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STATE BOARD LETTER January 2020

LWVMD Calendar

February

- 04 – Special Primary Election, Congressional District 7
- 14 – [Women Power the Vote](#), National LWV Day of Action & LWV/LWVMD's 100th Anniversary
- 17 – [Fair Maps Lobby Night](#) - 5:30-8:00 PM - Annapolis
- 24 – State Board Meeting – 7:00 - 9:00PM (online)

March

- 04 – [Legislative Day](#) – Annapolis (see flyer)
- 21 - State Board Meeting – 9:00 - 12:00PM - Miller's Grant, 9000 Fathers Legacy, Ellicott City

***Many Local Leagues are Planning 100th Anniversary Celebrations – [Click here to learn about these upcoming events around the state](#)

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

Presidents' Message

At our Winter Workshop, Maryland's Secretary of Planning, Robert S. McCord, impressed us with the vital importance of the information that will be derived from a successful 2020 Census and the vital importance of each citizen's participation and advocacy. League members were the right audience for this message and here is why: League members seek to be informed; League members educate; and League members understand the importance of advocacy.

Briefly, an accurate census count of all persons will have a huge impact on our planning for school construction, transportation planning and the distribution of funding for human services and public safety. Secretary McCord noted that each person not counted can

represent a loss of \$18,350 for local government. Census data is aggregated so that characteristics of the population can be accurately mapped enabling critical planning decisions like the placement of mass transit stops and the kinds of school facilities that will be needed as the makeup of families change.

Maybe you already knew all of this, but have you considered how you plan to share this vital information with others? Secretary McCord encouraged League members to be in touch with friends who you see as having influence - elected officials for sure, and acquaintances connected in service clubs or on social media, or in churches, synagogues and mosques. Don't forget neighbors who know neighbors, too.

Responses can be filed online, by phone, by mail or given directly to a census worker. Personal information will not be compromised because every census employee is sworn to confidentiality backed up by a \$250,000 fine and five years in jail if that oath is violated. By law, names of persons in households are not released for 72 years! Watch for your invitation to participate that is being mailed on March 12, 2020 and find at least one or two ways to encourage others to get involved.

There are two census related statistics you will often hear cited. The participation rate measures those who self-respond. The under counted rate reflects those who do not respond to in-person outreach from a census worker. These two rates measure two different things and can vary.

Saturday's roll call saw members from 12 of our 15 chapters in attendance led by Montgomery (22 registered in advance), Howard (13), Anne Arundel and Baltimore tied (8), Baltimore County (7), Frederick (5), Harford (4) with Washington, Prince George's, Mid-Shore, Kent and Carroll accounting for the remaining eleven.

Richard Willson and Lois Hybl - Co-Presidents

January State Board Meeting Highlights

- Legislative Day is planned for March 4th. Kim has done an exceptional job planning this event so be sure to register for it now.
- Ashley has been working hard on getting Redistricting Reform as a top priority for this year's session. Way to go Ashley.
- Barbara has worked hard to get VOTE411.org up and running this year. Be sure to let people know it is the most comprehensive and accurate place to go for information on candidates. Be an informed Voter!!!!
- **The State Council is June 6**, mark that on your calendars! Joyce has set up an exciting day for you, don't miss it. This is our 100th year and we should make it Special.
- Any Local League out there interested in hosting NEXT year's Convention? Think about it.

Fair Maps Lobby Night – February 17



2020 is the year for Fair Maps - but we need you to put the People Power in the movement to get it done!

Join the [Tame the Gerrymander](#) coalition in Annapolis to meet with legislators and tell them how important it is that they pass redistricting reform for fair election maps for the next decade! These maps will be drawn in 2021 - so there is no time to lose.

[Please sign up at Eventbrite if you plan to attend so we can coordinate appointments with the appropriate legislators.](#) Thank you!

Be sure to get to town early to find parking - this will be a busy night in Annapolis!
<https://www.annapolisparking.com/>

Big Thank You to Fair Maps Volunteer – Philip Brooks!

