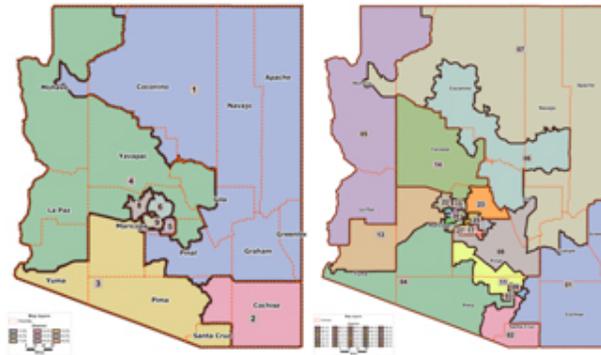


Recent Supreme Court Actions Uphold Positions of the League of Women Voters



Arizona Redistricting Decision

<http://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2012/01/17/arizona-redistricting-commission-oks-legislative-congressional-maps/>



Marriage Equality Decision

(<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2015/jun/29/us-supreme-court-ruling-same-sex-marriage/>)

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Events Calendar

Thursday, July 16 at 10:30 am in front of the capitol in Annapolis the LWVMD will commemorate the birthday of Elbridge Gerry, the namesake of the gerrymander. Members are encouraged to gather there to call on our elected officials to reform the redistricting process in Maryland. There will be Birthday cake! The League joins Common Cause Maryland and the National Council of Jewish Women to rally for redistricting reform.

Tuesday, August 11, 9:30 am, Board Meeting at the Kent County Public Library, Yellow Bldg.

Tuesday, September 8, 9:30 am, Board Meeting at the Kent County Public Library, Yellow Bldg.

A Message from the President

“Summertime and the livin’ is easy...”

I hope everyone is enjoying “easy living” on those gorgeous days that pop up between torrential downpours and blistering heat. While the pace is slower, there are some important events for League members to consider.

On July 16, you can help celebrate the birthday of Elbridge Gerry of Gerrymander at LWVMD headquarters to draw attention to redistricting issues. Check the LWVMD Facebook page for details.

Also on July 16, The Maryland Climate Coalition is holding a conference at Chesapeake College on the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Act that will be considered for renewal in the next session of the General Assembly. The meeting is at 6 PM; please try to attend. If you can’t attend, please send comments to climate.change@maryland.gov.

On July 23, LWVMD will hold a webinar from 12:30-1:30 PM on redistricting. Details on their Facebook page.

Your Board is taking a break in July, but will be back at work in August planning for the start of the program year. “Til then, Happy Summer!

Meet the Member

We would like you to meet one of the new members of the Kent League. Love of boating on the Sassafrass for about twenty-two years sparked **Cheryl Jacobs’** interest in Kent County. Ten years ago, that love encouraged them to move from Wilmington and settle in Kentmore Park, Kennedyville. Cheryl was a League member in Wilmington and focused on Voter Service by being liaison for the candidate forums that were held at the Jewish Community Center. As a former high school teacher in Chester, PA, voter education was a natural for her and remains her interest in the Kent League. Cheryl enjoys gardening and kayaking when she isn’t

busy playing golf. We welcome Cheryl to our League and look forward to getting to know her.

Board Retreat



The Board met in retreat in June at the home of Lillian Zelinski in Rock Hall to plan programming for 2015-2016. Topics that were discussed included our ongoing participation in the VOTE411 program during the 2016 election cycle. VOTE411 is the automated program for producing an online Voters' Guide, as well as providing the format for the print guide. In the works also are coffee receptions for new members prior to regular Board meetings. In February we hope once again to join with the Kent County Public Library in sponsoring an event for Black History Month. March will bring candidate forums for local offices in preparation for the April primary. In April we expect to hold a candidate forum for the First District congressional election, and to hold our Annual Meeting and Luncheon.

Court Cases Bring Progress in the Fight Against Gerrymandering

Efforts in Maryland and across the country to counter gerrymandering won a victory with the decision of the Supreme Court to uphold Arizona's independent, bipartisan panel that draws the state's electoral districts. It was a close vote of 5-4, with Justices Roberts,

Scalia, Thomas and Alito dissenting. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote the opinion for the majority.

Arizona's independent commission was formed 15 years ago after the voters approved Proposition 106 and amended the state's constitution, taking the redistricting power away from the legislature. The case reached the Supreme Court after the Arizona legislature brought suit.

Arizona Public Media reports that "The independent commission drew boundaries after the 2000 census and after the 2010 census. In the 2012 election, five Democrats and four Republicans were elected to Congress in Arizona. In 2014 five Republicans and four Democrats were elected."

More than a dozen other states, including California, have adopted similar procedures in the attempt to break up the partisan gridlock that results from drawing polarized districts.

Information taken from:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/06/29/418521823/supreme-court-backs-arizonas-redistricting-commission-targeting-gridlock>

On July 9, 2015 Florida's Supreme Court ruled that the state's congressional map was illegally gerrymandered and ordered the legislature to redraw eight congressional districts, including two of the state's most contested battleground seats. Once the map is redrawn, the legislature must submit it to the Court for approval. The process must be completed in time for the 2016 election cycle.

Information from:

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/politics/florida-redistricting-congressional-map-supreme-court-20150709?ref=t.co&mrefid=walkingheader>

Court Decision Upholds Marriage Equality

The focus of the national campaign to win marriage rights for same-sex couples had always focused on a final victory at the United States Supreme Court, and that is exactly what happened on June 26, 2015. Since 2013 there have been 65 rulings in favor of marriage for same-sex couples, making it clear that the old arguments against freedom of marriage did not survive judicial review. In January of this year the Court granted review of cases from four states - Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee.

Prior to the Court's decision almost 72% of Americans lived in states that granted marriage rights to same-sex couples (including Maryland), and only 13 states remained without freedom of marriage for same-sex couples.

Information drawn from:

<http://www.freedomtomarry.org/pages/marriage-cases-seeking-supreme-court-review>

Court Once Again Decides in Favor of the Affordable Care Act

The Supreme Court ruled 6-3 on June 25, 2015 to uphold ACA subsidies. Millions of people will keep their legal HealthCare.Gov subsidies and the IRS will continue to be able to issue subsidies to those who buy plans on the federal website. The decision was made in the case of King V Burwell. Four plaintiffs organized by Conservative Libertarian think tanks, in an effort to bring down the ACA, argued that part of the law states that only "exchanges established by the state" should get subsidies. The plaintiffs live in Virginia and that state did not set up its own exchange.

The decision of the Court was that despite the section of the law being poorly written, that when read in context it must be read to mean that the three key pieces stand. In the passage alluded to "the state" must be referring to states or the federal government, since that is the only way the law would make any sense in context.

Information drawn from:

<http://obamacarefacts.com/2015/06/25/supreme-court-upholds-subsidies/>