



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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### STATE BOARD LETTER

Mid-October 2018

**LWVMD Calendar**

#### October

- 10 – Gerrymandering for Beginners Webinar (see p. 8)
- 14 – Gerrymandering for Beginners Webinar (see p. 8)
- 16 – Voter Registration Closes
- 25 – Early Voting Begins, 10am
- 25 – Gerrymandering for Beginners Webinar (see p. 8)

#### November

- 1 – Early Voting Ends
- 5 – LWVMD Board Meeting, First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, 10am
- 6 – Election Day, 7am to 8pm
- 8 – Gerrymandering 101 – In-Person Event (see p. 9)
- 10 – Gerrymandering 101 – In-Person Event (see p. 9)
- 14 – Gerrymandering 101 – In-Person Event (see p. 9)

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

### Presidents' Message



Please help me keep our eyes on the ball. What is the League's ball, you ask? Getting redistricting reform passed in the upcoming session of the Maryland Legislature must be

our primary focus. So why? Well first let me explain the timing as recounted to me by Nancy Soreng, one of our immediate past presidents: "The Constitutional Amendment [measures to reform the redistricting process do require amending the Maryland Constitution] would be on the 2020 General Election ballot. If it [the Constitutional amendment] passes in November of 2020, that would be in time for the work of the 2021 redistricting process. Redistricting won't take place until the results of the 2020 Census have been reported. The results of the 2010 census were reported in March of 2011. Work began in summer of 2011. The Congressional maps were adopted in in a

special session in October of 2011 and the legislative maps became law during the regular 2012 session.”

While we have never been wanting for positions or opportunities to advance our well researched points of view, the Maryland Board has acknowledged that redistricting reform is our number one task. Democracy doesn't have a chance when those we elect choose who their voters will be. Getting adequate funding for education (and protecting the environment, and ...) is imperative but we only get a crack at how districts are drawn every ten years. So a heads up: You may be called on to make visits to your elected officials. In basketball terms, we are preparing for a full court press.

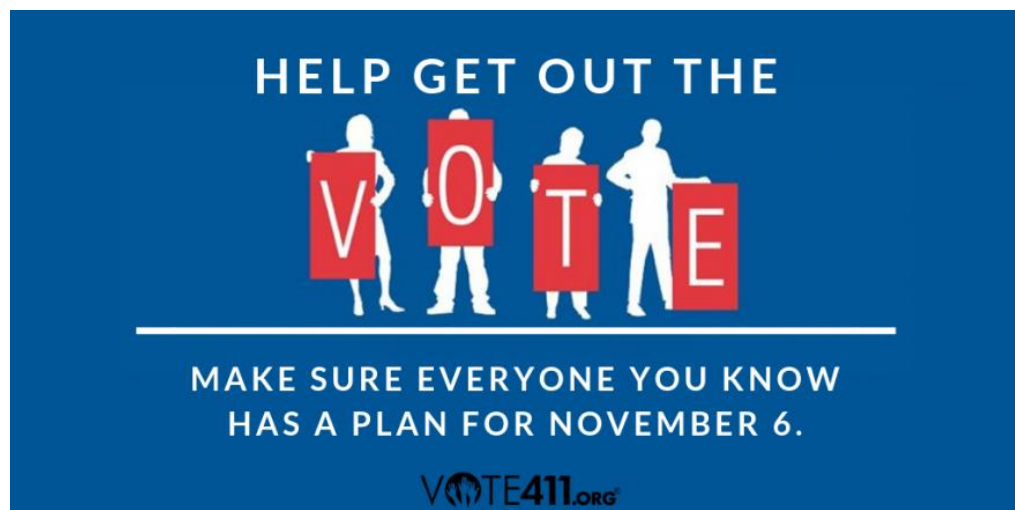
*Richard Willson,*  
LWVMD Co-President  
[pres@lwvmd.org](mailto:pres@lwvmd.org)

## Notes from the Board

The Board is busy working on the Consensus Studies of Death with Dignity, Bail Reform, and Civic Education. Expect to

be planning your local League's Consensus meeting for Death with Dignity very soon. The Fall Workshop was a great success. Start planning for the Winter Workshop (scheduled for January 26, with a February 2 snow date), we will have some very interesting events and discussions. Remember that National and State membership is free now for students so get out there and recruit. We are working on upgrading our Wares Department and Joyce is doing a fantastic job. You can see current supplies at [www.lwvmd.org/lwvmd\\_ware](http://www.lwvmd.org/lwvmd_ware), but check back to soon our new items. Many local Leagues are planning Voter Forums and Voter Registrations. Be sure to support your local Leagues in these efforts. Ralph has done a wonderful job with VOTE411 this year. It is up and ready to use, and many [Voters' Guides are available to download](#). Pass the word so that all of our Voters will be Informed Voters. Remember! We are here to help you, check out the website and the webinars we have to offer.

