



League in Action

October 7, 2020

President's Message

Thank you for all of the postcards! I stopped counting somewhere around 30,000! Seriously, we topped off at around 31,500 postcards to disenfranchised voters. That is an amazing feat – and I will never be able to thank you enough.

NOW it is time to switch to texting and phone banking. Our friends at Reclaim the Vote have a "Text PerCent" system established. You text from your computer so no one sees your number! There is more information below on this great program. The targets here are disenfranchised voters mostly in the Norfolk/Virginia Beach area. Virginia has had a horrible level of disenfranchisement in the past – and the remnants of our ugly history will take a long time to destroy. However, we can begin to make a dent in it.

Sign up here to get an account and be invited to training. There is also an explanation on how this works.

If you are a phone-banker – they (Reclaim) can use you to reach voters in other

states. With the destruction of the Voting Rights Act, voter suppression and disenfranchisement are still prevalent in many Southern States. In this last month of this campaign, this is the only way to reach people.

[Find information on the program here](#)

[Sign up for Phone Banking - Reclaim the Vote](#)

Someday we will have a real thank you party, of that I am sure. Until then.....

Thanks,
Joan

PS Make sure you are taking some time to read these phenomenal "Centennial Corners." Board member, Seema Jain, did another fantastic job this week!

TONIGHT! Watch the VP Debate with us!

Board member Krysta Jones will hold another debate watch tonight, October 7, starting at **8:45 PM** if you would like to join!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97640969264>

Meeting ID: 976 4096 9264



LWV-Arl member **Cheryl Moore** working voter registration at
Arlington Housing Corporation food pick-up site

You have probably been hearing a lot about mail in ballots. Have questions? **Want to know how to vote by mail in VA?** Arlington member **Krysta** is back with an information voter video!

**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>

STRONGER

[See the video here](#)

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](#)



Nov 3 Election Voter Information

Pocket Guide - Election 2020

Arlington Early Voting Information

Alexandria City Early Voting Information



Just. Vote.

In 2020, 100 years after our founding, a pandemic and a turbulent election season made us look for a new way to generate awareness and interest in voting.

With our partners @ArlingtonCountyVA and sponsor@JBG MITH, we selected @GenslerDC to create a public art campaign called "**Just. Vote.**" that runs through Election Day on November 3rd.

We want to inspire and empower people to register to vote and choose the voting method that works best for them and hope you will share the **Just. Vote.** artwork through social media – or download the poster versions from the link in our bio.



Find Just Vote images here

Posters are available now with hopes a few League members might like to distribute them or post them. **To request a poster contact Kate Kirkpatrick** katekirk@gmail.com



**Request for pictures of " I voted" stickers or stamps
from LWV VA Membership Director Andrienne Konstas-Salvette**

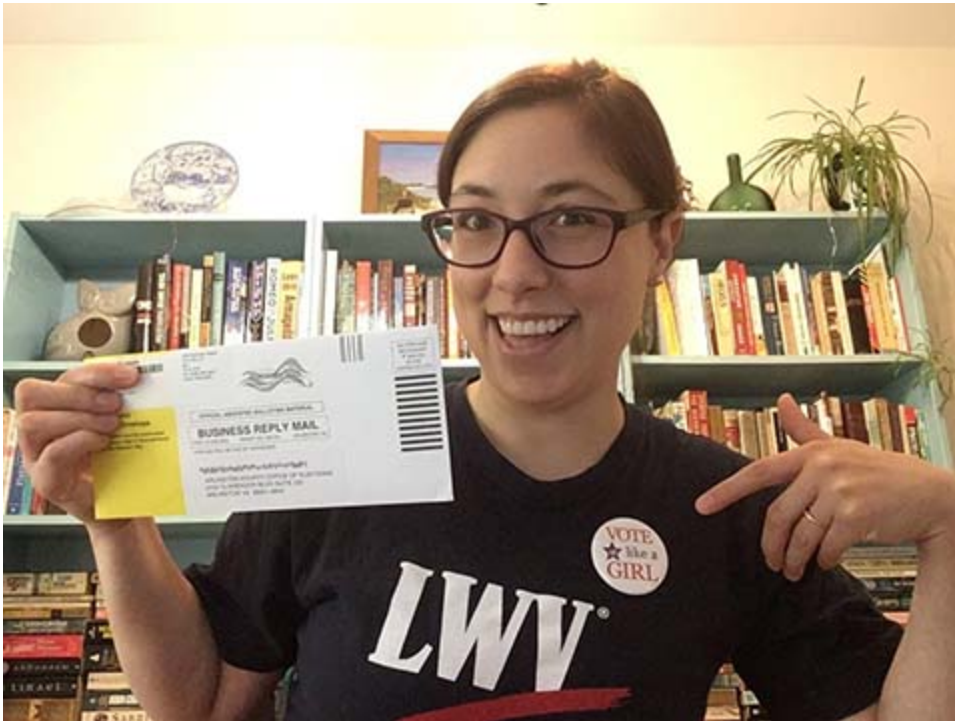
I'm collecting pictures of league members and their "I voted" stickers. **I'd like to have at least 100** of these pictures, for a social media post I'm compiling. I will post on LWV-VA's Instagram and Facebook pages.

