



## The Voter

League of Women Voters of Washington County 1117 Fairview Rd.  
Hagerstown MD 21742  
Phone 240-513-8126 <http://lwwwashco.org>

## Calendar

- 16 Zoom in for member Fanny Crawford story telling event *TH Barnes on the Constitution* (Presented again for the Smithsburg Historical Society at the Smithsburg Library on 9/25)  
Voter Registration drive at HCC
- 17 Constitution Day
- 25 LWVMD Fall Workshops
- 28 National Voter Registration Day – voter registration drive at HCC
- 30 LWVMD Advocacy Training Workshop

## October

- 14 LWVWC Board meeting ALL members are encouraged to attend 7pm

**Remember that you can always check out [lwwashco.org](http://lwwwashco.org) for most current information about the Washington County LWV**



September 17<sup>th</sup>

Celebrate the

Birthday of

Our Government

Constitution

Day





resident to walk or bike while enjoying our beautiful outdoors. The first five miles would parallel occasionally used tracks by slow moving rains, the remaining 18 miles would follow the path where rails have been removed . The league has no position on this topic so we declined the request to become an advocate for this proposal. If you are interested in personally supporting it or would like to find out more about the project look for the Facebook Group, Civil War Rail Trail.

FYI

The League has supported District self-government since 1938. Realization of these goals has been slow, but since 1961 DC residents have made some gains in the drive for full citizenship rights. The remaining goals—voting representation in both the House and Senate and full home-rule powers—were made explicit in the LWWUS program in March 1982.....



LWVWC and LWVMD Board member Genie Massey is working to increase youth engagement in civic activities. She has been in discussions with universities and community college to support civic engagement activities on campus. Additional activities include:

- participation in the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition which is planning events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 26th Amendment on college campuses across Maryland and the country.

- supporting K12 teachers across the state, LWVMD is developing a toolkit full of lessons on local, state, and national government that will reside on our website

If you are interested in collaborating on youth engagement, contact Genie at [gmassey@lwvmd.org](mailto:gmassey@lwvmd.org)

League of Women Voters of Maryland

# Fall Workshop

LWV



News  
You  
Need



Meet  
League  
Members



Plan  
for the  
Future

Saturday, September 25 at 9 AM

- 8:40 - 9:00**     **Sign In**  
Join early to meet League members from around the state!  
Tech help with Zoom will be available.
- 9:00 - 9:15**     **Welcome & Announcements**
- 9:15 - 9:55**     **Keynote Speaker**  
*Civic Engagement*  
**Dr. Alexander "Sandy" Pope**  
Director of the Institute for Public Affairs and  
Civic Engagement, Salisbury University
- 10:00 - 10:25**     **Sharing Studios, Part 1** (breakout rooms)
- Roles & Responsibilities of Board Members
  - Membership
  - Finance
  - Fundraising
  - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
  - GOTV and Voter Services
  - Youth Engagement
- 10:25 - 10:35**     **Break**
- 10:35 - 11:00**     **Sharing Studios, Part 2**  
All sessions repeated
- 11:00 - 11:45**     **Best Practices with League Leaders**
- Improving Internal Communications
  - Virtual & In-Person Candidate Forums
  - League 101: A Brief Orientation for New Members
- 11:45 - 12:00**     **Closing Announcements & Farewell**

Register for this online event at  
[lwvmd.org/fall\\_2021\\_workshop](https://lwvmd.org/fall_2021_workshop)

Workshop Fee - Members \$10 - Non-Members \$15

Make a donation to honor a friend or family member today!



### **Legislative Updates**

The legislative priorities for the LWVMD are Making Democracy work, Social and Economic Justice and Protecting the Environment. League members spent much of the 2021 session of the Maryland General assembly advocating for various bills that supported these goals.

For making Democracy work there were bills on Government Transparency and Progressive and Adequate Fiscal policy. Social and Economic Justice encompassed

bills on Education and the Blueprint for MD, Police Accountability& Reform, Affordable Housing and Public Transportation. Those who followed protecting the Environment looked closely at the Clean Energy Bill

For a detailed account of the results of their efforts and laws that were passed you can visit:

[https://lwvmaryland.nationbuilder.com/legislative\\_wrap\\_up\\_2021](https://lwvmaryland.nationbuilder.com/legislative_wrap_up_2021)

*The LWVMD Action Chair, J.C. Hooker invites you*

The LWMD Action Committee is calling on you! Yes, you! We are starting our plan of action for the Legislative Session, and we want you to be ready to advocate our issues. Please consider joining one of the following State Advocacy Teams:

Advocacy Teams seeking members:

Affordable Housing	Protecting the Vote
Health	Public Education
Immigration	Redistricting Reform
Police Accountability	Transportation

Open positions for chair, co-chairs or members:

Campaign Finance	Family Issues
Clean Energy	Fiscal Structure
Domestic Violence	

With your help as advocates, Maryland Leagues have the potential to make a real impact on Maryland legislation. If you would like to be a part of the change you wish to see, please contact your local League, state League, or Action Committee Chair, J.C. Hooker, [jchooker@lwvmd.org](mailto:jchooker@lwvmd.org), to learn how to get involved. Make sure to mark your calendars, too, for our Advocacy Training Workshop on September 30, 2021.