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



## LWVMD Membership

### Progress Report: Student Member Initiative

Local Leagues have been doing **great** work connecting with students this fall. Leaguers across the state have stepped up efforts to register voters at schools and college campuses. The Frederick County LWV used the opportunity at Hood College to attract 25 new student members. LWVFC intends to engage these student members through participation in its Observer Corps, monitoring local government.

The Montgomery County LWV partnered with a college sorority on a program for preteen and teenaged girls on the importance of voting. In addition, an LWVMC member is exploring the possibility of incorporating LWV materials into her high school classroom assignments to demonstrate a 'real world' application. LWVMC is a regular presence at all three campuses of Montgomery College, and is working on offering a paid federal work-study program for an MC student.

Calvert County LWV has teamed up with a high school student to provide regular lunchtime speakers and programs on League issues.

Baltimore County LWV served as a case study for a Towson University course in Marketing for Nonprofits and may have an opportunity to engage a Towson graduate student intern.

Your LWVMD board is committed to supporting local Leagues in the student member initiative, from waiving student PMP to printing materials to researching proposals. Please let us know what you need and how we can help.



One step LWVMD is taking on behalf of all Maryland Leagues is to join the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition or SLSV ([studentslearnstudentsvote.org](http://studentslearnstudentsvote.org)). This is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works to "institutionalize student voting on college campuses across the country." As a coalition partner, we'll be connected with more than 300 other organizations that are engaging with college students to promote participation in the democratic process. We'll have access to strategy sessions, speakers and conferences, and tools to evaluate our success.

Joining SLSV is only the beginning. We're also interested in high school students and welcome your suggestions of ways to connect and engage in a meaningful way. Please contact me with questions, recommendations or concerns.

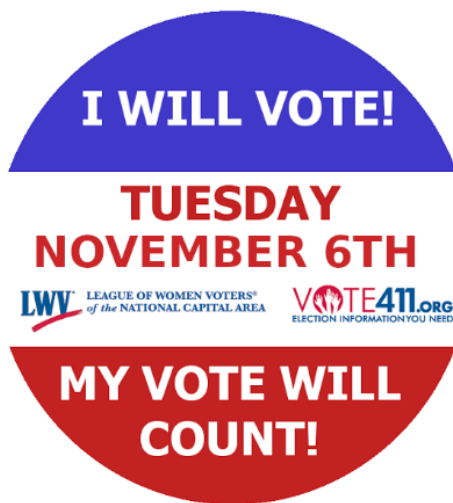
### Welcome Back, Carroll County!

After a four-year hiatus, Carroll County has a League of its own again, and it's 19 members strong! LWVMD Treasurer, Carolyn Hetterick, deserves credit for the outreach that introduced many of these members to the LWV for the first time. Thank you, Carolyn, and welcome new members!

The state board is reviewing its policies and procedures with the goal of simplifying the formation of new and returning Leagues and adapting to changes in our existing local

Leagues. LWVUS has provided its draft for a streamlined process and we've asked other state Leagues to share innovative approaches they're trying. I welcome input from our local League leaders. Which League requirements are a burden? What changes in established League operations would benefit your members and your board?

*Niecy Chambers*  
LWVMD 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
[VP2@lwvmd.org](mailto:VP2@lwvmd.org)



## Legislative Priorities

First of all, I want to emphasize our **continuing need for Report from State Circle reporters to cover Election Process and Transparency**, subjects especially important for Making Democracy Work. If you or someone you know would be able and willing to cover these issues, [please let me know](#). We could also use a reporter for gun control.

Second, a shout of thanks to the eight Leagues who responded with their local choices for LWVMD Legislative Priorities. With all the pre-election activities going on, I really appreciate the effort to respond on

priorities. I will summarize what we have so far. The LWVMD Board will make its final decision on November 5. This gives other local Leagues a chance to respond by October 31.

