

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of Baltimore County

The Voter

Newsletter

Volume 2019-2020 Issue 7
March – April 2020

CALENDAR



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March – Women's History Month

25 – 7:30 Book Club, *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World* by Melinda Gates

29 – 2:30 p.m. **Canceled** *The Capitol Steps* sponsored by LWV Baltimore County

April

1 – US CENSUS DAY 2020

23 – Book Club, *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish

May

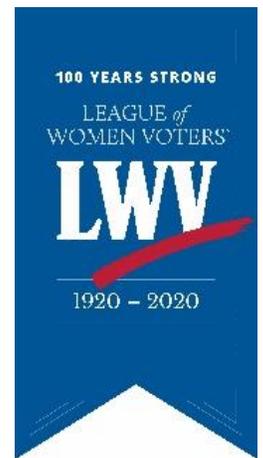
May 6 – Washington, D.C. Museum trip

June

June 13 - Saturday, June 13, 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m., Annual Meeting Luncheon, 7 West Bistro Grille, Towson

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

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



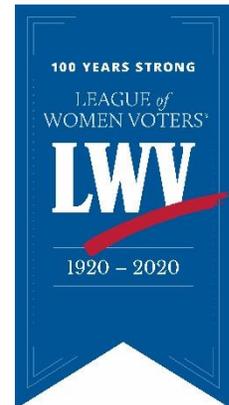
LWV Baltimore County:

Empowering residents through voter registration, education and advocacy.

CO-PRESIDENTS LETTER

Dear League Members,

This past month has offered many opportunities to celebrate the passage of the nineteenth amendment ensuring the women's right to vote in national elections. We are also celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the League for Women Voters. For the past one hundred years the League has worked to register newly eligible voters, including young people, newly naturalized citizens, citizens who have moved across state and county lines and others who have failed to register. Simultaneously, the League has encouraged informed voting with consensus positions and studies, Voter's Guides, and the Vote 411 web site. Our poll evaluations help to insure fairness and accuracy of elections. Non-partisan advocacy is consistent with the League's mission to present all sides of an issue without bias.



In 2016, the total citizen population 18 years old and over was 224,059,000. 159,596,000 or 70.3% were registered, and 137,537 or 61.4% voted.¹ In Baltimore County 65% of the eligible voters turned out.² Among highly developed democratic states, the U.S. placed 26th out of 32 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development member states.³ There is a debate between those who believe in registration versus those who believe that registration is an impediment. They argue, eliminate the hurdle of registration and the currently unregistered will vote at the same rate as those who are registered. (Only North Dakota does not require registration.) Because voting is a way to express a belief in the future of the country, the democracy and public policy, the more voters the more perfect the government as an expression of the desires of the citizens. Our task is to not only register eligible voters but to also inspire those registered to vote.

The suffragists fought fiercely for the right to vote. Their successful campaign took 72 years from the Seneca Falls convention in July 1848 to the ratification of the Nineteenth amendment on August 18, 1920. They organized, they marched, they were jailed and humiliated, they endured. The 19th amendment and the subsequent changes it provoked enfranchised a substantial portion of the population. In 2016 there were 116,505,000 women citizens over 18 of which 83,835,000 (72%) were registered. 73,735,000 (63.3%) voted. Both in terms of raw numbers and percentages women vote at a higher rate than men.⁴ Women chair and staff campaigns, serve in legislatures and in other governmental offices. They have run for President (though not yet successfully). But, most important, they vote!



The League has been instrumental in informing and empowering women. Our organization is a place where women and men who are interested in social policy and politics can engage in advocacy, building citizenship and promoting informed voting. Your Baltimore County League is in a period of transition which we believe will solidify a growing presence in our community. We are actively upgrading our office support, our technology and our public presence. Our membership grows slowly and thanks to generous donations our finances are sound.

¹ <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/voting-and-registration/p20-580.html>

² <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/politics/county-turnout/>

³ <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/05/21/u-s-voter-turnout-trails-most-developed-countries/>

⁴ <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/voting-and-registration/p20-580.html>

We will carry on in the tradition of those who fought for the right to vote, and learn from their steadfastness, courage and persistence. We invite you to join us.



