



## League in Action

June 16, 2021

### President's Message

We were honored to have two great speakers at our annual meeting, Arlington's Chief Race and Equity Director, **Samia Byrd** and Commonwealth Attorney **Parisa Dehghani-Tafti**, who explained the exciting work Arlington is doing in Restorative Justice. Restorative Justice is a process that creates effective and fair responses to conflict and harm. Arlington has several cohorts in progress designed to develop Restorative Justice programs in several arenas. More information can be found here: <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/restorative-arlington/>.

[Read Samia Byrd's plenary speaking points here](#)

**Parisa Dehghani-Tafti** shared resources that are in use as part of Restorative Arlington: a tick-tac-toe resources guide, the Impact Justice workbook (Impact Justice is an organization partnering with us and several other jurisdictions to help with the legal system RJ program), and a document about circle process.

[Restorative Arlington: a tic-tac-toe resource guide](#)

[Impact Justice workbook](#)

## Circle and conferencing processes

We have a Restorative Justice Committee – if you are interested in learning more, please email me at [lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com).

We accidentally left out the Election Security Annual Report to our meeting workbook – so sorry, Lisa. Please read it here.

## Election Security Annual Report

Other exciting developments from the annual meeting;

1. **We adopted our own Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy** to augment what LWV US has developed, which will go on our website. Our Policy is in italics:

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

*The League of Women Voters of Arlington holds that there shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization based on any of the innate characteristics or life experiences that make people unique including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, age, culture, religion, belief system, socioeconomic status, educational level or background, and political perspective or affiliation.*

2. **We are changing our name!** The membership voted to officially recognize the efforts of our wonderful Alexandria City members, and to change our name **to the League of Women Voters of Arlington and Alexandria City**. We have to get approval for LWV VA and then file official papers with the State Corporation Commission,
3. **Lisa Koteen Gerchick** was voted in as our new Vice President and **Connie Potter** as our new Secretary. Thank you and congratulations.
4. **We will now have membership grants** available to offer people who may want to join the League but can't afford the dues. If you are interested in helping out please let me know.
5. And **we are authorized to invest \$25,000 of our funds** to assure that we have funds available for future members. Also, if anyone is interested in development, let me know.

**Thank you** for everyone who attended and all those who made the meeting possible.  
Onward!

Joan

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### Voter Registration

We have permission to do voter registration outside a few vaccine centers.

PLEASE CHECK THIS LINK PERIDOICALLY FOR UPDATED

[Sign up here](#)

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**\*NEW\***

## **Members only section of our website is LIVE!**

You now have access to LWV Arlington's Member's page! Login to access the site's Members only section.

**You may now login using the email address provided to the Arlington League and password provided in your welcome email from the MyLO team.** The MyLO Team updated your account username and password even if you already had an existing MyLO account. Follow the instructions provided in your welcoming email and written out below. Reach out to Rachelle Walker at [m.rachelle.walker@gmail.com](mailto:m.rachelle.walker@gmail.com) for help or issues.

[Find directions for setting up your MyLo log-in here](#)

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## **HELP WANTED**

We all have a gift – a talent or just a strong interest in an area that we can develop. Now, as we gear up for yet another pivotal election, is your time to use that to talent to help us reach our goals. Consider this an old-fashioned HELP WANTED page!

**OUTDOOR VOTER REGISTRATION** – We hope to have more opportunities this summer to register voters. These will only be done outdoors, and you will have plastic and PPE - only fully vaccinated members please apply. Contact **Don Gurney** [donnwren@comcast.net](mailto:donnwren@comcast.net).

**BROADCAST MEDIA – VIDEO EDITING AND PRODUCTION** – We can take our

radio show at Arlington Independent Media to a digital program, but we need people who know how or are willing to learn how to edit video. Contact **Krysta Nicole Jones** [krysta.n.jones@gmail.com](mailto:krysta.n.jones@gmail.com).

**SOCIAL MEDIA – WEB** - Rachele and her team do a great job keeping the website up to date and our word out on social media, but they can use some help especially as we get closer to the election. Contact **Rachele Walker** [m.rachele.walker@gmail.com](mailto:m.rachele.walker@gmail.com).

**CONDOMINIUM ELECTIONS** – Another way we serve the community is by managing condominium elections. If you are good at details, contact **Marjorie Hobart** at [marjhobart@aol.com](mailto:marjhobart@aol.com).

**VOTER GIRL** – Are you a current or former teacher, scout leader, community, or church youth coordinator or just really good with kids? We need you to help with our Girl Scout Voter Girl Program a virtual event this September to allow Girl Scouts of all ages to get their Civics/Democracy Badges. Contact **Claudia Scott** [claudiascott.va@gmail.com](mailto:claudiascott.va@gmail.com).