**Making Democracy Work.** Redistricting Reform won 8 votes and Improved Voter Access and Security of the Election Process got 7 votes. Other topics suggested were residency requirements for Congress, campaign finance reform, public financing of campaigns at all levels, maintaining and expanding early voting, ranked choice voting, open primaries, prison and felon voting and ethics in government.

**Protecting the Environment.** There were 6 votes for Mitigating climate change, 4 for Increasing the Use of Clean Renewable Energy and 5 for Ensuring Safe Water and Clean Waterways for All. Environmental issues with 1 or 2 votes each were Coastal Resiliency, Banning Offshore Drilling in the Atlantic, Banning New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure, Garbage Gobblers to clean waterways, Improving Storm Water Management by Land Use and Growth Management, Forest Conservation and Banning Styrofoam and Plastic.

**Promoting Social and Economic Justice.** Our current priorities of Providing adequate Public Transportation (5), Proving Adequate and Equitable Pre-K to 12 Public Education (5), Reforming corrections and Sentencing (4) and Maintaining the Safety Net for Vulnerable Populations (6) were well supported. In the Social and Economic Justice area, other suggestions were Opposition to Vouchers, Increased Teachers' Salaries, Immigration [effect of 287(g) and extending safety net to non-citizens], affordable housing and strengthening gun control laws.

Four Leagues would like to add Access to Health Care to our Social and Economic Justice priorities. Specific concerns were decline in number of hospital beds, rural health care delivery, mental health and adequate response to the substance abuse crisis.

As usual, Leagues are impatient to act on issues for which we still need formal

consensus: compulsory civics education in the K-12 curriculum, bail reform and death with dignity. Access to and cost of higher education and prescription drug costs were suggested for study—good topics to bring up for program planning.

*Lois Hybl*  
LWVMD 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
[VPI@lwvmd.org](mailto:VPI@lwvmd.org)



## 2019 LWVMD Legislative Session Internship in Annapolis

For the 2019 session, LWVMD will be taking on an ambitious legislative agenda. These topics will fall under the categories of Making Democracy Work, Protecting the Environment & Promoting Social and Economic Justice.

The LWVMD Legislative Session Intern will work closely with the Administrative Director in a variety of aspects of the organization. A large portion of the internship will be focused on nonpartisan legislative advocacy work of the League, but will also include nonprofit management, and civic education work.

### POTENTIAL INTERNSHIP ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

#### Related to Legislative Advocacy

- Assists with Reviewing, editing, and submitting testimony on legislation to the Maryland General Assembly
- Coordination with League members on advocacy activities that include participation on coalition led campaigns, member outreach, and events

- Assisting in the review and publication process of LWVMD's *Report from State Circle*
- Learning about and assisting with online messaging/campaigns via blog, Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram posts

#### Related to Nonprofit Management

- Learning about and assisting with grassroots volunteer coordination, communication, and engagement
- Participating in fundraising activities, both online and at in-person events
- Assisting with event & workshop planning and coordination
- Assists with outreach and coordination regarding member recruitment and retention
- Coordination with local chapters of LWVMD as appropriate

#### Civic Education

- Sharing nonpartisan educational information about issues and voting with members and the general public
- Updating online resources for Voter's on the LWVMD website

QUALIFICATIONS: As a volunteer-run grassroots organization, it is important the intern is comfortable working in a fast-paced environment where priorities shift quickly. The successful candidate will possess strong organizational skills, with the ability to prioritize shifting duties efficiently. During the hustle of the legislative session, the intern must have the ability to be flexible and balance multiple projects. Experience with Google Docs, Microsoft Office Suite, and basic office equipment is a must. Interest in promoting and increasing activism through social media is a plus.

***LWVMD is committed to nonpartisan issue-based advocacy and voter education. The intern must be confident in and able to express their ability to commit to carrying out the duties of this role without partisanship.***

Ideally, the intern will be available to work two 5-hour days in the Annapolis LWVMD office over 13 weeks from on or about 1/7/2019 – 4/12/19. LWVMD is happy to discuss any special project proposals the intern would like to accomplish during their internship period, and provide guidance as needed.

***There is a stipend of \$1,000 available for this internship, as well as \$250 allowance for parking and travel expenses.***

**To Apply:** Email resume and a thoughtful cover letter to [stateoffice@lwwmd.org](mailto:stateoffice@lwwmd.org) no later than November 7, 2018 with the subject line "2019 LWVMD Legislative Internship".

