

# The Maryland Voter



## Fall 2014

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## LWVMD Teams up with Like-Minded Activists Against Gerrymandering



*By Thomas Ferraro and Nancy Soreng*

Eliminating gerrymandering will take more than a single good-government group lobbying the Maryland General Assembly. We know. We tried for decades. We helped introduce reform legislation. But none of it passed. Most didn't even get a vote. Party bosses killed the bills to protect their own power.

So this year, the League of Women Voters of Maryland teamed up with Common Cause Maryland, the National Council of Jewish Women Annapolis Section and individual activists to crank up public pressure for change. We formed "The Tame the Gerrymander Coalition," which has spread the word that Maryland is one of the most gerrymandered states in the country, making it a mockery of democracy.

*Continued on page 4*



Dear Friends:

After a busy election season we look forward to working with the governor whom the people of Maryland have chosen to lead us for the next four years--Larry Hogan. We will work on issues such as redistricting and the environment as well as social issues, sure that our efforts with the administration and the legislature will result in a better Maryland.

This issue of the Voter features articles on our Tame the Gerrymander campaign on redistricting and one of our perennial priorities in League, our children's education.

Thank you for your support.

*Susan Cochran  
President, LWVMD*

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## Office Manager needed

Wanted: Part time Office Manager for LWVMD office in Annapolis. Be instrumental in the work of the League in our comfortable and convenient Annapolis office. Some flexibility in hours. Requirements: computer competence and comfort working with internet/website, proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Outlook), writing and proofreading skills, basic office skills. Send resumes or inquiries to [pres@lwvmd.org](mailto:pres@lwvmd.org).

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## Public School Enrollment in Maryland: Two Decades of Change

*By Gail L. Sunderman*

Public school enrollment in Maryland is becoming more racially diverse and poorer. Demographic trends between 1990 and 2010 show a steady decline in the share of enrollment that is white and continued growth in minority students. In 2010, minority enrollment accounted for 56 percent of all public school students.

At the same time, the state is seeing a substantial increase in the number of low-income students. The percentage of Maryland students who qualify for free and reduced price meals—a measure used by schools as a proxy for family incomes—has climbed steadily since 1990. In 1990, 22.4 percent of students were low-income compared to 40.1 percent in 2010. Schools are also becoming more segregated by race and the concentration of low-income students in schools is increasing.

These trends are described in a recent report that I co-authored with a colleague at the Maryland Equity Project, University of Maryland. We learned that these trends varied by

county. For example, districts with the greatest changes in the racial composition of students are also those with growing enrolments, while districts with declining enrollments have the least change in racial composition of students. We also found that while all counties in Maryland saw an increase in the number of poor students, the largest increases were in Talbot, Baltimore, and Prince George's counties and several counties on the Eastern shore.

So, why do these trends matter? For one, these changes present tremendous challenges for the state and for school districts. Many of the problems associated with poor academic achievement can be linked to schools that are segregated by race and income. In addition, while it is not often acknowledged, high concentrations of low-income students in a school are associated with lower student achievement, regardless of an individual student's family income.

Poverty is increasing across the country—in about 18 states, a majority of public school students are low-income. Maryland isn't there yet, but 40 percent low-income presents challenges that are difficult for school districts to address on their own. Increasing school-level poverty also suggests that a broader effort that cuts across policy domains and involves innovative thinking on a range of social-economic issues facing families is needed.

At the same time, since the particulars of demographic changes vary across counties, there is no one size fits all approach to addressing them. Districts experiencing growth face different challenges from those that have seen their enrollments decrease. Districts with increases in Asian or Latino students may be faced with greater needs for English language programs and teachers, while districts with concentrated poverty and highly segregated schools may need to consider broadening the availability of services provided in the schools to include health services, early education, and child care. All districts need to adopt policies to lessen segregation by race and income.

