

# State Board Letter

## Contents

- 1 Calendar
- 2 Co-Presidents' Message
- 2 State Board Meeting Highlights
- 3 LWVMD Intern Profiles
- 4 State Committees and Board Liaisons
- 5 State Convention Highlights
- 5 New Studies
- 6 Call for Action
- 7 DEI

**LWVMD**  
121 Cathedral Street  
Suite 2B  
Annapolis, MD 21401

phone: 410-296-0232  
web: [lwvmd.org](http://lwvmd.org)  
email: [info@lwvmd.org](mailto:info@lwvmd.org)  
social media: [@lwvmd.org](https://www.instagram.com/lwvmd.org)  
(instagram, twitter, facebook)

Co-Presidents: Deborah Mitchell  
Nancy Soreng  
Editor: Stacey Morrison



## LWVMD Calendar 2021-2022

### 2021

#### June

24-27 LWVUS Convention online

#### July

4 Independence Day  
22 LWVMD Board Meeting online, 9:30am - 12:30pm

#### Aug

26 Women's Equality Day

#### Sept

6 Labor Day  
23 LWVMD Board Meeting TBD, 10am - 12:30pm  
25 Fall Workshop hybrid, 9am - 12:30pm  
28 National Voter Registration Day  
TBD Constitution Day

#### Oct

28 LWVMD Board Meeting online, 6 - 8pm

#### Nov

18 LWVMD Board Meeting online, 9:30am - 12:30pm  
25 Thanksgiving

#### Dec

16 LWVMD Board Meeting online, 9:30am - 12:30pm

*The SBL is a monthly LWVMD publication that seeks to strengthen understanding and collaboration between the Board and local Leagues statewide*

### 2022

#### Jan

1 New Year's Day  
17 Martin Luther King Jr Day  
20 LWVMD Board Meeting online, 9:30am - 12:30pm  
29 Winter Workshop TBD, 9am - 12:30pm

#### Feb

17 LWVMD Board Meeting online, 6 - 8pm  
21 Presidents' Day  
22 Candidate Filing Deadline

#### Mar

17 LWVMD Board Meeting TBD, 10am - 12:30pm

#### Apr

21 LWVMD Board Meeting online, 9:30am - 12:30pm  
25 Ballot Certified

#### May

7 LWNCA Convention  
13 LWVMD Day on Capitol Hill  
19 LWVMD Board Meeting online, 9:30am - 12:30pm

#### June

4 LWVMD Council hybrid, 10am - 4pm  
7 Last Day Voter Registration/Change Party Affiliation  
16 Early Voting Begins  
19 Juneteenth  
23 Last Day of Early Voting  
23-27 LWVUS Convention Hybrid, online & Denver  
28 Primary Election Day

## Co-Presidents' Message

**W**e are honored to be elected as Co-Presidents of the League of Women Voters of Maryland. We look forward to working with the rest of the elected Board, our local Leagues, and all of our current and future members.

The League's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) provides an opportunity to grow our membership and the areas of public policy where we focus our advocacy. With guidance and support from the DEI Committee, we will work to ensure that all our endeavors are carried out through this lens.

The 2021-2021 work year includes two major events that are at the core of the League's mission to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy. First, the General Assembly will adopt new maps for Legislative and Congressional Districts that will be used for

the next 10 years. Following that will be the election of a U.S. Senator, members to the U.S. House of Representatives, Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General, and Senators and Delegates to the Maryland General Assembly as well as local officials, such as the County Council and Commission members and MORE! As always, the League will provide non-partisan information to voters so they can make informed choices.

It will be a very busy year and much of the work will be done by our local Leagues.

However, we will make sure that LWVMD will be there as a partner to serve and assist our volunteers in these endeavors.



*Deborah Mitchell (l) and Nancy Soreng (r),  
Co-Presidents*

### State Board Meeting Highlights

Your new board elected at Convention on June 5 began its work with a virtual orientation meeting on Saturday, June 19, with 100 percent participation! We used a great icebreaker that could be used in League meetings at all levels: What was the first "political" experience that you can remember? [Check out our new team online!](#)

With a few exceptions, the new board will hold most of its meetings on the third Thursday of each month beginning at 9:30am. You can refer to the Calendar of State Events on page 1 as you plan local League events.