**Please share with your networks!**

**Shareable link to internship description on LWVMD's website:**

[https://www.lwwmd.org/2019\\_legislative\\_internship](https://www.lwwmd.org/2019_legislative_internship)

## Building a Board for a Strong State League

In June, at the LWVMD Convention, we will be electing a Board to carry on the work of the League for the next two years. As chair of the nominating committee I am looking for suggestions for Board members. We are looking for diversity in age, background, area of residence, and experience. If you know of emerging leaders in your League who might learn and grow from being on the LWVMD Board, or experienced members who have skills to share, please let me know about them. If you have been toying with the idea of serving on the state board yourself, let me or one of the nominating committee members know about that as well. We want people who are willing to work, but also want to learn and

have fun. The role of the state League is to be your advocacy voice in Annapolis and to provide training and support for local Leagues. A strong state Board can help your local League grow and be more impactful. Please share your suggestions with any of the nominating committee members: Andrea Gruhl - Howard County, John Perryman - Calvert County, Sandra Bork – Kent County and Nancy Soreng – Montgomery County: [nsoreng@comcast.net](mailto:nsoreng@comcast.net). Since this newsletter is posted on our website, you can contact me or the office for phone numbers and email addresses of the other nominating committee members.

Nancy Soreng,  
LWVMD Nominating Committee  
[nsoreng@comcast.net](mailto:nsoreng@comcast.net)

**Click Image Below to Register for a Gerrymandering for Beginners Webinar!**



## Gerrymandering for Beginners – Free Webinar

Choose from 3 More Dates:

10.10 – Wednesday – 12:30pm-1:30pm

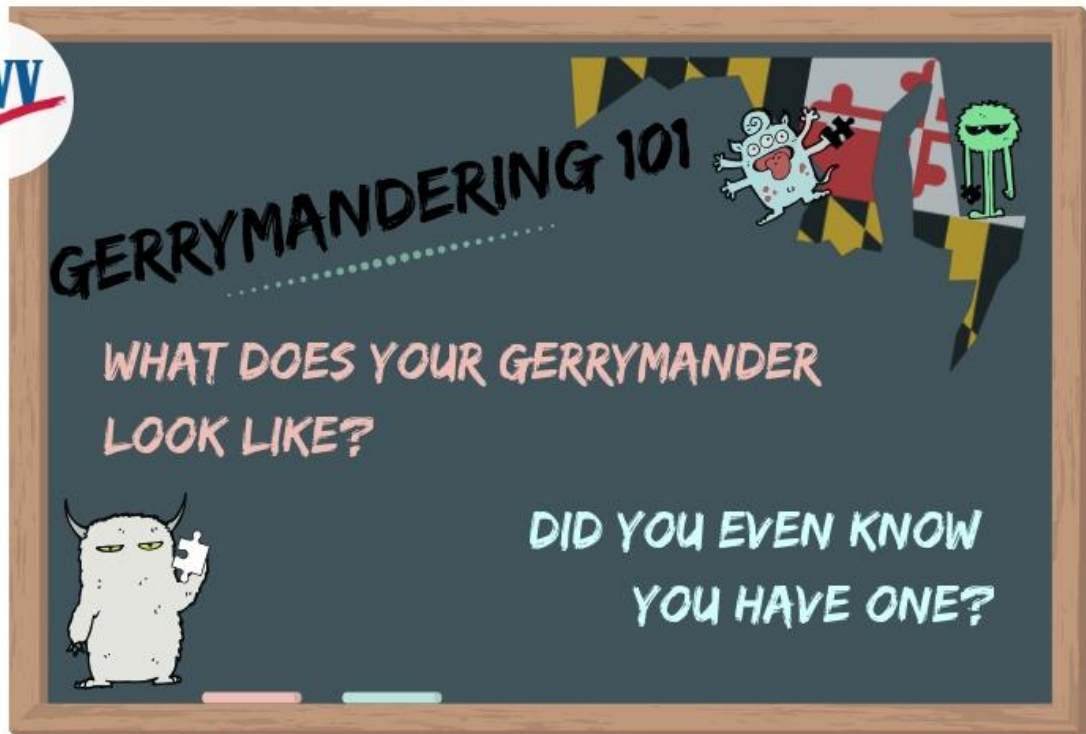
10.14 – Sunday – 3:00pm-4:00pm

10.25 – Tuesday – 5:30pm-6:30pm

### 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

Supported by the LWV Education Fund



## Webinars not your thing?

Join LWV Howard County for one of their In-Person Events in November!

