

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of Baltimore County

The Voter Newsletter

Volume 2019-2020 Issue 6
February – March 2020



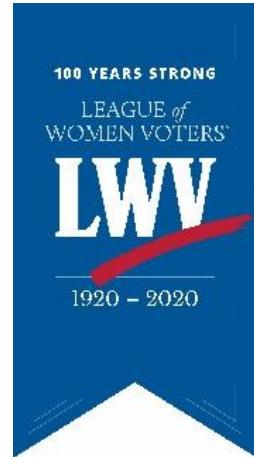
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CALENDAR

February-Black History Month

- 11 – County Council Work session visit
- 12 – Kirwan Rally, House Office Building,
6 Bladen Street, Annapolis,
- 14 – 100-year anniversary of LWV celebrated
Women Power the Vote campaign begins
- 14 – Dedication of City League history, University
of Baltimore Special Collections & Archives
- 16 – 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Baltimore County Coal
Transition Forum, Reisterstown United
Methodist Church, 246 Main Street,
Reisterstown
- 17 – 5:30p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Fair Maps Lobby Night
https://www.lwvmd.org/tame_the_gerrymander
- 20 – Presidents’ Day
- 20 – Book Club, 7:30 *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan
- 23 – 1:30-5:00 p.m. Amending America: How Women Won the Vote
- 25 – County Council Work session visit
- 28 – 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Charlestown Retirement Community,
Charlestown Square Classroom 116. Annual LWV Baltimore
County program planning and review.
- 28 – 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Goucher College Suffrage Marker dedication



March-Women’s History Month

- 3 – Super Tuesday
- 4 – LWVMD Legislative Day
- 7 – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. LWV National Capital Area program "Election
2020: Challenges Ahead"
- 29 – 2:30 p.m. *The Capitol Steps* sponsored by LWV Baltimore County

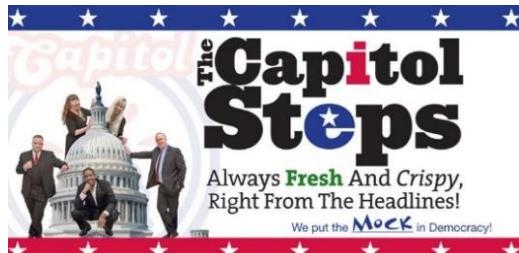
May 6 – Washington, D.C. Museum trip

June 25 –28 LWV Convention 2020, Washington D.C.

All events are posted at <http://lwvbaltimorecounty.org/calendar>

LWV Baltimore County:

Empowering residents through voter registration, education and advocacy.



CO-PRESIDENTS LETTER

Dear League Members,

The state of elections in the United States is the subject of much commentary; activity by states predicated on the false notion that voter fraud is rampant; and news that some voting technology applications are flawed, do not work, and are subject to hacking. Also troubling, but more obscure, the Federal Election Commission (FEC) is crippled by the inaction of the current administration to appoint new members. Currently there are so few Commissioners that a quorum is not possible.



In 1974, Congress passed significant amendments to the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (FECA), creating the most comprehensive effort by the federal government to date regulating federal campaign contributions and spending. Created by Congress in 1975, the mission of the FEC is to administer and enforce the federal campaign finance laws. The FEC has jurisdiction over financing of campaigns for the U.S. House, Senate, Presidency and Vice Presidency. The law covers public disclosure of funds raised and spent to influence federal elections, restrictions on contributions and expenditures made to influence federal elections, and the public financing of presidential campaigns.¹

Since 1974, many of the envisioned reforms have been obviated through Supreme Court decisions. Within election law, there is tension between liberty and equity². In 1976 in *Buckley v. Valeo*, the Supreme Court voided campaign expenditure limits by candidates and other interested groups, individuals, and political parties, and weakened the role of Congress in the appointment of the members of the FEC. This decision enabled the explosion of Political Action Committees (PAC). In 2010 in *Citizens United*, the Supreme Court held that the free speech clause of the First Amendment prohibits the government from restricting independent expenditures for political communications by corporations, including nonprofit corporations, labor unions, and other associations.³ These rulings, both based on the First Amendment, illustrate liberty as the paramount principle in regulating money in politics. The alternative argument holds that the state regulation of speech is required to prevent the wealthy from monopolizing political discourse and influence. Without regulation to equalize the power of all citizens, the outcome of elections and policy debates will reflect disproportionately those with money.⁴

¹ <https://www.fec.gov/about/mission-and-history/>

² For a comprehensive discussion of these concepts see: Dawood, Yasmin, Campaign Finance and American Democracy (October 1, 2014). Annual Review of Political Science (2015 Forthcoming). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2528587>

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citizens_United_v._FEC

⁴ See Alexander Fouirnaies, "How Do Campaign Spending Limits Affect Electoral Competition? Evidence from Great Britain 1885-2019. (September 3, 2018). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3243569> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3243569>

HR1 passed the House of Representatives in March 2019. The companion Senate bill, S 1896, the *For the People Act*, remains in the Senate without action. This bill focuses on ensuring fair elections and moderating the effects of the United Citizens and the Buckley court decisions. HR1 seeks to rebalance the power of the individual voter with the power of money.

