



## **League in Action**

August 18, 2021

### **President's Message**

Hi all – welcome to those “dog days” of summer. Unfortunately, there is no rest for the Virginia weary because every year is an election year. **The amount of work this League cranks out is stunning and I can’t thank you enough. Now, I ask you to please identify your superpower.**

Everyone has a super power – a special talent – they can share with the world. Some confine the word talent to the ability to sing, dance or paint – but it is so much more expansive than that. You may have the talent of organizing events or learning about transportation and housing commissions or that of conducting elections or protecting elections. They are all superpowers! What is yours? **Let us know please by filling out this brief form!** Everyone has a talent – and all talents are needed in this time when Democracy is so threatened.

<https://forms.gle/MGZCSaJEBfCHT5K37>

## Do You Have a Taste for Advocacy?

**We are in need of someone to send out advocacy alerts** when we need to respond to Arlington County Board and Alexandria City Council initiatives. You would take information gleaned from committees and Observer Corps members and convert them alerts. Email me at [LWVArlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:LWVArlingtonva@gmail.com) if you want more information.

Thanks!

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## We Have Some Postcards that Need to go to Unregistered Voters!

-in Arlington and Alexandria City. For more information contact **Kathy Matusiak**, [kmatusiak@comcast.net](mailto:kmatusiak@comcast.net).

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## Would you like to be the League rep?

### **Arlington Announces New Stakeholder Group for Behavioral Health Crisis Response**

Arlington County is seeking community members to join a stakeholder group that will help Arlington County Government implement the requirements of Virginia's new Marcus-David Peters Act.

The Act, which was signed into law in late 2020 by Governor Ralph Northam, will create a statewide mental health alert system, also known as Marcus Alert, to ensure behavioral health experts are involved in responding to people in crisis.

[See the news release here](#)

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## **HELP WANTED!**

### **Voter Registration Opportunities!**

## **Food Bank Registration!**

We have received a grant through LWV US to register people at food banks this summer and fall. This is a great way to reach people who are often overlooked in the voting process.

These will be outside!

**We would like to have one fluent Spanish speaker on each shift** - but even if you can't speak Spanish, sign up....as long as we have one person speaking Spanish per shift, we are good.

Also, if you haven't taken the Virginia voter registration class this year, please watch the short video:

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/registration-drives/voter-registration-training-video/>

It is all hands on deck for another major election in Virginia!! Thanks for all of your help.

[FOOD BANK SIGN UP](#)

## Farmers Markets and Community Events

Starting with the National Night Out on August 3, we are planning several voter registration events at farmers markets and other community events.

Here is the sign up sheet for these events.

**If you haven't taken your yearly voter registration training**, you can do so on line here:

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/registration-drives/voter-registration-training-video/>

Thank you for all you do!

[Farmers Markets - Community Voter Reg](#)



## **We Need Help with our sandwich boards at Columbia Pike Movie Nights**

As we did last year, we are placing the sandwich boards at the entrance to the outdoor movie nights.

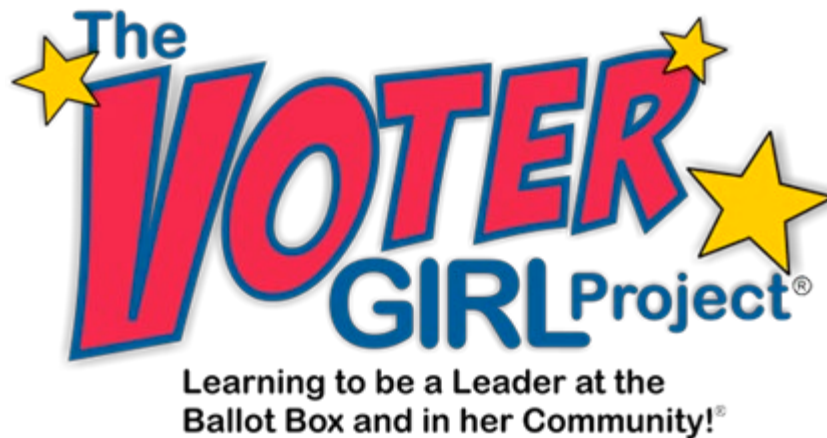
This is a great way to reach people to remind them of our important upcoming election.

[Sign up here for Columbia Pike Sandwich Boards](#)

## **Volunteers needed for September Voter Girl project**

Help girls learn how voting works!

Arlington's LWV is working collaboratively with the local Girl Scouts on Voter Girl. **On September 26, 2-5 PM, 100 girls from 2nd - 8th grade will learn about how voting works, participate in a mock election, hear from a local female elected official, and earn a civics badge.** We could use some help! If you've worked with kids as a teacher, coach, through scouts, through your church school, or otherwise, let us know if you can help with our breakout groups on September 26. Questions? Email: [claudiascott.va@gmail.com](mailto:claudiascott.va@gmail.com); text or call 703-608-4232.



