



# Fairfax VOTER

## Do You Care What the League Studies? For What Positions the League Advocates? Then Come to a December Meeting and Let Your Voice Be Heard!

If it is Program Planning time, it must be December! This year we are evaluating the national (LWVUS) and local (LWVFA) Leagues' positions to determine whether there should be a new study (or restudy of a current position) and/or which position(s) to emphasize for League action in the 2018-2020 biennium. Since the League's positions are used to influence public policies (advocacy and lobbying) at all levels of government, this is your chance to affect the League's advocacy on national and local issues! Discuss!

### Calendar

#### December 2017

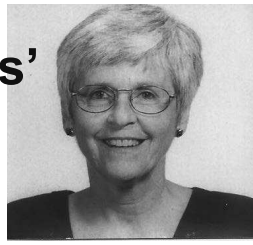
- 1 LWVNCA Board meeting
- 2 **Briefing and At-Large meeting**
- 4 Fairfax *VOTER* deadline
- 5 LWV-VA Board meeting,  
Richmond (tentative date)
- 6 LWV-VA Women's Roundtable  
pre-session luncheon and discussion,  
Richmond
- 9 New member orientation,  
Packard Center Conference Room,  
1 to 3 pm
- 11-14 **LWVFA Unit Meetings**
- 14 The Fountains' Condo elections

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## Presidents' Message



We are devoting this Presidents' letter to action and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters takes action on an issue or advocates for a cause when we have a League position that supports the issue or speaks to the cause. The basis of all advocacy and action is a League position. Positions result from a process of member agreement about a topic that is reached by group discussion after thorough research and study on the topic is presented in an unbiased manner.

The purpose of having a League position is to use that position to influence public policy. *Here We Stand*—located on our website—has the complete wording of LWVFA's positions. The *Here We Stand, COMPLETE* edition includes LWVFA's positions, along with the positions in brief (PiB) of other levels of League (LWV-VA, LWNCA, and LWVUS), all of which include League positions on health, environment, education, transportation, voting, and more.

**Program Planning.** In December we will review League positions at the national and local level. This review is called Program Planning and begins the League process for selecting issues to be studied or restudied. It is the time to let the Board at the national level and local level (that's us!) know of issues and concerns for which the League does not have a position, or for which a position needs to be updated or deleted, or to recommend a position for concerted League action. We encourage you to carefully review the position summaries found in this issue of the *VOTER* and prepare for a lively civil discussion at the briefing for discussion leaders or your December unit meetings.

**State Advocacy.** Our League is very active at the state level. Please mark your calendars.

LWV-VA Pre-Session Information and Luncheon  
December 6th, starting at 9:30 a.m.  
Credit Union House of Virginia  
108 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Richmond, VA

Many of us from the Fairfax Area will be in attendance, and we will carpool together. If you would like to join us, please contact me at [wendy.foxgrage@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.foxgrage@gmail.com) to carpool. It is always a lot of fun, and it is a great way to learn from other like-minded nonprofits about all of the issues that will be upon us in the 2018 General Assembly. It is one of Wendy's favorite League events! After the legislative session begins LWV Virginia holds weekly legislative roundtables on Wednesdays.

League Lobby Day in Richmond will be on February 7th. Again, several of us will attend for a crash course on all of the pending legislation that we care about and to meet with our legislators. More details to follow.

LWV-VA emails us all action alerts during the legislative session for League members to act on. We recommend that you call or write to your state legislators, as an individual, as soon as possible in support of our issues when you receive

*Fairfax County 24-hr.  
Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline:  
703-360-7273; 711 TTY*

### LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2017 - 2018

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Please e-mail address corrections to the office  
or call 703-658-9150

an action alert.

**Local Advocacy.** Under LWVFA members' (Deb Wake and Therese Martin) leadership, LWVFA is heavily involved in LWNCA's Metro "Fund It + Fix It" Call to Action. We are working with a larger coalition on this issue called Coalition for Smarter Growth. Please sign the coalition petition! Now is the time to contact your representatives in your local jurisdiction, state delegation and at the federal level to remind them of the importance of Metro to the regional economy. The LWV of the National Capital Area is made up of local Leagues – including us – located in and around the nation's capital.