Sincerely,

Co-Presidents

Camille Wheeler

Theresa Lawler

NEW MEMBERS



Cheryl Carton

Anne George

Kathryn Franklin

Cathleen Cook

Terri Ferguson

Beverly D. McCarthy

Barbara Bluestone

LWVMD

LWVMD DAY ON CAPITOL HILL

On May 14, join the Maryland LWV for this **free, member only** visit to the Capitol and the people who work there.

- Visit our US Senators' and Representatives' offices
- Enjoy lunch together in staff dining facility
- Take part in advocating a LWVUS topic* (voluntary)
- *Have fun!*

*Participants will be briefed by email about the LWVUS topic for advocacy. (Participation is voluntary.)

Meet at Taxi/Massachusetts Ave. exit inside Union Station, Washington DC, 10 a.m.

Use https://www.lwvmd.org/our_day_on_capitol_hill for complete information. Reserve your spot or ask questions, by emailing Jackie Coolidge, jcoolidge@schoolbench.com, subject "LWVMD Day on Capitol Hill" by April 30, and include the following information;

Name(s) | Cell phone # |Email |Street Address (not PO Box).

Street address and cell phone required.

Join Us for our day on Capitol Hill

Thursday May 14th,
10am-3:30

LWV BALTIMORE COUNTY COMMITTEES AND REPORTS

ADVOCACY

ADVOCACY IN THE COMMUNITY

Betsy Sexton

FULL FUNDING FOR THE KIRWAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Thank you to all our members who emailed and called their delegates and senators urging full funding for Kirwan. Camille Marx staffed a League table at the Kirwan panel discussion at Chizuk Amuno Synagogue in January, and she followed up with our board members suggesting ways they could become involved. On February 11th members Ann Phillips and Betsy Sexton went to Annapolis with Strong Schools Maryland and met with their delegate, Cathi Forbes, who supports the bill.



THE HOME ACT (Housing Opportunities Made Equal) You may remember that our County Council passed The HOME Act in the fall. It is now before the Maryland Legislature – again. With Yara Cheikh taking the initiative to request an appointment with Senator Chris West, she and member Laurie Taylor-Mitchell went to Annapolis to see Senator West and discuss the ramifications of the Home Act in the state of Maryland. Senator West is deeply concerned about homelessness in the state and in Baltimore County, and was very receptive to their points on how passage of the Home Act would benefit low-income renters statewide.

Yara Cheikh emailed on February 24, 2020.

“I went to Annapolis and testified for the HOME Act with the coalition of over 60 statewide and local stakeholders and community organizations in the House Environment and Transportation Committee and the Senate Judicial Proceeding Committee in favor of elected officials moving this piece of legislation out of committee. The Senate version has passed through and the bill will now be voted upon with amendments in the Environment and Transportation committee again this week. I plan to testify again and then the bill will hopefully be brought to the entire House for a vote. This is the first time in thirteen years that the bill was voted out of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.”

COUNTY COUNCIL WORK SESSION NOTES - FEBRUARY 11, 2020

Betsy Sexton

To our members: County Council work sessions are streamed live. Recorded sessions and agendas are archived on their website at <http://baltimorecountymd.iqm2.com/Citizens/Calendar.aspx?View=List>. You can put the Work Session agenda notes describing each bill and fiscal note on your computer screen beside the live stream video and follow along!

Bill No. 3-20 Donation Bins (Council Members Bevins, Crandell, Patoka, Marks, Jones & Quirk)

Outdoor donation bins are intended for drop off-of items for donation or recycled for reuse. The bill stipulates one bin per property, requires a permit sticker with 24-hour contact info where the public can register complaints. Permit applications will have signatures of the property owner and donation bin operator, as they are jointly responsible. Bins must be serviced once per week, with overflow items removed within 72 hours. There will be a yearly permit fee for each bin and fines for violations of the ordinance.

Points discussed: Collection bins are a convenience for residents. But the areas around collection bins are often littered with “overflow” items left on the pavement. Property owners complain that bin operators can be hard to reach. Passed with amendments at February 18th Legislative Session and will take effect on July 1, 2020.

