

# State Board Letter

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### LWVMD

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



## LWVMD Calendar

- |            |     |   |
|------------|-----|---|
| <b>Jan</b> | 1   | New Year's Day  |
|            | 5   | VOTE411 Question Submissions to LWVMD due                 |
|            | 6   | VOTE411 LWVUS Voter Guide Platform Training virtual, 6pm  |
|            | 15  | Membership Roster Updates in NationBuilder due            |
|            | 17  | Martin Luther King Jr. Day                                |
|            | 29  | LWVMD Winter Workshop virtual, 9am - 12:15pm              |
|            | TBD | DEI Book Club   |
| <b>Feb</b> | 5   | VOTE411 LWVMD training East Columbia Branch Library, 10am |
|            | 8   | VOTE411 LWVMD training Centreville Library, 10am          |
|            | 21  | Presidents' Day   |

## Treasurers and Roster Managers: The Ides of January are Approaching!



Please update and verify your membership rosters in NationBuilder by **January 15** to ensure an accurate report to the LWVUS.

Contact Niecy Chambers at [nchambers@lwvmd.org](mailto:nchambers@lwvmd.org) to request help and additional information.

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

## Co-Presidents' Message

As the end of the 2021 year approaches the LWVMD Board reflects in gratitude upon members' and readers' support of and active participation in this year's numerous League initiatives to empower voters. Your generous donations to the LWVMD Making Democracy Work Fund and People Powered Fair Maps initiatives as well as your active participation in our Freedom to Vote and People's Map Maryland rallies have galvanized and strengthened the LWVMD's efforts to bring attention to protecting residents right to vote and to the importance of a fair process to determine legislative districts.

We thank local and state League leaders for attending December's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) training session to learn how to contribute to and ensure that the spaces we share are inclusive ones. We also want to acknowledge Leaguers' and supporters' participation in the [October](#) and [December](#) Advocates training sessions. Knowing how

the legislative process works, how to follow legislation relevant to LWVMD legislative priorities, and how to write or contribute to legislative briefs is vital to effective advocacy; we hope attendees will consider putting those skills to work as an advocate during the 2022 General Assembly session.

Moving ahead, we look forward to member support and participation at the **January 29, 2022, LWVMD Winter Workshop**. Finally, we appreciate Local Leagues' efforts to staff and to promote 2021 LWVMD events. Your participation and partnership have been an integral part of this organization's successful year.

We hope you and your loved ones continue to enjoy the holidays and have a Happy New Year!



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

### State Board Meeting Highlights

Local Leagues are invited to create a shared drive for their current and archival documents within the LWVMD's Google Suite workspace. Online Service Committee (OSC) members are available to suggest guidelines for file storage and helpful hints regarding document organization. Contact OSC members Richard Willson, [secretary@lwvmd.org](mailto:secretary@lwvmd.org), or Niecy Chambers, [nchambers@lwvmd.org](mailto:nchambers@lwvmd.org), for more information.

The Action Team held its Advocacy Training follow-up session earlier this month at which participants reviewed the submission process for presenting testimony and the protocols for interacting with the General Assembly during the 2022 legislative session.

LWV Howard County President Cynthia Williams resigned in November due to a family emergency. Vice President Krista Threefoot became the new president and Board Director Laura Mettle was elected Vice President. President Threefoot can be reached at [two3feet@yahoo.com](mailto:two3feet@yahoo.com).

*Stacey Morrison, SBL editor*

## Committees

A graphic for the LWVMD Winter Workshop. It features the LWV logo and 'LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND' in blue. The title 'Winter Workshop' is in large red font, followed by 'Advancing the League's Agenda' in red and 'Live webinar focusing on positions, action, and skills' in smaller red font. Below this, a list of topics is shown in blue: 'Get Out the Vote', 'Equity in Health Care', 'LWVCA Criminal Justice Position', 'Equal Rights Amendment', and 'Skills Sessions'. At the bottom, a calendar icon is followed by '29 Jan 2022 | 9 am - 12:15 pm'. The right side of the graphic has a blue background with white snowflake patterns.

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup>  
OF MARYLAND

# Winter Workshop

**Advancing the League's Agenda**  
Live webinar focusing on positions, action, and skills

Get Out the Vote  
Equity in Health Care  
LWVCA Criminal Justice Position  
Equal Rights Amendment  
Skills Sessions

📅 29 Jan 2022 | 9 am - 12:15 pm

## LWVMD Winter Workshop

Workshop Cost:  
\$25 for members  
\$30 for non-members

The theme of this year's workshop is Advancing the League Agenda, so content will center around positions, actions and skills. Workshop sessions include the LWVMD's Equity in Health Care position, Get Out the Vote efforts, the Equal Rights Amendment, and the LWV California's Criminal Justice position. Local Leagues are invited to share what they are doing to advance their mission, and participants can choose to attend a skills-based session covering one of the following topics: Digital Advocacy, Copyright Do's and Don'ts, Defusing Contentious Conversations, and Best Practice for Coalitions and Partnerships.

