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Published by LWVMC 05-2019
WELCOME TO THE LEAGUE!

This Handbook is your League reference source. It includes information you will want to refer to often:

- Now That You Belong, What Can You Do?
- our Mission Statement (who we are and what we are working for);
- our calendar for the year;
- our Board list (the people to call if you would like to help or have questions or suggestions);
- our Discussion Groups (regular monthly meetings, which become the “home base” for many of us in the League);
- LWVMC Bylaws;
- our Program and Positions — our plans for studies this year and the local (LWVMC), National Capital Area (LWVNCA), state (LWVMD) and national (LWVUS) support positions which we have reached through study, discussion and member agreement, and on which we base our action.

Updates to this handbook will be provided from time to time as inserts in the Montgomery Voter or separate mailings.

We look forward to your active participation in League activities and studies.
BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP: Membership in the League makes a difference! We provide the chance to learn about and work on issues that the community cares about – from health to schools, environment and election reform. There are also opportunities for personal growth – to sharpen or put to use skills in leadership, writing, public speaking and research – to make new friends and valuable personal and professional contacts. You’re welcome to select the level of involvement that is right for you and your schedule – to participate as much, or as little, as you like.

HOW TO KNOW WHAT’S HAPPENING: Read our monthly newsletter, Montgomery Voter, check out our website (lwvmocomd.org), follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/lwvmocomd.org/), Twitter (twitter.com/mocomdlwv), Instagram (instagram.com/lwvmocomd/) and YouTube (youtube.com/channel/UC8Yny1ltm7sYk4YeNAP_aFA).

VOTER SERVICE AND CITIZEN EDUCATION: Join our efforts to provide services, information, and motivation for voting and active participation in government. Our Making Democracy Work committee coordinates our efforts to register voters, produce and distribute our Voters’ Guides (hard copy available at all Montgomery County libraries and other sites throughout the county and online at VOTE411.org), sponsor candidates’ forums, and reach out to areas and groups with lower voting numbers. Our Trending Topics programs (held monthly in Montgomery County libraries) are open to the public and feature speakers on a variety of lively issues.

DISCUSSION GROUPS: Join other League members at one of our discussion groups, which hold regular monthly meetings at various times and locations during the second week of each month to discuss a timely topic that’s the subject of the Fact Sheet in that month’s Voter. Each month’s Fact Sheet is prepared by a League Resource Committee, the result of their work during the past year (or two); some topics are local (upcoming ballot questions, schools, health services or transportation) and some are statewide (the primary election process, gun control, marriage equality, state funding for education). Some are “for information only”; other months we seek “consensus” in order to develop positions on which the League can base advocacy.

RESOURCE COMMITTEES: Join a committee studying a topic or monitoring government activity in an area of particular interest to you – Agriculture, Economic Development, Education, Health & Human Services, Housing, International Relations, Land Use/Transportation, Making Democracy Work, Natural Resources. No prior knowledge is required, just an interest in learning more.

ADVOCACY: Be part of the action to enact new laws or amend existing ones, in ways that conform to our League positions. When the League has reached consensus on an issue, we monitor, testify, write, call or visit elected officials and educate the public about the topic. Only the League President speaks for the League, but League members receive Calls to Action, from time to time, urging that they contact their elected officials as individual constituents to express their stand on an issue. It’s our combined voices that make the impact!

AND PAYING FOR IT ALL: Your dues are divided among (and make you a member of) the four levels of League: our local league (LWVMC), our regional inter-league organization (LWVNCA, bringing together the Leagues of the National Capital Area), and the state (LWVM) and national (LWVUS) Leagues. Locally, we keep about 1/4 of your dues payment. So to cover the costs of our small office, our part-time office manager, our monthly newsletter (the Montgomery Voter), and all our voter service publications and activities, we rely on member and non-member contributions and four main fundraisers: the sale of our calendars, the Polling Place Support Program, conducting elections for municipalities and condominium organizations and an annual fundraising event (e.g., Sunday at the Movies). Your contributions and your participation in those efforts make all that we do possible!

USE AND SHARE OUR PUBLICATIONS:
League of Women Voters of Montgomery County:
Your Voice, Your Vote: a compact flyer full of information about registering to vote and the three ways of voting: in person on Election Day, early voting at sites around the county and voting by mail.
Your Elected Officials (formerly The Elected): a flyer listing all our federal, state, and county elected officials with their contact information and committee assignments.

Voters’ Guide: our non-partisan source of voter information, bringing you all the candidates’ qualifications and positions on key issues in their own words, as well as explanations of the ballot questions. The print version is available at libraries and other sites around the county. The interactive online version can be found at VOTE411.org.

Member Handbook: distributed to all members, this booklet is a reference source providing our program calendar for the year, and contact information for our Board members and Discussion Group leaders. Also included are our mission, our bylaws, our budgets and the full text of the local, LWVNCA and LWVMD issue positions (and brief summaries of the LWVUS positions) on which we base our advocacy.

League of Women Voters of Maryland (available online at lwvmd.org):

Maryland Voter: LWVMD’s newsletter published 3 times annually, covering state issues and activities.

Report from State Circle: a state League newsletter published 6 times during the annual state legislative session, it covers bills that the League is following. It’s available free online or by subscription in hard copy.

Study and Action: a booklet describing the origin of LWVMD positions (the studies that led to them) and the history of their use.

League of Women Voters of the United States (available on line at lwv.org)

Impact on Issues: a booklet listing all the national positions and describing their origin and the history of their use.

MISSION AND BELIEFS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MISSION: The League of Women Voters of the United States, 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.

VISION, BELIEFS, AND INTENTIONS: The goal of the League of Women Voters of the United States is to empower people to shape better communities worldwide. We are a nonpartisan political membership organization.

WE:

- act after study and member agreement to achieve solutions in the public interest on key community issues at all government levels
- build citizen participation in the democratic process
- engage communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy

WE BELIEVE IN:

- respect for individuals
- the value of diversity
- the empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League and in communities
- the power of collective decision-making for the common good

WE WILL:

- act with trust, integrity and professionalism
- operate in an open and effective manner to meet the needs of those we serve, both members and the public
- take the initiative in seeking diversity in membership
- acknowledge our heritage as we seek our path to the future
The Bylaws of the League of Women Voters (LWVUS and LWVMC) state that the League "shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate." This policy of nonpartisanship has always been a source of strength to the LWV and must be zealously guarded. It is the cornerstone of our Voters Service program. Candidates are willing to appear in our forums and give us material for our Voters’ Guides because they have confidence that they will be treated fairly and the material will not be used for partisan purposes. This same reputation accounts for the confidence placed in our material by other organizations, by newspapers and by interested citizens.

The League's purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected government issues. It urges all its members to become fully informed about candidates and issues, and it encourages all members, except its directors and those members who represent the LWV before the public, to work actively in the party of their choice. League members may seek an active role in the nomination of candidates for public office, run for office, stimulate public discussion of candidates and their views during the campaign, urge citizen commitment to parties and candidates by means of political contributions and, in general, take part in the political activities of their choice.

In order to protect the League's nonpartisan reputation, it is important that all LWVMC members and the public understand the following:

1. The League takes positions only on governmental issues and not on candidates for elective (governmental) office.
2. The League is nonpartisan, not bipartisan, which means representing two parties; the League represents no party.
3. Every LWVMC member must take the responsibility for clearly differentiating between her/his personal opinions and League positions.

All LWVMC members are expected to keep their League activity and their political activity completely separate and distinct. For example, members may not distribute League materials at the same time as material for a candidate or a party. This applies to partisan and nonpartisan elections of any type.

The nonpartisan political policy applies to directors (elected, appointed, acting, nominated) and members who represent the League before the public.

HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND, INC.

The League of Women Voters (LWV) was established in 1920, the year that women's suffrage was finally incorporated into the Constitution, to help newly enfranchised women become informed voters. Mrs. Lavinia Hauke Engle and her daughter, Miss Lavinia Engle, organized the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County (LWVMC) in 1920. Mrs. Engle was the first President of the Montgomery County League.

Although written records prior to 1938 have been lost, we have been told the LWV helped to rewrite a number of state laws relating to basic good government and social programs during its first 15 years. Seminars, luncheons, and tours of the county were some LWV activities of the 1930s. Reorganization in 1937 and 1938 established study groups, regular executive meetings, and monthly general membership meetings. A Constitution and Bylaws were adopted in 1939. The first annual meeting was held in 1940. The Depression, as well as gas rationing during World War II, brought about the gradual change to smaller discussion groups, our present unit system (now called Discussion Groups).
The League was involved in the successful campaign for the first county charter in Maryland. In 1968 the LWVMC supported the present council-executive form of government, a charter revision.

Before elections, the LWVMC has registered voters and has provided voter information through our Voters’ Guides, VOTE411.org (an online Voter’s Guide), the LWVMC web page at lwvmocomd.org, a voters service phone hotline, debates and our Speakers Bureau. The LWVMC has produced publications such as Know Your County and Your Elected Officials (formerly The Elected), and led Civic Engagement outreach.

The LWVMC has been active in supporting governmental programs to meet the needs identified by our members through the study and consensus process. Our current policy positions, developed over the years and reaffirmed annually, enable us to bring a multi-issue, countywide perspective to our testimony.

In 1974, in keeping with its policy of providing information for all voters, the League of Women Voters extended full voting membership to men.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LWVMC PRESIDENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lavinia Hauke Engle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Eugene Stevens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lillian Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Willie Day Perry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Livingston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alice Hostetler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betty Morehouse</td>
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<td>Edith Dinwoodey (3 months)</td>
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<td>Irene Sandifer</td>
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<td>Marge Garfield</td>
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<td>Dorothy Himstead</td>
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<td>Marie Bennett</td>
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<td>Helen Smith</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Rohr</td>
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<td>Gretchen Casey</td>
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<td>Frances Schell</td>
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<td>Helen Derryberry</td>
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**TALKING IN LEAGUE TERMS - A GLOSSARY**

**Action** - upon reaching consensus or concurrence, the League works to educate the public and influence pertinent governmental decisions. Action taken in the name of the League must be authorized by the appropriate local, state, regional or national League Board.

**Action Alert** - a carefully timed request from a League Board asking members to contact their elected officials about an issue on pending legislation (on which the League has a position).

**Annual Meeting** - the local League's yearly membership meeting to adopt a program, approve the budget, elect new officers and give direction to the Board for the next year's focus and scope of studies and possible action.
Candidates Forum - forum arranged by the League Voters Service (Making Democracy Work) committee at which candidates for a public office are invited to present their platforms and answer questions from the audience regarding issues. May be co-sponsored with other nonpartisan groups.

Concurrence - agreement with a position already reached by another League.

Consensus - agreement reached among a substantial number of League members after study and discussion of a particular issue. Not a simple majority or a unanimous decision.

Legislative Supper - annual supper to meet with representatives in the Maryland General Assembly prior to the annual legislative session.

National Convention - biennial meeting of the national Board and of delegates chosen by local Boards, held in even numbered years. The delegates adopt national program and budget for the next two years, elect officers and directors, and conduct other necessary business.

Non-Recommended Item - a study suggested by members but not included in the Board proposed program. Members may vote to consider and adopt a non-recommended item at the annual meeting.

Portfolio - the special program item or activity for which a resource committee chairperson or board member is responsible.

Position - a statement adopted by the Board to express members' consensus on a study item. This becomes the basis for League action.

Program - all governmental issues being studied and acted upon by the League. The program includes items adopted at the local, state, regional and national levels. All are initiated and adopted by the members or their delegates.

Program Calendar - the year's schedule covering the program and all other League activities.

Recorder - person designated to record the course of discussion at meetings, noting any apparent consensus, areas of disagreement and minority opinion.

State Convention - a biennial meeting of the State Board and of delegates chosen by local Boards, held in odd numbered years. The delegates adopt program and budget, and elect officers for the next two years.

Trending Topics – monthly events held in libraries open to the public featuring speakers on a variety of timely issues.

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**LWVMC ARCHIVES AND HISTORICAL FILES**

LWVMC historical files provide a view of League history and significant accomplishments and include all of LWVMC non-financial files from the 1930’s, 1940’and 1950’s through December 31, 1999. The LWVMC historical files include a large amount of material transferred in June, 2015; all Board Minutes prior to January, 2000; all of the Oral History files; and the contents of the Marie Bennett Library, material donated to the County in 1968 and managed previously by the Montgomery County Public Library and the Montgomery County Historical Society. Current files in the LWVMC office begin at January 1, 2000.

In September, 2014, the County Council created the Montgomery County Archives, which now houses and preserves the LWVMC historic files. The Archivist (2014 to present) is Sarah Hedlund, MLS, who is responsible for preparing and inventorying materials for preservation and public access. The Montgomery County Archives are located at 8540 Anniversary Circle, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. The Archives public hours are Monday and Thursday, or by appointment. However, a visit is not necessary, copies of material and documents can be requested and sent via email. (montgomeryhistory.org/montgomery-county-archives, Archive@MontgomeryHistory.org, 301-926-5002)
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD, INC.
12216 Parklawn Drive, Suite 105
Rockville, MD 20852-1710
Tel: 301-984-9585
Fax: 301-984-9586
Email: lwvmc@erols.com
Web: lwvcomd.org

OFFICE HOURS:
Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri:
  10:00 am-3:00 pm
Tues: 1:00 pm-5:00 pm
Hours may vary, please call to make sure we are in the office before coming.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

OFFICE: When schools are closed because of inclement weather, the office will be closed unless MCPS administrative offices are open. When school openings are delayed, the office will delay opening accordingly.

DISCUSSION GROUPS: When schools are closed because of inclement weather, discussion group meetings may be rescheduled. When school openings are delayed, early morning discussion groups are rescheduled, but discussion groups which meet after 11:00 a.m. will meet as scheduled. If schools are closed and no snow date for the discussion group has been set, each discussion group may reschedule at a time convenient to the members and the Resource Person, usually one week later. Arrangements and questions about discussion group meetings will be handled by each Discussion Group Administrator.

BOARD MEETINGS: When schools are closed, Board meetings are canceled; when school openings are delayed, Board meetings will be held at the regularly scheduled time.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Committee meetings, day or night, may be canceled, delayed, or rescheduled by the Committee Chair.

TRENDING TOPICS: Meetings will be canceled if schools are closed, but will be held if school openings are delayed.
* Board Meetings are usually the first Wednesday of every month.
* Discussion Group Council meetings are held after the Board meeting.
* Discussion Groups usually meet in the second week of every month.
* Resource Committees usually meet on either the third or fourth week of the month.