Bill No. 4-20 **Voluntary Private Security or Surveillance camera Registration Program** (Councilmembers Jones, Crandell, Kach, Quirk & Marks) This would create a voluntary, incentivized, registry. It is designed to encourage “commercial and residential private property owners to register the security cameras on their property to aid potential law enforcement investigations.” At the February 18th Legislative Session, the bill was extended to the Work Session on February 25th at request of Councilman Jones.

MB-1 (Res. 21-20) **Rules of Procedure** – Baltimore County Council (Councilmembers Kach, Marks & Patoka) Deferred from a prior work session, this resolution establishes that bi-monthly Council Work Sessions will begin at 4 p.m. or later, beginning on July 1, 2020. (Work sessions currently begin at 2 p.m.) Approved at Legislative Session on February 18th. Aye – Councilmembers Quirk, Patoka, Kach, Marks, Bevins Nay – Councilmembers Jones, Crandell.

COUNTY COUNCIL WORK SESSION NOTES FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Carol Wynne

Bill No. 4-20 (All councilmembers)

Deferred from Legislative session on February 18, 2020. Presented by councilman Jones to have a voluntary registry for all private security or surveillance cameras. This bill would lower the false alarm waiver (fines) to 1/ household if registered.

Bill No. 5-20 **MIEMSS Active Threat/Active Assailant Grant** (Ms. Bevins by request) A supplemental appropriation of federal funds totaling \$15,542 per Homeland Security was granted to the MIEMSS Active Threat/Active Assailant Grant Gifts and Grants Fund program. The funds will be used to purchase medical supplies and equipment for County first responders in order to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate active threat incidents and to upgrade all EMS vehicles. This would provide better response time for all emergency responders.

Bill No. 6-20 (Ms. Bevins by Request and Mr. Quirk) **Additions to the Baltimore County Landmarks List.** Request to amend the Final Landmarks List by adding the “Former Catonsville Elementary School” (school & setting), 615 Frederick Road, Catonsville, and the “Halethorpe Colored School” (excluding 1968 addition) and setting (Lot 64 – Plat of East Halethorpe), 1900 Northeast Avenue, Halethorpe.

Charlotte Brooks spoke in favor.

Background: The Historic Landmarks List currently includes 396 properties. Periodically, after reviewing structures for eligibility and conducting a public hearing, the Landmarks Preservation Commission approves additional structures for placement on a preliminary landmarks list. Each list of proposed structures is then sent to the County Executive for review before being forwarded to the County Council for consideration. The Council may approve the list, in whole or in part, for adoption as additions to the Final Landmarks List.

Rosalyn Johnson was introduced as Nominee for Director of Parks and Recreation.

EDUCATION

ALERT!

Camille Marx

Email your state senator to help them understand how critical the passage of the Kirwan Legislation for school funding impacts your neighborhood.

The bill has passed the house and is now in the hands of our Senators.

MIDDLE STATES SOCIAL STUDIES CONFERENCE

Camille Marx

Camille Marx and Eileen Robier manned a display table at the Conference. The table highlighted the League's Vote411.org program and exhibited some voter guides. Social Studies teachers have been given the important task of enlightening our students to become better citizens in an everchanging world. Sessions covered historical topics, economics, fostering civil dialogue, suffrage, civics, immigration and primary sources. Participants came from Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and the District of Columbia. All enjoyed the various presentations.

MEMBERSHIP

NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBER APPRECIATION AWARD BEING ACCEPTED!

Camille Wheeler

We are seeking nominations for the Annual Member Appreciation Award. Last year the Board established this award to recognize those members who have over the years contributed above and beyond to the Baltimore County League of Women Voters. Our first honoree was over fifty years member, Kitty Stierhoff.



We are requesting nominations of individuals who have consistently and loyally served the League and the League's mission. Their service may consist of many activities: voter registration, Board membership, Committee membership, meeting attendance, infrastructure support, helping in the office, representing the League at community activities. This list is not exhaustive but meant to get you thinking.

Your nomination should include the name of the member, if known the length of membership, and why you think she or he is worthy of this special honor to be presented at our annual meeting on June 12. Please forward your nominations to **Theresa A. Lawler** <talawler@gmail.com> or Camille Wheeler, cbwheeler@mindspring.com, Co-presidents.

