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Co-Presidents: Lois Hybl and Richard Willson

STATE BOARD LETTER October 2019

LWVMD Calendar

November

- 13 – Reporter Training [Report from State Circle](#)
- 20 – “[How a People Powered Commission Gave CA Fair Maps](#)” – p. 9
- 21 – “[Census 2020, Redistricting 2021](#)” – p. 10

December

- 14 – “[Citizen Activism: Making an Impact in Maryland](#)” –Training – p. 11

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

Presidents’ Message

As you can see from the articles in this State Board Letter, we are busy preparing for the upcoming General Assembly session and the elections in 2020. To protect our credibility as a nonpartisan organization, those of us who represent the League before the public and in voters’ service must be especially careful not to express partisan views about elected officials and candidates. With that in mind, LWVMD board members took another look at our nonpartisan policy and made the following revisions (underlined):

Social and Other Media. A Board member who represents the League before the public or in voter services shall not indicate her/his political affiliations or candidate preferences at any level of government in the media (including on social networking sites or other public venues) regardless of whether the profile indicates his/her LWV connection.

This policy should be reflected in the nonpartisan policy of local Leagues.

Please mark your calendar for the many other activities reported in this State Board Letter. As much as possible we need people to turn out for coalition and other events which support our legislative priorities. For example, see the flier on the Fair Maps event on November 20 in Baltimore City. And don’t forget that we need turnout at the “Kirwan”

education forums to help more people understand the Kirwan recommendations and to convince legislators that people do support investing in the recommendations. An overflow crowd helps convince legislators that we have their backs on this issue, while a lot of empty seats might make them question our support.

Lois Hybl, Co-President

Board Highlights

On 10/21 the State Board met using Google Meet, our online video conferencing connection. On Saturday, November 23rd, the Board will meet in person to tackle a strategic plan for LWVMD. That meeting will be informed by our Finance and Investments committee's work to build a robust list of options and approaches to fundraising as well as by the things we painfully learned from having to cancel our bus tour to the Lucy Burns Museum due to having too few registrations, though there is still strong interest in doing this visit next year.

Elsewhere in this issue of SBL you will see [the Legislative Priorities](#) adopted for the 2020 session of the Maryland Legislature, and the material we added to our Non-Partisan policy to address the use of social media by League leaders. Your State Board has joined the Maryland Advocates for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) coalition, whose work is consistent with our positions on transportation and protection of the environment.

Plans for the Winter Workshop at Wilde Lake on Saturday, January 25, will include:

1. Potential partnerships for celebrating our 100th Year
2. Dangers of a constitutional convention
3. And a special two-hour workshop for selected participants using the case study method to look at the initiative process lead by Genie Massey, the League member from Washington County who went to Harvard over the summer to be trained in using the case study methodology for teaching civics.

Our luncheon speaker will focus on the 2020 Census providing a statewide perspective.

Richard Willson, Co-President

Meet LWVMD Fall Intern: Julia Barrow



My name is Julia Barrow, and I am currently a senior at Broadneck High School and this fall with some of my extra time, I am working as the LWVMD's intern. I joined the League only this past summer, but my interest in politics and activism first sprouted when I took a government class my sophomore year. Ever since, I've been trying to be as involved in politics as possible by going to marches, founding a political discussion club at my school, and interning a previous summer with a Maryland State Senator. This past summer I started working as an intern for the Howard County League where I am working with Yvette Diamond, another member of the League, on a marketing campaign to grow awareness of the League and promote its amazing work. Throughout the summer, I contributed to social media, research, events, and other projects. When I found out the Maryland League was looking for an intern, I eagerly applied, hoping I could work more with this great organization. Now that I'm at the LWVMD, I've been working under Ashely Oleson and getting more hands-on experience in the day-to-day operations of a non-profit.

Announcing LWVMD's 2020 Legislative Priorities!