### SEPTEMBER 2019

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### JANUARY 2020

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<td>13, M, 6-8:30p / 14, Tu, 10a-12:30p</td>
<td>Program Planning - Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church</td>
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| FEBRUARY 2020 | **(Discussion Groups: Legislative Priorities for 2020 General Assembly) – Youth Voter Month** |
|---------------|
| **5** | Wed | LWVMC Board Meeting, 9:45 am / Discussion Group Council, 12:30 pm; LWVMC Office |
| **9-13,17** | Su-Th,M | Discussion Groups: Topic: Legislative Priorities for 2020 General Assembly |
| **11** | Tues | March “Montgomery Voter” Deadline |
| **14** | Fri | LWVUS Birthday Celebration; in lieu of DG a “boots on the ground” nationwide activity |
| **14** | Fri | Anniversary of the Founding of League of Women Voters – Happy 100th!!! |
| **17** | Mon | Presidents Day – LWVMC & LWVMD Offices Closed |
| **24** | Mon | Trending Topics: TBD Library, 6:45-8:30 pm, Topic: MoCo Transportation Update |

| MARCH 2020 | **(Discussion Groups: Should the ACA Survive?) – Women’s History Month** |
|-------------|
| **3 or 4** | Tu or Wed | LWVMD Legislative Day in Annapolis, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm |
| **4** | Wed | LWVMC Board Meeting, 9:45 am / Discussion Group Council, 12:30 pm; LWVMC Office |
| **8** | Sun | International Women’s Day |
| **8-12,16** | Su-Th,M | Discussion Groups: Should the ACA Survive? |
| **16** | Mon | April “Montgomery Voter” Deadline |
| **23?** | Mon | Trending Topics: Location TBD, 6 – 9 pm, Topic: Board of Education Candidates Forum |

| APRIL 2020 | **(Discussion Groups: Women as Police Officers)** |
|------------|
| **1** | Wed | U.S. Census Day |
| **1** | Wed | LWVMC Board Meeting, 9:45 am / Discussion Group Council, 12:30 pm; LWVMC Office |
| **6** | Mon | MD General Assembly adjourns |
| **7** | Tues | Deadline to Register to Vote for Primary Elections & to Change Party Affiliation, 9:00 pm |
| **8,9,13,14,19,20** | Th,Fr,M-Tu,Su,M | Discussion Groups: Women as Police Officers |
| **12** | Sun | Founding of LWVMC in 1920 |
| **14** | Tues | May "Montgomery Voter" deadline |
| **15** | Wed | LWVMD Lobby Day on Capitol Hill |
| **16-23** | Thur-Thur | Presidential Primary Election Early Voting, 10:00 am to 8:00 pm |
| **21** | Tues | Deadline to Request Primary Election Absentee Ballot Delivered by Mail or Fax |
| **22** | Wed | Earth Day |
| **24?,25?** | Fri,Sat | LWVMC 100th Anniversary Celebration / Fundraiser Gala (in lieu of Trending Topics) |
| **28** | Tues | Presidential Primary Election, 7:00 am to 8:00 pm |

| MAY 2020 | **(Discussion Groups: DG Choice/Bus Tour of Agricultural Reserve)** |
|-----------|
| **2** | Sat | LWVNCA Annual Convention, 10 am-1 pm, location TBD |
| **6** | Wed | LWVMC Board Meeting, 9:45 am / Discussion Group Council, 12:30 pm; LWVMC Office |
| **3,11-14,18** | Su,M-Th, M | Discussion Groups: DG Choice/Bus Tour of Agricultural Reserve |
| **11** | Mon | Voter Registration Reopens |
| **25** | Mon | Memorial Day – LWVMC & LWVMD Offices Closed |
| **??** | Sat | LWVMC Annual Meeting – TBD |

| JUNE 2020 | **(No Discussion Groups – All Hands Needed at the LWVUS Convention!)** |
|-----------|
| **3** | Wed | LWVMC Board Meeting, 9:45 am, LWVMC Office |
| **6** | | LWVMD Council |
| **19 or 20** | Fri or Sat | LWVMC Incoming/Outgoing Board Retreat, 9:30 am - 3 pm, Hallowood |
| **25-28** | Thur-Sun | LWVUS Convention 2020 – Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave, NW, DC |
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD, INC.
12216 Parklawn Drive, Suite 105, Rockville, MD 20852-1710
Tel: 301-984-9585  Fax: 301-984-9586  Email: lwvmc@erols.com  Web: lwvcomod.org
Facebook: @lwvcomod.org  Twitter: @mocomdlwv  Instagram: @lwvcomod  YouTube: @lwvcomod
Office Administrator: Cindy Snow (240-308-1209)

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lindakohn5@gmail.com

Linda Silversmith (2018-2020)
Co-2nd VP – Action,
Environmental
260 New Mark Esplanade
Rockville, MD 20850
301-294-0566 (h)/301-641-9508 (c)
linsil@usermail.com

Adrienne McBride (2018-2020)
Co-2nd VP – Action
9632 Brunett Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20901
301-467-8979
adrienne.mcbride@gmail.com

Mary Lanigan (2019-2021)
3rd VP – Making Democracy Work
301 High Gables Drive, # 408
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
240-687-0517
malanigan1@comcast.net

Judy Morenoff (2018-2020)
Secretary, Education
6507 Tall Tree Terrace
North Bethesda, MD 20852
301-881-3132 (h)/301-908-8465 (c)
morenoffj@aol.com

Steve Daubresse (2018-2020)
Treasurer, Redistricting Reform
11214 Orleans Way
Kensington, MD 20895
301-933-1916 (h)/301-980-5418 (c)
sd.lwvmc@outlook.com

DIRECTORS:
Elaine Apter (1-year appointment)
LWVMD Liaison
3210 N Leisure World Blvd, # 321
Silver Spring, MD 20906
301-438-8707 (h)/980-833-4411 (c)
apterea@me.com

Cathleen Barnes (2019-2021)
Arrangements
15445 Tindlay Street
Silver Spring MD 20905
240-678-6265
cathleenmbarnes@gmail.com

Linna Barnes (2019-2021)
Finance, Newsletter Editor
7112 Ridgewood Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
301-654-6145 (h)/301-580-0505 (c)
linnabarnes@gmail.com

Carol Blackburn (2018-2020)
Communications,
Speakers Bureau
433 Kersten Street
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-569-6076
carolmta@comcast.net

Gretchen Blankenship (1-year appointment)
Election Services, Calendar Sales
6305 Wynkoop Blvd
Bethesda, MD 20817
301-229-8539 (h)/301-642-5699 (c)
blankeng.g@aol.com

Cynthia Boddie-Willis (2019-2021)
Partnership Coordinator
19411 Brassie Pl, Apt 301
Montgomery Village, MD 20886
240-686-6931
cbodwil@aol.com

Marcia Bond (2018-2020)
Co-Membership
502 King Farm Blvd, # 307
Rockville, MD 20850
240-246-7260 (h)/240-370-5495 (c)
marciadbond@gmail.com

Karen Bury (2019-2021)
Public Relations
174 Chevy Chase Street
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-525-4514
karenbury2002@yahoo.com

Judy Cochran (2018-2020)
Student Outreach,
Women’s Legislative Briefing
2724 Jennings Road
Kensington, MD 20895
301-949-5105 (h)/301-356-8698 (c)
judycochran12@yahoo.com

Directors cont. on next page.
DIRECTORS (cont.):
Jackie Coolidge (2019-2020)
LWVUS Lobby Corps
3223 Pauline Drive
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
301-646-1940
jcoolidge@schoolbench.com

Barbara Ditzler (1-year appointment)
Land Use & Transportation,
Co-Discussion Group Coordinator
1225 Noyes Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-565-0870 (h)/301-442-5076 (c)
bee.ditzler@gmail.com

Alice Keck (1-year appointment)
Co-Membership,
Information Tracker
10532 Sweepstakes Road
Damascus, MD 20872
301-706-5277
keckal777@gmail.com

Kathy Krause (2019-2021)
Co-Discussion Group Coordinator
4717 S Chelsea Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-951-6429 (h)/240-281-5381 (c)
kathykrause@rcn.com

YokeSan Reynolds (2018-2020)
Newsletter Coordinator
8532 Scarboro Court
Potomac, MD 20854
434-242-9993
yslreymonds@gmail.com

Joan Siegel (2018-2020)
LWVNC Liaison, Fact Sheet Editor
3100 Leland Street
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
301-652-7577
joanbsiegel@icloud.com

OFF-BOARD PORTFOLIOS:
Blair Bedford
Twitter
14624 Bauer Dr, Apt 5
Rockville, MD 20853
443-845-0440
blair.bedford@gmail.com

Nancy Bliss (2019-2020)
Nominating Committee
6732 Newbold Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817
301-365-5403
nabliss44@aol.com

Margaret Chasson
Agriculture,
Economic Development
9608 Hawick Lane
Kensington, MD 20895
301-942-0497 (h)/301-437-0496 (c)
mchasson@aol.com

Marlene Cohn
Administration of Justice
3932 Prospect Street
Kensington, MD 20895
301-942-1751
marlenekc@verizon.net

Judy Davis
Co-Impact of 2020 Census on MC
15632 Cliff Swallow Way
Rockville, MD 20853
240-342-2480
judith.davis07@comcast.net

Chris Hager
Health & Human Services
842 Azalea Drive
Rockville, MD 20850
301-279-2037 (h)/240-618-0116 (c)
econchris@earthlink.net

Barbara Hankins
Volunteer Coordinator
5225 Pooks Hill Rd, # A29N
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-493-4425
barbara@hankins.net

Melpi Jeffries
Co-Housing, Historic Preservation
4925 Battery Ln, # 709
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-530-5452 (h)/301-802-7982 (c)
melpijeffries@verizon.net

Deanna Marcum
Observer Corps
3315 Wake Drive
Kensington MD 20895
301-933-9503 (h)/917-213-2400 (c)
deanne@voters.elitemail.org

Luella Mast
Fire and Rescue, Police Services
809 Hobbs Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20904
301-384-4178 (h)/301-803-0725 (c)
luellam@comcast.net

Nancy McMahan Farrar
Co-Impact of 2020 Census on MC
9951 Lake Landing Road
Montgomery Village, MD 20886
301-258-0203
nmfarrar@earthlink.net

Sally Roman
Co-Housing
4229 Franklin Street
Kensington, MD 20895
301-946-3587
sallyroman@yahoo.com

Marjorie Wexler (2019-2020)
Voter Registration,
Nominating Committee Chair
143 Painted Post Lane
Gaithersburg MD 20878
301-963-5030
mamarks1@comcast.net

Nicole Williams (2019-2020)
Social Media,
Nominating Committee
600 Sisson Street
Silver Spring, MD 20902
240-444-7818
nicolemwilliams1@gmail.com

Published by LWVMC 09-2019
SUNDAY

UPCOUNTY/WEEKEND — 2:00 P.M.
Administrator Carol Blackburn 301-569-6076
Membership Recorder Disc. Leader Calendar Rep

MONDAY

RIDERWOOD — 1:00 P.M.
Administrator Ruth Sachs 301-960-9755
Membership Recorder Disc. Leader Calendar Rep

ROCKVILLE PM — 2:00 P.M.
Administrator Mary Lanigan 240-687-0517
Membership Recorder Disc. Leader Calendar Rep

TUESDAY

TUESDAY PM — 7:30 P.M.
Administrator Carol Gross 301-652-2236
Membership Recorder Disc. Leader Calendar Rep

WEDNESDAY

BETHESDA/POTOMAC — 9:30 A.M.
Administrator Nancy Bliss 301-365-5403
Membership Recorder Disc. Leader Calendar Rep

NON-MEMBER GUESTS
League discussion group meetings are open to the public, and visitors are welcome. Non-member guests are encouraged to observe and participate in discussion at meetings but are not counted for consensus or concurrence.

INCLEMENT WEATHER
See page 7 for our policy.

ROSSMOOR — 10:15 A.M.
Administrator Elaine Apter 301-438-8707
Membership Gerry Smith 301-438-6446
Recorder Madeline Cholwek 301-570-6655
Co-Disc. Leader Elaine Apter 301-438-8707
Co-Disc. Leader Karen Brooks 301-598-3534
Calendar Rep Elaine Apter 301-438-8707

THURSDAY

SILVER SPRING — 9:30 A.M.
Co-Administrator Marcia Bond 240-246-7260
Co-Administrator Maxine Lewack 301-847-9527
Membership Jo Hoge 301-589-4407
Co-Recorder Fran Berger 301-680-0052
Co-Recorder Barbara Ditzler 301-565-0870
Co-Disc. Leader Dave Anderson 904-429-2468
Co-Disc. Leader Barbara Sanders 301-587-1323
Calendar Rep Helen Gray 301-681-8041

Published by LWVMC 05-2019
2016-2017 LWVMC MEMBERS ON LWVMD AND LWVNCA LEAGUE BOARDS

LWVMC

Co-President Nancy Soreng 301-986-1916
3rd V.P./Voters Service Ralph Watkins 301-787-7170
Secretary Elaine Apter 301-438-8707
Report from State Circle, Editor Judith Heimann 301-229-4647

LWVNCA

President Kathy McGuire 301-493-6382
Treasurer Nancy Bliss 301-365-5403
LWVMC Liaison Gretchen Blankenship 301-229-8539
Director Diane Hibino 240-669-8169

OTHER NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA LEAGUES

UNITED STATES (LWVUS)
Chris Carson, President lwv@lwv.org
1730 M St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036 www.lwv.org

NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA (LWVNCA)
Kathy McGuire, President
4611 Roxbury Dr, Bethesda, MD 20814 wwww.LWVNCA.org

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (LWVDC)
Linda Beebe, President lwvdc1920@gmail.com
1100 15th St, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005 www.lwvdc.org

MARYLAND (LWVMD)
Barbara Schnackenberg & Nancy Soreng, Co-Presidents lwvmd@verizon.net
111 Cathedral St, Suite 201, Annapolis, MD 21401 www.lwvmd.org

Frederick County, MD (LWVF)
Melanie Cox, President sharon398@verizon.net
8222 Glendale Dr, Frederick, MD 21702 frederick-lwvmaryland.nationbuilder.com

Howard County, MD (LWVHC)
Lillie Gallant, President info@howard.lwvmd.org
5430 Vantage Point Rd, Suite C, Columbia, MD 21046 https://lwvhc.wordpress.com

Prince George’s County, MD (LWVPG)
Tel: 301-458-0760
Joyce Starks & Atari Muhammad, Co-Presidents
P.O. Box 3038, Laurel, MD 20709-3423
lwvpge@gmail.com
www.lwvmd.org/prince_george_s_county

VIRGINIA (LWVVA)
Lois Page & Dianne Blais, Co-Presidents
501 E. Franklin St, Suite 624, Richmond, VA 23219-2323
Tel: 804-521-4171
info@lwv-va.org
www.lwv-va.org

Arlington, VA (LWVAR)
Kathy Matusiak & Naomi Schultheis, Co-Presidents
P.O. Box 100577, Arlington, VA 22210
Tel: 703-979-7665
lwvarlington@aol.com
www.lwv-arlingtonva.org

Fairfax Area, VA (LWVFA)
Peggy Knight & Wendy Fox Grage, Co-Presidents
4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403
Tel: 703-658-9150
league@lwv-fairfax.org
www.lwv-fairfax.org

Falls Church, VA (LWVFC)
Wendy Frieman, Leadership Team Spokesperson
P.O. Box 156, Falls Church, VA 22040
Tel: 703-533-3972
www.lwvfallschurch.org

Loudon County, VA (LWVLC)
Priscilla Godfrey, President
P.O. Box 822, Leesburg, VA 20176
Tel: 703-777-9425
www.loudoun.va.lwvnet.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>APPROVED</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong> New Catagories</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEF Share of Office</td>
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<td>$28,267.00</td>
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<td>Member Dues</td>
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<td>Special Project</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Contributions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Amazon Smile (New)</td>
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<td>$50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speakers Bureau (New)</td>
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<td>$100.00</td>
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<td>Member Contributions &amp; PUP Member</td>
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<td>$13,000.00</td>
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<td>Non-Members Contributions Non-Member</td>
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<td>Members-IHO Contributions Voters' Guide</td>
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<td><strong>Total Contributions</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fundraising</strong></td>
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<td>Calendars</td>
<td>$5,500.00</td>
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<td>Poll Support</td>
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<td>Sales (Scarves)</td>
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<td>Special Project/Grants (New) Next Year</td>
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<td>Calendars SH- Sales Tax</td>
<td>$275.00</td>
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<td><strong>Total Fundraising</strong></td>
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<td>From Savings Account</td>
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<td>$775.00</td>
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<td>Meeting Arrangements</td>
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<td>$2,814.00</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>$85,098.00</td>
<td>$59,144.00</td>
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**EXPENSES**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Action - Coalitions</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
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<td>Citizen's Education (New)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trending Topics</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDW Publication</td>
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<td>Civic Engagement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee Expenses</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
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<td>Advertising/Promotions</td>
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<td>$500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraiser (New)</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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## LWV MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD, INC.
### BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 TO 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Budget 2017-2018</th>
<th>Actual 3/30/18</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES, cont</strong></td>
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<td><strong>New Categories</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
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<td>Calendars</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
<td>$2,891.00</td>
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<td>Inventory Costs</td>
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<td>Sales Tax</td>
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<td>$280.47</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Finance &amp; Action</strong></td>
<td>$4,400.00</td>
<td>$46,510.47</td>
<td>$9,100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board Expense</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$140.00</td>
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<td>Meetings Expenses</td>
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<td>$3,727.00</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nat'l/State Meetings</td>
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<td>$2,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>President Expenses</td>
<td>P.E/Units</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank and PayPal Fee</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$210.33</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
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<td><strong>Total General Administration</strong></td>
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<td>$4,077.33</td>
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<td>Membership</td>
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<td>Member Relations</td>
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<td>State PMP</td>
<td>$4,950.00</td>
<td>$5,002.50</td>
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<td>Nat'l PMP</td>
<td>$10,560.00</td>
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<td>$11,600.00</td>
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<td>NCA PMP</td>
<td>$363.00</td>
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<td>$400.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newsletter Printing (New)</td>
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<td>$4,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Membership</strong></td>
<td>$15,873.00</td>
<td>$15,957.50</td>
<td>$21,500.00</td>
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<td>Office Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web/Nationbuilder/Quickbooks</td>
<td>$900.00</td>
<td>$240.00</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Expenditure</td>
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<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<td>Equipment Rental/Copier</td>
<td>$2,700.00</td>
<td>$1,511.70</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Supplies Inc/CEF added</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>$1,516.85</td>
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<td>Insurance - Liability</td>
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<td>Postage &amp; Delivery Inc/CEF added</td>
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<td>Rent</td>
<td>$15,900.00</td>
<td>$6,930.00</td>
<td>$16,700.00</td>
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<td>Telephone</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$405.98</td>
<td>$1,300.00</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal of office</strong></td>
<td>$24,000.00</td>
<td>$11,386.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disability Insurance</td>
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<td>$361.00</td>
<td>$375.00</td>
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<td>Office Manager</td>
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<td>Payroll Taxes Employer</td>
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<td><strong>Total Payroll</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Office/Payroll Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSE</strong></td>
<td>$85,123.00</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LWVMC Budget Committee for 2018-2019: Zaida Arguedas, Linna Barnes, Gretchen Blankenship, Gayatri Datta and Chris Hager; Ex Officio: Nancy Bliss and Brigitta Mullican.

