



Volume 2021-2022 Issue 4 Nov/Dec 2021

CALENDAR

November

- 1-30 Native American Heritage Month
25 Thanksgiving
26 Native American Heritage Day
30 LWVMD DEI Book Club virtual, 4-5pm

December

- 1 Book Club - Madam Speaker: Nancy Pelosi and the Lessons of Power, by Susan Page virtual, 7:30pm
4 Holiday Luncheon home of Tana Stevenson, 12-2pm
9 Community Panel on Police Accountability Reform virtual, 7-9pm

January

- 1 New Year's Day
8 Legislative Luncheon Location and Time TBD



LWV Baltimore County Empowering residents through voter registration, education, and advocacy

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PRESIDENTS' LETTER



LWVBCo Co-Presidents,
Tana Hamilton (l) and
Ericka McDonald (r).

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, we open this newsletter by acknowledging that the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County is located on the traditional and ancestral land of the [Piscataway-Conoy Tribe](#), the original inhabitants of what is now Baltimore County. We pay respect to the Piscataway-Conoy Tribe past and present, and honor the land itself which remains sacred to them.

Land acknowledgments are a historic custom of Native Peoples, which have more recently been used by non-Native people to recognize the ancestral people of the lands we occupy, to pay respect to their traditions and culture, and to acknowledge their removal and suffering. During Native American Heritage Month we pay tribute to the rich ancestry and traditions of Native Americans, including the Piscataway-Conoy

Tribe, who were [officially recognized](#) by the State of Maryland in 2012.

The LWVBCo also acknowledges the historical and continuing connection between racism against Native Americans and suppression of their votes. While the Indian Citizenship Act made Native American citizens in 1924, they were not able to vote in every state until 1962. Like Black Americans, even after they won the right to vote, they faced discrimination at the polls through poll taxes, literacy tests, and intimidation. As voting rights advocates, we acknowledge the role this discrimination has played in the historical and ongoing disenfranchisement and harm of Native Americans.

As we know from the League's history, the Suffrage movement included people of color who fought alongside women, but were often excluded and overlooked once women won the vote. In fact, Native American culture had a profound influence on early suffragists, including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Matilda Joslyn Gage, and Lucretia Mott. Recognizing these injustices, this letter invites all of us to contemplate the continuing struggles faced by Native Peoples who continue to fight for identity, freedom, and self determination. We have a role to play in ending racism, modern colonialism, and white supremacy.

Sincerely,

Co-Presidents

Tana Hamilton

Ericka McDonald

LWVUS

LWV CONDEMNS FEC DECISION TO ALLOW FOREIGN CONTRIBUTIONS TO BALLOT CAMPAIGNS



Dr. Deborah Turner,
LWVUS Board
President

(On November 2, 2021) the League of Women Voters of the United States board president Dr. Deborah Ann Turner issued the following statement in response to the recent decision by the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to permit foreign governments and corporations to finance referendum campaigns in the United States:

“The FEC decision allowing overseas interests to spend unlimited amounts of money on ballot initiatives runs counter to the current foreign ban on overseas spending. Foreign influence has no place in American elections, and this interpretation of the rules is damaging to the promise of American democracy.

“Voters have the right to know exactly who is trying to influence their votes. Ballot initiatives often align with candidate campaigns and for that reason should be subject to the same restrictions when it comes to outside spending.

“The League of Women Voters strongly supports the Freedom to Vote Act, which would close the foreign loophole by banning all dark money spending in American elections. Now is the time for the Senate to act by passing the Freedom to Vote Act.”

- [LWVUS press release](#), 11/2/21

LWVUS

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE FREEDOM TO VOTE ACT?

Over the last few months, Senate leadership drafted a voting rights and democracy reform package to appeal to a broader range of senators. Out of these hard-fought negotiations and extensive consultations emerged the Freedom to Vote Act (FTVA).



FTVA includes many aspects of its predecessor, the For the People Act, including some enhancements and new provisions. The League is proud to support the Freedom to Vote Act, as it is the most significant voting rights bill in generations. This legislation will provide equal access to voting for all Americans, stop partisan gerrymandering, and limit the influence of dark money so that billionaires can't buy elections.

