



## **League in Action**

October 21, 2020

### **President's Message**

2020 is just so....2020. On the last day of voter registration, Oct 13, the voter registration system crashed. The League swung into action on two fronts. First, we were alerting the public of this problem and directing them where they could get a paper registration form. At the same time, the LWV Virginia, in conjunction with several partners, filed suit to extend the deadline. The next morning, after approval of the consent decree, the extension went into effect and Virginians had another two days to get registered. We understand 24,000 people voted during the extension!

While all this was going on, we joined our colleagues in the LWV of the Fairfax Area for a voter registration event at a naturalization ceremony where they registered 135 new American citizens!

I have the feeling that we are going to look back some day and say, "How did we do all of that?" However, doing it we are, and we will continue to do.

We still have two weeks of GOTV, Get Out the Vote actions. Shout out to **Debby Churchman**. One of the many things she is doing is texting Arlingtonians to remind them of early voting. If anyone wants to lend her a hand, just email us at [dchurchm@yahoo.com](mailto:dchurchm@yahoo.com). She is texting people who have not yet returned their ballots.

She and Susan Sarcone heard back from a few of the people whom they contacted, one sent Susan her "I voted" sticker and the other thanked Debby for getting "his butt off the couch." Voter outreach WORKS... email Debby we have more texting to do.

SEE BELOW FOR THE TEXT-A-THON SPONSORED BY LWV!!!

Hang in there and thanks for all you do!

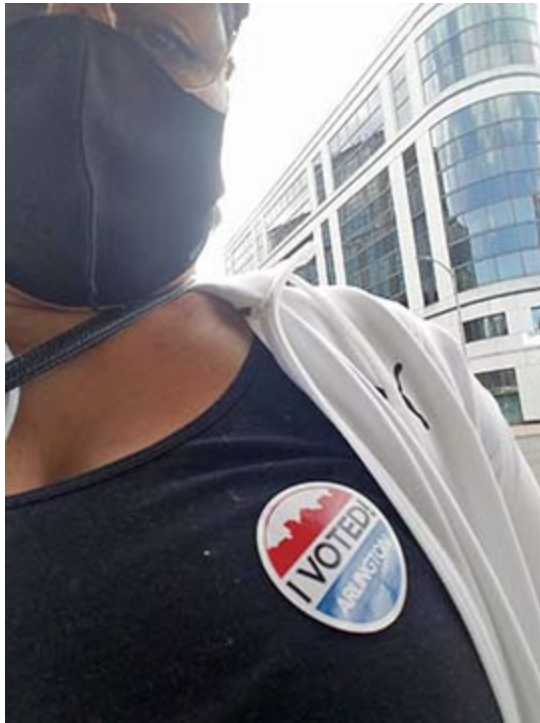
Joan



LWV-Arl member **Kathy Perry** joined Fairfax Leaguers in registering new citizens to vote

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**League member Susan Sarcone shares Text2Vote success**



This wonderful text came last night from one of the 100 people to whom I texted earlier yesterday our reminder to turn in their absentee ballots. It was a simple text response "done" and this photo. Very heartening that it DOES work!

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## Join LWV US in TEXT-A-THON

### Empowering Voters: GOTV Text-A-Thon

Join the League of Women Voters, The Leadership Conference, And I Still Vote, and the National Partnership for New Americans **October 23 at 5pm ET** for a massive get out the vote text-a-thon to critical states across the country, 11 days before Election Day!

Training will be provided!

You will be using Hustle - and not your own phones!!

Register here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0oc-mrrjIjG9HzbPuvNJI\\_8Q7xG0bFsar6](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0oc-mrrjIjG9HzbPuvNJI_8Q7xG0bFsar6)

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## Promoting Fair Redistricting

**We are trying very hard to inform our voters of the plusses in Amendment 1 and encourage them to Vote YES on their ballots.** We need your help in these crucial final days.

**\*\* Contact your friends, neighbors, and family members.** Let them know that you are voting YES and encourage them to, also. Email - text - whatever you're comfortable with. People who know you will listen to you.

**\*\* Join Arlington's effort to get the word out with sticky-notes** to post on doors. Contact-less effort!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084FA5AD28A5F49-distribute1>

**\*\* Get a yard sign - contact Chris DeRosa [chris.lwv.222@gmail.com](mailto:chris.lwv.222@gmail.com)** or to arrange a pick up at her house. Put one in your yard -- and another 1 or 2 or 3 in a median strip. (The signs doesn't say "Vote YES", but we can't control what you might write on attach to the sign) 😊

**\*\* Help with Presence at the Polls** - As many of you know, the Democrats are advocating a "Vote NO" position on the sample ballots and other literature they are

distributing. They are out in full force at the Clarendon voting site, 9 hours a day, telling people falsehoods and urging voters to Vote NO. It is crucial that we, the supporters of Amendment 1, to counter the falsehoods and misleading information.

