

FYI

The Maryland General Assembly overrode Governor Hogan's veto of the bill that will allow someone released from prison to register to vote as soon as they are released, rather than waiting until the completion of their time on parole. The new rule will take effect March 10.

REMINDER

You may register to vote during Early Voting at any Early Voting site.



Second call for Poll Evaluators

It is only a few short months to Primary Day, that time every two years, when Leaguers get the chance to be active participants in the voting process. Early voting will be April 14th through April 21st and Primary Election Day will be April 26th. We need volunteers to cover 117 precincts, plus early voting locations. For those of you who have yet to do this, it is a very rewarding job, where we have the opportunity to spread out across the county, and demonstrate the League's value and service to the voters. Requirements are few - transportation, about 3 hours of your time on Election Day, about 1 hour for training (we have new voting machines this year) and the desire to assist the League and Howard County. There will be more details forthcoming. Please email or call Linda Wengel at lwengel@msn.com or [410-964-1671](tel:410-964-1671) to volunteer.

High School Voter Registration ~ We need volunteers!

More completed applications turned in to the Board of Elections:

- Glenelg High School--30
- Reservoir High School--163
- Wilde Lake High School--91

Upcoming dates for school registration:

Centennial High School--March 9 (We have enough volunteers for Centennial)

NEED 6 VOLUNTEERS:

Oakland Mills High School--March 16, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

We would like at least 6 volunteers for voter registration at Oakland Mills High School on March 16 @ 9:30--10:30. We will be doing voter registration in the auditorium, so we imagine students will be on the bleachers trying to complete the voter registration forms. Remember to bring your driver's license to check in at the front office. Please contact Janet Oaks at janetoaks@verizon.net if you are available to help out.

Calendar

March 1, Tues.
8:30 a.m.
LWVMD Legislative Day
Annapolis

March 3, Thurs.
7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting

March 9, Wed.
7:00 p.m.
Great Decisions

March 19, Sat.
1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Candidates' Forum
George Howard Bldg.

April 7, Thurs.
7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

LWVHC
5430 Vantage Point Road
Suite C
Columbia, MD 21044
Phone/Fax 410-730-0142
info@howard.lwvmd.org
www.howard.lwvmd.org

*The League of
Women Voters
is where hands-on
work to safeguard
democracy leads to
civic improvement.*



If you receive The Voter by postal mail and would like to change to only receiving it through the League's e-newsletter, please let us know at lwwhowardcounty@gmail.com.

The League of Women Voters of Howard County is busy protecting and promoting the voting right of our citizens. We protect and promote voter rights by keeping our citizens informed. We continue our voter registration drives in the high schools, create voter publications via voter guides, plan for our candidate forums and take action by providing verbal testimonies and writing letters to our community leaders. We address issues that concern our community.

In March we will offer nonpartisan information about issues and local candidates by providing forums. Our candidate forum will be March 19th at the George Howard Building. (More information on page 3.) Our forums are provided to educate our citizens about the candidates representing Howard County as a Board of Education member and U.S. House of Representative in Congress. Citizens can become informed as to where the candidates stand on issues that are important to this community. We enjoy making democracy work by engaging and taking action on the nonpartisan positions that make this county government better.

~Lillie Gallant
President, LWVHC



Presidential Voter Guide

Click on either link or paste link into your browser.

<http://www.vote411.org/voter-guide-2016#.Vs8ypZwrLIX>

GREAT DECISIONS



Great Decisions meeting is Wednesday, March 9, 7pm, with video beginning promptly at 7:30 at the Cripe's home, 10526 Catterskill Court, Columbia. The topic is the Islamic State. If you would like to join the group and need a textbook, contact Sue Buswell, 410-992-1169, srbuswell@aol.com. RSVP to Janis at 410-730-8091 or janiscripe@aol.com

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Nancy Berla

Linda Wengel

Joan Yurecsko



Articles, news, reports, and photos should be submitted by the 15th of each month for inclusion in the VOTER newsletter.

Please submit in Word format to: lwvhowardcounty@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

League of Women Voters of Howard County
Primary Election Candidates' Forum

The League of Women Voters of Howard County invites you to join us on March 19, 2016, from 1-5 p.m., for our Candidates' Forum with Howard County's candidates for the Board of Education and the U.S. House of Representatives. The forum will be held in the Banneker Room in the George Howard Building at 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, 21043. The event will be available via live streaming at <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/online-tools/watch-us>. The forum will also be rebroadcast on Howard County Government Television (GTV) channel 44 on Verizon and channel 99 on Comcast.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOWARD COUNTY, INC.
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOWARD COUNTY EDUCATION FUND, INC.
5430 Vantage Point Road, Suite C
Columbia MD 21044
Tel./fax: 410-730-0142
info@howard.lwvmd.org
www.howard.lwvmd.org

League of Women Voters of Howard County

PRIMARY CANDIDATE FORUM

March 19, 2016 – 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Banneker Room, George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City

U.S. House of Representatives, Districts 2, 3, and 7 Candidates

Board of Education Candidates

Tentative Schedule

1:00	LWVHC Opening Statement
1:05 – 1:50	Congress, District 2
1:50 – 2:30	Congress, District 3
2:30 – 3:15	Congress, District 7
3:15 – 4:50	Board of Education
4:50	LWVHC Closing Statement

Howard County Lobby Night in Annapolis – Feb. 8, 2016

LWVHC participated in the Maryland Climate Coalition Lobby Night by helping to organize visits to our Howard County Delegation in Annapolis.

