



Volume 2020-2021 Issue 5 January 2021

CALENDAR

January

Thu, Jan 21 7pm	LWVUS DEI Webinar https://www.lwv.org/diversity-equity-inclusion/webinars
Tue, Jan 26 11am	LWVUS Community Call: Remaining Non-Partisan
Wed, Jan 27 7:30pm	Book Club <i>Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents</i> by Isabel Wilkerson
Sat, Jan 30	LWVMD Winter Workshop www.lwvmd.org
Cancelled	Legislative Luncheon for the LWV Baltimore County

February

Mon, Feb 8 7pm	LWVBCo Policy Program Planning Discussion
Tue, Feb 9 1pm	LWV Baltimore City/County Event: <i>Female & Incarcerated: Pathways to Imprisonment and Barriers to Reentry</i>
Wed, Feb 10 10am	LWVBCo Policy Program Planning Discussion
Mon, Feb 15	Presidents' Day
Thu, Feb 18 2pm	LWVBCo Policy Program Planning Board Vote
Wed, Feb 24 7:30pm	Book Club <i>Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War</i> by Catherine Grace Katz

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LWV Baltimore County
Empowering residents
through voter registration,
education, and advocacy

CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER



Camille Wheeler,
Co-President
LWVBCo

At the core of the raison d'être of the League of Women Voters, is the preservation of this nation's democracy and our republic. On Jan. 6, we witnessed an attack that threatened our form of government and the integrity of our elections. A mob spurred on by political rhetoric, repeated endlessly on social media, attacked the Capitol and caused untold damage, numerous injuries, and the deaths of five people, two who died as a direct result of the riot and three others who died due to medical emergencies.



Tana Hamilton,
Co-President
LWVBCo

This riot was years in the making, and the lies and misinformation underlying the eruption and attack remain as beliefs in the minds of the participants and others associated with the hardline Christian right and groups such as QAnon and Proud Boys. The extremism expressed is fueled by numerous internet sites such as Parler, The Donald, Gab and Tic Toc, to name a few. False information is repeated over and over until it becomes a belief equal to a fact. Much will be written and discussed as we try to better understand Jan. 6th.

It behooves us to examine what the League can bring to the aftermath of the attack on the Capitol. Our traditional activities including voter education and voter registration should continue to hold an important place in our future activities as well as the political action we take on issues where we have a position. Our understanding of government structure, power and history will inform our agenda and practice. To have greater influence, however, we need to change. Our ranks need to grow and we need to attract a more diverse membership, both in terms of race, gender and age. We need to establish alliances with other non-partisan groups whose values and activities are compatible.

The divisions on display on Jan. 6 remain. The Maryland flag was on display among the participants on the Capitol balcony. The crowd dispersed to every state and evidently plan to demonstrate and riot at least until after Jan. 20 and perhaps beyond. We must alert ourselves to the threats and work to diminish their success.

The United States has survived other difficult challenges and divisions. Witness the 60's with the assassination of JFK, the escalation of the Vietnam War, the Watergate break in and subsequent Nixon resignation, the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., and other atrocities perpetuated by racism and a desire to maintain white supremacy. The possibility of anarchy and sedition is always with us, but to date we have overcome.

The League founders did not begin their journey fighting equally for the vote of women of all races. However, today we recognize and value diversity; the League has learned and changed. It helps to fully understand the threat we must overcome, and that is a positive that can come from the events of this January. The insurgents failed, and that is the good news accompanying the recognition that these seditious groups exist and will act. Appeasement is a dangerous strategy, and reforms are needed to assure that those who believe they have no legitimate voice will better understand that change can happen without violence and guns. The League can help lead us to that future.

Sincerely,

Camille Wheeler

Tana Hamilton

Co-Presidents

LWVUS

The League Update



*Dr. Deborah Turner,
President LWVUS*

12/31/20 – We have come to the end of a memorable year that each of us will remember in our own special way. A year of incredible highs and incredible lows. During this unique year, we celebrated our 100th anniversary, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the ERA, and we commemorated the ratification of the 19th Amendment. We served millions of voters during one of the nation's most successful and secure historic elections. We helped voters navigate new and old voting options during a pandemic, and we engaged in litigation to ensure that voters could cast their ballots safely and to combat voter suppression. VOTE411 served over six million voters with voting information in both English and Spanish for the first time ever. We managed to support the work of courageous postal workers while standing against administrative postal changes that promoted voter suppression, and we worked hard to maintain the integrity of the census.