“Volunteering at the League of Women Voters Maryland over the month of January was a very positive experience. I worked on organizing a lobby night at the Maryland General Assembly. I helped to provide resources to voters so they know where their senators and delegates stand in relation to gerrymandering and redistricting. I feel like this year the organization can make progress towards redistricting reform in Maryland, especially through fighting for the Fair Maps Act.”



Updates in the Fight for Fair Maps!

ICYMI – we held a Tele-TownHall Event on 1/14 with Fair Maps Act sponsors, Sen. Mary Washington & Del. Jheanelle Wilkins and [you download and listen to it by clicking here!](#)

[SB 967 The Fair Maps Act](#) (House cross-file to drop this week) – seeks to establish Congressional standards that are the same as those our state legislative districts adhere to, provides additional protections for communities of interest, seeks transparency and public input into the process. [Click here to read our one pager about the bill.](#)

2/14 LWV Day of Action! Participate in the national day of action by pushing for Fair Maps! LWVMD will be sending Valentines to each of our legislators to ask them to pass the Fair Maps Act, and we ask you to do the same! [Use our Fair Maps Valentine Kit to get in on the advocacy!](#) We've created a postcard template for those who want to print and send their own cards in the mail & we've created designs for you to use on Social Media – be sure to tag @LWVMD and your legislator when you share and ask them to Pass The Fair Maps Act!



2/17 Fair Maps Lobby Night – We need YOU!

We need as many people as possible to turn out in Annapolis for our lobby night for Fair Maps. This is our last chance to get a Constitutional amendment on the ballot before our redistricting process kicks off in 2021 – we need to use all the People Power we have to persuade our legislators to pass this reform! [Please RSVP on Eventbrite today so we can get you read for your appointments with legislators who are key to passing this reform.](#)

Ashley Oleson, LWVMD State Director

Introducing LWVMD's 2020 Legislative Interns

When I was contemplating what type of classes I will be taking my spring semester at Towson University, I knew I wanted to do an internship. I wanted an internship that would relate back to my major of Law and American Civilization. My major promotes being an “an active citizen in a nation devoted to the rule of law”. This lined up with the LWVMD value of “encouraging informed and active participation in government”. As I did more research, I admired the LWVMD work that goes into creating voter guides, which I personally used for the 2018 election, and their fight for fair redistricting. When I was offered the position, I was elated.

Now that I have been here for four weeks, I have experienced so much already: being able to attend the Maryland Nonprofits Legislative Preview, witnessing league members give testimony at committee hearings, and doing a literature drop to Maryland General Assembly members to garner support for the Fair Maps Act. It has also been a pleasure working in the office with Ashley. I have been learning a lot from her. I enjoy that I can come into the office and work on something new. My favorite so far is working on creating graphics to inform people about the 7th district congressional election, editing the *Report from State Circle*, and working on a fundraising campaign for LWVMD centennial. I cannot wait to see what the rest of my time here will entail, especially as we get closer to the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters and LWVMD Legislative Day.

Joan Maingi, Sophomore, Towson University
(Right in Picture)



I am excited to begin my journey at League of Women Voters Maryland. During the 2018 midterms, I learned about the effects of gerrymandering and became committed to working with organizations that help to make our democracy fairer. I strongly believe that every citizen in the United States deserves to have their interests reflected in our government and its laws. I was drawn to this internship because I wanted to become more educated on how redistricting works and the ways organizations like LWVMD are working to get fair districts so that everyone is represented equally. While attending the 2020 Legislative Preview, I received a wonderful overview of what I would be learning throughout this internship. I hope to use my passion for visual storytelling to create explanation videos for

LWVMD that will help voters to obtain a better understanding of complicated issues. I look forward to gaining more knowledge of the legislative process and helping LWVMD to encourage voters to get involved in their government.

