

## Spring 2013

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**Telephone and Fax**  
410-269-0232

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[www.lwvmd.org](http://www.lwvmd.org)  
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President: Nancy Soreng  
[pres@lwvmd.org](mailto:pres@lwvmd.org)

Editor: Carol Blackburn  
[mdveditor@lwvmd.org](mailto:mdveditor@lwvmd.org)  
Layout: J. Grohsmeyer

### A Letter from Elisabeth MacNamara, LWV President

LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara was in Annapolis on Monday, April 8, Sine Die, the last day of the MD General Assembly.



“Monday morning, I headed to Annapolis, a city I have never visited. Unlike ordinary tourists, I got to visit the floor of the Maryland state senate. It was Sine Die, or the final day of their legislative session, and the League has been instrumental in getting a number of important pieces of legislation passed, including a strong gun safety law and election reform that will enhance access to the polls. Senate President Mike Miller recognized the League for this important work. As we stood on the floor, a spontaneous standing ovation greeted us. What a way to start the day.”

—Elisabeth MacNamara

Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller recognized Elisabeth MacNamara on the Senate Floor. LWVMD President-elect and Anne Arundel League President Susan Cochran and Nancy Soreng, current president of LWVMD, accompanied Ms MacNamara. After the presentation, they stayed to observe final votes on many bills, including SB 279/HB 224 Election Law—Improving Access to Voting, which the League strongly supported. Local League Presidents and Board members joined Ms MacNamara for lunch and conversation about LWVUS and local League initiatives and concerns, then toured historic Annapolis. ♦

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## Maryland General Assembly Passes A Number of Bills that the League Supported

Since 2005, the League of Women Voters of Maryland has had a position in support of **repeal of the death penalty**. After many years of participating in efforts to end capital punishment, SB276 "Death Penalty Repeal - Substitution of Life Without the Possibility of Parole" passed.

The **Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2013** implements a number of reforms that the League of Women Voters has been supporting for years. This legislation, which was proposed by the Commission on Campaign Finance, outlaws out-of-state political action committees, subjects Limited Liability Corporations to the same spending limits as other corporations, expands reporting requirements for independent expenditures (the money pool created by the Citizen's United Supreme Court decision) and authorizes civil penalties for violations of campaign finance law. This last provision may be the most important as it will dramatically facilitate enforcement of the existing as well as new laws relating to spending by candidates and ballot question committees.

**Maryland's Open meetings act** will now have a viable mechanism for holding public bodies accountable for violating its provisions. Previously, the only recourse for holding public bodies accountable was to take them to court which is an expensive and time consuming endeavor. Penalties and other measures are now in place. In addition public officials will now be required to take training so that they understand the law.

For three years the League of Women Voters of Maryland has been part of a coalition that worked to pass a bill that would facilitate the development of a wind farm off of the Maryland Coast. Our members have expressed concern about climate change caused by carbon emissions and have asked us to support clean energy alternatives. The steady

winds that blow at sea 10 miles off shore provide an opportunity for an energy source that, once the infrastructure is built will be, free and endless. **HB 226/SB 275 Maryland Off-Shore Wind Energy Act of 2013** will help develop a 200-megawatt wind project off the coast of Ocean City by requiring electricity suppliers to buy offshore renewable energy credits. The current estimated time for seeing construction completed is 2017.

Other legislation aimed at environmental protection did not fare so well. **SB601/HB1274 Maryland Hydraulic Fracturing Moratorium and Right to Know Act of 2013** did not make it out of committee. **HB 1086/SB 576 - Community Clean Up and Greening Act of 2013** (The Bag Bill) that would have required stores to charge for supplying bags and HB 1085/SB 642 Recycle for Real (The "Bottle Bill) which called for a deposit on bottles and beverage cans to be reimbursed upon return both failed as well.

**HB1515- Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013** sponsored by the Administration will increase the gas tax and other transportation funding mechanisms for the first time in more than 20 years. The League supported this legislation because we have strong positions supporting adequate funding of the Transportation Trust Fund and enhancement to transit options. Without additional revenue for transportation, the state would soon only be able to maintain existing transportation infrastructure and would have no capacity to address pressing needs.

Unfortunately, our number-one priority bill, establishing a **Task Force to Study the Redistricting Process in Maryland**, was given an unfavorable report in the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee and was withdrawn from the House side. ♦

# Statistics on Voting in 2012

## Reinforce Assets of New Voting Legislation

The Governor's bill, Improving Access to Voting, passed on Sine Die and contained several reforms that could make it easier for voters to vote. One of its key features is increasing the number of locations and the number of days for early voting.

