

Upcoming Events

LWVAAC

Welcome Back Reception (in person)

Mon, Sep 13, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Café Mezzanotte (see below right)

Board Meeting (virtual)

Tue, Sep 14, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

National Voter Registration Day (in person)

Tue, Sep 28, times and locations TBA

Mayoral Candidate Forum (in person)

Tue, Oct 19, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Congregation Kneseth Israel (see p. 16)

LWVMD

Constitution Day (virtual)

Fri, Sep 17, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Fall Workshop (virtual)

Sat, Sep 25, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

City of Annapolis Primary Election Day

Tue, Sep 21, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Join LWVAAC for a Welcome Back Reception

***Monday, September 13, 5 p.m., Café Mezzanotte,
760 Ritchie Hwy, Severna Park***

Celebrate the start of LWVAAC's new program year and a measured return to in-person activities. The LWVAAC Board is excited to offer this opportunity for new and long-time League members to meet, mingle, and learn what LWVAAC has planned for 2021-2022, all while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.



Guest speaker Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman will discuss progress, obstacles and the role we all can play in achieving key LWVAAC public policy goals for our county. A brief Q&A will follow.

*Guests are welcome. To offset a portion of the event cost, a contribution of \$10 per person will be collected at the door. **RSVP by September 3.** Questions? Email program@lwvaacmd.org.*

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President's Letter



Hello!

Summer 2021 is almost officially a memory. A fresh new LWVAAC program year awaits.

In June, LWVAAC held a very engaging planning retreat and inaugural in-person

gathering. After such a long COVID-19 hiatus, members especially enjoyed the chance to see one another. It was exciting to have those members unable to attend in-person be able to “zoom in” as well. Your LWVAAC officers and Board directors are re-energized and ready to kick-off our 2021-2022 program year.

I hope you will be able to [join us](#) for our welcome back reception on September 13 at Café Mezzanotte. County Executive Stuart Pittman will be our guest speaker.

Also, keep your eyes out for our “coming soon” website makeover. Many thanks to volunteer webmasters Amanda SubbaRao and Niecy Chambers!

While summers are typically a slow time for League business, this summer was not without activity. In early July, among other actions, LWVAAC sent a letter to County Executive Pittman commending his efforts to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in our county government with the establishment of Anne Arundel County’s first Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion position.

Voter service events have been held across the county and others are planned, including National Voter Registration Day (NVRD), September 28, and our Mayoral Candidate Forum, October 19. I hope you will consider [volunteering](#). Across the nation, we continue to bear witness to attacks on voting rights and voter suppression efforts designed to prevent certain groups of people from voicing their votes. Due to the unfortunate power of misinformation, voter education has never been more critical. Please join LWVAAC in doing all we can to educate, inform and engage Anne Arundel County voters.



I want to thank you personally for “staying in the fight” to power democracy and make it work for all.

Enjoy this *Voter* edition!

~alfa

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Join/Renew: lwvaacmd.org/join2

Facebook: @lwvaac

Member News

Last Call: 2021-2022 Membership Renewals

Take a moment to reflect on why you initially joined the League of Women Voters (LWV). Perhaps you wanted to be part of a well-established, nonpartisan organization focused on solid public policy and impartial voter services. Or perhaps you were weary of the political divide our country is experiencing. No matter how personal your reason(s), if you still believe in the League's work, please commit to renewing your membership [here](#), today.

The League at all levels is stronger together when grassroots support is strong. People like you sustain the work of the LWV of Anne Arundel County, the LWV of Maryland, and the LWV of the United States—each shares a portion of your dues to continue important work begun 100 years ago.

September 30 is the last day to pay your 2021-2022 member dues. Single member is still \$65, no increase in many years.

Two members within a single household is \$95 (\$65 plus \$30). Students are free.

Admittedly, the past year has been an unprecedented time for nonprofits and their members to stay connected and to find new ways to work. The LWV has missed its usual opportunities for

30
DAY COUNTDOWN

Welcome New Members

Annapolis:

Karma O'Neill
Susan Rosenfeld

Arnold:

Andrea Godwin

Crofton:

Rev. Kathy
Shahinian

Hanover:

Joy Osuebi

Odenton:

Delia Miller
Claudia Sloan

Severn:

Phyllis Jovich

Severna Park:

Skyler Sale

members to gather in-person, to feel the collective energy of our membership. We collectively have faced technology challenges, health-related distractions, and constant disruptions to daily routines. But...despite these hardships, the LWV has done its best to stay in touch, continue member programs, provide voter services, and advocate for legislation that improves voting rights, affordable housing, a clean environment, social justice and more.