**ORAL HISTORY** – We are preserving the stories of people making Arlington a better place! Contact **Beth Cogswell** [bethcogswell8@gmail.com](mailto:bethcogswell8@gmail.com).

**DEVELOPMENT** – Fundraising is the backbone of any organization. You don't need a specific fundraising background. Do you like to write, put on events, contact businesses? We need you – email **Joan** at [LWvarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:LWvarlingtonva@gmail.com).

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**More Opportunity to Be Involved in the County**

The Arlington County Board is seeking feedback on their Civilian Oversight Program - The Arlington League does not have a justice position - but the LWV Virginia does. **We could use one or two people** who can attend these programs and find out what is going on. They would bring notes back to the Board and discuss possible response.

### **County Board Seeks Feedback on Civilian Oversight of Police Department**

During its May recessed meeting, the Arlington County Board authorized **a public hearing in July to consider an ordinance to establish a program of police oversight comprised of a *Law Enforcement Civilian Review Board and Independent Policing Auditor*.**

Throughout June and July, the Board will consider different models of a Civilian Review Board with the goal of creating a CRB and Independent Policing Auditor function that can enhance community trust in and collaboration with the Arlington County Police Department.

**The County Manager has recommended a seven-voting member CRB** whose responsibilities include reviewing investigations, policies and disciplinary decisions by Arlington County Police Department and recommending changes to the Chief of Police. The Manager's recommendation also provides the CRB with subpoena authority. The County Board will also consider alternative models, including one recommended by the [Police Practices Work Group](#) (PPG), which would provide the CRB with all the powers proposed by the County Manager and independent investigative authority.

In the coming weeks, the County Board will be studying these models, as well as others from around the Commonwealth and country, and encourages community members to provide their feedback and perspectives on the different models. Opportunities include:

- **June 10 (3-6 PM): County Board Work Session** – Watch the livestream

at [www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us) or Arlington cable broadcast on Comcast Xfinity 25 or 1085(HD) and Verizon FiOS 39 & 40

- **June 22 (6:30pm): County Board Hosts Civilian Review Board Community Engagement Listening Session.**
- **July 17 (9am): County Board Public Hearing on CRB**
- **Individuals can also [submit feedback online](#).**

**Interested residents and business leaders can learn more** about civilian oversight initiatives, including models being implemented in other communities on a [new CRB webpage](#).

**“The County Board is eager to engage** with our community regarding appropriate civilian oversight of our police department,” said County Board Chair **Matt de Ferranti**. “To that end, we will be holding a work session with the relevant Police Practices Group Subcommittee and key stakeholders to better understand how investigatory authority might work and a listening session to hear residents’ thoughts. Both will be held well in advance of the July public hearing as we work to craft a Civilian Review Board that serves the community and builds greater trust with the people who seek to keep us safe.”

#### **Other Proposed Changes**

In addition to the CRB public hearing, **the County Board will host a separate public hearing** at the June meeting **to repeal, reenact and recodify Chapter 17 of the Arlington County Code**. As part of its report, the Police Practices Group recommended repealing Arlington County Code §17-13(C) (refusal to identify oneself at the request of a police officer). More information is available in the [staff report](#) from the May 2021 Board Meeting; scroll to Item No. 32 on the agenda.

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## Drive Clean with the League

League of Women Voters of California, together with Drive Clean California, is co-hosting Drive Clean with the League, an educational and inspirational gathering to improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions. The LWV of California and the LWVUS have declared a climate emergency, urging all local Leagues to include Climate Action as a high priority in 2021. The most important step a typical California resident can take to reduce carbon emissions is to switch to an electric vehicle.

LWVC, together with Drive Clean California is co-sponsoring Drive Clean with the League, a tell-a-friend campaign designed to greatly increase awareness of the importance and benefits of EV driving.

### About the Event

During the one-hour ZOOM event, experts from Drive Clean California, EV drivers and climate and clean air enthusiasts will share their interest in clean air and a cool planet.

### When is this taking place?

- Saturday, July 10, 5:00-6:00PM
- Wednesday, July 14, 6:00-7:00PM
- Saturday, October 16, 5:00-6:00PM
- Wednesday, October 20, 6:00-7:00PM

[Sign up here](#)

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## EVENTS



**June 23** - Election Security Group

## **A Transparent Look at Virginia's Elections**

Wednesday, June 23, 7-8:30 p.m.

A virtual event co-sponsored by [The League of Women Voters of Virginia](#) and [Verified Voting](#). During this nonpartisan two-part program, you'll hear from experts who will address election security in Virginia—now and in the future.

