



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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STATE BOARD LETTER

Mid-March 2019

LWVMD Calendar

March

26 – Rally to End Gerrymandering at the Supreme Court of the United States (see page 9)

30 – Local League Deadline for Corrections and Bail Reports ([see page 3](#))

April

1 – LWVMD Board Meeting, Wilde Lake Interfaith Center in Columbia, 10am

30 – A Day on Capitol Hill (see page 11)

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

Presidents' Message



Needless to say it has been a busy month. A big shout out goes to Lois Hybl, our Action chair for all her work coordinating our Legislative Day and the many testimonies the League has been presenting during this legislative session. Also, thanks to all who visited their legislators during Legislative Day. A second shout out has to go to Ruth Crystal and her team of Report from State Circle reporters.

I know there were some members that were upset that the League did not get the concurrence on Death with Dignity report in time to present testimony as League members. The League however, did what we were founded on and that is to educate our members so that they in turn can take action even without a League position. And that is just what happened. We educated our members by presenting the information at local League meetings and suggested that if they had strong feelings about the subject they should contact their state legislators. And that is just what happened, legislators were bombarded by calls and emails. Just a simple reminder: the League takes on a study because of members' interest in learning more about the subject and then possibly coming to consensus/positions on which to act. We do not look at legislation and then adopt a study to fit the legislation. Speaking of positions and studies, we have our State Convention coming up, June 7-9 at

the Courtyard Marriott in Gaithersburg. This is where we choose what we will study for the next two years and confirm the positions we have had consensus on during the past year. Watch the website for links to the hotel and convention registration. Registration will be \$155; late registration – within two weeks of the convention – will be \$175. We look forward to a good turnout. The Montgomery County LWV will be our host and they are planning a fun Friday evening for you.

The League is making a difference and you are the ones who are doing it.

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

Notes from the Board

Plans for the Convention in June are underway. Reserve June 7, 8, and 9 on your calendars now. Not only do we elect our officers, pass a budget and adopt programs and studies; we will also present some informative workshops. **Each local League is entitled to three delegates and local**

Leagues with more than 50 voting members are entitled to an additional delegate for every additional 50 members.

Watch for further information on our website and through the SBL.

We are optimistically anticipating the [polystyrene food containers ban](#) that Betsy has been working so hard for. Melanie and her committee finished the [Death with Dignity Study](#). Thanks for all your input. We are still looking for local League's priorities, so get them in now. Lois organized a great Legislative Day. We are looking at having a Fund-Raising Tea in the fall. Joyce also has some fantastic canvas LWV bags for just \$15! Check them out. LWV Maryland and North Carolina are [going to the Supreme Court on March 26](#) to rally for an end to gerrymandering! How great is that? We are reaching out to all local Leagues to help them jump hurdles and increase membership. Remember your local board is here to help YOU.

Theresa Freleigh
LWVMD Secretary
secretary@lwvmd.com

Legislative Day Wrap-Up

On March 5th over 70 League members filled Room 180 in the House Office Building to attend LWVMD's 2019 Legislative Day. Some members and friends visited their legislators to tell them about the League's legislative priorities. We shared the feedback we received from our legislative visits and discussed key bills reflecting our legislative priorities.

Some members were able to meet with legislators, but many had to meet with staff because of caucus meetings on Tuesday mornings. There are number of factors at play when scheduling our Legislative Day – first, we can't know when the caucuses will be until after our dates are requested, they can change from year to year, second, we must submit three dates, and we are given one of them if possible. So for next year, we will try gather as much intel as possible when scheduling to get the best date to meet with legislators to ensure we can meet them face-to-face. However, it is important to keep in mind that staff members are also very knowledgeable on the issues and are a direct line to expressing your wishes to your legislators, so those meetings and opportunities to build relationships are also valuable.

For our speaker on the budget, we had “two for the price of one.” Rachel H. Hise, Lead Principal Analyst and Education Workgroup Leader for the Department of Legislative Reference joined Victoria Gruber, the Executive Director of the Department of Legislative Services for a presentation about the FY2020 budget. Ms. Gruber’s handout, “Quick Look at Fiscal 2020 Budget,” outlined the gloomy budget outlook forecasting a structural deficit increasing from \$-902 million in FY2021 to \$-1589 million in FY2024 followed by some highlights of issues and legislation affecting the current budget. Risks to the budget plan include the volatility of the stock market, lower revenue estimates due to the federal government shutdown and forecasts of a mild recession in 2020 or 2021.

