

MONTGOMERY VOTER



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

Promoting political responsibility through informed
and active participation in government

2017/18 • No. 1 • September 2017

Trending Topics: Facts Behind the Headlines, Voter Rolls, Election Security, Monitoring

Is our voter registration roll accurate? Who has access to it and how are people removed? Are our voting units and tabulating processes tamper-proof? How are our polling places monitored?

Get the answers on Monday, September 25, 2017, from 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. at the Rockville Library, 2nd floor meeting room, from the experts at the State and Montgomery County Board of Elections. SBE Deputy Administrator Nikki Charlson will join Montgomery Board President James Shalleck, Secretary Mary Ann Keefe, and Election Director Margaret Jurgensen to explain how Maryland elections operate behind-the-scenes. They are actively involved year-round ensuring that citizens have access to a free and fair election process.



September Discussion Groups – What’s Coming Up in 2017-2018?

Are you new to the League of Women Voters or not sure what the committees are? Here’s your opportunity to hear the topics to be discussed this year and to put in your few cents about what issues and questions are important to you. Come to one or more of the Discussion Groups in September. Check the calendar and see the enclosed Fact Sheet!! You are welcome at any or all of the DGs!!

New Discussion Group in Gaithersburg Sunday Afternoons

In order to accommodate working women and men in and those in the Upcounty area, the Montgomery League will now have a monthly Discussion Group that will meet on Sunday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. at the Lakelands Club House, 960 Main Street, Gaithersburg.

Those who have been working for the past 6 to 9 months on this project are excited about the new group and hope to see many new faces.

We also hope to see some familiar faces. A number of those who have expressed an interest in the Discussion Group have been traveling to the Silver Spring area to attend the only evening group; others have not been attending any discussion group. We also welcome Leaguers from the daytime group at Asbury Methodist Village, who for many years attended there.

The September 10 meeting will be getting to know each other and talking about the coming year. We are also pleased to have Gaithersburg City Councilman Neil Harris as our guest speaker.

Directions to the Lakelands Club House:

- Great Seneca Highway to Lakelands Drive, right on Market Street and a right on Main Street (at stop sign). The Club House (3-story white building) is straight ahead.
- Or Route 28 to Main Street and just follow it around, past the middle school, until you see the Club House. Parking is on the street.

Info:

Carol Blackburn:301-569-6076; carolmta@comcast.net
or

Judy Whiton, 301-467-0449; jhwhit0n@msn.com

Tel: (301) 984-9585 • Email: lwvmc@erols.com • Web: lwvmocomd.org

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County 101 Study Cathleen Barnes 240-678-6265 cathleenmbarnes@gmail.com	Renting & Renters in MC Study Melpi Jeffries 301-530-5452 melpijeffries@verizon.net Sally Roman 301-933-7956 sallyroman@yahoo.com
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Education / Early Childhood Education Study Maxine Lewack 301-847-9527 mglewack@gmail.com	NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Nevie Brooks 301-518-9875
Election Services Sylvia Brown Olivetti 301-704-1838 sbolivetti@gmail.com	

President's Letter

"I believe in democracy, because it releases the energies of every human being."
- Woodrow Wilson



In his best-selling book, *Bowling Alone*, Robert Putnam cites the ebb and flow of civic activity in the United States. Every major association that he examined –the PTA, the League of Women Voters, and others -- sharply expanded its “market share” between the mid- 1940s and the mid- 1960s. Unfortunately, this civic activity eroded sharply over the past two generations.

LWVMC has been a good example of this situation until recently. This past year our membership has seen a dramatic increase and we now have over 400 Leaguers. As I begin my term as your new League president, one of my goals is to find ways to grow our membership and to engage these new members as well as our ‘experienced’ ones.

Visibility is key! Whether we are registering new voters, attending civic meetings, or passing out Voters’ Guides at Metro stops, League members show up.

And, speaking of showing up, plan to attend a discussion group meeting in September for a lively discussion of “What’s Up With the League”. Bring a friend (or more!). Please note the new discussion group lineup: Tuesday AM has merged into the Sunday afternoon Upcounty DG, and Wednesday Noon has merged with the Rossmoor DG.

