubman's own daring rescue missions. Exhibits also feature Tubman's actions during the Civil War, and her later years as a suffragist, civil rights worker, and humanitarian.



On the way we stopped to tour Bucktown Village Store, where a young Harriet Tubman willfully defied a slave captor for the first time, and where she received a fateful blow to her head which troubled her throughout her life. Other stops included Brodess Farm, where Tubman spent her early years; and the Dorchester County Courthouse, a historical auctioning block for slave trading.



tour with a look at the houses of sharp-shooter Annie Oakley, WWII veteran and actress Bea

Lunch provided the perfect opportunity to get to know each other better. We had a wonderful chat over great food and a beautiful view of the historic Cambridge Drawbridge in action. We rounded out our



Arthur, and civil rights leader Gloria Richardson. It was a full day, but we left enough time to enjoy the quaint streets of historic downtown Cambridge.

Keep an eye out for details on the next trip to beautiful Harford County. Would you like to learn about the man who shot Lincoln or the man who brought fox hunting to Harford County? How about some famous women who stood up to the British? Then join us on our tour of Harford County. We will be visiting Ledew Gardens, Tudor Hall and Havre de Grace. Details coming soon!

*Liz Demulling*  
LWVMD Director  
[edemulling@lwvmd.org](mailto:edemulling@lwvmd.org)

## Transformation Journey

Recognizing the changing external environment -both in the nature of volunteerism and the growing number of competing organizations in the democracy space- the League of Women Voters of the United States, with input from state and local Leagues around the country, has been working over the past several years to ensure that the League enters its second century strong, visible, and relevant. We've been referring to this as our "transformation journey."

As the next step in that journey, LWVUS has published a "Transformation Roadmap" that includes specific action steps to be implemented. It is a synthesis of many threads of work, including input from Leagues across the country, interviews with internal and external stakeholders, review of the larger non-profit environment and the professional expertise of consulting firms. The action steps will help us achieve the vision of a network of vibrant Leagues that are powerfully communicating our story consistently at all levels; engaging and

welcoming new members, supporters, and volunteers; embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion; and has the resources necessary to support our core work and have a meaningful impact for the next century and beyond. In short, it is a way forward to ensure the successful future of the League.

The Roadmap, which is some 41 pages long, is an important analysis and resource for the entire organization. With that said, it presents some hard truths and does require all of us to embrace some amount of change. At times, change might feel uncomfortable, but it is important to remember that all levels of the organization are partners with the same goal. We all have a deep love of and loyalty to the League and wish to see it succeed for another 100 years.

[Click to read an executive summary](#) of the Roadmap – how it evolved, analysis of the work done, and next steps. We hope that the summary will give you a flavor of the exciting opportunities that lie ahead and how we will take advantage of them together. The full document is available by emailing [membership@lww.org](mailto:membership@lww.org)

## LWVMD's Online Voter's Guide Is Live for Maryland's 6/26 Primaries!

The online *Voters' Guide* from the League of Women Voters (LWVMD) is now available at [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org). Candidates for every office in every county in Maryland were asked to respond to questions relating to the duties of the office they are seeking and also to list their websites and social media pages. More than 1,500 candidates responded to LWVMD's questions.

The VOTE411 website allows voters to type in their addresses and then displays the candidates who will appear on the ballot in their precinct. VOTE411 also lists [LWVMD-sponsored candidate forums](#) throughout Maryland. From VOTE411, the voter can access the Maryland State Board of Elections website to request an absentee ballot or update their voter registration information, either to change party affiliation or provide a new address.

Many local LWVs are publishing *Voters' Guides* for their counties, which are available in libraries and other locations. [Printable pdf files](#) of each Voters' Guide will be available on the website for the League of Women Voters of Maryland at [www.lwvmd.org](http://www.lwvmd.org) as well as local League websites.

For additional information, contact Ralph Watkins at [rwatkins@lwvmd.org](mailto:rwatkins@lwvmd.org) or (301) 892-6529.



