

**The
Maryland**

Voter



Summer 2011

Plan Maryland to Guide Smart Growth

By Susan Cochran

The Plan poses the question:

Can we continue with the fragmented development that Maryland has experienced in the last 60 years as we face continued pressures affecting growth?



What does it take to have a healthy environment, good transportation, thriving businesses and a high quality of life for Marylanders? Governor Martin O'Malley says it takes smart land use planning.

For years the State has urged Smart Growth principles, but a comprehensive approach is now being taken through the Maryland Department of Planning called Plan Maryland.

Plan Maryland is an ambitious project intended to guide and coordinate Smart Growth planning in Maryland. It is an outgrowth of the 2009 Smart, Green and Growing legislative package containing 12 visions for smart growth proposed by Governor O'Malley and adopted by the Maryland Legislature. The League of Women Voters of Maryland supported this package.

"We need to grow smart," says MDP Secretary Richard Hall. In the next 25 years, Maryland's population will grow by a million people. Currently, three-fourths of new building takes place outside of smart growth areas—resulting in a unit taking eight times more land area, according to Secretary Hall.

In the summer of 2009, Maryland hired a consultant to interview business owners, developers, environmentalists, housing advocates and concerned citizen organizations. The interviews served as background for further information gathering. The League of Women Voter's President Nancy Soreng was interviewed in this phase of the Plan's development.

Soreng also attended an open-house session in College Park in June where the public was invited to examine the Draft Plan with State officials offering information and gathering comments from attendees.

"The vision that has been developed for statewide sustainable development that protects critical natural resources is impressive," Soreng says, adding, "The challenge will be to achieve buy-in of this vision by local governments who have traditionally seen land-use planning as a local prerogative."

The College Park session was one of eight evening open houses held in college gymnasiums and halls throughout the State, from Frostburg to La Plata, as part of a 120-day comment period during May and June of this year.

The comment period extends to September 1. The draft will then be refined into a final plan and submitted to the Governor by Hall. Although the schedule of open houses has been completed, the full Draft Plan with charts and maps is on the web site at plan.maryland.gov, and comments may be made through the site. *(continued on next page)*

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MD Plan (continued from p. 1)

The goals of Plan Maryland as stated in the draft are:

1. Concentrate development and redevelopment in towns, cities and rural centers where there is existing and planned infrastructure.
2. Preserve and protect environmentally sensitive and rural lands and resources from the impacts of development.
3. Ensure that a desirable quality of life in Maryland's metropolitan and rural communities is sustainable.

Taking a long-range view, the plan seeks to be a basis for facilitating coordination of state and state-led agencies to achieve its goals, as well as educating and assisting local planners in planning for sustainable growth. Results are not expected overnight. Local problems like poorly conceived laws for public facilities, inadequate financing, and public sentiment against planning are difficult issues to resolve. But the State hopes to be able to provide coordination and guidance to help with these issues.

As a "growth state," Maryland has faced many pressures that have affected the development patterns in the State. The Plan examines the trends in use and the supply of our resources. Throughout the 188-page Draft Plan document are analyses and profiles of Maryland's people, land and resources. Many helpful charts and graphs are included.

The Plan poses the question: Can we continue with the fragmented development that Maryland has experienced in the last 60 years as we face continued pressures affecting growth?

Features of the plan are three geographies (maps) of areas designated for planning purposes--the Growth Print, the Green Print and the AgPrint. The Growth Print shows areas where State funds will be targeted for revitalization and new development. It is described as a subset of the Priority Funding Areas identified. The Green Print defines areas where conservation measures are most needed and natural features should be preserved. The Ag Print designates areas of farming activity where valuable farm land should be protected from development through preservation programs.

Strategies are being formulated to implement the Plan. Some strategies are in the Plan, and more will be formulated in the next 12 to 18 months.

PlanMD is not a plan set in stone, but will continue to develop through working with local officials and interaction with various state agencies. Development and changing conditions will result in reevaluation of targeted areas in the coming years. Strategies for reaching the goals of the PlanMD will evolve. ♦

LWVUS Council

Nancy Soreng, LWVMD President

Presidents and representatives from 40 states and the Virgin Islands gathered south of Washington D.C. from June 17 through June 20 for the League of Women Voters of the United States bi-annual Executive Council. They adopted a budget for the following year, discussed advocacy strategies, and planned projects for election year 2012. They also discussed how the League of Women Voters can use new media to spread its message.