### **Panelists include:**

- **Christopher Piper**, Virginia Commissioner of Elections
- **Allison Robbins**, President, Voter Registrars Association of Virginia
- **JoAnn Clark**, Secretary, Northampton County Electoral Board
- **Thomas Hicks**, Vice Chair, US Election Assistance Commission
- **Poorvi Vora**, Professor, George Washington University School of Engineering and Applied Science
- **Jo Lukito**, Assistant Professor of Journalism, University of Texas at Austin

The panels will be moderated by **Lisa Koteen Gerchick**, League of Women Voters of Virginia and **Audrey Malagon**, Verified Voting Mathematical Advisor.

[RSVP here for Zoom Link](#)

Verified Voting & LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF VIRGINIA

# A Transparent Look at Virginia's Elections

A Virtual Panel Discussion

Wednesday, June 23 @ 7 - 8:30pm EST



**July 11**

## **Voter Registration Training**

July 11 - 2 PM

The **required voter registration training** by the State Board of Elections will be held virtually again this year.

[Register For Voter Registration Training](#)



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## FOR THE BIG PICTURE

### **Bipartisan panel of U.S. Representatives join the National Constitution Center to discuss the state of Congress today**

*America's Town Hall* online at [youtube.com/constitutioncenter](https://youtube.com/constitutioncenter)

**This program aired June 7**

**WHO:** former military members of H R For Country Caucus

**Representative [Jared Golden](#)** (ME-2)

**Representative [Chrissy Houlahan](#)** (PA-6)

**Representative [Peter Meijer](#)** (MI-3)

**Representative [Mariannette Jane Miller-Meeks](#)** (IA-2)

**Join the National Constitution Center and With Honor Action** for a discussion exploring the state of Congress with members of the For Country Caucus, a bipartisan group of military veterans serving in Congress and dedicated to working together in a nonpartisan way to create a more productive government. Representatives [Jared Golden](#) of Maine, **Chrissy Houlahan** of Pennsylvania, **Peter Meijer** of Michigan, and **Mariannette Jane Miller-Meeks** of Iowa, will provide insight on the reforms necessary to end political gridlock, promote bipartisanship, and ultimately strengthen one of America's most important institutions. **Jeffrey Rosen**, president and CEO of the

National Constitution Center, moderates.

*This program is presented with support from **With Honor Action** and as part of the National Constitution Center's **Restoring the Guardrails of Democracy** initiative.*

[Watch the discussion here](#)

**from the National Constitution Center**

originally aired JUN 10

### **The Great Justices: Founders, Dissenters, and Prophets**

Chief Justice John Marshall and Justice John Marshall Harlan are two of the most influential Supreme Court justices in American history. Join **Robert Strauss**, author of the new book *John Marshall: The Final Founder*, **Peter Canellos**, author of the new book *The Great Dissenter: The Story of John Marshall Harlan, America's Judicial Hero*; and **Elizabeth Slattery** of the Pacific Legal Foundation and co-host of the *Dissed* podcast, for a wide-ranging discussion on what made Marshall, Harlan, and other justices influential, and what their legacy is today. **Jeffrey Rosen**, president and CEO of the National Constitution Center and author of *William Howard Taft* and *Louis D. Brandeis: American Prophet*, moderates.

[Watch the discussion here](#)