Stephanie Parajon, Gap Year, University of Redlands, CA
(Left in Picture)

Baltimore City League Members Join High School Voter Engagement Awards (HSVEA) Tour

Just before our 2019 Annual Meeting, Black Girls Vote and Baltimore Votes invited the League of Women Voters of Baltimore City to participate in their plan to encourage High School students to be registered, vote, and be educated about civic engagement. The plan was to use a \$5,000 grant to distribute ten \$500 prizes to students or



teachers who had established exemplary voter engagement programs. Principals were asked to make the recommendations.

A tour of each of the winners' schools was organized. Representatives of the three organizations visited each school. Each winner received a huge balloon bouquet, a framed certificate, a dozen donuts and a \$500 check. At each school, pictures and videos were taken with the winner and the organizational representatives and a huge replica of the award check.

The League has been actively registering high school students under the leadership of Dr. Argentine Craig. During the tour, we got a taste of the problem created for students who have to use the unreliable MTA buses to get to school. One winner who has a full time job and still attends school was not present for her award. Her bus was late causing her to miss an important test. She was so upset that she turned around and went home again!

Some of the teachers were teary-eyed when they received their awards. They were not used to receiving that kind of appreciation for their efforts.

Lois Hybl

Program Report for January

Civic Education: A reminder that the Civic Education reports from Local League meetings are due by January 31. The committee is anxious to compile the results to share with all our state Local Leagues (LL) . Please send your LL results to the committee chairs: Diane Hibino - dianehibino@comcast.net and Yoke San Reynolds - yslreynolds@gmail.com.

Program Planning: The deadline for LLs to submit their Program Planning report forms is March 20,2020. Here is the link to the LWVUS Program Planning Guide. While it is important for LLs to discuss the concurrence recommended by National so that LL delegates to the convention know how their members feel about the concurrence; the report to National only asks if you had enough information. They do not ask if you agree or disagree with the Concurrence. That will be decided at the Convention.

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/leaders-guide-lwvus-program-planning-2020-2022>

VOTE411 and the Primary Elections

[VOTE411](#) is the League's one-stop shop for election-related information, providing a variety of nonpartisan information to the public. During election season, [VOTE411](#) also serves as a valuable nonpartisan source of information about the candidates.

Where does the information come from? The candidates themselves. Volunteers from local leagues across the state send questions to each candidate. The answers are then posted, in the candidates' own words, on the website. The answers are also downloaded to form the basis for LWV's popular printed *Voters' Guides*, which are distributed to schools and other public places.

What's in [VOTE411](#) right now? If you live in the 7th Congressional District and enter your home address, you will be directed to your personalized, interactive, online *Voters' Guide*, with all the answers found in the printed *Guides* plus answers received after the print deadline. This information has been available online since December 21, 2019 and will stay up through the Special Primary Election on February 4, 2020.



[VOTE411](#) will have similar information for Maryland's upcoming Presidential Primary Election, to be held on April 28, 2020. Volunteers are currently finalizing their questionnaires for candidates and their descriptions of the races that will be on the ballot. Invitations to participate will be sent to all candidates on the ballot during the week of January 27. [VOTE411](#) will "go live" for the Presidential Primary in the middle of March.

In addition to finding out about the candidates, users can use [VOTE411](#) to register to vote and to update their voter registration through links to the Maryland State Board of Elections website. They can find their polling places and, on the same page, their various voting districts. Election dates, including early voting dates, and information about League-sponsored forums are all there.

[VOTE411](#) business cards were distributed at the Winter Workshop on January 25. These are great to pass out at League-sponsored events, including voter registration events and forums. To request cards, email Barbara Crain at bcrain@lwvmd.org.

Finally, a big THANK YOU to the dozens of dedicated, hard-working LWV volunteers across the state who make this all happen!

Be There for LWVMD Legislative Day, March 4!

