



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Washington County
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December 2018

Washington County League Officers

President	Richard Willson	301-739-3232
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Death with Dignity What do YOU think?

Traditionally groups of LWV members around the country choose to study and research an issue. They then produce a Fact Sheet summarizing the information to share with other members of their organization. This can be done at the national, state, and local levels. All LWV members read the Fact Sheet, then come to a consensus about their position on the issue. After a Position has been adopted, Action and Advocacy begins. This year LWVMD is taking a different approach to a study by reaching concurrence with a study already conducted by the Utah League of Women Voters. If you follow this link you can see the fact sheet and all supporting documents that led to their consensus on this topic. https://www.lwvmd.org/fact_sheets

Please plan to attend the LWVWC meeting on January 10th, when we will discuss the concurrence.

We will meet at member Melanie Fouche's home at 7pm.

LWVMD Legislative Priorities

The main focus for LWVMD legislative priorities 2019 will be Making Democracy Work: Redistricting reform . On November 26,2018, Governor Hogan announced an executive order to establish a nine member Emergency Commission on Sixth District Gerrymandering to fulfill an order issued by the US District Court to redraw the boundaries of the Sixth Congressional District. LWVMD is pleased that among the first three people the Governor appointed to the Commission was Ashley Oleson, LWVMD Administrative Director. The six remaining members will be selected by a public application process that closed on December 10th.

LWVMD will continue to follow other issues related to making democracy work, protecting the environment and promoting social and economic justice.

There are several valuable links at the website: www.lwvmd.org to help you find more details about the legislative priorities and the track bills of interest.

This site will also have a digital edition of ***Report from State Circle***, which is published six times during the legislative session. Twenty-one dedicated LWV members serve as reporters for this valuable resource, to monitor the progress on a variety of issues important to LWV members.

If you would prefer a print edition you may subscribe for a rate of \$15 yearly at

LWVMD
Attn: Report form State Circle
111 Cathedral; Street Ste. 201
Annapolis MD 21401.

Great Decisions

This is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions [Briefing Book](#), watching the [DVD](#) and meeting in a [Discussion Group](#) to Discuss the most critical global issues facing America today.

The LWVWC group is due to start up in February, again at the Fletcher Library downtown. You will be receiving a call from Fanny Crawford to help set the meeting date that best suits a majority of interested participants.

As in the past, the topics for this year's discussion are important and timely:

Refugees and Global Migration

The Middle East Regional Disorder

Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future

The Rise of Populism in Europe

Decoding US-China Trade

Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics

The United States and Mexico Partnership Tested

State of the State Department and Diplomacy

Be sure to purchase your briefing book at:

<https://www.lvwashco.org> *We offer it at a discounted rate*

Kirwan Commission: Preliminary Recommendations

The LWVMD State board letter reports that the Commission of Innovation in Education (Kirwan Commission) has two more meetings scheduled (12/18&19) before they release their final recommendations. Nevertheless the LWVMD predicts the following priorities to be listed in their report:

Early childhood education

High quality teachers and leaders

College and career readiness pathways

More resources for at-risk students

The full commission is also evaluating a fifth policy area for governance and accountability. Follow details and developments through the links at www.lvwashco.org and articles in upcoming newsletters.

SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY

- 9 Maryland General Assembly Convenes for 2019 session
- 10 General Membership Meeting and
Death with Dignity discussion and concurrence
7pm, home of Melanie Fouche
- 26 Winter Workshop, Wild Lake Interfaith Center, Columbia MD

FEBRUARY

- 14 LWV's 99 th Birthday ~ get ready to celebrate
- 21 General Membership meeting and consensus on
Corrections and Bail policies

MARCH

- 10 Annual Storytelling Event
Historic Miller House, 2-4 PM
135 West Washington Street

We hope you enjoy a safe and restful holiday season~ see you at Melanie's on 1/10!