In addition, each year, Helen Kelly, who heads our local advocacy efforts, testifies to the Fairfax County and City delegations to the General Assembly about LWVFA's priorities for legislation affecting the County and City; and to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors about LWVFA's priorities for the County budget, including separate testimony to FCPS about the school budget.

We hope you will get involved in these action and advocacy efforts. We look forward to your feedback during this month's Program Planning.

Happy holidays!

*Wendy & Judy*

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## Make a Gift That Keeps On Giving

By Alice Magelssen-Green

Have you ever thought about making a planned gift to the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area? Planned giving is a way for you to create a legacy of informed, engaged voters far beyond your days of organizing candidate forums and registering voters.

Planned giving refers to gifts planned to be given at a later date, usually through a will or estate planning. Even if your current budget limits you to being a \$50 a year donor, you could make a major gift through planned giving.

There are many different options for making a planned gift. The simplest option is to include the League of Women Voters in your will via a bequest or as a beneficiary of your life insurance or retirement plan. It can be as easy as adding

an amendment to your current will that says "I devise and bequeath to The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area Education Fund (Federal Tax ID# 52-1304268) (insert amount of gift or insert the percentage of estate) to be used for its general purposes."

There are many other choices for planned giving that might better fit your retirement or estate planning needs. If you are concerned about having enough money in retirement, you could consider a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust. Both of these options could provide you with annual income and tax benefits as well as making a significant impact on the League. If you are 70 ½ and older, you might want to make an IRA rollover, where you can give up to \$100,000 from your IRA to the League and not have to pay taxes on that donated income. If you want to make sure your loved ones are taken care of but also want to support the League, you might be interested in setting up a charitable lead trust which will provide both the League and your heirs with income.

If you are interested in finding out more, please visit: [plannedgiving.lvw.org/](http://plannedgiving.lvw.org/). The League's website has brochures and many more tips about planned giving. You can also contact the League of Women Voter's Development Manager, Emily Yost, at 202-263-1352 or [eyost@lvw.org](mailto:eyost@lvw.org). Finally, you should talk to your own financial or legal advisor.

The League's work clearly means a lot to you. A planned gift to the League of Fairfax Area is a way to invest in the League's success for future generations.

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### LWVFA Donors and Supporters

The LWVFA Board wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations for their recent generous support.

Beverly Dahlin  
Judith Helein  
Olga Hernandez  
Susan Marcus  
Robert Meredith  
Jane Plum  
Alison Symons  
Adarsh Trehan  
Sue Worden  
Sherry Zachry

## Bob Meredith Awarded the 2017 Barbara Varon Volunteer Award

“In recognition for his years of exemplary community and volunteer work in Fairfax County, Robert “Bob” Meredith was honored by the Board of Supervisors with the 2017 Barbara Varon Volunteer Award during its meeting October 24th. The award, named to honor the memory of Barbara Varon, former Chairman of the Fairfax County Electoral Board, was established to recognize a Fairfax County resident’s dedication to improving the community through volunteer service.



**Meredith accepting the award from Roberta Kelly Paul, a member of the selection committee.**

“This year’s Barbara Varon Volunteer Award recipient was nominated by The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. Mr. Meredith joined the League in 2015 and has been very involved in leading voter registration and education booths in the county. Last year Bob oversaw and participated in more than 35+ voter drives. As a Fairfax County resident Bob demonstrated a strong appreciation for the diversity of our community’s population, and because of his fluency in Spanish, he has assisted non-English speaking citizens from Hispanic communities with voter registration and election education throughout the County.

“This year, Bob became the Voter Registration Chair, which requires hundreds of volunteer hours. Bob has already led two voter registration training sessions at the Packard Center for 40 new League members and will host and oversee many more in the future.” (Taken from Fairfax County Website.)

## Meredith’s Acceptance Speech

Good morning, Chairman Bulova and District Supervisors, Ladies and Gentlemen

As I accept the Barbara Varon Volunteer award I feel honored and at the same time I am humbled. I have benefitted from the hard work that previous and current League of Women Voter volunteers and others have made over the years, even decades. Their efforts and that I am living in a County that values voter participation of all its citizens has allowed me to participate in several strong voter education events and registration campaigns.

The service organization Kiwanis has a pin that some of its members wear that shows a turtle that is resting on top of a fence post. I feel like that – I know that I did not get here myself, a lot of people have helped me along the way.