What does this mean for the League in Maryland? The state has contracted to conduct a study of the adequacy of education funding in Maryland. This study was mandated as part of the 2002 Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act and is a two-year study. Following the conclusion of this study, the General Assembly could adopt changes to the current funding formula. The League should continue to advocate for a strong foundation program based on a weighted per pupil formula.

The League could also develop or strengthen policies on student supports, such as early education, school-community partnerships, and other supports that ensure students have the learning opportunities they need to succeed. Finally, since these demographic changes reflect larger social-economic conditions, the League's positions on housing, health care, and social policies are important for ensuring equal access to educational opportunities.

For the full report, please go to: <http://www.mdequity.org/research/inequities>

*Gail L. Sunderman is Senior Research Scientist in the College of Education, University of Maryland and Director of the Maryland Equity Project. Her current research interests include the role of the state in education and the impact of policy on the educational opportunities of low-income and minority students. She is a former Fulbright scholar to Afghanistan and received her Ph.D. in political science from the University of Chicago. She is a member of the Baltimore City League.*



At joint rallies and news conferences, we called for action. We explained that gerrymandering allows the state party in power to stack the deck in elections by drawing congressional and state legislative districts so that a majority of its voters are in as many districts as possible. Our battle cry is: "Voters should pick their politicians, politicians should not pick their voters." To help make our case, build a crowd and seek results, we've held a variety of events. We sponsored a political cartoon contest to ridicule gerrymandering and established an online

petition asking that it be replaced by a "fair and open" process.

In July, we marked the 240th birthday of Elbridge Gerry, a former Massachusetts governor, with a cake and ice cream party and a renewed commitment to end gerrymandering, which Gerry helped create to protect his party's majority in the state legislature.

Our biggest event was a three-day, 225-mile relay, "The Gerrymander Meander," in September in Maryland's 3<sup>rd</sup> congressional district. Two dozen athletic activists ran, biked and paddled around-the-clock, up and down hills and roads, across the water and over fields. They included Democrats and Republicans, a business owner and a dentist, a retired Navy officer and a working mom, a schoolteacher and a chemical engineer. "My real passion is running, not politics, but this is important," said one of the runners, Paula Carrigan, 48, head coach of the boys' and girls' cross country teams at Annapolis High School. "We want to get out the message: Gerrymandering is not fair."

Along the way, Carrigan and the others got the attention of Republican Larry Hogan, now the governor-elect, who expressed support for our cause. We also got the attention of Maryland Democrats, who, in wake of Hogan's upset victory, face increased pressure as the majority party in the state legislature to at least consider reform.

Our latest event was a forum at the University of Maryland on Nov. 10. It featured Congressman John Delaney and State Delegate Aisha Braveboy, a pair of independent-minded Marylanders who have bucked their Democratic Party in pushing for change, and Dan Vicuna, National Redistricting Coordinator for Common Cause. They said together we could make a difference.

"This is a perfect issue for a real big national movement," Delaney told a standing-room-only crowd of more than 100 reform-minded citizens. "It's about the entrenched interests versus the interest of the common good of the United States.... Trying to protect the status quo, in my view, is an indefensible position. Arguing for some reform is unassailable," Delaney said. Braveboy expressed hope that Hogan would take a leading role for reform after he is sworn in as governor in January. "The governor has the ability to actually issue an executive order to establish a commission. The first one he should establish is a commission to study redistricting." She added, "People in the Democratic Party right now understand that we've lost our way. We have to get back to the business of actually representing the people's interests."



In coming weeks, the Tame the Gerrymander Coalition will reach out to Hogan and selected legislators to develop a strategy for moving forward. Expect it to recommend standards in drawing congressional districts. We want to make sure that the next time district lines are drawn, following the 2020 U.S. census, they are done so in a way that serves the voters, not the politicians. In the meantime, we ask all Marylanders to sign our petition at:  
<http://www.lwvmd.org/n/node/11041>

Change will only happen when our elected officials understand that their constituents are demanding that Maryland join the ranks of the half dozen or so states that have reformed their redistricting process.

