



League in Action

19 July 2023

Presidents' Message

As many of you know, on Saturday, 15 July, the Arlington County Board rejected the use of RCV for the upcoming General Election on November 7. This is a huge disappointment. The sense of frustration - in the face of unmistakable and clear support for it - is palpable and discouraging.

If you missed the Arlington County Board meeting on Saturday this is a link that takes you directly there:

[Watch the YouTube replay of the board meeting, cued up to Item 61 on RCV here](#)

Here is the link to the Arlington County Post Election Report by the Office of Voter Registration and Elections:

[Arlington County Post-Election Report \(June 2023\)](#)

Listening carefully to the board meeting video, there's a road map drawn out for us that shows us where our efforts need to be directed.

Change, especially changing voting methods, is a daunting task and we will continue to press forward. Without bypassing or dismissing the collective disappointment we feel, we can still take the long view and remember that RCV efforts in Maine started in 2001. We will continue to move forward on this.

Richmond Times Dispatch Op-Ed on Ranked Choice Voting with Joan Porte (President, League of Women Voters of Virginia) and Liz White (Executive Director, UpVote Virginia)

Arlington's primary elections offer a new path forward

[Read the op-ed in the Richmond Times-Dispatch here](#)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please consider these opportunities; member participation where we need it is critical to our successful community engagement.

1. Condominium Elections: We anticipate \$6,000 cash receipts from doing condo elections in the next fiscal year. We need volunteers to help run these

condo elections so we can make this a *sustainable funding source*. You'll be trained and be provided with everything you need; and, you'll be working with others. We really need folks for this; so please consider volunteering. Contact **Beth Cogswell** at bethcogswell@aol.com or **Pam Berg** at pberg16@comcast.net.

2. Legacy Gift Donation Committee: We still need volunteers to be a part of the committee developing ideas around the receipt of a very generous \$15K donation. We need people for this project to help develop ideas and a framework for implementation. This is a unique and special opportunity for engagement. Contact **Pam Berg** at pberg16@comcast.net.

3. Campaign Finance Reform Subgroup/Committee Chair: Many of you know about our state level Issue Groups (if you don't, click here: <https://lwv-va.org/issue-groups/>). These state level Issue Groups (IGs for short) allow the League to harness broader support across the state for issues important to the League; they allow for coordinated action and a consistent, singular voice across the state; and, critically, a presence during the annual General Assembly through written and oral testimony.

As an Issue Group member, you get to engage with other members across the state. It's fun to engage with members from Richmond, Roanoke, Williamsburg, South Hampton Roads; there's a camaraderie, an opportunity for learning, and an opportunity for hands-on action. League members across the state are encouraged to join the IGs as these units build capacity, expertise, and experience...all of which results in a stronger voice and presence of the League. The development and sustainment of these IGs allows the League to have greater agility in responding to key issues as they come up.

Local Arlington/Alexandria members Janet Boyd and Lisa Koteen Gerchick chair the Voting & Elections Issue Group and they're in need of someone who is interested in campaign finance reform and willing to lead that subgroup.

All you need to have is an interest in the topic and a willingness to guide the group administratively (i.e., establish a meeting schedule; exchange information). You don't need to be an expert! The purpose of the IGs is to *build and develop* expertise; many members learned about campaign finance *after* they joined. The commitment is three to four hours a month, with a busier time during General Assembly. This subgroup is a mature subgroup that has an excellent grasp of the issues; you'll be robustly supported in your role as leader. This role is open to anyone in the state, but we thought some of our Arlingtonians and/or Alexandrians would be interested in this opportunity.

Please contact Janet Boyd at janet4boyd@icloud.com or Pam Berg at pberg16@comcast.net.

Return of in person voter registration training



For the first time since Covid, Arlington and Alexandria League members had an in-person voter registration training. Just like the good old days! **Gretchen Reinemeyer** gave a terrific training session. If you attended this training, please be sure to follow up with obtaining your training completion affidavit.

If you were unable to attend the in-person training, you can still complete the voter registration training online here:

[Virginia Voter Registration Training \(2023-2024\)](#)

Remember: In order to register voters on behalf of the League of Women Voters, you need to have annual training.

Questions? Reach out to Pam Berg (pberg16@comcast.net) or **Connie Potter** (13cpotter@gmail.com).

New dates out for Naturalization Services Voter Registration

[Sign up here. We have registered over 1000 new citizens since January.](#)



LWV-VA Virginia Voter July 2023

[Read the Voter here](#)

News from National

NM Supreme Court's redistricting decision provides a victory for fair democracy

7/10/2023

SANTA FE, July 6, 2023 – Wednesday's New Mexico Supreme Court ruling provides needed guidance on how a lower court should consider a case alleging unconstitutional partisan...

[Read the press release](#)

Judge blocks part of Florida's restrictive voting law targeting nonpartisan civic engagement groups

7/6/2023

Tallahassee, FL — A federal judge temporarily blocked enforcement of portions of Florida's anti-voter law, SB 7050. The order comes after three sets of plaintiffs,...

[Read the press release here](#)

Meeting

August 20 - 2 PM - Book Group

The book is *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster* by Bill Gates.

Contact **Joan** LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com

Look for next newsletter August 2