The Action Chairs would like to remind you our Legislative Day is right around the corner, **Wednesday, March 4, 2020**. Local League Presidents need to start scheduling appointments with their legislators if they have not already done so. We also need our League members to [register!](#) This year we will host a panel discussion on our Legislative Priorities for 2020 (Making Democracy Work, Protecting the Environment, Promoting Social and Economic Justice) with three of LWVMD coalition partners; Joanne Antoine, Executive Director Common Cause Maryland, Steven Hershkowitz, Maryland Director Chesapeake Climate Action Network & CCAN Action Fund and Derrell Frazier, Policy Advocate, Job Opportunities Task Force.

We realize that our work to make a difference and affect positive change through legislation not only affects our League members and the communities, they reside in, but it affects our neighbors throughout the state of Maryland. We appreciate the dedication and the wealth of knowledge that our LWVMD members exhibit. They are ordinary people from various backgrounds who strive to make a difference with others who share the same common goal which is to empower citizens to shape better communities.

See you at Legislative Day,

Kimberly Scott and Roy Appletree
Co-Action Chairs

LEGISLATIVE DAY

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

House Office Building
6 Bladen Street, Room 150
Annapolis, MD 21401



Registration fee: \$35 Members/\$40 - Guests

Includes buffet lunch Parking not included

Photo ID required for admission to all Maryland government buildings.

8:30am Registration and Coffee

8:30 -10:00 am Visits to Legislators arranged by Local Leagues
Local Leagues are responsible for making those appointments in advance.

10:00 am Report on legislative visits

11:00 am State budget presentation by Victoria Gruber,
Executive Director, Department of Legislative Services

Noon Lunch - Panel Discussion featuring our coalition partners

1:00 pm Optional visits to committee hearings

LEGISLATIVE DAY 2020 REGISTRATION FORM

If you or someone you know would like assistance from the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund for the workshop fee, please contact the LWVMD office. stateoffice@lwvmd.org
REGISTER EARLY - PRICES INCREASE BY \$5 ON FEBRUARY 19, 2020

NAME _____

LEAGUE _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Registration fee - \$35/\$40 _____ Donation to the LWVMD Education Fund _____

Or donate online: Go to https://www.lwvmd.org/make_donation

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

Or register online: http://www.lwvmd.org/leg_day_2020

Share the Facts...Be a Census Ambassador

At Winter Workshop, Secretary McCord demonstrated the myriad ways that census data informs and improves our lives, and emphasized the value of a complete and accurate count. How can Leaguers help Maryland get counted?

1. Know the questions, share the answers.

2020 Census FAQ

What is the census?

The census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. It happens every 10 years. In early 2020, you will be asked to count everyone who lives in your home as of April 1. Responding to the 2020 Census is a chance to shape your future.

What's in it for me?



Your responses inform where over \$675 billion is distributed each year to communities nationwide for clinics, schools, roads, and more.



Census data gives community leaders vital information to make decisions about building community centers, opening businesses, and planning for the future.



Responding also fulfills your civic duty because it's mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.



Your responses are used to redraw legislative districts and determine the number of seats your state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Is my information safe?

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. They cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the FBI, not by the CIA, not by the DHS, and not by ICE.

When can I respond to the census?

In early 2020, every household in America will receive a notice to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail. In May, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin following up in person with households that have yet to respond.

What will I be asked?

You will be asked a few simple questions, like age, sex, and the number of people who live in your home, including children.

What won't be asked?

The census will never ask for Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, money or donations, or anything related to political parties.