**We have handouts to offer to voters.** The League is not organizing "presence at the polls" on Nov 3rd (or other days) on our own because, to be honest, we don't have enough Leaguers who are willing and able to cover the polls for 9-13 hours. No need to duplicate efforts - much better to coordinate with them and support them as partners.

**What I strongly encourage is for interested Leaguers to connect with**

**FairMapsVA** - they are organizing coverage at the polls. Join them!

Members can reach out to the Arlington FairMapsVA group. Check out their Sign Up Genius -- see below...

**Arlington: Farmers Markets (Sat-Sun)**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4faaa623a7fe3-arlington2>

**Arlington : Early voting sites**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4faaa623a7fe3-arlington1>

**You can view our presentations** and the recording , "Answering Your Redistricting Questions". <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1T5FIrmLenFB0tVycpfjLlI8gngRvpmkg>

**You can go to** [https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia\\_2020\\_ballot\\_measures\\_for\\_more\\_information](https://ballotpedia.org/Virginia_2020_ballot_measures_for_more_information) - this is a good website to share with friends and family - besides the

ballot question, the official explanation, it provides some pros and cons.

### Endorsing Yes Vote on 1



**The Washington Post**

*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

**The Virginian-Pilot**

PilotOnline.com

**Richmond Times-Dispatch**

**The Daily Progress**

**The Free Lance-Star**

fredericksburg.com

**TWO MORE DAYS!** Deadline to request absentee mail ballot is

**October 23**

See six ways to request a mail ballot & two ways to track it

LWV

## DO YOU WANT TO VOTE BY MAIL IN VIRGINIA?

All you have to do is fill out a printed form or  
go online and apply for a ballot.

To make a request online go to  
<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>



Watch the LWV-Arlington video here



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### Nov 3 Election Voter Information

[Pocket Guide - Election 2020](#)

[Arlington Early Voting Information](#)

[Alexandria City Early Voting Information](#)

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### Arlington Voter Information - Election 2020

The League of Women Voters of Arlington has a number of materials for voters this year:

**Early Voting information** for residents of Arlington (in English and Spanish) and



Alexandria City

**A myth busting flyer**— there are many myths that are confusing voters. The voting system is safe and voting by mail works --

**A basic voter information flyer** answering many of the questions on voting – what ID you need to bring –

Thanks to Election Integrity Chair Lisa Koteen Gerchick for her research on these!

[Find the information on this drive](#)

**Voters can find their polling place,** register to vote at:

[Vote411VA](#)

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### **Ballot Drop Locations - Supervised Drop Locations and 24 Hour Drop Boxes**

Regular mail can take up to 10 days within Arlington. We do not recommend mailing a ballot less than 10 days before an election. Completed Mail Ballots can be dropped off at the following locations and times.

Ballots must be dropped off by 7pm Election Night or received in the mail by noon the Friday after the election.

24-hour Drop Boxes are available at nine locations

In addition there are six Supervised Drop Locations with hours posted at the website for Voting and Elections

[Find ballot drop locations and FAQs here](#)



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### **In-person early voting ends October 31**

In-person early voting is available at five locations.

[See Early Voting Locations & Hours here](#)



Past president LWV Arlington, **Kathy Matusiak** and her mother, **Beverly Logan**, who is also an LWV member, after voting

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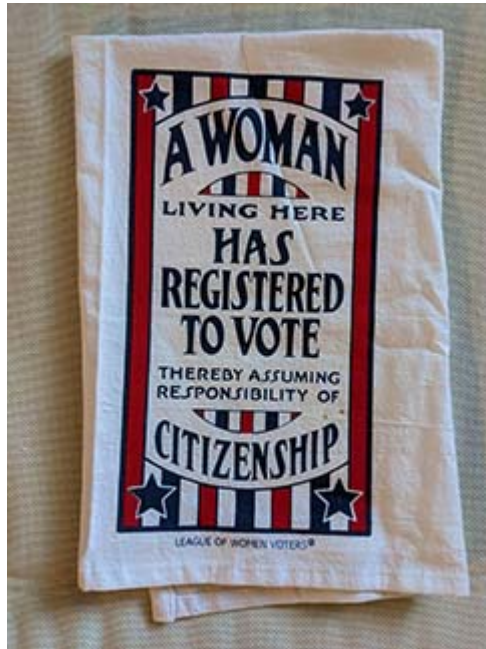
### **Our Latest Podcast is Up!**

COVID delayed our podcast "Making Democracy Works." However, our latest episode is up! Great thanks to **Krysta Jones** and her Broadcast Media Team for making this happen. If you are interested in joining the committee, contact **Krysta** at [krysta.n.jones@gmail.com](mailto:krysta.n.jones@gmail.com).

