



League in Action

4 September 2024

President's Message

Voter registration efforts are underway. We've got some big days coming. Lots of information below; so let's get started!

Disability Voting Rights Week 9-13 September



Don Gurney at the Nov. 17 Protest for Voting Rights

According to a study by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, 2.2 million voters with disabilities experienced voting difficulties in the November 2022 elections. Although the expansion of voting options in several states has narrowed the disability voting gap in the last few years, people with disabilities still face barriers to exercising their voting rights. The LWVAAC Disability Voting Rights Committee is joining with state and local disability issues groups to address these issues. **If you'd like to help us bring our unique resources to this crucial work, get in touch with Richelle Brown** at richellebrown@gmail.com or 703-946-6804.

National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) – Tuesday, 17 September



“About 2000 civic organizations around the country, including League of Women Voters, HeadCount, The Bus Federation (currently Alliance for Youth Organizing), Rock the Vote and Nonprofit VOTE helped launch the first National Voter Registration Day on September 25, 2012. Many celebrity actors and musicians added their voices to the thousands of volunteers to encourage voter registration.

By 2022, the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED), the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), and the National Association of Election Officials (The Election Center) had endorsed National Voter Registration Day. National Voter Registration Day is also a program of Nonprofit VOTE. The program provides national communications support, sample graphics for social media posts, field organizing resources, logo merchandise, and a centralized organization to coordinate fundraising and volunteer efforts.

National Voter Registration Day has received several U.S. presidential proclamations and agreed by unanimous consent in the U.S. Senate.” [source: Wikipedia]

LWVAAC will be participating in NVRD in Arlington and Alexandria! A separate notice will be published shortly so folks can sign up and register voters.

General Voter Registration Information

Here is the current LWVAAC voter registration sign-up sheet; you can sign up for events now and more will be added as they emerge:

[Voter Registration Sign-Up Sheet](#)

In addition to our events above, there will be a USCIS (U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service) event on September 21. Data entry for this event will be September 22. Sign up here:

[Sign-Up Genius - USCIS Voter Registration & Data Entry](#)

REMEMBER: You **must** complete the Virginia Department of Elections Voter Registration Training before you sign up to volunteer. To complete the training (about 45 minutes), click here:

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/registration-drives/voter-registration-training/>

Election Messaging: This year, in addition to 'Are you registered to vote?', we are also messaging 'Have you checked your registration?' Voters can be inadvertently deleted during episodes of voter roll maintenance. This year we're taking the extra step in Arlington and Alexandria to remind already registered voters to check their registration status. In Virginia, you can check your status here: <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>.

Additionally, if you choose to vote by mail/absentee ballot, we strongly support the use of drop boxes this year or mailing your ballot at least 10 days before November 5. We ask that you all recommend the same as you engage with your neighbors and voters. This applies to both Arlington and Alexandria. If you have questions about this, reach out to us at lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com.

Lastly, both Arlington and Alexandria Registrars asked us to convey the following message as we register voters and interact in our communities: If you're ever in doubt about anything relating to elections always call the appropriate elections office. Don't Google it, don't ask your friends, don't ask your neighbors, don't use Facebook or Instagram. Instead, call the Elections Office (Arlington or Alexandria) and get your information **directly** from the proper source. This is the best way to avoid misinformation and disinformation regarding elections. Even well-meaning people can be wrong. Who you gonna

call? The Elections Office!

Arlington. Registrar Gretchen Reinemeyer;

Email: voters@arlingtonva.us; Phone: 703-228-3456; TTY: 703-228-4611;
hours 8:00am - 5:00pm M-F

Alexandria. Registrar Angie Maniglia Turner;

Email: angela.turner@alexandriava.gov; Phone: 703-746-4050; hours 8:00am -
5:00pm M-F

LWVAAC Educational Partnership with Arlington County Library



LWVAAC, in partnership with Arlington County Library, will be hosting a number of public educational programs over the next year. **Our first event will be Thursday, September 12 from 6:30-7:30pm in the Auditorium of Arlington Central Library (1015 N. Quincy Street).**

Our first event will be an overview of the roles of Arlington's Registrar and the Board of Elections. This is a great learning opportunity and a great way to be an informed voter.

Sign up here: <https://arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/12701078>

Ranked Choice Voting News/Events

RCV : Educating Voters : Volunteers wanted

UpVote Virginia and League of Women Voters are partnering to help educate voters about the County Board election, which is using Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) to determine the winning candidate for the 1-seat on the County Board. LWVAAC member, Chris DeRosa, is organizing “presence at the polls” for the five Saturdays and Sundays of early voting, as well as on Election Day. Volunteers will offer information about RCV to voters. Please take 30 seconds to respond to the 4 questions on this [Survey Monkey questionnaire](#) to let Chris know if you are interested in helping. There is also a question about whether you’d like to find out more about how the ballots will be tabulated (in case you missed the one held last week).