For more information, visit:
2020CENSUS.GOV

D-FA-OP-09-034

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States
Census
2020

How census data is used

1 Decision making at all levels of government.	16 Designing facilities for people with disabilities, the elderly, or children.	32 Directing services to children and adults with limited English-language proficiency.
2 Drawing federal, state, and local legislative districts.	17 Planning future government services.	33 Planning urban land use.
3 Attracting new businesses to state and local areas.	18 Planning investments and evaluating financial risk.	34 Planning outreach strategies.
4 Distributing over \$675 billion annually in federal funds and even more in state funds.	19 Publishing economic and statistical reports about the United States and its people.	35 Understanding labor supply.
5 Forecasting future transportation needs for all segments of the population.	20 Facilitating scientific research.	36 Assessing the potential for spread of communicable diseases.
6 Planning for hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and the location of other health services.	21 Developing "intelligent" maps for government and business.	37 Making business decisions.
7 Forecasting future housing needs for all segments of the population.	22 Providing proof of age, relationship, or residence certificates provided by the Census Bureau.	38 Understanding consumer needs.
8 Directing funds for services for people in poverty.	23 Distributing medical research.	39 Planning for faith-based organizations.
9 Designing public safety strategies.	24 Reapportioning seats in the House of Representatives.	40 Locating factory sites and distribution centers.
10 Development of rural areas.	25 Planning and researching for media as backup for news stories.	41 Distributing catalogs and developing direct mail pieces.
11 Analyzing local trends.	26 Drawing school district boundaries.	42 Setting a standard for creating both public and private sector surveys.
12 Estimating the number of people displaced by natural disasters.	27 Planning budgets for government at all levels.	43 Evaluating programs in different geographic areas.
13 Developing assistance programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives.	28 Spotting trends in the economic well-being of the nation.	44 Providing genealogical research.
14 Creating maps to speed emergency services to households in need of assistance.	29 Planning for public transportation services.	45 Planning for school projects.
15 Delivering goods and services to local markets.	30 Planning health and educational services for people with disabilities.	46 Developing adult education programs.
	31 Establishing fair market rents and enforcing fair lending practices.	47 Researching historical subject areas.
		48 Determining areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans.

United States
Census
2020



CensusMaryland

[Resource Link](#)

2. Build trust in the process.



The Census is Easy

Filling out your census form can be done in three ways – **by mail, phone and online.**

The 2020 census will be the **first online census** in U.S. history.

Answering the demographic questions in the census helps make sure your community receives its **fair share of funding** and that economic development and planning decisions accurately reflect your community on April 1, 2020.

Some important facts to remember. Don't forget:

- College students should be counted at their college address, either on or off campus. They should be counted at their parents' home only if they live and sleep there.
- All children must be counted **including those under five years old.**

The Census is Safe

The U.S. Census Bureau **must keep all information confidential,** including a resident's citizenship, income and other sensitive personal data.

- Data is collected for statistical purposes only and **personal data is never disclosed.**
- All census information is private and protected by law in Title 13 of the U.S. Code with violations punishable up to five years in federal prison and/or a \$250,000 fine.

So choose the way that you will be counted – by mail, by phone or online.

It is the portrait of us that will last ten years, so let's get everyone in the picture.



Census.Maryland.gov

Email: Census@Maryland.gov • Twitter: [@MDCensus2020](https://twitter.com/MDCensus2020) • Phone: 410.767.4500



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Robert S. McCord, Secretary
Sandy Schrader, Deputy Secretary



3. Raise the bar for your county.



**Important
Easy and Safe**

Maryland Census Participation Rates Census 2000 and 2010



Participation Rate	2000	2010
Maryland	76%	76%
Allegany	77%	75%
Anne Arundel	80%	78%
Baltimore City	63%	68%
Baltimore County	80%	78%
Calvert	76%	80%
Caroline	71%	76%
Carroll	84%	83%
Cecil	73%	73%
Charles	77%	78%
Dorchester	70%	71%
Frederick	82%	78%
Garrett	57%	67%
Harford	81%	81%
Howard	84%	81%
Kent	66%	70%
Montgomery	82%	80%
Prince George's	75%	74%
Queen Anne's	75%	76%
Somerset	61%	69%
St. Mary's	71%	75%
Talbot	72%	75%
Washington	78%	75%
Wicomico	73%	73%
Worcester	63%	59%



While the statewide participation rate remained the same from 2000 to 2010, more than half of the county rates decreased or stayed the same. We encourage everyone to be counted in 2020.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Census.Maryland.gov

Email: Census@Maryland.gov • Twitter: @MDCensus2020 • Phone: 410.767.4500



4. Volunteer. The first Census mailing will be in mid-March. Contact your County Complete Count Committee or your public library to find out how you can help.