



League in Action

September 16, 2020

President's Message

...and so we hurtle onward to November. People don't believe me when I say what the LWV of Arlington has accomplished:

30,000 postcards;

Hundreds of fliers;

3000 sticky notes on doors of low turn out precincts;

Almost 100 yard signs

Posters ----everywhere

Now we take to the phones. Below you will find phone banking opportunities with the Unitarian Social Justice Ministry and Reclaim the Vote. This is the only way left for us to reach disenfranchised voters. I know many people have "phone bankitus" but it gets easier as you go and is one of the best ways to reach voters.

WAIT! We are not done with postcards!!! LWV of Virginia has just received a grant and we must use it to reach under-served voting communities. Many Leagues are working on this but **we have 2,500 more postcards** that need to drop no later than Oct 1. Please email me if interested (joan@joanporte.com).

Thank you thank you. I can't wait for our first face-to-face parties to celebrate us.

Until then....

OH!

Don't forget to buy your "Women's Vote" stamps that commemorate the 100th year of the Vote!

Take care!

Joan

[Buy your stamps here](#)



Please help the Unitarian Social Justice Ministry call disenfranchised voters in Florida.

September 29 8 PM

[RSVP Here](#)

Or join the phone bank for Reclaim the Vote -

[Sign Up Here](#)

It was wonderful to be asked to speak about the elections on "Aging Matters."

[Listen to the Interview Here](#)



Information You Need for the 2020 Election!

Even without all of the current weirdness, 2020 was going to see many changes to Virginia election law. New legislation, some just passed earlier this month, has changed much regarding the way we vote.

LWV Arlington has put together a PowerPoint presentation which addresses many of these changes. We are using it for virtual webinars at interested community organizations.

Find below the the PowerPoint, done by **Lisa Koteen Gerchick** and **Don Gurney**, for your review. Please don't use it to make presentations...if you know of a group who is interested in us doing a webinar please let me know. It is best for the Voter Services team to do these as they can answer questions!

However, do go through the slides so that you have a better grasp of the law. For instance, we have learned that many people are not aware that you can't bundle people's ballots and return them to the registrar! That is against the law in Virginia.

Also below - Lisa's terrific one pager on voting. We will be sending this to all apartments/condos, civic associations etc. Feel free to share this widely!

Thanks for all you are doing!

LWV voter webinar slides

Information for Voters

Pam's jeep ready for Census Palooza September 12



Pam Berg and **Marlene Nyman** getting ready to roll in the Census parade

LWV-VA Applauds Passage of Voter Protections in Pandemic

The General Assembly adopted the governor's plans to allow voters to safely deposit their ballots for the November 3rd elections at designated voting areas. The Virginia Department of Elections will prescribe measures to ensure security at drop off locations in addition to numerous existing ballot verification measures. The new legislation also provides for prepaid return postage on vote by mail ballots and enables voters to correct errors on their mailed ballots received by October 31.

[Read LWV-VA statement of support for recent legislative action to protect voters here](#)

National Voter Registration Day is September 22



On NVRD what can we do to be Vote Ready?

See the nationalvoterregistrationday.org list here

EVENTS

September 23

**The 8th Congressional District Candidate Forum will be held on
September 23, 2020**

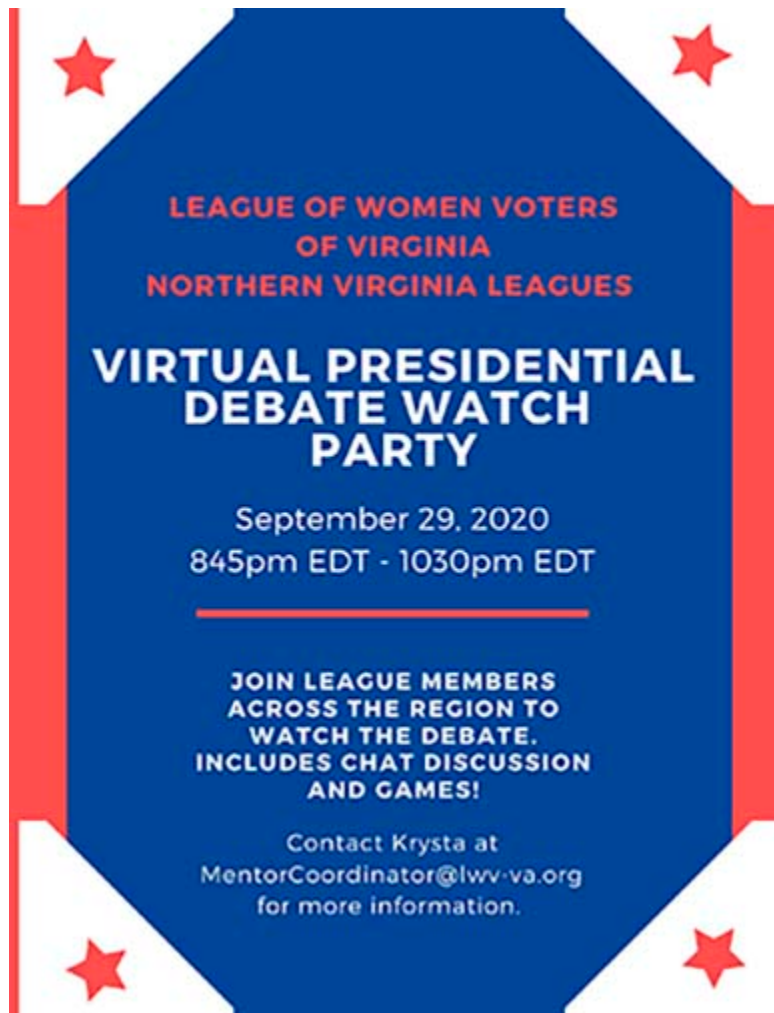
The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area invites you to join its **U.S. House of Representatives - Virginia 8th District Candidate Forum**, to be held online on Wednesday, September 23 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The following candidates certified for the November 3 general election have been invited and are listed here as they appear on the Virginia Department of Elections' website: **Donald S. Beyer, Jr. (D); Jeff A. Jordan (R)**
This event is free and open to the public.