Three Maryland League members working in consultation with LWVUS experts on media, membership, and fundraising drafted a plan for funding and advertising the Vote411 on-line *Voters' Guide*. This dynamic Internet tool enables voters to input their address and download information about all of the candidates and ballot questions that they will be voting for. Voters can create a printout of their choices to take to their polling place. Using the Vote411 software, LWVMD will be able to provide information for all voters in the state even in the few jurisdictions where there is no local League. The Vote411 *Voters' Guide* also provides information about the offices for which candidates will be vying. The League's *Voters' Guides* are the best way for voters to directly compare candidates' answers on questions about important issues. The League asks the questions and the candidates' answers are published exactly as they write them.

The goal of the LWVMD plan is to raise enough money to buy into the Vote411 software, but more importantly to make sure that voters around the state are aware of this valuable resource that will help them make decisions on the candidates and the ballot questions. ♦

Website Updates

Janeen Grohsmeyer

LWVMD Online Services Director

The websites will be upgraded over the summer. These upgrades will increase speed and allow better emailing capabilities and a membership database. There may be interruptions in service occasionally, usually late at night. ♦

**Visit us on Facebook at
[facebook.com/LWVMD](https://www.facebook.com/LWVMD)**

2011 LWVMD



State Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller enjoys the dinner company of LWVMD President Nancy Soreng, Annette Funn and Malcolm Funn.

In his after dinner speech, Miller thanked the League for its Voters' Guides, its non-partisanship, and for studying the hard issues and being vocal about them.

CONVENTION



Enjoying dinner at one of the many restaurants on Solomons on Friday night.



Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti, LWVUS liaison to the Maryland Leagues, thanks LWVMD President Nancy Soreng for her service to the League.



Diane Hibino and Elaine Apter, co-presidents of Montgomery County League, take a boat ride on the *Wm. B. Tennison* around Solomons Harbor and the Patuxent River, one of the many activities offered on Friday before the start of the convention



Saturday lunch



Spotlight on a Member

In each edition of the LWVMD Voter we will be telling you about a member who has played an important role in the League of Women Voters of Maryland.

Annette Funn

Being a productive citizen

By Carol Blackburn

Annette Funn credits a high school teacher in Prince George's County for her involvement in the community. That teacher stressed the importance of her students becoming productive citizens, Annette said.

After college, Annette said she researched a number of organizations, and saw the League as a way to get involved in the community. "I was very active in Prince George's County and held all the offices except treasurer," she said. Her involvement with the League began in 1969. "I was interested in voters service and international trade issues."

Annette and her husband, Malcolm, lived in Prince George's County for about 30 years. She was a scientist, he was an attorney, and both belonged to a number of organizations and committees. Besides the League, Annette was a member and, in 1987, state president of the Business and Professional Women. Upon retirement the Funnns moved to Chesapeake Beach in Calvert County, an area where Malcolm had grown up.

Annette said that when she went into register to vote in Calvert County one of the women, League member Barbara Fetterhoff, asked if she was interested in joining the League of Women Voters. "It was fate," Annette said.

In the Calvert County League, Annette has chaired a number of studies, been co-president twice, and has been a delegate to a number of National League conventions. She recently helped organize the State League convention in Solomons.

Annette was a member of the LWVMD Board of Directors for two years where she worked with the liaisons to the individual county leagues.

In addition to her League activities, Annette is one of the co-founders of the Concerned Black Women of

Calvert County. "I found that when I went to hearings there were no African Americans," she said. She and co-founder Doris Cammack-Spencers decided that more attention should be paid to improving the quality of life for the county's minority residents, particularly young residents.

Annette is also a commissioner on the Calvert County Commission for Women, a member of the Calvert County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and serves on several judiciary committees by appointment of the governor.

She and her husband were recently named a "Power Couple" in Calvert County by the local newspaper.

Besides their many separate activities, both Funnns are involved in groups together as well as being active in their church. They also have a son, Kelby.