VOTERS' SERVICE

RECENT VOTER ACTIVITIES

Barbara Crain

Voters' Guides: All candidates were asked to respond to a nonpartisan questionnaire, and their responses will appear online at VOTE411.org and in our printed *Guide* exactly as submitted. This year we will be mailing copies of the *Guides* to newly registered voters in our county as well as distributing paper copies to libraries, colleges/universities, senior centers, and retirement communities. The *Guide* will also be available for download on our League's website.



Voter Registration Following Naturalization Ceremonies: Members of the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County are familiar with our voter registration project at the Baltimore Field Office of US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). This activity is part of a larger effort sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Maryland that also covers ceremonies at the US District Courthouses in Baltimore City and in Greenbelt. In 2019, the program registered 1,842 new voters out of an estimated 3,943 new citizens. Of these, 1,134 new voters were registered at 47 ceremonies at USCIS. There were 19 ceremonies at the Baltimore Courthouse and 12 ceremonies at Greenbelt. We continue to register new citizens immediately following their naturalization ceremonies and welcome new volunteers. Call Barbara Crain at 410-785-0410.



Poll Evaluations: Local Boards of Election are responsible for poll evaluations at every election to ensure that activities at our polling places follow state guidelines. In Baltimore County, the election-day evaluations are performed by volunteers from our League. Training for this valuable service will be held at the Baltimore County Board of Elections. Three different sessions are planned. Interested members should call Barbara Ensor at 410-747-5372.

PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

THE CAPITOL STEPS PERFORMANCE, JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Neilson Andrews

Have you bought your tickets for *The Capitol Steps* performance on Sunday, March 29, at 2:30 p.m. in the Dalsheimer Auditorium of the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation? Now is the time to do it!

Prepare for the April 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 will keep you laughing throughout the performance. No matter who or what is in the headlines, you can bet the Capitol Steps will tackle both sides of the political spectrum.



We would like to have a sellout crowd to greet *The Capitol Steps* when they take the stage of the Dalsheimer Auditorium. Tickets are only \$40 for open seating. They may be purchased online, https://www.lwvbaltimore.org/capitol_steps_2020 or by mailing checks to our office at League of Women Voters of Baltimore County, 6600 York Road Suite 211, Baltimore, MD 21212. Invite your friends, neighbors, coworkers, and family.

The funds raised at this event are used to support the production of Voters' Guides and educational forums, which are especially critical in election years. This is our primary fundraiser for the next four years, so we hope to see you at 2:30 p.m. on March 29th at the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, Dalsheimer Auditorium, 7401 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21208.

BOOK CLUB MEETS

Our book club is open to everyone. Feel free to bring a friend as we talk about the book. All discussions begin at 7:30 p.m. at Betsy Sexton's home. Contact esexton2009@gmail.com for directions.

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)

OF INTEREST IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

HOW TO BE PART OF BUDGET PROCESS

What do you want Baltimore County to be sure to fund for your neighborhood?

Baltimore County residents can share where they want the county budget to focus this year.

As Baltimore County lawmakers plan the budget for the coming year, they want to ensure they are representing their constituents. County Executive Johnny Olszewski and council members are hosting town hall meetings in each of the seven districts. "In order to best serve the people of Baltimore County, we need to hear from them directly," Olszewski said in a statement. In 2016 and 2017, he said only two residents testified about the county budget. "We remain committed to working collaboratively with all of our stakeholders in every community," Olszewski said, "to build a better Baltimore County together."

There are only a few sessions remaining. Residents will be able to voice their concerns and priorities at these events.

Here is a list of the final [town hall meetings](#) planned with the county executive and county council.

- 6–8 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, at CCBC Essex Administration Building, Room 110, 7201 Rossville Boulevard; Council Chair Cathy Bevins
- 6–8 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, at CCBC Catonsville, Center for the Arts, Theater, 360 Campus Drive, Catonsville; Councilman Tom Quirk
- 6–8 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, at Towson High School, 69 Cedar Avenue, Towson; Councilman David Marks

CENSUS DAY- APRIL 1

The 2020 Census counts every living person in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). The count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. Each home will receive an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire—online, by phone, or by mail.



On April 1 Census Day is observed nationwide. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. When you respond to the census, you'll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.