(On October 20), the Freedom to Vote Act came up for its first-ever vote on the Senate floor. The vote was a procedural one: senators needed 60 votes in order to proceed to debate on the bill. However, the bill failed to reach the 60-vote threshold needed to move forward, hitting a procedural roadblock on its way to protecting our democracy and expanding the voting rights of every American. The final tally was 51 – 49 against starting debate on the legislation.

One may wonder why a bill with 50 cosponsors did not receive a least 50 votes in favor. This does not reflect a loss of support but a procedural necessity to keep the bill alive. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer strategically voted down the bill to ensure that he can bring it up for consideration again. Immediately following the failed vote, Senator Schumer filed a motion to reconsider, which empowers him to bring the FTVA to the Senate once more. The fight for the Freedom to Vote Act is far from over.

The American people want and deserve the reforms in the FTVA. Seven out of ten Americans support the provisions in this bill. Elections in Virginia and New Jersey are just around the corner, and corner and the 2022 midterms are only months away. Now is the time for federal legislation to protect voting rights.

The historic 2020 election showed us how impactful the expansion of voting rights and access to the ballot can be. We saw record numbers of voters turn out and participate in our democracy. Millions of new voters found their voices in our elections and participated in the democratic process. We should be doing more to ensure the continued protection and expansion of voting rights for these and more Americans. And that is precisely what the Freedom to Vote Act does.

This is not the first time that direly needed voting rights legislation was blocked on procedural grounds. Now is the time to talk about the “F word”: filibuster. The filibuster has constantly been weaponized to block crucial legislation, even if it has widespread support among the American public. We cannot keep letting a procedural loophole prevent voting rights legislation from protecting our most basic rights. It is time to fix or nix the filibuster.

The filibuster is a relic of the Jim Crow era with a long history of defending and preserving discrimination and blocking civil rights. It is time to amend the filibuster to ensure our government can govern for the people.



Youth activists protesting for voting rights in Washington, DC.

We cannot allow our democracy to be held hostage. The Senate must act in all Americans' interest to ensure that whatever your background, race, or zip code, your freedoms are guaranteed.

Join the fight and reach out to your senators to tell them to vote YES on the Freedom to Vote Act. Make your voice heard and contact the White House to hold President Biden to his promise of leadership on voting rights. Talk to your family, neighbors, and community about the FTVA; let's make a difference together!

- Dylan Vargas, [LWVUS Blog post](#), 10/27/21

EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

BOOK CLUB

There is plenty of room to join the book club since all meetings continue to be virtual. **All meetings start at 7:30pm.** If you'd like to attend, contact Betsy Sexton at esexton2009@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link.

- November - no book club due to the Thanksgiving holiday.
- **Wednesday, Dec 1** - *Madam Speaker: Nancy Pelosi and the Lessons of Power*, by Susan Page

- Betsy Sexton, Book Club Chair

COMMUNITY PANEL ON POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY REFORM

The LWVBCo will host a virtual panel discussion **Thursday, December 9, from 7-9pm**, to inform Baltimore County citizens about upcoming changes to the police misconduct investigation process. Panel members will represent the concerns of communities impacted by police violence, including people of color, immigrants, students, and mental health providers who support impacted communities.



In the next eight months, the Baltimore County government must implement a Police Accountability Board, as required by the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021. The League hopes this panel discussion will encourage transparency in the process and reflect the diversity of Baltimore County residents.

Panelists include representatives from:

- [Randallstown National Association for the Advancement of Colored People](#)
- [CASA Mid-Atlantic](#) immigrant advocacy organization
- Student Member of the Baltimore County Public Schools Board
- A mental health and trauma expert in Baltimore County

The panel is open to the public, so please invite your friends, neighbors, and organizations. You can register for the Zoom panel on the League website at www.lwvbaltimorecounty.org.

