

**League of  
Women Voters**  
OF KENT COUNTY

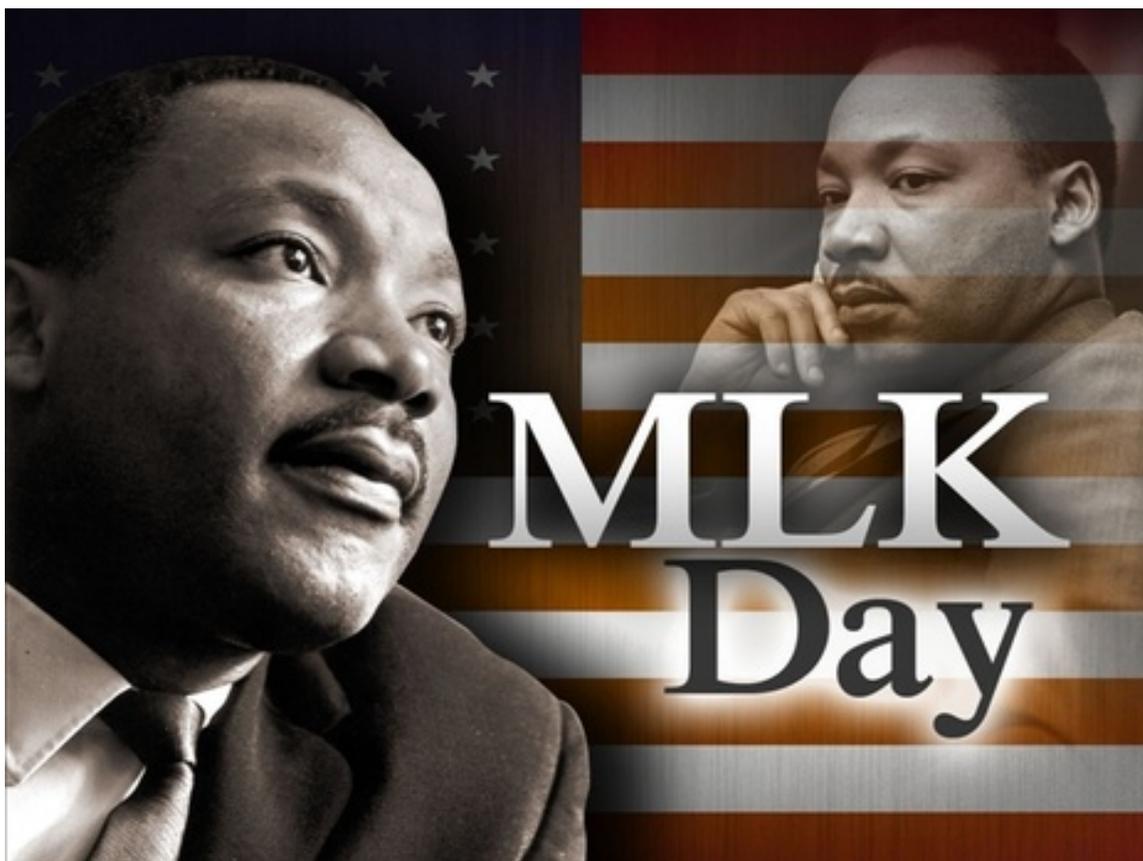
The Kent County Voter

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[www.kent.lwvmd.org](http://www.kent.lwvmd.org)

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**Monday, January 16**

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## Events Calendar

Tuesday, January 10, 2017 - LWVKC Board Meeting, 9:30 AM, Yellow Building, Kent County Public Library

Wednesday, January 11, 2017 - Opening of General Assembly session in Annapolis

Monday, January 16, 2017, 7:00 AM - 10 AM - MLK Breakfast, Rock Hall Fire House

Friday, January 20, 2017 - Inauguration Day

Saturday, January 28, 2017, 9-30 AM - 1:30 PM - LWVMD Winter Workshop (See inside for more details.)

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 - LWVKC Board Meeting, 9:30 AM, Yellow Building, Kent County Public Library and Happy 97th Birthday to the League of Women Voters!

March 1 - LWVMD Legislative Day in Annapolis (See inside.)

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## Message from the President

As we enter 2017, we find that our local League has two (at least) major events for which to prepare. The first is our Annual Meeting in April. Lots more information will be forthcoming, but I am asking the membership to be thinking about and informing the Board of topics/programs that should be considered focal points for our League.