The above-mentioned activities capture only a few of the actions Leagues throughout the country engaged in during 2020 to support the people of our nation and defend democracy. We invite you to take a moment to read our 2020 wrap up blog, *20 Ways LWV Empowered Voters and Protected Democracy in 2020*, which highlights many more aspects of this year's work. As you do so, reflect on the part each of you played in the successes of this year.

As we begin a new century of work for the League, we have embraced a deeply committed endeavor – making DEI part of our DNA. The adoption of our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion bylaw, standing equally with our nonpartisan bylaw, is a historical milestone for the League. With this commitment, coupled with the resolution adopted at our 2020 Convention to advocate against racial injustice in our criminal justice system, the League has taken great strides to acknowledge and move beyond its own past systemic injustices. In a recent court case, a judge demanded the removal of the portraits of judges adorning his courtroom, because the portraits were all white and the defendant was black. The judge believed that the adornment of the courtroom walls emphasized the long history of injustice in our courts. The defense attorney in acknowledging the judges action stated, “Our work cannot stop there. Our criminal legal system is racially biased, and we cannot settle for performative anti-racism. To achieve real justice, we need to address not only the appearance of our system, but also the internal structures that continue to create racial disparities in the criminal system.” I dare say this statement can apply to all endeavors to embrace a future which promotes equity in our country and our world. The League is moving beyond performative anti-racism. I am proud to stand with and lead the League in this journey.

Now we will ring in the new year by advocating for the 117th Congress to pass the For the People Act (H.R. 1). We look forward to the new Congress being inducted on Jan. 3, with restorative democracy as a high priority. We will be working with all of you to achieve passage of this important legislation. Finally, we pause for a moment of silence to express our condolences to all the families who have lost loved ones in this past year and celebrate the rolling out of a vaccine, which will start our journey toward restoring our lives.

I close wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year. Exhale and embrace your loved ones. Your dedication and passion for democracy has helped impact millions across our country in a positive way this year. Thank you for all your hard work this year! And remember: wear your masks!

- Dr. Deborah Turner, President, LWVUS

PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

BOOK CLUB

There is plenty of room to join book club since now all meetings are virtual. Please contact Betsy Sexton, esexton2009@lwvbaltimorecounty for the link and time.

- Wednesday, January 27th - *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson
- Wednesday, February 24th - *The Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War* by Catherine Grace Katz.

- Betsy Sexton, Book Club Chair

COUNTY/CITY PROGRAMMING

The Leagues of Women Voters of Baltimore City and County invite you to our online event:

**Female & Incarcerated:
Pathways to Imprisonment & Barriers to Reentry
Tuesday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m.**

Women are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. incarcerated population, increasing at nearly double the rate of men since 1985. Who are these women and what crimes were they convicted of? How can we address the problems they face during incarceration and the barriers to successful reentry? Towson University Professor Laura Hahn will address the facts — and the myths — about women and incarceration.

Laura Hahn, M.A., is a lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice at Towson University and serves as the Internship Coordinator for the criminal justice concentration. She previously worked for the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Department of Juvenile Services. Her master's degree in Correctional Administration was awarded by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.



Laura Hahn, Towson University Lecturer

You must register in advance for this meeting; details to come on our web calendar, https://www.lwvbaltimorecounty.org/calendar_events. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with details for joining the event. There will be a Q&A after the presentation. Submit questions in advance to: events@lwvbaltimorecounty.org. This event is open to ALL.

- Sharalyn Luciani, City/County Event member

POLICY PROGRAM PLANNING MEETINGS

Local League engagement begins in our grassroots program planning process. It is an opportunity for each member to have a direct role in determining which issues we study and which areas of action we focus on the next year. Members may recommend areas of new study (or concurrence) and weigh in on whether current local and state positions should remain as they are. The LWV Baltimore County board will review your recommendations and present its Recommended Program at the 2021 Annual Meeting in June. We will submit our recommendations on state League (LWVMD) program planning to their board for consideration.