The LWV will continue to work for you and all citizens to *Make Democracy Work*. Are you with us? To renew your membership, click [here](#). Please, if you have any questions or need specifics about the League or your membership, contact [me](#).

Kathy Larrabee, LWVAAC Membership Chair

Faces of Our League

Vittoria Natale joined LWVAAC earlier this year.

Her first encounter with the LWV was in Florida

where she learned about the group's research for upcoming bills that were being presented on the election ballot and which ones the League represented and why.

After that experience, she decided to join the LWVAAC because she wants to participate in an organization that is

committed to protecting everyone's right to vote, and defending Democracy.



Vittoria Natale

In the past, Vittoria wore many hats. Now, she is a retired sales representative, manager, makeup artist, dance instructor, and author.

Vittoria was born in Reading, Pennsylvania, famous for its pretzels, the outlets, and the Pagoda. She and her husband moved to Arnold this year, in order to be closer to their family because of the pandemic. She is a proud mother of two beautiful women, two loving grandchildren, a great-granddaughter and four grandpuppies.

Vittoria's other interests are travel, baking, reading, genealogy, Feng Shui, and the arts.

Dona Sauerburger loves a challenge, and the exciting projects she's involved in. As an orientation and mobility specialist for the blind, last year when Covid restrictions put a halt to the in-person training to teach street-crossing and other skills, Dona undertook a project to figure out how to [teach them remotely](#), using a computer program she had developed several years back with recordings of traffic sounds.

"One thing I love about the League is the diversity of people and their willingness to work together to achieve consensus and common goals," she says. Bringing people together and ending the political divide has been one of her passions for many years, so she jumped at the chance to participate on the LWVMD's study committee to examine ballot initiatives and open primaries. "Open primaries have been shown to reduce partisanship," she says, adding, "I believe they can eliminate legislators' fear of being 'primaried' for not following the party line."

Last year Dona became a moderator for [Braver Angels' workshops](#). "It is very gratifying to help people learn to bridge the partisan divide to understand and respect each other," she says. But most gratifying of all recent projects, Dona describes her work to organize [workshops for activists](#). These are based on her mother's book, *"How to Think If you Want to Change the World: Spiritual Practices for Social Activism,"* published posthumously in 2017 by

[see Sauerburger next page]

[Sauerburger from p. 4]

Dona's youngest son, Stephan, who recently died of anorexia nervosa. The workshops will honor both her beloved Stephan and her mother, Dr. Jean-Robert Bayard.

Dona and her husband, Fred, live near Crofton. Their oldest son Paul and his wife, Joumana, live in Silver Spring. And their middle son and his family live in Indianapolis. "We're excited to drive to Indianapolis next month, after a 1-1/2 year separation, to see family," she says, "...and be there for the 14th birthday of our only grandchild."



Dona Sauerburger and her son, Stephan, advocating for open primaries in 2016.

Note: Member profiles submitted by Kathy Larrabee, Membership Chair

In Memoriam: Nancy Lindley (1936-2021)

Nancy, a long-time member of LWVAAC, died of pancreatic cancer on July 12. Years ago, when the LWVAAC was newly established, Nancy chaired the Publicity Committee, using branding techniques to gain public recognition for the League. She also served as LWVAAC Vice President in 2007-2008. Nancy had a Master's in Arts in Piano Performance and also earned a Ph.D. in Musicology at the University of Maryland in College Park (UMCP). She and her husband, Mark, moved to Annapolis in 1998. In addition to the League, Nancy was active with the performing arts, serving on the Board of the Annapolis Opera. She also served two terms as President of the Caritas Society of St. John's College, which provides financial support to students.



LWVAAC Activities

Upcoming Books for Learning

Two books are selected for future discussion with respective dates TBD for winter 2021-22. We encourage you to pick up these thought-provoking books in preparation for engaging conversation.

***The Fourth Turning:
What the Cycles of
History Tell Us About
America's Next***

***Rendezvous with
Destiny*** by William
Strauss and Neil Howe.
A national bestseller
published over 25 years
ago, Strauss and Howe,
co-authors of



Generations, present a compelling case that history moves in 80-year cycles corresponding to the length of one human life. America sees a “turning” every 20 years as generations advance and displace the elder generation, The fourth turning, is a time of discord, upheaval, catalyzed by crisis, resulting in a new order.

The authors reflect on American history to show cyclical patterns as in the Fourth Turnings of the Revolutionary War; the Civil War; and WWII. Folks are dusting off the book and pondering if America is currently in the midst of a historical turning with upheaval looming and an eventual reshaping of order and institutions as we know it.