The LWVMD Board of Directors at the October meeting set the legislative priorities to be pursued during the upcoming 2020 General Assembly. The priorities were set after reviewing the current year priorities and receiving input from local Leagues.

These priorities reflect the priorities pursued in 2019 and updates Public Education with a specific note to pursue actions to support full funding of the Kirwan Commission recommendations.

We expect this to be a busy General Assembly with Redistricting Reform, Kirwan and Revenue to be hot issues, along with many other items. In the months ahead, the LWVMD will be working to help all members stay informed and involved.

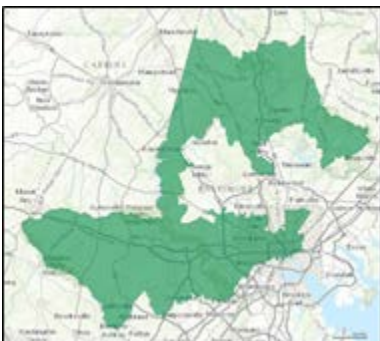
[Click Here to for a Downloadable Priorities Brochure](#)

Roy Appletree, co-Action Chair



The graphic features the LWVMD logo on the left, consisting of the letters L, W, V, M, and D stacked vertically in a large, red, sans-serif font. To the right of the logo is a blue rectangular box with a white border. Inside this box, there are three sections, each starting with a yellow star icon. The first section is titled 'Making Democracy Work' and lists three bullet points: 'Redistricting Reform', 'Improved Voter Access & Security of Election Processes', and 'Campaign Finance Reform'. The second section is titled 'Protecting the Environment' and lists three bullet points: 'Mitigating Climate Change', 'Increasing Use of Clean Renewable Energy', and 'Ensuring Safe Water & Clean Waterways for All'. The third section is titled 'Promoting Social & Economic Justice' and lists three bullet points: 'Providing Adequate & Equitable Pre-K - 12 Public Education by supporting full funding for the Kirwan Commission recommendations', 'Providing Adequate & Equitable Public Transportation', and 'Maintaining the Safety Net for Vulnerable Populations'. Below the blue box, the text '2020 Legislative Priorities' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Special Election and Special *Voters' Guides* for Maryland's Seventh Congressional District



The recent death of U. S. Congressman Elijah Cummings left the Seventh Congressional District, including large portions of Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Howard County, without representation in the House. Special elections to fill this vacancy were recently announced by Governor Hogan. Candidates may begin filing on October 30, 2019. The filing deadline is November 20, 2019 for candidates affiliated with the Democratic and Republican parties. The special primary election will be held on February 4, 2020, with no associated early voting. The special general election for this seat will coincide with the presidential primary election on April 28.

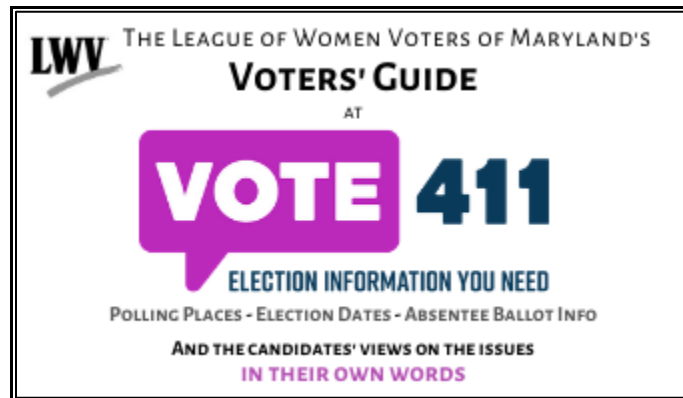
In order to provide citizens with information on the candidates, the League of Women Voters of Maryland will prepare a special issue of the *Voter's Guide* for the February election. The information will be posted on VOTE411, with hard copies to be distributed by the three local Leagues in the Seventh District.