The League of Women Voters supports HR1. The position of the League is:

- Reducing the influence of big money in our politics makes our elections fairer.
 - Voters have the right to know who is raising money for which political candidates, how much money they are raising and how that money is being spent.

Our elections should be free from corruption and undue influence and should work so that everyday Americans can run for office, even if they aren't well connected to wealthy special interests.⁵

The League position reflects the current literature, which finds that campaign spending restrictions may encourage electoral competition and weaken the incumbency advantage. Supporting HR1 is consistent with our commitment to “Defend Democracy.”

Sincerely,
Co-Presidents



LWVMD

LWVMD WINTER WORKSHOP REVIEW

Ann Pollitt



Held on January 25th at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, the Winter Workshop covered two topics important to the competent functioning of our United States government:

1. Dangers of a Constitutional Convention, and
 2. The 2020 Census

During the morning session, Jessica Jones Capparell (LWVUS) gave a presentation concerning many aspects of amending our U.S. Constitution. A Constitutional Convention should be held only when certain conditions are in place, such as limitation to one topic and voting by delegates, not by states.

The afternoon session covered the many uses affecting our daily lives as a result of census counts. This presentation by Robert S. McCord, Maryland Secretary of Planning, gave many of us a lot of new information. He elaborated on the areas covering getting an accurate census count.

Both sessions were followed by vigorous discussions.

⁵ <https://www.lwv.org/voting-rights/money-politics>

KIRWAN BILL HEARING AND RALLY

LWVMD is a member of the Coalition for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, and we urge you to join their pre-hearing rally—or contact your legislators if you cannot attend.

Please RSVP for this event by completing this [google form](#).

Event Details

What: Kirwan Bill Hearing and Rally (featuring presentations from Dr. Brit Kirwan and stakeholders)

When: February 17, 2020, Rally – 10:15 a.m., Hearing – 1 p.m.



Where: Meet at the House Office Building at 6 Bladen St., Annapolis for a group picture and to mobilize for the pre-hearing rally. From the rally, we will march to the Joint Hearing Room in the Department of Legislative Services Building at 90 State Cir., Annapolis to attend the bill hearing.

Wear: Please wear a BLUE shirt to this event (Blueprint Coalition shirts will be handed out, but this is in case they run out).

REPORT FROM STATE CIRCLE

Neilson Andrews



The Maryland Legislature convened last month and bills are already being heard in committee. After consensus meetings throughout the state, the League will support [HB643 – The End of Life Option Act](#) (Richard E. Israel and Roger “Pip” Moyer Act).

Fifty-three (52 Democrats and 1 Republican, Sen. Kittleman) have sponsored the bill. This is the same bill that last year died due to a tie vote and amendments on the last session day. Redistricting will also be a hot topic. The Governor would like to see a permanent redistricting commission prior to redistricting next year.

Don't you want to know what is going on in Annapolis? Get all the news on a variety of issues every other week in the Maryland League's *Report From State Circle*. They are mailed automatically to all members unless you opt out of getting emails. If you are missing them, go to www.lwvmd.org, click publications and then *Report From State Circle*. Finally click on the signup link under the graphic. Hard copies are also available, however there is a \$15 charge to cover the cost of printing and mailing. Call the Maryland League at 410-269-0232 to sign up for a hard copy. Don't miss the bills and the news! Sign up today.

You can also keep up with League action in Annapolis by following us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Want to see what LWVMD is advocating for this year? Check out our [Testimony](#) page (we will try to update this weekly during the 2020 session).

You can also follow legislation, budget, actions, committees, legislators and other up-to-date news at the Maryland General Assembly website, <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite>.

NEW MEMBERS



Eileen Vining
Kelly Ryle Farrell
Carol Wynne



LWV Baltimore County COMMITTEES AND REPORTS



PROCLAMATION

In honor of our 100th League anniversary on February 14th, County Executive John Olszewski, Jr. presented a proclamation for LWV Baltimore County. (Honorable Theresa Lawler, County Executive John Olszewski, Jr, Camille Wheeler, and Tana Stevenson were present.)

COMMUNICATION AND PUBLICATIONS

WOMEN POWER THE VOTE - SHE IS ME

Learn about this 2020 celebration initiative by following our FB page *League of Women Voters of Baltimore County*.



LAND USE

The CZMP, (Comprehensive Zoning Map Process) continues to be a provocative local issue. County citizens are urged to use the website to locate issues in their own neighborhoods.

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/czmp/issuelog.html>,

The 2020 CZMP dashboard monitors, tracks, and assesses the zoning issue request data for the 2020 CZMP. This tool can be used to view zoning statistics of all areas in the County that are impacted by a zoning issue request. Statistics can be shown at the Countywide level, Councilmanic District level or by Issue. Visit the website to learn more.

ADVOCACY**COUNTY COUNCIL WORK SESSION VISITS**

LWV Observers: Eileen Robier, Betsy Sexton, and Carol Wynne, submitted by B. Sexton

To our members: Did you know that Council Work Session are live streamed and archived on the Baltimore County Council website? Under “Meetings” click on “Work Session Agendas and Videos,” <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/countycouncil/meetings/index.html>

The following review is from our league visit on Tuesday, January 28, 2020.