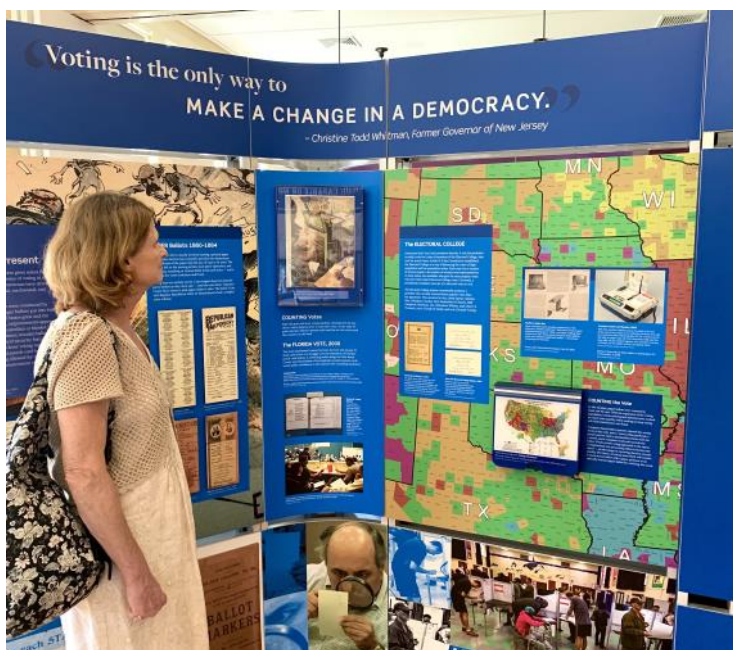
Let the People Pick the President: The Case for Abolishing the Electoral College by Jesse Wegman. A Supreme Court journalist and New York Times Editor, Wegman draws upon the history of the founding fathers’ era and presidential campaigns to make a case for how the Electoral College is wrecking America’s democratic philosophy by and for the people. The framers of the Constitution had many feuds over the electoral college, and over the years lawmakers have made over 700 attempts to eliminate or amend. Wegman argues for solutions and major reform.

If interested in leading a discussion, as moderator, please email program@lwvaacmd.org.

Marg Duffy, Director and Program Chair

**[RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
HERE](#)**

Field Trip Blends Education and Social Opportunities



On July 14, a small group of adventurous LWVAAC members carpooled to the Kennard African American Cultural Center in Centreville for *Voices and Votes: Democracy in America*, a Smithsonian traveling exhibit. A volunteer from the Queen Anne's County Historical Society led an informative tour of the Kennard Center. After exploring the traveling exhibit on their own, members gathered at the Bridges Restaurant in Grasonville for a leisurely lunch.



1



2



3

Top: Vicki Jordan.
1. Alexis Dorsey and Marg Duffy;
2. Vicki Jordan, Vera Herath and Alfa Stevens;
3. Kathy Larrabee and Yolande Dickerson;
4. Delia Miller and Abby Root.



4

How to Have a Civil Conversation

By Cindy Barry, LWVAAC Member

To function well, democratic societies must practice civil conversation. Basic norms are reinforced when there is mutual toleration and self-control of the drive to dominate every conversation. Back in May and June, I offered a four-part seminar on Reclaiming Civil Discourse. The group read and discussed brief passages from the writings of Harriet Martineau, James Madison, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Frederick Douglass.

I hope to offer a similar course later in the fall or early next year. In the meantime, I'd like to share some tips on how to conduct a civil conversation:

1. **Ask Questions.** We already know our own opinion (or think we do). Asking questions of another is a good way to open up a discussion and to clarify ideas.

2. **Listen Actively.** Sometimes we think we know what the other person is going to say, or we finish their sentences for them. Listening, really listening, is an acquired skill. Focus your attention on the speaker, ask questions that might clarify or promote discussion. Don't interrupt. If you must, say kindly, "Have you finished? I have a thought I want to say."

3. **Speak Succinctly and to the Point.** A conversation is a collaboration. Express your thoughts and then stop. Give the other person a chance to reply. Too often we speak only because we're afraid of a moment's silence. Sometimes it's in the pauses that we hear the music.

4. **Give Others Your Respect.** We all have different life experiences. Make room for those who may be reticent or lacking in confidence. Set boundaries on those who tend to dominate. Recognize fundamental commonalities.