To learn more about redistricting, read our fact sheet at:  
<http://www.lwvmd.org/n/factsheet/LWVMD/redistricting>

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## Fundraiser Tea A Success



Many League members and friends attended the successful LWVMD fundraiser, Tea at Historic Oakland Manor, in Columbia, on Nov. 9. An array of delicacies was served with special teas.

The speaker, Chris Whatley, executive director of UNA-USA (the United Nations Association of the United States of America), spoke with vitality and charm about the work of the UN from fighting Ebola to working on Mid-East problems. He referred also to the work of the League of Women Voters in the formation of the United Nations and the role Eleanor Roosevelt played in establishing chapters of UNA-USA in colleges around the country.



Andrea Gruhl was chairman of the event. Betty Harries contributed her artistic and technical talents, arranging lovely fall table pieces and making beautiful souvenir programs.

*Photos by John Schnackenberg*

Top: Leaguers and friends enjoy the Tea Fall Fundraiser.  
Bottom: Speaker Chris Whatley, LWVMD President Susan Cochran and Event Chairman Andrea Gruhl are shown.

## *Spotlight on a League Member—Andrea Morris Gruhl*



What do the delightful November 9<sup>th</sup> tea at Historic Oakland Manor, the October 24<sup>th</sup> LWVUS Board Reception at the Cosmos Club and the September 17<sup>th</sup> Constitution Day event have in common? Actually, it is Andrea Gruhl, who uses her formidable talents to obtain speakers, locate extraordinary venues and handle all of the nitty-gritty of League events.

Andrea joined the LWV of Howard County in 1969 and has been a mainstay of the boards of Howard County, the LWV of the National Capital Area and the LWVMD

since her retirement in 2001. She considers the highlight of her League career to be the vision and the establishment of the collaborative LWVMD Constitution Day Program with the University of Maryland Law School in the law school's Ceremonial Court Room. Andrea founded it with the law school eight years ago and has coordinated it for the League every year since. Andrea has also written a yearly article to commemorate Bill of Rights Day, December 15, in keeping with her passionate support of civil liberties. During her term as the Homeland Security Chair for LWV-NCA, she organized a well-attended forum on homeland security.

Andrea's pre-retirement years begin with her graduation from Wesleyan College, Macon, Georgia, and her subsequent devotion to librarianship and public service. Two Master's degrees, one in Library Science from the University of Maryland (specialty: Rare Books and Fine Arts Reference) and the second, a Masters of Liberal Arts from Johns Hopkins University and language skills in German, French and Spanish, further qualified Andrea for a series of paid and volunteer jobs as a librarian, appointment as trustee of Howard County Libraries and Howard County Community College.

However, she first (1965) accepted a job as a Department of Defense dependents' schoolteacher in Heidelberg, Germany, US Army Headquarters for European command, where she met Werner Mann Gruhl. Andrea and Werner were married in 1965 and lived in Georgetown until their move to Columbia, Maryland, as pioneers in 1969. Werner spent his post army career at the National Aeronautical and Space Agency. Werner and Andrea have two daughters, one in Newport News and one in California.

In 1982, Andrea became a member of the Library of Congress staff, Exchange and Gift Division, Western European Acquisitions, and worked with 13 European countries. In 1984 she was one of the Library of Congress delegates to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, an annual meeting in Europe attended by library personnel from all over the world. As a result Andrea was listed in *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who of American Women*, *Who's Who in the East* and is still listed in *Who's Who in America*.

Andrea retired in 2001 after 16 years as a cataloger at the Government Printing Office.

Andrea considers her library accomplishment with the most significant impact was as editor for five years of the *Federal Librarian* which was the journal of the American Library Association's Federal Round Table.