Their talk was especially timely because there was a press conference next door announcing the introduction of [**SB 1030/HB 1413 The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**](#) to implement the first two years of the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education. Ms. Hise outlined the provisions of the bill funded by \$325 million in FY2020 and \$750 million in FY2021.

After we filled our luncheon plates, LWVUS Development Director Emily Yost spoke briefly about LWV’s work and urged us to give to the League at all levels.

Then Josh Tulkin, Director of the Sierra Club of Maryland, spoke about climate change and transportation and had some memorable remarks about aspects of lobbying. We need bold investment in mass transportation for the climate because it reduces tailpipe CO² emissions. But on the equity side, a survey indicated that people who have cars can access 90% of jobs in the metropolitan area, but those who depend on mass transit can only access 9%--a good reason for [**HB 923/SB 642 Task Force to Study Transportation Access**](#). The state is not asking for effects on climate change and water and air pollution in environmental reviews of proposed highways. We need [**HB 695/SB 788 Transportation Climate Accountability Act of 2019**](#). His lobbying advice was: (1) Sing to the choir--keep in contact with those who agree with us to make them bold champions; (2) Make a multi-year commitment; (3) Tell legislators who is with us, other groups we belong to that support our position.

Afterwards, some headed to legislative hearings and others headed home. We are grateful to Senator Mary Washington for sponsoring us for our reservation in the House Office Building, to Bee Ditzler for recruiting Josh Tulkin to speak when our original speaker backed out a week ago, to Andrea Gruhl for arranging the catering, to our co-presidents for their leadership, to all the reporters for briefing us on legislation and especially to Ashley Oleson and interns Nadia Monnier and Colleen Herrmann for preparing information for our folders and handling registration. If you have ideas about how to make Legislative Day 2020 even better, please let me know at lhybl@lwvmd.org.

Lois Hybl,
LWVMD Vice President, Action
vp1@lwvmd.org

News from the LWV of the National Capital Area

Exciting, significant news is afoot in the LWVNCA. The **Inter-League Organization (ILO)** named **League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA)** is comprised of local Leagues of the District of Columbia and four participating Leagues near the south bank of the Potomac River: Arlington, Falls Church, Fairfax Area, and Loudoun—as well as NCA participating local Leagues north of DC: Montgomery, Frederick, Howard, and Prince Georges. The state Leagues of Virginia and Maryland are also members of this ILO. Each member League appoints a Liaison and I am yours from LWVMD. The role of the Liaisons is to promote networking among the participating Leagues.

The highlight of each League year is the LWVNCA Convention. This year **Brunch** will be followed by a **Guest Speaker**. Delegates at the **Business Meeting** will discuss and approve the proposed 2019-20 **Budget** and the proposed 2019-2021 **Program**. The Nominating Committee Report will be followed by **Election** of some officers, directors, and nominating committee. This year the biennial **Naumann Award** of \$400 will be given to the local League submitting the best project to the competition.

The LWVNCA Convention this year will be Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant, 5333 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20015. This is near the border of DC and Maryland in Chevy Chase. A Metro station is near and drivers have several parking opportunities. Upscale shopping abounds. Convention registration costs \$40. More details to come.

Andrea Gruhl,
Liaison from LWVMD to LWVNCA
agruhl@lwvmd.org

Program Update

Following a thorough and lengthy study by the study committee and review by each local League the League of Women Voters of Maryland now has a new position on Death with Dignity. The new position statements are:

The League of Women Voters of Maryland believes state laws should grant the option for a terminally ill person to request medical assistance from a relevant, licensed physician to end one's life.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland believes such

legislation should include safeguards against abuse for the dying and/or medical personnel.

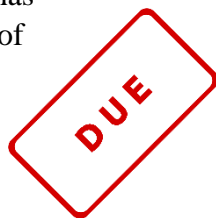
Congratulations to the study committee on a job well done. For the first time in recent memory a study received approval from all local Leagues who did a review. There were comments reflecting some concerns from members.

