

League of Women Voters, Montgomery County, Virginia
Year in Review: 2017–2018



Voter Services: Candidate Forums, Voter Guide

Fall 2017: All were videotaped.

House of Delegates, October 5;

Blacksburg Town Council / Mayor, October 12:
attendance 120;

Christiansburg Town Council / Mayor, October
18: attendance 63.

Published a Voter Guide October 2017

Spring 2018: Radford School Board, April 12:
attendance 150;

Radford Mayor and City Council, April 17:
attendance 150+

Engagement with LWV-VA

Six members attended the state convention in
June: Elaine Head, Tom Head, Susan Gurley,
Tamara Hodsden, Julia Lewis, Carolyn Rude

Four members attended the Legislative PreSession
in Richmond in December: Charles and Nancy
Warren, Don and Carolyn Rude

Review of Behavioral Health Task Force Report:
Board members examined the report and prepared
comments for the task force.

Three members attended the Women's Legislative
Roundtable in Richmond in February (Elaine
Head, Tom Head, Carolyn Rude)

Facts

A 2018 update of our "Facts" brochure was
published in January; 8,000+ copies have been
distributed throughout the New River Valley. New
sponsors enabled us to cover expenses with
donations.

Public Program: "Who Gets to Vote?" Sept. 27

Three Virginia Tech Faculty members (Caitlin
Jewitt, Nick Goedert, Wornie Reed) presented
information on the variety of voting procedures
and requirements throughout the states, the impact
of gerrymandering and nonpartisan districting
commissions on voter effectiveness, and
Virginia's limits on restoring felon voting rights
and consequential disenfranchisement especially
of Black voters. Attendance 74 + unknown
number of people who watched the videotape.

"First Tuesday" Programs

Discussion topics have included the Election
Assistance Commission v Election Integrity
Commission, Status of the ERA nationally and in
VA, Gill v Whitford partisan districting SCOTUS,
VA election laws in comparison with those of
other states, school funding in Virginia, legislative
session preview, League Action Alerts,
conversation with the Board of Supervisors chair,
LWV-VA positions, voter registration in
Montgomery County

Advocacy

Elaine Head, Tom Head, and Carolyn Rude
traveled to Richmond for OneVirginia2021 Lobby
Day in February and visited Chris Hurst, Nick
Rush, and John Edwards.

Great Decisions January 31–March 28

In collaboration with the Lifelong Learning
Institute at Virginia Tech, we organized the
community discussion group on foreign policy.
158 registered

Outreach / Collaboration

Hosted a booth at the Juneteenth Celebration

Sponsored a table at the NAACP annual banquet
October 7

Radford University, Women's & Gender Studies
class, October 9: background of the League and
current issues

Girl Scouts, November 14: types of government,
history and mission of the LWV

Joined the Roanoke MAL unit for a workshop,
"Deep Dive into Redistricting," May 19

Study: School Funding in Montgomery County

Completed preliminary research to determine the
feasibility and directions of this proposed study.

Organizational Activities

Hosted a membership meeting September 5,
completed a Board orientation with Lois Page,
added missing sections to the bylaws, developed a
calendar, worked on transitioning the website to a
content management system, established a group
to envision programs, prepared the annual budget,
published 6 newsletters, conducted a fundraising
campaign, hosted the annual dinner and meeting
May 9—Carol Noggle, speaker; topic:
Engagement and Empowerment for Change