STATE BOARD LETTER
November 2019

LWVMD Calendar

December
14 – “Citizen Activism: Making an Impact in Maryland” – FREE Training w/ CCMD in Rockville, featuring Roy Appletree, LWVMD Action Chair as a trainer
14 – “Rebuild Maryland: Climate Action Summit” – Coalition Event in College Park
15 – Maryland Legislative Summit at UMBC – featuring Lois Hybl, LWVMD Pres as a speaker
17 – State Board Meeting – 7:00 - 9:00PM (online)

January
8 – Maryland General Assembly Convenes
21 - State Board Meeting – 7:00 - 9:00PM (online)
25 – Winter Workshop – see signup form on page 7

Planning your local league calendar? Click here to see the whole calendar.

LWVMD Gift Membership
$75
Give the Gift of Civic Empowerment!

The Holidays are Just Around the Corner! lwvmd.org/gift_membership
LWVMD Joins Get Maryland Moving!

Get Maryland Moving is a coalition of diverse stakeholders who believe that stronger public transportation in Maryland is necessary to strengthen our communities and our regional economy. Members have their own core missions and specific sector focuses like education, business development, philanthropy, community development, etc., but all agree improving public transportation is important for the growth and stability of our region.

In 2018, when the legislature passed a bill requiring dedicated funding for The Metro, it contained a provision requiring development of a Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan. The plan would encompass Anne Arundel, Howard, Baltimore and Harford Counties and Baltimore City. A commission has been appointed to draft this plan and Get Maryland Moving has been engaged in monitoring the process and providing comments when appropriate. By joining this coalition, LWVMD can weigh in on this important endeavor.

January’s Just Around the Corner...Roster Update Reminder

This is a reminder to all local League membership chairs and roster managers that your League’s 2020 state and national per member payments (PMP) will be based on the number of active members on your roster on January 31, 2020. Please allow time over the coming weeks to enter and verify all of your member information! Local Leagues who have chosen to maintain

Ways to Support Civic Education in Our Schools

Leagues conduct successful voter registration drives at area high schools that in turn lead to meaningful conversations with students about voting, elections, the League and civic life. For those looking for other ways to engage with students, Dr. Marcie Taylor-Thoma, a League member from Anne Arundel County and Executive Director of the Maryland Council for Civic and History Education, suggests asking your local schools whether they participate in the following:

- Maryland History Day
- We The People: The Citizen and the Constitution
- Project Citizen.

Each of these programs relies on volunteer judges and offers opportunities for Leagues to support civic education efforts in our schools. Several local Leagues are already active partners. Please contact me to learn more.

Niecy Chambers
(nchambers@lwvmd.org)
their membership information in the LWVUS database will enter their member updates directly through the Salesforce Portal. After the January 31 deadline, the state League will download this information to update our records in NationBuilder.

The state League will update the LWVUS database for all other local Leagues. To allow time for us to enter and verify your membership numbers, we ask that you finalize your rosters in NationBuilder no later than January 24. Please contact me (nchambers@lwvm.org) as soon as your member information is correct and complete. After your League’s membership data has been updated in the national website, I’ll send you a roster for your final approval. Please contact me if you need access to the NationBuilder training materials or if you’re new to the membership portfolio and unsure what any of this means. I’m here to help – just ask!

Niecy Chambers, Membership Chair

Kirwan Commission Passes Formula Recommendations for the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future

This fall you may have attended one of the many local forums on the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission and the expected increased annual cost of $2.8 million for the state and $1.2 million for local districts in 2030 when the plan is fully phased in. You have heard that the recommendations cover early childhood education, high quality and diverse teachers and leaders, college and career readiness, more resources to ensure the success of all students (such as early intervention and tutoring to help struggling learners and special grants to schools dealing with concentrated poverty) and new requirements for governance and accountability.

Working over the summer and fall, the Kirwan Commission’s “Blueprint Funding Formula Work Group” recently recommended a plan for phasing in the additional funding that offers significantly less funding in the early years of the ten-year phase-in. The state would pay the full cost of the concentrated poverty grants. But local districts would be required to share not only the cost of the basic foundation formula but also the cost for special services (special education, English language learners and compensatory education for students eligible for free or reduced-price meals). Thus, many districts face substantial increases in their local share.

A standing-room only hearing on the workgroup recommendations was held on
November 12. Testifying for LWVMD, I reminded the Kirwan Commission that supporting full funding for the Commission recommendations is one of our highest priorities for the 2020 General Assembly. I noted that we would have preferred a higher level of funding in the early years of the ten-year phase-in than the workgroup recommended, that we support progressive changes in our tax structure to pay for the increased education funding and that we also recommend finding mechanisms (e.g., guaranteed tax base) to help low wealth districts meet their local share obligations. On Thursday, November 21, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Public Education voted to approve the “Report of the Blueprint Funding Formula Work Group.”