I especially want to thank my colleagues with the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area who nominated me for this award. Several of them are here this morning. They have for years carried out non-partisan voter registration campaigns. They encouraged me to get involved in the League and its Voter Services efforts. I especially want to thank Sidney Johnson for her tireless efforts to promote Voter Services and being my mentor during this past year. Also special thanks to Wendy Fox-Grage and Beth Tudan for their encouragement, ideas and support.

My interest in voter registration was sparked while I was living in Iowa. It was in the Spring of 2002, 9/11 had occurred a few months prior, and there was an election underway. After casting my ballot, I asked an election official how many people she thought would be voting - she said probably 20% or 30% of the voters. I walked outside and saw all the American flags – they were attached to every lamppost and most buildings had them displayed. There appeared to be a disconnect between the numbers of the flags and the numbers of people who were voting.

From 2005 to 2013 I mainly worked in Afghanistan and Iraq on a series of projects for the U.S. military. While there I saw the commitment and the sacrifice our military and other deployed personnel make on our behalf. I resolved while there that I could respond to their sacrifice by encouraging more citizens to be involved in the voting process. That has been a driver for my involvement in voter registration and voter education activities.

**(Meredith, Cont’d Page 8, Column 1)**

# 2018-2020 Program Planning For LWVUS and LWVFA

By Sherry Zachry, LWVFA Program Director

“Program planning” –it must be December! This year we are discussing suggestions for the national League (LWVUS) and for the local League (LWVFA) to study (or restudy) and/or which position(s) to emphasize for League action in the 2018-2020 biennium.

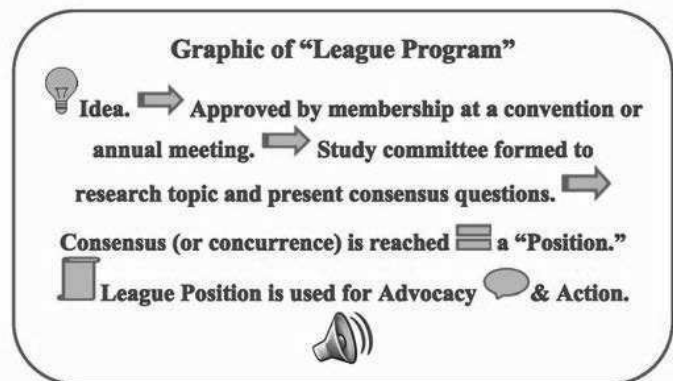
Remember from previous articles that “League Program” has a different meaning from deciding who will be the speaker for an event or which monthly informational topic to discuss. League Program is defined as: the **process by which positions are adopted** (selecting an issue - program planning, studying the issue, reaching consensus /concurrence, formulating the position) and **adopting a program** (which includes **existing positions** that are re-adopted) at a Convention or Annual Meeting. It is that adopted “program” which will guide the respective League’s focus for the next biennium. The biennial League Program includes **both study and action** and sometimes can be composed entirely of advocacy and lobbying (action) on a specific League’s positions.

LWVUS *League Basics* states that public policy positions, published in *IMPACT ON ISSUES*, are the official statements of position for each program area and reflect the program adopted by the most recent national Convention (2016). LWVFA’s positions, published in *Here We Stand*, reflect the program adopted by the 2016 LWVFA Annual Meeting (which included program adoption).

We are including in this article the positions in abbreviated form for LWVUS and LWVFA. As you look at the brief wording you are advised to find the **complete wording** of the positions, usually including the history of the position, in the respective publications: at <http://lww.org/content/impact-issues> and <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/positions/>.

The League’s adopted positions are used to influence public policy (advocacy and lobbying) at all levels of government—national, regional, state and local. LWVUS says: “League advocacy is based on member study and agreement on selected issues and involves concerted efforts to achieve public policies consistent with League positions. League lobbying promotes or opposes specific pieces of legislation.” (From LEAGUE BASICS: 10. Advocacy)

A response form for input from the units that the LWVFA Board will consider for recommendations to LWVUS and for recommendations to the LWVFA Annual Meeting will be handed out at the briefing on December 2nd and is posted on the LWVFA website ([www.lwv-fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org)). An official recorder should be appointed at the unit meeting and the responses returned in a timely manner to Sherry Zachry at [programs@lwv-fairfax.org](mailto:programs@lwv-fairfax.org). Members who do not attend a unit discussion meeting can fill out the response form as an individual or attend the At-Large meeting and discussion