Here is a list of picture types that will help in this effort:

- A "votie" (Selfie+vote=votie)
- A picture of the sticker alone
- A picture of you and your voting buddies holding up "I voted" stickers.
- A picture of the stamp on your mail-in ballot
- A picture of you standing next to the ballot drop off box.
- A picture of your homemade "I voted" sticker

You can submit these pictures to me at membership@lwv-va.org.

Thank you for your consideration in this effort and I hope you're staying well and voting safely.



411 manager **Anna Weber** rocking her vote



Joan's selfie

Who says Vote Yes on 1?

[See list of endorsements for VA Constitutional Amendment 1](#)

Do you have a plan to vote?

[Read LWV-VA call to 'Be an October Voter' here](#)



Krysta Jones challenging her family to vote early

Pennywise Thrift Shop Open Again

Did you clean out your closets during the COVID Pandemic?

Money that we make on consignment supports LWV Virginia.

What we sell: Clothing—women's, men's, teens, children, ties, belts, etc. (in-season)
Shoes Purses Jewelry Decorative Items Kitchen Ware/household items/glassware (must be at least a pair), china Framed Artwork Books Lamps Luggage Linens, table cloths
Towels Home Depot Items Sports equipment Small Furniture Toys (Nov/Dec only)
Decorations (pre-holiday only) Baskets New In-box greeting cards New In-box puzzles
DVDs and CDs.

What we do not sell: toys (after Christmas), stuffed animals, curtains, records, office supplies, greeting cards-loose, vases--florist, silverplate items, cameras, baby furniture and equipment, computers/printers, dolls, pillows, anything quilted or stuffed, TVs, large pieces of furniture

Contact [Joan](#) if you have anything to donate.

EVENTS

October 8

Tomorrow!



On October 8, the League of Women Voters of the United States, along with the Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia Leagues, will host a discussion on **the triple threat posed to our democracy** by systemic racism, rigged maps, and the resulting distortion of our elections.

[Register here](#)

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 – 100th Anniversary

Dec.10, 2020 – 7 PM

Virtual Event

Join other League members for a celebration of “100 Years of Perseverance” – the 100th 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](#)

Committees

Oct 14 – 7 PM - **Election Security** – contact **Lisa Koteen Gerchick** –
lkoteengerchick@gmail.com

Oct 19 – 7 PM – **Redistricting** – contact **Ann Sharp** Sharpab2828@gmail.com

Oct 26 – 7 PM - **Affordable Housing** - contact **Joan Porte**, Joan@joanporte.com



Centennial Corner – October 7, 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 19th 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).

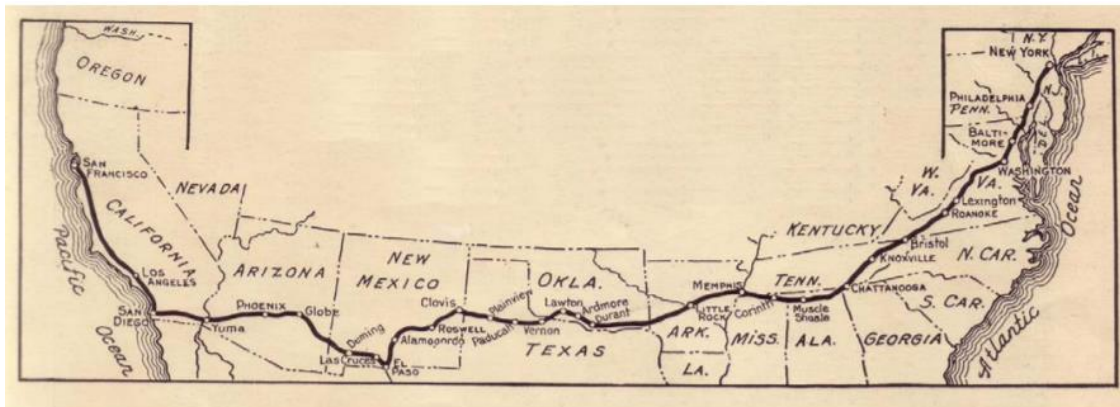
Feature: The History and Renaming of Lee Highway

Lee Highway spans the entirety of Arlington County, from Rosslyn to East Falls Church. Many of us are aware that there are ongoing efforts in Arlington to rename Lee Highway. But how and when did Lee Highway get its name? And where is Arlington in the renaming process?

The History.