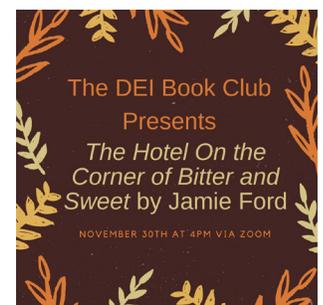
- Ericka McDonald, Co-President

LWVMD DEI BOOK CLUB

The LWVMD's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee (DEI) sponsors a monthly, virtual book club in which participants discuss a book selection within the framework of diversity, equity, and inclusion. November's book is:

The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet, by Jamie Ford
Tuesday, November 30, from 4-5pm

The book club is free and open to all. To join the conversation, email LWVMD State Director Nikki Tyree at stateoffice@lwvmd.org to receive the Zoom link.



EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

FREEDOM TO VOTE RELAY AND RALLY



l-r: Martin Luther King III, Andrea Waters King, and Yolanda Renee King

The LWV of Baltimore County and Baltimore City joined together with the Declaration for American Democracy to provide a bus to Washington, DC, on Saturday, October 23, to support the Freedom to Vote Act and voting rights in general.

Across the country, state politicians are passing anti-voter legislation that makes it harder for people to vote. At the same time, corporate money is too influential in politics, and we are in the process of drawing partisan congressional maps that will disenfranchise voters for the next decade. In response, there has been a steady stream of protests for voting rights.

“When we started demonstrating at the White House two months ago, I only dreamed that our voices would grow into such a powerful and diverse coalition, with youth activists making their voices heard. We are proud to stand here today with these young leaders to once again remind the White House that President Biden must use his full power to push the Senate to pass voting rights legislation now,” said Virginia Kase Solomón, CEO of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

The bus with Baltimore County protestors was filled to its limited COVID capacity with 36 riders and included both members and non-members. Before boarding the bus at Western High School, protestors were met by several members of the press for interviews, including Sean Streicher from WJZ-TV (CBS). A recording of the coverage, titled *Voting Rights Activists Head To Washington In Support Of The Free To Vote Act*, is available for viewing at baltimore.cbslocal.com/2021/10/23/voting-rights-activists-head-to-washington-in-support-of-the-free-to-vote-act/.

About 400 people gathered in front of the Taft Memorial to urge Congress to act. There was a speaker from the League of Women Voters of the United States. There was a veteran who spoke about how long lines and restrictions on voting can keep disabled veterans from being able to vote. Youth spoke about having their voices and votes heard. The final speakers were the family of Martin Luther King, III, including his 13-year-old daughter.

There are ongoing rallies in Washington DC every Wednesday to support voting rights. Some of these events include protestors being arrested, including the November 3 arrest of LWVMD State Director Nikki Tyree and LWVMD Treasurer Janet Bellizzi. If you are interested in learning about the Declaration for American Democracy coalition and opportunities to participate in these rallies, visit dfadcoalition.org.

- Tana Hamilton, Co-President



LWV Baltimore County members at the Rally.

Photo left: Barbara Crain, 2nd Vice President and Chair of the Voting Services Committee

Photo right: Linda Dorsey-Walker, Voter Registration Committee Member



MEMBERSHIP

WE ARE LWV

She is me.

#ShelsMeLWV
LWV

This month we highlight League member Nancy Strohminger

Nancy Strohminger is an active member of the Baltimore County League of Women Voters. A native of rural New Jersey, Nancy has lived in Baltimore for forty years. She has been aware of the League and its initiatives for many years, but she has more recently been able to contact and get involved with the Baltimore County chapter.

Nancy is semi-retired from a career in social work. She still works as a consultant and is affiliated with the University of Maryland School of Social Work. Nancy's professional experience has prepared her for some of the tasks she is involved in with the League. She has long witnessed the challenges people deal with in their everyday lives. She shares that, "Being a social worker, you see all types of challenges facing our citizens—some of which the individual controls." However, she is concerned that "many large issues are systemic, requiring bigger solutions."

Nancy has become increasingly concerned about voting rights issues and wanted to have an impact on them. She is currently serving on the League's Voter Registration Committee. This important group, as the national [League](#) puts it, "works year-round to make sure all eligible Americans—especially first-time voters, non-college youth, new citizens, communities of color, and low-income Americans—have the opportunity to register and vote." Millions of Americans are unable to exercise their right to vote because they do not know how to register or do not register in time. This crucial League committee works diligently to ensure that all eligible voters are able to vote. Nancy is a part of that effort.