This year, at our February meetings we will also review the positions of the League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) and we will be able to recommend new studies. Full descriptions of each League's Position Statements are listed on their respective websites: LWVBCo, <https://www.lwvbaltimorecounty.org/resources>; and LWVMD, <https://www.lwvmd.org/positions>.

Meetings will occur on Monday, February 8th at 7pm and Wednesday, February 10th at 10am.

Join us via Google Meets at <https://meet.google.com/rez-wbgs-tte?authuser+1>

or by phone, (US) + 1-470-327-0651, PIN: 123 680 415#

All members are urged to join one of the discussions. See pages 7-11 for details on the planning process and information on specific positions.

- Betsy Sexton, Advocacy Chair

COMMITTEES AND REPORTS

VOTER SERVICES

MD State Board of Elections Post Election Report

In December 4, 2020, members of the MD State Board of Elections (SBE) met to review their handling of the 2020 Presidential Election. The Board of Canvassers met at noon and unanimously approved the results and certified the 2020 General Election. Below are some highlights from the meeting. For a complete report, visit the SBE's webpage at <https://elections.maryland.gov/about/board.html>.

74% of voters participated in the election

50% of the 3,057,486 people who voted did so by mail

90% of those who received a mail-in ballot returned it

2/3 of those who voted by mail did so via ballot drop box

26,568 people used same day registration, half of them on election day

4 million email notices were sent to voters to notify them that their ballot had been accepted for processing

YouTube videos explaining the mail-in voting process were viewed 13,000 times

SBE resources were viewed 4 million times via the SBE website, Facebook & Twitter

The SBE's web voter lookup function had 370,000 visits on election day

The Dept of Health recruited 381 volunteers to assist with polling place health safety compliance

The SBE call center handled 182,600 phone calls during the election cycle

Post-election audits showed that the voting system tabulated the same number of ballots as the auditing software

- Ralph Watkins, LWV Montgomery County member

NEWSLETTER

You're likely to notice some changes to the newsletter in the coming months as it goes on an diet. The slimmer, svelter newsletter will still bring you pertinent information on League advocacy efforts as well as League activities, events, and organizational updates, but it will share the heavy load of topical education with the League's website. Education is a vital part of the League's mission, and the in-depth articles by contributing writers on local and national issues will continue to be presented, just not all in the newsletter. This issue marks the first time we are putting this new vision into practice. Pages 8-11 give a summary of Baltimore County and MD State League policy positions that will be discussed next month, but a detailed listing of all positions are available on the Resources page of our website, <https://www.lwvbaltimorecounty.org/resources>. We're certain you won't be left feeling hungry during this transition.

- Stacey Morrison, Newsletter Chair

COMMITTEES AND REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP

We are LWV



The League is happy to welcome Stacey Morrison as the new editor for The Voter. Not only is she the new editor, she is also a new member of the LWVBCo. Like many American citizens, Stacey was very disturbed by the state of the 2020 Presidential Election cycle and wanted to help with voter registration. She turned to the League because of its history of voter education and services and was thankful when they immediately put her to work on formatting the Voters' Guides.

The warmth in which Stacey was welcomed piqued this lifelong volunteer's desire to do more. When she learned the League was looking for a newsletter editor, she gladly agreed to take on the job. "I like the depth of thought and research that goes into League educational material," she says, "as well as their commitment to presenting that information in a truly unbiased way." Stacey is happy that she is now part of the effort to bring reliable, well-informed and trustworthy information to fellow members. Her previous experience editing newsletters will certainly come in handy.

Stacey is the League. She brings years of volunteer experience in social justice, environmental, and educational organizations with her and feels right at home with others who are equally committed to such causes. It's thanks to efforts from volunteers like Stacey that the League can fulfill its mission of empowering Baltimore County residents through education.



New Members LWV Baltimore County Welcomes You!

- * Jessica Parent
- * Holly Momemzadeh

OF INTEREST

BALTIMORE COUNTY WASTE COLLECTION

Resident Survey



Baltimore County is undertaking a review of the County's waste collection and disposal practices in order to make recommendations for innovative changes and improved waste diversion strategies.