**Early voting**, which has been in existence for just two election cycles, is already more popular than absentee voting for those who chose not to vote on election day. As shown in the bar graph *Voter Turnout by County*, this trend occurred in every county in the state.

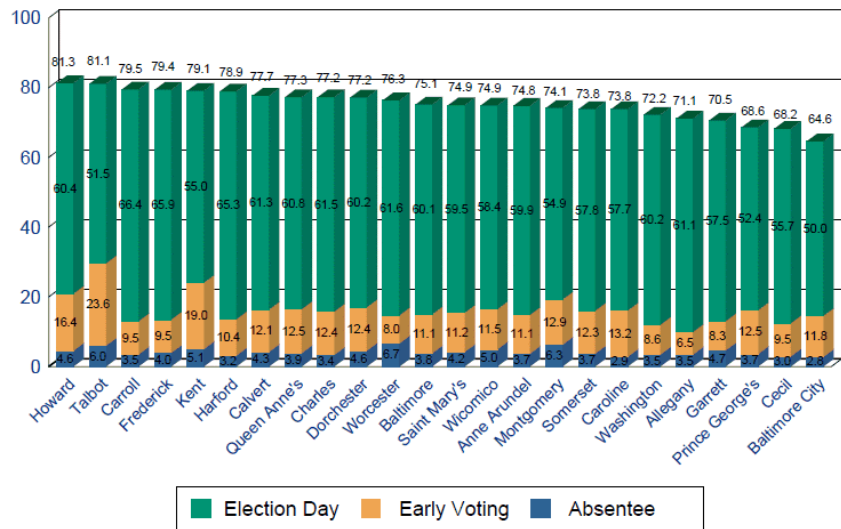
### Voting Methods in 2012 General Election

- 76% - Election Day Voting
- 16% - Early Voting
- 5% - Absentee Voting
- 3% - Provisional Voting

Data and graphs from the Maryland State Board of Elections.

### Voter Turnout by County

Maryland 2012 General Election

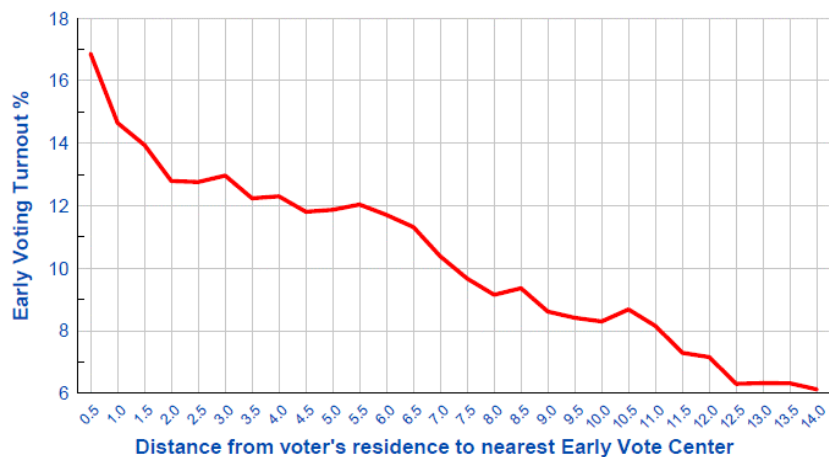


Percentages of active registered voters

Having additional early voting centers may increase the number of voters who use them, because voters are more likely to use early voting centers if they are close to their homes, as shown in the graph "Early Voting Turnout vs. Distance to EV Site."

### Early Voting Turnout vs. Distance to EV Site

Maryland 2012 General Election



Turnout as % of registered voters, excluding absentee voters

Another feature of the bill is that beginning in 2016, voters will be able to register and vote a regular ballot at early voting centers. The table to the right shows that the number one reason why provisional ballots were not counted is because the voter was not registered. Allowing voters to register and vote on Election Day would avoid this problem and also reduce the number of provisional ballots that the local Boards of Election will have to process.