The workshop will again be held virtually, and participants will receive a link to join the event once they have registered; this link will be available on the [LWVMD webpage](#) in early January. Questions about the event can be directed to LWVMD Executive Director, Nikki Tyree, [stateoffice@lwvmd.org](mailto:stateoffice@lwvmd.org). We hope to see you there.

*submitted by Stacey Morrison, SBL editor*

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The DEI committee's book club will continue to meet virtually in 2022. Each month participants will discuss the selected book within the framework of diversity, equity, and inclusion. January's book selection, date, and time are still being determined; check the LWVMD calendar in the new year for details.

The book club is free and open to all. To join the conversation, email State Director Nikki Tyree at [stateoffice@lwvmd.org](mailto:stateoffice@lwvmd.org) to receive the Zoom link.

*submitted by Stacey Morrison, SBL editor*



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## Committees

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### Program Planning

Program planning is the annual process where local Leagues give input to LWVUS or LWVMD on study issues and submit their stances on positions. Positions let Leagues at all levels advocate through education and lobbying on priority issues. In 2022, the focus will be on LWVUS program and positions. In the next few months local Leagues across the

country will be asked for input on the 2022-2024 national program; this input will be presented and voted on at National Convention in June 2022.

LWVUS will also ask local Leagues how their work will affect the LWV's Campaign for Making Democracy Work, which includes the priorities of voting rights, improving elections, money in politics and redistricting. Ask the leadership of your local League how you can participate.

Though next year's program planning focuses on national League positions, the 2023 program planning will focus on the LWVMD in preparation for state convention in mid-2023.

*Linda Kohn, Program Committee Chair*

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Many of us went into 2021 hopeful that the troubles of the past year would be left in 2020. Sadly, we know that all Marylanders have faced just as tough, if not rougher, year than once imaginable. It seems the ever growing political divide in our country has no end in sight, COVID-19 still remains at the forefront of our minds, and every day we wonder if elected officials are truly listening to their constituents asking for help.

The LWV Maryland joins you in these concerns. This year has shown that we truly are an **essential non-partisan organization in Maryland**. Fighting not for the outcome, but for the democratic process that voters have been promised. We are in a time, with 2020 bringing a record breaking election turnout, where more and more voters will demand their voices be heard. The League is called to strengthen our work and be a last true beacon of fairness and resources for all political candidates. We ask our supporters to be part of that strength.

This past year alone we have proven, through remarkable media coverage and supporter turnout, that we cannot be bought and sold on such issues such as Redistricting. We remain committed to our non-partisan stance and studied positions. **In the coming year you can expect:**

- Increased legislative activity on the issues that LWVMD supporters care about.
- Thoughtful and engaging workshops that highlight what our community is interested in.
- Inclusive candidate forums done through a lens of fairness and driven by information.
- An increase in LWVMD's Voters' Guides to ensure you receive real and unbiased information about each one of the many candidates.

### Donations: Another Way to Strengthen League Work



We rely on all of you, our supporters, to further the sacred mission of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. Please donate to the League as your year end gift. **This year, each donation will be doubled up to \$40,000 to ensure all work at the League is possible.** To donate via credit card, visit the [LWVMD website](https://www.lwvmd.org), or send a check to the LWVMD office at 121 Cathedral Street, Suite 2B, Annapolis, MD, 21401.

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## Committees

### VOTE411: Training and Candidate Questions

#### Questions for Candidates

As always, LWVMD is requesting that each local League suggests questions for candidates for the following offices:

- Governor
- Comptroller
- Attorney General
- Republican & Democratic Central Committees
- US Senators & Representatives
- Maryland Senators & Delegates
- Judges

The questions are due by **Wednesday, January 5, 2022**, so that a final list can be compiled and approved by the State Board at its January 20 meeting.

An important part of choosing good questions is making sure that the topics reflect the priorities of League members. Questionnaires asking members to rank topics and to list questions for governor/state legislature and for US senators/representatives were emailed to local League presidents/co-presidents. These questionnaire responses can be sent with the suggested questions for comptroller, senators, etc.

#### VOTE411 Training

Many of our members have already participated in the national League's VOTE411 introductory training sessions on the new voter guide system. For those of you who have not, two more virtual sessions are available; one of these sessions will be recorded and available for viewing online at a later date:

- [December 28, 2 p.m.](#)
- [January 6, 6 p.m.](#)

The LWVMD is also planning to have two in-person training sessions:

- **Saturday, February 5, 10 a.m. at the East Columbia Branch Library in Ellicott City.**
- **Tuesday, February 8, 10:00 a.m. at the Centreville Library in Queen Anne's County**

Though Howard County is not scheduling/approving requests that far in advance, it is unlikely there will be a problem. However, if the site is unavailable, a new location will be determined and registrants will be informed of the change. Please bring a laptop when attending these sessions.

For more information on the trainings, to register for one of the LWVMD training sessions, or to receive a copy of the Voters Guide questionnaire, please email or call Barbara Crain at [bcrain@lwvmd.org](mailto:bcrain@lwvmd.org) or 310-541-8064.



*Barbara Crain, Voter Services Chair*