A work group has been created to examine a range of best practices that can be important for addressing climate change, sustainability and improved services. The County also wants feedback from its residents, so they have created a survey for you to share your thoughts and opinions. The survey can be accessed via www.baltimorecountymd.gov/wastesurvey. This is a great chance to have your voice be heard.

LWVUS ANNUAL MEETING

Criminal Justice Caucus

At the 2020 LWVUS Annual Meeting, members of the LWVCA led a caucus titled, "Making Democracy Work in Criminal Justice". In addition to providing information on the state of our criminal justice system, they shared ways in which Leagues around the country can help work toward changing this system, especially through coalitions with organizations who have been fighting for criminal justice reform for years. The League's history of bringing together government officials and communities combined with our experiencing of asking deep, thoughtful questions can help make us a powerful agent of change. Visit <https://my.lwv.org/california/criminal-justice-reform-position/national-engagement-criminal-justice> to watch the presentation and pursue the literature.



ACLU-MD "FREE THE VOTE" DOCUMENTARY



Voting is one of the most fundamental ways of participating in our democracy. Yet in MD, over 13,000 black citizens cannot vote because of their incarceration. As part of their effort to address this injustice, the ACLU-MD created a documentary called, "Free the Vote". The film takes a journey in history to show how denying the right to vote of people who are incarcerated is rooted in a deeply racist system. It focuses on people who have experienced having their right to vote taken from them and their work to expand the vote to people who are currently and formerly incarcerated. To request a screening of this film, visit <https://www.freethetotemovie.com/>.

ADVOCACY

LWVBCo Policy Program Planning 2021-2022

Meetings will occur on Monday, February 8th at 7pm and Wednesday, February 10th at 10am.

Join us via Google Meets at <https://meet.google.com/rez-wbgs-tte?authuser+1>

or by phone, (US) + 1-470-327-0651, PIN: 123 680 415#

All members are urged to join one of the discussions. See pages 7-11 for details on the planning process and information on specific positions.

If you cannot attend a meeting, please review the Position Statements, then send your recommendations to the League office via mail or email, contact@lwvbaltimorecounty.org, by February 12th. Include one of the following recommendations for each position on which you comment:

- Retain for Action - The position remains as is.
- Edit - Minor wording changes to improve clarity.
- Informational Update - Voter article or other researched information for members. If you choose this option, please elaborate as to focus and purpose.
- Drop/Delete - A new Study and Consensus will be required to have the positions available for use.
- Concurrence - Agreement of the members on a specific position developed by another League or League level.

Please bring these materials with you to the meeting of your choice.

Part 1: REVIEW OF CURRENT LEAGUE POSITIONS

In this process we review the current positions and recommend retaining, editing or dropping positions. Are existing positions relevant today? Summaries of both Baltimore County and MD State League positions are in the pages that follow. For detailed listings of each, visit LWVBCo at <https://www.lwvbaltimorecounty.org/resources> and LWVMD at <https://www.lwvmd.org/positions>.

Part 2: PROPOSALS FOR NEW STUDY OR CONCURRENCE

Local League positions allow us to support or oppose issues before the County Council. We arrive at positions through a new study and consensus or through concurrence with existing positions of other Leagues or with positions developed by a resource committee. We may also recommend advocacy initiatives and educational programs and meetings on timely topics as part of League Program.

Where do you believe we need new positions? Should we arrive at them through consensus or concurrence with the position of another League? If you would like to propose a new study or concurrence, please send the title of your proposal with the following information to the League office via mail or email, contact@lwvbaltimorecounty.org, by February ?:

- Purpose: What is the goal? Why does the issue warrant state positions? What is the scope or focus of the study?
- Outlook for Work: What will the Study Committee do? What issues should be analyzed? What are the steps needed to complete the Study/Concurrence?

Our board will consider your proposals using the following criteria:

- Does the League already have a position?
- Is government action needed? Or possible?
- Is the county the appropriate level of government to address the issue?
- Is the issue timely?
- Will League involvement make a unique impact?
- Is there member interest? Will it attract new members?
- Do we have people power to man the study?
- Does the title specify the focus of the study?

Part 3: PLAN FUTURE ACTIVITIES

What issues should be considered for programs in the coming year? How can we use our positions for advocacy or participation in county government?