Resolution 21-20 Sponsors- Council members Kach (D 3), Marks (D 5) and Patoka (D 2)

Background: How can the council offer more opportunity for more public involvement in the legislative process? Does the 2 p.m. work session create an obstacle for many working people who would like to testify in person?

This Resolution would change the time of the bi-weekly work session from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. or later, as determined by the council Chair. At work sessions, citizens can give in-person input on bills before the council. Citizens can also testify on bills after they are voted on in bi-weekly evening legislative sessions.

Council members will also consider holding legislative sessions at 4 p.m. and work sessions at 6 p.m. so that county department heads and other employees would not work late – incurring overtime costs on two additional days each month.

Points discussed:

Some, but not all council members have had constituent complaints about 2 p.m. work sessions.

Citizens always have the options of email, letters, phone calls and in-person meetings with council people. **Council proceedings are now live streamed and archived online.** If they know in advance that a bill will be introduced at an evening legislative session, citizens can comment on it at the end of the evening session. Councilwoman Bevins asked, “Can the Council do better about communicating about upcoming legislation?”

When bills are amended, there is often too little time for public comment before they are voted on. Adopted in August 2019, **Resolution 92-19 extended from 40 days to 65 days the maximum time allowed for council consideration and public input on a bill.** This requires a majority vote by the council.

Other matters:

FM-2 (Contract) District 2 (Councilman Patoka) would acquire for \$432,000 a 4-acre parcel of land on Church Lane using County Open Space funds to create a pocket park. (Per Councilman Patoka, District 2 does not have a single Rec Center.)

Bill 2-20 would require that an assistive listening system such as an induction loop system be installed whenever county funds are used to build or renovate a facility that has an indoor “assembly area” needing a public address system. Also, the Commission on Disabilities would be required to have 1-3 members representing those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

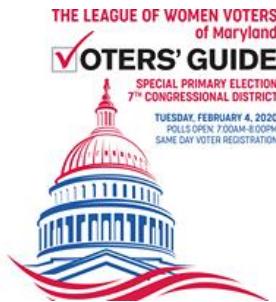
Our next visits are on February 11 and 25. We urge all members to join us as we continue to visit work sessions.

VOTERS' SERVICE

CURRENT VOTER SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Barbara Crain

Voters' Guides: In December, LWV of Maryland prepared *Voters' Guides* for the Special Primary Election in the 7th Congressional District, the first step towards filling the seat left vacant by the death of Congressman Elijah Cummings. These *Guides* were printed and distributed in mid-January in the 7th District, which includes parts of Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Howard County. Candidate information was also available online in [VOTE411](#).



Currently, Caroline Seamon and Judith Schagrin of the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County are working to invite our candidates to respond to the League's questions in VOTE411. A printed *Voters' Guide* will then be prepared as usual for distribution to schools, senior centers, and other locations in Baltimore County. Members of the League will receive copies in the mail.

Voter Registration Following Naturalization Ceremonies: Our league continues to register new citizens to vote following naturalization ceremonies at the Baltimore Field Office of the US Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS). In 2019, we registered a total of 1,134 new voters at this site.

Volunteer(s) Needed to Enter Data into Excel: As part of our voter registration project at USCIS, LWVUS would like us to collect contact information from our new voters so that we can follow up with reminders to vote, election information, etc. We are therefore looking for one or two volunteers to enter the contact information into an Excel spread sheet. This would take approximately 2 hours a month. If you are interested, please call or email Barbara Crain (410-299-0157, barbara.crain.10@gmail.com).

CHARLESTOWN'S 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CANDIDATE EVENT

Phyl Lansing

With the October death of 7th District Congressman Elijah Cummings, a fast-paced campaign to replace him for the few months remaining in his term was necessary. The primary election date was set for February 4, 2020, with the general election on April 28, the same date as the primary election for the two-year term.

The Legislative and Political (L&P) Committee of the Residents' Council at Charlestown usually sponsors a candidate forum, but, with 32 candidates quickly filing for the seat, a Saturday afternoon "meet and greet" seemed more manageable. Seldra Funk, chair of the L&P committee and also an LWV member, mobilized a committee to set parameters. Each of the responding 25 candidates was given 3 minutes to speak and provided a table for campaign materials. After the speeches, the audience of 200+ residents was encouraged to ask questions and talk with the candidates. The audience and candidates were pleased with so much information presented in a compact time frame.

PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

LWV BALTIMORE COUNTY PROGRAM PLANNING

Betsy Sexton

Annual Program Planning and Review

February 28 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Charlestown Retirement Community
715 Maiden Choice Lane, Catonsville
Charlestown Square Classroom 116



This month, LWV Baltimore County members are invited to renew their LWV pledge for active involvement in our Democracy.

This is a vital opportunity for members as we accomplish two purposes. The [review of current positions](#) allows us to make recommendations on updating or dropping local positions. New proposals help identify issues of importance for research, discussion, study and consensus.

At the first meeting held earlier this month, members thoughtfully suggested several topics for research and conversation. The next meeting will be held at Charlestown Retirement Community, on February 28. If you are unable to attend, we welcome your suggestions by contacting the office, or using the form inside the *Program Planning Guide*, which was mailed last month or is now available on our website, https://www.lwvbaltimore.org/program_planning.