Published by LWVMC 05-2019
The Citizen’s Education Fund (CEF) budget that is shown here is for informational purposes only. The CEF Board will vote to approve this budget in late June. You may notice that this budget is only for six months, from July 1 to December 31, 2018. At the annual meeting in 2017, the membership voted to seek 501(c)(3) non-profit status for LWVMC and end the separate status as a financial entity for the Citizen’s Education Fund, when the League’s status as an organization capable of receiving tax-deductible donation was established. Since LWVMC is now a 501(c)(3) non-profit, the CEF’s budget is only for six months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget FY 18-19</th>
<th>Actual 07/01 - 07/31</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 INCOME*</td>
<td>27,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Contributions</td>
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<td>3 Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Non-Members</td>
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<td>373</td>
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<td>5 Voter Guides</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Other Income</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Grants</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Miscellaneous</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 EXPENSES*</td>
<td>46,250</td>
<td>3,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Citizen Education</td>
<td>25,250</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Voter Guides</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Miscellaneous</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 General Operation</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 CEF Office Share</td>
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<td>15 Other Expenses</td>
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<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 NET INCOME</td>
<td>(18,750)</td>
<td>(3,115)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 SPENDING FROM RESERVES</td>
<td>18,750</td>
<td>3,115</td>
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<th>Ending 7/31/2018</th>
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<td>18 CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCES</td>
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<td>19 BOA Checking</td>
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<td>20 Other Accounts (USPS, Paypal)</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 GAINS / LOSSES</td>
<td></td>
<td>(3,115)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Income and expenses expressed on cash basis.

LWVMC Budget Committee for 2018-2019: Zaida Arguedas, Linna Barnes, Gretchen Blankenship, Gayatri Datta and Chris Hager; Ex Officio: Nancy Bliss and Brigitta Mullican.
ARTICLE I — Name
Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Maryland, Inc. (LWVMC). This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS), the League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD), and the League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA).

ARTICLE II — Purposes and Political Policy
Section 1. Purposes. The purposes of the LWVMC are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues. The LWVMC is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the LWVMC shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under such provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. No substantial part of the activities of the LWVMC shall be attempting to influence legislation.

Section 2. Political Policy. The LWVMC shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III — Membership
Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the LWVMC shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership. The membership of the LWVMC shall be composed of voting members and associate members.

a) Voting members shall be:
   i) Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS;
   ii) Persons who have been members of a local League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

b) Associate members shall be: All others who join the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV — Officers
Section 1. Qualifications, Election, and Term. The officers of the LWVMC shall be a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, a Third Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Two people may share an office and its powers. They shall be nominated, elected and replaced in the same manner as provided for an individual serving in that office in these bylaws. These officers shall be voting members and shall be elected by the general membership at annual meetings, and shall serve for a term of two years beginning on July 1 following their election, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The President, the First Vice President, and the Third Vice President shall be elected at annual meetings held in odd-numbered years. The Second Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected at annual meetings held in even-numbered years.

Section 2. The President. The President shall have such powers of supervision and management as customarily pertain to the office; shall preside at all general membership meetings of the LWVMC and at meetings of the Board of Directors; may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes; shall co-sign with the Treasurer drafts or checks when this is required by the banking regulations or banking policy; shall be ex officio a member of all committees except the nominating committee; and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board. In the event of the absence, disability, resignation, or death of the President, the vice presidents, in order of their rank, shall assume the office. If no vice president is able to serve as President, the Board of Directors shall fill the vacancy from among the officers and elected directors. In the further event that no board member is available, a successor to the President shall be chosen at a special election to be called by the Board under conditions prescribed by it.

Section 3. The Vice Presidents. The vice presidents shall perform such duties as the President and the Board of Directors may designate.

Section 4. The Secretary. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors, the executive committee, the annual meetings, and any special general membership meetings; notify all officers and directors of their election; and perform such other duties as may be incident to the office.
Section 5. **The Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due, be custodian of these moneys, deposit them in a bank designated by the Board of Directors, and disburse the same only in accordance with the budget or upon order of the Board; present monthly statements to the Board at its regular meetings and a 9-Month Report (July 1 through March 31) at annual meetings. The books of the Treasurer shall be audited at the end of the fiscal year, and a copy of the final audited Treasurer’s report shall be submitted to the members in the newsletter.

**ARTICLE V — Board of Directors**

**Section 1. Number, Qualifications, Selection, and Term.** The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the LWVMMC, 11 elected directors, and not more than 11 appointed directors. All directors shall be voting members of the LWVMMC. Six directors shall be elected by the general membership at annual meetings held in even-numbered years; five directors shall be elected in odd-numbered years. Each shall serve for a term of two years beginning on July 1 following her/his election or until her/his successor shall have been elected and qualified. The elected members shall appoint such additional directors, not exceeding 11, as they deem necessary to carry out the work of the LWVMMC. The appointed directors shall serve from the date of their appointment through June 30 following the next annual meeting.

**Section 2. Power and Duties.** The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. The Board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the LWVUS, the LWVMD, the LWVNCA, and the LWVMMC. The Board shall have the power to appoint an executive committee and create special committees as necessary.

**Section 3. Executive Committee.** The Board of Directors may appoint an executive committee which shall include the officers. The executive committee shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it and shall report all actions taken by it.

**Section 4. Vacancies.** Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of the resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer or elected director, other than the President, may be filled by majority vote of the remaining members of the Board, to complete the unexpired term of the originally elected director or officer. However, if the vacancy occurs during the first nine months of the two-year term, the nominating committee shall present a nominee to the next annual meeting to fill the second year of the original term. A vacancy occurring by reason of the death, resignation, or disqualification of an appointed director may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board to complete the unexpired term of the original appointee.

**Section 5. Meetings.** There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The President may call a special meeting of the Board and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five Board members.

a) Conference Telephone Call Meetings. Board members and/or the Executive Committee may participate in meetings by means of conference telephone calls or similar communication equipment allowing all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting. Such meetings shall follow the prescriptions of in-person board meetings.

b) Email Meetings. Board and/or Executive Committee meetings may be held by email to deal with specific matters which arise between in-person or conference call board meetings. These email meetings deal with matters better attended to at the time the meeting is called. Such email meetings can take place provided that all board members have access to email on a personal computer. For an email meeting to occur, the President must notify all board members and have acknowledgment by a quorum of all board members that they have received notice of the meeting. The President would provide an agenda which would contain no more than three (3) matters. The meeting would not contain minutes of a previous meeting nor treasurer or committee reports. Those participating must do so by assuring that all participants are included in order for their comments and votes to be considered and valid. The President would prescribe an ending time for the email meeting in line with the needs of the matter(s) on the agenda. At the termination time assigned, all input, discussion and voting would cease.

**Section 6. Quorum.** A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum and a majority of the Board members in attendance at any Board meeting shall, in the presence of quorum, decide its action.

**ARTICLE VI — Units and Unit Council** (now called Discussion Groups)

**Section 1. Units.** There shall be regular meetings of discussion groups, known as units, held in various areas around the county, place and time of day to be determined by unit members. Officers of each unit shall consist of a unit administrator and others as necessary to conduct the functioning of the unit.

**Section 2. Unit Council.** Unit council shall consist of the unit administrators, the unit coordinator, and others as needed.
Section 3. Meetings and Functions. Unit council shall meet as necessary to carry out its functions; shall be concerned with League programs and activities within the units; and shall be entitled to make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII — Membership and Annual Meetings

Section 1. Membership Meetings. There shall be at least two events planned during the year, in addition to the annual meeting, for the purpose of bringing together the general membership. The program, time, and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The President shall call a special general membership meeting upon the request of five percent of the membership. Membership for this purpose shall be defined as the number of members of the LWVMC as of January 1 of the current year.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting of the general membership shall be held each year at a time and place to be determined by the Board of Directors. The president(s) should send a first call for the annual meeting three months before the annual meeting. The agenda at the annual meeting shall include:
   a) Adoption of the local program for the ensuing year.
   b) Election of officers, directors, chairperson, and three members of the nominating committee.
   c) Adoption of the annual budget.
   d) Transaction of such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 3. Quorum. Seven percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at meetings of the LWVMC. The number of voting members shall be defined as the number of voting members of the LWVMC as of January 1 of the current year.

ARTICLE VIII — Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominating Committee: Number, Selection, and Term of Office. The nominating committee shall consist of five voting members. Three members shall be elected at the annual meeting. Two members and the chair shall have been nominated by the current nominating committee. Only one of the elected members, but not the chair, may have been a Board member during the year immediately preceding the annual meeting. Elected members shall serve for one year starting July 1 following the annual meeting. Immediately after taking office, the Board of Directors shall appoint one of its members to the nominating committee. In the fall, the Unit Council will appoint one of its members to the nominating committee. The appointed members shall serve from date of appointment through June 30 following the next annual meeting.
   a) Vacancies. A vacancy occurring in the position nominated by unit council shall be filled by the unit council until the next annual meeting. Vacancies occurring in the remaining offices shall be filled by the Board until the next annual meeting.
   b) Powers and Duties. The nominating committee shall select members of the Board of Directors and the nominating committee, and shall aid in the selection of persons to fill off-board positions.

Section 2. Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor. The report of the nominating committee shall include nominations for officers, directors, and the chair and three members of the succeeding nominating committee. The report shall be sent to all members 30 days prior to the annual meeting and shall be presented at that meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor immediately thereafter, provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Section 3. Election. The election shall be by ballot except in those cases where there is but one nominee for each office. In such cases, it shall be in order to move that the Secretary cast the ballot for each candidate. A majority of voting members present and voting shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE IX — Principles and Program

Section 1. Principles. The principles are concepts of government supported by the LWVUS and are the authorization for adoption of national, state, regional, and local program.

Section 2. Program. The program shall consist of action to implement the principles and those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action and those previously studied on which further action may be desired.

Section 3. Program Adoption by the Annual Meeting. The annual meeting shall act upon the program using the following procedures:
   a) The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations of the voting members at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting and shall formulate a proposed program.
   b) The proposed program shall be sent to all members 30 days prior to the annual meeting.
   c) A majority vote of voting members present and voting at the annual meeting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the proposed program as presented by the Board of Directors.
d) Recommendations for program submitted by voting members 60 days prior to the annual meeting provided that:
   i) the annual meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote
   ii) the annual meeting shall adopt the item by a two-thirds vote.

Section 4. Changes in Program. In the case of altered conditions, changes in program may be made provided that information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least 14 days prior to a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed and acted upon.

Section 5. Program Action. The LWVMC may act only in conformity with, or not contrary to, the positions taken by the LWVUS, the LWVMD, and the LWVNCA. Members may act in the name of the LWVMC only when authorized to do so by the Board.

ARTICLE X — Financial Administration

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the LWVMC shall be from July 1 through June 30 of each year.

Section 2. Dues.
   a) The Board of Directors shall determine the amount of annual dues, subject to the approval of two thirds of the voting members voting at the time of the annual meeting. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to set the payment schedule for dues. Members shall be given 30 days notice of any proposed dues change that may include the option of provisional adoption of an alternative amount contingent upon a decision by the National or Maryland League to increase the per member payment. In the event the per member payment is not increased by the National or Maryland League, the provisional approval of any amount contingent on such an increase shall be void. Any change in dues shall be in effect upon adoption at the annual meeting.
   b) Where two or more members live in the same household, the second and each additional member shall be charged a reduced dues rate.

Section 3. Budget Committee. The budget committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting. The committee shall prepare a proposed budget for the ensuing year which shall be sent to all members 30 days before the annual meeting. The Treasurer, an ex officio member of the committee, shall not serve as chair.

Section 4. Budget. The budget as proposed by the budget committee and approved by the Board of Directors shall be submitted for adoption by a majority vote of voting members present and voting at the annual meeting.

Section 5. The Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of the LWVMC for any reason, all money and securities or other property of whatsoever nature which at the time be owned or under the absolute control of the LWVMC shall be distributed at the discretion of the board, or such other persons as shall be charged by law with the liquidation or winding up of the LWVMC and its affairs, to any member organization of the League of Women Voters national organization which is exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code or if none of these organizations are then in existence or exempt under those tax provisions, then, at the discretion of the board to another organization which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under such designated tax provisions.

ARTICLE XI — National Convention, State Convention and Council, and NCA Convention

Section 1. National Convention. The Board of Directors shall select delegates to the convention of the LWVUS up to the number allotted by the bylaws of that organization.

Section 2. State Convention and Council. The Board of Directors shall select delegates to the convention or council of the LWVMD up to the number allotted by the bylaws of that organization.

Section 3. National Capital Area Convention. The Board of Directors shall select delegates to the convention of the LWVNCA up to the number allotted by the bylaws of that organization.

ARTICLE XII — Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the LWVMC in all cases to which they are applicable and not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII — Amendments

Section 1. Amendments. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting at the annual meeting, provided that the proposed amendments were approved by the LWVMD and were submitted to all members in writing at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.
Every winter Montgomery County League members meet to begin planning the League’s program for the following fiscal year. Local resource committees are asked to submit their ideas about issues they would like to follow and topics they would like to study. Members may also suggest topics of interest for committees to monitor or study. The Program Coordinator prepares a report of the program planning meeting(s) to present to the Board. The Board determines which program studies to recommend to the general membership at the Annual Meeting held in the spring. At the Annual Meeting, members vote on the studies that they would like the League to conduct in the following year.

Studies result in Fact Sheets that are presented at Discussion Group meetings. These Fact Sheets may be for information only or they may contain questions about the topic in order to find out if League members have consensus on the answers to those questions. Answers to the questions are analyzed using a specific process (outlined in the Board Book) to determine if consensus has been reached. New positions are approved by the Board and reaffirmed by the membership at Annual Meeting. League positions are the basis for League advocacy on issues. Without a position on an issue, reached through consensus, the League may not testify, write letters, or formally participate in lobbying for or against the issue.

Once a study has been completed and positions have been adopted through the consensus process they become what is called the League “Program”. Local program must be re-affirmed every year. Resource committees present an outlook for work as part of the adoption of current local program at Annual Meeting. This outlook for work often describes how the League plans to use its positions in the coming year. Resource committees may continue to study issues of interest to them even if formal studies on the topic were not adopted at Annual Meeting and they do not plan to produce a Fact Sheet.

**PROGRAM STUDIES ADOPTED AT ANNUAL MEETING 2018**

- Readoption of the Economic Development Study to follow the implementation of the transition to a Public/Private Partnership
- Readoption of the Study of Substance Abuse and Treatment in Montgomery County
- A Study of the of What the Impact of the 2020 Census Will Be on Montgomery County
- A Study of the Effectiveness of the Montgomery County Public Financing Law

**LWVMC POSITIONS FOR ACTION**

- Agricultural Policy
- Budget Process
- Charter and County Government
- Child Care
- Children’s Services
- Corrections
- Economic Development
- Education
- Elderly
- Election Process
- Fire and Rescue Services
- Health Care
- Housing and Public Accommodations
- Land Use Planning
- Library Services
- Liquor Control
- Local Revenue
- Police Services
- Transportation
AGRICULTURAL POLICY

We support the preservation of agricultural lands through various easement measures and other means. (edited 2012, 2013, 2016 and 2018) Support for:

1. Policies to ensure the viability of agriculture in Montgomery County including: (2004)
   a) Agricultural and rural open space preservation programs: The Transferable Development Rights (TDR) and both the public and private Building Lot Termination (BLT) programs with their goals of conserving farmland, compensating rural land owners for down-zoning and consolidating growth through: (2002, 2016)
      1) easement restrictions on non-agricultural uses (2006) including restrictions on farm supply or machinery sales, storage and service (2013)
      2) intensive review in Master Plan development for determining potential receiving areas (2003)
      3) encouragement of TDR and BLT use in the CR and CRT zones (2003)
      4) requiring the use of TDRs for increased residential density in other mixed use zones (2006)
      5) adopting a planning goal of creating and maintaining TDR receiving areas adequate to utilize all existing and potential TDRs (2003, 2016)
   Footnote: In 2016, the League considered whether a termination date should be set to end the creation of new TDRs, as well as how TDRs could be used in receiving areas, including whether TDRs not associated with an overlay zone should be treated as a mandatory or an optional use and whether some equivalency of TDRs and BLTs should be established for consideration as public benefits, but did not reach a consensus on these questions.
   b) a comprehensive system for tracking the TDR and BLT easement generating and utilization processes, but the private sale of a fraction of a BLT should not be permitted (2003, 2016)
   c) on-site afforestation for residential TDR receiving areas - opposing off-site alternatives in such areas. (2003)
   d) using public funds, such as the agricultural land transfer tax and the bag tax, to support the public BLT program. (2016)
   b) Flexible payment options for conservation easements (2004)
   c) Enhanced deer management practices (2004)
   d) A tax policy for agricultural land including the agricultural assessment, the county agricultural land transfer tax (2002) and fuel and energy tax reductions. (2004)

2. A policy that considers preservation of productive farmland to be a primary design consideration for development in the AR zone by:
   b) Retaining the limitations on child lots to allow zoning density to be exceeded only by child lots and the five year holding period for child lot title transfer (2006)
   c) Restricting the provision of water and sewer service beyond the established envelope and limiting service to private institutional facilities (PIFs) in the following ways: (2004)
      1) sizing Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) capital projects to serve only the PIF
      2) permitting only a PIF itself to apply for service
      3) denying all requests for service requiring a WSSC pump station
      4) denying all requests for service for new or expanded uses in the AR zone
      5) providing review by the County Council of requests to provide water and sewer service to properties that abut the sewer main beyond the service envelope.
   d) Restricting the use of sand mound technology for sewerage disposal in the AR zone (2006)
   e) Establishing a requirement in the county for purchasers to be notified of the presence of sand mound technology and of the need for scheduling maintenance of it. (2006)

3. Current restrictions on the uses permitted in the Agricultural Reserve (2002) and providing for:
   a) Monitoring uses that require a special exception (2004)
   b) Restricting activities and events in the Agricultural Reserve that stimulate a need for commercial or industrial development in that zone (2004)
   c) Permitting agricultural tourism within the Agricultural Reserve provided that such use relates to agricultural activities. (2013)

5. The Promotion of soil conservation and water quality plans for all farms. (2013)

In order to meet water quality standards for the health of the Chesapeake Bay, we support:
a) increasing staff of the extension service and soil conservation districts
b) using volunteers with organic farming expertise to teach farmers how to reduce pollutants
c) strongly encouraging good conservation practices from the non-farm community.
d) adoption by the County of measures to induce farmers to develop and implement Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans. (2015)

6. Support a new farmer program with emphasis on: (2013)
   a) the use of sustainable agricultural practices
   b) currently accepted soil and water conservation practices
   c) producing and marketing specialty crops for local markets.

