STATE BOARD LETTER
Mid-September 2018
LWVMD Calendar

September
13-10/23 – Gerrymandering for Beginners – (7 dates – See page 10)
17 – Constitution Day Program at the UMD Carey School of Law in Baltimore: *The Changing Makeup of the Supreme Court*, from 12 to 2pm. (See page 5)
15 – Book Talk and Social with Elaine Weiss: *The Women’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, at Church of the Redeemer in Baltimore from 11am to 1pm. (See pages 6-7)
17 – Vote411.org Goes Live
25 – National Voter Registration Day
26 – Deadline for Local League Legislative Priorities (See page 4)
29 – Fall Workshop at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, 10am to 2pm. (See page 8)

October
1 – LWVMD Board Meeting, First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, 10am
16 – Voter Registration Closes
17 – Harford County Discovery Tour (See page 9)

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

Presidents’ Message

The League of Women Voters of Maryland would like to extend a big congratulations to the newly recognized At-Large Carroll County League. We are excited to see this group grow and develop.

We now find ourselves in the midst of another election season. As with most organizations, the League of Women Voters has a membership that consists of three main groups: the core of leaders who keep the organization functioning, members who attend events and serve on committees, and our fabulous supporters who faithfully maintain their membership annually or contribute on a regular basis, because they believe in the League and what we are doing. Each group contributes to the essential work the LWV performs.
LWV has set our priority for the next two years on *Making Democracy Work*. This is the foundation of the League: informing voters on elections, candidates, and issues. Loyally non-partisan, the LWV never supports or opposes a candidate. For those who have been historically more passive, I would ask you to consider spending anywhere from a few minutes to a few hours in the coming weeks to actively help Make Democracy Work.

It can be as simple as encouraging your friends neighbors and relatives to read the non-partisan information found in our Voters' Guides and on [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org). Or you might consider some of these other options:

- Staff a voter registration event
- Help distribute Voters' Guides
- Carry Vote411.org cards to hand out to friends and neighbors
- Share information about LWV Candidate Forums in your area
- Help someone obtain and fill out an absentee ballot form
- Inform friends and neighbors about the option of early voting
- Help get voters to the polls

It doesn't take much to go from being passive to active. Many find it rewarding while helping the LWV *Make Democracy Work* in this election cycle.

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

---

**Notes from the Board**

Your State Board is planning a fantastic Fall Workshop with a great keynote speaker. There are also three excellent topics to cover, of which you’ll be able to attend two. If you want to prepare for upcoming consensus meetings, become a strong advocate, or learn more about the Ballot Questions you’ll be voting on in November, then be sure to register early as seating is limited.

Carolyn has planned an all-day bus trip fundraiser through Harford County. The trip benefits both the LWVMD and the LWV of Harford County. Come out and enjoy beautiful Harford County while learning more about Maryland history.

Carolyn has also been instrumental in setting up a NEW At Large Unit in Carroll County. Kudos to all involved. Andrea has planned another timely and educational Constitution Day program focusing on the Supreme Court. Ralph has been working to get everything ready for the new VOTE411 Voter's Guide. Be sure to continue registering voters and handing out [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) cards. You can also get a VOTE411 bumper sticker on our [Merchandise page](http://Merchandise-page). I know all of you have been busy with the upcoming elections but remember, your State Board is here to help. Thanks for all you do.

*Theresa Freligh*
LWVMD Secretary
[secretary@lwvmd.com](mailto:secretary@lwvmd.com)
LWVMD Adopts Positions on 2018 Ballot Initiatives

Question 1:

At its September 6 meeting the LWVMD Board voted to take a position in favor of a ‘Yes’ vote on ballot Question 1. The proposed Constitutional amendment would specify that revenue from gambling would be used to supplement rather than supplant other state funding for public education. The amendment phases in specified amounts from gambling revenues that the Governor would be required to include in the state budget for public education (increasing from $125 million in fiscal year 2020 to $375 million in 2022, and an amount equal to 100% of commercial gaming revenue in all following years.

LWVMD has conflicting positions that relate to such an amendment. On the one hand, our education financing position recognizes that “the primary responsibility for funding public elementary and secondary education lies with the state” and supports a “foundation program based on a weighted per pupil formula supported from general state revenues at a level high enough to eliminate inequities.” Essentially, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (the Kirwan Commission) is working to recommend such policies and funding formulas—and additional money will be needed. On the other hand, the League supports a “constitution that is clear, concise and confined to fundamentals” and prefers flexibility in tax policy. Weighing these positions, the board voted to urge a Yes vote on Question 1 to show support for increased state funding for public pre-K-12 education.