As always, we encourage your participation in Making Democracy Work! We hope to see you soon.

THE CAPITOL STEPS NOW ON SALE!

Neilson Andrews



You've marked your calendars, **March 29, at 2:30 p.m.**, for the appearance of the Capitol Steps, and now it's time to buy your tickets. Tickets are \$40.00 each whether you use your credit card on the League's website or mail your check to the League office. Remember that there are no reserved seats in the Dalsheimer Auditorium of Baltimore Hebrew Congregation. The view of the stage is excellent from everywhere in the auditorium.

Tickets are on sale in two places and they are easy to purchase. Go to the League's website, [lwvbaltimorecounty.org](https://www.lwvbaltimorecounty.org), and click on the Capitol Steps picture at the top of the home page. If you want to use your credit card and print your ticket, click the link at the top of the page and you will be able to purchase up to 10 tickets at a time. If you want to purchase your tickets by check, send your check with the number of tickets you want to purchase and your address. The tickets will be mailed to you. (See Capitol Steps flyer.)

We look forward to seeing you on **March 29th at 2:30 p.m.** Look for a hilarious musical performance spoofing both parties and their candidates. The Capitol Steps will have plenty of material for their skits in this year's primary run up. Don't miss their impersonations, songs and grand finale "Lirty Dies". The Capitol Steps are always fun and memorable.

LWVNCA (DC AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES) FORUM

Election 2020; Challenges Ahead

How reliable is our news?

Are all voters – local and nationwide — able to vote?

Let's Get Out the Vote!

March 7, 2020, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

This event is open to the public and refreshments are provided. Registration is at [Eventbrite](#). Cleveland Park Library is 2 blocks south of Cleveland Park Metro station on the Red Line, 3310 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington District of Columbia, 20008. (On Saturdays, you can find limited free on-street parking up Newark or Macomb Streets in the residential neighborhood. Or there are Colonial Parking lots at 3513 and 3133 Connecticut Ave, NW.)

BOOK CLUB READS – SPRING SCHEDULE

Our book list is in place for the next six months of reading. All meetings are held at Betsy Sexton's unless otherwise noted. We begin talking about the books at 7:30 p.m., and we never know where the discussion will lead. Everyone is invited!

Thursday, February 20 *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan

Wednesday, March 25 *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World* by Melinda Gates

Wednesday, April 22 *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish

Wednesday, May 27 *The Education of an Idealist* by Samantha Power (President Obama's United Nations Ambassador)

Wednesday, June 24 *Catch and Kill* by Ronan Farrow

Wednesday, July 22 *Blowout* by Rachel Maddow

Wednesday, August 26 *Tough Love: My Story of the Things Worth Fighting For* by Susan Rice – (National Security Advisor 2013-2017)

LWV BALTIMORE CITY/COUNTY HISTORY



The League of Women Voters of Baltimore City has donated 100 years of records to the University of Baltimore Special Collections & Archives. They have created a wonderful digital exhibit and are co-sponsoring our anniversary party, on **February 14 from 3:30 to 6:00 PM.**, in the Robert L. Bogomolny Library, Room 412.

You may preview the exhibit at <https://ubarchives.omeka.net/exhibits/show/legacy-of-suffrage/about-the-exhibit>.

You are cordially invited to join us on this special occasion for a reception with refreshments and a presentation of this exciting new online exhibit.

Parking is available at the Fitzgerald Garage, 55 W. Oliver St., between Mt. Royal and Maryland Ave., directly across from entrance that we will be using, the Oliver St. entrance to the library.

Please RSVP to lwbaltimore@comcast.net.

OF INTEREST IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

NATIONAL VOTES FOR WOMEN TRAIL AT GOUCHER COLLEGE

Eleven highway markers are being erected to highlight Maryland women, events, and landmarks in the struggle to gain the right to vote. The markers expand Maryland's footprint on the [National Votes for Women Trail](#), a state-by-state effort organized by the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites to recognize suffragists and their grassroots activism.

There are numerous local events for Women's History Month, but this event at Goucher College recognizes their part in National Suffrage and will be an event to remember. Please join us for the Dedication and Unveiling of the Goucher College Suffrage Marker on February 28, 1:30p.m. - 4 p.m., Buchner Hall Alumnae/i House, Goucher College, 1021 Dulaney Valley Road, Baltimore, MD 21204.

