



League in Action

March 1, 2023

President's Message

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 two 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-numbered 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.

Also, people will still need to get a witness for mail in ballots for the June primary.

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

Our first in-person Post Legislative Session will take place on March 12. See below for more information. Thanks to Seema Jain for coordinating it!

Thanks for all you do.

Joan

Voter Registration at Marymount University

Volunteers Needed

Donald Gurney, Voter Services Chair

We have been asked to assist Marymount University students to register to vote, March 20 -23. We will be at the Ballston Campus. We need people for two shifts, 11:00A – 1:00 PM and 3:00 – 5:00 PM daily.

[Sign up here! This will be fun!](#)



March Dates Are Available for Voter Registration at the Naturalization Program.

This is such a rewarding activity. Please sign up to help the LWV of the Fairfax Area register new citizens.

[Sign Up for Naturalization Voter Registration Here](#)

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.**

Our Student Chapters Are Starting!

We can use someone to spearhead Yorktown!

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.

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 - sampriti@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

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](#)

EVENTS

Post Legislative Session.

March 12 - 1-3 PM.

Residents can meet and question members of the General Assembly representing Arlington and Alexandria City at our first in-person Post Legislative Session in three years!

Confirmed speakers to far:

Senator Barbara Favola - 40th District

Delegate Patrick Hope - 47th District

Delegate Rip Sullivan - 48th District

Delegate Alfonso Lopez - 49th District

Delegate Elizabeth Bennett Parker - 45th district

This will be filmed at:

Arlington Independent Media

2701 Wilson Boulevard, C, Arlington, VA, 22201

For more information email LWVArlingtonva@gmail.com

[RSVP](#)

News from National

To support your advocacy for League positions consult -

LWVUS Impact on Issues 2022-2024

Impact on Issues is designed to help League members use LWVUS public policy positions effectively at the national, state, local, and regional levels. The intention is to inspire Leagues to use national positions to act in their own communities.

Impact on Issues has been organized so that "Taking Action" is front and center followed by the League Principles. Then, for quick reference, the LWVUS public policy Positions in Brief summarize the more detailed positions in the sections that follow. For each of the major issue areas, the listing gives the full official statements of positions in bold type.

[LWVUS Impact on Issues 2022-2024](#)

LWV-VA - Ballot Changes Passed

Beginning July 1, 2023, absentee ballots will no longer require the verification of a witness in Virginia. If this is not vetoed by the Governor, it will be in effect for the November election. They will still be required in June.

[Read the news release here](#)

Working the Arlington County Reentry Council event for returning citizens and families



Debby Churchman, Pam Berg, and Joan Porte at the Arlington Reentry coalition program for returning citizens and their families February 18

Meeting

March 19 - 2 PM - Book Group

The book is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict, Victoria Christopher Murray,
et al

Contact **Joan** LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com

Look for next newsletter March 15

Cycle of Life

Condolences to Lisa Backer on the loss of her father in
February.

