League of Women Voters

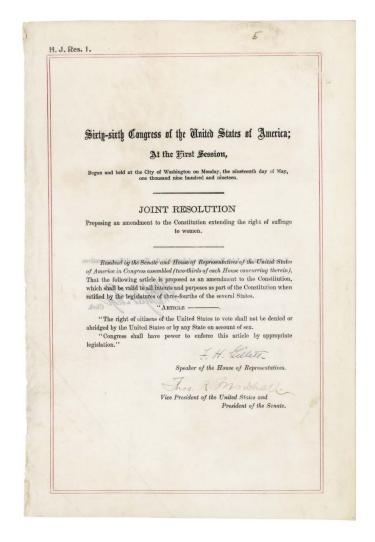
The Kent County Voter

P.O. Box 374 Chestertown, MD 21620 410-810-1883

www.kent.lwvmd.org

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Joint Resolution of Congress on the 19th Amendment to the Constitution that Would Give Women the Vote, May 19, 1919

EVENTS CALENDAR

LWVMD Convention

June 7-9, 2019 at the Courtyard Gaithersburg Washington Center. (See inside for more information.)

Tuesday, June 11 LWVKC Board Meeting Kent County Public Library, Chestertown. Yellow Bldg.

Tuesday, August 13 LWVKC Board Meeting Kent County Public Library, Chestertown, Yellow Bldg.

Tuesday, September 10 LWVKC Board Meeting Kent County Public Library Chestertown, Yellow Bldg.

Message from the President

The 43rd Annual Meeting of the LWVKC was quite a success and was highlighted by an interesting and timely speech on election security in Maryland by Nikki Charlson, Deputy Administrator of the Maryland State Board of Elections. (See article by George Shivers below.)

Our members want to thank our longtime Treasurer and Webmistress, Lillian Zelinski, for her dedication to our League. She and her husband are headed for an extended adventure around the country and we are very grateful to her for her excellent service and wish her well.

The Board will be planning the program for the coming year at our Retreat on June 11, 2019 and would love to hear the ideas of our members on what our League's focus should be. Please contact me at cecetrainor@gmail.com with your suggestions before June 11. All members are always invited to join the Board on the second Tuesday of each month at the yellow house behind the library to observe or to present your ideas in person.

The LWVKC Welcomes Our New President

Cece Trainor became the President of the LWVKC in April. She has been weekending in Kent County since 2001 while working at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda as a Molecular Biologist. She retired in 2017 and has been living in Rock Hall full time since then. She is married to William Trainor, who was a pulmonologist in Chestertown for many years, and has one child who is living in Chicago. She has been volunteering at River Arts and at the Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge. She has been boating on and loving the Chesapeake Bay for 60 or so years, starting on her father's 19-foot outboard that he kept on Middle River in Baltimore. Many boats followed and the current one is a sailboat that she and her husband cruise and race on. She believes that a strong Democracy requires the participation of a majority of its citizens and has always admired the League's work in pursuit of that goal.

LWV Maryland Convention Information



The <u>League of Women Voters of Montgomery County</u> will be hosting the 2019 LWVMD Convention **June 7-9, 2019** at **The Courtyard Gaithersburg Washingtonian Center**

FEATURED BANQUET SPEAKER: DR. WILLIAM KIRWAN

Dr. William "Brit" Kirwan has spent a lifetime working on the betterment of the educational system of the state of Maryland. He is the Chancellor Emeritus of the University System of Maryland, the chair of the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, and the former president of both Ohio State University and the University of Maryland, College Park.

The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (the Kirwan Commission) was established in 2016 to look at the state of public education in Maryland and to provide a recommendation report at the end of 2017. It examined the state's education funding and the college readiness of Maryland students and compared those results to the top states and countries. At the end of 2017, the Kirwan Commission submitted five recommendations to the Governor. The Commission, under the leadership of Dr. Kirwan, found that Maryland students consistently underperform; in fact, only about 40% of high school graduates are "college and career ready" upon receiving their diploma. Maryland ranks in the middle (at the 25th percentile) of NAEP scores, and is 19th in education spending in the country. The League of Women Voters of Maryland supports the betterment of public education and has indepth positions on education which you can find here.