*Melpi Jeffries*

## America's Solar and Wind Power Can Lead to a Clean, Renewable Energy Future

The cost of clean, renewable energy generated by the sun and wind has declined substantially in recent years. To explore the impact on Maryland, the Howard County League's Environment Committee sponsored a forum with solar and wind experts on September 16 at Oakland Manor in Columbia.

Over the past 10 years, the amount of solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity in the United States increased more than 120-fold, from 97 megawatts (MW) in 2003 to more than 12,000 MW at the end of 2013, according to a new report, "Lighting the Way," by the Environment Maryland Research and Policy Center. In 2013, Maryland saw a 33 percent increase in solar PV, growing from 109 MW to 142 MW. The solar industry employs 140,000 people including 2,000 in Maryland. The full report is available online at <http://environmentmarylandcenter.org/reports/mde/lighting-way-0>

### State Policies Are Important to Solar Growth

Environment Maryland Executive Director Joanna Diamond pointed out that the growth in solar power is led by 10 states that have the largest amount of solar energy capacity installed per capita. These states – Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico and North Carolina—account for only 26 percent of the U.S. population, but 87 percent of the total installed solar electricity capacity. The report points out that the availability of sunlight is not the determining factor, rather the degree to which state and local governments have created effective public policy is the main factor that makes these states solar energy leaders.

The most common successful state incentives are strong net metering, strong statewide interconnection policies, renewable electricity standards and creative financing such as third party power purchase agreements, and property assessed clean energy financing.

### Wind Power Doubles in the Past Five Years

Tommy Landers, Maryland and D.C. Policy Director for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, pointed to wind power as another part of the clean renewable energy equation. In the U.S., the cost of land based wind power is down 90 percent since 1980; and wind power has doubled in the past five years. In 2012, wind was the largest growing source of energy in the U.S.

The Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2013 authorized a subsidy for a 210 MW offshore wind farm at the site of the 80,000 acres auctioned off by the federal government this summer. When the project proceeds, this wind generation will go into the grid and increase the amount of clean renewable energy in Maryland's renewable energy portfolio. The Department of Interior has already held auctions for three of the five commercial wind energy lease sites off the Atlantic coast.

Policies that support wind projects are the Federal Production Tax Credit that expired at the end of 2013 and the Investment Tax Credit that expires in 2016. The Maryland Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan requires at least 25 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2006 levels by 2020. "We can get to 40 percent by 2025. Our grid is ready," said Landers. Incentives equal 4,700 MW of new clean energy in the region.

## Public Opinion and Military Agencies Support Wind Power

Richard Deutschmann, Senior Project Developer and Manager, Solar PV Development Federal Solutions, Ameresco, Inc. pointed out to the full house of participants that opinion polls of Americans show people are highly in favor of more wind and solar energy, regardless of political party affiliation. Germany will soon be getting 30 percent of its power from renewable energy sources and the rest of industrialized Europe is approaching this rate.

There is reason for optimism in the U.S., since solar PV trends show estimates of an additional 10 gigawatts (GW) of solar per year by 2015. (76 GW is equal to 15 large coal-fired plants.) Residential solar has more than doubled, and large utility scale solar arrays are being built in the deserts of the U.S. The new generation of solar in 2013 is 53-75 percent of new power and no new coal plants were built in the U.S. this year.

The federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act had a goal of 20 percent renewable energy by 2020. The Department of Defense is the largest federal agency and has a goal of 25 percent renewable energy by 2025. The Department of the Navy doubled that percentage to 50 percent by 2025. Another example of federal support for solar energy is the Georgia 3x30 Project – 90 MW of solar generation for Georgia Army bases. Georgia Power will build, own and operate three separate solar generation facilities at Fort Steward, Fort Benning and Fort Gordon. When the project is completed at the end of 2016, the Army will be nine percent closer to its commitment to deploy one GW of renewable energy by 2025.