### Reasons for Rejecting Provisional Ballots

1 – Not registered to vote	9,277	83.4%
2 – Voted absentee or already voted	386	3.5%
3 – Voted wrong primary ballot	0	0.0%
4 – No signature on application	660	5.9%
5 – Not eligible to receive provisional ballot	78	0.7%
6 – ID or DL# or SS# not timely received	129	1.2%
7 – Incomplete information on application	88	0.8%
8 – DL# or SS# received but not verified	367	3.3%
9 – ID received but not acceptable	21	0.2%
10 – No ballot or more than one ballot	101	0.9%
11 – No evidence to support unit malfunction	19	0.2%
12 – Identity challenge upheld	0	0.0%
13 – Order extending voting hours invalidated	0	0.0%
14 – Identifying mark on ballot	3	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,129</b>	

### 2012 General Election Provisional Voting

County	Provisional Ballots Cast	# Accepted in Full		# Accepted in Part		# Rejected	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Allegany	571	357	62.5%	173	30.3%	41	7.2%
Anne Arundel	7,411	5,100	68.8%	1,503	20.3%	808	10.9%
Baltimore City	12,974	8,787	67.7%	2,631	20.3%	1,556	12.0%
Baltimore County	9,956	6,632	66.6%	2,095	21.0%	1,229	12.3%
Calvert	893	710	79.5%	38	4.3%	145	16.2%
Caroline	321	230	71.7%	38	11.8%	53	16.5%
Carroll	1,149	881	76.7%	146	12.7%	122	10.6%
Cecil	609	458	75.2%	29	4.8%	122	20.0%
Charles	1,852	1,488	80.3%	66	3.6%	298	16.1%
Dorchester	259	212	81.9%	22	8.5%	25	9.7%
Frederick	2,103	1,563	74.3%	236	11.2%	304	14.5%
Garrett	176	98	55.7%	51	29.0%	27	15.3%
Harford	2,203	1,631	74.0%	222	10.1%	350	15.9%
Howard	3,246	2,150	66.2%	609	18.8%	487	15.0%
Kent	158	92	58.2%	14	8.9%	52	32.9%
Montgomery	13,542	9,965	73.6%	1,512	11.2%	2,065	15.2%
Prince George's	16,964	10,533	62.1%	3,892	22.9%	2,539	15.0%
Queen Anne's	477	369	77.4%	32	6.7%	76	15.9%
St. Mary's	1,093	719	65.8%	163	14.9%	211	19.3%
Somerset	661	175	26.5%	444	67.2%	42	6.4%
Talbot	302	180	59.6%	64	21.2%	58	19.2%
Washington	1,032	787	76.3%	70	6.8%	175	17.0%
Wicomico	1,361	847	62.2%	266	19.5%	248	18.2%
Worcester	563	364	64.7%	103	18.3%	96	17.1%
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>79,876</b>	<b>54,328</b>	<b>68.0%</b>	<b>14,419</b>	<b>18.1%</b>	<b>11,129</b>	<b>13.9%</b>

## IN MEMORIAM Ursula Schubert



Ursula Schubert, who served as office manager for the League of Women Voters of Maryland for more than 40 years, passed away on April 3, 2013. She cheerfully, efficiently and tirelessly assisted 15 state presidents.

She knew the rhythms of the League's activities and provided the consistency that is so important in a volunteer organization.

"Having her experience to rely on when I was LWVMD President certainly made the job immeasurably easier for me," said Judy Morenoff who served from 2001-2005. Niecy Chambers, who came to work for the League when Ursula became ill said, "I never met Ursula, but I feel her presence every day in the office, and I feel like I've lost a mentor and a colleague...the mailman asked about her one day - he said that, to him, she was always the face of League."

In the early '70s when Ursula came to work for LWVMD, communication was done by the telephone and postal mail. During the legislative session, she would go to the basement of the Legislative Services Building each day and pick up copies of bills that might be of interest to League members. She would mail those bills to the volunteers who wrote for *Report from State Circle (RSC)*. They would analyze the legislation, write a summary and then mail it to the office so that Ursula could type stencils and make mimeograph copies of RSC, which she would then prepare for bulk mailing. She told me that she would often enlist her young sons to help with mailings. An amazing new technology, the FAX machine, helped to speed up this endeavor. As other technologies came along such as word processors, personal computers and the Internet she learned to use them although some aspects of technology remained a mystery to her.