An early morning Discussion Group or an after work DG are possibilities. If either of these groups interest you, let us know and we can assist with the planning.

Thanks to a wonderful board, LWVMC is off to an excellent start to this 2017-2018 year. It will be another busy one, ending with the Primary election at the end of June. I hope you all have enjoyed a restful summer and are ready for action!

See you in September!
- Nancy



THANK YOU!
The Montgomery County League is providing this special thank-you to an additional **Sustainer** level donor to our April 9th Sunday at the Movies fundraiser: Patrick Larkin, III of Larkin Wealth Management Group.

SEPTEMBER 2017 EVENTS CALENDAR

12216 Parklawn Drive, Ste. 105, Rockville, Md. 20852-1710

All meetings are open to the public. LWVMC Office & Montgomery County libraries are handicap-accessible

KEY: M = Monday, Tu = Tuesday, W = Wednesday, Th = Thursday, F = Friday, Sa = Saturday, Su = Sunday

a = am, n = noon, p = pm or midnight, I = insert, S = story, C = contact

DATE	EVENT/TIME/LOCATION	
SEPTEMBER 2017		
4, M	Labor Day – LWVMC & LWVMD Offices CLOSED	
6, W	LWVMC Board Meeting, 9:45 am, LWVMC Office	
6, W	Discussion Group Council, 12:30 pm, LWVMC Office	
10-14, Su-Th	Discussion Groups - What's Coming Up in 2017-18? see p4	
18, M	11th Annual LWVMD Constitution Day Program, 12 noon	
	UMD Francis King Carey School of Law, Baltimore, see Insert	
23, Sa	LWVMD Fall Workshop, 10 am	
25, M	Trending Topics – Rockville Library, 6:45 pm – 8:30 pm, see p1 & Insert	
	Topic: Facts Behind the Headlines: Voter Rolls, Election Security, Monitoring	
26, Tu	National Voter Registration Day	
OCTOBER 2017		
4, W	LWVMC Board Meeting, 9:45 am, LWVMC Office	
4, W	Discussion Group Council, 12:30 pm, LWVMC Office	
7, Sa	LWVNCA Kickoff Campaign for Metro Funding, see Insert	
8-12, Su-Th	Discussion Groups: LWVMD Primary Elections Study	
9, M	Columbus Day – LWVMC & LWVMD Offices CLOSED	
16, M	LWVMC Fall Luncheon, 12:00 – 2:00 pm, Far East Restaurant, Rockville, see Insert	
22, Su	LWVMD Fall Fundraiser	
COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER		
No Sept Meeting	Agriculture	
20, W, 10a	Communications	LWVMC Office
Contact Cathleen Barnes	County 101 Study	LWVMC Office
5, Tu, 10a	Economic Development	LWVMC Office
8, F, 1:30p	Education	LWVMC Office
No Sept Meeting	HHS / Substance Use & Abuse Study	
14, Th, 1:30p	Housing / Rental Study	5905 Anniston Rd, Bethesda
28, Th, 2p	International Relations	LWVMC Office
22, F, 10a	Land Use & Transportation	LWVMC Office
19, Tu, 7p	Making Democracy Work	LWVMC Office
7, Th, 10a	Membership	LWVMC Office
29, F, 1:30p	Natural Resources	LWVMC Office

SEPTEMBER 2017 DISCUSSION GROUPS

What's Coming Up in 2017 – 2018? Come Share Your Views!

All meetings are open to the public. Meetings held at the LWVMC office, Leisure World and Riderwood are handicap-accessible

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

2:00 PM UPCOUNTY
Lakelands Clubhouse
960 Main Street, Gaithersburg
Contact: Carol Blackburn,
301-569-6076

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

1:00 PM RIDERWOOD
Village Square Classroom 1
Riderwood, Silver Spring
Contact: Ruth Sachs, 301-960-9755

2:00 PM ROCKVILLE PM
LWVMC Office
Contact: Mary Lanigan,
240-687-0517

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

7:30 PM TUESDAY PM
8133 Grove Street, Silver Spring
Contact: Ralph Watkins,
301-787-7170

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

9:30 AM BETHESDA/POTOMAC
9608 Hawick Lane, Kensington
Contact: Margaret Chasson,
301-942-0497

10:15 AM ROSSMOOR/LEISURE WORLD
Leisure World Clubhouse 1
3701 Rossmoor Boulevard,
Silver Spring
Contact: Maxine Lewack,
301-847-9527

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

9:30 AM SILVER SPRING
10407 Royal Road, Silver Spring
Contact: Gwyn Fields 301-439-4356

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We look forward to meeting you.
Please join us at a Discussion Group,
Committee meeting or Trending Topics.