### Sharables for Social

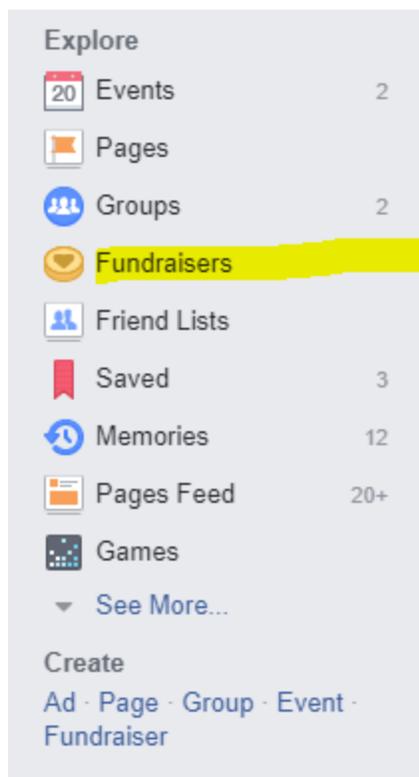
A BIG THANK YOU goes out to LWNCA for sharing fun graphics like this for social media with member Leagues! LWVMD has compiled these graphics and some others created by LWVMD into a shared folder and passed them on to Local LWVs – and we are seeing the impact in the form of increased followers, shares, and people who visit Vote411.org for candidate information!

If you or someone in your League still needs access to share these images, just [click here now!](#) We'll continue update throughout the 2018 Election Cycle.

## You Can Now Use Facebook to help LWVMD Fundraise!



Have you ever seen a friend of yours request you donate to a nonprofit for their birthday? Now, LWVMD can be one of the options people have to request gift donations for their birthday OR for any reason!