Arlington Co 55+ Voter Information offerings

LWVAAC members Connie Potter and Chris DeRosa will be presenting information about the General Election including Ranked Choice Voting – 55+ members are invited to come in person (or view virtually). This event will be on **Thursday, September 26 @ 2:30-4:00 pm at Lubber Run Center**. See page 15 of the [55+ Fall 2024 guide](#) to register. <https://arlingtonparks.us/55plus/index.html>

Also on that page are three sessions presented by the Office of Elections on Sep 5 and 25 and Oct 2 at different Community Centers.

RCV presentation to American Association of University Women (AAUW)

League members Chris DeRosa and Janice Morris together with Liz White (UpVote Virginia) will be presenting information about RCV to the AAUW (Mt. Vernon) on Tuesday, October 15th @ 1:30 pm. This event will be held at the Sherwood Hall Library in Alexandria and is open to the public. More information coming soon.

Questions on any of the above can be directed to lvarllingtonva@gmail.com.

LWVAAC Review of LWV-VA Study on Right to Vote

Our League will have an opportunity to review a new state study on the right to vote.

Background: The LWV-VA Voting & Elections Issue Group proposed a new study addressing universal suffrage as expressed in Senator Locke's 2021 bill SJ272 which originally called for the "universal right to vote." That bill, which would have removed the felony conviction and mentally incompetent stipulations in Section 1, Article II of the Virginia Constitution, also added a "fundamental right to vote" clause to the Section 1 title and the body of the first paragraph.

[2021 SJ 272 Right to Vote Constitutional Amendment](#)

Update 9/4/24: We've received the study and will be sending it to all of our LWVAAC members for review this week. In light of folks being busy with voter registration and other activities ahead of the election, we likely will not review

the study as a League until late October or November. Our input will be due in December.

Additional Information and Volunteer Request for GOTV Postcarding



Laura Leussing, Nancy Corbett, and Judith Selzer Registering Voters in Alexandria

Volunteers for GOTV (Get Out The Vote) postcarding and data entry are still needed! Email lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com if you're interested in one or both activities.

The data entry volunteers' job is to go through our list of newly registered voters and enter names and addresses (typed) in order to make it easier for postcarding volunteers to address and write postcards to potential voters.

League of Women Voters Needs Your Help!

We've got a couple things going on that we need some help with:

1. Bylaws Change Committee. **We need a few folks that will work to change our LWVAAC Bylaws on officer/director terms** in the first of our two adhoc committee needs. We would like to alter the language to result in more flexibility when terms are not fully served. For example, the officer and director terms are currently one or two years; ideally, we want that language to be written in such a way that minor changes to terms can be accommodated without having to rewrite the Bylaws. Additionally, we would like to restore a flexible staggered term protocol.

2. LWVAAC Gift Policy Committee. **We need a few folks to work out an LWVAAC gift/donation policy for LWVAAC members** that cover a variety of situations (i.e., condolences, retirements, etc.) in our second of two adhoc committee needs.

3. More Alexandria Folks. **You know what we need more of? Alexandrians!** We welcomed Alexandria to our League in 2022 – and we're glad we did! I want to issue a special invitation to our Alexandrians to get involved. As might be expected, given our history, LWVAAC can be rather Arlington-centric. We've got a few terrific Alexandrians that are all in and we love them for it! But we need more. Even if you're not sure exactly what you want to do, reach out to me and let me know if you're an Alexandrian that would like to be more involved. We'd like to connect you all together.

4. Election Integrity/Security Email Listserv. We have had an Election Integrity/Security Committee for a number of years, but at this point, there is no committee leader and some of the initial issues have coalesced and situated themselves appropriately at the state level. That said, we would like to preserve a key intent of the original group: **to share election security/integrity information so that we're better informed**. We anticipate this era of election distrust to linger for some time, and it is critical for us to have some folks in our League committed to

sharing information. Unless a leader emerges (volunteers, anyone?), I propose that we use the committee in a 'listserv' capacity whereby, as folks find relevant articles and so forth, the information is shared to the whole committee. If you're interested in this – either leading it or participating in it – let me know at email below. We may have an initial kick-off meeting to generally discuss the framework; after that, we'd just let the listserv exist. I'm open to ideas. [For those that have *already* indicated previously, via email, their continued interest in remaining in the Election Integrity/Security Committee, you do not need to re-do that here. I already have you on my list.]

For all of the above opportunities to serve, please reach out to lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com with any questions. Even if you're not sure yet, let's have a conversation.

Book Club

After a bit of a hiatus, LWVAAC is looking to restart the Book Club to a typically bi-monthly online (Zoom) event. Are you interested? Contact us at lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com.

Look for next newsletter September 18!

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