Bethesda

20817 Carolyn Reines-Graubard

Gaithersburg

20877 Patricia Johnson
20878 Hilary Roschke
North Potomac 20878 Cynthia Taylor
20879 Lisa Mendizabal
20882 Joan Wiggins
20886 Stephanie Graves

Germantown

20874 Kristin Jenkins

Kensington

20895 Stephen Daubresse

Rockville

20851 Sara Ketchum
20852 Keri Zolman

Silver Spring

20901 Lori Borrud
20901 Amanda Harvey
20901 Barbara Tobias
20901 Danielle Wren
20902 Brigid Howe
20903 Jim Fields
20904 David Ackerman
20904 Sally Hunt
20904 Miriam Metzger
20904 Diane Pettit
20906 Rosalind Kipping
20914 Elana Harris

NEW STUDY, Looking at the County

The County 101 Study Group is beginning to figure out the scope and approach of the study and the group is interested in your views. Please take a moment and answer the following questions:

- What would you like to know about how your county government operates?
- What do you think should be the focus of the study?
- What questions should the study attempt to answer?

Send your thoughts and suggestions to Cathleen Barnes, cathleenmbarnes@gmail.com

And, the Study Group welcomes new participants any time!
- Cathleen Barnes

LWVMC

Save the Date! October 16 Fall luncheon looks at changes in Montgomery County

Lily Qi, Montgomery County Assistant Chief Administrative Officer for economic and workforce development, will be our speaker at the LWVMC Fall Luncheon. The topic will be "Montgomery County: Changing Community and Changing Economy."

Lily is responsible for the County's overall economic strategies, business climate issues, economic communication and strategic partnerships with key organizations and institutions. She has been recognized for her professional accomplishments and community leadership, encouraging civic and political engagement of immigrant communities.

The Fall Luncheon will be Monday, October 16, 2017, at the Far East Restaurant, 5055 Nicholson Lane, Rockville. There will be a buffet lunch, the cost is \$30. Submit payment to LWVMC by October 9 to reserve a spot! Check the insert for registration information.

- From Chris Hager

Populism - What's in a Name?

Over the last several years we've all heard a lot from the media about the rise of populism. Both Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump have been labeled populists, not to mention a succession of European leaders from Marine LePen of France's National Front to Alexis Tsipras, leader of Greece's Syriza party. But, what is populism? Is it a belief, a movement, a political strategy? And what is its effect on democratic institutions?

The IR committee has just begun exploring this subject and for the coming year will be examining populist parties in Europe and the US to better understand them.

We'd love to hear from people interested in joining this study or just interested in dropping in to see what we are up to.

Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, September 28, at 2 p.m. in the League Office. Contact Judy Whiton, Chair, at jhwhit0n@msn.com / 301-467-0449

- Judy Whiton, International Relations Committee



Land Use and Transportation: Would You Believe?

Would you believe that everyone in Montgomery County...
Loves how empty properties are developed?
Loves how they can keep track of county zoning issues?
Loves how farmland is being preserved and business areas are developed?
Loves how all traffic flows smoothly?
Loves how their bus is within walking distance?
Loves how transportation is affecting the environment?
Loves how funding for transportation is easy?

Reality says that there are many concerns that affect both land use and transportation. These two issues are entwined. We at LWVMC think that it's important to be able to follow county issues and weigh in on what's happening for both land use and transportation. We also think the state and region are important. If you are interested in how the region's mobility and land use develops, we'd love to have you be part of our committee.

Our next scheduled committee meeting is Friday, Sept. 22, at 10 a.m. in the LWVMC office, but..... would you prefer evening meetings with your schedule? We'd love to hear from people interested in joining the committee and when it's best to meet. Please contact us!