   In addition to assistance in meeting food needs, we support county programs to address food insecurity by:
   a) facilitating enrollment in SNAP
   b) enabling those with limited English proficiency to get needed information
   c) ensuring that food sources are accessible via public transportation.
   d) providing and encouraging participation in nutrition education programs.

BUDGET PROCESS

We support continued improvement of Montgomery County budget procedures and budget documents with emphasis on increasing citizen understanding and input.

Support for: (1977, retain and reaffirm 2013)
   1. The county government looking into techniques and procedures for improving the budget process and making the budget document more understandable.
   2. The county government involving citizens early in the budget process to help establish priorities.
   3. The County government providing information on program cost measured against results.

Support for:
   4. Communication among the Superintendent, the Board of Education, County Executive and County Council throughout the MCPS Budget Process. (Local Revenue, 1970, readopted 2014)
   5. Continuation of provision for involvement of citizens in the MCPS budget-making process. (Fiscal Relationships, 1979, readopted 2014)
      a) The County’s approach to funding services by grants to non-profits.
      b) The County should have the option to award grants/contracts for longer than one year.
      c) When appropriate, grants/contracts may be awarded on a competitive basis.
      d) Certain grants/contracts should involve public participation in the review process.
      e) All grants/contracts should be monitored by the County.

Opposition to:
   7. Major changes in the fiscal relationships among the Board of Education, County Council, and County Executive. (1970)
   8. County Council authority to increase the MCPS budget total beyond what the Board of Education has requested. (Fiscal Relationships, 1979)
   9. County Council authority to make line item allocations to the MCPS budget. (Fiscal Relationships, 1979, readopted 2014)
CHARTER AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

We support the continuation of the charter form of government for Montgomery County with improvements to ensure responsive and responsible government.

Support for:

**Separation of Powers**

1. Separation of powers in the county government with an elected executive heading the executive branch and the County Council forming the legislative branch.
   (1963, reaffirmed 1965, revised 1967)

2. Powers and responsibilities of the County Council and the County Executive to be balanced and defined with preference for the following:
   a) the Executive should prepare and administer the budget, represent the county before other bodies; exercise the veto (with provision for overriding), and appoint an administrative head to supervise the departments and department heads to be confirmed by the Council and to serve at the pleasure of the Executive (1967)
   b) the Council should pass laws and ordinances, adopt the budget, levy taxes, confirm appointments of administrative heads and department heads (1967), and stipulate by law how boards and commissions should be chosen unless provided by charter or state law. (1967)

**County Council**


4. A County Council composed of a combination of members elected at-large and members elected from councilmanic districts. (No consensus on the division of at-large and district members.) (2006)

5. A local commission to continue to draw the councilmanic districts. (2006)

6. Equitable redistricting of councilmanic districts for Council members so that each district will be compact, contiguous, and of approximately equal population. (1965)(edit 2006)

**Charter Review**

7. A process for mandatory periodic review of the charter but no permanent or standing commission for that purpose. (1974)

**Non-merit Positions**

8. Establishment by charter amendment of a limited number of non-merit positions for aides to elected officials in addition to those specifically enumerated. (1974)

Opposed to:

CHILD CARE

In order to ensure a range of high quality child care and early education programs accessible to all children of low and moderate-income families, we support:

**Child Care Programs**

Support for:

1. Regulating child care facilities and programs continuing to be the responsibility of state government. (1990)
2. Publicly funded incentives for child care providers, such as financial aid, tax and other retention incentives, training and technical assistance. (2005)
3. Adequate county subsidies for families, such as the Working Parents Assistance (WPA) program, and if necessary, supplements to the state Purchase of Care (POC) allowing parents to continue working and afford quality child care. (2005)
5. A range of quality child care/early education programs, including home visiting, and emphasizing all day programs, transportation and parent involvement such as: Head Start, Community based pre-K models, MCPS pre-K and Judy Centers. (2005)

Opposition to:

6. The county government setting minimum salaries for private child care center staff or registered family care providers. (1990)

**Family Leave**

Support for:

7. The county government encouraging employers to have a family leave policy (e.g., by providing information about model programs, such as the government's own policy). (1990)

CHILDREN’S SERVICES

We support a comprehensive range of child-centered services to ensure all children a chance to grow toward stable productive adulthood. (1995) Support for:

1. Meeting the needs of children being a high priority of the Montgomery County government.
2. Effective support services for children, including:
   a) collaboration across departmental and agency lines to provide seamless services for children
   b) community-based points of entry where families at risk can apply for multiple services
   c) consumer-oriented service centers sited in easily accessible neighborhood locations (such as schools) with hours convenient to families
   d) a compatible computer system, with appropriate safeguards for confidentiality, connecting county agencies to allow more open collaboration and provide comprehensive resource listing
   e) a non-categorized contingency fund, with rational limits and clear accountability, available to line workers dealing with crisis situations
   f) early intervention to prevent later crisis
   g) result-oriented, long-term evaluations of programs and services based on measured outcomes.
CORRECTIONS

We support a rehabilitative correctional system in Montgomery County for adults and juveniles. Support for:

Guiding Principles
1. Rehabilitation as the primary role of the Montgomery County correctional system. (1970-1971, reviewed and reaffirmed 1983)
2. Protection of the rights and dignity of the individual in the correctional system. (1971 and 1972, revised 1984)

Adult Correctional System
3. The adult correctional system providing an initial diagnostic evaluation of the individual’s problems and needs. (1971, reviewed and reaffirmed 1983)
4. Coordination of the entire range of community services with the adult correctional system. Individuals entering the system should be informed of the availability of alcohol and drug programs; medical, educational, recreational, and mental health services; family and individual counseling; job training and referral; and financial assistance. (1971)
5. Alternatives to incarceration which should include: (1971, revised 1983)
   a) speed-up of trial and sentencing procedures
   b) improvements in the bail and bond systems, including pre-trial supervision
   c) halfway houses in the community for both sentenced and unsentenced individuals
   d) improved parole and probation services
   e) expanded work-release opportunities.
6. Corrective facilities for adults which are accessible, without need for cars, to visitors, workers, and inmates on work-release. (1971, reviewed and reaffirmed 1983)
7. Montgomery County Detention Center, which is limited in use. It should be used as a facility for serving short sentences and as a pre-trial diagnostic and holding center. Individuals should be detained there pre-trial only for their own protection or that of the community. (1971, revised 1983)
8. Individuals in the Detention Center housed according to classifications which promote their own safety. (1971, revised 1983)

Juvenile Correctional System
9. For the child entering the juvenile court process: (1971 and 1972, revised 1984)
   a) written guidelines which permit flexibility
   b) a juvenile counselor always available to help the child and parents
   c) mandatory notification of available services and financial assistance
   d) more options available in the county for individualized short-term care such as counseling programs, halfway houses, and foster and group homes (including homes for those with special problems).
10. Juvenile records accessible only to those dealing with the child in the social/legal process. They should be available to others only with waiver by the judge with mandatory notification of the child and parents. (1972, revised 1984)
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We support the development and implementation of an Economic Development strategy for Montgomery County.  (2018, 2019)

Support for:

1. The county's economic development goals of:
   a) Maintaining business vitality,
   b) Developing a deep and diverse talent pool,
   c) Creating an international hub for entrepreneurship and innovation, and
   d) Providing quality infrastructure and amenities in the County.
2. Preparing non-college bound residents for self-sustaining employment in the County.
3. Increasing economic vitality in the Eastern portion of the County.
4. Identifying performance measures that align with the county's stated development goals and the collection and analysis of data on those performance measures to create a publicly available annual report. (2019)
EDUCATION

We support quality public education and equal educational opportunity for all. Support for:

Board of Education and Staff
1. Members of the Board of Education chosen in non-partisan elections. (1966, 1971) Terms should be staggered so that approximately half the members are elected at one time. (1982)
2. Ensuring quality professional personnel by: (1982)
   a) adequate financing to maintain salary schedules designed to attract and hold teachers
   b) effective supervision and opportunities for further education
   c) vigorous evaluation of professional personnel and appropriate follow-up action
   d) implementation of the Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) process to evaluate and support MCPS instructional staff. (2000)

Budget
4. Adequate financing for:
   a) art, music (including instrumental music), and physical education programs in elementary schools (1963, 1971)
   b) textbooks, instructional materials, and school libraries (adequate school libraries within two years of opening) (1960, 1971)
   c) plant facilities, with planning for dual-purpose schools (1961, 1971)

Innovative Practices
5. School board policies which guide the use of innovative practices throughout the school system, with the following guidelines: (1971)
   a) evaluation standards should be continuously applied to all innovative practices. These standards should be reviewed periodically
   b) timely dissemination of information about new programs and their evaluation to all administrators, teachers, students, and parents is essential (reworded 2012)
   c) teachers should be provided with the necessary training and support (including adequate resource and supervisory staff) to carry out innovative practices effectively
   d) principals should be provided with exposure to new ideas and be able to initiate innovative practices in their schools
   e) a choice of teaching approaches (instructional practices) should be available for students
   f) necessary procedures which allow for flexibility should be established, and lines of responsibility should be clearly understood.

Counseling (1972)
6. Secondary school counselor maintaining confidentiality and being readily available to the student, parent, principal, and teacher as a liaison and consultant. Responsibilities should include:
   a) orientation for students and parents new to the school
   b) career planning — vocational and/or college
   c) academic guidance — course selection, curriculum planning, scheduling
   d) personal guidance — relationships with parents, teacher, and students within the school setting
   e) referral — meeting specific problems through the use of school and community resources.
7. Counseling services in all elementary schools with emphasis on early identification of concerns. Counseling needs should be met with additional focus on the in-service training of staff. (reworded 2012)

Career Education (1974)
8. Career education as a combined responsibility of parent, school, and community with the schools serving as the focal point:
   a) the career education program should offer all students a knowledge of the world of work and the widest possible awareness of career choice
   b) career education in the schools should begin in kindergarten
   c) students should have the opportunity to acquire a salable skill, but such a skill should not be required for graduation
   d) the vocational education aspect of career education should be expanded.
Programs for At-Risk Students (1990)
9. MCPS programs to reduce the incidence of underachievement and failure for those students who, without intervention, are likely to emerge from school unprepared for further education and unprepared for the demands of a changing workplace.

10. Programs which include:
   a) prevention
   b) early intervention
   c) in-school services where possible (2000)
   d) small, individualized programs as needed (2000)
   e) collaboration with other public and private resources
   f) access to core subjects taught by qualified teachers to meet requirements for graduation (2000)
   g) access to a variety of services that address academic, social, mental health, and emotional needs. (2000)

Special Education (1975)
11. Special education programs incorporating the concept of “mainstreaming” with recognition that to be successful, mainstreaming requires special training for classroom teachers and sufficient supportive staff.
12. Emphasis on early identification, with cooperation between public and private sectors.
13. A full range of supplementary programs and services for all students with special needs, including the gifted and talented: (1976)
   a) funding should be provided by the county and the state
   b) services should be provided through a combination of public and private programs with the county continuing to contract with private agencies for services, including those not readily available through the county. (reworded 2012)

Programs for Limited-English-Proficient Students (1984) and Adults (2007)
14. A variety of programs (since no single instructional approach will meet the needs of all limited-English-proficient students) designed to assure that these students:
   a) receive an educational opportunity, regardless of linguistic background
   b) are offered instruction that helps them learn English as quickly as possible to allow for success in school and in future employment
   c) are assessed and placed in appropriate programs.
15. Free or low cost basic English language instruction should be available for Montgomery County adult residents who are not proficient in English. (2007, edited 2012)
   a) Local, state, and federal governments should provide safety net funding to ensure maintenance of services.
   b) Local and state governments should work with non-profits, foundations and businesses to assure coordination of services, provide information and referral and assist in areas such as securing grants, training personnel and evaluating programs.
   c) Local government should establish a non-profit that can deliver the services described in 15b.

Community College (1965, 1971)
16. A publicly supported comprehensive community college education in Montgomery County with an “open door” admission policy and a commitment to upholding standards of academic excellence.

Testing Criteria
17. The appropriate goal of testing in the schools is for the evaluation of student achievements.
18. Testing for the purpose of accountability is appropriate.
19. A broad range of tests is important: oral, essay, multiple choice, and true/false. (2002)
20. Standardized tests and alternative measures, such as portfolios should be used to assess student performance. (2012)
21. Testing preparation is worthwhile, as an organizational skill set that students need to function adequately in college, vocational programs and/or the general work force. (2012)
22. The overall impact of standardized tests should be further examined. (2012)
23. State-wide testing of all high school students prior to graduation.
24. The right of a student to retake the tests multiple times in order to pass the tests. (reworded 2012)
25. The tests’ scores should be reported to the students in time to take advantage of remediation.
26. That remediation should be available at no cost to the students and should be funded by the government level that imposed the mandate for testing.
27. There was no agreement in the Montgomery County LWV that the High School Assessment tests should be required for a high school diploma.
Early Care and Education (2018)

28. Recognizing that the period from birth to five is a crucial one in a child’s development, we support public funding for:
   a) home visiting and other parent education and early intervention programs, and
   b) quality child care and early education programs (such as Head Start, Judy Centers, MCPS Pre-K), with preference that they be full day and include transportation and parent involvement.

29. We support the goal of providing universal Pre-K in Montgomery County, and in moving toward that goal, giving priority to:
   a) providing full day Pre-K for children from low-income families, and
   b) expanding Pre-K programs to 3-year-olds from low income families.

30. To make quality care available to more families, we support:
   a) full funding for the Working Parents Assistance program to eliminate the waiting list and help lower income families afford before/after program care, and
   b) creating a sliding scale system to provide assistance to families above the cut-off for Working Parents Assistance who struggle to pay for quality care.

ELDERLY

We support a wide range of services and facilities to meet the needs of the elderly in Montgomery County. (1975) Support for:

Role of County Government
1. The county government taking prime responsibility for planning for the needs of the elderly and for coordinating the various services, as well as acting as a catalyst in providing programs
2. The Commission on Aging as the advocate for the elderly in the county.
3. Expanded publicity and outreach pertaining to all programs for the elderly.
4. Involvement of the elderly in planning and operating programs in participation within the community.

Housing
5. Availability to the elderly of a variety of housing providing options for the individual, including different levels of care ranging from independent living to institutionalization, with stress on semi-independent living (i.e., sheltered and congregate housing, domiciliary care, foster care, etc.)
6. Special facilities provided in group housing including meal availability, transportation, health services, recreation, and socialization.

Nutrition
7. A variety of nutrition programs (including congregate dining programs and home-centered programs such as Meals-on-Wheels) available in Montgomery County to serve elderly people in economic need, people with nutritional problems, and those needing socialization.

Senior Centers
8. Multi-purpose senior centers providing recreational, social, and cultural activities; transportation, medical, social, and nutritional services.