The LWVMD is honored to have Dr. Kirwan speaking to the Convention about the work of the Kirwan Commission and education issues across the state. He will be speaking about the Commission's recommendations to the governor and the programmatic details of those plans, including fully funding pre-K, raising teacher salaries, and creating consequences for schools that consistently under-perform.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JUNE 7
3:00 pm Registration
6:00 pm Happy Hour and Dine-Around with <u>LWVMC</u> - Info to follow

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

8:00 am - 10:00 am Registration
10:30 am - Noon Plenary Session I
Noon - 1:30 pm Lunch (on your own)
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Workshop - Fundraising:
Creating a Sustainable Future for the League
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Plenary Session II
6:00 pm Happy Hour
6:30 pm Banquet

Keynote Speaker - Dr. Wiliam Kirwan, chair: The Kirwan Commission Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

9:30 am - 11:00 am Concurrent Workshops -Forums/Webinars and Conference Calls
11:15 am - 11:45 am Plenary Session III
11:45 am - 1:15 pm Networking Lunch
1:15 pm - 2:30 pm Plenary IV
2:30 pm Convention Adjourns

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

(not included in Convention Registration Cost)
Std King Room \$104.00
Std Queen/Queen Room \$119.00

Call 800 321 2211 or 301 527 9000 on or before May 17 and identify as member of LWV staying at The Courtyard Gaithersburg Washingtonian Center

Click Here to Access Special Rate Online

For more information and directions to the The Courtyard Gaithersburg Washingtonian Center, you can visit their website here.

Your registration must be received by May 31.

Click here for Downloadable Registration Form to Print & Mail with Check or Register Online Below Be an Early Bird - Convention Registration increases to \$175 after May 23, 2019

LWVKC Holds Annual Luncheon and Meeting Thursday, April 25, 2019 Emmanuel Episcopal Church Parish Hall

At the Annual Meeting, former presidents were introduced. Those present were Jane Hardy, Elaine Naper, Jeanette Sherbondy and Nancy Smith. Our liaison from the LWVMD, Elaine Apter, was present and delivered brief remarks New officers were elected and the budget for 2019-2020 was approved. The newly elected officers are Cece Trainor, president (for a 2-year term) and Sandra Bjork, 1st Vice President (for a 2-year term as well). Continuing in office are Peggy Markham, 2nd

vice-president, Ronnie Edelman, secretary, and Lillian Zelinski, treasurer. Newly elected directors for 2-year terms are Sandra Dinoff and Jane Hardy. Continuing as directors are Anna Hurd and George Shivers until 2020.

Following the luncheon and prior to the business meeting Ms. Nikki Charlson, Deputy Director of the Maryland State Board of Elections spoke to League members and others from the community. The title of her talk was "How Maryland Secures Its Election System. (See next article.)





(left to right) Incoming president Cece Trainor, out-going co-presidents Jane Hardy and Linda Ree

Securing Maryland's Electoral System



Nikki Charlson, the Deputy Director of the Maryland State Board of Elections, spoke at the annual meeting of the League of Women Voters of Kent County on Thursday, April 25 in Chestertown. She went on to say that there is often confusion of terms in media reports of such events, misusing the terms "scan", "probe", and "breach". The system is scanned from the outside all the time, she noted. A probe means that someone tried to hack the system, but failed. A breach or hack of the system indicates that someone actually got in.

Charlson then reported on the security measures that protect both online voter registration and the actual voting process. With regard to the voter registration system, she reported that the State's database is centralized, statewide and owned by the State Board of Elections, while a professional web hosting company hosts the database at two different locations. Access is limited to specific IP addresses, only those associated with the State Board and with the various local Boards. All users have unique user names and passwords and there are two levels of user identification; the first grants access to the platform and second access to the database. The database is backed up nightly.

For both the voter registration system and the voting system Security Best Practices are followed. With regard to the voter registration system, all state and local officials receive regular security training, all transactions are logged, automated reports are generated when unexpected events or data patterns appear and staff members review these reports. The data entered into the system are encrypted and stored in an encrypted database. The State Board regularly runs security scanning software on the system, and data submitted via the system are backed up frequently.

Ms. Charlson also spoke on the security measures taken to protect our voting system. Charlson noted first that Maryland was one of the states which incurred suspicious behavior on the online system in 2016. The system was shut down immediately and the FBI was called in. After a thorough investigation, the FBI reported that the security of the data was preserved. She also reported that the Maryland Board of Elections had discovered in 2016 that one of their off-site vendors had a connection to a Russian oligarch that they had not been aware of. Homeland Security investigated and found that the system had not been compromised. When asked if she believed

that the Russians had interfered in our election, she answered that there could be no doubt. Asked how the Board could trust the federal agencies that aid them, when the chief executive of the country denies that there was Russian interference. Her response was that the people they deal with have been working in their agencies for a long time and are responsible professionals.