"The League has been a wonderful and positive experience," Annette said. ♦



The Power of the Vote

Summary of speech given by LWVUS Liaison to Maryland Leagues Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti at the LWVMD Convention in May 2011

Ninety-one years ago this August, the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified, and millions of women got the power of the vote—almost. The simple language of that amendment did not, in any way, guarantee women the tools they needed to fully exercise that power, nor did those words sweep away the remaining legal barriers to the full exercise of that power.

Getting the right to vote was meaningless if women did not register and go to the polls; it was pointless if women registered and voted without understanding the issues. And understanding the issues and voting matters only if civic engagement continues to the accountability phase.

The Nineteenth Amendment may have been the single most important step to full participation, but it was still just a step. Finishing the fight for the power of the vote was and remains the mission of the League of Women Voters.

But what does that mission entail?

1. Finding and eliminating legal barriers to voting
2. Educating new voters on the political process
3. Registering new voters
4. Providing nonpartisan voter information
5. Using the power of the vote to hold elected officials accountable

To ensure that the 2012 election serves the voters, the League is instituting “The Power of the Vote” campaign.

Over this past year we’ve seen increasing levels of blind partisanship; too often, it seems, candidates and elected officials are looking only to the next election and their chance for partisan advantage rather than thinking about what’s good for the country. The arguments in our legislatures focus instead on the most divisive way to make an emotion-laden appeal. People are yelling at each other, refusing to listen, attacking the motives and the patriotism of their “enemies.”

During the 2010 election the League was attacked, so as we approach 2012 what do we do? Do we attack back? OR do we roll up our sleeves and get back to the

basics—that the individual vote is only powerful if it is informed and exercised.

We have the ability to effect change at all three levels of government. But we can only do this by helping each other to re-emphasize our non partisanship and the ways in which our education and advocacy is necessary to, and a product of, the power of the vote.

Be active and visible in your community registering voters; work with us on Vote411 to provide candidate information online to the voters; and keep up the good work in protecting the voter. ♦

Maryland Leagues begin LWVUS Membership and Leadership Development Program

by Betsy Sexton, LWVMD Membership Chair

On July 23 and 24 about 20 Maryland League members will attend training in the LWVUS Membership and Leadership Development Program. The three state coaches, Alison Carney, Roberta Safer and Sue Garonzik, four LWVMD board members and membership teams from the Prince George's County MAL Unit and Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Harford County and Washington County Leagues will be learning best practices for strengthening the Leagues.

States that are currently implementing the LWVUS coaching program report increased membership and visibility, focused strategic planning for organizational growth and improved relationships with the media and other community organizations. Maryland’s enthusiastic and committed volunteers are ready to go! ♦



NE Regional Training in March

LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara recognizes Maryland’s state coaches Alison Carney, Roberta Safer and Sue Garonzik, and national coach (Ruth S. Shur Fellow) Elona Vaisnys.



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF LAW
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE**

Invite you to the

FIFTH ANNUAL CONSTITUTION DAY PROGRAM

Friday, September 16, 2011 ~ 12 noon – 1:00 p.m.
Ceremonial Court Room, University of Maryland School of Law
500 W. Baltimore St., Baltimore, MD 21201

JUDICIAL REVIEW AND THE CONSTITUTION: WHITTINGTON AND MARBURY

Moderator: Mark Graber - Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development,
University of Maryland School of Law

Panelists: William Reynolds - Professor, University of Maryland School of Law
Dan Friedman - Maryland Attorney General's Office; Adjunct Professor,
University of Maryland School of Law

To Reserve Seating and Parking
RSVP by September 12

Email your name, address and phone to andreagruhl@aol.com
Please indicate if you need to reserve a parking space for your car.

League volunteers are also needed. Please email andreagruhl@aol.com

Directions and Parking:

From Route I-95 (North or South) take Route 395 (downtown Baltimore). Exit onto Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., staying in right lane. At fourth traffic light, turn right onto Baltimore St; pass law school on left side of street. Turn left at second traffic light onto N. Paca St.; turn right into entrance for Baltimore Grand Garage, which is across street from east side of law school. Parking building is for UMB Hospital patients/staff and law school faculty, but Constitution Day attendees who reserved a space will be accommodated.