**from the National Constitution Center**

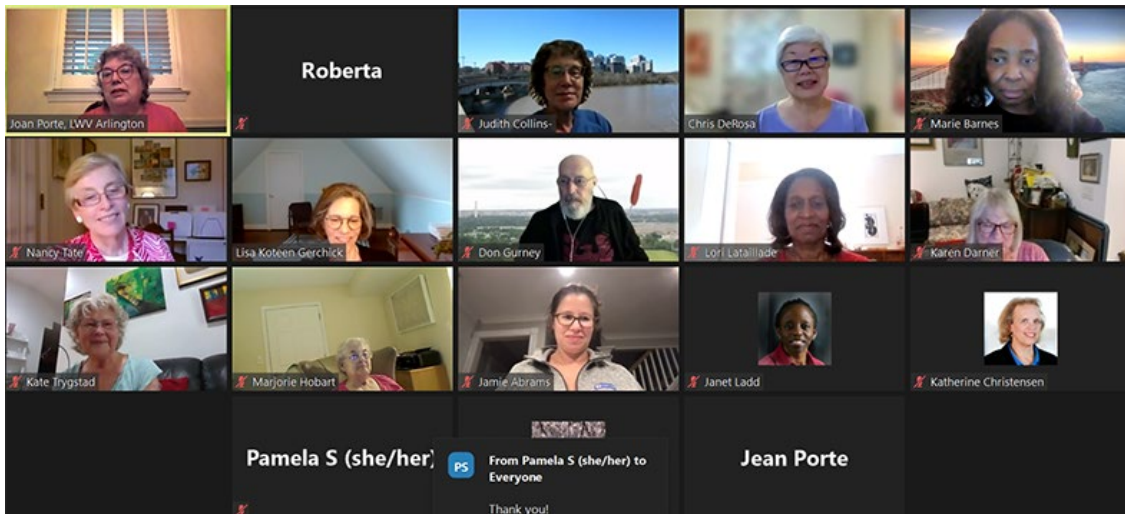
originally aired JUN 15

### **Free Speech, Media, Truth and Lies**

Should the government or private companies identify and regulate truth and lies? Join **Martha Minow**, professor at Harvard Law School and author of the new book, *Saving the News: Why the Constitution Calls for Government Action to Preserve Freedom of Speech*, **Paul Matzko** of the Cato Institute and author of *The Radio Right*, and **Jonathan Rauch**, author of the new book, *The Constitution of Knowledge: A Defense of Truth*, who will discuss the history of American protection for free speech values and how they are challenged by the social media landscape today. They will also discuss current debates about the regulation of online speech, from content regulation to algorithmic disinformation, and what reforms, if any, might promote the free trade in ideas and expression in the future.

[Watch the discussion here](#)

### June 3 Civic Trivia



We had a very successful Civics Presentation on the Virginia Executive Branch and General Assembly on June 3. If you couldn't attend, please take a look at our slides. If

you want us to make the presentation for your Civic Association or Homeowners, let me know.

[See the presentation here](#)

## June 9 March for S 1







**Anne Murphy** and daughter **Deirdre** at June 9 rally to pass the For the People Act

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## News from National

### **League of Women Voters Applauds DOJ's Increased Commitment to Protecting Voting Rights**

League of Women Voters of the United States CEO Virginia Kase Solomón issued this statement in response to AG Merrick Garland's announcement that the Department of Justice will double the Civil Rights Division's enforcement staff for protecting voting rights.

[Read the statement here](#)

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## Meetings

June 23 - 7 PM - **Election Security** contact **Lisa Koteen Gerchick**  
[lkoteengerchick@gmail.com](mailto:lkoteengerchick@gmail.com)

June 28 – 4 PM – **Civics** – contact **Joan** – [Joan@joanporte.com](mailto:Joan@joanporte.com)

June 28 – 7 PM – **Affordable Housing** – contact **Joan** – [Joan@joanporte.com](mailto:Joan@joanporte.com)

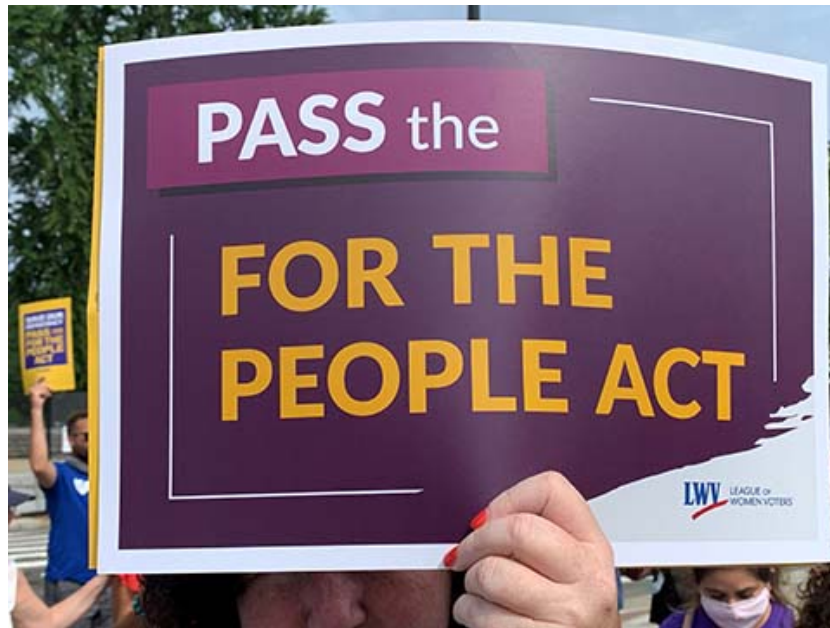
July 18 - 2 PM - **Book Group** at **Seema's**  
*Let the People Pick the President: The Case for Abolishing the Electoral College -*  
by **Jesse Wegman**  
contact **Joan** – [Joan@joanporte.com](mailto:Joan@joanporte.com)

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**Look for next newsletter July 7**

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