Carol Sures, a member of the League of Women Voters of Annapolis, remarked, "I

have many memories of working with Ursula since I moved to Annapolis in 1986. She used to type the entire "Voter" for me when I was editor and then I would take it all to Frederick to our printer. She was involved when we re-designed the publication and were able to use the computer to lay it out. I was driving to the LWVMD office on the horrible September 11 when I heard news of the first tower being hit. When I got to the office I told Ursula and we sat there crying together as we watched -- on the computer -- the second tower being hit. We also laughed hysterically many times when I did the monthly SBL and we came up with what we hoped were catchy flyers for various upcoming events. She didn't mind it when I teased her about her accent: I wanted one workshop to be called "Vinter Vunderland Vorkshop." I also used to tease her that when she answered the phone it sounded like "Leak of Vimmen Voters. I could go on - I will miss her so much. "

Ursula was born in Lemgo, Germany, in 1944. She moved to Annapolis in 1964. Judith Heimann, who has been a member of the League of Women Voters for more than 50 years, said, "We not only lost Ursula, we also lost a lot of LWVMD history. It was always a pleasure to work with Ursula -- and, of course, she and I talked a bit about where we both came from. She would tell me about her sister and her trips home."

One of Ursula's passions was going to flea markets and yard sales in search of antiques and other interesting items. It was at one of these flea markets that she found an amazing collection of historical documents about the founding of the League of Women Voters of Maryland and the League of Women Voters of Baltimore City. She made pdfs of these and they can be seen at [lwvmd.org/n/history1923](http://lwvmd.org/n/history1923).

Ursula had three sons and a granddaughter whom she spoke of often and who will miss her greatly, as will the thousands of League members who interacted with her over the years. ♦



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## Recreating a Suffrage March

*By Roberta Sharper*



On Saturday, February 23, 2013, more than 100 women and a few men assembled on Belair Road in Baltimore to commemorate and to reenact a portion of a march of heroic women, who set out on foot from New York to Washington, D.C. in the dead of winter. Exactly one hundred years ago, these women made a stop in Overlea, where the people of the area gave them food, shelter and a place to rest as they pursued their goal to be granted the right to vote.

It would be seven more years before the 19th Amendment would be ratified by the states, granting women the right to vote (the exception being black women in the South).



League members will also remember Carrie Chapman Catt, who led the Suffrage Movement from 1900-1920 and was the founder of the League of Women Voters. How proud she would have been to see today's "suffrage hikers," women representing many organizations, some in period dress and all displaying the yellow ribbons signifying their solidarity as they chanted the mantra "VOTES FOR WOMEN."

*Sixty-sixth Congress of the United States of America;*

*At the First Session,*

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the nineteenth day of May,  
one thousand nine hundred and nineteen.

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### JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution extending the right of suffrage  
to women.



**League of Women Voters of Maryland  
CONVENTION May 10 - 11, 2013  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2004 Greenspring Drive, Timonium, MD 21093  
REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL LEAGUE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you are a voting DELEGATE \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you plan to join the tour of the Hampton National Historic Site \_\_\_\_\_

**FRIDAY, MAY 10**

10:00 am *Docent-led tour of the Hampton National Historic Site  
535 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286*

*Choose a spot for lunch with League friends. A list of area restaurants will be available.*

Noon - 5:00 pm *Hotel and Convention registration  
Crowne Plaza Hotel - 2004 Greenspring Drive, Timonium, MD 21093*

1:30 pm - 5:30 pm *Plenary Session I*

6:00 pm *Cash Bar Reception*

7:00 pm *Banquet*

<b>BANQUET ENTREE CHOICES - CHOOSE ONE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> SLICED BEEF WITH WILD MUSHROOM DEMI-GLAZE <input type="checkbox"/> GRILLED SALMON WITH DILL SAUCE
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**SATURDAY, MAY 11**

8:00 am - 9:30 am *Networking Breakfast*

10:00 am - 12:30 pm *Plenary Session II*

Registration \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

*All Convention attendees must register. If you or someone you know would like assistance from the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund for the registration fee, please contact the LWVMD office.*

Banquet - Friday, May 10 \$40 \_\_\_\_\_

Breakfast Buffet - Saturday, May 11 \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

<b>HOTEL RESERVATIONS</b> Call 410 252 7373 by April 19, 2013 Room rate: \$99 + tax
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Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this completed registration form with your check payable to LWVMD to:  
 LWVMD, 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401.  
**YOUR CONVENTION REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 2, 2013.**  
 Each attendee should fill out a separate registration form. Thank you!  
 Questions? Call the LWVMD office at 410 269 0232.