[Listen to the podcast here](#)

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**Get your holiday shopping done early**



Support your local League! Gift your friends with Centennial tea towels. Add buttons and book marks

[Visit LWV-Arlington shop here](#)

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## **EVENTS**

### **November 10**

Tune in on November 10 at 6 PM for this **post election forum** on women in civic, nonprofit and corporate leadership:

**Women in Leadership: From the Ballot Box to the Boardroom**

Moderator: **Jessica Baxter**, Communications and Public Engagement Director,  
Arlington County Government

Panelists:

**Stacey D. Stewart**, President and CEO, March of Dimes

**Theresa Peterson**, Manager of External Affairs and Technology Programs, GE  
Research

**Mary Margaret Whipple**, former Virginia state senator

This event is hosted by the **Arlington County Government Women's Employee Resource Group (WoW)**.

[RSVP here](#)

**December 10**

Celebrate Our Past and Forge our Future:

**The League of Women Voters of Virginia – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Dec.10, 2020 – 7 PM

Virtual Event

Join other League members for a celebration of “100 Years of Perseverance” – the  
100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the League of Women Voters of Virginia.

Speakers include **Mari Julienne** of the Library of Virginia who will discuss Virginia

Suffrage efforts and LWV member and former LWV US Executive Director, **Nancy Tate**, who will focus on League history. She will also have several ideas on how we can all preserve our history.

Local League presidents will highlight their past accomplishments and share their hope for our future.

THEN we PARTY! Bring a cupcake, brownie or whatever (perhaps an adult beverage) to the screen – with a candle and we will have a group celebration of US.

[RSVP here to get the Zoom link](#)

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## Committees

Oct 26 – 7 PM - **Affordable Housing** - contact **Joan Porte**, [Joan@joanporte.com](mailto:Joan@joanporte.com)

November 15 – 2 PM **Book Club** – contact **Joan** at [Joan@joanporte.com](mailto:Joan@joanporte.com)  
the book is *Humankind* by Rutger Bergman

November 16 – 7 PM – **Redistricting** – contact **Ann Sharp** [Sharpab2828@gmail.com](mailto:Sharpab2828@gmail.com)

November 18 – 7 PM – **Election Integrity** – contact **Lisa Koteen Gerchick** –  
[lkoteengerchick@gmail.com](mailto:lkoteengerchick@gmail.com)

November 23 – 7 PM – **Affordable Housing** – contact **Joan** at [Joan@joanporte.com](mailto:Joan@joanporte.com)

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### **Centennial Corner – October 21, 2020**

**Centennial Corner** is a regular feature of the **League in Action** e-newsletter to celebrate *three centennial anniversaries in 2020*: the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the creation of the League of Women Voters, and the naming of our county as Arlington County. Centennial Corner will:

- Highlight important **moments and leaders** in these three histories;
- List **upcoming events** relevant to the anniversaries; and
- Flag suggestions for additional **reading and other resources**.

The Arlington League's **Centennial Committee** is proud to produce this feature and would welcome your feedback and suggestions for future content. Please send ideas to **Seema Jain** ([seema.kakad@gmail.com](mailto:seema.kakad@gmail.com)).

**Feature: Suffrage Anniversaries, 1940-2000**

As we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, let's take a look at how prior anniversaries were covered in the nation's "newspaper of record," *The New York Times*.

### **1940 – 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

What's happening: World War II rages; Nazi Germany opens Auschwitz; FDR says the US will become the "arsenal of democracy."

Where the NYT covered suffrage: "20 Years of Voting Marked by Women," page 8

What the article said: The article covered a statement by Mrs. Harold Milligan, of the National Council of Women, noting "women's sure and confident advance to the fore in almost every branch of modern industry, modern art and modern professional life....They have proved...that women's enfranchisement has justified the century-long struggle by such great woman suffrage pioneers as Lucretia Mott, Mary Lyon, Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt and countless other courageous women who fought for the right to vote."