The second event will be our hosting the Convention of the State League at Washington College from June 8-11. This is a great honor and a significant responsibility that will need the assistance of all our members. Jane Hardy and Nancy Smith will take the lead in cooperation with the State Board, and they will appreciate your ideas and participation.

There will also be many occasions when both LWVMD and LWVUS will solicit our participation in Advocacy issues and will ask us to contact our state and federal representatives. I hope our members will lend their voices when asked.

*Sandra*

## LWVMD Winter Workshop

The workshops will take place at the Wild Lake Interfaith Center in Columbia, MD on Saturday, January 28 from 9:30 AM until 1:30 PM. The workshop fee is \$25 and includes morning coffee with breakfast breads, lunch and materials.

Schedule:

9:30 Registration

10:00 Welcome and Announcements

10:15: Workshops

11:30 Lunch and discussion of the issues facing an aging Maryland population - Speaker: Rona E. Kramer, Maryland Secretary of Aging

1:30 Adjournment

The workshops will take place concurrently and are as follows:

Briefing on Development Rights and Responsibilities Study - Margaret Hindman and study team (Consensus due April 21, 2017)

Ask the Webmaster: How do I . . .? (Bring your computer.) - Richard Wilson, LWVMD Webmaster

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## WINTER WORKSHOP 2017 REGISTRATION FORM

(Deadline for Registration - January 25, 2017)

NAME

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LEAGUE

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Phone

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Email

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Amount enclosed: Workshop fee (\$25 per person) \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to the LWVMD Education Fund

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(Or donate on line: Go to

[http://www.lwvmd.org/join\\_donate](http://www.lwvmd.org/join_donate)

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

Or register on line - Go To:

[http://www.lwvmd.org/winter\\_workshop\\_2017](http://www.lwvmd.org/winter_workshop_2017)

If you or someone you know would like assistance from the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund for the

workshop fee, please contact the LWVMD office at 410 269 0232 or by email: [lwvmd@verizon.net](mailto:lwvmd@verizon.net)

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**Calling all LWVKC Members!** Mark your calendars for **June 9-12**, when Kent County will be hosting the State League Convention at Washington College. We will need your help for logistics and fun stuff too. Please contact Jane Hardy, [janewhardy@gmail.com](mailto:janewhardy@gmail.com) or by phone 410-639-7811, if you'd like to assist!

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## **Legislative Day in Annapolis**

The Maryland legislative session begins on March 11 and League members will receive their first issue of *Report from State Circle* by January 30th. By participating in Legislative Day on March 1 you help to accomplish two League goals, points out Ruth Crystal, LWVMD Action Chair in the December issue of the State Board Letter:

1. Providing education to members on how to be effective lobbyists
2. Shaping policy that is in line with League positions.

League members make their presence felt on Legislative Day by visiting Delegates and Senators from their districts. There will be details on the agenda and registration forms in the January State Board Letter. Local League Presidents will receive information on setting up appointments for their members to meet with their legislators.

## **Women's March on Washington**

**The following is reprinted from the LWVMD State Board Newsletter, December, 2016:**

In response to questions and concerns about the upcoming Women's March on Washington, slated for Saturday, January 21, 2017 (the day after the Presidential Inauguration), LWVUS has released the following statement:

The LWVUS Board of Directors met this past weekend and discussed whether the League should participate officially in the planned Women's March on Washington, January 21, 2017. The board considered feedback from the State Presidents call, the State Presidents/ED listserv, and the State Executive Director calls to inform its decision; as well (as) information available online. After a thoughtful discussion weighing the pros and cons, the board decided that LWVUS is not planning to officially participate in the Women's March. We believe in the freedom of assembly as a cornerstone of our open democracy. We support political activism and encourage people across the United States to let their voices be heard. If League members wish to attend this event, we do not discourage it. We kindly request that League members do not wear League buttons or carry League signs in this march. We will monitor the organization of this event and if additional information emerges before January 21 that indicates it will be a nonpartisan, diverse, and inclusive event, the LWVUS may reconsider its decision. LWVMD has moved its Winter Workshop back one week to accommodate those members who would like to participate in the march.