- Bee Ditzler



METRO Fund It – Fix It! A Call to Action

Metro rail and Metro buses are vital links within the DC region. Join with others from Virginia, DC and Maryland at a WMATA forum hosted by LWVNCA and the Fund It Fix It Coalition on Saturday, October 7. Mark your calendars to meet with regional transportation experts and concerned citizens; learn and strategize about how to fund and fix WMATA so it becomes the safe, efficient and reliable transportation system that this region desperately needs.

Check the insert for registration and more information!
- Nancy Soreng/Bee Ditzler

LWVMC

Early Voting Centers and Precinct Polling Places: Make Your Voice Heard on the 2018 Locations

2018 Early Voting Centers for the Gubernatorial Primary and General Elections are under review. Montgomery County is expanding early voter choices to 11 different sites. A list of the centers previously used and suggestions of new sites are available at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/2018PollingPlaces/2018PollingPlaceChanges.html>.

The Board of Elections is accepting suggestions for other sites not appearing on the list. Email new suggestions to the Board. Comments or preferences about the listed recommendations should be submitted in writing or notify the Board of your desire to speak at the September 18 Board meeting. Visit the Public Comments process at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/BoardInformation/PublicParticipation.html>.

An alternate way of participating is on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 10:00 a.m. through noon at the Montgomery County Executive Office Building Auditorium, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, Maryland 20850. The Board's staff will conduct a public review of the sites under consideration, and public comments will be heard.

Additionally, there are some proposed polling place changes for 2018, primarily due to issues with prior locations or alterations in some electoral districts. The proposed changes under review are available from a link at www.777vote.org. They will be discussed at the Board meeting held on September 18, 2017, where public comment may also be made.

- Barbara Sanders

LWVMC Board highlights

From the June Board Meeting:

- There was agreement that holding the Annual Meeting on Saturday morning at Leisure World worked well and that we should do that again next year.

- We agreed to offer to host the 2019 State Convention in Montgomery County. (Our offer has been accepted.)

- There was discussion of ways to engage new and working members and of a plan (in progress) to track volunteer hours (useful data to include in grant applications).

From the August Board Meeting:

- Donna Copeland has resigned from the LWVMC Board and Judy Cochran was appointed in her place. Also appointed to the Board are: Marcia Bond, Marcia Kingman, Ralph Watkins, and Judy Whiton.

- The LWVVMC Board members were appointed to serve as the trustees of the Citizen Education Fund.

- The LWVMC-CEF budget was approved by the CEF trustees with only minor changes from the one included in the Annual Meeting Workbook.

- We will be printing 2700 copies of the Your Voice bookmark in English, and 900 in Spanish; we plan to distribute supplies to all the libraries.

- The League's desk calendars have been ordered and should be delivered in late August. We hope members will find us a few additional calendar outlets.

- Judy Morenoff

LWV Calendar Available

Our wonderful calendar is great as a gift and REALLY great as PR. All of our members buy calendars for themselves, their families and their friends -- they make super holiday gifts. The Calendar Committee sells calendars at various outlets throughout the county. Most of these outlets are down or middle county and we love them all. As our membership grows and moves upcounty we would like to have some upcounty sales outlets.

We know there are small businesses around the county that you frequent that may sell the calendars for us if asked. If you know a place that seems to fit the bill, would you be able to be a contact for the committee?

A contact would supply the business with calendars and then once a month go back to get any monies and resupply. The commitment is from September through February.

If interested and know a business, please contact Gretchen Blankenship at blankeng.g@aol.com.

LWVMC

Update on Lawn Pesticides Regulation

When Montgomery County followed Takoma Park in 2015 by voting to ban “cosmetic” lawn pesticides, effective in 2018, LWVMC was a strong supporter of this move to decrease unnecessary human, animal, and plant exposure to pesticides. On August 3, 2017, a judge ruled that only the state could make this kind of decision. Stay tuned to learn of any future actions. [Meanwhile think about decreasing your own usage voluntarily, please.]