5. **Keep a Sense of Humor.** Dante entitled his masterpiece *The Divine Comedy*, even though, before he reached paradise, he went through hell. A good laugh lightens the journey.

Participants' Testimonies

Gabrielle Strandquist

An invitation to participate in Civil Conversations did not appeal to me at first. Imagining a group of women on a Zoom call was even less enticing. Yet, a glance at the syllabus and a casual conversation with a high school grandson, won out over my initial skepticism. I casually asked my grandson how school was going; he said his favorite class of all was American Government and Politics.

As a result of civil conversation discussion format, persons and ideas I recognized from decades ago jumped out at me anew...a more perfect union, equal justice under law, slavery.... The topics seemed so timely and important to our present time. Recently I purchased a copy of the Federalist Papers, which my grandson had read.

Would those original patriots, who yearned to create a new form of government of, by and for the people, recognize what we now take for granted and what we could so easily lose?

Alexis Dorsey

We were a small group but we had a lot to say. Civil Conversations offered the opportunity for lively discussions. One reading concerned violent factions—talk about a timely topic! Another asked us to consider the Fourth of July from the perspective of a slave. That one gave me an emotional jolt with a lot to think about and discuss. The group also had an opportunity to interact and get to know each other, which is always a nice bonus. Even though we each had our own perspective and focus, we generally agreed on the readings. I look forward to the next session and hope that Cindy has some controversial readings that may challenge our conversational and listening skills further.

2021 Annual Retreat & Luncheon

LWVAAC's Annual Retreat, held Saturday, June 12, was both a welcome return to tradition and an impressive demonstration of the new skills we've gained in the age of COVID. Fifteen members gathered in person at the Annapolis Pip Moyer Recreation Center while six others joined the meeting via Zoom.

To help acquaint new and veteran members, President Alfa Stevens began by asking participants to share their reasons for joining the League. Motivations included redistricting concerns, civics education, voting rights, voter services, election integrity, government transparency, diversity and equity issues, and the opportunity to meet people with like interests.

Directors and committee chairs summarized their activities and outlined opportunities for members to get involved:

- Action Committee: track legislation, write letters, contact elected representatives.
- Observer Corps: sit in on County meetings and report back to the League;
- Fair Maps: reach out to County officials about supporting fair maps;
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: help with outreach and education;
- Voter Services: help with voter registration and opportunities; work on Vote411 voters' guide, candidate forums;
- Collaboration: suggest opportunities where

League can partner with other organizations and coalitions to advance each other's missions;

- Communications: help with social media formatting/posting, publication layout;
- Membership: help align members' interests and skill sets with their League involvement;
- Program: suggest books, outings, guest speakers and/or public education on relevant topics.

In an effort to accommodate both employed and retired members, it was agreed to hold LWVAAC Board meetings from 6-8 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of the month. (*EDITOR'S NOTE: The regular Board meeting date has since been changed to the 2nd Tuesday of the month, beginning in September.*)

Discussion then turned to plans for an in-person meeting to kickoff the new program year, with County Executive Steuart Pittman (also an LWVAAC member) as the proposed guest speaker.

This first-ever LWVAAC hybrid meeting was made possible by A/V equipment provided and expertly operated by Gail Viamonte and Neil Winner, which allowed both virtual and in-person participants to see each other and converse. A catered lunch arranged by Marg Duffy provided in-person participants the long-missed experience of sharing a meal with new and old friends. Many thanks to these members and to all who participated.

Niecy Chambers, Treasurer (with a shout-out to Marg Duffy for her excellent notes).

Board Meeting Highlights May 25, 2021

Carolyn Ciepiela, Susan Cochran, Kathy Larrabee and Sara Sanders were appointed to one-year terms as Board Directors.

Marg Duffy was appointed to the Nominating Committee, chaired by Kathy Larrabee. Mary Vickery was elected at the 2021 Annual Meeting to be the off-Board committee member.

Gail Viamonte was appointed to the Bylaws Committee. The Board will invite Carol Sures and Kathy Lottenbach to continue to serve as committee chair and off-Board member, respectively.

LWVAAC's nonpartisan policy was re-adopted, following minor amendments.

Director Abby Root, LWVAAC's liaison to the LWVMD Fair Maps Committee, requested help to identify underserved communities in Anne Arundel County. The Committee plans outreach to these communities to increase their interest and involvement in the redistricting process.

LWVAAC delegates to the 2021 LWVMD Convention will seek clarification regarding the state League's new position on ballot initiatives.

Niecy Chambers, Marg Duffy and Joyce Martin volunteered to plan a League kickoff event to be held in September 2021.

