



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Washington County
PO Box 2126
Hagerstown MD 21742
Phone 240-513-8126
<http://lwvwashco.org>

League Officers

Winter 2017

President	Richard Willson	301-739-3232
Vice President	Fanny Crawford	301-791-7422
Vice President	Evvie Willams	301-790-3613
Secretary	Melanie Fouche	301-714-0074
Treasurer	Richard Willson	301-739-3232
Newsletter	Evvie Willams	301-790-3613

LWVWC Calendar 2016-17

*LWVWC board meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at
John Wesley United Methodist Church (JWUMC)
129 N. Potomac Street
Hagerstown MD*

January

- 24 Great Decisions downtown library, 7:00 pm, Room 334**
- 25 LWVWC planning meeting Rooster Moon Coffee shop 8:00 am
- 28 9:30-1:30 LWVMD Winter Workshop, Columbia MD
- 31 Legislative Priorities Meeting JWUM C 6:00**

February

- 7 Board meeting
- 28 Great Decisions downtown library, 7:00 pm**

March

- 7 Board Meeting
- 12 Annual Story Telling Event 2-4 pm St Johns Episcopal Church**

Check out lwvwashco.org for most current information and updates

Message from our President

Dear Members:

Helping citizens become more informed is the core mission of our League. And yes, to that end groups invite us to set up voter registration tables at their events and expect us to put together voter guides before elections.

However of late, we have been a bit weak on civic education.

One effort towards education planned for 2017 is our more active sponsorship of a Great Decisions group. For the past several years we've held our Great Decisions foreign policy programs at John Wesley United Methodist Church, but in the fall of 2016 we moved GD to the Fletcher Library branch in downtown Hagerstown and picked up 3 new participants right away! (Visit our Great Decisions page on our website to look at the 2017 program and consider joining us by [clicking here](#).)

Foreign policy matters help us choose our federal elected officials, but doesn't often shed so much light on State and local races.

So your board is kicking around ideas for stimulating conversation on things like the US citizenship test, American history, geography, matters relating to how state and local governments work. Our ideas range from hosting panels in a "Wait, wait, don't tell me" format or a college bowl to getting our community engaged in mutual improvement using online tests from our website. We get all excited about whether Hagerstown is the Obesity capital of the United States - what if we could get equally excited about passing the League's latest civics IQ test?!!

Please visit the President Message page on the website to sign up to help or to offer suggestions.

Save the Dates

January 31st JWUMC 6-8pm

LWVMD Legislative Priorities

Please bring covered dish and stay for a conversation about League Priorities for the 2017 General Assembly.

Ruth Crystal, Chair of the LWVMD Legislative Priorities will once again present her overview of the legislative and budget priorities that have been established, with input from local leagues across the state.

The priorities fall into the areas of Making Democracy Work, Protecting the Environment and Promoting Social and Economic Justice.

Goals under these categories include redistricting reform, improved voter access, mitigating climate change,

reliance on clean energy,

safe water for all,

maintaining the safety net for vulnerable populations corrections and sentencing reform

adequate public transportation funding.

For more details please visit: www.lwvmd.org or follow the link on our website.

You can also sign up for the ***Report From State Circle*** which reports weekly LWV action and the status of bills related to these topics. As they move through the General Assembly. The electronic version is free, a mailed copy is \$15 for LWV members, \$25 for nonleague members.

Annual Story Telling Event

Prison from the Inside

MARCH 12th 2-4 pm

St Johns Episcopal Church

101 S Prospect Street

Three speakers with decades of experience as volunteers and professionals within the Washington County's State Prison system will share their stories of life behind bars. LWVWC member Emma Lou Comstock, will be joined by Delores Harmon and other invited guests with experience with the prison system. Two former inmates who have successfully transitioned to life outside, and another volunteer, Ron Williams, will also be present to add to the conversation.

(Ample parking is available behind the church on Walnut Street.)

New Great Decisions 2017 Season starts January 24

The LWVWC has joined in a partnership with the Fletcher Branch of the Washington County Free Library to present the Great Decisions program. **We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 7pm.** In room 334

This season's topics include:

- The Future of Europe
- Trade and Politics
- Conflict in the South China Sea
- Saudi Arabia in Transition
- US Foreign Policy and Petroleum
- Latin America's Political Pendulum
- Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan
- Nuclear Security

In support of this program LWVWC has discounted the purchase of materials to \$20. For more details or to purchase a workbook visit <http://lwvwashco.org/>