Nancy is the League. She has joined the organization to support a cause about which she has concern—working to guarantee that all potential voters can exercise their right to vote. She has enjoyed her association with the League. Moving forward, Nancy shares the goal of the League itself that it can become more inclusive and attract a more diverse membership.

Thank you

- Gwen Wilson, Newsletter Committee Member

ARE YOU OPTED IN

LWVMD and LWV Baltimore County work relentlessly to keep members connected with our mission, projects, programming, local legislation, and focus. If you no longer are receiving our emails, you are missing a key connection.

So, what do you do about it?

1. Check your contact information in our recently published 2021-22 Handbook and Directory. If any of your information is incorrect, please let us know by calling the office at 410-377-8046 or emailing contact@lwvbaltimorecounty.org, so that we can update the roster.
2. Check your spam folder just in case our emails are ending up there. Add our address to your favorites.
3. Finally, you may have inadvertently opted out of our emails. You will need to make changes in your own League account by following these directions:
 - a. Log in to www.lwvmd.org/unsubscribe.
 - b. Check all boxes by the emails you wish to receive.
 - c. Add your email address and click subscribe.

Change your League of Women Voters of Maryland email preferences

Please remove the check mark from all email lists you wish to unsubscribe from.

- LWVAAC newsletter "The Voter"
- Action Alerts - General/Miscellaneous
- Advocacy - Redistricting Reform/Fair Maps Updates
- Election Updates
- Event Promotion Emails
- State Board Letter (SBL)
- Advocacy - Affordable Housing Updates
- Advocacy - Clean Energy Updates
- Advocacy - Police Accountability Updates
- Advocacy - Progressive and Adequate Fiscal Policy Updates
- Advocacy - Protecting the Vote Updates
- Advocacy - Public Education Updates
- Advocacy - Public Transportation Updates

If you continue to miss LWVMD or LWV Baltimore County emails, please contact Office Manager Maggy Lindgren at 410-377-8046 or contact@lwvbaltimorecounty.org, or Sharalyn Luciani at sharalynlu@LWVBaltimoreCounty.org.

We look forward to keeping everyone up to date with our activities.

- Maggy Lindgren, LWVBCo Office Manager and Sharalyn Luciani, Webpage Manager

New Members LWV Baltimore County Welcomes You!

- * Ann Beezley
- * Virginia Thompson
- * Nora Miller
- * Nancy Voskuhl

MEMBERSHIP

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Enjoy this holiday season with fellow Baltimore County League members at the upcoming Holiday Luncheon on **Saturday, December 4, from 12-2pm**. In addition to catching up with old friends and meeting new ones, members this year will also have the opportunity to learn more about the [Maryland Orphans' Court](#) and [Register of Wills for Baltimore County](#) from our guest speakers:

- William R. Evans, Orphan Court Chief Judge
- Juliet G. Fisher, Orphan Court Associate Judge
- Arthur M. Frank, Orphan Court Associate Judge
- Alexis Burrell-Rohde, Office of the Register of Wills, Baltimore County



Lunch will be a boxed meal that includes a salad or sandwich, fruit, dessert, and a drink. The cost per boxed lunch is \$20; when you RSVP, please indicate your meal selection from the choices below. Co-President Tana Hamilton will host the luncheon; her address can be found in the League directory, but you can also request her address be sent to you via email when you RSVP.

Reservations must be received no later than November 24, and may be made by one of two ways: Sign up on-line at www.lwvbaltimorecounty.org/events OR complete the form below and mail it, together with your check payable to the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County, Inc., to the League office at 6600 York Road, Suite 211, Baltimore, Maryland, 21212. If you have questions about the event, please contact our League Office Manager, Maggie Lindgren, at 410-377-8046 or contact@lwvbaltimorecounty.org. We hope to see you there.