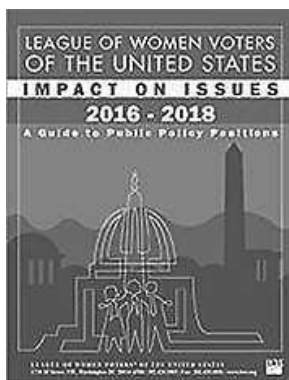
leaders’ briefing on Saturday, December 2nd.

When considering items to propose, in addition to the discussion questions, be guided by the following: Is there widespread member interest? Is this a timely issue? Is government action the most effective way to address the problem? Are there members willing to work on the issue? The Discussion Questions for this month, posted at the end of this article, consist of things to consider when suggesting ideas. The response forms include a chart for each League’s positions with guidelines for evaluating the feedback; there are separate forms for LWVUS and LWVFA program planning feedback.

PLEASE REVIEW THE FOLLOWING CURRENT POSITIONS OF LWVUS AND LWVFA, discuss and give your input. This is your chance to affect the League’s advocacy on public policies!

**LWVUS:** Note: at the time of this writing the LWVUS had not yet given guidance on future national program

suggestions. LWVUS positions pertain to legislative policies of the U.S. Congress and Executive Branch of government. Some topics on which we already have positions are: abandoning the Electoral College; Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and equal rights for all; health care; immigration policies; gun control, etc. If you think we need to expand or restudy any of the positions, make a suggestion. Updated information from LWVUS, if any, will be provided to the discussion leaders at the December 2nd briefing.



## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

### League of Women Voters® of the United States

Page numbers refer to *IMPACT ON ISSUES 2016-2018*; for complete wording, go to <http://lwv.org/content/impact-issues>

## REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

**Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive** (page 8).

### *Voting Rights*

- **Citizen's Right to Vote.** Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote (page 11).
- **DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation.** Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress (page 17).

### *Election Process*

- **Apportionment.** Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population (page 19).
- **Redistricting** - Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation. (page 20)

- **Money in Politics** - Campaign finance regulation should enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. The League believes that campaign spending must be restricted but not banned. The League supports public financing, full disclosure, abolishing SuperPACs and creating an effective enforcement agency (page 22).
- **Selection of the President.** Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates (page 27).

### ➤ *Citizen Rights*

- **Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation.** Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making (page 28).
- **Individual Liberties.** Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights (page 30).
- **Constitutional Amendment Proposals** - In addition to League positions, consideration should be given to whether a proposal addresses matters of abiding importance, makes our political system more democratic or protects individual rights, could be achieved by less difficult legislative or political approaches, and is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach (page 31).
- **Constitutional Conventions** - Concerned that there are many unresolved questions about a Constitutional Convention. Certain conditions must be in place: limited to a single specific topic, full transparency, delegates selected by population, and voting by delegates not by state (page 32).
- **Public Policy on Reproductive Choices.** Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices (page 32).

### *Congress and the Presidency*

- **Congress.** Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance (page 35).
- **The Presidency.** Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution (page 36).

***Privatization***

Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector (page 37).

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations** (page 40).

***United Nations***

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people (page 40).

***Trade***

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade, and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals (page 44).

***U.S. Relations with Developing Countries.***

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries (page 46).

***Arms Control***

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures (page 50).

***Military Policy and Defense Spending***

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs (page 52).

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest** (page 55).

***Natural Resources***

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems (page 55).

***Resource Management***

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government (page 56).

***Environmental Protection and Pollution Control***

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of

the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment (page 58).

- **Air Quality.** Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources (page 64).
- **Energy.** Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation, and encourage the use of renewable resources (page 64).
- **Land Use.** Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship (page 64).
- **Water Resources.** Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water (page 65).
- **Waste Management.** Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes (page 65).
- **Nuclear Issues.** Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment (page 66).

***Public Participation***

Promote public understanding and participation in decision-making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources (page 68).

***Agriculture Policy***

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically-viable farms, environmentally sound, farm practices, and increased reliance on the free market (page 70).