Program 1:30-2:30 p.m. followed by light refreshments

Perspectives on the Women's Suffrage Movement in Baltimore with presentations by:

- ❖ Dr. Jean H. Baker, Professor Emerita, Goucher College
- ❖ Dr. Ida Jones, Archivist, Morgan State University
- ❖ Beverly Carter, Archivist, DuBois Circle of Baltimore

Marker unveiling 3 p.m., front of Dorsey College Center

Flyer available at [GoucherSuffrageCeremony_2020](#)

A LIVING HISTORY & SUFFRAGE TEA

ALICE PAUL & THE 20TH CENTURY FIGHT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS



Wednesday, February 26, 2020

1:30 – 3:30 pm in Buchner Hall-Alumnae/i House

Registration Fee: \$45

[REGISTER NOW](#)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program will feature a living history performance about American women's equality activist Alice Paul (1885-1977). Content will highlight Paul's significant leadership and contributions to the women's suffrage and equal rights movements, covering important events throughout Paul's life within the social and political context of her time. The program is equally divided between Paul's bold and controversial campaign for suffrage and her work thereafter. Following passage of the 19th Amendment, Paul fought tirelessly to advance the ERA and successfully lobbied for gender equality provisions in the Civil Rights Act, the United Nations Charter, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Throughout this program, the actors will weave extensive quotes from Paul herself into a spellbinding factual narrative that is, at turns, humorous, dramatic and affecting.

And since this would not be a true Suffrage event without tea, this living history program will be accompanied by a light tea service (teas and sweets), with additional historical context about the suffrage movement's leaders provided by Jean Baker, PhD – American historian and professor emerita at Goucher College. Please feel free to dress in the traditional suffrage colors of purple (loyalty to the cause), white (purity, quality of purpose), and/or gold (light and life).

CLEAN AIR

One of the issues discussed at the recent planning session was environmental sustainability in Baltimore. On **Sunday, February 16 from 2 p.m.-4 p.m.**, at the Reisterstown United Methodist Church, 246 Main St, Reisterstown, The Sierra Club is sponsoring a Baltimore County Coal Transition Meeting. Although not specially endorsed by our League, it is a topic of perpetual interest to us.

Maryland currently has six coal plants with no clear plans for a different approach. Earlier this month, in bi-partisan legislation support, Chairman Kumar Barve (D-17) and Sen. Chris West (R-42) introduced landmark legislation in the Maryland State Senate and Maryland House of Delegates. The bill responds to the nationwide decline in coal and the climate crisis by establishing a timeline to phase out coal-burning at Maryland's six polluting coal plants and supporting impacted workers with a coal-community transition plan. This historic legislation would make Maryland a leader in the transition from dirty fossil fuels, like coal, to clean energy.

Baltimore County is an especially important area for this work, because county legislators are key decision-makers whose support we need to pass these bills. In the American Lung Association's most recent State of the Air report card, Baltimore County received a grade of "F" for ozone air quality -- with 41 code orange, and 5 code red bad air days!¹⁶

Attend the community forum in Reisterstown, February 16, to learn more about the coal transition bills and how we can protect our health and the environment in Baltimore County and all of Maryland. [RSVP](#)

2020 YEAR OF THE WOMAN

100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

This month LWV celebrates 100 years of history. Last month *The Voter* listed early LWV activities. Below we identify more recent actions. We continue *Making Democracy Work* as we work together.



Mid 1970s – In 1976, the League sponsored its first televised presidential debates since 1960, for which they won an Emmy award for Outstanding Achievement in Broadcast Journalism.

1980s – In 1982, the League called for a long-range plan that would define the League's mission and outline goals and strategies for the future. The Plan was refined and updated throughout the 80s and adopted at the 1988 LWV Convention. The League worked to pass the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1982. In 1983, the League adopted a position on public policy on reproductive choice. Pressure from the League contributed to the Congressional passage and enactment of the historic *Tax Reform Act* of 1986. League pressure helped achieve the Senate ratification of Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) in 1988. The League also completed a study of US agricultural policy in 1984, 1986 and 1988 and underwrote 150 debates focused on national security issues among Congressional candidates. The League continued to sponsor Presidential Debates in 1980 and 1984 but withdrew support as a sponsor of General Election debates in 1988.

1990s – In 1993, after years of hard work and a grassroots campaign by a national coalition including the LWV, both the Senate and House finally passed voter registration reform legislation known as the *National Voter Registration Act* (NVRA) or “motor-voter” law. President Clinton signed the *National Voter Registration Act* in May 1993 and gave one of the pens used to sign this historic legislation to the LWVUS. He described the League and other important supporters as “fighters for freedom” in the continuing effort to

¹⁶ <https://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/sota/city-rankings/states/maryland/>

expand American democracy. This legislation enabled thousands of citizens to apply to register to vote at motor vehicle agencies as well as by mail and at public and private agencies that serve the public.

2000s – The LWV was instrumental in the enactment of the *Help Americans Vote Act* of 2002 and the Bipartisan *Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002*. It worked to renew the *Voting Rights Act* and filed several amicus briefs relating to campaign finance reform issues, racial bias in jury selection and Title IX. Beginning in 2004, the League focused its legislative work under a “Democracy Agenda” umbrella that included redistricting, civil liberties, campaign finance reform, voting rights for District of Columbia residents, election administration reform and ethics and lobbying reform.

2010s – The LWV launched “Power the Vote”, a campaign opposing measures to restrict access to voting that particularly affected minorities, elderly, students and rural voters and helped bring cases to court. In 2014, the League adopted the study of the Structures of Democracy to review Money in Politics, Redistricting and the Constitutional Amendment process. In 2017, the League filed an amicus brief in *Gill v. Whitford* arguing that partisan gerrymandering violates the First Amendment and the Equal Protection Clause of the US Constitution. The Supreme Court continues to sidestep this critical issue.