Date: Saturday, December 4, 2021

Time: 12-2pm

Location: home of Co-President Tana Hamilton



Reservation Form for People Attending the Holiday Luncheon

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Number of guests attending: _____ x \$20 per person: check enclosed for \$ _____

Select one meal from the following choices:

_____ Caesar salad with chicken

_____ Caesar salad without chicken

_____ Garden salad with chicken

_____ Garden salad without chicken

_____ Chicken salad with bacon on croissant

_____ Roasted turkey breast on Kaiser roll

_____ Virginia baked ham and Swiss on Kaiser roll

_____ Rare roast beef and Muenster on Kaiser roll

_____ Vegetarian with Muenster on multigrain

- Theresa Lawler, Holiday Luncheon Committee Member

VOTER SERVICES

VOTER REGISTRATION RESUMES AT USCIS



Our long-time project of registering new citizens following their naturalization ceremonies was put on hold when the COVID-19 pandemic began. We have recently gotten permission to resume registering at the Baltimore Field Office of US Citizenship and Immigration Services. As no visitors are allowed in the building yet, we will be registering outside while the weather holds. If you are interested in helping, please contact Barbara Crain at barbara.crain.10@lwvbaltimorecounty.org or 301-541-8064.

Above photo: New citizens at a LWV Los Angeles voter registration event following a USCIS naturalization ceremony.

- Barbara Crain, Voter Services Chair

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VOTE411



VOTE411 is the League of Women Voters' signature project for disseminating election information. The

information in VOTE411 provides the basis for our Voters' Guides.

Right now, we are looking for volunteers to help with preparing and sending invitations to candidates, as well as following up with candidates. We also need volunteers to help entering office descriptions, questions for candidates, and other information into VOTE411. Not to worry – there will be plenty of training and backup for you on this.

The work for the 2022 election season will begin in January and be mostly done by the end of March, with a bit more work in mid to late summer. Please contact Barbara Crain for more information at barbara.crain.10@lwvbaltimorecounty.org or 301-541-8064.

- Barbara Crain, Voter Services Chair

NEW CO-CHAIR NEEDED FOR VOTER REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

We are sorry to report that Carol Wynne recently stepped down from her position as co-chair of the Voter Registration Committee. She has done a wonderful job, and we thank her very much for all her enthusiasm and hard work.



To keep up the momentum, we need a new person to organize our voter registration events. This person will work with Co-Chair Sharalyn Luciani, who will continue to handle record-keeping and notifications for the committee.

Please contact Barbara Crain for more information at barbara.crain.10@lwvbaltimorecounty.org or 301-541-8064.

- Barbara Crain, Voter Services Chair

VOTER REGISTRATION AT DUNDALK FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

The LWV of Baltimore County had a table with voter registration information as well as LWV election information at the Dundalk Fall Festival in Veterans Park on October 30, 2021. Volunteers were Tana Hamilton, Kathy Jeffries, Ginny Probasco and Elaine Robier. In addition to registering three new voters, volunteers also passed out candy to the many trick-or-treaters!



League member Ginny Probasco at the Dundalk Family Fall Festival voter registration event.

- Barbara Crain, Voter Services Chair

COMMITTEES AND REPORTS

MEETING WITH OUR LEGISLATORS



Mark your calendar for the League's meeting with the Baltimore County Legislative Delegation:

**Legislative Luncheon
Saturday, January 8, 2022**

Join our legislators on January 8, 2021, before they go to Annapolis for the 2022 session. At this time, we are not quite certain if we will hold the meeting virtually or at the Woodbrook Baptist Church on 25 Stevenson Lane, Towson, MD, because the church is not allowing food at this time.

Whether we do it by Zoom or in person, it is a unique opportunity to meet with the Legislators prior to the start of the session on January 12. Discussion will revolve around the legislative priorities of the Maryland League of Women Voters and audience questions; more information on LWVMD priorities will be available in next month's Voter.

It is also our understanding that the Legislature will go into special session on December 6 to start the redistricting process. However, no official date for the session has been announced. They will be able to decide only the congressional districts during this session as Maryland's legislative districts must be decided in the regular session. Redistricting will be on the minds of all of the legislators. Two commissions have been looking at the issue, one appointed by the Legislature and one appointed by the Governor, so there will be competing maps. The Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission's suggested maps can be found at redistricting.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx.