Lois Hybl
LWVMD 2nd Vice President
VP2@lwvmd.org

Question 2:

At the same meeting, the LWVMD Board also voted to urge a Yes vote on Question 2 so that the legislature could enact a law permitting qualified citizens to register and vote at a precinct polling place on Election Day. The League has long supported the removal of barriers that may prevent citizens from exercising their fundamental right to vote. If this amendment is adopted, it is expected that the legislature will enact procedures similar to those now used for same-day registration during Early Voting to verify a voter’s eligibility using data from a driver’s license or state-issued identification and this would protect the integrity of the registration process.

Ralph Watkins
LWVMD 3rd Vice President
VP3@lwvmd.org
**Legislative Priorities**

Reminder: Local League Legislative Priorities are due by September 26th.

Many thanks to the local Leagues who have submitted their state legislative priorities. This is just a reminder that they are due **September 26** so that we are prepared to discuss them at our October LWVMD board meeting. The [August State Board Letter](#) contained suggestions for guiding your discussion. The suggestions so far have mostly fit under last year’s priorities. An RSC reporter recommended that we support public financing for candidates for the General Assembly and possible tweaking of the law requiring more transparency about who is purchasing online ads. So far one League has recommended that ranked choice voting and open primaries be priorities. Another wants to add Access to Health Care: adequate support for substance abuse treatment. We look forward to hearing what your League’s priorities are.

*Lois Hybl*  
LWVMD 2nd Vice President  
VP2@lwvmd.org

---

**Report from State Circle Vacancies**

I am pleased to report that most of our reporters have agreed to continue writing for *Report from State Circle* (RSC). However, we have vacancies on the subjects of **Election Process**, **Government Transparency**, and **Gun Control**. Election Process and Transparency are particularly important to our **Making Democracy Work** priority.

The role requires scanning the list of bills introduced on the General Assembly website frequently - sometimes daily if you have a hot topic and want to alert LWVMD membership to act fast – and summarizing those in your subject area for the public to track and easily understand. As a reporter, you will also work to alert LWVMD leadership to bills they may want to take action on if it aligns with, or diverges from LWVMD positions. If you’re available to go to Annapolis, you may even have the opportunity to personally testify in support or opposition of these bills.

![Report from State Circle](#)

If you have some expertise or interest in the areas of **Election Process**, **Government Transparency**, and **Gun Control**, or know good candidates, please contact [action@lwvmd.org](mailto:action@lwvmd.org).

We join the rest of the League in mourning the passing of Judith Heimann who so ably edited the RSC for many years. However, we are delighted that Ruth Crystal has agreed to be our new editor.

*Lois Hybl*  
LWVMD 2nd Vice President  
VP2@lwvmd.org
12th Annual LWVMD Constitution Day Program

“The Changing Makeup of the Supreme Court”

Monday, September 17, 2018 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
Ceremonial Court Room, University of Maryland Carey School of Law
500 W. Baltimore St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Panelists: Leslie Meltzer Henry, Professor of Law; Lee Kovarsky, Professor of Law; Robert Percival, Robert F. Stanton, Professor of Law and Director, Environmental Law Program

Reception in Atrium follows program’s Q&A. Program and reception are FREE, but parking at Baltimore Grande Garage opposite east side of law school is about $8 for 2 hours. Carpoools encouraged.

RSVP required by Sept. 14 to request seating, parking, and to volunteer. Send your name, local League, preferred phone and email to andreagruhl@aol.com
Leaguer volunteers needed: Greeters, Ushers, Publication display, Sign-in table, Reception helpers, Donors of cookies, brownies, party sandwiches.

Co-sponsored by League of Women Voters of Maryland, University of Maryland Carey School of Law, University of Maryland-Baltimore, University of Maryland-College Park, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, MLaw Programs.
Book Talk & Social with

Baltimore author Elaine Weiss

Saturday September 15, 2018

11 am – 1 pm

The nail-biting climax of one of the greatest political battles in American history; the fight to ratify the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting women the right to vote.