Following review of the committee's report the LWVMD Board, in addition to approving the new



position, decided to ask the study committee to develop a public education program reflecting a civil discussion of this issue that can be very controversial and has strong proponents on all sides of the issue.

A friendly reminder that the reports for the



Bail/Corrections study are **due by March 30th**. Please let Melanie Cox know if you have questions about this study or the consensus report. Melanie can be reached at mc Cox@lwvmd.org.

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

LWVMD Membership

NationBuilder FAQ #2

Q. Why keep inactive members tagged in the NB database?

A. As we work to attract new people to the League, we often try to identify the benefits of membership. One is the opportunity to become better informed through the emails and publications that LWVMD and your local League sends. So, why do we continue to send these communications to people who choose not to renew their memberships?

The League's fundamental purpose is to foster an informed electorate. We go to great lengths to ensure that the material we share is well-researched and unbiased. These efforts are validated when our information reaches a broad audience, especially individuals with an interest in democracy and respect for the LWV. Generally speaking, former members constitute our "target demographic." Because they know LWVMD, they may share our information with others; if they like the League enough, they may support us financially.

People join, and leave, the LWV for different reasons. Some will opt out of receiving our email or ask to be removed from our database. Notwithstanding the LWVMD policy, each local League can

make its own rules regarding distribution of its newsletter and other communications, and apply that policy using unique NB tags.

Membership chairs, take heart! **Current** League members, and only they, benefit from discounted admission to all LWVMD events.

Resources for Reaching and Engaging Students

- National History Day (<https://www.nhd.org>) The Montgomery County LWV developed criteria and sponsored prizes for this year's middle school and high school competitions. Check the website to see whether a contest will be held in your county.
- LWV of Cincinnati Act One Civic Engagement Program <http://lwvcincinnati.org/actone.html> Carole Conors learned about this program at the LWNCA reception in January. Thank you for sharing, Carole!
- Maryland 19th Amendment Commission's Creative Contest (<https://msa.maryland.gov/mdvotesforwomen/>) Baltimore City LWV member Roberta Sharper serves on the Commission; she shared the flyer on page 12 and hopes League

members will volunteer as contest judges.

- LWVMD is part of a coalition focused on increasing student voting. Watch this inspirational video to hear the voices of those who contributed to the 2018 Students

Learn Students Vote Post Election Summit <http://bit.ly/2V4OhB8>

Niecy Chambers,
LWVMD Vice President, Membership
nchambers@lwvmd.org

Fighting Climate Change through Legislation: 2019

When Al Gore's movie *An Inconvenient Truth* came out in 2006, we were treated to a full discussion of the existence and causes of global warming. By excessive burning of fossil fuels (oil, coal and gas) we are dramatically increasing the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. As a result, the temperature of the Earth's atmosphere – and that of the oceans – is getting dangerously warmer.

Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere today are higher than at any point the past 800,000 years. The level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in the preindustrial age was 280 parts per million. In 2006 when "Truth" came out, the measurement was 382 ppm. On March 5, 2019, the level of CO₂ was 410 ppm. We are going in the wrong direction. And this is what the climate crisis is about.

Maryland is extremely vulnerable to climate change with over 3,000 miles of coastline. We are expected to experience one foot of sea level rise by 2050 at the current pace.

The "good news" is that we know what causes the excess warming and what the solutions are. The "bad news" is that the solutions often depend on changing human behavior and the economy. In the electricity sector, this means moving utilities from purchasing fossil fuels for energy to using clean energy sources, primarily solar and wind.

2019 Maryland Climate Legislation

Clean Energy Jobs Act (SB 516/HB1158) is Maryland's Three-Step-Plan to get to 100% clean renewable energy. This bill calls on the General Assembly to: 1) double the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard to 50% renewable energy by 2030; and 2) by 2023 determine the best plan to achieve 100% renewable electricity and 3) implement that plan by 2040.

Right now, Maryland's solar industry is in crisis - this year we lost over 800 solar jobs due to the lack of demand. However, increasing the solar requirement would support and retain over 20,000 jobs in the solar industry over the next decade.