- Linda Silversmith, co-vice president for action

Action Report

While the late spring and summer months are often a quiet time for local League action, we have two actions to report on at this time:

(1) LWVMC wrote to the County Council in late April to support funding of Bus Rapid Transit, “Flash” on Route 29.

(2) LWVMC wrote to the County Executive -- with a copy to the County Council – in mid-summer to thank Mr. Leggett for (a) stating clearly and publicly that our county is willing to continue and expand its efforts to combat climate change (in contrast to the current federal position) and (b) for adding Montgomery County as a member of the new U.S. Climate Alliance, which aims to achieve the goals of the Paris accord.

- Linda Silversmith and Adrienne McBride,
co-vice presidents for action

Conversion of LWVMC to 501(c)(3) Status

At its Annual Meeting on May 20, 2017, members of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Inc. voted to continue the process of converting LWVMC to 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit status. It also adopted two new by-laws whose wording is required by the Internal Revenue Service for 501 (c)(3) status. If approved by the IRS, LWVMC would take over most of the functions of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County Citizen Education Fund.

Advantages of making the change include the simplification of administrative expenses, especially the elimination of one set of financial records, and tax deductibility of dues and contributions. It is hoped that increased contributions and grants for non-educational activities will also result.

A lengthy application to the IRS for the change in status was submitted in June along with an application fee of \$750. It is expected that it will be several months before we hear back from them.

- Barbara Hankins

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



NAME: Cynthia (Cyn) Taylor

FIRST HOMETOWN: Westland, MI

FAVORITE HOMETOWN: Whenever/
wherever I’m with friends and family

LEISURE OBSESSION: Sipping wine in my
hammock; hiking

WHAT I’M GLAD I’M GOOD AT: I’m a very
logical thinker with pretty good problem-
solving skills. I can’t spell worth a darn and
don’t ever believe me if I quote some number
to you, but I’m often able to see the big picture
and boil it down to its essence. This skill
has helped a lot in both my professional and
personal life.

SECRET AMBITION: Wow, this is hard. I tend
to be an “experience” seeker, so I’ve already
realized a lot of my ambitions. At the same
time, I still have a fairly long list, and nothing
on there is secret. So let’s go with this: Learn
to read music and play a recognizable tune on
my ukulele.

LEAGUE-SINCE WHEN, WHERE, WHY? I’m
a new member, who just joined the Montgom-
ery County League this past June. I’ve used
the League’s Voters Guide for years, and
respect the organization’s efforts to protect
our democracy by supporting an informed,
involved electorate.

LEAGUE-WHY NOW? I’ve been involved in
various aspects of the election process for
years, but have become increasingly con-
cerned about the growing threat to voter rights
throughout the country. After checking out a
number of organizations, I believe the League
is the best fit for me in this regard.

LOOK FOR THESE INSERTS INSIDE YOUR VOTER:

Fact Sheet: What's Coming Up In 2017-2018

Flyers: LWVMD Constitution Day Program – Sept 18 / LWVMC Fall Workshop – Sept 23

Trending Topics: How MD Elections Operate - Sept 25

LWVNCA Metro Forum: Fund it, Fix it – Oct 7 / LWVMC Fall Luncheon – Oct 16

2017-18 Program Calendar & Board Portfolios (Please put these new pages in your Member Handbook)

**September 2017 Issue
2017/18 No. 1**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FOR OCTOBER 2017 ISSUE:
Thursday, Sept. 7
news@lwmocomd.org**

Stay Connected to LWVMC!

301-984-9585

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Donate today online



**JOIN HERE! JOIN NOW!
HERE'S WHY**

LWV MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

12216 Parklawn Dr, Suite 105, Rockville, MD 20852

The women and men of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County promote good government through non-partisan, grassroots volunteer work.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL (H) _____ EMAIL _____

We—

- Examine Issues
- Educate Citizens
- Register Voters
- Participate in Advocacy

ANNUAL DUES

Regular Membership \$65.00 _____

2nd member, same house \$32.50 _____

Student Membership \$20.00 _____

Optional Contribution _____

(Non-deductible) TOTAL _____

Membership includes affiliation with the League of Women Voters of Maryland and the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Please make your check payable to: LWVMC
Or use credit card at: lwmocomd.org