**November 8, 2018, Thursday: 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**  
at Marvin Thomas Meeting Room, HCLS East Columbia Branch,  
6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

**November 10, 2018, Saturday: 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**  
at Hockley Meeting Room, HCLS Elkridge Branch, 6540  
Washington Blvd., Elkridge, 21075

**November 14, 2018, Wednesday: 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**  
at Glenwood Pindell Meeting Room, HCLS Glenwood Branch,  
2350 State Route 97, Cooksville, MD 21723

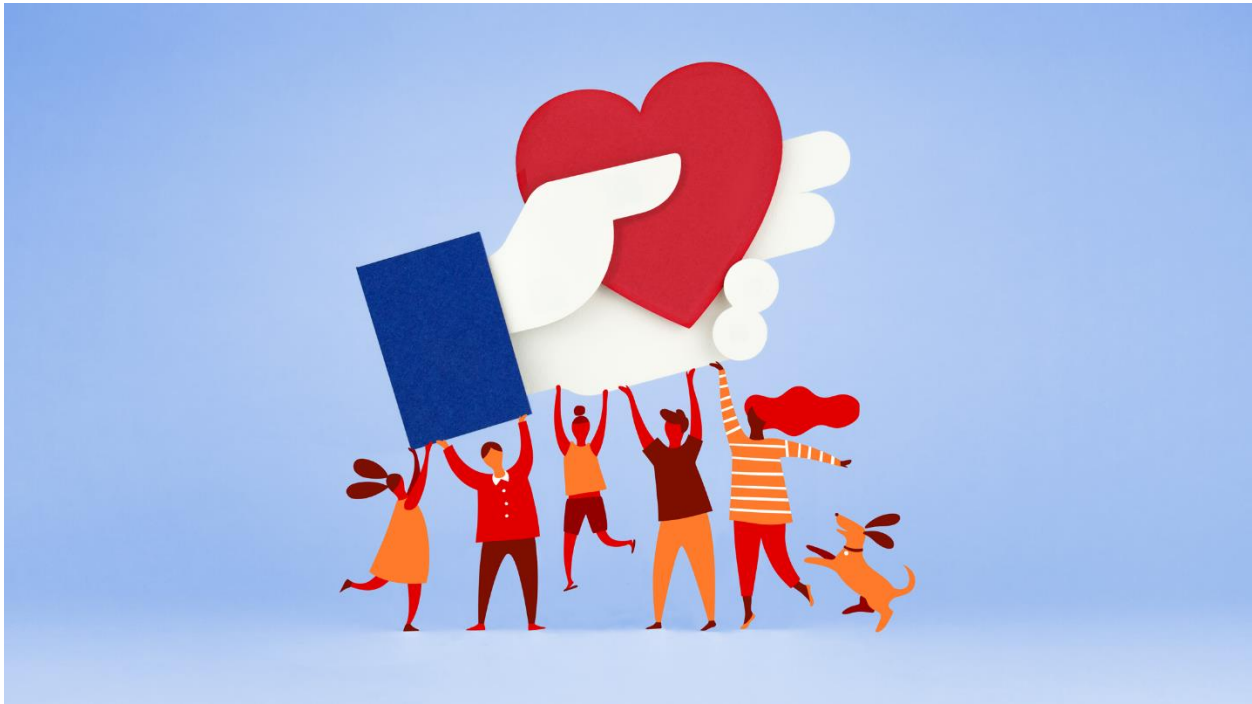
*Supported in part by the League of Women Voters Education Fund*

Go to: [https://www.lwvmd.org/gerrymandering\\_101\\_in\\_person\\_events](https://www.lwvmd.org/gerrymandering_101_in_person_events) to register for FREE



**Did you know you can help LWVMD raise money for the Voter's Guide & our contribution to Vote411.org by creating a Fundraiser on Facebook?**

It's Easy - Just [click here](#) to get started!



Or Follow these steps on your Facebook Page:

1. Click **Fundraisers** in the left menu of your News Feed.
2. Click **Raise Money**.
3. Select **Nonprofit/Charity**.
4. Select a charitable organization, choose a cover photo and fill in the fundraiser details.
5. Click **Create**.

Thank you for helping LWVMD provide unbiased election information for every office in Maryland!