J.C. Hooker, Linna Barnes, and Julia Nickles were elected to the Advocacy Fund Board, the League's 501(c)(4) entity.

Your State Board is organized into working teams/committees, which can be found on page 4. If you have particular interest in any of these topic areas and may be interested in serving in an "off-board" capacity, email the board liaison using the link below their names.

*Richard Willson, Secretary*

---

## LWVMD Interns

---

### Welcome Aboard, Casey



Casey Hunter is a rising senior at the University of Maryland, College Park, earning a dual Bachelor of Arts and Master of Public Policy degree with a minor in environmental sustainability. After graduation, she plans on attending law school. Outside of academics, Casey loves practicing yoga and spending time with her two golden retrievers, Coltrane and Jazz.

Casey is passionate about environmental law and policy, with a particular interest in environmental justice issues. While at UMD, she has served the School of Public Policy as a Student Ambassador, working with faculty and peers to grow and expand her small program, organizing campus events, facilitating discussion panels, and recruiting new students. While young people are becoming increasingly politically engaged, the constant stream of news and information can be overwhelming, causing many to largely disengage. As an Ambassador, she has learned that the framing of content is just as important as the information itself, and is the key to keeping any audience tuned in.

Casey is grateful and excited to be working with the LWVMD to actively promote equitable access to the ballot box. So far, she has been involved in redistricting and DEI projects and is looking forward to working on police accountability and reform issues. In her first weeks at LWVMD, she has already seen and felt how passionate the members of this organization are, and is eager to learn how to effectively educate and engage voters across Maryland.

---

Skyler Sale is a rising sophomore at The Catholic University of America. She is a member of the women's volleyball team and is studying to discover her desired major. While Skyler is taking classes of all varieties, political science and pre-law classes have piqued her interest the most.

Being a student in D.C. during this election year has allowed her to see first-hand the voting process and its effects. Skyler is eager to be an asset to the League and engage members with policy work. Skyler spent 9 years living overseas and recognizes the importance of our democracy and how truly lucky we are. She hopes to use these experiences to relate to members and progress voter rights.

Skyler is so excited to be a part of the LWVMD team and cannot wait to empower voters and defend democracy.

### Welcome Aboard, Skyler



*The LWVMD internship gives young people the opportunity to learn from the League's tradition of nonpartisan voter education and issue-based advocacy, giving them a glimpse into the power of civic engagement.*

***submitted by Stacey Morrison, SBL Editor***

# State Committees and Board Liaisons

## Action

Organizes and supports LWVMD Advocacy, proposing legislative priorities and aligning priorities with our DEI goals.

Board Liaison: J.C. Hooker  
[jchooker@lwvmd.org](mailto:jchooker@lwvmd.org)

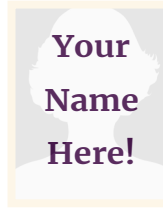


Your  
Name  
Here!

## Membership and League Support

Provides advice and skill-building opportunities for local Leagues and works to grow the League.

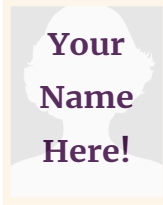
Board Liaison: TBD



## Budget

Drafts a budget for the next fiscal year.

Board Liaison: TBD



## Online Services

Works closely with all committees and the board to provide the technical tools for communication and management of our membership database.

Board Liaison: Niecy Chambers  
[nchambers@lwvmd.org](mailto:nchambers@lwvmd.org)



## Communications

Oversees internal and external communications, including strategies and media techniques.

Board Liaison: Kathy Larrabee  
[klarrabee@lwvmd.org](mailto:klarrabee@lwvmd.org)



## Personnel

Oversees the State Director, updates job descriptions, and makes recommendations to the budget committee regarding compensation.

Board Liaisons: Deborah Mitchell and Nancy Soreng  
[dmitchell@lwvmd.org](mailto:dmitchell@lwvmd.org), [nsoreng@lwvmd.org](mailto:nsoreng@lwvmd.org)



## DEI

Works with the Board to ensure adherence to our policy in our actions and education.

Board Liaison: Genie Massey  
[gmasey@lwvmd.org](mailto:gmasey@lwvmd.org)



## Finance/Investment

Assures responsible stewardship of financial assets.

Board Liaison: Niecy Chambers  
[nchambers@lwvmd.org](mailto:nchambers@lwvmd.org)



## Program

Facilitates studies, positions and consensus processes.