- Betsy Sexton, Advocacy Chair

ADVOCACY

LWVBCo Program Planning 2021-2022: County Position Statements

GOVERNMENT

County Government/Charter

ACTION to support the concept of charter government and measures to make it efficient, effective and responsible (1969)

ACTION to oppose a full time County Council (1969) and a full time Council Chairman (1974)

Firearms Legislation (1977)

ACTION to strengthen gun control laws, provide firearm and crime statistics and community education about gun safety

Real Property Assessments and Taxation (1978)

ACTION to support continued use of the real property tax as a major source of revenue for Baltimore County

Transportation

ACTION to support financing transportation, regional financing and cooperation and Action to support the role of Baltimore City Government in promoting public transportation

NATURAL RESOURCES

Land Use

ACTION to support a good system of planning and zoning

Sludge Management Utilization (1988) and/or disposal of sludge from wastewater treatment plants

ACTION to support legislation prohibiting, regulating or restricting discharge of pollutants into the sewer system or waters of Baltimore County by individuals, commerce or industry. (1982)

Solid Waste Management (1971)

ACTION to support improved solid waste management goals and practices in Baltimore County

Source Reduction and Recycling (1990)

ACTION to support emphasis on recycling and source reduction (including community education and County-wide curbside collection of recyclables)

SOCIAL POLICY

Alternatives to the War on Drugs (2005)

ACTION to support: continuation of present drug treatment programs focusing on treatment instead of incarceration on every level when evaluated for efficacy; focusing the Government's budget mainly on education and treatment instead of enforcement and punishment;

lengthening of drug treatment options to a year or longer; legalizing drugs with various degrees of regulation; decriminalizing drugs as a first step; allowing addicts to obtain their drugs from licensed medical professionals; sentencing adult dealers to prison and giving judges flexibility for first time offenders.

Department of Aging (1987)

ACTION to support programs, services, and personnel to meet the needs of Baltimore County Senior Citizens

Economic Development (1981)

ACTION to support economic development in Baltimore County through integrated planning, transportation, site selection assistance, loan guarantees, promotion and giving priority to the above order

EDUCATION

Quality of Education (Teaching), Part I (1999)

Affirmation of the following to be the purposes of public education

- To prepare students to be responsible citizens and to understand and affirm the democratic values in our society
- To prepare students to be economically self-sufficient
- To prepare students to be life-long learners, appreciative of the arts, knowledgeable about technology and sensitive to cultural and individual differences.

Quality of Education (Teaching), Part II (2000)

ACTION to support programs that will ensure the Quality of Teaching (See full position for details.)

Early Childhood Education (2002)

ACTION to support the following early childhood education initiatives:

- Provision by BCPS of parent education and assistance with pre-literacy and enrichment activities to families in greatest need
- Provision by BCPS of Pre-K education for 4-yearolds from disadvantaged families and those with special needs with an ultimate goal of provision of pre-K for all children
- Funding of pre-K and all-day kindergarten with federal, state and local financing, preferably from general revenues

The Principalship (2005)

Affirmation of the following principles: The principal's role is key to a well-functioning school and sets the tone for its mission to successfully educate all of the students. The principal is the chief administrator of his/her school

- Betsy Sexton, Advocacy Chair

ADVOCACY

LWVBCo Program Planning 2021-2022: County Position Statements, Cont.

and his/her main responsibility is that of Instructional Leader.

Safe Schools/Safe Communities (1996) ACTION to support the following:

- A fair, equitable, consistent discipline code and suspension policy in the Baltimore County Public Schools (frequently disseminated to parents and students), with emphasis on the need for removal of the most chronically disruptive students from the regular day school setting to a separate, alternative setting with appropriate curriculum, and for the establishment of in-school detention programs where suitable and feasible.
- Increased and enhanced before and after-school programs
- Increased cooperation between BCPS and other government agencies dealing with children's welfare
- Provision of funding, public and private, as needed to create and maintain safe schools and safe communities with emphasis on prevention and early intervention

Charter Schools (1998):

The League of Women Voters of Baltimore County neither supports nor opposes Charter Schools but does support specific criteria which should be implemented should Charter Schools be permitted in Baltimore County. **Definition:** Charter Schools are public schools, non-profit and non-sectarian, which offer alternative approaches to education and are exempted from certain rules and regulations, except those related to health, safety, civil rights, special education, criminal background check and financial disclosure, in exchange for accountability after a specified length of time. Common characteristics are; small size, (usually fewer than 300 students); relative degree of autonomy over decisions regarding curriculum, staffing, and budget; significant parent involvement; and innovative programs.