2021 Nonpartisan Policy

The League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County is a nonpartisan organization. The League takes positions on issues but does not support or oppose political candidates or parties.

Members may participate in the political party of their choice as long as the individual does not represent the League publicly, as President or spokesperson.

The President of the League should not display publicly his/her party affiliation. In any voter service activity or candidate forum, the League members involved may not indicate their party affiliation by what they say or by any insignia.

Serving as a campaign manager or treasurer for a political party or hosting a fundraiser for a candidate should not be done by a member of the Board or any highly visible representative of the League.

Grow Your Local Government Knowledge With Observer Corps

The League of Women Voters is renowned for registering voters, educating voters and facilitating elections. But, the League does more. Its members also observe the manner in which elected officials do their jobs; they shine a light on government operations to ensure transparency and accountability.

The LWVAAC Observer Corps was established with transparency and accountability in mind. Its members observe the Anne Arundel County Council, several County Commissions, and the Anne Arundel Board of Elections. With

additional observers, we hope to include other areas of government in the future. Now that new Census data has been released, the OC is beginning to focus on the redistricting process.

In the process of observing government, OC members gain knowledge that can be shared with the LWVAAC Board for possible action. (As a result of observing the Planning Advisory Board, I personally feel on the verge of understanding how the County's budgetary process works.) If you might find participation in the LWVAAC Observer Corps an interesting endeavor, please contact me for details at observer@lwvaacmd.org.

Alexis Dorsey, Director and Observer Corps Chair

A Deeper Dive

Consequences When Local Newspapers Disappear

"All politics is local," said Tip O'Neill, Speaker of the House of Representatives from 1977 to 1987. And where do we read of local politics? In our daily local newspapers, of course. But local newspapers have been in danger of disappearing in recent years as mergers, consolidations, and takeovers reduce their numbers. The Hussman School of Media and Journalism University of North Carolina reports that the United States has lost almost 1,800 papers since

Democracy Dies in Darkness
The Washington Post

2004, including more than 60 dailies and 1,700 weeklies. Now those statistics really hit home as the *Capital Gazette*, and its northern Anne Arundel County sister, the *Maryland Gazette*, struggle to remain relevant.

Our local newspapers give us great value—not only news of politics and politicians, but news of community events, local sports and personalities. Op eds and letters to the editor let us know what our fellow citizens think about Anne Arundel affairs.

[see Newspapers next page]

[Newspapers from p. 11]

These papers make us knowledgeable and give us a sense of community.

I asked LWVAAC Board member Alexis Dorsey how she valued our local newspaper. She says the paper is a friend to her. She has read it every day with a cup of coffee for the past 30 years that she has lived in Annapolis. "I feel I get a local perspective on national events," says Alexis. "And I learn who the movers and shakers are in the community. The *Letters to the Editor* give me a good sense of opinion in the community."



What does the future hold for Anne Arundel County's local newspaper?

Photo by K. Larrabee

Joyce and Clyde Martin, both LWVAAC members, find that although they live in Crofton, the *Capital* covers their local issues and also keeps them abreast of the athletic accomplishments of the local youngsters.

Although these and many more subscribers still see value in their local newspaper, the *Capital* has not been the same since its takeover by Alden Global Capital in a \$630 million deal with The Tribune Company, which owned the *Baltimore Sun* and the *Capital*. Alden is known for slashing staff to increase profits. A valiant effort was made by a group of philanthropically-minded buyers, led by Maryland hotel magnate Stewart Bainum Jr. and Swiss billionaire Hansjörg Wyss, to get ahead of Alden. If the group had successfully purchased the Tribune, they planned to return each paper to local ownership. This would have been an example of newspaper ownership being a philanthropic endeavor as *The New York Times* says is the latest trend.

Reducing staff makes it less possible for local papers to do investigative reporting about local issues, a valuable service to transparency in government. The change in the *Capital* started years ago, according to sports writer Bill Wagner who has been with the *Capital* for 32 years. Local ownership was replaced by corporate ownership, changing the character of the paper and making reductions in staff as profit became an overriding motive.

[see Newspapers next page]

[Newspapers from p. 12]

The result of the new *Capital* ownership is a reduction of the *Capital's* staff. We don't know the exact number of reporters left at the *Capital*, but the *Sun's* staff went from 400 to 80 in recent years. These reductions were going on even under the Tribune ownership.