Church of the Redeemer • 5603 N. Charles St. 21210

Light Lunch & Book Signing to follow, $20.00


Print Next Page or call 410-377-7738
Reservation Form for Elaine Weiss:

*The Women’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*

Saturday, September 15, 2018 • 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Church of the Redeemer • 5603 N. Charles St. 21210
Light Lunch & Book Signing to follow

Name: ___________________________ League _________

Email: _______________________________ Phone# ________________

Address: _____________________________________________

City: __________________________ State: ______ Zip: ______

$20.00 regular____________________ $5.00 student________________

TOTAL____________________________________

Mail Check to:
LWV Baltimore City, 6600 York Road, Suite 211, Baltimore, MD 21212
For more information: 410-377-7738 • E-mail: lwvbaltimore@comcast.net

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND

FALL WORKSHOP
Saturday, September 29, 2018

First Evangelical Lutheran Church - 3604 Chatham Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

**Early Bird Registration** fee: $25 for members, $35 for non-members
*(includes morning coffee/light breakfast, lunch, materials)*

9:30 a.m. Registration and light breakfast

10:00 a.m. - Morning Workshop Sessions

Briefing on LWVMD Death with Dignity Study - Sandra Bjork and committee members

OR

You're Voting on More than Candidates – 2018 Ballot Question Overview – Ralph Watkins, Voter Service Chair

OR

LWVMD Action - the Who, What, When & How of State & Local Advocacy – Lois Hybl, Action Chair

11:00 a.m. – Repeat all Morning Workshops

12:00 p.m. Lunch

12:30 p.m. Keynote: *Perspectives on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)*

Adar Ayira, Senior Director, Strategy and Racial Equity for Associated Black Charities

--------------------------------------------------

FALL WORKSHOP 2018 REGISTRATION FORM

(Deadline for Early Bird Registration - *Sept.18, 2018, Late Registrations - $30 members/$40 guests)

NAME: ________________________________________________

League: ________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________ Email: ________________________

Mail to: LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401

Questions? Email stateoffice@lwvm.org or call 410-269-0232

Or REGISTER ONLINE at lwvm.org/2018_fall_workshop

If you or someone you know would like assistance from the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund for the workshop fee, please contact the LWVMD office at 410 269 0232 or by email: stateoffice@lwvm.org
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND
AND THE
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HARFORD COUNTY
WELCOME MEMBERS AND GUESTS TO JOIN US
FOR OUR FALL FUNDRAISER
EXPLORING HARFORD COUNTY
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2018

Enjoy a day exploring Harford County’s past and present, narrated by a local guide. Our tour will include the historic Hosanna School Museum, Havre de Grace Promenade and Ladew Gardens. Enjoy lunch independently at one of the restaurants in Havre de Grace.

Bus pickup:
7:30 am - Board bus at Burtonsville Park & Ride
8:15 am - Board bus at Benfield Blvd Park & Ride
9:00 am - Board bus at White Marsh Park & Ride
9:20 am - Board bus at Rte 152 at Bel Air Park & Ride

Questions?
Contact chetterick@lwvmd.org
410 935 5925

Partial payment of $50 accepted by check. Balance due by October 6.
Final date for reservations is October 10.

Exploring Harford County - October 17, 2018

Name(s)______________________________

Phone______________________________ League______________________________

Email______________________________ Bus Pick Up Site______________________________

Mail your check for $98 per person made out to LWVMD to:
LWVMD, 111 Cathedral St., Ste. 201, Annapolis, MD 21401
or
Register online at: http://www.lwvmd.org/fall_fundraiser_2018

I cannot attend but enclose a donation $__________________
Gerrymandering For Beginners – Free Webinar Series

7 sessions from 9/13 – 10/23

What if you were told your vote wouldn’t count for a full decade?

Would you be content to let others choose your elected representatives, heedless of your personal views?

What if those deciding weren’t your neighbors but party politicians at the state level?

That’s gerrymandering in a nutshell.

Want to know more about this devious practice and learn what is needed to make our redistricting process fair? Join us for this FREE online presentation to get started!

What you’ll learn:

What redistricting is and how it affects our elections

How gerrymandering harms our democracy

The current process for redistricting in Maryland

What needs to change to ensure Fair Maps for the next decade

RSVP online to receive access information to this FREE online event!

Sign up for a Session here: https://www.lwvmd.org/gerrymandering_for_beginners_events

You should receive an email upon sign up telling you more about the event - check your spam folders if you don't see it - this is also how you will receive an invitation to join the webinar.