## **We Will Have Several Candidate Forums This Fall!**

Volunteers Needed!

Almost all of the State delegate incumbents in our area have challengers, and there will be challengers to incumbents for local Arlington and Alexandria City offices. **We will need to have at least two perhaps three forums.** If you are interested in helping out on our forum committee please email Joan at [lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com).

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## **Be a Voice for Much Needed Affordable Housing on the Langston Blvd!**

**The Arlington County Board is taking input on the future of Arlington's last major corridor redevelopment along Langston Boulevard (formerly Lee Highway). Anti-housing, anti-missing middle, and even "anti-Langston Boulevard" Arlingtonians have been active expressing their opposition to plans to bring much-needed affordable housing to the corridor. We are told that County staff and Board members have received 100's of very negative emails, but that they are still taking input from the community.**

**This is a plea for League members to help change the discussion.**

**Please consider sending an email to a County Board member expressing support for expansive plans for the corridor.**

[Find more information on sharing your voice here](#)

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## **EVENTS**

**Thurs., Aug. 19, 7 PM**

### **VPAP: Your Window into Virginia Politics**

**David Poole**, Executive Director and founder of **Virginia Public Access Project** (VPAP), will talk about the history of VPAP and show us around the site.

[Please register to learn about this useful resource for advocates](#)

**Sat. Sept. 18 and Sun. Sept 19**

### **Building a Just Commonwealth**

Two-day virtual event examining justice and its intersection with many of the issues in

which the League's involved. Event will include keynote speakers and breakout sessions.

[For more information and to register, click here](#)

**Aug 24**

## **No More Excuses Rally! In Support of For the People Act**

11:00 AM, August 24 at Lafayette Park, Corner of 16th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

On August 24, together with our partners at People for the American Way, Black Voters Matter, and potentially more, **the League of Women Voters US** will be organizing a targeted action in support of the For the People Act to demand that this Presidential Administration does everything in its power to help pass this historic voting rights legislation--including addressing the filibuster

The No More Excuses Rally, from 11AM - 12 (noon) EDT, will be followed by a civil disobedience action!

We will have a series of powerful speakers addressing the crowd in Lafayette Square Park to discuss the importance of the For the People Act, the moment we are in, and invite people to commit to voting rights! Following the speakers, a number of individuals will be partaking in civil disobedience and getting arrested! **COME JOIN US!**

[For more information and to sign up click here](#)