Editorials on local issues are important in a local paper, but they have been missing since the loss of a chief editor of the *Capital*. Former editor, Rick Hutzell, was bought out by the corporation after 33 years with the newspaper. The post of editor has been replaced by "Leadership." That includes a director of content/community news, an Anne Arundel content editor, and a sports content editor. There have been no editorials directly on local issues lately. They have been replaced by half-page editorials by writers like David Brooks from the *New York Times* and opinion from Bloomberg on national issues. This is a loss for us local readers.

A dramatic change in 2020 came when the Tribune closed the *Capital* newsroom permanently. The

move was blamed on the pandemic and economic conditions. A Tribune spokesman said the local news will still be covered. Veteran newsman Bill Wagner called this a "devastating blow and terrible on many levels. Not only do young journalists no longer have the opportunity to interact and be mentored by more veteran reporters, the public has no physical location to visit and recognize as the *Capital Gazette* newspaper."

The *Capital* survived a horrific invasion by a vengeful gunman that killed five news staff. The paper received an honorary Pulitzer prize for the bravery and determination with which it carried on, putting out a newspaper the very day. Will the paper survive the corporate claws that are now ravaging it?

For more on the takeover, go to: <https://www.npr.org/2021/05/21/998730863/vulture-fund-alden-global-known-for-slashing-newsrooms-buys-tribune-papers>

Susan Cochran, Director and Action Committee Chair



HELP WANTED

Voter Registrars for
National Voter
Registration Day,
September 28, 2021 at
two LWVAAC sites. For
details, contact Vera:
votersvc@lwvaacmd.org.

Voter Services

City of Annapolis Voters Face New Voting Process

To help educate City of Annapolis voters, the LWVAAC Voter Services Committee is organizing a mayoral candidates' forum for Tuesday, October 19. (See details on page 16). Knowing the candidates, however, is but one part of what voters must learn before the upcoming elections.

Candidates for mayor of the City of Annapolis are incumbent Gavin Buckley (D) and challenger Steven Strawn (R). Because there are no other mayoral candidates, there will not be a primary election for mayor.

In addition to the mayoral race, city voters will be asked to elect a ward representative for their respective jurisdictions from among 15 contenders. The elected aldermen and alderwomen will fill 8 seats on the city council. However, in 5 of the 8 wards, incumbents are uncontested. In those wards, residents will not vote for new representation and the incumbent will be sworn in for another term.

Lastly, registered Democrats and Republicans in the City of Annapolis who vote in the primary election will elect members to the State Central Committees of the Democratic and Republican parties.

The primary election will be held on Tuesday, September 21, and the general election on Tuesday, November 2. The City of Annapolis Board of Supervisors of Elections, in collaboration with the

Anne Arundel Board of Elections (AABOE), decided to hold city elections in person at polling places or by mail-in ballots. One precinct and one drop box will be located in each of the 8 wards. The goal, the City Board said, is to make voting more accessible, convenient, and to increase voter turnout. The [annapolis.gov](https://www.annapolis.gov) website lists all voting locations.

All city residents, who are active registered voters, will

automatically receive a mail-in ballot via postal mail at the address on file with the AABOE. All rules used for

mail-in ballots in the Maryland Presidential Election in 2020 will apply. However, voters in wards where incumbents are uncontested will not receive ballots to elect a ward representative. Instead, they will receive a letter of explanation.



Voters may deposit ballots in any of the drop boxes placed in the 8 wards of the City of Annapolis. See [Annapolis.gov](https://www.annapolis.gov) for locations.

[Election from p. 14]

Adding to voters' confusion over the city's new election process, a Maryland Court of Appeals ruled recently that two Republicans, who argued the city's new election system does not follow City Code, failed to show that their appeal was "desirable and in the public interest" according to the *Capital Gazette*. With this ruling, the city's voting process, as planned, may proceed.

As a long-time election judge, I am concerned about voters' questions and confusion. At LWVAAC voter registration events this fall, it will be more important than ever to advise voters to read the election materials carefully prior to voting in person or by mail-in ballot.

Vera Herath, Director and Voter Services Co-Chair

Thank You LWVAAC Voter Registrars

Over the summer, LWVAAC volunteers participated in number of community events to register voters and provide election information. The Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACA) invited LWVAAC to participate in both Community Resources Day and Unity Day. In addition, LWVAAC partnered with the NAACP Anne Arundel County Branch to provide services at the 5th Annual Annapolis Family Day and the Annapolis Juneteenth celebration. Special thanks to volunteer registrars Vera Herath and Vicki Jordan, (co-chairs of the LWVAAC Voter Services Committee), Renee Cantori, Everette Jordon, Kathy Lottenbach, Clyde Martin, Gege Polevitzky (and daughter Kathy), and Sally Vavrek.