Register here

Questions addressed to both candidates should be submitted here

Sept 29

**LWV-VA: Join us for a Presidential Debate Watch Party on
September 29!**



We will be holding a Debate Watch Party for Northern Virginia Leagues on September 29 at 8:45 PM EDT. You do not have to be a new member to attend!

This is a chance for us to socialize across the Leagues. Contact [Krysta](#) for more information.

RSVP here

September 30

7 PM

Vote Like Your Life Depends On It: Because It Does!

Co-sponsored by DMV Chapters of the Links, Incorporated, & LWV-VA



The DMV Chapters of The Links Incorporated are hosting a virtual voter education forum to discuss issues impacting the African-American community, such as social injustice, criminal justice reform, COVID-19, and election ballot concerns impacting families living in the Washington, D.C, Maryland and Virginia areas. The forum is a family affair and geared towards all audiences.

[RSVP here](#)

October 8

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2020 AT 7 PM – 8:30 PM

Racism and Redistricting: How Unfair Maps Impact Communities of Color



Join us 10/8 for a discussion on the role systemic racism plays in silencing voters of color and what's at stake in this year's election

As the 2020 Census count comes to a close, states prepare for the 2021 redistricting cycle—but not all states will have maps drawn that truly represent

voters. In 2019, the League of Women Voters of the United States launched the People Powered Fair Maps™ campaign in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. The campaign has prompted state-led actions to create transparent redistricting processes that involve citizens and ensure the needs of communities, rather than elected officials, are represented as districts maps are drawn.

On October 8, the League of Women Voters of the United States, along with LWV of Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia will host a discussion on the role systemic racism plays in silencing voters of color and how it's shaped one of the most important processes for ensuring voters' voices are heard. These community leaders will share information on the work being done to end some of the most egregious racial gerrymandering in the country—and what all is at stake in this year's election.

Join us for this free virtual event to learn what you can do in Virginia and across the country to fight systemic racism by voting, being counted in the census, and getting involved in the redistricting process!

*This is a FREE, live event broadcast on LWVUS's Facebook Page.

https://www.facebook.com/events/3393235254124787?active_tab=about

[Register here](#)

Committees

Sept 21 – 7 PM – **Redistricting** – Contact **Ann Sharp** sharpab2828@gmail.com

Sept 24 – 1 PM – **LWV VA Convention Committee** Contact **Kathleen Matusiak** kmatusiak@comcast.net

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

HELP NEEDED

Broadcast Media Group – if you are interested in helping with our radio show – contact **Krysta** - Krysta.n.Jones@gmail.com

If you want to **help populate Vote411.org** for parts of VA where we have no leagues contact State Voter Services Chair, **Janet Boyd**, janet4boyd@icloud.com



Centennial Corner – September 16, 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).

The League in American Democracy: A Century of Leadership

After ratification of the 19th Amendment, many people feared that women's organizational energies would dissipate. The National League of Women Voters had been created out of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association to educate millions of newly enfranchised female citizens in the ways of representative democracy. But early commentators and subsequent histories told a story of a "woman movement" in decline. Was this story true?

One contemporary study set out to answer this question *with systematic data*. The study employed an important measure of women's organizations' political involvement – appearances before the US Congress – and charted them from roughly 1880 (when women's groups first testified) through 2000.