The article was immediately followed by an AP dispatch stating that 100 southern women, led by former leaders of the suffrage movement, were set to demand that Congress outlaw the poll tax in federal elections.

### **1960 – 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

What's happening: Civil rights sit-ins begin (Greensboro, NC); John F. Kennedy elected President.

Where the NYT covered suffrage: "Women's Vote Hailed," page 9

What the article said: "President Eisenhower paid tribute today to American women who exercise their voting rights 'with pride and judgment....As they study the issues, work for their party's candidates and cast their responsible ballots at the polls, they illustrate to people the world over the privileges and rights of a free society, selecting by free choice the leaders who will represent them in the nation and the world.'"



## **1980 – 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

What's happening: Solidarity union forms in Poland, signaling the (early) beginning of the end of the Cold War; Ronald Reagan elected President.

Where the NYT covered suffrage: "For Family's Three Generations of Feminists, a Memorable Day," page B5

What the article said: Three generations of the Seaman family – Sylvia (age – declined to state), Barbara (age 44), and Elana (age 20) – will participate in a parade down New York City's Fifth Avenue "to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic Women's Strike for Equality on Aug. 26, 1970, which, in turn, commemorated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage." In 1965, Sylvia had written the first account by a patient of the experience of radical mastectomy. Her daughter-in-law, Barbara, had encouraged her to write the book. Sylvia's granddaughter, Elana, said she was inspired by her mother and grandmother and hoped to pursue a career in women's health. [NB: As of this writing, Elana's LinkedIn page indicates that she is a licensed clinical social worker.]

## **2000 – 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

What's happening: The world survived the transition to "Y2K"; George W. Bush elected President.

Where the NYT covered suffrage: "Invoking Suffrage, Mrs. Clinton Courts Women Upstate," page B5.

What the article said: "Invoking the legacy of the suffragists at every turn, Hillary Rodham Clinton sought today to portray herself as a champion of women and working families and to bolster her support in this city, where Susan B. Anthony once fought for the right to vote." Mrs. Clinton toured Ms. Anthony's home and appeared with a 99-year-old woman who had participated in suffrage marches. Mrs. Clinton, the outgoing First Lady, went on to win her run for the US Senate from New York, serve as US Secretary of State, and become the first female major-party nominee for US President, winning the popular vote but losing in the Electoral College.

Sources: Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000 \(/1940, /1960, /1980\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000_(/1940,_/1960,_/1980)) for key events in each decade; "20 Years of Voting Marked by Women," *NYT*, Aug 26, 1940, 8; UPI, "Women's Vote Hailed," *NYT*, Aug 26, 1960, 9; Georgia Dullea, "For Family's Three Generations of Feminists, a Memorable Day," *NYT*, Aug 25, 1980, B5; Winnie Hu, "Invoking Suffrage, Mrs. Clinton Courts Women Upstate," *NYT*, Aug 23, 2000, B5.

## Articles and Media

**"What Does the 1920 Census Tell Us About Arlington 100 Years Ago – and Today?"** Mark Schwartz, Arlington County (Sept. 30, 2020). Also check out a [video](#) of Schwartz sharing a guided tour of census data and research from 1920, as well as his [presentation](#), "A Peek at the Census, Celebrating Arlington Then and Now."

**"What the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Meant for Black Women,"** Martha S. Jones, Politico (Aug. 26, 2020). Also check out Jones' new book: **Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All.**

**"Ida B. Wells gets her due as a Black suffragist who rejected movement's racism,"** DeNeen L. Brown, *The Washington Post* (Aug. 25, 2020).

## Podcasts about Suffrage

Award-winning journalists **Lynn Sherr** and **Ellen Goodman** are co-hosts of the **She Votes! Our Battle for the Ballot** podcast, which discusses the complex history of the women's suffrage movement, and its enduring significance during their tenure reporting on women's rights and social change issues.

**Amended**, a podcast series from Humanities New York, travels from the 1800s to the

present day to show us a quest for women's full equality that has always been as diverse, complex, and unfinished as the nation itself.

**Hindsight: Looking Back at 100 Years of Women's Suffrage** is a six-episode podcast series from KMUW. Historian and host Dr. Robin Henry examines the history of women's suffrage, political involvement, and social activism in the United States from the middle of the 19th century through today.

### **Online Exhibits**

The COVID-19 crisis has shuttered or caused the postponement of many suffrage-related programs. However, some exhibits exist in some form online. Here are a few, with more to be added in forthcoming Centennial Corners.