Board Liaison: Linda Kohn  
[lkohn@lwvmd.org](mailto:lkohn@lwvmd.org)



## Fundraising

Maintains and expands League capacity by raising sufficient resources. Plans and executes fundraising.

Board Liaison: Niecy Chambers  
[nchambers@lwvmd.org](mailto:nchambers@lwvmd.org)



## Voter Services

Initiates services to inform and engage voters and serves as the LWVMD lead on Statewide offices with support from local Leagues, including forums, GOTV, and management of Vote411 during election seasons.

Board Liaison: Barbara Crain  
[bcrain@lwvmd.org](mailto:bcrain@lwvmd.org)





# State Convention Follow-up

## State Convention Highlights



The 2021 LWVMD convention on June 5 was attended by 57 delegates from 27 Leagues. We learned that despite COVID, LWVMD **membership rose by 9 percent**.

By a near unanimous vote, the slate of **Officers and Directors were elected** to serve for the 2021-2023 term. Delegates also voted to amend the LWVMD Bylaws to include the DEI policy.

Members of the **DEI Committee presented** an engaging and informative workshop, which included a panel of youth from around the state; read the article on page 7 for more information.

Delegates heard from several elected officials; Baltimore's **Mayor Brandon Scott** and U.S. **Senator Chris Van Hollen** spoke via pre-taped presentations, while Maryland **Representative Andrew Harris** (Dist. 1) spoke via Zoom and answered delegate questions.

Two **study recommendations** were **approved** and will be conducted over the next two years: **Equity in Education** and **Living Wage**; see the article below for more information. Study recommendations not adopted by the delegates were Health Disparities in Maryland, Child Services, Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Projects, Artificial Intelligence, Impact of the Deregulation of Energy Supply on Maryland Families, and Human Trafficking.

*Stacey Morrison, SBL Editor*

At the LWVMD Convention on June 5, 2021, topics for two new studies were adopted. The two new topics are:

- **Equity in Education:** The purpose of the study is to establish positions that specifically address equity in education throughout Maryland.

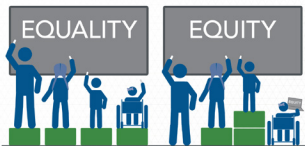


photo credit: MBA Skool

Howard County LWV completed a study that can be considered for adoption statewide (a concurrence). For additional study, data and background material from the Blueprint for Maryland's Future ("The Kirwan Report") are also resources.

**Members Needed to Help Conduct Two New Studies at LWVMD**

- **Living Wage:** The purpose of the study is to examine ways that Maryland can ensure its residents have enough income for at least the basics of food, clothing, shelter, and healthcare. The Kansas LWV adopted a position in support of a living wage that covers these and other needs. LWVMD can review the Kansas position and adopt it as written (a concurrence) or use it as a springboard to develop a study and a possible position specific for Maryland.



photo credit: NAPE

Studies are an important part of LWVMD work because when the results are shared, new positions can be adopted. When we have positions, we can advocate on the issue at both state and local levels. It also lets us join with other groups that have similar views, so studies are the basis for action. Consider joining one of the new studies committees, either as a Chair/Co-Chair or as an interested member. No prior experience is needed. First time on a study? Great! No background on the topic? Learn with others! Contact Linda Kohn, Program Chair, at [lkohn@lwvmd.org](mailto:lkohn@lwvmd.org), to get started.

*Linda Kohn, Program Chair*

# State Convention Follow-up

## Call for Action from Delegates of LWVMD Convention

Every 2 years delegates to the State Convention are given the opportunity to submit requests for Action on the part of LWVMD leadership. The Action Motion Committee reviews those suggestions to make sure they are in line with League Principles and Positions and are an appropriate activity for LWVMD to undertake. The motions that the Committee accepts are then forwarded to the delegation for a vote. The following are the Action Motions passed on June 5 and steps that have been taken so far:

- **Action Motion #1:** There are a plethora of anti-voter bills and activities going on across the country. I suggest we devote any additional energies and resources to informing our members about these efforts and follow LWVUS action and guidance on what we can do. On Friday, June 18, all Maryland members received an email with an invitation to participate in a For the People's Act friend bank, hosted by LWVUS. This is an opportunity for our Maryland members to reach out to people they know who live in states who have Senators who are not yet supporting S1. Other opportunities will be shared as they arise.