Inspiring the Future - In an August 8, 2018 article by Chris Carson, LWVUS president and Virginia Kase, LWVUS CEO, entitled “Facing Hard Truths About League Origins”, LWV leadership at the national level acknowledged the League’s shortcomings in our failure to include women of color at the outset of the establishment of our organization. Chris Carson noted “The League serves millions of voters in underrepresented communities across America every year, but, as an organization, our membership does not always reflect the communities we serve. As we approach our 100th anniversary, we must do better. We will do better. As we enter 2020, we can say that no other national volunteer organization inspires such a degree of commitment from its members. The LWV has evolved from what it was in 1920, a political experiment designed to help 20 million enfranchised women to carry out their new responsibilities, to what it is today, a unique nonpartisan organization that is a recognized force in molding political leaders, shaping public policy and promoting informed citizen participation at all levels of government.” As we look to the future, Chris Carson noted that “we embrace a new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy. Today the League invites all people, regardless of gender, gender identity, ethnicity or race to join us as we commit to righting the wrongs of the past and building a stronger, more inclusive democracy.”

MARYLAND WOMEN’S HERITAGE CENTER PRESENTS:

Sun, February 23, 2020

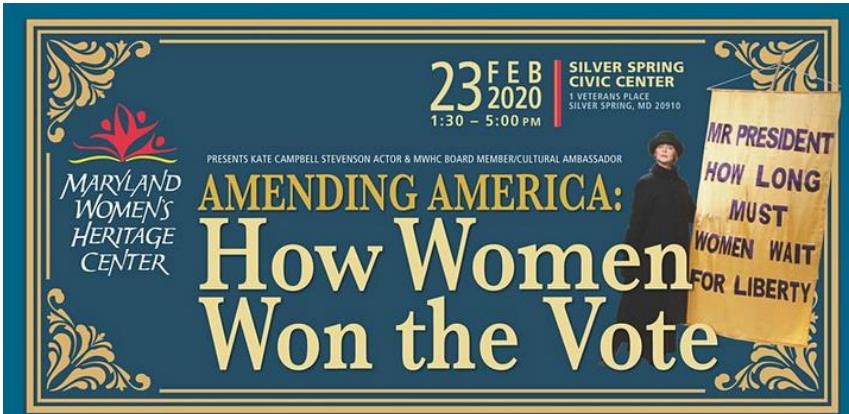
1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Silver Spring Civic Building

1 Veterans Place

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Through music and drama, Kate Campbell Stevenson brings to life several of America's most influential historical women who worked tirelessly to ensure that all women could enjoy the full rights of U.S. citizenship, especially the right to vote.



Following the performance, attendees will also have an opportunity to participate in a discussion regarding strategies to encourage others to engage in the voting process. Wine and light refreshments will be served.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/amending-america-how-women-won-the-vote-tickets-86997107691>

BALTIMORE'S AFRICAN AMERICAN SUFFRAGETTES



In November 2019, Governor Hogan announced that 2020 was the “Year of the Woman in Maryland”, and the crusade to acknowledge contributions of formerly unrecognized Maryland women began.

Since February is Black History month, *The Voter* recognizes a few local African American women who have worked for equal rights, although, in the beginning of the movement, white counterparts often rejected them as sisters in suffrage.

At the turn of the 20th century, Baltimore women played a critical role in promoting social justice and advocating for women’s suffrage. Many early organizations, such as the National American Women Suffrage Association (formed in 1890), Baltimore’s Equal Suffrage League, and the Maryland Suffrage Association, denied membership to African Americans in order to encourage white southern women to join the suffrage campaign. But Black women persevered and created their own organizations.

The DuBois Circle and Progressive Women’s Suffrage Club, launched in Druid Hill in West Baltimore, connected Black women with women’s suffrage, fighting Jim Crow laws, and improving schools, sanitation and health care.

Three Baltimore women, Augusta T. Chissell (1880-1973), Margaret Briggs Gregory Hawkins (1877-1969)⁷ and Estelle Young (1884-1938), organized the Colored Women’s Suffrage Club, later called the Progressive Women’s Suffrage Club⁸ and the DuBois Circle, a Baltimore literary club organized in 1906 and still running today⁹. These women held meetings, hosted national suffragettes, worked for social equality and moved the country closer to the 19th Amendment. They recognized that voting rights empowered them to fight discrimination and improve living conditions and other social circumstances.

Estelle Young, the wife of Howard E. Young, Baltimore’s first African American pharmacist, founded and served as president of the city’s first suffrage group for Black women, known variously as the Colored Women’s Suffrage Club or the Progressive Women’s Suffrage Club. Augusta Chissell was married to an influential physician, and Margaret Hawkins was a Howard University graduate and Frederick Douglass High School teacher who grew up in a family of educators. She was a founding member of the first DuBois Circle and later became Vice President of the Suffrage Club.¹⁰

They were side-by-side neighbors, 1532 and 1534 Druid Hill Avenue in West Baltimore, and, like many grassroots organizations, used their homes as meeting places for addressing social campaigns and organizing suffrage campaigns.

