



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

111 Cathedral, Suite 201, Annapolis MD 21401

Tel. 410-269-0232 and fax (call first)

E-mail: info@lwvmd.org

Co-Presidents: Elaine Apter and Richard Willson

Online: lwvmd.org

Twitter: [@LWVMD](https://twitter.com/LWVMD)

Facebook: [lwvmd](https://www.facebook.com/lwvmd)

SBL Editor: Liz Demulling

edemulling@lwvmd.org

STATE BOARD LETTER

Mid-November 2018

LWVMD Calendar

December

3 – LWVMD Board Meeting, First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, 10am

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

Presidents' Message



First, let's take a minute to highlight the League's successes in this last election cycle. Our heartfelt thanks to Ralph Watkins and all the local League members who worked long and hard on their Voters Guides and Vote411.org. A second shout out goes to Barbara Crain and all the local Leagues that produced candidate forums, and last, but not least, to the speakers who provided explanations of the ballot questions. This combination of effort and expertise allowed LWVMD to do an amazing job informing voters about candidates and issues for the 2018 election.

It is also exciting to be able to give a shout out to Maryland voters for allowing same day voter registration on Election Day and to Montgomery County for passing a restructuring of their local redistricting commission. And, of course, we cannot ignore the court decision to redraw Maryland's 6th Congressional District before the 2020 election! Hopefully this will give the League some momentum in our struggle to establish an independent redistricting commission before the redistricting takes place after the 2020 census.

But, we know that even though the election is over, we will barely have time to take a breath before we continue LWV's important work. For the past few months we have concentrated primarily on the voter's service aspect of our work. This focus will change in the coming months to the study and action role of the LWV. With the holiday season right around the corner, I am urging you to keep a lookout for opportunities to schedule the following on your local League calendars, if they have not been scheduled. In order to keep our grassroots organization viable, we

need all LL to participate in the following activities in order to get an accurate knowledge of how Maryland Leaguers feel on these topics: Program Planning, Death with Dignity and Bail Reform studies. These are highlighted in more depth in Melanie Cox's program report. This is also a great opportunity to get our new members introduced and involved in our study and consensus process.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving.
With a special thanks to all,

Elaine Apter,
LWVMD Co-President
pres@lwvmd.org

Notes from the Board

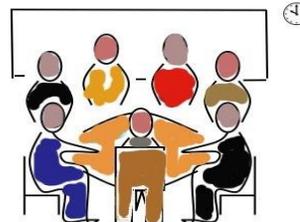
Your State Board has been busy this election season. We saw our highest ever traffic to VOTE411.org during a single election cycle, and we even [got a shout out from John Oliver](#) airing nationally on HBO. We are working hard planning for the Winter Workshop. It is shaping up to be interesting

with 3 Break-Out sessions and a luncheon speaker. More information coming soon. Lois Hybl has narrowed down your choices for [Legislative Priorities](#) with input from many of our local Leagues. We will focus on Making Democracy Work, Social and Economic Justice and Environment. We are working on the final stages of two studies: [Bail](#), and [Death with Dignity](#) will both be ready by the Convention this June. Yes, Convention plans are in the works so set aside June 7-9, 2019 for a great event. The Nominating Committee is recruiting Board Members for next year. Please think about how you can make this organization run more smoothly. Ashley, our wonderful Administrative Director, has been extremely productive working on many projects, including the [Young Professional Advancement Fund](#), [Redistricting Reform](#), and searching for an intern for the LWV Office. Thanks to the Local Leagues that held Voter and Issues Forums and all those LWV members who helped foster an educated electorate this Election Season.

Theresa Freligh
LWVMD Secretary
secretary@lwvmd.com

Program Report:

Local Leagues have been sent study documents for both the [Death with Dignity](#) and the Bails/Corrections studies. Death with Dignity reports are due to LWVMD by February 15, 2018 with [Bail/Corrections](#) reports due by March 30, 2019. If local Leagues would like someone from the Death with Dignity study group to assist them with this study, please contact Sally Hunt at sjwhunt@gmail.com. Documents for these studies can also be found on the LWVMD website here: https://www.lwvmd.org/fact_sheets. Bails/Correction study will be included in the Winter Workshop in a breakout session.





It is time for Program Planning for 2019-2020. Program Planning has two parts: review of existing positions and recommendations for upcoming studies. The form has been sent to local League presidents and we ask that the completed form be returned by February 28, 2019.

This timeline enables local Leagues to make their recommendations, the LWVMD Board to consolidate the recommendations, prepare these recommendations for our June Convention for members review and final decisions. Be sure to review criteria for studies included in the Planning form.



Local League presidents have been sent a [Program calendar](#) that runs through December 2019. This calendar includes a projected timeline for completion of the Civic Education study. This study group, under the direction of Diane Hibino and YokeSan Reynolds, have projected a



timeline for completion of their study, with the goals of presenting at the Fall Workshop and completion of LL consensus meeting by the end of December 2019. They hope to have a position in time for Action during the 2020 General Assembly session.

Melanie Cox,
LWVMD Director, Program
mcox@lwvmd.org

Legislative and Budgetary Priorities: 2019 Session

Our goals fall in the following three categories:

Making Democracy Work

- Redistricting reform
- Improving voter access and security of election processes
- Campaign finance reform

Protecting the Environment

- Mitigating climate change
- Increasing use of clean renewable energy
- Ensuring safe water and clean waterways for all

[Click Here For a Downloadable
Priorities Brochure](#)

Promoting Social and Economic Justice

- Maintaining the safety net for vulnerable populations
- Providing adequate and equitable Pre-K- 12 public education
- Providing adequate public transportation

The LWVMD Board approved these priorities on November 5. We will make more effort to do written and/or oral testimony or issue Action Alerts on legislation reflecting these issues. Thanks to all Local Leagues who submitted your suggested priorities. Many specific suggestions fall under the broader categories listed.

Lois Hybl
LWVMD 1st Vice President
VPI@lwvmd.org

Introducing the Nancy Soreng Young Professional Advancement Fund

June 2018 at the LWVMD Council meeting the board announced the creation of the [Nancy Soreng Young Professional Advancement Fund](#). This fund is now live on our website and open for donations to support LWVMD's efforts to engaged & advance young professionals in the spirit of Nancy Soreng, who has always provided guidance and mentorship to young League members, ensuring that LWVMD's work endures for many generations to come.

[Click Here to Donate Now](#)

THE NANCY SORENG
YOUNG
PROFESSIONAL
ADVANCEMENT FUND



Nancy Soreng has dedicated her life to advancing our democracy and safeguarding the well-being of our communities for today's generation and the next. In her many League roles, she has been a tireless and omnipresent force in Maryland and beyond. Of all the contributions Nancy has made to the League, one is unique and exemplary: as a "never say no" mentor, Nancy has unstintingly trained new leaders ensuring a lasting League legacy.

LWVMD has been blessed and inspired by the determination and dedication of Nancy Soreng. She has generously shared her knowledge and experience and found new ways to engage future generations. This fund is but one small way we can honor Nancy's selfless and unending commitment to service.

This fund in her name will be used to provide future generations the opportunity to learn from the League's tradition of nonpartisan voter education and issue-based advocacy. It will serve to empower young people by providing stipends for interns.