



League in Action

February 15, 2023

President's Message

Yesterday was our birthday! February 14, 2023 was the 103rd birthday of the League of Women Voters. This timeline was made by folks at the LWV US when we turned 100 but it is still a good reminder of how we started and where we come from. <https://www.lwv.org/about-us/history>

This is going to be a busy year for us in terms of voter services. We will have a **June 20 primary** that will be done via Ranked Choice Voting for Arlington County Board and “regular voting” for other offices. **Voters will receive 2 ballots** and we will have to inform them about how ballots should be cast. Also, **we will be voting this year on the newly redrawn districts.** So we will have to get our voter education hats on for sure.

Arlington Elections Timetable

March 20 – the first day candidates can file for the June 20 primary

April 6 – the deadline for candidate applications.

May 5- first day of in-person early voting

May 30 – last day to register to vote or update your existing registration

June 9 – 5pm – last day to apply for mail ballot.

June 20 – primary day

Alexandria City.

Alexandria elects its mayor and six-member City Council every third year. The next election for Mayor and City Council will be on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. School Board elections are held the first Tuesday in November of even number years in conjunction with state general elections.

We will have to see if there are any primary challenges for members of the Virginia Legislature to from Alexandria City, to know if there will be a primary.

Same day voter registration is still in effect – meaning people can register to vote after May 30 – and file a provisional ballot. **We can NOT register people to vote same day** – it must be done at polling sites and at the registrar's offices.

WE NEED A FEW PEOPLE TO START CONTACTING FARMERS MARKETS AND FESTIVALS TO GET US ON THE LIST FOR SUMMER. EMAIL IF INTERESTED.

Do you want to help broadcast our message? **We need more people** to sign up for the Broadcast Media Committee and work with the Arlington Independent Media to get our show off the ground. **You will be trained** on their equipment and have a hand in producing and editing our shows which will be vital this year as we go into the a full election season – and have to educate the public on how to vote with Ranked Choice Voting in the June Primary. You don't need to have a background in this – you will learn what you need.

Contact me at LWVArlingtonva@gmail.com.

Thanks for all you do.

Joan

There are More Dates Open for the Naturalization Programs

If you haven't had the chance to register new citizens, we can highly recommend it. More dates have been added. All of the events happen at the INS Office in the Mosaic District.

[Naturalization Program Sign Up](#)



Join Observer Corps

Anyone interested in watching the actions of the Arlington County Board, the Alexandria City Council or any of the commissions working on areas of interest to

us, from affordable housing, to environmental protection to women's rights, etc. join the Observer Corps. **All you need to do is watch the meeting of your choice and write a brief report.**

Thanks to Judy Collins who watches the Arlington C2E2 Commission (Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission.)

[See her latest report](#)

Our Student Chapters Are Starting!

We are moving forward setting up chapters in each of the area high schools, but we need liaisons to work with our school contacts.

If you would like to work with a specific school - making sure they have a school advisor and setting up a meeting schedule for the students - please let us know.

This should take a few hours a week to set up and maybe a couple of hours a month after. The students will help with voter registration in high schools and doing candidate forums.

Please email Don and Joan at LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com if you want more information.

Calling all knitters!

Donate unused beanies, socks and mittens

We are a part of The Arlington Community Re Entry Council for returning citizens and their families. **We will be part of the Feb 18 Festival** providing voting information to returning citizens and their families. **Let Joan know** if you are interested in helping out -

LWVarlington@gmail.com

Donation Flier and Amazon Wish List

Distribute This to Families of Incarcerated or Returning Citizens

Call for volunteers

LWV VA new Issue Group on Reproductive Health

by Debby Churchman

Dobbs got you down? In 2020, Virginia became the first state in the South to actively support a pregnant person's access to an abortion, thanks to the Reproductive Health Protection Act. That law is still in force, but under threat, thanks to the recent Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v Wade. Governor Youngkin has stated his support for a 15-week abortion ban, and put together a workgroup composed of four members, tasked with drafting and carrying a bill in

the 2023 session. And legislation is already being pre-filed regarding reproductive health. Here's HB1395: ***Rights beginning at conception.*** *Provides that life begins at conception and each person is accorded the same rights and protections guaranteed to all persons by the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Virginia, and the laws of the Commonwealth beginning at the moment of conception. The bill also repeals all provisions of the Code of Virginia allowing for the performance of abortions.*