- **Action Motion #2:** Under legislation for police accountability, counties will be forming some type of police accountability commissions. This would be a natural area for League positions/actions under the DEI Bylaws position. LWVMD should encourage and support local Leagues in the monitoring of this process. A volunteer has already been recruited to provide guidance and support for local League members about how to engage in this process. Local Leagues will be contacted in the next few weeks.



- **Action Motion #3:** LWVMD should contact LWVUS and ask them to strengthen its opposition to the filibuster as currently practiced. Here is the content of the letter written by Co-Presidents Deborah Mitchell and Nancy Soreng and sent on June 22:

*"At the bi-annual convention of the League of Women Voters of Maryland, convened on June 5, 2021, the delegates passed an action motion requesting that the newly elected co-presidents convey to LWVUS leadership their request that the LWVUS more deeply engage in efforts to reform the filibuster."*



photo credit: CNN

Your [blog statement](#) acknowledges that the filibuster has historically been used as a tool to silence communities of color and women. This troubling history of how it has been applied was a major factor in the urgent desire to have you more pro-actively advocate for reform. Legislation critical to our democracy and the well-being of many Americans is before our gridlocked Congress. Our delegates urge you to issue a less nuanced message about the filibuster and engage in a more direct call for true reform.

*In searching Impact on Issues, we could find no mention of a specific position regarding the filibuster. However, our mission statement includes the words "Defending Democracy". We believe that this allows you to support specific proposals that members of the Senate are currently promoting to eliminate the way the filibuster is now being used to give undue power to a handful of Senators and block progress. We urge you to carefully evaluate these proposals and put your weight behind those that would create a path to unlocking gridlock and result in true democratic reform to the Senate rules."*

**Nancy Soreng, Co-President**

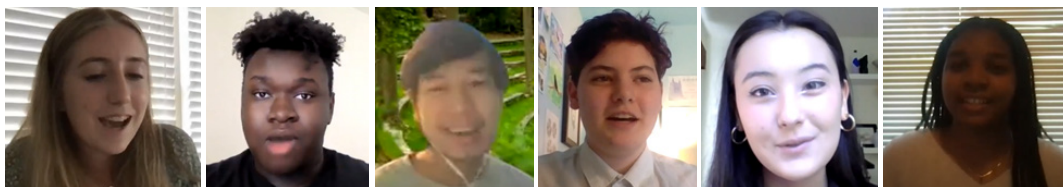
# State Convention DEI Workshop



The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Ad Hoc Committee established by the LWVMD Board has been meeting actively and presented an informative workshop during the LWVMD 2021 Convention. The Committee, which is co-chaired by Carol Wynne of the Baltimore County League and Sara Sanders of the Anne Arundel County League, is divided into education, membership, and advocacy teams that are engaging in statewide efforts and are available to support local Leagues' efforts.

During the workshop, Kay Flowe of the Harford County League, and Sara Sanders and Genie Massey of the Washington County League, reviewed the LWVUS DEI position, encouraging members to break free from traditional black and white views of diversity and embrace the many characteristics that make up our communities. Views may include (but are not limited to) socioeconomic and language diversity, disabled persons, and those who identify as LGBTQ+. Kay Flowe described the committee meetings as a safe place to explore complex issues.

The workshop also included an energetic and well-informed youth panel, including two student members of the League, Jada Flowe of Harford County and Wren Massey of Washington County, along with Cassidy Wynne, Kevin Boukum, Hana O'Looney, and Eric Trihn. Wren and Cassidy suggested that term limits would increase the diversity of our representatives. Kevin and Hana supported the ERA to end gender discrimination in employment. Eric emphasized the need to end voter suppression and gerrymandering. Jada hopes that Americans will do more to protect the rights of African Americans and the LGBTQ+ community. Indeed, each of the panelists supported elevating the voices of marginalized peoples in the democratic process.



We know that diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the League's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

Members of the DEI Committee currently include Malcolm Funn, Jan Goodman, Ericka MacDonald, and Lois Hybl, but we have room for you!

Join us in our efforts to empower all voters. Please email [dei@lwmvmd.org](mailto:dei@lwmvmd.org) to learn more.

*Genie Massey, DEI Member*