Prior to 1920, Lee Highway was not called Lee Highway. Prior to the Civil War, what eventually became the Lee Highway Corridor was comprised of Little Falls Road and Georgetown and Falls Church Road. These roads served as the primary transportation routes from Falls Church and other towns west of Chain Bridge (now Wilson Boulevard). In 1867, following the end of the Civil War, the Virginia General Assembly approved the establishment and creation of the Georgetown and Fairfax Road due to a national need for improved transportation to Washington, DC. This road was the precursor to Lee Highway and was completed in 1900.

Lee Highway was named in 1922. Since at least 1911, there had been discussions about constructing an “auto trail” through the south to honor Confederate General Robert E. Lee. The name was suggested by David Humphreys, a Lexington, VA native and professor at Washington and Lee University, because he (and ultimately the Virginia State Highway Commission) believed it was “**a fitting and permanent memorial to and tribute of love, admiration and respect for General Robert E. Lee from the people of Virginia.**” In 1919, Humphreys and a group of other men, met in Roanoke Virginia to plan a road that would span from Gettysburg, PA to New Orleans, LA in honor of Lee. At this meeting, they formed a provisional Lee Highway Association. In 1922, the Virginia General Assembly formally designated “Lee Highway” to run from Washington, DC to Bristol, TN.



Map of Robert E. Lee Highway, National Auto Trail. Views Along Lee Highway, © 1923, The Lee Highway Association. Courtesy Lee Hubbard.

Importantly, this designation took place during the **Jim Crow Era** of American history – more than 60 years after Lee had surrendered. Black people were becoming increasingly educated and acquiring their own businesses and wealth. And naming streets after and erecting monuments of Confederate Generals was often seen as a means of **intimidation**.

During the late 1920s and early 1930s, as the Board of Interstate Highways began utilizing a number system for highways across the U.S., Lee Highway was split into numbers. US 29 was initially designated to run from Gastonia, NC to Tuskegee, AL. But in 1931, US 29 was extended to Northern NC and Virginia. And in 1933, it was extended to Washington, DC and Maryland. Today, US 29 runs from Ellicott City, MD to Pensacola, Florida.

Since Lee Highway was named in 1922, a number of states have chosen to rename their portion. The portion that runs through Arlington County is considered a “major commuter road” and provides access to commercial goods, services, and dining options for Arlington residents.

Looking Forward. The 4.6 mile stretch of Lee Highway in Arlington is being renamed “to realize the years-long grassroots community effort **to create a**

welcoming Main Street by removing the word "Highway" and **to begin to reconcile the painful racial history that many in our community have experienced by removing the name 'Lee.'**" In addition, the goal of the new name is to represent a "forward-thinking, equitable, and welcoming community, not the Confederacy and Jim Crow."

You have an opportunity to suggest a new name. The [Lee Highway Alliance](#), established in 2013, has assembled a working group of 25 Lee Highway residents and business owners, who will eventually submit a new name recommendation to the Arlington County Board (that will eventually be submitted to the Commonwealth Transportation Board or the Virginia General Assembly for approval and implementation). **The working group is currently accepting nominations for new names through October 21.** Read the criteria that will be used to select a new name below, and then submit your suggestion [here](#).

The infographic is a vertical rectangle with a dark red background and a white vertical bar on the left side. It contains seven numbered criteria for naming Main Street, arranged in two columns. The numbers 1 through 7 are large and white, followed by the text of each criterion in white. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for the Lee Highway Alliance (LHA) consisting of the letters 'LHA' in a stylized font above the words 'LEE HIGHWAY ALLIANCE' in a smaller, sans-serif font.

- 1 Name is welcoming to all people and businesses
- 2 Name promotes economic vitality: effectively brands the corridor
- 3 Name increases public understanding of cultural history & racial equity
- 4 Name would work for all four Northern VA jurisdictions that include Lee Highway
- 5 Name is not Highway, promotes Main Street character in accord with revisioning under PLH
- 6 Name is relevant to Arlington/Northern VA and to place (history, flora, etc.)
- 7 Name reflects community and business/property owners' input

LHA
LEE HIGHWAY
ALLIANCE

[“Lee Highway Briefing Book,” Arlington County \(March 2017\)](#)

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 19th 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).

Events

Oct. 8, 7 PM: The Fastest Growing County in America: Suburbanization, Segregation, and Community Development in Arlington
(Arlington Historical Society)

Historian of African American community development **Dr. Lindsey Bestebreutje** will explore segregation and racialized zoning and planning laws in Arlington to see how these policies impacted the county’s suburban growth from the 1900s to the 1970s. Details and registration [here](#).

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 19th 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. <https://tellingherstories.com/book-remembering-the-ladies/>

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.

News from National - Getting out the word to ex-felons who can vote in Kentucky



[Read the Louisville Spectrum News story here](#)

We made the news again - Issues with directions for casting absentee ballots

[Read the Washington Post story here](#)

[Read the October Virginia Voter here](#)





George Hobart voted

Circle of Life

Our deepest sympathy to the indefatigable Anne Murphy, who lost her brother this month.

Look for next newsletter October 21





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