



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Arlington, Virginia - November 10, 2020 - **The League of Women Voters of Arlington Salutes Poll Workers**

This year, more than ever, the hard work of poll workers has allowed millions of Virginia to cast their vote safely. "Poll workers have always been the backbone of our free and fair Democratic process," declared Joan Porte, President of the League of Women Voters of Arlington, Virginia. "This year, their work was not only more vital, it was also more personally dangerous, and still they persevered."

Poll workers need to arrive at their polling sites by 5:00 AM on Election Day. This year, many from our area drove miles across the state to fill in for gaps caused by the pandemic. During what is often a fourteen to fifteen-hour day, they greet and assist thousand of voters. With early voting and changes to Virginia's election laws, voter questions and confusion were at an all time high.

Porte reminded people that the work of poll workers extends beyond just this grueling day. "Early voting starts in Virginia on September 18. We have one of the longest early voting periods in the country. These people have been answering one of the most primal calls to keep Democracy working for a very long time in unprecedented circumstances. Virginians don't have to look far to find a hero."

The League of Women of Arlington is committed to producing positive change in our communities. Current areas of focus for the Arlington LWV are voter registration, voter protection, affordable housing, and fair redistricting.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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220 words