⁷ Pitts, J. (2020, January 16). African American Suffrage. *Baltimore Sun*. Retrieved from <https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/baltimore-city/bs-md-african-american-suffrage-20200116-7rw7izgghfgz5gs7ls5gz546pe-story.html>

⁸ <https://www.mdhumanities.org/2019/11/retracing-the-steps-of-baltimore-suffragists/>

⁹ DuBois Circle. (n.d.). The DuBois Circle. Retrieved February 10, 2020, from <https://www.theduboiscircle.org>

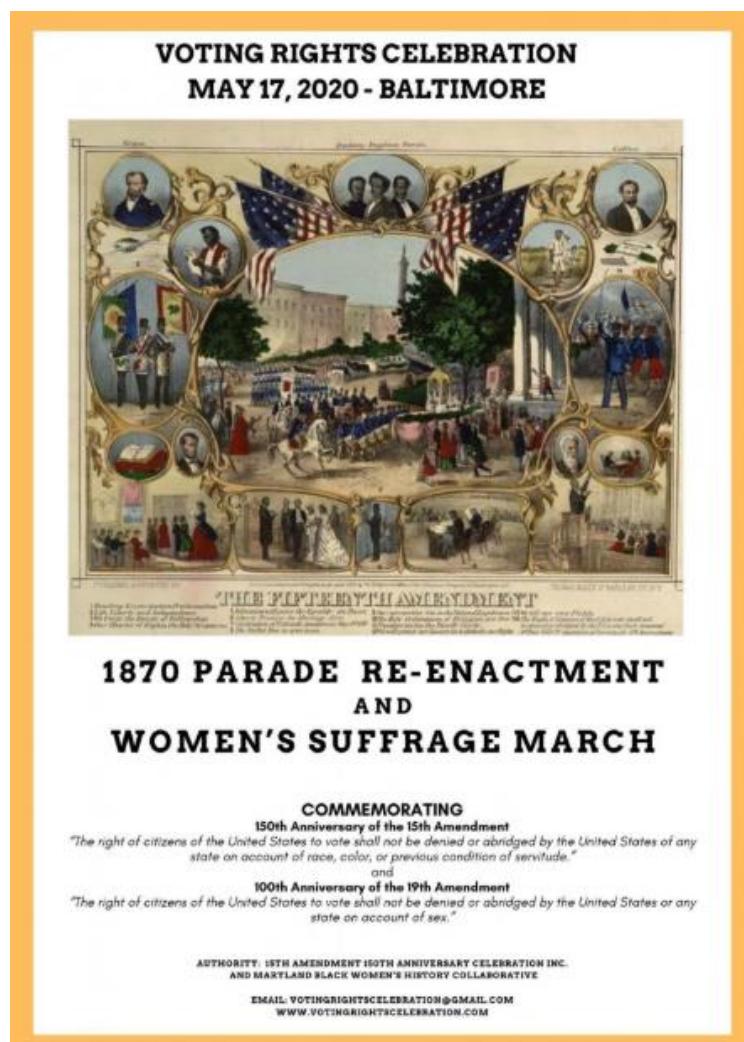
¹⁰ <https://www.dyingtotelltheirstories.com/home/2020/1/23/augusta-chissell-and-margaret-hawkins-worked-side-by-side-for-womens-suffrage>

Very quickly they were recognized by National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACWC) who brought the national convention to Baltimore in 1916. Once the 19th Amendment was passed, the organization continued to promote voter education and social policies.

Augusta T. Chissell was a civic leader who never quit. After the ratification of the 19th Amendment she wrote “A Primer for Women Voters”, a column in the *Baltimore Afro American*. She went on to become Vice President of the Baltimore Branch of the NAACP.

These women are now part of the project of The National Collaborative for Women's History Sites' Maryland "National Votes for Women Trail",¹¹ part of the National Collective for Women's History Sites. In the most recent publication, the Maryland Women's Heritage Trail has identified and researched more than 150 sites across the state that reflect the contributions of diverse historical and contemporary women to all areas of society.¹²

In recognition of their work and the work of others, on May 17th, 2020, Baltimore will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the 15 Amendment and the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment with an 1870 Parade Re-enactment and Women's Suffrage March. More information is available at <https://votingrightscelebration.com/>.



¹¹ <http://ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail/>

¹² <https://mdwomensheritagecenter.org/heritage-trail/>

The Capitol Steps

Presented by



The League of Women Voters of Baltimore County Musical Political Satire

**Over 30 years of political wit and wisdom featured on
NBC, CBS, ABC, and PBS**

Prepare for the Primary Election with this hilarious Washington-based troupe of Congressional staffers turned song writers as they poke fun at politics, candidates, the latest news, scandals, and polls. Sight gags, smart musical satire, and bi-partisan satirical sketches keep audiences laughing. No matter who or what is in the headlines, you can bet the Capitol Steps will tackle both sides of the political spectrum.

Sunday, March 29, 2020, 2:30 p.m.