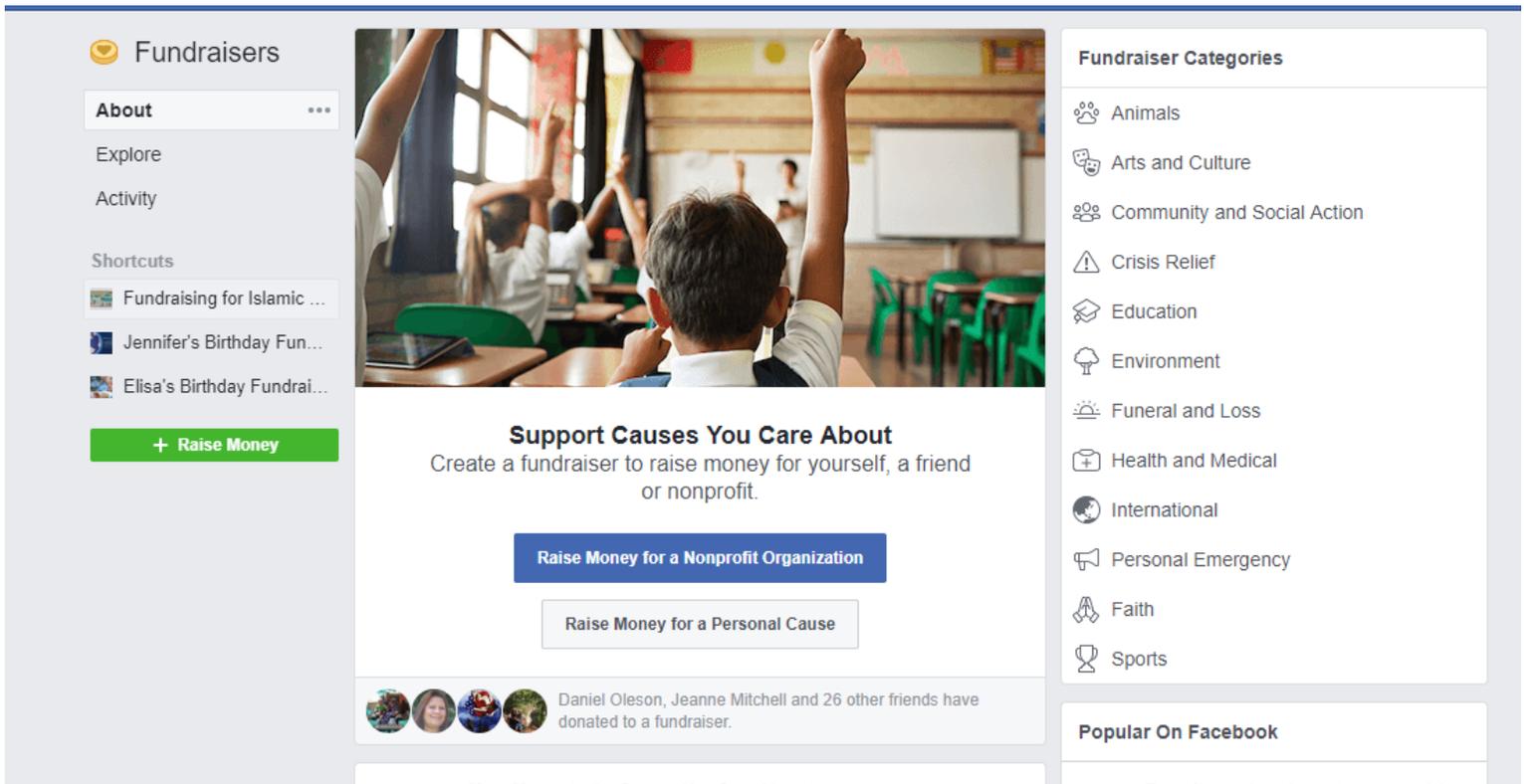
### **Here is How:**

*You can also learn how online here -*

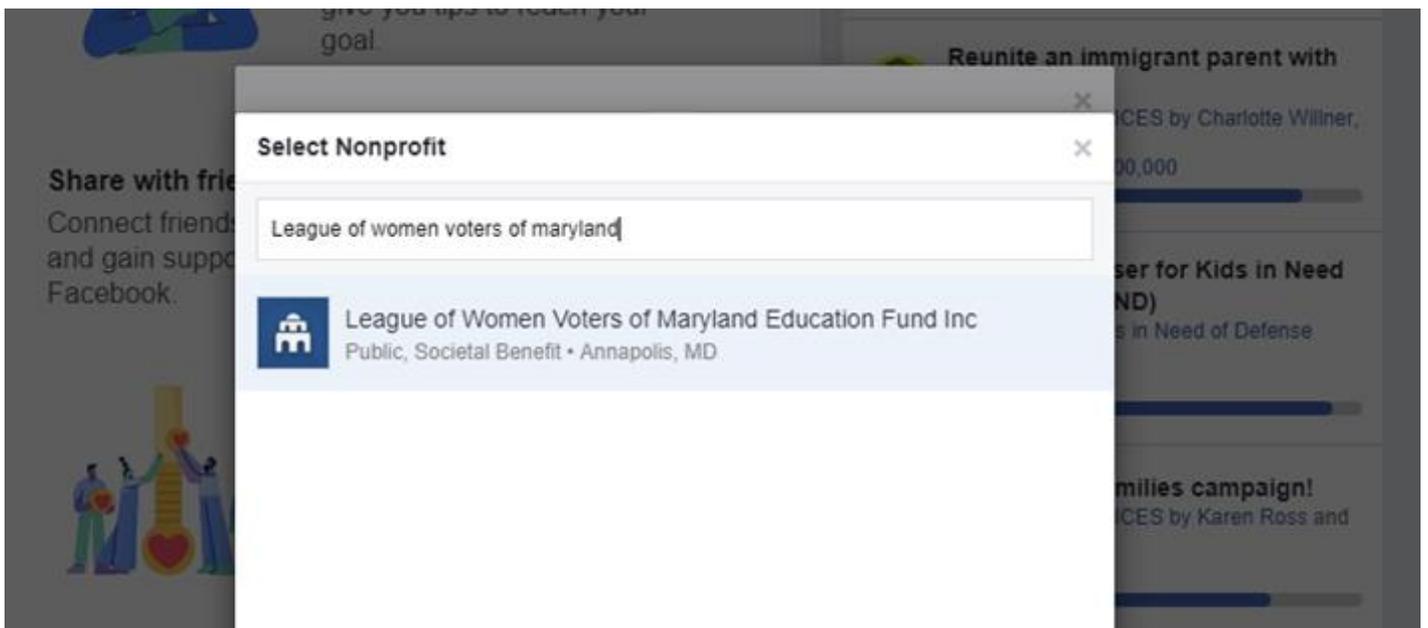
<https://www.facebook.com/help/990087377765844>

Find the “Fundraiser” option on the list of items under the “Explore” header to the left of your News Feed.

*See “Fundraisers” highlighted here.*



You'll then arrive at this page & you can then just click the Green "Raise Money" or the blue "Raise Money for a Nonprofit Organization" button to get started supporting LWVMD! To find us just type in "**League of Women Voters of Maryland**" and this will pop-up:



And Facebook will then direct you through the rest of the steps – and that's all. It's that ease to start fundraising for Voter Education! We appreciate your support!

# REDISTRICTING



THE CLOCK IS TICKING...

3 YEARS = NEW DISTRICT MAPS

21 MONTHS = U.S. CENSUS

131 DAYS = STATEWIDE ELECTION

NOW = TIME TO ACT!