Tell your friends about the meeting and plan to join other League members on January 8, 2022. Watch your email for additional information. Guests are most welcome.

*- Neilson Andrews, Legislative Luncheon
Committee Member*

OF INTEREST: LWVMD

LWVMD FALL WORKSHOP: KEYNOTE PRESENTATION ON DISCIPLINARY CITIZENSHIP AVAILABLE

The LWVMD Fall Workshop, held September 25, drew over 80 members from across the state. This annual event gives League members a chance to expand their knowledge about the League, to hear from and share ideas and creative strategies with other League members, and to discuss how each local League can help build a stronger League presence in Maryland. In addition to workshops in which League leaders shared best practices in the areas of internal communications and candidate forums, attendees could choose to participate in sharing studios that included board member responsibilities, tips for building membership, the role of a League Treasurer, fundraising strategies, DEI reflections, best practices around voter service activities, and League youth engagement efforts.



This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Alexander Pope, Associate Professor of Social Studies Education at Salisbury University and Director of the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement. Dr. Pope's talk centered on improving civic life and changing communities through a process called Disciplinary Citizenship, in which being factually informed is not enough, one must also form reciprocal partnerships with others and demonstrate that one's knowledge can benefit others. In order to build reciprocal partnerships, one must truly understand the positions and values of others and demonstrate that other's perspectives are respected. By building relationships in this way, trust is fostered and all sides see that the relationship has value. To view a recording of Dr. Pope's presentation, click [here](#).

- Stacey Morrison, LWVMD SBL editor

COMMITTEES AND REPORTS

LWVBCo Co-PRESIDENTS TESTIFY FOR FAIR MAPS



The LWVBCo continues to advocate for a fair map for the Baltimore County Council. The League, in collaboration with many other Baltimore County advocacy groups, calls for the Baltimore County Council to reject the map proposed by the Redistricting Commission and to draw a new map that provides equitable representation to people of color.

League Co-President Ericka McDonald's letter to the editor was published in The Baltimore Sun on October 26. In it, she urged Baltimore County residents to participate in the County Council public hearing on redistricting and advocated for the creation of multiple majority-minority districts. Co-Presidents Tana Hamilton and Ericka McDonald also testified during the public hearing (read the transcripts below and on page 11). The League continues to encourage the County Council to draw a new map and to transparently engage Baltimore County residents in the process. We urge members to contact your County Council representative to demand a fair and equitable map!

- Ericka McDonald, Co-President

TANA HAMILTON'S REDISTRICTING TESTIMONY

“Good evening. This evening others have spoken on the specifics of this redistricting plan, but I'd like to focus on the vision. I am Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County and a resident of District 3. I am also the mother of multiracial children. I moved to Baltimore County from Louisiana because I was impressed with the forward-thinking leadership and the quality of the school system. I wanted my children to have better opportunities.

The [Baltimore County Master Plan 2030](#) boasts of Equity, Sustainability, and Vibrant Communities in its tagline. It defines EQUITY as being inclusive in our decision-making, ensuring equitable distribution of resources, and creating opportunity for all. These are the stated goals of the master plan.

Democracy matters, especially at the local level. Without fair and equitable representation, we are being complicit in continuing systemic racism and limiting the participation of people of color and their opportunities for leadership.

I urge the County Council to draw a new map with the primary regard of serving the people, not retaining outdated power structures. Create a Baltimore County where there are more opportunities for my children and all people of color to serve. Baltimore County needs at least TWO majority-minority councilmanic districts. Thank you.”

OF INTEREST: LWVUS

BEING INCLUSIVE IN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HOLIDAYS AND CALENDARS

On September 23, 2021, the LWVUS hosted a webinar that looked at holidays through a DEI lens when planning events, constructing a calendar of events, or including images in publications and on social media. Viewers are asked to think about how others may view holidays and what we can do, as individual League members and as an organization as a whole, to make celebrations and commemorations more inclusive. The upcoming Thanksgiving Day and December holidays are discussed, as are a variety of other holidays including Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples' Day and Juneteenth. To view this webinar, visit LWVUS's DEI webinar page at www.lwv.org/diversity-equity-inclusion/webinars.