The National Archives. **"Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote"**

National Women's History Museum. **"Crusade for the Vote."**

Alice Paul Institute. **"For Democracy: Celebrating 100 Years of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment."**

Carol Simon Levin, *Remembering the Ladies*. The author has made available a free electronic version of this book, which profiles 69 women who fought for women's political inclusion and participation.

### **It's Arlington's Centennial, Too**

The County has launched a [webpage](#) to showcase news of the County's "naming centennial" and associated events. Be sure to sign up for email updates.

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**The League of Women Voters of Virginia applauds Governor Northam's designation of Oct 12 as Indigenous People Day.**

[Read LWV-VA statement on Governor Northam's designation here](#)

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**Virginia Voter Registration Deadline Extended to 11:59 PM, October 15, 2020**

Action followed a complaint filed by the League of Women Voters of Virginia and partners New Virginia Majority and Virginia Civic Engagement Table

[Read LWV-VA statement on the deadline extension here](#)



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**News from National**

With less than two weeks left until Election Day, Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts are in full swing all over the country! This [GOTV Toolkit](#) has everything you need to reach out to voters in these final few weeks! For other election resources, check out the [Election Preparation Toolkit](#) and the [Election Messaging Calendar](#).

### **Honoring Indigenous Peoples' Day**

This month the League of Women Voters US recognized Indigenous Peoples' Day. Please check out some relevant resources below:

- [Brief history of Indigenous Peoples' Day](#) published in the Smithsonian Magazine last year
- Another [article about the history of Indigenous Peoples' Day](#) in Good Housekeeping
- [Indigenous People's Day Toolkit](#) published by [IllumiNative](#)
- On July 24th, LWVUS led a DEI Webinar about Understanding and Partnering with Native American Communities. You can find the recording of the training with additional resources [here](#).

### **We need your help to ensure candidates respond to our VOTE411.org voter's guide!**

Since its inception in 2006, [VOTE411.org](#) has provided 36 million voters the information they need before Election Day. Voters deserve to know where the candidates stand on important issues to fill out their ballots. VOTE411 does not speak on behalf of candidates. Instead, we provide all candidates an opportunity to answer the most pressing questions in their communities, in their own words.

When a candidate does not respond to the questions, the voters the candidate hopes to serve do not get the information they need before casting their ballot. Even after multiple contacts from League volunteers across the country, we have candidates who have not yet responded to our questions - which is why **we need your help!**

Check out [this page](#) to learn how you can help get candidates to answer our voter guide questions!

### **Thanks for joining us on our Facebook Live about Racism and Redistricting!**

Thank you so much to everyone who attended our Facebook Live event last Thursday, **Racism and Redistricting: How Unfair Maps Impact Communities of Color!**

Over 350 people attended the event and thousands more have watched it since. We so appreciate the work our Leagues and partners are doing to fight racial gerrymandering in their communities. If you missed it, check out the recording [here!](#)

### **Upcoming Calls and Trainings!**

- October 29: **Protecting Democracy: Bystander Active Training**. Join the

Organizing team for our “Protecting Democracy: Bystander Active Training” as we outline de-escalation techniques to safely address tense situations at polling places to ensure every voter can exercise their right to vote safely. [Click here to register!](#)



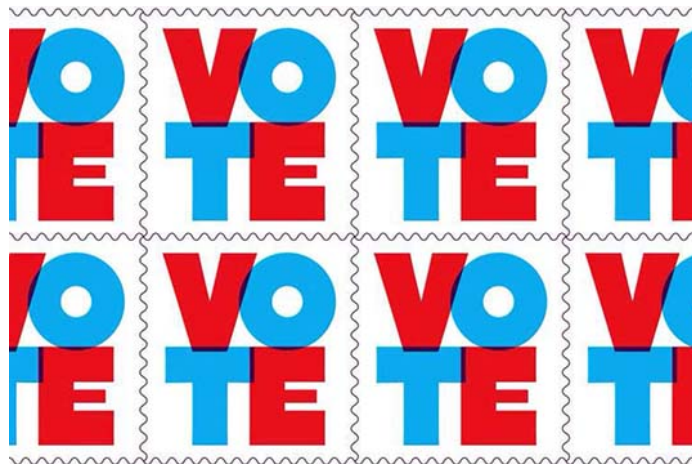
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### Circle of Life

Condolences to our websmaster and social media wizard Rachelle Walker who lost her grandmother.

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**Look for next newsletter November 4, 2020**





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