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## **Congressional Move to Gut the Independent Ethics Department: A Statement by League President Chris Carson**

“Gutting the independent ethics office is exactly the wrong way to start a new Congress. Speaker Ryan should be ashamed of himself and his leadership group that are pushing this through the House. This opens the door for special interest corruption just as the new Congress considers taxes and major infrastructure spending. We all know the so-called House Ethics Committee is worthless for anything other than a whitewash -- sweeping corruption under the rug. That's why the independent Office of Congressional Ethics has been so important. The OCE works to stop corruption and that's why Speaker Ryan is cutting its authority. Speaker Ryan is giving a green light to congressional corruption.”  
Contact: Sarah Courtney | (202) 263-1332 (office) | [scourtney@lww.org](mailto:scourtney@lww.org)  
(Accessed on January 3, 2017 at <http://lww.org/press-releases/sneak-attack-congressional-ethics>)

## **Voter Suppression Did It Affect the Outcome of the 2016 Presidential Election?**

We know that for several years, ever since the Supreme Court rolled back key provisions of the Voting Rights Act in 2013, there has been a concerted effort in a number of states to stop some voters from voting. Elected officials have purged existing voters from the rolls, made cuts in early voting, reduced the number of polling places and established strict voter photo ID laws, as well as levying onerous voter registration restrictions.

Chris Carson, President of the League of Women Voters, USA, stated flatly that "This election was rigged and it needs to stop." He noted that clearly the kind of voter suppression we have been experiencing can impact the outcome of elections. He stated further: "We may never know whether the efforts to block voter participation changed the outcome of any particular race - but we must be on guard for the future."

Some election facts:

1. In Wisconsin President-Elect Trump beat Secretary Clinton by roughly 27,000 votes, yet according to federal court, 300,000 registered voters lacked the proper photo ID.
2. In North Carolina the gubernatorial race was so close with fewer than 8,000 votes separating the incumbent from his challenger. Finally on December 13, challenger Roy Cooper was declared the winner by less than 1% of the vote.

In 2016 the League worked to try to assure that voters impacted by new laws in states such as Wisconsin, North Carolina, Ohio, Kansas and others were made aware of the restrictions. The League, including our own LWV Kent County also worked to register new voters.

President Chris Carson concluded by saying "Every eligible citizen should vote and the election system should help them participate rather than standing in the way. The League of Women Voters will continue our work to expand participation in the election process and work to give a voice to all Americans."

States that have passed legislation that restricts voting: Alabama, Kansas, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin. For details on these laws, go to:

<http://lwv.org/press-releases/2016-presidential-election-was-rigged>

## **The League of Women Voters and Clean Energy**

The League of Women Voters advocates for legislation to improve efficiency throughout the economy and to reduce pollution, including a shift to renewable energy, establishing federal fuel-efficiency standards and opposing oil drilling in environmentally sensitive areas. A press release on November 18, 2016 reported that the Obama Administration announced that it would exclude the Arctic Ocean from its oil and gas leasing program for the next five years. There had already been an earlier administration move to exclude the Atlantic Coast from drilling.

The press release notes that the Arctic "is ground zero for the devastating impact of climate change, warming at twice the rate of the rest of the planet - sea ice is declining, permafrost is melting, and coastlines are eroding." Your editor recently read a report that the warming in Siberia has resulted in death of 80,000 of the reindeer on which the natives depend for their livelihood. A major cause of that decline was starvation that resulted from the melting of sea ice that caused heavy bouts of rain that soaked the snowy ground below (referred to by scientists as ROS or "rain-on-snow" events). The ROS events were followed by a sudden dip in temperature that caused the snow to freeze, resulting in a solid block of ice, frozen to the ground. The reindeer were unable to reach the food source below, resulting in the starvation of large numbers. In another source, which came to my attention earlier, but which I can no longer find, it was reported that another problem is the burgeoning disease-bearing mosquito population that has resulted from the changing climate..

The author of the quoted press release points out that President Obama listened to coastal and Alaska Native residents, scientists and a huge majority of Americans, who consider offshore drilling too risky and too dirty to allow.

Sources:

Sarah Coutney, "21 NGOs: Excluding Arctic and Atlantic from Offshore Leasing Moves U.S. Closer to Clean Energy Future." 18 November, 2016. Accessed online at: <http://lwv.org/press-releases/21-ngos-excluding-arctic-and-atlantic-offshore-leasing-moves-us-closer-clean-energy>

Dominique Mosbergen, Reporter, "80,000 Reindeer Have Starved to Death in Siberia Because of Melting Sea Ice," The Huffington Post, November 21, 2016. Accessed online at: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/reindeer-dead-climate-change\\_us\\_5832bda6e4b058ce7aabe78e](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/reindeer-dead-climate-change_us_5832bda6e4b058ce7aabe78e)