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JUNE 28TH

2018

WINE & CHEESE  
VIEWING PARTY

7 PM - 9 PM

**Kick - Off Event**

Made possible by a grant from the LWV Education Fund



In less than 5 months we'll elect the officials who'll determine Maryland's districts following the 2020 census. The time to rally citizens is NOW! The LWVMD Education Fund has won a short-term grant to do just that, under the direction of Ashley Oleson. Join us on June 28 to celebrate, strategize and receive "action packets." We'll also hear legal experts discuss the recent SCOTUS gerrymandering cases, live from LWVUS Convention in Chicago.

## JOIN US

317 Eatons Landing Drive

Annapolis, MD 21401

Graciously hosted by:

LWVAAC Members, Niecy & Jim Chambers

## MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT

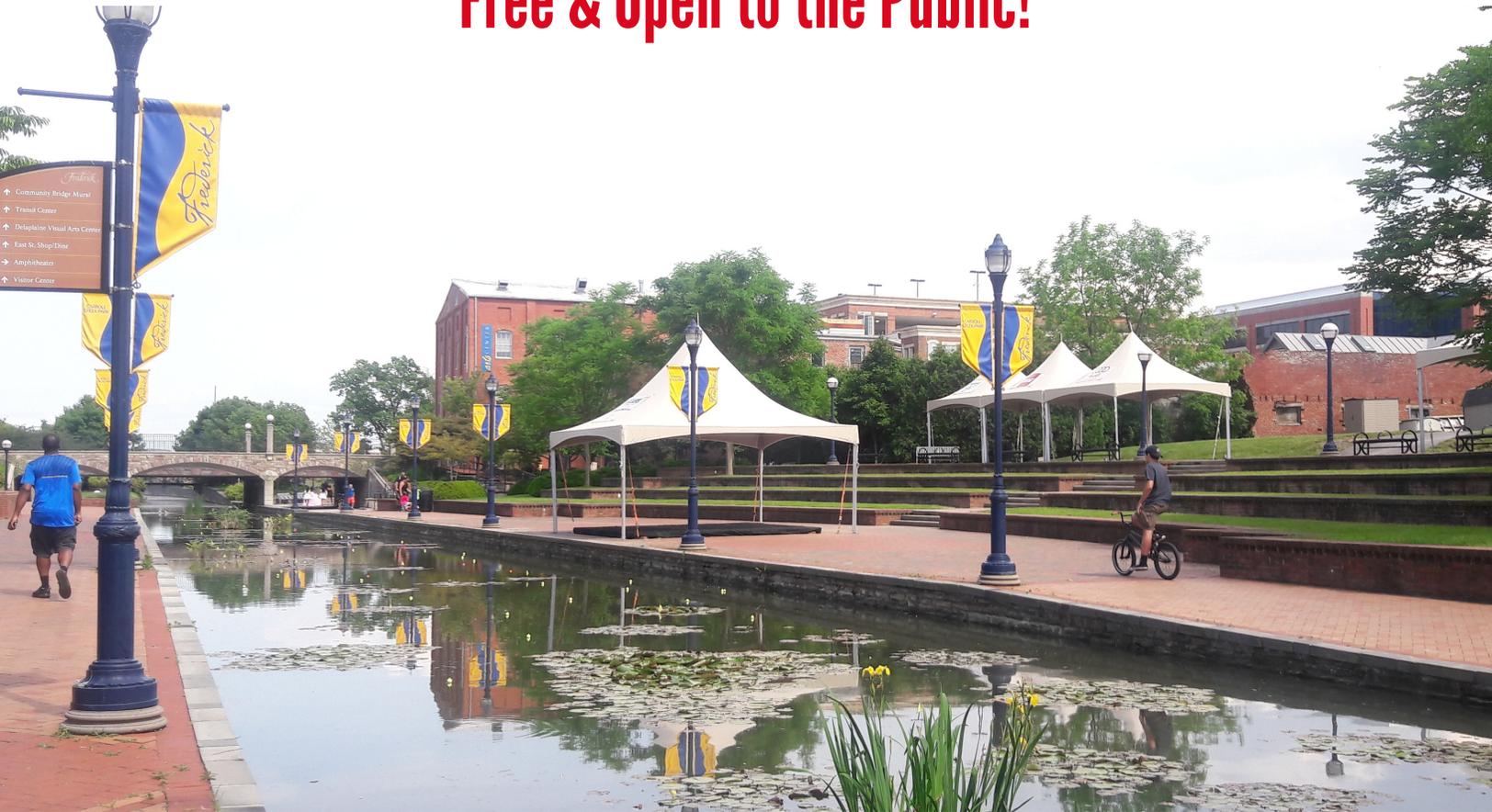
Please RSVP for this FREE event here: [https://www.lwvmd.org/make\\_every\\_vote\\_count\\_kick\\_off](https://www.lwvmd.org/make_every_vote_count_kick_off)

We look forward to seeing you there.