LWVAAC member Gege Polevitzky (right) and her daughter, Kathy Polevitzky assist Eastport residents with voter registration at Unity Day, sponsored by the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis.



LWVAAC member Vicki Jordan and her husband, Everette, help participants at the Annapolis Juneteenth celebration fill out voter registration applications.

CANDIDATES FORUM

LWV LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

2021 Mayoral Candidates City of Annapolis



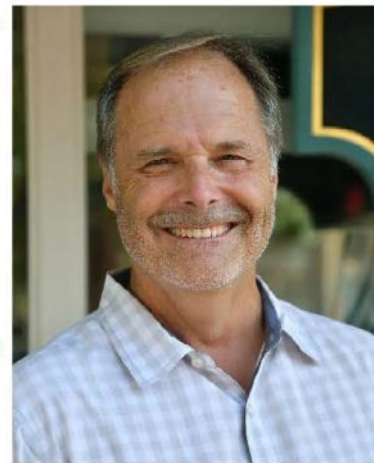
**Tuesday, October 19, 2021
7 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

Congregation Kneseth Israel
1125 Spa Road
Annapolis, MD 21403

Moderator: Josh Kurtz

Founding Editor, *Maryland Matters*

Ample, free and handicapped parking
onsite, large hall for social distancing.



Gavin Buckley

(Official campaign photo)

Steven Strawn

(Photo courtesy of capitalgazette.com)

- ◆ Join your community for an unbiased discussion of local issues and candidates' proposed solutions.
- ◆ Ask questions. Get answers. Vote!

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In League with LWVMD

Critical Steps In the Fight to End Gerrymandering

By Abby Root, LWVAAC Director and LWVMD People Powered Fair Maps Committee Member

I represent LWVAAC on the LWVMD People Powered Fair Maps Committee, which is made up of members from 10 of 15 local Maryland Leagues.

The committee's goal is to build public interest and advocacy for fair mapping. The Committee has been involved in giving 30-minute presentations to organizations and other League members about the redistricting process in Maryland. Members of the committee are meeting with state legislators to discuss the League's priorities regarding redistricting and to learn of the delegate's and senator's perspectives and suggestions.

The committee also has been involved in monitoring and testifying before the Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission (MCRC). On January 12, 2021, Governor Hogan issued an executive order forming the nonpartisan Commission, composed of nine members: three registered Democrats, three registered Republicans, and three registered as Non-Affiliated.

The Governor charged the Commission with revising the congressional and legislative district lines in a fair and impartial manner, as well as with creating

exclusively single member legislative districts. While LWVMD fully supports fair mapping, our state League's position calls for flexibility with

respect to single- vs. multi-member districts. It is the League's position that in some situations, multi-member districts better promote full minority representation and preserve political and community boundaries.

The Commission will receive input from the public by holding three rounds of hearings at which citizens may voice their ideas and concerns. The first round, which was recently completed, involved hearing from the public on what citizens would like to see in a Fair Map. This round comprised eight regional meetings over a period of 8 weeks. The LWVMD gave testimony and observed seven hearings. Testifying as a representative of the LWVAAC, I spoke about Anne Arundel County being broken up into four Congressional Districts and the resulting difficulty in addressing the environmental problems of the Chesapeake Bay. (See Testimony, p. 17)

Members of other local Leagues spoke about the



[see Fair Maps next page]

[Fair Maps from p. 17]

issues facing their counties, as well as the League's position on single- vs. multi-member legislative districts. Round 2 will comprise four hearings on September 9, 13, 14 and 21. At these hearings the public will be able to submit maps and comment on maps based on the census data released on August 12. The criteria and instructions on how to submit a map will be posted on the Commission's [website](#).

The third and final round will enable the public to comment on the Commission's drawn maps. When the details are known, they will be posted to the Commission's website linked above.

Learn more about the [LWVMD People Powered Fair Maps Campaign](#).

Reminder: Register Today!



lwvmd.org/fall_2021_workshop

LWVAAC Director Testifies Before the Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission (MCRC), July 17, 2021

Good evening Commissioners. My name is Abby Root. I am representing the League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County. Thank you for volunteering your valuable time with your professionalism and dedication to the important process of producing Fair Maps.

Maryland's 23 counties plus Baltimore City makeup the State's 8 congressional districts. Anne Arundel County has 4 of these districts: 2, 3, 4, and 5. In these 4 districts, Anne Arundel County is joined with parts of 8 other counties, plus Baltimore City. Of the 8 counties in which we share Representatives, Anne Arundel borders only four of them.