Home Care
9. A comprehensive home care program provided by a combination of public, voluntary, and private agencies including health care, social services, homemaker and chore needs, transportation and nutritional services, with the client charge on a sliding scale basis.
ELECTION PROCESS

We support election systems that produce results that reflect community sentiment, increase voter participation and are easy to understand and implement. We support Instant Run-off Voting for electing single seat or executive offices, members of the Board of Education or to fill vacancies when special elections are held. (2009, revised 2019) Support for:

Election Criteria

1. We believe it is important that election systems:
   a) produce representation that reflects community sentiment,
   b) help increase voter participation by encouraging a broader range of candidates and more civil campaigns and
   c) are feasible to implement.

2. We also prefer election systems that:
   a) are easy for the voter to understand, both in terms of how to vote and how their vote is counted,
   b) help ensure minority views and interests have some influence in selecting elected officials,
   c) help raise the level of political campaigns by encouraging a focus on the issues and discouraging negative campaigning,
   d) maximize the power of each voter’s vote and
   e) help promote more openness and responsiveness between candidates and constituents.

Election Systems (revised 2019)

3. We support elections being decided by a majority of participating voters using a system in which voters rank the candidates (Ranked Choice Voting/Instant Runoff):
   a) for both primary and general elections;
   b) for filling a vacancy using a single special election, instead of conducting both a special primary and a special general election; and
   c) for electing the nonpartisan Board of Education members in the general election, instead of using the primary election to select two candidates for the general election.

4. We do not support Limited Voting as an alternative voting method.

Election Equipment

6. We believe all newly acquired voting equipment (hardware and software) for use in Montgomery County should allow alternative ways of casting and counting ballots and be usable for all county and municipal elections. (NOTE: In 2008, this includes support of Instant Runoff Voting and Single Transferable Voting for Takoma Park city elections.)

Campaign Finance Practices (2010)

7. If Montgomery County establishes a program to use public funds for political campaigns, we support the use of these funds to provide services to the voters, such as a Voters' Guide, candidate forums (whether in public schools, broadcast on radio or television or available through the Internet) or other services that are available for free to large numbers of voters. This would permit each candidate for an office an opportunity to appeal for votes that is equal to all other candidates for that office.
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

We support fire and rescue services that protect the health and safety of Montgomery County residents. (1992, 1997, 2010) Support for:

1. Services delivered by both career and volunteer personnel.
2. Retention of Emergency Medical Services within the Department of Fire and Rescue Services.
3. An emergency transport fee providing it contains at least the following components (2010):
   a) an extensive public education program
   b) provisions for tracking and evaluation of the program
   c) clear description of the fee structure and distribution of monies
   d) care and transportation without regard to income or insurance
   e) waivers for those unable to pay fees.
4. Changes in the fire and rescue services system: (1996)
   a) the administrative power of the county over the independent fire and rescue corporations should be strengthened (1997)
   b) the Fire and Rescue Commission should be the policy-making body and a Fire Administrator should be charged with carrying out its policies (1997)
   c) the Fire and Rescue Commission should include two members representing the career service, two the volunteer service, and three the community (1997)
   d) the Fire Administrator’s assistants (such as career and volunteer chiefs) should be specified in the law. (1997)

Opposition to:

5. Mandatory installation of sprinkler systems in existing residences.
6. Changes in the fire and rescue services system by charter amendment. (1996)
HEALTH CARE

We support the improvement of public health services and facilities and access to care for all Montgomery County residents. Support for:

Public Health Services
2. In the area of preventive care, health education as the most cost-effective method of improving basic health care. Of special concern are the areas of immunizations and nutrition. (1977)
3. In the area of curative care, increased access to 24-hour medical services. (1977, revised 2000).
4. Expansion of the services of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services to include access to treatment and well-child care. (1974, revised 2000).

Making Services Accessible
7. Better utilization of existing facilities such as schools and shopping centers for provision of health services (Ex., School-Based Health Centers). (1974, revised 2000).
8. Transportation upgraded to provide easy access to all county health services. (1974)
9. County extension of financial assistance eligibility parameters to include those with incomes above the cutoff to qualify for Medicaid other government programs but too low to afford private medical care. (1974, revised 2000)

Prenatal Care
11. Supplemental nutrition programs with county funding as necessary for pregnant women, infants, and children up to five years. (1991)

Mental Health Services for Children and Adolescents
13. Provision of the following public and mental health services for children and adolescents: (2000)
   a) prevention and early intervention
   b) culturally sensitive and bi-lingual providers
   c) comprehensive range of treatment services
   d) respite care.
15. Montgomery County ensuring that adequate mental health services are available and accessible to children in all parts of the county: (2000)
   a) seeking additional funds from the state as needed
   b) supplementing state funding with county funds, if necessary
   c) maintaining a safety net for underserved children and those with the most complex problems

Mental Health Services for Adults
16. The League supports provision of the following public mental health services for adults: (2004)
   a) a range of treatment services including in-patient, out-patient, residential, home and community-based crisis intervention, and pharmacy.
   b) culturally sensitive, diverse, multi-lingual providers
   c) case management with coordination and continuity among agencies including in-patient institutions, shelters and the correctional system.
17. Montgomery County should do the following to ensure an accountable and reliable system for mental health services: (2004)
   a) develop a comprehensive mental health plan
   b) define professional standards and best practices for all providers to observe
   c) provide oversight of contracted services
   d) develop an information technology system that will collect data and define standards for inter-agency sharing and collaboration, while safeguarding patient privacy
   e) work collaboratively with the state to ensure appropriate and timely payment of providers and streamlined administrative systems.

18. Montgomery County should do the following to ensure that adequate mental health services are available and accessible to adults in all parts of the county: (2004)
   a) seek more realistic funding from the state to provide comprehensive care
   b) supplement state funding with county funding when needed
   c) identify and pursue additional funding such as federal or private grants
   d) maintain a safety net of public mental health services
   e) increase availability of housing for the mentally ill homeless through a range of housing possibilities, including group homes, “safe havens,” and personal living quarters.

Health Care for the Homeless (2009)
19. The League supports an integrated system of health care for the homeless including:
   a) primary medical care
   b) behavioral health services
   c) nurse case management in response to the complex health needs of this population.

Drug Treatment (2019)
20. Access for those undergoing detoxification and/or treatment for drug use to comprehensive services that include medical care and non-medical wrap-around services, such as job assistance, housing or education, according to the individual’s need.
21. Minimum standards for adult drug use treatment programs to include both medical and non-medical wrap-around services.

Note: These positions result from a study that covered only drug abuse treatment, so they do not apply to alcohol or marijuana.
HOUSING AND PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS

We support Montgomery County policies and programs to increase the supply of affordable housing, to prevent discrimination in housing and public accommodations and to meet the needs of the homeless. (1989, 2005, 2008, 2009, edited 2012)

Support for:

   a) flexible and comprehensive approaches using private, county, and federal funds
   b) continued reliance on the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission
   c) changes in zoning ordinances and related regulations to require provision for low – and moderate income housing in all residential and mixed – use zones [see Land Use Planning 3.a]
   d) use of scattered sites and application of the principles of economic diversity in residential zoning categories
   e) use of inclusionary zoning, such as Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDU)
   f) preservation of existing communities where feasible and/or desired
   g) strict enforcement of housing codes with shift to civil penalties
   h) use of tax structure and policies such as tax abatement to maintain and increase the supply of affordable housing
   i) measures that will increase the supply of workforce housing, defined as from the MPDU maximum to 120% of the median income, including: (2005)
      i) a combination of incentives, employer assisted housing and mandatory requirements
      ii) increased density consistent with smart growth
   j) supportive community services
   k) encouragement of increase in the stock of single room occupancy (SRO) housing such as personal living quarters by appropriate means
   l) permitting use of mobile homes on scattered sites and encouragement of well designed mobile parks

2. **Accessory Apartments**: 
   a) permitting accessory apartments with adequate controls to prevent neighborhood deterioration
   b) The regulations governing approval of accessory apartments should be changed: [see Land Use Planning 3.d]
      i) delete time restrictions on age of home or length of ownership (2005)
      ii) include a maximum neighborhood percentage (2005)
      iii) permit an accessory apartment in a townhouse (2005)
      iv) allow the Board of Appeals to use discretion in granting waivers in exceptional cases
      v) adoption of a streamlined regulatory process, by the County (2005)

3. **Fair Housing, Public Accommodations, Human Relations**
   a) Comprehensive fair housing legislation in Montgomery County covering real estate and lending practices (1966, 1989)
   b) Continuation of the office of Landlord/Tenant Affairs with quasi-judicial powers (1972, 1989)
   c) A model lease, defined as a mutual contract, which includes a warranty of habitability and protection against retaliatory eviction (1972, 1989)
   d) Comprehensive legislation to outlaw discrimination in Montgomery County with respect to public accommodations
   e) Adequate financing for the Human Relations Commission so that it can perform the functions authorized in the law (1964,1989)

3. **Special Needs**
   Montgomery County policies and programs to provide shelter and services to all individuals with special needs, including individuals with special needs due to mental illness, homelessness, physical
disability, developmental disability and age (2005):

a) Policies and programs include emergency shelters, transitional housing, detoxification centers, halfway houses and permanent housing and support personnel for people with special needs (1989, 2008)
   i) Support for programs, designed to address homelessness, incorporating the “Housing First” model (2009)
   ii) Establish a formal coordinating mechanism for all County public, private and non-profit programs and services for the homeless (2009)

b) Support residential supportive services for individuals with special needs due to mental illness and for other individuals with special needs requiring residential supportive services (2005)

c) Support production of barrier free or accessible housing as a voluntary effort on the part of the home-building industry, encouraged by a combination of incentives such as an award program and some mandatory measures. (2005)
LAND USE PLANNING

We support comprehensive long-range planning for Montgomery County and the Washington Metropolitan Area. Support for: (edited 2009, 2012 & 2016)

1. Growth Management
   a) A General Plan for Montgomery County providing for structured growth and including areas of concentrated development, separated by clearly defined areas of open space.
      (1962, reaffirmed 1973)
   b) Growth in Montgomery County controlled by:
      i) zoning, which should be strictly enforced
      ii) making services (such as schools, water supply, sewers, fire and police protection, transportation and roads) available as development proceeds. (1973, 1982, reaffirmed 1985)
      iii) the concept that when building and rebuilding communities, designs should include incentives for using non-motorized forms of travel, particularly bicycling and walking. (2008) [For details, see Transportation Position # 5.]

2. Planning Process
   b) The County Council appointing all members of the Montgomery County Planning Board. (1989)
   c) The County Council setting planning priorities through approval of the Planning Board budget and annual work program. (1976, 1985, 1989, revised 2009)
   d) The Planning Board preparing master plans and sector plans and amendments with the County Executive participating fully from the beginning of the process. The County Executive should not be able to modify the Planning Board’s final draft before submitting it to the County Council. (1989 1991)
   e) The Planning Board approving preliminary plans of subdivision, based on criteria for administering the Subdivision Staging Policy approved by the County Council. (1986, 1989, reworded 2016)

3. Zoning
   a) Zoning ordinances and related regulations requiring provisions for low- and moderate-income housing in all residential and mixed-use zones. (1970, reworded Annual Meeting 1989) [see Housing 1.c]
   b) Zoning ordinances that:
      i) have special exception uses that are specifically defined and appropriate to the zone in which they are allowed. (2007)
      ii) are written clearly and avoid conflicts and contradictions. (2007)
      iii) have sufficient land available for the uses permitted by right in each zone. (2007)
      iv) provide for the Board of Appeals to make decisions on special exceptions (1989), but allow decisions on appropriate special exception uses by the Hearing Examiner. (2007)
      v) address issues related to infill and redevelopment in large and/or individual sites. (2007)
   c) Zoning Text amendments should:
      i) not conflict with Master Plans. (2007)
      ii) be relevant to more than a specific property. (2007)
   d) Use of standards and licensing in lieu of special exceptions for some uses, such as accessory apartments. (2007)
      i) Standards should be clear, specific, understandable and enforceable. (2007)
      ii) Adequate inspection and enforcement is essential. (2007)
   e) The Planning Board preparing zoning map amendments for approval by the Council. The County Executive should not be able to veto them. (1989)
   a) The use and consideration of the concept of Green Infrastructure as a criterion in the planning and zoning processes.
   b) The inclusion of the concept of Green Infrastructure as a criterion in park acquisition and management plans.
   c) Continued funding by Montgomery County of the Legacy Open Space (LOS) program.
   d) Purchase of Open Space land for biodiversity hubs and corridors, using flexible funding.
   e) Consideration of passageways for animal migration in the construction of new roads or intersection improvement. (edit 2005)

   a) Historic preservation as a county government activity of benefit to the public good, as a means of preserving our heritage and providing a sense of place.
   b) The county government’s obligation to:
      i) inform individuals whose property has been designated historic of available financial assistance for maintenance.
      ii) designate property as historic over the owner’s objections only if more than one criterion is satisfied.
      iii) provide the opportunity for a historic district to develop its own set of criteria or guidelines as part of the historic designation process.

**LIBRARY SERVICES**

We support county libraries as a basic community service that should be publicly funded. (2013)

Support for:
1. Montgomery County Public Library is a basic community service. It should provide a variety of materials and resources to all residents of Montgomery County through public funding.
2. Libraries should provide access to print and electronic media, and a full line of services for children and those with special needs.
3. Information about library services and programs should be available at each library as well as electronically. There should be a variety of means for public input. Every branch library should be encouraged to have a Library Advisory Committee.
4. Services should largely be free. Fees that are acceptable include room rentals and longer term parking.
5. The library system should look into various sources of revenue in addition to county funding such as foundations and retention of fees by the library system.
LIQUOR CONTROL

We support fully or partially privatizing Montgomery County’s direct role in the wholesale and retail sale of beer, wine, and liquor and improving the efficiency of those operations. (2016)

Support for:
1. The private wholesale distribution of special order beer and wine
2. Increasing the efficiency of Montgomery County’s liquor control operations

Note: We considered, but did not reach consensus on additional steps toward privatization, including full privatization of wholesale and retail liquor sales, private wholesale distribution of beer, wine and liquor, and private wholesale distribution of beer and wine.

LOCAL REVENUE

We support policies to strengthen the fiscal structure of Montgomery County.

Taxing Authority
Support for:
1. The county government having the exclusive right to change the property tax rate. Property tax rates should not be subject to state limitations or public referendum. (1976)

Opposition to:
2. Charter amendments which:
   a) require the submission of county bond issues to referendum (1974, revised 1976)
   b) limit the tax rate (1981)
   c) place an absolute dollar ceiling on the levy (1981)
3. Major changes in the Board of Education/County Council/County Executive fiscal relations. (1970)

Taxes
Support for:
4. Local revenue sources which are equitable, convenient, certain, adequate, and diverse. (1991)
5. A local income tax (which should be more progressive than the existing state and local income tax) as the preferred source of revenue, followed by taxes on property, vehicles, and development, in that order. (1982, 1991)
6. Continuation of preferential farm assessment, with a deferred tax which recognizes market values when the land is developed. (1982)

Opposition to:

POLICE SERVICES

We support pro-active/preventive policing in Montgomery County. (1994)

Support for:
1. Pro-active/preventive policing in Montgomery County.
2. Increased funding in technical areas to implement pro-active/preventive policing.
3. Increased funding in personnel to implement pro-active/preventive policing.
TRANSPORTATION

We support a balanced system of transportation, transportation services, transportation information and solutions to current and future county transportation needs. Support for:

1. A balanced system of transportation which includes a rapid transit system. (1962, affirmed 1973)
2. Transportation services which are made convenient and accessible by minimizing the time required for a trip, providing frequent and reliable service and adequate parking and charging reasonable fares. (1988)
3. Transportation information which is readily available by methods that include efficient telephone information, information on buses and at bus stops, wide distribution of maps and schedules, and electronic services. (1988, updated 2018)
4. Solutions to current and future county transportation needs that include the following: (2000, edited 2013)
   a) building a transit line, the light rail Purple Line, on a right-of-way generally south of the Beltway - funding priority;
   b) building an outer transit line at some future time
   c) building the Corridor Cities Transitway from the Shady Grove Metro Station to Clarksburg
   d) opposition to the widening of the Capital Beltway.
5. The concept that when building and rebuilding communities, designs should include incentives for using non-motorized forms of travel, particularly bicycling and walking. To support this concept, the following elements should be in place: (2008)
   a) Sufficient budget to initiate and sustain education, engineering, and enforcement elements to encourage more people to walk and ride bikes.
   b) Education and outreach to residents in multiple languages through multiple means.
   c) Promotion of continuing driver education after passing the initial licensing exam.
   d) Promotion of bicycle safety education for all age groups.
   e) Increased enforcement through ticketing of dangerous behavior by drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
   f) Better marked cross walks.
   g) Coordination between municipal, county and state agencies and among county departments to support increasing availability of safe pedestrian and bicycle options to vehicular trips.
   h) Consideration by the Planning Board for pedestrian and bicyclist safety in every step of the site plan approval process.
   i) Ongoing evaluation of the effectiveness of measures to increase both the numbers of people who are walking and biking for transportation and the safety of these activities.
The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) is made up of twelve county-wide Leagues, one tri-county League, the Baltimore City League and residents of Maryland who don’t belong to a formal local League but are members-at-large (MALs) of the League of Women Voters of Maryland. Every other year the LWVMD Board solicits input from local Leagues about the issues they would like the LWVMD to study. The suggestions from the local Leagues are presented to the LWVMD Board. The Board votes on a list of recommended and non-recommended studies. At the biennial convention, delegates from the local Leagues vote on which studies to adopt. When a study has been adopted, study committees are formed by representatives from various Leagues around the state.