## Residential Solar Advances

Vanessa Deutschmann Regional Operations Manager for SolarCity, MD explained that solar panels collect energy from the sun and convert it into DC power. The DC power from the solar panels is sent to a solar inverter, where it is converted into AC power for use in the home. AC power travels from the solar inverter to the electrical breaker box.

The utility meter measures the electrical supply. When the solar energy system produces more power than the home needs, the meter literally spins backwards as that power is sent to the grid for others to use. The next utility bill is credited for the power added to the grid. This “net metering” is the law in most states, including Maryland.

Solar incentives for residences include the Investment Tax Credit that expires in 2016, and the Solar Renewable Energy Credit or SRECs. The “Community” solar concept would extend solar power to people who could buy solar power from local generators. Legislation in Maryland that would allow for a pilot community solar program did not pass in the last session of the Maryland General Assembly.

Residential solar purchase options include buying the equipment and system; leasing the equipment and consuming the energy produced; and a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), which lets you pay by the kWh for the power produced. The Database for State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE) is a source of information about incentives from each state and county in the U.S. at [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org). The solar industry employed more than 140,000 people in 2013, a 20 percent increase over 2012 and many more jobs are expected in 2014.

*Note: Speakers' Power Point presentations are posted on the LWVHC website at [lwwhc.wordpress.com](http://lwwhc.wordpress.com)*

*Betsy Singer, LWVMD Environment*



## *Constitution Day Panelists Give Intimate View of Supreme Court Justices*

*By Andrea Morris Gruhl, LWVMD Director, Constitution Day Program Coordinator*

Three former law clerks for Supreme Court Justices John Paul Stevens, Antonin Scalia, and Stephen Breyer were panelists at League's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Constitution Day Program on Sept. 17. LWVMD again collaborated with the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, to host the forum in the law school's Ceremonial Court Room. The program topic was "The Supreme Court Justice as Constitutional Scholar."

LWVMD President Susan Cochran welcomed the audience and moderator Maxwell Stearns, Professor of Law and Marbury Research Professor, Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development at the law school, introduced Aaron Selinsky, recent clerk to retired Supreme Court Justice Stevens and to Justice Anthony Kennedy; Rebecca Taibleson, who clerked for Justice Scalia; and Thiru Vignarajah, who clerked for Justice Breyer.

Selinsky said over 350 books have been written by U.S. Supreme Court Justices over the centuries but most have been written recently. This pattern is common for Supreme Court Justices in other countries also. Selinsky worked for Justice Stevens at the time he was preparing his book, *Six Amendments, How and Why We Should Change the Constitution*, which was published in April 2014. Stevens wrote the book in reaction to the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, in December 2012. The book focuses on the need to have constitutional amendments in the areas of gun control, the death penalty, sovereign immunity, campaign finance, political gerrymandering, and the anti-commandeering rule (Congress can't require state officials to perform federal duties). The death penalty was in the U.S. Constitution but the other 5 were based on judicial interpretation. Stevens served on the Supreme Court from 1975 to 2010, and was on the judicial bench over 40 years. Common sense is his forte, Selinsky said.

Rebecca Taibleson clerked for Justice Scalia from 2011-2012. Scalia has been on the Supreme Court for 27 years, which is longer than any other current member of the Court. Taibleson said her experience as a Supreme Court law clerk was more intellectually difficult than law school. The Supreme Court Justices are true generalists, more than any other kind of justices. Their work requires intellectual curiosity. They are all scholarly. They are a lot like professors in the work process they use, she said. (Justices Scalia and Breyer were professors before getting on the Supreme Court.)