Selection of Board of Education Members (2014)

SUPPORT for change to either a fully elected or a hybrid system (some elected/some appointed) of selection of members of the Board of Education.

If there should be a hybrid system of selection:

SUPPORT for a requirement that the governor use his/her appointments to ensure diversity on the Board.

HEALTH CARE (1976)

ACTION to support an adequate community resource system, including:

- Development of a comprehensive health plan for Baltimore County, based on a thorough assessment of community needs, present and future. (1994)
- Expansion of administrative service, especially in the Division of Budget and Fiscal Control, Division of

- Statistical Services, and Division of Program Planning, Research and Development. (1974, 1988)
- An expanded health education program with recommended staff for implementation. (1976)
- More continuous in-service training. (1974)
- Programs such as pre-natal, well-child and mental health clinics, psychiatric day care centers and expanded family planning services. (1972, 1988)
- Increasing environmental health staff.

HOUSING

ACTION to support the LWVUS position of equal opportunity for all, with emphasis on housing for low- and moderate-income families (1968)

ACTION to support the local Land Use position on affordable housing opportunities for low and moderate income families and individuals throughout Baltimore County near centers of employment, public transportation, community-based support services and where appropriate, in existing dwellings (1991)

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC)

(1989)

ACTION to support a strong Commission under our national human relations position of equal rights for all

JOB RETRAINING (1984, 1990)

ACTION to support retraining of dislocated workers which should be planned for in advance and occur on an ongoing basis

MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS (1988)

ACTION to support:

- Increasing the current local supplement for all assistance recipients who currently receive a supplement
- Creation of shelters through funding support by the County, but operation by private, non-profit groups

SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE (SACC)

(1985, 1990, 1992)

ACTION to support:

- Assumption by Baltimore County of the role of Facilitator for a diverse range of SACC services, including regulation, child care information and referral, planning, training and technical assistance
- Designation of SACC services as second in priority for use of school facilities
- Assumption of funding for SACC programs by parents and business community with government involved only for low-income families on a sliding scale.

- Betsy Sexton, Advocacy Chair

ADVOCACY

LWVBCo Program Planning 2021-2022: State Position Statements

GOVERNMENT POSITIONS

Administration of Justice: Action to secure an effective, nonpartisan judiciary and to promote fair and appropriate sentencing, including the abolition of the death penalty; and a correctional system, including probation and other alternatives to incarceration, that protects society and prepares offenders for successful reintegration into the community. Action to support access by indigent criminal defendants to legal counsel at every decisional stage of the judicial process, including bail hearings. (1963, 1964, 1967, 1970, 1987, 1989, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)

Election Process: Action to assure an election system that is representative, feasible to implement and increases voter participation, as well as equitable, accessible, fiscally responsible, accountable and enforceable. Action to support same day registration. Action to assure fair campaigns and elections. Action to institute elections to fill vacancies in the General Assembly. Action to support more open primary elections and taxpayer-funded primary elections for all recognized parties. Action to support a mix of single and multi-member legislative districts and coterminous boundaries. Action to oppose term limits for members of the General Assembly. Opposition to a requirement for uniform voting systems unless funded by the state. (1972, 1985, 1993, 1997, 2001, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2018)

Ethics: LWVMD has never specifically studied governmental ethics. We have, however, strongly supported (in accordance with the LWVUS Principles and positions) legislation and administrative action which will make government more responsive and accountable to the voters, such as open meetings, accessibility of records to the public, and a code of ethics for government office holders and officials.

