



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Washington County



PEOPLE'S MAPS RALLY

LAWYERS' MALL
BLADEN ST & COLLEGE AVE
ANNAPOLIS

LWMD will be providing bus transportation from select points in Maryland. Seats are limited!!

RSVP NOW
to reserve your seat!
RSVP info below



WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 8TH
9AM-11AM

Bring a sign to show
that you want maps for
people, not politicians!

Masks will be provided.



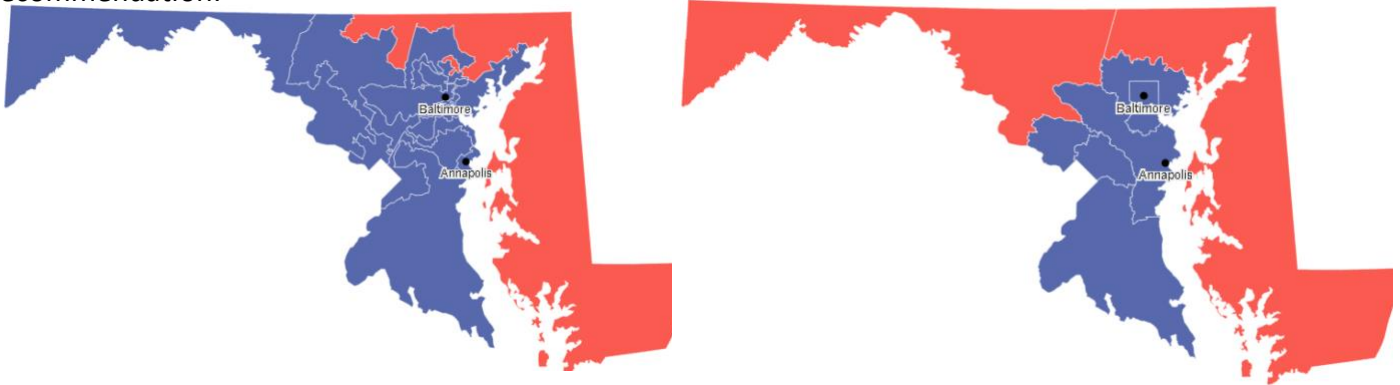
info@lwwmd.org

410-269-0232

<http://lwwashco.org>

REDISTRICTING NEWS

The multi-partisan Maryland Citizen Redistricting Commission (MCRC), established by Gov. Hogan, held numerous sessions around the state, taking public testimony, including from numerous League members from around the state. The MCRC presented final maps to Gov. Hogan on November 5, and he in turn proposed them to the MD General Assembly. Here is the current congressional map displayed next to the Commission's recommendation:



Our current congressional districts in MD, and the map proposed by Maryland Citizen established in 2011, Redistricting Commission.

You can look at congressional, MD Senate, and MD House of Delegates maps by [clicking here](#). Notice that this map shows county lines and the proposed Congressional districts largely follow those lines. Delegate districts must be nested within the Senate districts, but the Maryland Constitution allows single- or multi-member districts. The LWVMD urges local communities to advocate for local maps that work best for their communities.

While the process in MD allows the governor to propose redistricting maps, the General Assembly can draw its own maps (and the Democrats hold a veto-proof majority). To this end, the MD General Assembly established a Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission (LRAC), which has also held public meetings, accepted testimony, and drawn four draft maps. Their website provides some useful background on the redistricting process.

There are a couple of websites where you can see how outside organizations have “scored” the respective Maryland maps:

1. [FiveThirtyEight.com](#) is a site developed by ABC news.
2. The [Princeton Gerrymander Project](#) is also an excellent source for scoring.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the LRAC will have completed their final two public sessions. Because there is an election in 2022 and the deadline for filing to run for elective office is Tuesday, February 22nd at 9:00 p.m., the maps have to be adopted quickly. To that end the Governor has called a special legislative session that will convene on December 6, 2021.

In addition to redistricting, the Maryland General Assembly will also be meeting to address

Reviewing for possible override some of the vetoes Governor Hogan imposed
Electing a new state treasurer because of the retirement of Nancy Kopp.

LWVMD will be sending updates and progress on these important issues as time allows.

Great Decisions

Some LWV Wash Co members and friends gather monthly via Zoom to discuss international and national issues as presented in the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions program. After a short video they discuss information that has been presented in the Briefing Book that is part of the program.

This year's topics include Changing Demographics, Outer Space, Climate Change, Russia and the US, Myanmar and Asean, Quad Alliance Drug Policy in Latin America, Industrial Policy, and Biden's Agenda.

The new session of Great Decisions begins Tuesday January 25. You can RSVP on our website

<https://washington-lwvmaryland.nationbuilder.com>

For more information about the program visit Foreign Policy Association web site:

https://www.fpa.org/news/index.cfm?act=show_announcement&announcement_id=457

A new WESTERN MD LWV??

Over the past year the Washington County League has been touching base with League members in Garrett, Allegany and Carroll counties to discuss what it would look like for us to combine our membership efforts under one regional flag, much like the LWV Mid-Shore currently does for Talbot, Dorchester and Caroline counties. We have also reached out to the League in Frederick County to let them know what we are contemplating. (Frederick County's league has a rich history and with 109 members, enough to support a very active program, whereas the aforementioned counties have a combined membership of just under 30 members.)

At their board meeting on November 11, 2021, the LWV Washington County board approved a [draft set of bylaws](#) to be circulated and discussed by the League's western-most membership. Here are some of the clauses that relate to the proposed multi-county identity:

1. Added to Article III (MEMBERSHIP) - Members of LWVWMD must reside in Garrett, Allegany, Washington or Carroll Counties. (This and other clauses can certainly be later amended.)
2. Added to Article IV (MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS) - Electronic meetings, where feasible, will be the preferred method of conducting business.
3. Added to Article VI (BOARD OF DIRECTORS) - Presidential appointments to the board shall be used to ensure that there is board membership from each county in Western Maryland to the extent feasible. And
4. Added to Article IX (PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM) - Program studies relating to county-level issues must be undertaken primarily by members of the affected County. A study committee must have at least five (5) members.

We would love to have your thoughts and suggestions!

There is no particular timeline in mind at this time. If the membership is in agreement the fastest process might be to have these bylaws adopted at Washington County's next annual meeting in June, 2022, followed by filing of a DBA (Doing Business As) with the Maryland Secretary of State. Since Washington County is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(4) organization, the new entity could pursue (c)(3) status with the IRS as a second project.

Thoughts? Email [Richard Willson](#), President, LWV Washington County