\$40.00 Open Seating

**Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
Dalsheimer Auditorium, 7401 Park Heights Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21208**

Purchase tickets online: <http://www.baltimorecounty.org>

Mail Checks: League of Women Voters of Baltimore County

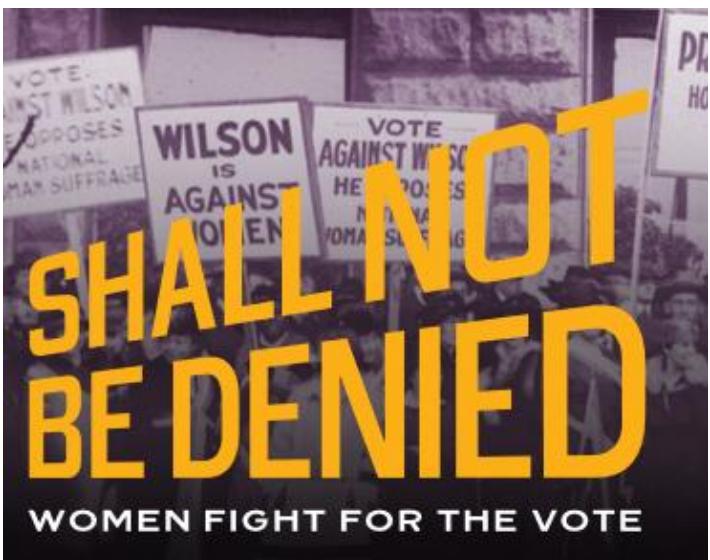
6600 York Road, Suite 211

Baltimore, MD 21212

410-377-8046

Proceeds to benefit the League's education activities, including special election, primary and general election Voters' Guides in libraries and on VOTE411.org





Library of Congress

Cost: \$70

Sign up online or register by mail:

www.LWVBaltimore.org

Deadline:

More information contact:

LWV Baltimore County

410.377.8046

lwbaltimore@comcast.net

LWV Baltimore County

Day trip to Washington D.C.

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

**Join LWV Baltimore County
on an enlightening and enjoyable trip.**

8:30 a.m. pickup at Cromwell/Loch Raven Park & Ride

9:00 a.m. pickup at Charlestown Retirement Community

Stop 1: Library of Congress' exhibit – *Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote*

Stop 2: Lunch at *Pavilion Café* in the Sculpture Garden of the National Gallery of Art

Stop 3: National Archives Museum exhibit- *Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote*

4:30 p.m. return to Charlestown Retirement Community

5:00 p.m. return to Cromwell Park & Ride



RIGHTFULLY HERS
AMERICAN WOMEN AND THE VOTE

National Archives Museum

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Pickup location: (circle one) Loch Raven Park & Ride – Charlestown Community

Box Lunch Choice*: (circle one) *Some items subject to change.

1. Asian Chicken or Tuna Salad Bowl (Romain lettuce, Napa cabbage, julienned vegetables, scallions served with sunflower butter satay sauce and soy-ginger vinaigrette, topped with toasted sesame seeds)
2. Southwest Chicken Chopped Salad (field greens, roasted corn and capers, grape tomatoes, cucumbers, cotija cheese with chipotle-ranch dressing and barbecue sauce, topped with crispy fried onions)
3. Grilled Vegetable Wrap Vegan (grilled zucchini and eggplant with diced bruschetta, basil leaves and white bean puree)
4. Lemon Tarragon Chicken Salad Wrap (lettuce and tomato on whole-grain tortilla)

Circle one: Miss Vicky's Potato Chips or whole fruit

Circle one: bottled water or canned soda

Total:

Make checks to: LWV Baltimore County

6600 York Road, Suite 211, Baltimore, MD 21212



LEGISLATIVE DAY

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

House Office Building
6 Bladen Street, Room 150
Annapolis, MD 21401



Registration fee: \$35 Members/\$40 - Guests

Includes buffet lunch Parking not included

Photo ID required for admission to all Maryland government buildings.

8:30am	Registration and Coffee
8:30 -10:00 am	Visits to Legislators arranged by Local Leagues Local Leagues are responsible for making those appointments in advance.
10:00 am	Report on legislative visits
11:00 am	State budget presentation by Victoria Gruber, Executive Director, Department of Legislative Services
Noon	Lunch - Panel Discussion featuring our coalition partners
1:00 pm	Optional visits to committee hearings

LEGISLATIVE DAY 2020 REGISTRATION FORM

If you or someone you know would like assistance from the Lois Stoner Scholarship Fund
for the workshop fee, please contact the LWVMD office. stateoffice@lwvmd.org

REGISTER EARLY - PRICES INCREASE BY \$5 ON FEBRUARY 19, 2020

NAME _____

LEAGUE _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Registration fee - \$35/\$40 _____ Donation to the LWVMD Education Fund _____

Or donate online: Go to https://www.lwvmd.org/make_donation

Mail to: LWVMD, 121 Cathedral St, Suite 2B, Annapolis, MD 21401

Or register online: http://www.lwvmd.org/leg_day_2020

LWV BALTIMORE COUNTY

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Not a member yet? Join today!

- Call the office: 410.377.8046
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League of Women Voters of Baltimore County
6600 York Road, Suite 211
Baltimore, MD 21212
Return service requested.



LEAGUE OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Office Manager, Wilma Rosenberger

410.377.8046

lwvbaltimore@comcast.net

www.LWVBaltimoreCounty.org