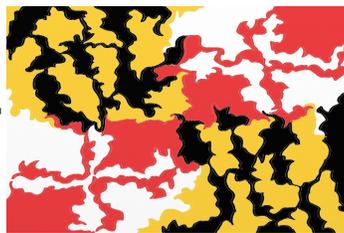
# BAD GERRY'S B-DAY BASH

## A "Faire" Maps Event

Free & Open to the Public!



**HOSTED BY:**  
The Tame the Gerrymander  
Coalition



No More Gerrymandering in MD  
[GERRYMANDERED.ORG](http://GERRYMANDERED.ORG)

**Represent Maryland**  
End Corruption. Save our Republic.

**JULY 15TH, 2018**

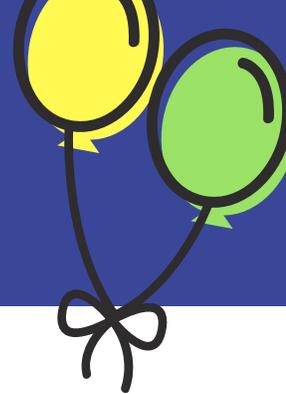
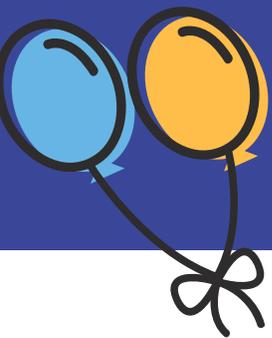
Carroll Creek  
Amphitheater,  
Frederick, MD

**2:00 - 4:00 PM**

See You There!

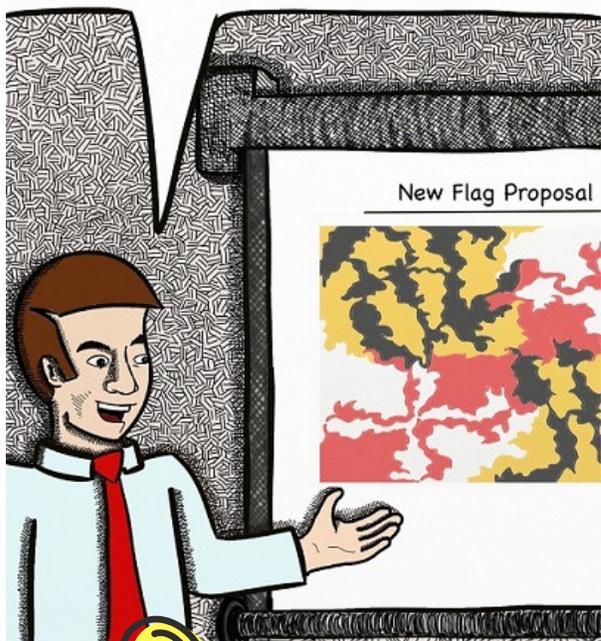
See Back for More Details

Donate to Tame the Gerrymander at [lwvmd.org/bad\\_gerry\\_s\\_b\\_day\\_bash\\_donate](http://lwvmd.org/bad_gerry_s_b_day_bash_donate)



Politicians have been playing games with our democracy for far too long! Elbridge Gerry - the original district distortionist - would be 274 this July! It's time that we the PEOPLE take control of the game, and show them how it should be played. Politicians in Maryland have been bending the rules of redistricting in their favor long enough - it's time for them to use a rulebook that ensures Fair Maps for all Maryland citizens!

I mean, who cares  
how the lines  
are drawn...right?



Join Tame the Gerrymander for Elbridge Gerry's birthday celebration on Sunday, July 15th and learn more about how gerrymandering hurts the integrity of our elections, diminishes the voice of the people, and how we are going to take the board back from self-interested partisan players in the political world.

But that's not all - a birthday does call for a celebration - so we'll have our own games to play, cake to share, and merriment to make. So join us for a lovely afternoon in the heart of Downtown Frederick on Carroll Creek. Hang out and learn to how to Tame a Gerrymander in Maryland's 6th - the district that brought Maryland's district debacle to the Supreme Court!