Growth from wind power in our region could stimulate a statewide resurgence of manufacturing and construction jobs, creating roughly 5,300 jobs from wind alone. Clean Energy Jobs calls for a 1.2 gigawatt expansion of wind in Maryland.

This bill directs funds to the Maryland Employment Advancement Right Now (EARN) program to create the Clean Energy Workforce Account and pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship and other workforce programs.

The bill will also finance a \$17.5 million Clean Energy Development Fund to help people of color, veteran and women-owned businesses enter and grow within the clean energy economy in Maryland.

Maryland Clean Energy Jobs currently incentivizes incineration. Burning trash pollutes the air and harms nearby neighborhoods – particularly low-income communities and communities of color. Incineration produces more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of energy than coal plants.

The Senate hearing in the Finance Committee for SB 516 was March 5. The House hearing in House Economic Matters was March 8 at 1 pm.

Maryland Pipeline & Water Protection Act (SB 387/HB 669)

The Pipeline Protection Act would require the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to analyze all critical information before it issues a permit for an interstate natural gas pipeline.

Despite having banned fracking in the state in 2016, Maryland is witnessing an expanded network of pipelines proposed to send fracked gas to other states or to the Cove Point Liquid Natural Gas export facility.

Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act grants every state authority to veto an interstate natural gas pipeline project if it would violate the state's water quality standards. Recently, MDE waived its authority to review pipelines by granting permission for the construction of a fracked-gas pipeline underneath the Potomac River, risking the drinking water of over six million people.

Hearings on the pipeline bill were held in the Senate, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs and in the House the House Economic Matters Committee on March 7.

Ban on Polystyrene Foam Food Containers (SB 285/HB 109)

A ban on using Styrofoam containers for food service businesses and schools is proposed by this act. Styrofoam is petroleum-based plastic derived from styrene and benzene and this toxic non-biodegradable material persists indefinitely in the environment and accumulates over time. It degrades into increasingly smaller pieces called micro plastics. These pieces absorb toxic chemicals and are easily mistaken for food by marine life, injuring and killing fish, seabirds and marine mammals.

The bill received a favorable vote in the House from the Environment and Transportation Committee on Feb. 26 and from the Economic Matters Committee on March 1. The bill in the Senate received a favorable vote on the Senate floor on March 5.

Transportation Climate Accountability Act of 2019 (SB 788/HB 695)

would require a comprehensive study of the anticipated greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution of any highway project, both state-funded or built through a public-private partnership.

Hearings have been held on February 27 in Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Environment and Transportation in the House on 2/26.

Pre-solicitation Reports – Environmental Impact Statement Requirement (HB 91)

would require MDOT to withdraw their pre-solicitation report for industry interest on Governor Hogan's I-495 and I-270 toll lanes proposal until after the release of the draft Environmental Impact statement (EIS) and prohibit agencies engaging in future P3 projects from releasing this report until the draft EIS. Hearing has been held in the House Environment and Transportation & Appropriations on 1/22

Extension of Community Solar Pilot (SB 520/HB 683) would remove current restrictions on the community solar program and extend the termination date of the program from 2020 to 2024. The House hearing was held in Economic Matters and the Senate hearing was in the Finance Committee on March 8.

No Net Loss of Forests (SB 203/HB 120)

Legislation has been introduced that would correct the definition of "no net loss of forest" to reflect current conditions of 40 percent of the state covered by forest land. This bill would change the definition from "40 percent of the state covered in tree canopy" to "40 percent of the state covered in forest land" to reflect the actual forest coverage at the time the policy was enacted. (Tree canopy reflects individual trees in otherwise urbanized areas, such as street trees. Forests reflect a full ecological system that supports healthy soils and habitat.) The bill received a favorable with amendment vote from the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs; Hearing in House Environment and Transportation, 2/6

Reforming the Forest Conservation Fee-in-Lieu Program (SB 234/H.B. 272)

The Forest Conservation Act allows local government to collect a fee in lieu of the developer's reforestation responsibilities. However, it has become clear that there are major problems with this program. Local governments are not required to replant the same amount of forest that the developer would have had to plant and are having problems spending the money collected due to lack of resources or land. This results in much less forest mitigation than is required under the law. This legislation would require local governments to replant the same amount of forest that a developer would have had to replant and increase transparency around fee-in-lieu programs. House Favorable vote, 3/5; Senate Favorable vote, 2/28