The report goes to the Governor and General Assembly for legislation. We, as a member of the Coalition for the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, have hard work ahead to get this legislation passed. I welcome your questions and suggestions for strategies.

Lois Hybl (lhybl@lwvmd.org)

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People Powered Fair Maps Campaign is Underway!

As you know, we are working in tandem with Leagues in all 50 states in the battle for Fair Maps! As a part of this effort, and our ongoing commitment to fair redistricting in Maryland, LWVMD partnered with Common Cause Maryland to host two Fair Maps events in Baltimore City & Laurel. While we planned these meetings to feature California redistricting commissioner, Andre Parvenue, an unfortunate health emergency prevented him from joining us. However, we at the LWVMD have a wealth of knowledge in redistricting, so we were able to carry on with Ashley Oleson, LWVMD State Director leading the redistricting conversation and walking participants through our goals and strategy for the upcoming session.

At our Laurel event we were also joined by Prince George’s County Census Coordinator Jordan Baucum Colbert, because of course, the Census and Redistricting go hand-in-hand. Jordan expressed the importance of a full Census count and explained how an undercount can
adversely affect our communities and our representation in Congress.

As we transition into December, we have our focus set on what we want to accomplish during the 2020 legislative session. We have been planning, meeting, and strategizing since the end of 2019 session, and very soon it will be time for YOU to bring the People Power to this campaign and tell your legislators in Annapolis the time is now to pass Fair Maps reforms for Maryland.

If you haven’t already, sign our Fair Maps pledge now in support of reform and to stay in the loop. If you want to volunteer to help with literature drops, lobby night, and anything else that may come up as we head into session, click here now. We can’t win without you! Thank you for all of your support.

ICYMI -

Constitution Day 2019

Check out the YouTube recording of the 2019 proceedings entitled The Constitution and a Changing Climate! The University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law had their Media Services shoot the video of our program in the law school's Ceremonial Court Room.

Click the Image to View on YouTube!
The League of Women Voters of Maryland co-sponsors this event with the law school, The University of Maryland—Baltimore, and the MLAW Program of the University of Maryland--College Park. “The Constitution and a Changing Climate” was the topic of this year’s program. Professor Michael Pappas, Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development, welcomed the audience. Lois Hybl, Co-President of League of Women Voters of Maryland, gave greetings from the League. The panelists, all distinguished law professors, were Robert Percival, Rena Steinzor, Seema Kakade, and William Piermattei. A vigorous Q & A session followed their presentations. The audience was treated to a delicious, collaborative reception featuring a large cake decorated with the Preamble to the Constitution on top. Guests could browse in the displays of recent, relevant law school faculty publications as well as League publications.

The 2020 General Assembly session is upon us – and we want to give you the tools to help make change in Annapolis. LWVMD will be joining Common Cause MD and other organizational trainers to get you ready for the legislative session!

The “Citizen Activism: Making an Impact in Maryland” FREE day-long training will teach you how Maryland governance works and how you can influence the legislative process. The training will cover every aspect of the General Assembly session and will give you the tools to follow the issues you care about and make a real impact on Maryland politics.

Training sessions throughout the day

- How Bill Becomes Law, Dates to Watch, First Weeks of Session
- Bill Drafting to First Reader, Building Your Case
- Committees in Action
- Crossover Looms, Countdown to Sine Die
- Sine Die and Beyond
WINTER WORKSHOP

*Saturday, January 25, 2020*
Wilde Lake Interfaith Center
10431 Twin Rivers Road
Columbia, MD 21044
9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Workshop fee - $25 / Non-LWV member - $30 (Early Bird Pricing through 1/17)

9:30 am - 10:00 am  Registration and light breakfast

10:00 am - 11:00 am  "Dangers of a Constitutional Convention"
Jessica Jones Capparell - LWVUS

11:15 am - 12:15 pm  Potential Partnerships for Celebrating our 100th Year

12:30 pm - 1:45 pm  Lunch and Speaker:
Robert S. McCord, Maryland Secretary of Planning
The 2020 Census

1:45 pm - 2:00 pm  Announcements

REGISTER ON LINE AT  www.lwvmd.org/winter_workshop_2020

WINTER WORKSHOP 2020 REGISTRATION FORM

NAME ____________________________________________________________

LEAGUE _________________________________________________________

Phone ___________________________    Email _________________________

Before 1/17 Members $25/Non LWV Member $30
After 1/17 Members $30/Non LWV Member $35

$__________________________

Donation to the LWVMD $________________

Or donate online at www.lwvmd.org/make_donation

Mail to: LWVMD, 121 Cathedral Street, Suite 2B, Annapolis, MD 21401

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@lwvmd.org