What was so important to get us out on a frigid Monday night? The need to talk to our delegation about two pieces of legislation that have the potential to save lives, create jobs and stimulate the economy.

Over half of Maryland's electricity still comes from fossil fuels that emit tons of heat trapping gases – carbon, methane and nitrous oxide – into the atmosphere daily. Warming atmosphere holds more water and contributes to an altered climate characterized by extreme and unpredictable weather. Extreme storms cost Maryland taxpayers more than \$70 million in 2011-12. We're particularly vulnerable in Maryland because our 3,190 miles of coastline is threatened by sea levels that could rise two feet by 2050 and more than five feet by the end of the century.

This is why it's so important that we renew the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act, which is due to expire at the end of this year. This act provided the framework for developing a multi-year plan to reduce carbon emissions 25 percent below 2006 levels by 2020. A recent study by the Maryland Department of the Environment shows that we are well on our way toward achieving this goal and at the same time, programs will result in estimated economic benefit of between \$2.5 billion and \$3.5 billion in increased economic output by 2020 and help create and maintain between 26,000 and 33,000 new jobs.

The new *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act*, SB 323/HB 610, has a new goal of a 40 percent reduction in greenhouse gas by 2030. This goal is realistic and the bi-partisan Maryland Climate Change Commission, appointed by Gov. Larry Hogan, unanimously recommended the same goal.

Also important to the future of the state is the *Clean Energy Jobs Act - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Revisions*, SB 921/HB 1106. As a major feature of the original climate plan, the portfolio requires a certain percentage of the total energy source be designated for sources of clean, renewable energy. That percentage is being increased to 25 percent by 2020 in this legislation.

A new feature is a substantial financial commitment to clean renewable energy jobs training and establishment of the Clean Energy Workforce Account in the Maryland EARN Program through the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. The Clean Energy Business Development Account in the legislation will provide support for minority and women-owned clean energy businesses.

Maryland's solar industry already includes more than 170 companies and over 4,300 jobs today, due in part, to the State's current clean energy standard. The Clean Energy Jobs bill will build on the progress of the current initiative.

LWVMD sent an Action Alert on Monday, Feb. 15 asking that League members call their representatives in Annapolis this week to ask for their support and to thank those who have signed on as sponsors. The General Assembly website, mgaleg.maryland.gov allows you to enter the number of the bill and get the text and a list of sponsors. There is also a feature that allows you to email your representatives.

So if you want cleaner energy, a stronger economy and a healthier community in Howard County, contact your legislators this week. And join LWVHC at the LWVMD Legislative Luncheon on March 1 with guest speaker Ben Grumbles, Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Betsy Singer, LWVHC, Environment

Del. Clarence Lam meets with District 12 constituents Ellie Chetelet, Shari Glenn and LWVHC Lobby Team leader Betsy Singer to talk about clean energy bills during Lobby Night in Annapolis Feb. 8.



LWVHC Membership Corner

by Betty Harries - - bjharries@hotmail.com or contact League office, 410-730-0142

*** * * WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:** Ronica Alexander
 Cara Koontz (student member)

AND RETURNING MEMBER: Mary Catherine Cochran

Don't forget that new members joining in March get an extra month of membership. The membership won't expire until April 30, 2017. Encourage you friends and others to **JOIN US NOW!**

As you know February was the LWV's birthday month. **LWV United States** celebrated its **96th birthday** and our **Howard County LWV is celebrating our 70th year**. If you haven't made a donation to the Howard County League this year - there's still time. Contributions make a huge difference to our League. A general donation can be made payable to 'LWVHC' (not tax deductible) or you can make a tax deductible donation to our Education Fund 'LWVHCEF'. The Education Fund money is used to provide election information and other important informational materials to the public. **Mail your contribution to our League office today!**

Moving? Address, phone or email change?

Please call the League office or email me with your new information. (See contact info - top of page.)

Stay in touch - Betty

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM - (Membership Year: May 1, 2015 - April 30, 2016)

Note: new members joining in March 2016 are paid until April 30, 2017

Date: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone : (Preferred number where we can reach you) _____ Email: _____

_____ \$60.00 INDIVIDUAL one-year membership

_____ \$82.50 HOUSEHOLD one-year membership (for two members who share an address)

_____ \$20.00 STUDENT

_____ Contribution of \$ _____

Please make checks **payable to LWVHC**

Mail to **League of Women Voters of Howard County, Inc., 5430 Vantage Point Road, Suite C, Columbia, MD 21044**

(Dues are NOT tax deductible. For tax-deductible contributions, please write check to LWVHCEF)

GIANT FOOD STORE GIFT CARD ORDER FORM

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Phone/Fax:

410-730-0142

info@howard.lwvmd.org

www.howard.lwvmd.org

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone (Hm) _____ (Wk) _____

Email: _____

I am ordering \$_____ in Giant Gift/debit cards as follows:
_____ # \$50 cards

My check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

_____ I will pick up at the League office.

_____ Please mail my Gift Card (Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope)

_____ Other arrangements (Please contact Nancy Berla)

Please make checks payable to LWVHC

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