Did the "woman movement" collapse after 1920, resting on its laurels? Nope. Here's what the study found:

- Women's organizations' presence on Capitol Hill expanded greatly in the four decades after the 19th Amendment was ratified. This is true whether one looks at number of hearing appearances, appearances as a share of all hearings, and number of groups testifying. Women's groups stormed the Hill.
- The range of issues that women's organizations engaged also expanded greatly. This finding means that women's groups had encompassing interests *and* that Congress took seriously women's input across a wide range of causes. These causes included international relations, environmental protection, poverty, immigration, and women's rights, among many other issues.

But what about the League? Did it become a shadow of its former organization, as some had feared? Again, the answer is, Nope. Underline that: Nope.

- Together with its state and local affiliates, the League testified more often (990 times) and on a broader range of issue areas (105) than any other women's organization in the 20th century. The League testified nearly twice as often as the second-most-prominent organization, the General Federation of Women's Clubs.
- The League accounts for nearly 10 percent of *all appearances before Congress* by women's groups from the nation's founding through 2000.

The second half of the 20th century posed challenges to mass membership organizations, including women's associations. But there's hopeful evidence of a turnaround in the 21st century, and again, the League is a national leader. From 2016 to 2019, League membership grew by a third nationwide. Membership growth in the Arlington League also has ballooned over the last decade.

Reflecting on the League's history, and particularly its role in the present day, the study's author concluded: "The League offered a locally accessible organization, with a trusted brand, strong leadership, and a policy agenda ideally suited to citizens anguished over the state of American democracy. People were ready to advocate for democracy, and the League had decades of experience doing so."

Source: Kristin A. Goss, The Paradox of Gender Equality: How American Women's Groups Gained and Lost Their Public Voice. 2nd edition, with a new Preface reflecting on the resurgence in women's collective action. Ann Arbor: University of

Michigan Press, 2020.

Events

Missed it Live? Not too Late.

Sept 2, 6 pm: How Black Women Broke Barriers (Women & Politics Institute, American U)

Dr. **Martha S. Jones**, of John Hopkins University, will discuss her forthcoming book, [Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All](#), “the epic history of African American women's pursuit of political power -- and how it transformed America.” Access the presentation [here](#).

Sept 9, 6 pm: She Votes! (Women & Politics Institute, American U)

Award-winning journalists **Lynn Sherr** and **Ellen Goodman**, co-hosts of the [She Votes! Our Battle for the Ballot](#) podcast, will discuss 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. Access the presentation [here](#).

Aug 18 Premiere of “Finish the Fight,” a digital play commissioned and produced by the New York Times to bring to theatrical life the biographies of lesser-known activists who helped to win voting rights for women. A recording of the performance is available to stream [here](#).

Aug 26 Unveiling of Women’s Rights Pioneers Monument in Central Park. Monumental Women unveiled the Women’s Rights Pioneers Monument

featuring New Yorkers Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Sojourner Truth (abolitionists, suffragists, and women right's pioneers). Re-watch the live event [here](#).

Journalism to Check Out

[The 19th*](#). A non-profit, non-partisan newsroom reporting on gender, politics, and policy. "In short: The 19th Amendment remains unfinished business, a fact we acknowledge in our logo with an asterisk — a visible reminder of those who have been omitted from our democracy. The expansion of the franchise continues today, and The 19th aims to capture this ongoing American story." The 19th offers a daily and weekly [newsletter](#).

[The Lily](#), published by the Washington Post. The Lily was the first U.S. paper by women. "Enter The Lily of 2017. A revival. A comeback. A publication for women, sure. But the curious ones. The ones who have something to say and who want to be heard. Our mission is two-fold: Empower with news and information and promote inclusivity by exposing diverse voices. The Lily of today is a place for the curious." Lily Lines [newsletter](#) is published on Mondays and Thursdays.

[Perspective: Grandma Cele, the unknown Ojibwe suffragette](#)

Read the [profile of Cecelia Rabideaux](#) by Mary Annette Pember in [Indian Country Today](#). Cecelia Rabideaux's great niece, Lynn Bigboy of the Bad River reservation is the current president-elect of the League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties.

[What Raising the Age of Sexual Consent Taught Women About the Vote](#)

By Kimberly Hamlin - [smithsonianmag.com](#)

Before many women could vote in the United States, they lobbied male legislators to change statutory rape laws and gained political skills in the process.

Virginia history - 100 years ago a "no" vote on suffrage

Va. balked on women's vote out of racial fears

by Jeff E. Shapiro - [Richmond Times-Dispatch](#)

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.

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.

Meanwhile, check out this "[story map](#)" from 1920, courtesy of the Arlington Historical Society.

Resources

Twitter users are getting ready to share thoughts and information on the suffrage centennial. Here are some accounts to follow. (We will add more as we learn of them.)