In Maryland, all voters vote on paper ballots. These can be re-tabulated if there is a need to do so. Each ballot scanner used in local polling places has a removable USB memory drive that stores both individual and accumulated results and digital images of all voter ballots. It does not count the votes, however. The network adds the results from the memory drives and generates official results. Our voting system has been rigorously tested by a federally accredited laboratory and certified by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. No part of the system is connected to the internet. Election results are never sent via modem over telephone lines. A local official puts the results onto a memory device and takes the device to a computer with access to a primary and a secondary secure server. Data are transferred either via an encrypted tunnel or Secure File Transfer Protocol. The results released on election night are not official. The day after the election, all USB memory drives are uploaded again and the official election results process begins.

The following security measures are taken to guarantee that our election results have not been tampered with and are correct:

- All State and local election officials receive regular security training.
- Only the officials that need network access receive it.
- All officials who have network access have had background checks.
- All administrative functions in the network and ballot scanners are logged.
- Data stored on the memory device are encrypted.
- Memory devices are assigned to a specific ballot scanner. If the scanner detects a different memory device, the ballot scanner won't accept ballots.
- Before the 2016 General Election, a third party performed a security review on the election night results network. Recommendations have been put into place to ensure the system's security.

Charlson stated that the Department of Homeland Security partners with them on a regular basis and monitors network data. They have never found a vulnerability, she said. All election equipment is housed by local offices, and Homeland Security will come out and do an audit to be sure that the equipment is safe. There is a post-election audit in each locality. Ballots are scanned, then sent to a separate company for a count. The counts are compared. Additionally, legislation passed in 2018 will also require a manual count.

2019 Legislative Priorities of the LWVMD

The legislative priorities for 2019 as determined by the LWV are divided into three broad categories, as follows:

Making Democracy Work

- Redistricting reform
- Improved Voter Access & Security of Election Process
- Campaign Finance Reform

Protecting the Environment

- •Mitigating Climate Change
- •Increased Use of Clean Renewable Energy
- Ensuring Safe Water & Clean Waterways for All

Promoting Social & Economic Justice

- •Maintaining the Safety Net for Vulnerable Populations
- Providing Adequate and Equitable Pre-K-12 Public Education

The LWVMD and the Redistricting Process

The LWVMD supports the following to eliminate gerrymandering in our State:

- 1. 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.
- 2. An independent commission as the preferred redistricting body. The membership of the redistricting commission should be multi-partisan, include unaffiliated voters, be geographically representative and not include any current state elected official.
- 3. Standards on which the redistricting plan is based should include: substantially equal population, geographic contiguity and geographic compactness.
- 4. Final approval by the General Assembly for the legislative and Congressional redistricting plans.
- 5. An amendment to the Maryland Constitution affirming that the redistricting process for the House of Representatives should occur only once every ten years after the census.

Women's Equality Day

Women's Equality Day is observed in the United States on August 26 to commemorate the 1920 adoption of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to U.S. citizens on the basis of sex. It was first celebrated in 1973 and is proclaimed each year by the U.S. President. President Trump issued the proclamation in 2017 and 2018.

The Position of the LWV on Inclusion of the Citizenship Question on the 2020 Census Ouestionnaire

Wilber Ross, Secretary of Commerce has ordered the Census Bureau to include a citizenship question of the 2020 Census questionnaire. This decision is controversial, because it is expected to significantly lower census participation, especially in hard-to-count communities. According to information on the LWV webpage, the addition of the question would stop approximately 6.5 million people from participating. Three federal judges in New York, California and Maryland have declared that the decision to add a citizenship question is unlawful. At the end of April, the case was being considered by the Supreme Court, and every indication was that the Justices would uphold the administration's position by a 5-4 vote along ideological lines. The League strongly opposes addition of a citizenship question in 2020, stating that we need to be sure that everyone is counted. The 2020 census results will determine how legislative districts are drawn and will ensure that "the political power, health and safety of every community is maintained or enhanced in the upcoming decade." (www.lwv.org)