With the exception of formal studies adopted at convention, the primary focus of the LWVMD program areas is action. LWVMD advocates for League positions at the General Assembly, in the Governor’s office, and with other state officials and leaders as appropriate.

**STUDIES ADOPTED AT 2017 LWVMD CONVENTION**

* Study of Bail & Corrections Reform  
* Study of Civic Education  
* Study of Death with Dignity  
* Study of Senior Services

**LWVMD POSTIONS FOR ACTION**

Government  
- Administration of Justice  
- Election Process  
- Ethics  
- Firearms Control  
- Fiscal Policy  
- Local Government  
- Redistricting  
- State Constitution  

Natural Resources  
- Coal  
- Hazardous Waste Management  
- Land Use/Growth Management  
- Solid Waste Management  
- Transportation  
- Climate Change  

Social Policy  
- Adult Literacy  
- Children’s Services  
- Death with Dignity *new  
- Domestic Violence  
- Drug and Controlled Substance Abuse, Policies and Laws  
- Drunk Driving  
- Education  
- Marriage/Civil Union Equality  
- Health Care and Health Care Appeals  
- Housing  
- Meeting Basic Human Needs
GOVERNMENT: ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Action to secure an effective, nonpartisan judiciary and to promote fair and appropriate sentencing, including the abolition of the death penalty; and a correctional system, including probation and other alternatives to incarceration, that protects society and prepares offenders for successful reintegration into the community. Action to support access by indigent criminal defendants to legal counsel at every decisional stage of the judicial process, including bail hearings (1963, 1964, 1967, 1970, 1987, 1989, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)

1. A Constitutional provision for a statewide, uniform, unified judicial system in which all judges are trained attorneys. (1963, reaffirmed 1967, expanded 2009)
3. A method for removal of judges that is effective, removed from partisan considerations and requires lay representation on any commission set up for that purpose. (1970, expanded in 2009)
4. A non-partisan Evaluation Committee that issues public reports on judges’ performance of their duties based upon neutral criteria. (1970, expanded 2009)
5. Public funding for judicial elections so long as contested elections exist. (2009)
6. Continuing the option for the counties of Maryland to retain or abolish Orphan’s Court. (2010)
   a) Selecting Orphan Court Judges via non-partisan elections
   b) Selecting both attorneys and non-attorneys as Orphans Court judges.
   c) Changing the name of Orphan’s Court to more clearly define the scope of its duties. (2011)

SENTENCING Support for:
1. Sentencing based on the offense, the offender's previous record, aggravating or mitigating circumstances, and the impact on the victim.
2. Changing mandatory minimum sentencing procedures to allow for judicial discretion.
3. Sentencing guidelines which are:
   a. evaluated continually by a panel of judges, legislators and others interested in sentencing.
   b. expanded to include alternative sentencing.
4. Reporting judicial rationale for sentencing outside the guidelines.
5. Statewide plea bargaining guidelines.
6. Recognizing prison space as a limited resource reserved primarily for those who have committed serious or violent crimes, with the use of alternative sentencing for others.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT (2005) Support for
1. The abolition of the death penalty.
2. For so long as Maryland has a death penalty, the League supports the following reforms for its equitable and consistent application:
   a. uniform, statewide, criteria for death penalty prosecutions.
   b. changing the standard of proof in weighing of aggravating and mitigating factors in sentencing from “preponderance of the evidence” to “beyond a reasonable doubt.”
   c. requiring prosecutors to provide open file discovery and all favorable evidence to the defense, and to establish uniform internal guidelines for cases that are particularly subject to human error, such as those relying on eyewitnesses, co-defendants or jailhouse informants.
   d. having mechanisms for preserving evidence such as DNA and for introducing newly discovered evidence.
   e. requiring judges to explain to jurors life without parole as a sentencing option and to charge the jury to weigh mitigating factors.
   f. effective defense including methods to screen, appoint and supervise lawyers representing defendants charged with capital crimes, adequate compensation for public defense counsel and sufficient funding to mount an effective defense.

1. Alternatives to incarceration in state prisons, e.g., community correctional facilities, halfway houses, group homes and other community-based services.
2. A well-staffed correctional system which provides effective training and adequate salaries for correctional services staff.
3. A probation system that:
   a. is an integral and adequately funded component of the correctional system.
   b. facilitates the behavioral change of clients through cooperation and interaction among community, agency, and departmental resources. These resources, including substance abuse programs, work empowerment, parenting skills, mental health counseling, and child/sex abuse treatment should be available to every client who needs them.
   c. recruits and retains probation agents; provides a career ladder for field agents and gives them manageable workloads, time flexibility and office resources to do in-depth risk and needs assessment, develop treatment plans, make referrals for services, assist in getting clients accepted in programs, and follow up on client participation in programs. There should be appropriate office facilities, private space, and technological and clerical support to allow agents sufficient involvement with clients.
   d. includes intensive as well as lower levels of supervision of clients.

4. A Maryland prison system which:
   a. adopts, monitors and enforces standards which provide a humane physical and psychological setting.
   b. provides useful activities for a substantial part of the work week.
   c. has adequate programs which create and enhance self-worth and facilitate community reintegration and economic self-sufficiency, including substance abuse treatment programs throughout incarceration.
   d. provides ongoing counseling programs.
   e. provides education, literacy, and vocational training.
   f. provides reintegration services for all inmates prior to release and encouragement, with strong incentives, to participate in these programs.
   g. has space, security, and staff adequate to support program activities.

5. The correctional system's active encouragement of the use of qualified and trained volunteers.

6. A significant citizen role in setting, reviewing, and monitoring correctional policy.

7. The use of pre-sentence investigations.

**JUVENILE CORRECTIONS** Support for:

1. Use of specialized judges, counseling services and administration of juvenile cases all geared to dealing with families.
2. Small, regional juvenile institutions.
3. Individually designed training and treatment programs and local or regional diagnostic services for juvenile offenders.
4. Coordination of programs and services for juvenile offenders provided by the state agencies.
5. 24-hour supervised residential work and restitution centers with treatment programs available.

**GOVERNMENT: ELECTION PROCESS**

Action to assure an election system that is representative, feasible to implement and increases voter participation, as well as equitable, accessible, fiscally responsible, accountable and enforceable. Action to support same day registration. Action to assure fair campaigns and elections. Action to institute elections to fill vacancies in the General Assembly. Action to support a more open primary elections and taxpayer-funded primary elections for all recognized parties. Action to support a mix of single and multi-member legislative districts and coterminous boundaries. Action to oppose term limits for members of the General Assembly. Opposition to a requirement for uniform voting systems unless funded by the state. (1972, 1985, 1993, 1997, 2001, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2018)

**GENERAL PRINCIPLES** (2018) Support for:

1) We believe it is important that election systems
   1. produce representation that reflects community sentiment,
   2. help increase voter participation by encouraging a broader range of candidates and more civil campaigns and
   3. are feasible to implement.
2) We also prefer election systems that:
   1. are easy for the voter to understand, both in terms of how to vote and how their vote is counted,
   2. help ensure minority views and interests have some influence in selecting elected officials,
   3. help raise the level of political campaigns by encouraging a focus on the issues and discouraging negative campaigning,
   4. maximize the power of each voter’s vote; and
   5. help promote more openness and responsiveness between candidates and constituents.

3) If a majority of votes is required to win an election, Ranked Choice Voting (instant runoff) is the preferred method of determining such a majority. (There was no consensus on using a separate Run-off Elections to determine a majority.)

4) If candidates are to be nominated by parties for the general election ballot, ballot access for non-principal parties should be improved:
   1. all recognized parties should have access to taxpayer-funded primary elections; and
   2. a non-principal party should retain its status if the number of registered voters affiliated with that party is equal to or greater than the number of signatures required to gain initial recognition.

Opposition to:
   1. Reducing the number of signatures required for initial recognition as a party (10,000 at the time of the 2018 study)
   2. Reducing the number of petition signatures for a candidate to qualify for the general election ballot without the nomination of a recognized political party (10,000 for statewide candidates or 1% of the eligible voters in the election district of the candidate at the time of the 2018 study).

VOTING RIGHTS AND ELECTION ADMINISTRATION Support for:
   1. An election system that is equitable, accessible, fiscally responsible, accountable and enforceable.
      (1997 and 2001)
   2. Mandatory training for all election judges with the state providing basic training instructions.
   3. A minimum compensation level for election judges set by the state.
   4. A restructured Maryland State Board of Elections (MSBE) – formerly the State Administrative Board of Election Laws (SABEL).
      a. giving MSBE legal authority and adequate funding to enforce election laws and regulations;
      b. giving MSBE legal authority and funding to develop and maintain a centralized, computerized voter registration list and a centralized, computerized campaign finance reporting system;
      c. staggered terms for members of MSEB;
      d. a professional administrator hired by MSBE.
   5. Statewide uniformity of voting registration and registration records.
      a. a change in Maryland law that would allow any eligible individual to register to vote online and complete the registration process at the polling place. (2013)
   6. A uniform, simple system for accurate identification of voters at the polls.
   7. A registration deadline set as close as possible to primary and general elections, consistent with technology that provides ballot security and makes the administration of the deadline cost-effective. (“Ballot security” assures ballot secrecy and prevents fraudulently cast ballots.)
   8. Provisional ballots, with a strong preference that voters be notified if they are later found not eligible to vote. Provisional ballots allow a voter whose name is not listed on the polling place election register to vote a ballot which is sealed and segregated from regularly cast ballots until the election authority can confirm the voter’s eligibility. They provide ballot security, are convenient for the voter and avoid disenfranchisement of voters due to administrative error.
   9. Early voting:
      a. State law should specify a minimum number of early voting days;
      b. State law should specify that a Saturday and a Sunday be included in early voting days;
      c. State law should give the State Board of Elections the authority to authorize additional early voting sites when such sites are requested and funded by a local election board.
      d. Setting a deadline that occurs before early voting begins for write-in candidates to file a certificate of candidacy. (2013)
   10. Development and maintenance of a permanent absentee list for absentee voters. There was no consensus as to whether the voters on the permanent absentee list should receive an application for an absentee ballot or the absentee ballot. (2014)
11. If security issues can be adequately addressed, support for online delivery of absentee ballots to all voters who request such delivery. (2013)
12. Study, research and pilot projects to determine the feasibility of Internet voting.
13. Assuring voters’ access in the polling place to personally-procured or provided information and materials (e.g. sample ballots, voters’ guide, campaign literature) to assist in marking the ballot. There was no consensus as to the format of materials allowed in the polling places. (2014)
14. Requiring that all voting equipment (hardware and software) for use in Maryland should allow alternative ways of casting and counting ballots and be usable for all county and municipal elections. (2014)
15. Allowing unaffiliated voters to register for a party any time voter registration is allowed. (2018)

Opposition to:
1. A requirement for uniform voting systems unless funded by the state. (1997)

FAIR CAMPAIGNS (1971, 1974, 1982) Support for:
1. Fair campaign financing. (LWVUS position)
2. Full disclosure. (LWVUS position)
3. Limits on Election Day campaigning.
4. Full enforcement of election laws.

1. Special primary and special general elections to fill vacancies in the Maryland General Assembly to be held at the same time as other regularly scheduled elections (tie-in elections).
2. Support the option to use Instant Runoff Voting (IRV): to fill vacancies in any single seat or executive office elections, at the local, county or state level. This would require the winner to receive a majority of the votes, instead of conducting both special political party primaries and a special general election. (2015)
3. A temporary gubernatorial appointment to fill legislative vacancies based on local political party committee recommendations, until elections are held.
4. Additional statewide standards regulating the central committee nominating process to fill legislative vacancies, public notice of meetings within the vacated district for public input, the public announcement of candidates prior to that meeting, and a publicly recorded vote of each committee member.

PRIMARY ELECTIONS (1993, 2018) Support for:
1. More open primary elections, either through:
   1. Party primary elections in which unaffiliated voters as well as party members would be permitted to vote in a primary election to choose the nominees of the parties; or
   2. Individual candidate-based primary elections in which all voters choose among all candidates from all parties on the same ballot with the candidates’ party affiliations listed. The subsequent general election ballot would include either
      1. predetermined number of candidates without regard to partisan affiliation (e.g., the top two, three, or four); or
      2. those candidates receiving a predetermined percentage of the total primary votes

ELECTION DISTRICTS (1993, 2016) Support for:
1. A mix of single and multi-member districts. The following criteria should be used to decide which districts should be single and which should be multi-member:
   a. full minority representation;
   b. geographic integrity;
   c. preservation of political and community boundaries;
   d. compactness.
2. Coterminous boundaries (Delegate districts nesting within Senate districts).

TERM LIMITS (1993) Opposition to:
1. Term limits for members of the General Assembly. (1993)

GOVERNMENT: ETHICS
LWVMD has never specifically studied governmental ethics. We have, however, strongly supported (in accordance with the LWVUS Principles and positions) legislation and administrative action which will make government more responsive and accountable to the voters, such as open meetings, accessibility of records to the public, and a code of ethics for government office holders and officials.
GOVERNMENT: FIREARMS CONTROL

Action to strengthen gun control laws. (1991) Support for:
1. Requirement of a proficiency test as part of the procedure for obtaining a hunting license.
2. Restriction on the availability of handguns (not including the banning of handguns).
3. Registration of all handguns including a more effective identification process.
4. Compilation of more adequate and uniform firearm and firearm crime statistics by the State Police.
5. Development of police public relations programs to educate the public about firearms, especially gun safety, gun laws, and gun crime and accident statistics.

GOVERNMENT: FISCAL POLICY

Action to increase the budgetary authority of the legislature and to achieve a more effective budget process. (1977, 2004)

FISCAL STRUCTURE (1976, 1981, 1999) Support for:
1. An equitable and efficient fiscal structure for Maryland.
2. Improvement of the fiscal relationships between the state and its political subdivisions.
3. Supporting or opposing proposed changes to Maryland’s revenue structure by using the following principles to analyze and evaluate the proposed changes:
   a. a progressive income tax which should be the first choice if a revenue increase is necessary.
   b. a sales tax with exemptions to decrease regressivity.
   c. a motor vehicle fuel tax on a per gallon basis to be used for transportation, with measures included to protect the environment.
   d. the distribution of state funds to local governments in a variety of ways, based on factors such as population, need, wealth, and tax effort.
   e. reduction of the number and complexity of equalization formulas used by the state to distribute money to local governments.
   f. statements of intent and periodic review by the legislature of all state-funded programs.
   g. permitting legislative reallocation of expenditures within the official state revenue estimate or the Governor’s budget proposal.
   h. fiscal restraints which promote good fiscal planning and allow for proper budget procedures.
4. Support for use of the following principles (no single revenue source will meet all principles), with principles a through c the most important and d through f more important than the others.
   a. Adequate yield: Adequate and timely revenues are available to finance planned expenditures.
   b. Equity/Fairness: The ability-to-pay principle defined as a progressive tax – a graduated tax which will collect a greater percentage of income from those with higher income than from those with lower incomes; e.g., a graduated income tax with a series of rates and income brackets.
   c. Compatibility with state social and environmental policy: The state’s policy and tax structure are working toward the same ends, not at cross purposes.
   d. Cost effective administration: Collection costs are low relative to the yield.
   e. Elasticity/natural growth: As the economy, the population and/or inflation grows, the revenue system will grow naturally at a similar rate in order to maintain a constant level of services.
   f. Equity/Fairness: The benefit principle means a tax or fee will be levied in proportion to the benefit received, e.g. user fees, college tuition, and dedicated taxes. Use of this principle must include an assessment of the impact on low-income people.
   g. Simplicity: The revenue source is easy to understand.
   h. Certainty: The tax is difficult to avoid.
   i. Public acceptance: The political will exists to impose the tax or fee and the public’s willingness to comply is evident.
   j. Compatibility and links with federal policy: Maryland’s budget includes a significant amount of federal funds; the state income tax is pegged to the federal income tax; several other smaller taxes also piggyback on their federal counterparts; and some state taxes are deductible at the federal level.
   k. A competitive business climate: The state’s policy and tax structure will not adversely impact on-going businesses, or where businesses locate. The costs of inducements, such as tax credits, to businesses to
move to or to remain in the state will be considered in the light of Maryland’s overall competitiveness and attractiveness. Accountability for the cost of inducements and their results must be included in this policy. See “Education – Financing Education” positions, page 52 for related support positions.