Create a Forest Conservation Task Force (SB 729/HB 735)

Maryland needs an in-depth Task Force on forest loss to quantify and address future deforestation and make recommendations to prevent forest loss without overly disrupting growth and development. The Task Force legislation would include a diverse group of stakeholders and would create recommendations for improving forest outcomes, including offsetting or avoiding loss and improving maintenance for healthy forests. Senate hearing 2/19 Education, Health and Environmental Affairs; House Hearing Environment and Transportation, 3/22.

Betsy Singer,
LWVMD Director, Environment
bsinger@lwvmd.org

SCOTUS RALLY TO END GERRYMANDERING #FAIRMAPS



Join League of Women Voters

MARCH 26, 2019

At the Supreme Court - 9:30am

1ST STREET - WASHINGTON D.C.

RSVP on Facebook to Stay in the Loop on Details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/388566535309150/>

SUPPORTING:

BENISEK V. LAMONE
&
RUCHO V. COMMON CAUSE

BENISEK V. LAMONE

On November 7th, 2018, a federal district court decided that the 6th district was unconstitutionally drawn; it ruled that the map currently in use could not be used for the 2020 elections and must be changed before then. Maryland's Attorney General has appealed this decision to the Supreme Court. We will be rallying in support of the lower court's opinion that the members of MD's 6th district were “deprived of their natural political strength by a partisan gerrymander,” and that this should be remedied in order to restore our democracy.

Learn more at: <https://www.brennancenter.org/legal-work/benisek-v-lamone-amicus-brief>

RUCHO V. COMMON CAUSE

In August 2019 three-judge panel issued an opinion ruling for the League of Women Voters of North Carolina (cases combined) that the NC congressional map is a partisan gerrymander in violation of 1st and 14th Amendment. The defendants have appealed this decision to the Supreme Court. We will be rallying alongside LWVNC in the fight for Fair Maps for all citizens!

Learn more at: <https://www.brennancenter.org/legal-work/common-cause-v-rucho>

Join Maryland Leaguers

for
**OUR
DAY**
on
**CAPITOL
HILL !!!**



Tues., Apr. 30, 2019, 10 am to 3:30 pm

- ü Visit our US Senators' and Representatives' offices
- ü Enjoy lunch together in staff dining facility
- ü Take part in advocating a LWVUS topic* (voluntary)
- ü *Have fun!*

**Participants will be briefed by email about the LWVUS topic for advocacy, participating voluntarily.*

- Ø No fee!!!
- Ø Meet at Taxi/Massachusetts Ave. exit inside Union Station, Washington DC, 10 am.
- Ø Arrive at Union Station by Amtrak, MARC, Metro, bus or auto. If driving one can park in Union Station's public parking (assuming space is available.)

To reserve, email Carole or Ashley at CapitolHillTrip@LWVMD.org **NO LATER THAN APRIL 23RD**
For questions, contact Carole Conors, 410-750-3960 (home), 443-794-4678 (mobile) or CaroleConors@verizon.net.

Name(s) _____ Cell phone # _____

Email _____ Street Address (not PO Box) _____

Street address and cell phone required.



How would YOU use the power of your vote?

Women's Right to Vote 100th Anniversary Celebration Creative Contest

Contest Launch: January 15, 2019

Submissions Due: October 11, 2019

As the next generation of voters, it's YOUR turn to use your rights wisely!

The Maryland Commission on the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment of the United States Constitution...

invites high school students to submit original research & artwork!

Create a project that best exemplifies how you learn from suffragists past to become a guardian of women's rights in the present and perpetuate the power of women in the future!

PROJECT FORMATS

- Essay
- Flat
- 3-D
- Digital
- Video

Project Guidelines: <http://msa.maryland.gov/mdvotesforwomen>

ORGANIZED BY:

THE 19th AMENDMENT COMMISSION

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST, MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR WOMEN, MARYLAND WOMEN'S HERITAGE CENTER
NAACP, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, MARYLAND REPUBLICAN WOMEN, THE MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