Barbara Crain

Vote411 Update

The League has recently redesigned and relaunched VOTE411.org, the League's trusted nonpartisan election website used by more than five million voters in 2018. Vote411 has been updated to provide easier to access information on registration deadlines and tools, absentee and early voting information, polling place location, voting hours, and more. We ask that local Leagues use the new logo and brand in any materials created and shared.

You can order a button with the updated logo for your volunteers directly from LWVUS by clicking here. LWVMD will have updated Vote411 cards available for distribution soon - here's a sneak preview of the new design:



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Back

LWVMD is Looking for a Spring 2020 Intern



[Click for Details & How to Apply](http://lwvmd.org/2020_legislative_internship) – Please share link lwvmd.org/2020_legislative_internship with your networks!

New League Management Page!

LWVMD is excited to announce a League Management page on our website! Those who are familiar with National's League Management page will see similarities, but we want our page to make current resources more easily available to local Leagues as well as provide even more resources. On the page, you will find resources for several categories including organizational support, voter services, LWVUS support, and Census information. There are a variety of resources, ranging from webinars and modules to toolkits and guides. The page is easy to navigate, and it should help local Leagues enhance their current operations! Additionally, we will continue to update this page as more resources are made available - [Click here to Explore](#).

You can always locate the League Management site by clicking the button at the bottom of our website:

Contact the League to learn more about who we are and how you can join us.

League of Women Voters of Maryland
121 Cathedral Street, Suite 2B, Annapolis MD 21401
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LEAGUE MANAGEMENT

Hi [Lwvmd Administrator](#). [View your account settings](#), or [sign out](#).

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Party at the Polls! A Fun Way to Get Out the Vote

One new way to get voters to turn out, and stay out in polling places with long lines, is literally throwing a party at the polls! These parties can have food, games, and other fun activities that will make voting more fun for people. They are super easy to host, and we want Local Leagues to try to host some this upcoming election to maximize our voter turnout. [#VoteTogether](#) has made it easy to throw parties by providing funding, tool kits, and [event guides](#).

These parties can also be an awesome way to get our student members involved, in fact, if your Local League has student members who want to organize these parties, let them take charge! We know often times League members have other responsibilities on election day, like being election judges and poll observers, so student members may be able to expand our presence at the polls and contribute to our Get Out the Vote efforts. LWVUS also has many [election tools](#) available to help with these efforts including presidential debate criteria, Get Out the Vote letter templates, a best practices guide, and much more.



Please Support Remaining “Kirwan” Forms

Please encourage turnout at those in your county.

Go to <https://www.marylandblueprint.org/rsvp/> to find out about forums in your county and to RSVP. Following are the remaining “Kirwan” forums that have been scheduled.

- **Calvert County Forum on November 13 6:30pm** - Full Gospel Assembly of God @ 890 Solomons Island Rd S, Prince Frederick
- **Cecil County Forum on November 12 6:00pm** - Elk Room at the Cecil County Administration Building @ 200 Chesapeake Blvd, Elkton
- **Dorchester County Forum on November 7 6:00pm** - Dorchester Career and Tech Center @ 2465 MD-16, Cambridge
- **Frederick County Forum on November 14 - 7:00pm** - Urbana Fire Hall @ 3602 Urbana Pike, Frederick
- **Howard County Forum on November 6 6:00pm** - Lake Elkhorn Middle School @ 6680 Cradlerock Way, Columbia
- **Montgomery County Forum on November 6th 6:00pm** - Blair High School @ 51 University Blvd E, Silver Spring
- **Prince George's County Forum on November 18 7:00pm** - Oxon Hill High School Media Center - 6701 Leyte Dr, Oxon Hill
- **Queen Anne's County Forum on November 14 6:00pm** - Centreville Middle School @ 231 Ruthsburg Road, Centreville
- **Wicomico County Forum on November 14 6:00pm** - Wicomico Public Library @ 122 S. Division St, Salisbury 8

Contact Sean Johnson, sejohnson@mseanea.org if you want to help with any forums or have suggestions for panelists. Contact me at lhybl@lwvmd.org if you would like copies of flyers or media posts that you can adapt to your county's forum.