Opposition to:
5. Any constitutional amendment proposed to limit state taxes and spending.
6. Tax or spending limits imposed by the state on local governments.

**BUDGET PROCESS** (1977, 2004) Support for:
1. Increasing the budgetary authority of the legislature to achieve a more effective budget process.
2. The following characteristics as important to Maryland’s operating budget process:
   a. Transparency: A budget process that is clear and readily understood.
   b. Public Access: Opportunity for substantive public input during the entire budget process, including the formulation, enactment and implementation phases.
   c. Reliable, current and objective information.
   d. Accountability: A systematic review process of expenditures, programs and services to determine their impact, efficiency and sustainability.
   e. Sufficient time to deliberate.
   f. Flexibility: The ability to adjust to changing needs.
   g. Balanced budget requirement.

**GOVERNMENT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Action to support county home rule, with preference for charter. (1967, 1983, 1985)
Support for:

**GOVERNMENT: REDISTRICTING**

Action to assure 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. (2004)
Support for:
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:
   a. Be multi-partisan
   b. Include unaffiliated voters
   c. Be geographically representative
   d. Not include any current state elected official.
3. Standards on which the redistricting plan is based should include:
   a. Substantially equal population;
   b. Geographic contiguity;
   c. Geographic compactness.
4. Final approval by the General Assembly for the legislative and Congressional redistricting plans.
5. 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.

**GOVERNMENT: STATE CONSTITUTION**

Action to secure a constitution that is clear, concise and confined to fundamentals. (1962)
Support for:
1. A constitution that is clear, concise and confined to fundamentals.
NATURAL RESOURCES: COAL

Action to oppose the granting of eminent domain for, and the construction of, a coal slurry pipeline through Maryland. (1986) Action to support the collection of taxes and fees from the coal industry for costs to the public resulting from the mining of Maryland coal. (1987) Action to oppose strip mining on slopes steeper than 20 degrees. (1993)

Support for:
1. Holding the coal industry responsible for the payment of costs to the public resulting from its operation.
2. Use of the per-ton severance tax and the current system of impact/reclamation fees as the sources of revenues to cover these costs.
3. Continuation of the Maryland coal tax.

Opposition to:
4. The use of the personal property tax for surface mined coal because of the difficulty in enforcement and collection.
5. Strip mining on slopes steeper than 20 degrees.

NATURAL RESOURCES: HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Action to promote the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste and to educate the public on safe disposal procedures. (1984)

Support for:
1. Sound management of hazardous waste through:
   a. recycling, recovery and pre-treatment;
   b. alternatives to land filling;
   c. providing economic incentives to industry and evaluating the results;
   d. providing funds for environmental monitoring and enforcement.
2. State government action to assist public and small generator waste disposal in an economically feasible and environmentally safe way through:
   a. education of the public as to what hazardous waste is, how to dispose of it properly, and safe alternative products that can be used;
   b. mandating informative labeling on all hazardous waste products;
   c. encouraging the establishment of convenient collection sites throughout Maryland.

NATURAL RESOURCES: LAND USE/GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Action to encourage the State to establish goals, guidelines, and standards for land use, with local implementation of land use policies. (1975, 1979, 1991)

Support for:
1. State government having a larger role than local government in managing critical areas of statewide concern, especially environmental protection and resource conservation and preservation.
2. Goals and guidelines for regional and interagency coordination in the development and implementation of land use plans.
3. Local government’s use of land use planning and regulatory techniques, such as adequate public facilities legislation, land banking, planned unit developments, transfer of development rights, and timed development ordinances to direct development to designated areas.
4. Preservation of agricultural land by:
   a. zoning;
   b. continued use of preferential farmland easement laws, including collection of the rollback tax;
   c. transfer of development rights;
   d. easement purchases funded by the state real estate transfer tax.
5. State government use of incentives such as the provision of technical assistance, infrastructure and grants to enable local governments to comply with state goals, guidelines and standards.
NATURAL RESOURCES: SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Action to promote informed decisions affecting solid waste management. (1995)

Support for:
1. Ample opportunity and funding for active public participation including timely scheduling and notification of public meetings.
2. Provisions by local, state and federal governments of the following types of information on the impact of solid waste actions:
   a. environment;
   b. economics;
   c. public health;
   d. socio-economic demographics.
3. Technological information collected, shared and provided by the state.
4. State regulations in place regarding control, funding and public health for the management of solid waste.
5. The following incentives that encourage the reduction, reuse, and recycling of materials and the opening of new markets and that discourage the use of some materials:
   a. legislative mandates;
   b. tax incentives;
   c. voluntary guidelines;
   d. pricing support;
   e. variable rates for waste pick-up;
   f. procurement regulations
6. Inter- and intra-state solutions to solid waste management.

NATURAL RESOURCES: TRANSPORTATION

Action to support an integrated transportation system and mass transit systems which are efficient, safe, clean and accessible. Support for adequate and equitable funding and cooperative regional programs is necessary to achieve these goals. (2002)

Support for:
1. Maintaining the solvency of the Transportation Trust Fund.
2. Increasing funding for mass transit.
3. Developing regional visions and frameworks for transportation which reflect local concerns and which incorporate relevant LWV positions on land use, economic development and environmental protection.
4. Achieving and maintaining cooperative working relationships among state and local agencies in order to achieve better planning and to decrease the use of single occupancy vehicles.
5. Incentives which promote use of mass transit and other alternative modes of travel.
6. Public education to promote transportation goals which would provide alternative travel modes, encourage technological improvements that abate emissions from mobile sources, reduce energy consumption and protect natural resources.

NATURAL RESOURCES: CLIMATE CHANGE

Action on climate change is based on the LWVUS position to support comprehensive legislation to control climate change, and support for predominant reliance on renewable resources.
SOCIAL POLICY: The League of Women Voters supports Social Policies that secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all, and that promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

SOCIAL POLICY: ADULT LITERACY

Action to ensure availability of free or low cost basic English language instruction for adult Maryland residents who are not proficient in reading, writing, speaking and understanding English. (2009)

Support for:
1. Federal, State and Local government funding of free or low cost basic English language instruction for adult Maryland residents.
2. State and/or local government providing tax credits or other monetary incentives to employers who:
   a. provide paid work release time for employees to attend English as a Second Language (ESL) or literacy classes either on-site or offsite.
   b. contract with qualified professionals and/or community colleges to provide worksite ESL or literacy classes.

SOCIAL POLICY: CHILDREN’S SERVICES

Action to support a comprehensive range of child-centered services to ensure all children a chance to grow toward stable, productive adulthood. (1995)

Support for:
1. Making the needs of children a high priority of government.
2. Effective services for children, including:
   a. collaboration across departmental and agency lines to provide seamless services for children;
   b. community-based points of entry where families at risk can apply for multiple services;
   c. consumer-oriented service centers sited in easily accessible neighborhood locations (such as schools) with hours convenient to families;
   d. a compatible computer system with appropriate safeguards for confidentiality, connecting agencies serving children to allow more open collaboration and provide comprehensive resource listing;
   e. a non-categorized contingency fund with rational limits and clear accountability available to line workers dealing with crisis situations;
   f. early intervention to prevent later crisis;
   g. result-oriented, long-term evaluations of program and services based on measured outcomes.

SOCIAL POLICY: DEATH WITH DIGNITY

1. The League of Women Voters of Maryland believes state laws should grant the option for a terminally ill person to request medical assistance from a relevant, licensed physician to end one’s life.
2. The League of Women Voters of Maryland believes such legislation should include safeguards against abuse for the dying and/or medical personnel.

** This position will be presented at the 2019 State Convention.

SOCIAL POLICY: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Action to support preventing initial and repeat occurrences of violence against spouses, domestic partners, the elderly, and children. Action to support a strong statewide response to violence that is integrated, interdisciplinary, and adequately funded, involving all segments of the law-enforcement and judicial systems, the medical community, the schools, social services, animal care and control agencies, and the private sector, with a primary focus on the safety of victims. (2000)

Domestic Violence is “abuse that may be physical, psychological, and/or economic, affecting all socio-economic, religious, ethnic and social groups, including spouses, partners, children and the elderly.”
Support for:
1. Counseling for abused women, children and batterers.
2. A “seamless response” to domestic violence throughout the state.
3. Early intervention where child behavior may signify abuse.
4. Programs to sensitize police and judicial personnel, health care providers, mental health workers, social service workers, businesses, community groups, educators, and veterinarians and animal care workers to indicators of abuse.
5. Adequate funding of domestic violence programs.
6. Forceful implementation of laws.
7. Safe homes to meet the needs of elderly victims.
8. Facilities for pets who are not permitted in shelters.
9. Research to develop programs and laws which will stop domestic violence.

SOCIAL POLICY: DRUG AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE ABUSE, POLICIES AND LAWS

Action to legalize the use of marijuana for any use, including medicinal, subject to restrictions on production and distribution. (2012) Support for:
1. Legalization of marijuana for any use, including medicinal use, subject to restrictions on production and distribution.
2. No agreement was reached as to the legalization of other non-prescription illegal drugs classified as controlled substances such as heroin or cocaine for medicinal or any use.

SOCIAL POLICY: DRUNK DRIVING

Action to promote strong governmental measures and educational programs to address the problem of the drinking driver. (1983 and 2001) Support For:
1. A blood alcohol concentration (BAC) not to exceed 0.08 standing as both the legal definition of driving while intoxicated and absolute proof of guilt per se in alcohol-related driving offenses.
2. The administration of BAC tests when there is a probable cause to believe that a driver is under the influence of alcohol.
3. Courts and other agencies expediting the handling of alcohol-related driving offenses.
4. Statewide guidelines for rehabilitation programs, which should be locally administered with costs shared by the offenders.
5. Judges’ use of a variety of sentences for alcohol-related offenses.

SOCIAL POLICY: EDUCATION

Action to support measures which recognize the primary responsibility for funding public elementary and secondary education lies with the state. (1972, 1975) Action to support the state aiding local school systems in attracting and retaining competent teachers. (1989) Action to oppose using public funding for vouchers to enable parents to send their children to private elementary and secondary schools. (2001) Action to encourage the inclusion of certain criteria in any legislation or regulations governing the establishment of Public Charter Schools. (2001) Action to insure students have an opportunity to pass high school graduation tests. (2005) Opposed BOOST scholarship program for students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch to attend private and religious schools that currently receive state funding for computers and textbooks (2018)

FINANCING EDUCATION – The primary responsibility for funding public elementary and secondary education lies with the state: (1972, 1975) Support for:
1. A foundation program based on a weighted per pupil formula supported from general state revenues at a level high enough to eliminate inequities.
2. Some local leeway to provide additional funding for education.
3. Continuation of local control over the schools.
4. The encouragement of increased federal funding for education.

(see Fiscal Policy support positions on page 47)
COMPETENT TEACHERS – State aiding local school systems in attracting and retaining competent teachers. (1989) Support for:

1. The state setting realistic minimum beginning salaries.
2. The state funding scholarships for college education of qualified candidates entering the teaching profession, particularly for those agreeing to teach in critical subject areas or in school systems with critical teacher shortages.
3. The state supporting alternative paths to certification.
4. The state providing support for professional development activities.
5. The state encouraging the use of support staff to enable teachers to spend more time with students and their learning problems.


Opposition to:

1. Using public funding for vouchers to enable parents to send their children to private elementary and secondary schools

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS (2001) Support for:

1. The following criteria in any legislation or regulations governing the establishment of Public Charter Schools:
   a. Public Charter Schools must be non sectarian, non religious, non profit, and not home-based;
   b. Applications may be submitted by a variety of groups or organizations, including, but not limited to, parents, teachers and institutions of higher learning;
   c. Local boards of education determine which groups or organizations will be granted contracts i.e., "charters", with the right to an appeal of that decision to the State Board of Education;
   d. Waivers (to be specified in the contract) may include some public school regulations governing curriculum, calendar, and teaching methodology. No waivers may be granted from regulations governing fiscal accountability, nor (as specified by federal regulations) from civil rights or health and safety standards;
   e. Quarterly financial reports should be made to the local school board;
   f. Academic standards, including testing, required of other public school students must be met;
   g. Admission must be non-discriminatory and open on a first-come, first-served basis to all students who wish to apply, and
   h. Public Charter Schools must be funded at the same per pupil level as students in other public schools.

No consensus was reached on whether we support or oppose Public Charter Schools.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION TESTING – Ensure students have an opportunity to pass high school graduation tests. (2005) Support for:

1. As long as passage of academic tests (High School Assessments) is required for graduation, the following conditions should be in place to insure students have a fair opportunity to pass:
   a. Access to curriculum and instructional materials aligned with state standards
   b. Access to a high quality educational program, including advanced placement courses
   c. Access to well qualified teachers
   d. Timely and specific results
   e. Multiple opportunities to pass the test
   f. In-school and after-school tutoring and remediation
   g. Opportunities to retake a course or take a mini-course
   h. Alternate ways to demonstrate mastery of the subject

2. To insure every student the opportunity and resources to pass tests, the state should fund:
   a. Pre-school education
   b. Professional staff development (curriculum, learning styles, cultural differences, expectations of students)
   c. Curriculum development and textbooks aligned with core curriculum
   d. Smaller class size
   e. Technical assistance to identify reasons for low academic achievement

No consensus was reached on whether passage of statewide, course-related testing should be required to determine eligibility for high school graduation.

In addition, see Adult Literacy Position at the beginning of Social Policy.
SOCIAL POLICY: MARRIAGE/CIVIL UNION EQUALITY

Action to ensure that Maryland law does not discriminate in its recognition of all marriages/civil unions on the basis of gender or religious definitions of marriage. (2007)

Support for:
1. State sanctioned, legally recognized unions which convey rights, benefits and obligations to same-sex partners who seek such unions.
2. Recognition of such unions and/or same-sex marriages that have been legally sanctioned in other states.
3. With preference for: In keeping with the principle of separation of church and state, making the basis of state recognition of all marriages/civil unions (same-sex or opposite-sex) a civil proceeding, with the additional step of marriage in accordance with religious traditions a voluntary option.

SOCIAL POLICY: HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH CARE APPEALS

Action to ensure a health care appeals system which protects patients, makes insurers accountable and objectively addresses patients’ concerns. (1999)

Support for:
1. Uniform state standards and guidelines for health care appeals. The standards and guidelines should:
   a. be applicable to all health insurers not covered by federal law;
   b. include time frames for responding to appeals and the qualifications required of reviewers;
   c. require that professional standards be used in making decisions on appeals.
2. Collection of health care data which can be used to hold health insurers accountable and which is understandable and accessible to patients.

SOCIAL POLICY: HOUSING

Action to develop a state housing policy responsive to the need for more affordable housing and to clarify landlord/tenant relationships. (1982, 1983)

Support for:
1. One state entity charged with and held accountable for establishing housing policies, programs and goals, periodically collecting and analyzing data and reviewing housing programs.
2. Housing programs funded by bonds and general revenues.
3. Housing programs targeted to those geographic areas with proportionally the highest level of housing assistance needs.
4. New construction or rehabilitation to promote economic development.
5. The change of state landlord/tenant laws to require a clearly written lease which states the rights and responsibilities of both parties and includes a warranty of habitability.
6. Requirement of landlords to state reasons for either terminating tenancy or initiating eviction proceedings.
7. The establishment of local and/or regional landlord/tenant offices and quasi-judicial commissions throughout Maryland.
8. The use of manufactured/mobile housing and the development of manufactured/mobile home subdivisions to meet the need for affordable and available housing.

SOCIAL POLICY: MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

Relied on LWVUS positions: One of the goals of social policy should be to reduce poverty and promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families; Increasing emphasis on cash assistance; Benefit levels should be sufficient to provide adequate food; and Pay equity.
The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA) is a consortium of Leagues located in and near Washington D.C. The Leagues cooperate on various projects including training, forums, advocacy and studies. LWVNCA studies, like local, state and national studies may be for education only or for the purpose of developing new positions for advocacy. Every odd-numbered year the LWVNCA Board solicits input from local Leagues about the issues of interest to them. This feedback is reported at the LWVNCA Annual Convention where program studies as well as positions are adopted by a vote of delegates to the convention.

**NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA MEMBER LEAGUES** (see page 14 for contact information)
- District of Columbia (LWVDC)
- Maryland (LWVMD)
- Frederick County (LWVFR)
- Howard County (LWVHC)
- Montgomery County (LWVMC)
- Prince George’s County (LWVPGC)
- Virginia (LWVVA)
- Arlington (LWVAR)
- Fairfax Area (LWVFA)
- Falls Church (LWVFC)
- Loudoun County (LWVLC)

**PROGRAM ADOPTED AT 2017-2019 LWVNCA CONVENTION**

A two-year program plan was approved. It included a timely region-wide effort called: Metro “Fund It-Fix It”. Members were urged to advocate for dedicated Metro funding sources in the three jurisdictions: Virginia, Maryland & Washington, DC. The results were commitments to solid dedication funding from all three for Metro. It also included a training workshop entitled “Creating Strong Leagues: A Leadership-Membership Workshop”.