Interested? **The State League's new issue group on Reproductive Health meets the first Wednesday of every month by Zoom.** Next meeting is Wednesday, January 4 at 7:00 pm. For more information, contact **Debby Churchman** (dchurchm@yahoo.com) or **Grace Lawler** (lawlergrace07@gmail.com).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES

If you were at our October 16 Membership Meeting, you heard **Don Gurney** speak of the **need to expand our voter services program**. As he said, "What we have was sustainable when we had 80 members, not when we have 250."

None of these require much time and most are "seasonal." We can use more people to work on:

- **Candidate forums held prior to the primary and general elections**
- **Reaching out to large corporations moving into the area**
- **Outreach to condominiums**
- **Outreach to farmers markets**

- **Preparing voter education materials**

We also need a co-chair for our student chapter building project!

Please let **Don** know at lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com if you have interest or questions

Sips and Civility – The Revival!!!!

Due to COVID 19, we had to stop our popular Sips and Civility Program. This is designed to introduce topics to the public that might be a bit controversial in a civilized setting and fashion. We had a great turnout for our “Dillon Rule” event just before everything closed.

We are grateful that Sampriti Ganguli has agreed to chair the revised Sips committee and she has two great ideas, one of a Money in Politics event and another for look at City Council vs County Board rule. She can use some help with event planning, menus, speakers etc. This is a fun project. If interested or you want to learn more contact her - sampritiq@gmail.com

If you are not already a member of LWV Arlington and Alexandria, please consider joining!

We are turning up our voter registration events and our Get Out the Vote programs. It is all hands on deck for Democracy! Active students ages 16 - 26 pay no dues and we have scholarships available for anyone who needs one. Contact LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com for information.

Join or donate to the League!



Call to Arlington residents and small business owners -
PROMOTE DIGITAL EQUITY

Take the Arlington Broadband Study eCheckup

At its September meeting the board of LWV-Arlington and Alexandria City voted to support expanding awareness of programs to make broadband more widely available.

One way to participate is by being part of the Arlington Broadband Study

From Arlington County for residents and businesses -

Arlington County has launched a broadband study to better understand its community's internet use and broadband access. As a part of this work, **Arlington is asking both residents and businesses to participate in a digital eCheckup.**

Arlington County is launching this study as part of its effort to make sure residents have affordable, reliable access to high-speed internet. **Take the digital eCheckup now**, and then share the link with a neighbor!

This study takes about 20 minutes to complete. Know that by participating you are acting to support LWV US and LWV VA positions. the June 2022 LWV National Convention adopted the concurrence proposed by the LWV Rural Caucus and backed by 52 state and local Leagues. The concurrence allows Leagues at any level to advocate for affordable broadband everywhere, as well as for access to public, educational and governmental (PEG) access media."

[Take the echeckup here](#)

Invitation from LWV MD

Represent

A FILM BY HILLARY BECHELDER

February 15 - 7-8 PM - Virtual

- TODAY -

LWVMD is hosting a viewing and discussion of this documentary that follows three women running in the Midwest IN the lead-up to the 2018 Midterm elections. This film exemplifies the hard work many League members have been doing to defend democracy and empower voters.

[RSVP here](#)

Advocating for the League



Joan Curry addressing the Feb 1 LWV VA Legislative Roundtable on RGGI



Nancy Brown, Pam Berg, Lisa Koteen Gerchick and Debby Churchman
visiting **Del Elizabeth Bennet Parker** on League Day



Joan and Chris DeRosa attending the Arlington election board meeting

Meeting

February 19 - 2 PM - Book Group

The book is *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* by Nikole Hannah Jones

Contact **Joan** LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com

Look for next newsletter March 1



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