Thiru Vignarajah clerked for Justice Breyer, whom he says tries to "demystify" the U.S. Constitution. Although the U.S. Constitution was ratified 227 years ago, we have only 27 amendments. Most countries have many more amendments. South Africa amends its constitution every year, Vignarajah said. While most of the Supreme Court decisions are 9-0, the public mainly hears about the rare, controversial 5-4 or 6-3 decisions. Vignarajah explained what Supreme Court law clerks do. The Supreme Court gets around 8,000 to 10,000 requests for decisions each year. Law clerks divide these requests among the justices and then among the staff of each justice. They write "cert memos" in which they note issues raised when there is a divided opinion in our country and dispute resolution is needed. They must determine if the issue is important and if it will disappear or will continue until there is a

judicial resolution. They write “bench memos” intended to give guidance. Vignarajah remarked the Justices are all “wicked smart.” Each is a voracious reader. The Justices need from law clerks an additional perspective or viewpoint. They hope clerks will find something that hasn’t been discovered before. The greatest task law clerks do is draft an opinion. Breyer is competitive and funny, but Scalia is ranked funniest Justice with Breyer ranked second. Breyer is inserting more funny remarks in his Supreme Court decisions. Both Stevens and Breyer like to look at foreign constitutions and look at all sides before making Supreme Court decisions.

Professor Stearns moderated a lively Q&A session. The audience was then invited to the Atrium outside the Ceremonial Court Room for the reception. The University of Maryland, Baltimore, sponsored a sheet cake decorated atop with the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution. The law school provided table decorations and beverages. Leaguers donated cookies and party sandwiches.

## **Dominion’s Cove Point LNG Project Update**

As previously reported, Dominion Resources is adding to its liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility at Cove Point in Calvert County, by building an export facility at an estimated cost of \$3.8 billion.

On Sept. 29, 2014, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) authorized Dominion Cove Point LNG to begin construction on the Cove Point Liquefaction Project. Work began soon thereafter on the two offsite areas, the staging area on the corner of Routes 2 and 4 and Cove Point Road, and the area that will receive the large components coming by sea to the Solomon’s from where they will be transported by road to the site.

Opposition to the project continues including rallies at the work sites and at FERC, and several lawsuits have been brought by environmental organizations. The following data was taken from several environmental groups’ web sites.

On June 24, the *Accokeek, Mattawoman, Piscataway* (AMP) Creeks Council filed a case in the Maryland Circuit Court for Baltimore City appealing the decision of the Maryland Public Service Commission to allow construction of a 130 MW power generating station necessary to power the facility. A hearing is set for December 18 in Baltimore.

On October 15, Earthjustice filed a request for rehearing of FERC’s Sept. 29 approval, on behalf of several interveners including Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) and the Riverkeepers among others. In addition, Earthjustice filed a motion to stay the order pending a decision on the request for rehearing. FERC extended the time period for a response but as yet has not responded.

A local organization of citizens living near the proposed plant, Calvert Citizens for a Healthy Community (CCHC) is meeting with the county government and emergency planning personnel to discuss emergency planning and an evacuation route. To date planning of emergency measures have not progressed very far and the group is trying to obtain much additional information on the proposed evacuation route and other safety measures.

Calvert County LWV is keeping abreast of developments. We are not a party to any of these actions, although individual members have participated in several rallies and marches.



## **LWVMD WINTER WORKSHOP**



**Saturday, January 24, 2015\***

Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, Columbia, MD

10431 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia, MD 21044 -2331

9:30 am – 1:30 pm

Registration fee: \$30

Includes morning coffee/breakfast breads, lunch, materials

- 9:30 Registration
- 10:00 Welcome
- 10:15 Preparing for Legislative Day
- 11:15 Sharing best practical advice for conducting a local study
- 12:15 Lunch - Guest speaker TBA
- 1:15 Announcements and Wrap Up
- 1:30 Adjournment

\*Snow Date: January 31, 2015 Check **LWVMD.org** if weather is inclement.

### WINTER WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

(Deadline for Registration - January 19, 2015)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

LEAGUE \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: Workshop fee (\$30 per person) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a contribution to the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401

or call: 410-269-0232 or email: [lwvmd@verizon.net](mailto:lwvmd@verizon.net)

If you or someone you know would like assistance from the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund  
for the workshop fee, please contact the LWVMD office.