- **Federal Agriculture Policies.** Provide financial support to subsidize agriculture in specific instances, enforce federal antitrust laws to ensure competitive agricultural markets, and apply clean air and water regulations to all animal and aquaculture production. The federal government should fund basic agricultural research to provide adequate safety of our food supply (page 70).

**SOCIAL POLICY**

**Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans** (page 73).

***Equality of Opportunity***

- **Education, Employment and Housing.** Support equal access to education, employment, and housing (page 74).
- **Equal Rights.** Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into

compliance with the goals of the ERA. (page 77)

### ***Federal Role in Public Education.***

Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12 (page 81).

### ***Fiscal Policy***

- **Tax Policy.** Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax (page 82).
- **Federal Deficit.** Promote responsible deficit policies (page 82).
- **Funding of Entitlements.** Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, and survivors, disability and health insurance (page 82).

### ***Healthcare***

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs (page 85).

### ***Immigration***

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status (page 89).

### ***Meeting Basic Human Needs***

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families (page 90).

- **Income Assistance.** Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter (page 90).
- **Support Services.** Provide essential support services (page 90).
- **Housing Supply.** Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family (page 91).

### ***Child Care***

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it (page 94).

***Early Intervention for Children at Risk*** Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children (page 95).

### ***Violence Prevention***

Support violence prevention programs in communities (page 95).

### ***Gun Control***

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety (page 96).

### ***Urban Policy***

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life (page 97)

### ***Death Penalty***

The LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty (page 98).

### ***Sentencing Policy***

The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses (page 99).

### ***Human Trafficking***

Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking (page 99).

## **PRINCIPLES**

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement, and well-defined channels for citizen input and review (page 100).

**LWVFA:** Although our Positions in Brief are listed, we recommend reviewing the full wording contained in LWVFA *Here We Stand* and considering if there are any issues not already covered by LWV-VA, LWVNCA or LWVUS positions that are needed for **local advocacy**. Remember, local positions pertain to governmental policies of Fairfax County and Fairfax City **only**. Other



levels of governmental policies are addressed at the state or national League level. Also see *Here We Stand - Complete Edition - With Other League Positions, updated October 2017* for LWVFA positions and the positions in brief of other levels of League (LWVNCA, LWV-VA and LWVUS), at <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/positions/>.

Some of LWVFA's positions may need updating or expanding as new **local** issues arise, but keep the following parameters in mind when giving feedback: Are there other level positions we can use? Is there widespread member interest? Is this a timely issue? Is government action the most effective way to address the problem? Are there members willing to work on the issue? Following are LWVFA's positions in brief.

## SUMMARY OF LWVFA POSITIONS



### League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area as updated September 2010 and Readopted April 2016

For complete wording, see *Here We Stand, Readopted April 2016* at:

<https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/positions/>

## GOVERNMENT

### **Fairfax County & City of Fairfax (1987-1996)**

Support an effective, responsible and accountable form of government that includes opportunities for citizen participation in the decision-making process by scheduling time for public comment at Board and Council meetings and holding magisterial district town meetings in the County. Support for the concept of an independent auditor for program review.

### **Fiscal (1970s-2008)**

Support for an effectively administered, equitable tax system and the sale of bonds for capital improvements including the construction and renewal of school facilities. If additional revenue is needed, and in order to diversify the tax system and reduce reliance on the

property tax, a combination of adjusting the rates on existing taxes and/or fees and enacting new taxes and/or fees should be considered.

### **Public Libraries (1984-2006)**

Support for selection policies and procedures of the Fairfax County Public Libraries (FCPL) that ensure its collection contains a wide variety of books, digital resources, and other materials representing a diversity of views to serve the educational, informational and recreational needs of the residents of Fairfax County/City.

### **Registration and Voting**

Support efforts to increase voter registration and voter participation in Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax.