*Each Maryland county has its unique issues. For example, Anne Arundel County is bordered on the East by the Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the United States. The health of the Bay is affected by twelve primary watersheds. The Bay is affected by 12 primary watersheds. When it rains, runoff from these watersheds flows downhill to creeks, streams, and rivers and into the Bay. The Bay faces serious ecological and environmental problems due to human activities. To help address Bay issues, Anne Arundel County residents need **dedicated** representation, not **more** representation.*

Anne Arundel County's legislative districts also should be drawn fairly. Anne Arundel is a growing county: geographically, economically, socially, and culturally. We urge the Commission to be cognizant of this when mapping the county.

Thank you for listening and for giving the residents of Maryland a voice in the redistricting process.

Community Outreach

The Power of Collaborations and Other Relationships

One-off favors, cooperation, coordination, collaboration...we've all experienced the highs, lows, and intricacies of working with family members and friends to accomplish an activity or achieve a goal. In our professional lives, many of us also embraced the challenges and triumphs of strategizing within, between, and among organizations.

Sometimes the experience is short-term and short-lived. Sometimes synergies and working relationships run deep. The best ones survive changes in personnel and create energy that transfers to other projects or issues. One person phoning another for a single organizational favor becomes a regular "who you gonna call" Ghostbusters-type dependability. From one-off cooperation to full collaboration (defined here as regular, two-way communication, with both parties sharing goals and resources), there's plenty of room for different models, and also room for one type of relationship to grow into another.

The August 2021 *State Board Letter* celebrates LWVMD's ever-expanding work with the Tame The Gerrymander coalition (TTG), Common Cause, and cultural and demographic caucuses. LWVAAC members participate in the Growth Action Network (GAN), Anne Arundel Affordable Housing Coalition, and the LWVMD Fair Maps Committee, along with other individual affiliations. In addition to arranging

voter registration and information sites, the LWVAAC and the Anne Arundel County Public Library System have developed joint programs, expanded mutual publicity, and grew one another's networks. The Anne Arundel Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW), our go-to nonprofit for support in staffing, provisioning, publicizing, and sponsoring many a candidate forum, recently offered a potential exchange of public policy resources. Anne Arundel Community College, AA County Public Schools and LWVAAC shared voter registration sites and civics promotion through panels, essay contests, and special events. In 2020-21, LWVAAC's visibility and input regarding curriculum expanded, as we nominated high school history and government teachers to the Harvard CASE Method Institute.

Outreach becomes networking which can evolve into strong synergies that supercharge goals and objectives. Whom do you know—a person, group, or organization—doing work in an arena important to LWVAAC? Make a recommendation to the Board or to [me](#). Volunteer as a bridge-builder, or even as the person who just makes the initial outreach and then steps back. Take part in an existing affiliation.

To paraphrase George Peppard's fictional character on "The A-Team," "We love it when (organizations and) a plan come(s) together!"

Gail Viamonte, Vice President & Community Outreach Chair

Of Interest

Sparrows Point Steel Mill Revitalized To Support Wind Energy

US Wind, a wind-farm developer, plans to bring steel production back to Sparrows Point, Baltimore, and establish a manufacturing hub that would serve the growing wind-energy industry. US Wind, a Baltimore-based subsidiary of Italian renewable energy firm Renexia Sp A, announced its vision for 90 waterfront acres at Tradepoint Atlantic, a 3,303 acre logistics center in Baltimore County, where it plans to assemble turbine components and start a company called Sparrows Point Steel. The steel factory would make the towers that anchor wind turbines to the ocean floor. It would aim to supply US Wind's Ocean City projects and, longer term, the wind-energy projects across the United States.

The first phase includes building 22 turbines located about 17 miles off shore of Ocean City. The second phase would be four times as large, with 82 turbines built out by 2028. It is the biggest wind energy project ever proposed in Maryland and would supply the state with 1,200 megawatts of renewable energy, enough to supply more than half a million homes. Governor Larry Hogan stated that offshore wind presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the state of Maryland to expand the diversity of our economy and our energy portfolio. He also stated the job creation potential and associated benefits for the broader supply chain of offshore wind development is an absolute game changer.

Anne Schifferle, Environmental Reporter

Source: *The Washington Post*, Aug. 9, 2021



Members at Kennard Center in Centreville on July 14, 2021: (l-r) Yolande Dickerson, Marg Duffy, Alexis Dorsey, Vera Herath, Delia Martin, Abby Root, Vicki Jordan, Alfa Stevens, Kathy Larrabee