Lois Hybl, LWVMD Co-President

DEMAND MARYLAND LEGISLATORS CLOSE THE MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR SCHOOL FUNDING GAP

Visit marylandblueprint.org for the community forum near you.

SPEAK UP FOR
THE FUNDING AND
POLICIES OUR KIDS
DESERVE.



Coalition for the
BLUEPRINT
for Maryland's
FUTURE

LWVMD Joins MAST Coalition

MAST (Maryland Advocates for Sustainable Transportation) is a new coalition that has formed because of environmental, financial and economic justice concerns about the proposal for private developers to widen I-495 and I-270. The cost of this endeavor is estimated to be between \$9 and \$11 billion dollars. The plan is to have the entire project paid for by charging tolls for driving on these new lanes that will vary by how heavy the traffic is. The county governments that will be most impacted by this project were not consulted before it was announced and it was not part of any transportation priority that they had submitted to the State.

LWVMD has been concerned about the fact that numerous studies have shown enlarging highways is only a temporary fix for traffic congestion and with the urgent need to address the climate

crisis, this is not the time to be adding capacity for more cars and trucks since transportation is now the number one contributor to greenhouse gas emission. Therefore, we have signed on to these [principles](#) and become a member of MAST.

These are the LWVMD positions on transportation:

Support for:

1. Maintaining the solvency of the Transportation Trust Fund.
2. Increasing funding for mass transit.
3. Developing regional visions and frameworks for transportation which reflect local concerns, and which incorporate relevant LWV positions on land use, economic development and environmental protection.
4. Achieving and maintaining cooperative working relationships among state and local agencies in order to achieve better planning and

to decrease the use of single occupancy vehicles.

5. Incentives which promote use of mass transit and other alternative modes of travel.
6. Public education to promote transportation goals which would

provide alternative travel modes, encourage technological improvements that abate emissions from mobile sources, reduce energy consumption and protect natural resources.

LWVMD Meets Women in Leadership from Pakistan

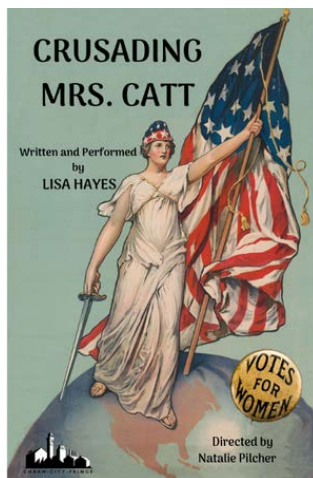
On Friday, September 20th, Nancy Soreng, Ashley Oleson, and I had the wonderful opportunity to meet and speak with a small group of female legislators from Pakistan. Some of these women were members of the National Parliament and others were members of Regional Parliaments. Nancy and Ashley spoke about the League and answered the many questions the



women had. They were very interested not only to learn about the League and its role in the U.S., but also to tell us about Pakistan and more of their functions there. It was interesting to learn how Pakistan and the U.S. each have their own challenges, especially when it comes to women in government, and how each country has taken a different approach. Continuing to champion women in government is crucial to progress in our own democracy as well as in governments around the world.

Julia Barrow, LWVMD Intern

“Crusading Mrs. Catt”



I recently saw this one-woman show by Lisa Hayes about Carrie Chapman Catt, suffragist and founder of the League of Women Voters. It was staged as part of Baltimore’s Charm City Fringe Festival, but Lisa Hayes would love to do this for League groups. Her website says, “**Crusading Mrs. Catt** runs 60 minutes, with minimal technical requirements. It can be performed in a variety of venues and can be accompanied by a talk-back with the performer/writer/historian, Dr. Lisa Hayes. In addition to being a stand-alone event, the play can serve as a springboard for community dialogue.

To discuss bringing CRUSADING MRS. CATT to your community, contact Lisa Hayes at Lisahayesphd@gmail.com.

Lois Hybl