@WomenVote100
@SuffCentennials
@CentOfSuffrage
@INSuffrage100

@DailySuffragist
@2020centennial
AlicePaulInstit
@Suffragist

@WomensVote100
@Suff_Postcards
@100thSuffrageDC

Encore Learning program --The 2020 Election-are we really ready?

Sept 21

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Some League members attended a similar program last year put on by Encore. They have continued with their Monday afternoon programs via Zoom.

These Monday afternoon programs are free and do not require Encore Learning membership.

The 2020 Election will be like no other election in American history with the pandemic, vote-by-mail in more states, early voting, increasing pressure of the US

Postal Service and controversies about the ability of local governments to meet the challenges. This presentation and discussion will bring you up to date on what is happening on the state level and in Arlington to ensure an accurate election and how/when results will be reported.

David Poole is the Founder of Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP), a nonprofit, nonpartisan group that elevates public understanding of state politics. He is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill and worked as a reporter from 1982 to 1997 for The Roanoke Times and Virginian-Pilot. He commutes to work three miles by bicycle.

Matthew Weinstein is the Vice Chair of the Arlington Electoral Board. He is a land-use attorney for McGuireWoods LLP. He previously served as senior staff on multiple statewide campaigns in Virginia, chief of staff for a member of the House of Delegates leadership and worked for Senator Mark Warner throughout law school.

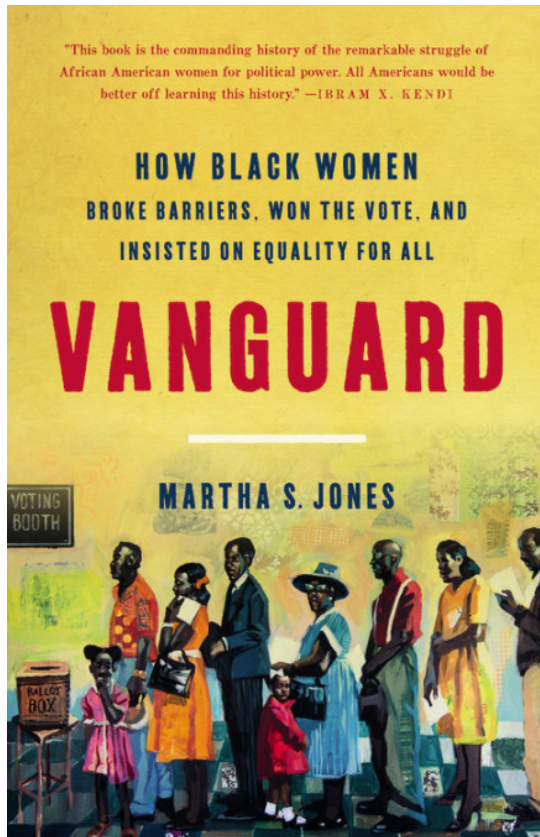
Honorable Barbara Favola is a Virginia state senator who will join the panel to discuss recent changes legislated in Richmond to make elections more safe and secure. She represents parts of Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun counties (Senate District 31).

Moderator Steve Shapiro is currently volunteering as a Vice President of Encore Learning's Board of Directors. Steve is a retiree from Fairfax County Public Schools. Prior to his teaching career, he spent 25 years in management positions with several leading technology companies. In 2020, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP).

Advance registration is not required, and this free event is open to all. You may be prompted to enter your name and email address before being admitted to the webinar.

[Get the link here](#)

Voter Rights Event with Old Town Books - Alexandria, VA



Old Town Books invites you to an event planned for **September 21st at 7PM** for a discussion of the history of voting rights with author **Martha S. Jones**, through her new book- ***Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All.***

104 S Union St, Alexandria, VA 22314

[RSVP here](#)

**Arlington for Justice asks citizens to rethink policing reform
- and ride for justice**



Ride for
BLACK LIVES
September 26, 3 pm

[Arlington for Justice](#) advocates for criminal justice reform in Arlington and is calling for cyclists to join a ride for justice on **September 26 beginning at 3 PM at 3500 23rd St S, 22206-2461** . All are invited to join the ride.

[Ride route](#)

LWV of Arlington welcomes new members September 13



Vote 411 now available in Spanish

[Read LWV statement on Spanish Language Vote 411 here](#)

VOTE 411 INFORMACIÓN ELECTORAL QUE NECESITA

Look for next newsletter October 7

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

TUESDAY | **ARE YOU**
9.22.20 | **#VOTEREADY?**



Local Info

Supported by

National Association of Secretaries of State
National Association of State Election Directors
U.S. Election Assistance Commission
National Association of Election Officials

#NationalVoterRegistrationDay
#NatiVoterRegDay
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