**PROGRAM PROPOSED AT THE 2019 LWVNCA CONVENTION**

No new studies were recommended. Proposed Program recommendations include:
- a forum on voting issues that includes election security and voter suppression (DC Statehood),
- an event on controlled substance abuse and health care,
- an event on human trafficking,
- a summer workshop for 2019.

**LWVNCA POSITIONS FOR ACTION**

- Airports
- Beltway Safety
- Comprehensive Health Planning
- Controlled Substances
- D.C. Financing
- Land Use/Housing
- Regional Governance
- Transportation
- Water Resources
AIRPORTS
   Good ground transportation is necessary to all airports.
2. It is necessary to place limitations on the use of DCA. We support the enforcement of:
   a. The current High Density and Perimeter Rules, and noise abatement procedures.
   b. Other methods to limit aircraft types.
3. With regard to all three airports, jurisdictions should:
   a. Enact responsible, comprehensive planning and zoning policies that limit development to industrial and/or commercial uses in the immediate vicinity of the airports.
   b. Restrict residential development within the area directly affected by the presence and operations of the airports.

BELTWAY SAFETY
1. In order to control speeding and unsafe driving on the Capital Beltway and its feeder roads, we support:
   a. the use of additional patrol officers for visibility and enforcement
   b. the use of automated photographic speed enforcement devices as an additional system of speed enforcement.
2. We support measures to increase truck safety on the Capital Beltway and its connector roads that include:
   a. mandatory commercial vehicle safety inspections in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia,
   b. increased fines for truck safety violations
   c. limiting hazardous material carriers to certain hours.
3. Weight and length limitations for commercial vehicles using the Capital Beltway and its feeder roads should not be increased.
4. Efforts among federal, state and local governments to improve coordination of inspection and enforcement activities on the Beltway should be an ongoing process (1991, 2016).

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLANNING
1. LWVNCA supports:
   a. governmental regulations of health planning (1976, 89),
   b. regional coordination among healthcare systems and agencies in the Washington Metropolitan Area to include gathering data, sharing information, avoiding duplication of facilities and services, and controlling costs (1976, 89),
   c. regional health education and information services to the public (1977, 89, 2016).
2. In order to increase the availability of medical services, LWV supports the concept of 24-hour clinics & the use of para-professionals (1977, 89).
3. There should be improved care for the elderly and an emphasis on community support as an alternative to long-term institutional nursing care (1977, 89).

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
1. We support legislation to permit the use of marijuana and heroin for medicinal purposes (1989).
2. We believe that testing for illegal drug use is a justifiable invasion of privacy when required as part of the hiring process for jobs affecting public safety and national security (1989).
3. Employees who test positive should be:
   a. retested prior to any disciplinary action (1976, 89),
   b. allowed to continue working or put on administrative leave,
   c. required in each case to participate in an employee assistance program,
   d. subjected to random drug tests for a one-year period following a positive test (1989).
4. Measures for solving the drug problem should include interdiction, enforcement, education/prevention, and treatment. Education and treatment should receive special emphasis and should be stressed over criminal justice sanctions (1989, 91).
5. Drug treatment programs that should be given public funding priority include detoxification and self-help programs, outpatient care, and the use of therapeutic communities, with aftercare as part of all programs (1991).


7. Drug treatment should be incorporated into the sentence for any juvenile or adult convicted of a crime who tested positive at the time of arrest (1989).

8. Pregnant drug users should not be subjected to criminal prosecution just because they are pregnant. Pregnant drug users who are before the court for crimes other than the use of drugs should be placed in mandatory treatment through a justice system diversion program. We support the use of outreach nurses and counselors for pregnant drug users without the threat of legal penalties (1991).

9. Financial responsibility for drug treatment should fall, to some extent, on all of the following: insurance, patients, patients' families, governments (federal, state, and local), employers, and labor unions (1989).


11. The area jurisdictions should establish a public/private partnership through the Council of Governments (COG) to develop a long-range plan to meet treatment needs and to identify financial and in-kind resources. This partnership should include the private sector and citizen groups (1989).

D.C. FINANCING
1. Budget Autonomy. The District of Columbia should have autonomy in budgeting locally raised revenue. The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA) supports legislation eliminating the annual Congressional D.C. appropriations budget-approval process.

2. Federal Payment. To address the District of Columbia's need for a stronger revenue base, the LWVNCA supports Congressional legislation setting forth the factors for determining an annual, predictable federal payment. The most important factors to be considered are:
   a. taxes that the District of Columbia cannot levy because of Congressional prohibitions on the District's ability to tax; and
   b. the cost of services provided by the District to the federal government
Other factors might include the cost of state services provided by the District and the percentages of revenue that other U.S. cities receive from external sources. (2003)

LAND USE/HOUSING
1. Regional land use planning for the Washington Metropolitan area should include a coordinated and comprehensive approach to meet housing needs. The goal of the housing component of a regional land use plan should be to:
   a. provide adequate housing for all income levels,
   b. promote a balanced distribution of housing and employment for all income levels,
   c. improve the quality of housing and neighborhood environments (1975, reaffirmed 1989).

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE
1. We accept the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) as the basic instrument for cooperative regional planning. (1966, 82, 2016).

2. We support granting COG sufficient authority so that it can resolve governmental problems that cannot be solved by local governments, planning boards and agencies (1973, 82, 87, 89, 2016).

3. Because COG should have some funding powers, we support assessments of member jurisdictions, user fees, and state and federal grants.

4. We support citizen participation at the regional level for COG and other inter-jurisdictional agencies (1973, 83, 2016).
TRANSPORTATION

1. In support of the concept that there be some form of public transportation available for all, we endorse public policy in services and planning that:
   a. supports a coordinated public transportation system which includes bus and rapid rail transit (1964, 70, 83, 89),
   b. promotes and improves the present and proposed public transportation systems to encourage the use of mass transit (1963, 70, 89).

2. Priorities in transportation services and planning should include:
   a. transportation systems services that are convenient, frequent, regular, speedy, and economical to the user and for the benefit of the larger community (1963, 64, 70, 83, 89),
   b. reduced air pollution through the promotion of mass transportation systems (1970, 89),
   c. allocation of road space for use of high-occupancy vehicles (buses, carpools, vanpools) to speed services, including traffic control measures.

3. We support public participation and supervision in determining information needed and in evaluating transportation proposals, transportation planning, and operations. Public involvement and decision-making should include
   a. appointment of citizen members to decision-making boards with full authority to participate in their functions, and enough tenure to master the subject. (These members should be residents of the jurisdictions involved and include consumer advocates who do not have business connections or official roles in the transportation and appropriations process) (1971, 89),
   b. every effort by local governments to include minorities, senior citizens, economically and/or physically challenged persons and other traditionally under-represented citizens on transportation and land use advisory committees and to facilitate this participation (1997),
   c. open public meetings of all regulatory and public management boards (1971, 89),
   d. compulsory paid publications in general circulation newspapers or proposals on which public review is to be held (1971, 89),
   e. decision-making on the level of services for the regional mass transit system by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority (WMATA) with local input, including citizen input early in the decision-making process (1981, 89).

4. We support financial measures that include:
   a. informing the public of the total costs of auto use and full public disclosure of the costs of transportation service, of who pays for service and who receives it, and of full cost/benefit information,
   b. public investment to finance public transportation systems, to encourage substantially greater use of mass transportation, to increase resources for bus and rail transit, to achieve a realistic alternative to private auto use, to provide funds for bus shelters and information services (1971, 83, 89),
   c. reduction of subsidies to auto use, such as tax favors which support parking and free parking for employees paid out of public funds (1971, 89).
   d. the use of a dedicated tax to help fund public transportation. The objective of such a tax should be to spread the costs of mass transit among the total population and to encourage the use of mass transit instead of the automobile. A sales tax which excludes such necessities as food and medicines would be the best means of financing mass transportation in the metropolitan area. The most important criteria to be used in evaluating particular taxes dedicated to transportation should be revenue potential, timeliness, and reliability (1980).

Note: the above position applies only to the Washington metropolitan area, and may be acted upon within the context of interstate regional cooperation, despite its partial conflict with the LWVMD, LWV-VA and LWVDC positions.

5. We support the integration of transportation and land use planning on local and regional levels (1997).

6. We support an interstate compact authority for regional transportation.
   a. Members representing corporate, environmental, social, and political jurisdictions would best promote a regional approach to transportation planning.
   b. Members representing political jurisdictions would best produce cooperation among/between local jurisdictions and would best promote efficiency and flexibility in meeting transportation needs.
   c. The following areas of transportation planning should come within the jurisdiction of a regional transportation authority: Roads and highways; urban and suburban transit, including bus and rail; interstate
rail, including connections among systems, i.e., Amtrak, MARC, etc.; pedestrian/bike paths; water, i.e.,
water taxis, ferries, etc.; bridges and tunnels.
d. Approved projects should be funded through: Federal funds appropriated through transportation
authorization act; state and local contributions; user fees, including tolls, fares, and other fees; private
funding; bonds; gasoline tax (2004).

WATER RESOURCES
1. In order to ensure a safe and adequate water supply for metropolitan Washington and to restore the quality of
our streams and rivers, we support:
a. conservation and protection of drinking water and supply sources. Sources of drinking water serving the
metropolitan area, such as the Potomac River and Occoquan and Patuxent Reservoirs, must be maintained
and protected against pollution from both point and non-point sources,
b. regional demand reduction and water conservation measures to reduce annual per capita use –
   i) Contingency plans should be developed on a regional basis to provide for mandatory restrictions on water
      use in time of emergency.
   ii) Measures to recycle treated waste water in industrial, agricultural, and other non-potable systems and
       measures to reduce the use of water of drinking water quality as a conveyer of wastes should be
       encouraged to the extent consistent with public health and hydrological requirements
c. water-sharing measures to meet emergencies and to protect the physical and biological integrity of the
   sources,
d. protection of ground water,
e. official consideration of new drinking water sources –
   i) Sources within the metropolitan region should be investigated as possible adjuncts to existing water
      sources
   ii) Construction of major upstream dams on the Potomac or its tributaries for the purpose of providing
       additional water supplies for the metropolitan region should not be undertaken unless other options have
       been found insufficient to meet the essential needs of the region.
2. We support regional planning to improve wastewater treatment management. Final selection for new or
expanded wastewater treatment facilities should be based on meeting national clean water objectives, protecting
public health, and minimizing environmental, energy, and cost impacts (1979, 89, 2016).

Notes About Our Positions
These Positions are arrived at through study, consensus or concurrence. The member Leagues of LWVNCA can
use these positions within their jurisdiction to advocate in their area.

All the positions were reviewed in 2016 for language and consistency and readopted May 7, 2016.
The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) is made up of state and local Leagues from all fifty states, Puerto Rico and Guam. Every other year the LWVMD Board solicits input from member Leagues about the issues they would like the LWVUS to study. The suggestions from the Leagues are presented to the LWVUS Board. The Board votes on a list of recommended and non-recommended studies. At the biennial convention, delegates from the Leagues vote on which studies to adopt. When a study has been adopted, study committees are formed by representatives from various Leagues around the country.

**POSITIONS ADOPTED FROM 2016-2018 STUDIES**

No Studies were adopted for 2016-2018. What was adopted was a League-wide Campaign for Making Democracy Work®: Voter protection and mobilizing, Election reform and Money in politics, constitutional amendment and redistricting.

**PROGRAM STUDIES AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 2018 LWVUS CONVENTION**

The theme of the 2018 Convention was Creating a More Perfect Democracy. No new studies were adopted, instead the national organization will continue its focus on the goals set in the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® – ensuring a free, fair and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters by focusing on Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, and Redistricting.

In addition, the LWVUS has been working over the past several years on a “transformation journey” to ensure that the League enters its second century strong, visible, and relevant. As the next step in that journey, LWVUS has published a “Transformation Roadmap” that includes four critical action steps to be implemented:

- Advancing a clear strategic focus,
- building a more inclusive culture, including a commit to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion,
- building a healthier League network,
- and increasing capacity at all levels.

A number of resolutions were brought to the floor by delegates (not the LWVUS Board) and passed:

- placing an emphasis on the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) this year and every year until the ERA is ratified and becomes a U.S. Constitutional Amendment, added to the Constitution; and supporting efforts to remove the time limits for ratification;
- making gun control and safety and gun ownership limitations a priority in the LWVUS lobbying efforts;
- reaffirming the League’s long-held position that the Electoral College should be abolished;
- supporting efforts to price carbon emissions;
- reaffirming the League’s commitment to the constitutional right of privacy and an individual’s right to make reproductive choices;
- supporting climate assessment criteria that ensures energy policies align with current climate science, and
- including advocacy for the National Popular Vote Compact in the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®.

Three amendments to the LWVUS Bylaws were passed.

New LWVUS Board officers: President Chris Carson, VP Karen Nicholson, Secretary Toni Zimmer and Treasurer Jessica Lowe-Minor

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THE FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL POSITIONS. FROM TIME TO TIME THE POSITIONS MAY BE CHANGED OR UPDATED. A FULL LISTING IS AVAILABLE AT THE LWVMC OFFICE, ON THE LWVUS “LEAGUE MANAGEMENT” WEBSITE LWV.ORG/LEAGUE-MANAGEMENT, AND IN THE LWVUS PUBLICATION, “IMPACT ON ISSUES”. CALL 202-429-1965 TO FIND OUT HOW TO PURCHASE A COPY

LWVUS POSITIONS FOR ACTION
Representative Government / International Relations / Natural Resources / Social Policy

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT: Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

VOTING RIGHTS
Citizen’s Right to Vote. Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

ELECTION PROCESS
Apportionment. Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.
Redistricting. Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.
Money in Politics (formerly campaign finance). Support campaign finance/MIP regulations that enhances political equality for all citizens, ensures transparency, protects representative democracy from distortion by undisclosed contributions and big money, and combats corruption and undue influence in government. Support campaign spending that is restricted but not banned. Support public financing, full disclosure, abolishing SuperPACs, and creating an effective enforcement agency.
Selection of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

CITIZEN RIGHTS
Citizen’s Right to Know/Citizen Participation. Protect the citizen’s right to know and facilitate informed understanding and public participation in government decision-making.
Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals and Constitutional Conventions
Amendment Proposals. Consider whether a proposal addresses matters of abiding importance, makes our political system more democratic, protects individual rights, could be achieved by a constitutional amendment or legislative proposal, and is consistent with other League positions.
Constitutional Conventions. Hold Constitutional Conventions only when certain conditions are in place, such as: limited to a specific topic, full transparency, delegates selected by population, and voting by delegates not by states.
Individual Liberties. Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.
Public Policy on Reproductive Choices. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENCY
Congress. Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability, effective performance, and transparency.
The Presidency. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

PRIVATIZATION
Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

UNITED NATIONS
Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic, and humanitarian needs of all people.

TRADE
Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers; expand international trade; and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental, and social goals.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

ARMS CONTROL
Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

MILITARY POLICY AND DEFENSE SPENDING
Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES: Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT & PROTECTION
Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Promote resource conservation, stewardship, and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government. Preserve the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality. Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy. Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation, and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use. Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water. Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater, and drinking water, and set up a process to evaluate inter-basin water transfers.

Waste Management. Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear. Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Climate Change. Support climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

AGRICULTURE POLICY
Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices, and increased reliance on the free market.

Federal Agriculture Policies. Provide financial support to subsidize agriculture in specific instances, enforce federal antitrust laws to ensure competitive agricultural markets, and apply clean air and water regulations to all animal and aquaculture production. The federal government should fund basic agricultural research to provide adequate safety of our food supply.

SOCIAL POLICY: Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY
Equal Rights. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA. Support equal rights for all under state and federal law regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability.
Education, Employment, and Housing. Support equal access to education, employment, and housing.

Federal Role in Public Education. Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12.

FISCAL POLICY

Tax Policy. Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit. Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements. Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability, and health insurance.

HEALTH CARE
Promote a health care system for the United States that provides affordable access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents, including behavioral health that is integrated with and achieves parity with the physical health care system.

IMMIGRATION
Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS
Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance. Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing, and shelter.

Support Services. Provide for essential support services.

Housing. Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

CHILD CARE
Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

EARLY INTERVENTION FOR CHILDREN AT RISK
Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development, and safety of all children.

VIOLENCE PROTECTION
Support violence prevention programs in communities.

GUN CONTROL
Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

URBAN POLICY
Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

DEATH PENALTY
LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty.

SENTENCING POLICY
Support the exploration and utilization of alternatives to imprisonment, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING
Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement, and well-defined channels for citizen input and review.