## **Redistricting**

*Gerrymandering- the process of manipulating the drawing of election maps for political gain during the decennial redistricting process.*

For some years, the League has been working in coalition with other nonprofits on fair elections, including redistricting. Because of the interest of Governor Hogan, and later the litigation around the Sixth District, we have been advocating for redistricting well beyond the usual every-ten-years Census time frame. We

work with our key redistricting partner, Common Cause Maryland (CC), in the years-old Tame the Gerrymander (TTG) coalition, while other partners, such as the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (LCCRUL), choose to work on particular campaigns. LWVMD State Director Nikki Tyree is the point of contact for the TTG.

1. A state redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation in the state legislature and House of Representatives with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny.
2. An independent commission as the preferred redistricting body. The membership of the redistricting commission should be multi-partisan, include unaffiliated voters, be geographically representative and not include any current state elected official.
3. Standards on which the redistricting plan is based should include: substantially equal population, geographic contiguity and geographic compactness.
4. Final approval by the General Assembly for the legislative and Congressional redistricting plans. An amendment to the Maryland Constitution affirming that the redistricting process for the House of Representatives should occur only once each ten years after the census.
5. An amendment to the Maryland Constitution affirming that the redistricting process for the House of Representatives should occur only once every ten years after the census.

Two commissions have been established in regard to mapping out new districts: the Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission, MCRC, formed by Governor Hogan; and the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission, LRAC, formed by the Maryland General Assembly leadership. The State League has observed all of the MCRC meetings and we have sent County-based local League speakers to all of their hearings, offered educational assistance on our two key positions, Redistricting and Single versus Multi-Delegate Districts, and established a relationship with staff. The LWVMD and possibly TTG hope to produce our own maps, based on the LWV positions and considering The Peoples Maps Maryland results. We are pricing demographers, since this must be done correctly to be considered by the Commissions, other activists, and the courts.

For more information and/or to find out how you might help with this very important effort, please go to

[https://lwvmaryland.nationbuilder.com/people\\_powered\\_fair\\_maps](https://lwvmaryland.nationbuilder.com/people_powered_fair_maps)



Broadband internet is an essential service in the daily lives of Marylanders, but many people don't have access to internet service. And for those who do, it's often unreliable and too expensive. In Maryland and elsewhere, there is a persistent "digital divide" between people who have and can afford internet service, and those who cannot. The divide is two-pronged: both availability and cost of service determine whether people are able to get online. This isn't just an access issue, it's a civil rights issue. People without broadband access are disproportionately Black, Latinx, Indigenous, rural, or low-income.

The LWVMD has joined with *Consumer Reports* and dozens of organizations from across the country on a groundbreaking initiative designed to determine if internet prices and reliability vary because of where you live, because of lack of choice in internet providers, or because of exorbitant fees and charges. Based on the LWVMD's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy and commitment to fighting systemic inequality, the League is sharing this initiative with our members; To participate takes a few minutes, an internet connection, and a copy of your internet bill. Click [Broadband Together](#) to participate.



League positions are developed after careful study and then reaching consensus among LWV members. The studies are a great way to learn in depth about a topic and to have lively and thought-provoking conversations with committee members. Two studies were adopted at the state convention this past June. One is on equity in education, and another is on living wage. Study committees are forming now, and some members have already stepped forward. If you have an interest in either of these topics, just let me know at [lkohn@lwvmd.org](mailto:lkohn@lwvmd.org).

### **DEI (*Diversity Equity and Inclusion!*)**

All Leagues across the country are fully committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity equity and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities and policy makers in creating a more democracy. A DEI lens is a way of examining a program, a process, a product, etc with regards to how it is perceived by a variety of communities, voices, and perspectives, and what, if any, barriers may exist that is preventing it from being equitable or inclusive of everyone.

Our LWVWC will address adopting the DEI initiative to our bylaws at our 10/14 meeting. Please attend and voice your opinion.

To assist all members in embracing this commitment over the next few months you will be seeing a variety of activities that hope to educate, enlighten and provoke discussion around this topic.



## DEI Book Club

To support this vital new initiative the DEI Committee of the LWVMD has launched a book club. The first meeting was an online for a discussion 8/31, discussing the book **America is Not the Heart** by Elaine Castillo based on the story of her journey from torture in the Philippines to a new life in California.

***September's choice is This Tender Land***

The discussion is free but requires registration.

*To learn more about the upcoming selection here is a brief introduction by the author, Williams Kent Krueger.*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxxWoTly0\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxxWoTly0_A)

More information on the DEI initiative and related resources can be found at this site:

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/diversity-equity-inclusion>