Participating in the census is required by law, even if you recently completed another survey from the Census Bureau. A complete and accurate count is critical for you and your community, because the results of the 2020 Census will affect community funding, congressional representation, and more.

Spread the Word! Everyone can play a part in ensuring a complete and accurate count in 2020. Everyone must be counted; people who are homeless, those living in shelters, at soup kitchens and mobile food vans, on the streets,; those living in senior centers; college students living on or off-campus, everyone counts.

Discover details of the entire process by visiting <https://2020census.gov/en/what-is-2020-census.html>.

**VOTING RIGHTS CELEBRATION
MAY 17, 2020 - BALTIMORE**



**1870 PARADE RE-ENACTMENT
AND
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MARCH**

COMMEMORATING
150th Anniversary of the 15th Amendment
"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States of any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."
and
100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment
"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex."

AUTHORITY: 15TH AMENDMENT 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION INC.
AND MARYLAND BLACK WOMEN'S HISTORY COLLABORATIVE
EMAIL: VOTINGRIGHTSCELEBRATION@GMAIL.COM
WWW.VOTINGRIGHTSCELEBRATION.COM

May 17th, 2020

Baltimore commemorates 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:
<https://votingrightscelebration.com/>.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON

Saturday, June 13

11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

7 West Bistro Grille

7 West Chesapeake Avenue, Towson

(parking validated for garage across from the restaurant)

Reservation: \$40

We are honored to have as our guest speaker

Honorable Adrienne A. Jones

Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates

The Capitol Steps

Presented by
The League of Women Voters

CANCELED

The uncertainty surrounding the Coronavirus has caused us to cancel.

Political Satire

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 songwriters, smart comedians, and political commentators. The show is a hilarious and timely headline.

We are working to refund tickets. If you wish your ticket purchase to become a tax-deductible contribution to our League, please contact the office by phone, 410.377.8046, or email, (lwvbaltimore@comcast.net), and we will mail you an acknowledgment. Otherwise, all refunds will be mailed as soon as possible.

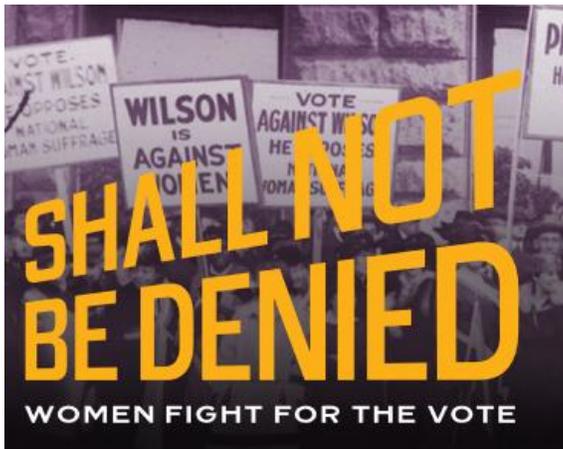
Baltimore, MD 21208

purchase tickets online: https://www.lwvbaltimore.org/capitol_steps_2020

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

LWV Baltimore County

Day trip to Washington D.C.

Wednesday, May 6, 2020



National Archives Museum

Join LWV Baltimore County on an enlightening and enjoyable trip.

Cost: \$70
 Sign up **online or register by mail:**
www.LWVBaltimore.org
Deadline: April 1
 More information contact:
 LWV Baltimore County
 410.377.8046
 lwvbaltimore@comcast.net

8:30 a.m. pickup at Cromwell 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

Name:	Phone:
Email:	
Pickup location: (circle one) Cromwell 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 papers, 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	

LWV BALTIMORE COUNTY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020

Co-Presidents: Theresa Lawler, Camille Wheeler

1st Vice President: Barbara Hopkins

2nd Vice President: Jennifer Haire

Secretary: Betsy Sexton

Treasurer: Neilson Andrews

Elected Directors:

Barbara Crain, Leslie Grant, Camille Marx,
Ralph Rigger, Caroline Seamon, Tana Stevenson,
Elizabeth Sexton, Eileen Robier, Judith Schagrin

Newsletter: Sharalyn Luciani

Office Manager: Wilma Rosenberger



Not a member yet? Join today!

- Call the office: 410.377.8046
- Visit: www.BaltimoreCounty.org

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