# NO MORE EXCUSES: VOTING RIGHTS NOW!

**Rally & Protest at the White House**  
8.24.21 · 12pm ET · Lafayette Square Park · Washington, DC



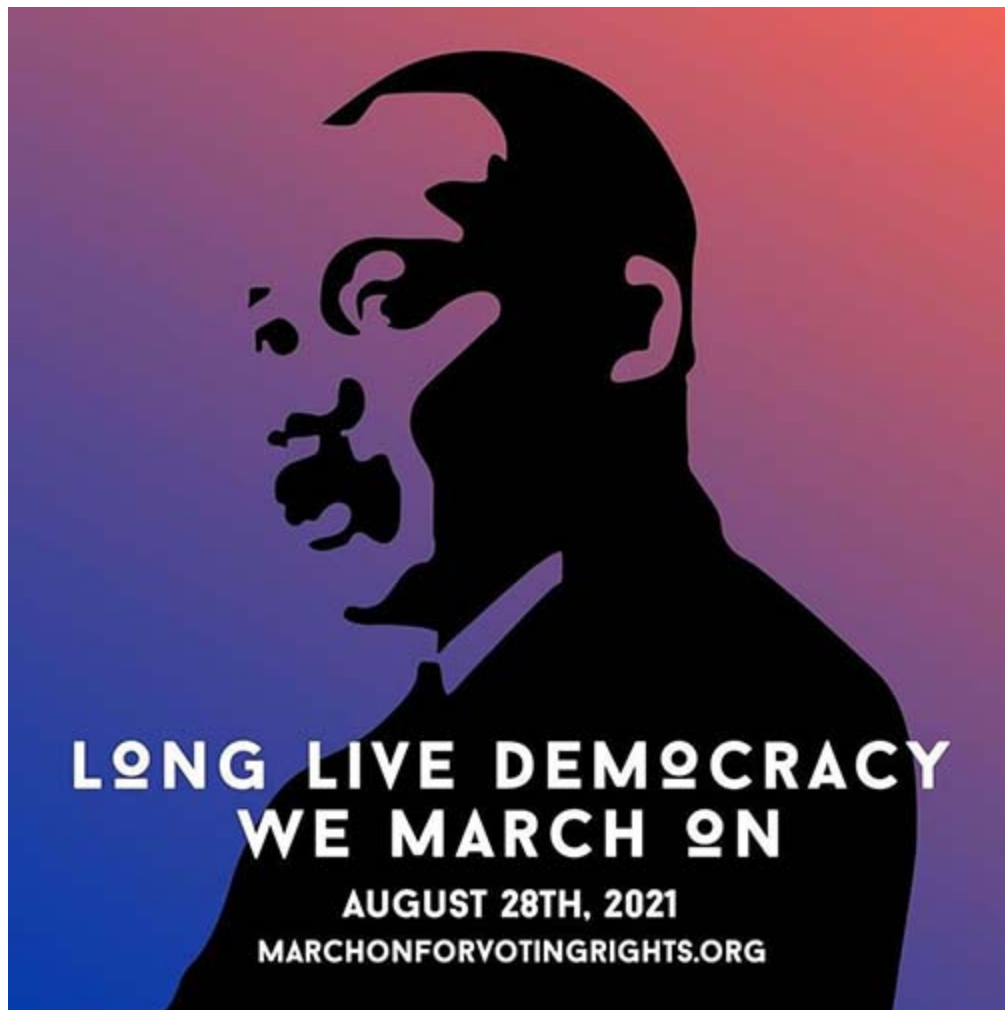
**Aug 28**

## **March on for Voting Rights**

On August 28, 2021—58 years to the day after his father’s march—Martin Luther King III will help to lead Americans on another march to demand federal voting rights protection.

Join the March On for Voting Rights this August 28 in Atlanta, Houston, Miami, Washington DC, Phoenix and more.

[For more information and to sign up to join the march click here](#)



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**Centennial Corner revisited**

**The Lucy Burns Museum**

will celebrate

**Women's Equality Day**

**on Sunday, August 29, 2021, 2:00 p.m.**

**There will be a special program in the museum at 2 PM** which will be free and open to the public.

**Women's Equality Day commemorates the 1920 adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution which prohibits the federal government and the states from denying the right to vote to citizens on the basis of sex.**

[See the announcement here](#)

## **GOTV! It starts with registration**



Voter Services Chair **Don Gurney** and **Pam Wynn** at Green Valley Civic Association's National Night Out at Drew Park

## **Initial Voter Registration Event with Capital Area Food Bank**

## - Aug 12

On Aug 12 LWV Arlington, in partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) held a voter registration event at Communities in Schools Arlington.

**Julia Lemp**, from CAFB, provided us with canopy, table and chairs, a great sandwich board with both LWV and CAFB logos, and Pledge to Vote flyers. That canopy provided us welcome relief for **Marna Louis** and me from the 96+ degree heat at the food distribution site.

We registered one voter. We also had conversations with and provided Know Before you Go Bookmarks and [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) bookmarks to a few people. The Food Bank personnel appreciated our presence.

*by Don Gurney*



Don Gurney and Marna Louis at Communities in Schools Arlington

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## News from National

### **League of Women Voters Encourages Public Participation in Map-Drawing Process**

The League of Women Voters Board President Dr. Deborah Turner issued a statement ahead of the release of census data in its legacy format, officially marking the beginning of map drawing.

[Read the statement here](#)

### **Senate Fails Again to Advance the For the People Act – Must Be #1 Priority After Recess**

We need the Senate and President Biden to use their full power and influence to pass this bill and ensure that the For the People Act becomes law.

[Read the statement here](#)

### **Texas Voters Win as Motor Voter Lawsuit Is Settled**

Over 1 Million Texans Have Already Registered To Vote Online Since September 2020, When This Suit Forced The State To Comply With National Voter Registration Act

San Antonio, TX — After more than five years of court battles, a settlement was

reached ten months ago in litigation brought by Texas voters, the League of Women Voters of Texas and MOVE Texas against the state of Texas for violation of the National Voter Registration Act, commonly known as the 'motor voter' law.

With this settlement, current and future Texans now have permanent protections safeguarding their right to register to vote any time they update their driver's license online.

[Read the press release here](#)

From LWV US General Counsel Celina Stewart –

## **The Fight for Voting Rights: Then and Now**

[Read the blog here](#)

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### **Meetings**

September 12 - 2 PM - **Book Group**

**Land: How the Hunger for Ownership Shaped the Modern World**

by [Simon Winchester](#)

contact Joan [Joan@joanporte.com](mailto:Joan@joanporte.com)

September 20 - 7 PM - **Redistricting** - subject to change -

Redistricting meets quarterly but we are following the commission  
contact Ann Sharp [sharpab2828@gmail.com](mailto:sharpab2828@gmail.com)

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**Look for next newsletter September 1**

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