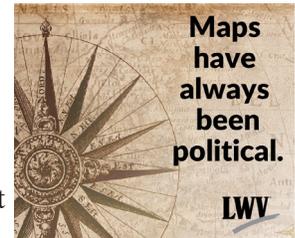
Revisiting
Inclusive
Holidays

OF INTEREST

LWVBCo Co-PRESIDENTS TESTIFY FOR FAIR MAPS, CONT.

ERICKA McDONALD'S REDISTRICTING TESTIMONY

“Hi. I am Ericka McDonald, a Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County and a District 1 constituent. The League calls for the creation of a new map that fully considers the rights of people of color and the requirements of the Voting Rights Act. We believe that the current plan unlawfully dilutes the votes of minority residents.



Because of the long history of racial inequality in representation in Baltimore County, it is imperative that race is considered in the drawing of the County Council districts. The standards on which a redistricting plan is based must have substantially equal population and be compact and contiguous, as well as effective representation of racial and linguistic minorities.

The plan approved by the commission would create a single minority-majority district and six majority white districts despite the county's 47% people of color. The proposed plan considers some aspects of race, but misses the broader issue, which is the importance of effective representation.

It states that the long standing problem of electing minority representatives is the problem of the people - parties must “run electable candidates” - instead of recognizing that it is the legal responsibility of the County Council to create districts that give people of color equal representation. The plan misses the very real challenge of systemic inequality faced by racial minorities in Baltimore County.

Since the creation of District 4 in 2001, Black candidates have been elected in all 5 cycles. Creation of another majority-minority district would have a real impact on the lives of the county's minority residents, and a real impact on issues of racial inequity: transportation, education, police reform, affordable housing, etc.

The many alternative maps put forth by Baltimore County groups demonstrate that it is possible to draw a map that gives people of color a real voice in their government. We believe it is time for change. We ask the County Council to create a new map and include the people of Baltimore County in future hearings to enable their participation.”

OF INTEREST: LWVUS

LWVUS WOMEN POWER DEMOCRACY PANEL DISCUSSION



“On October 20, the League of Women Voters hosted a panel discussion on the state of democracy with four distinguished members of Congress. The panelists included Congresswomen Terri Sewell (AL-7), Jackie Speier (CA-14), Lauren Underwood (IL-14), and Nikema Williams (GA-5). Invitations were extended to Congresswomen from all parties.

Moderated by LWV CEO Virginia Kase Solomón and welcomed by LWV Board President Dr. Deborah Ann Turner, the panel discussed the challenges facing our democracy in connection with LWV's 4-pronged Women Power Democracy programmatic focus. Women Power Democracy focuses on: addressing mis- and disinformation; increasing voter participation; creating fair redistricting processes; and protecting voters' rights.

During the discussion, each Congresswoman shared insights on the importance of moving voting rights legislation forward in the Senate and ultimately to the president's desk for signature. The four panelists are all House of Representative leaders on democracy issues in Congress and voted in favor of final passage of key pieces of legislation like the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.”

- Excerpt from LWVUS 11/10/21 blog article by Jessica Jones Capparell

To read the complete article and watch a recording of the panel discussion, visit the webpage for this LWVUS [blog](#) or watch the video via the November 10 LWVUS Facebook post at www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters.

League of Women Voters of Baltimore County
6600 York Road, Suite 211
Baltimore, MD 21212
Return service requested

LEAGUE OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday, Thursday, 10am-1pm
410-377-8046
contact@lwvbaltimorecounty.org
www.LWVBaltimoreCounty.org



Membership

Open to all men and women

Not a member yet?

Join Today!

» Call the office at 410-377-8046

» Visit us at
www.lwvbaltimorecounty.org

Create Positive Change
Join the League Today!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-22

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1st VP: vacant

2nd VP: Barbara Crain

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