Firearms Control: Action to strengthen gun control laws. (1991)

Fiscal Policy: Action to promote an equitable and efficient fiscal structure for Maryland and to improve

the fiscal relationships between the state and its political subdivisions. Action to support or oppose proposed changes to Maryland's revenue structure, using certain principles to analyze and evaluate the proposed changes. Action to increase the budgetary authority of the legislature and to achieve a more effective budget process. (1976, 1981, 1999, 2004)

Local Government: Action to support county home rule, with preference for charter. (1967, 1983, 1985)

Redistricting: Action to assure a state redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation in the state legislature and House of Representatives with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny. (2004)

State Constitution: Action to secure a constitution that is clear, concise and confined to fundamentals. (1962)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Coal: Action to oppose the granting of eminent domain for, and the construction of, a coal slurry pipeline through Maryland. (1986) Action to support the collection of taxes and fees from the coal industry for costs to the public resulting from the mining of Maryland coal. (1987) Action to oppose strip mining on slopes steeper than 20 degrees. (1993)

Hazardous Waste Management: Action to promote the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste and to educate the public on safe disposal procedures. (1984)

Land Use/Growth Management: Action to encourage the State to establish goals, guidelines, and standards for land use, with local implementation of land use policies. (1975, 1979, 1991)

Solid Waste Management: Action to promote informed decisions affecting solid waste management. (1995)

- Betsy Sexton, Advocacy Chair

ADVOCACY

LWVBCo Program Planning 2021-2022: State Position Statements, Cont.

Transportation: Action to support an integrated transportation system and mass transit systems which are efficient, safe, clean and accessible. Support for adequate and equitable funding and cooperative regional programs is necessary to achieve these goals. (2002)

Climate Change: Action on climate change is based on the LWVUS position to support comprehensive legislation to control climate change, and support for predominant reliance on renewable resources.

SOCIAL POLICY

The League of Women Voters supports Social Policies that secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all, and that promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Adult Literacy: Action to ensure availability of free or low cost basic English language instruction for adult Maryland residents who are not proficient in reading, writing, speaking and understanding English. (2009)

Children's Services: Action to support a comprehensive range of child-centered services to ensure all children a chance to grow toward stable, productive adulthood. (1995)

Death With Dignity: State laws should grant the option for a terminally ill person to request medical assistance from a relevant, licensed physician to end one's life.

Domestic Violence: Action to support preventing initial and repeat occurrences of violence against spouses, domestic partners, the elderly, and children.
- Action to support a strong statewide response to violence that is integrated, interdisciplinary, and adequately funded, involving all segments of the law-enforcement and judicial systems, the medical community, the schools, social services, animal care and control agencies, and the private sector, with a primary focus on the safety of victims. (2000)

Drug and Controlled Substance Abuse, Policies and Laws in Maryland: Action to legalize the use of marijuana for any use, including medicinal, subject to restrictions on production and distribution. (2012)

Drunk Driving: Action to promote strong governmental measures and educational programs to address the problem of the drinking driver. (1983 and 2001)

Education: Action to support measures which recognize the primary responsibility for funding public elementary and secondary education lies with the state. (1972, 1975) Action to support the state aiding local school systems in attracting and retaining competent teachers. (1989) Action to oppose using public funding for vouchers to enable parents to send their children to private elementary and secondary schools. (2001) Action to encourage the inclusion of certain criteria in any legislation or regulations governing the establishment of Public Charter Schools. (2001) Action to ensure students have an opportunity to pass high school graduation tests. (2005) Opposed BOOST scholarship program for students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch to attend private and religious schools that currently receive state funding for computers and textbooks (2018)

Marriage/Civil Union Equality: Action to ensure that Maryland law does not discriminate in its recognition of all marriages/civil unions on the basis of gender or religious definitions of marriage. (2007)

Health Care and Health Care Appeals: Action to ensure a health care appeals system which protects patients, makes insurers accountable and objectively addresses patients' concerns. (1999)

Housing: Action to develop a state housing policy responsive to the need for more affordable housing and to clarify landlord/tenant relationships. (1982, 1983)

Meeting Basic Human Needs: Relied on LWVUS positions. One of the goals of social policy should be to reduce poverty and promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families; Increasing emphasis on cash assistance; Benefit levels should be sufficient to provide adequate food; and Pay equity.

- Betsy Sexton, Advocacy Chair

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LEAGUE OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday, Thursday, 10am-1pm
410-377-8046
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