### **Transportation (1981-2004)**

Support for an effective, well-coordinated and adequately financed system of public transportation in Fairfax County/City, and an active role by Fairfax County in the planning of its road system and the financing of road improvements

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### **Environmental Quality (E.Q)**

- **Solid Waste (1980-1990)**  
Support measures to protect the public and the environment and to encourage alternative methods of disposal of solid wastes. Source reduction, as well as reuse and recycling, should be emphasized over incineration and land filling.
- **Hazardous Materials (1985-1994)**  
Support establishment and maintenance by Fairfax County and Fairfax City of a comprehensive local hazardous materials program, including safe disposal of hazardous waste, to protect the public and environment.
- **Sensitive Areas (1988-1994)**  
Non-tidal wetlands are a valuable resource that are in need of protection from destruction by conversion to other uses. Both tidal and non-tidal wetlands should be protected against damage from sedimentation and pollution.
- **Air Quality (1992)**  
To achieve and maintain acceptable air quality, development of less polluting alternative fuels should be a high priority with preference for compressed natural gas, reformulated gasoline, electricity and hydrogen. Support for a change in parking subsidies away from those favoring low occupancy vehicles to those favoring efficient

transportation modes.

➤ **Climate Change** (2009)

Localities must play a significant role in addressing the causes of climate change. The League supports and encourages the County and City of Fairfax to adopt and carry out programs that will minimize the causes and effects of climate change. The League also supports the coordination of these efforts with those of other localities.

**Land Use Planning** (1984-2000)

Support for well-coordinated and environmentally sound comprehensive land use planning in Fairfax County/City, efforts to ensure that growth is balanced and orderly, preservation of historic and archaeological sites and areas, coordinated revitalization and redevelopment, and coordination of land use and transportation planning.

**Water** (1990s)

Support for Fairfax County taking measures necessary to effectively protect the Occoquan Reservoir from pollution.

**SOCIAL POLICY**

**Health Care** (1984-1988)

Support publicly-funded health planning to control costs and support Fairfax County/City having a role in the health care of its citizens, which should include participation in programs that subsidize health care for the medically indigent through private physicians and primary care clinics placed in appropriate locations. Support for an aggressive, community-based out-reach program to inform the public about available health care programs

**Human Services** (1976-1990)

Support equal opportunity for education, employment and housing; promote provision of services for the elderly; work to ensure adequate, affordable and appropriate housing for low-and moderate-income families and individuals; support a wide range of housing arrangements for mentally-disabled adults; and support permanent shelters for homeless families and individuals.

**Judicial System** (2000)

Support court, correctional and law enforcement systems for Fairfax County/City that: are conducted in a just and dignified manner; minister to all people without legal, economic or administrative discrimination; that require efficient administration and competent personnel who are given a clear assignment of responsibility and adequate

financing; require proper planning and coordination between related agencies; and encourage the active and informed participation of citizens.

**Juvenile Problems** (1994)

Support measures for problem youth whereby the major goal of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court for Fairfax County/City is the protection and rehabilitation of problem youth. Support for alternatives to detention and a variety of individual and group homes located throughout the County/City, in preference to institutions. These facilities should provide for separation of various types of juveniles according to their individual needs.

**Schools** (2007-2008, 2010)

Promote equal opportunity for a quality education in Fairfax County/City schools. Support for proper planning; competent administration; full-day kindergarten; a minimum of 20-minute daily recess in all elementary schools; programs to meet special needs; adequate personnel, facilities and financing; well-defined channels for community input and review; and appropriate books and materials to support and enhance the instructional program.

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## Discussion Questions

Members are asked to review the positions of LWVUS and LWVFA and decide for each:

- 1) Are there any **new issues** that should be studied? Why? Prioritize new issue(s) to study.
- 2) Do any of the current positions need **updating** (restudy)? Explain why and prioritize position(s) needing restudy.
- 3) Are there any positions on issues that should have **Priority for action**? Why is action needed and prioritize items in order of importance.
- 4) Are there positions that **should be abandoned** (deleted) because they no longer apply or have been accomplished? If so, explain why.
- 5) **Who is willing to work** on the issue/position? (Names and contact information should be included)

## What Is Happening on I-66 Inside the Beltway?

By Sherry Zachry

Drivers accustomed to taking Interstate 66 inside the Beltway are going to have to learn to use an E-ZPass in order to use the highway during rush hours. In early December 2017 all of I-66 from I-495 to Route 29 in Rosslyn will become “HOT” (high-occupancy toll) lanes during rush hours, Monday through Friday. Weekday rush hours will be to 5:30 to 9:30 a.m. eastbound and 3 to 7 p.m. westbound. The lanes will remain free to all users during the off-peak hours and weekends. Also, hybrid cars will no longer be exempt; solo drivers in a hybrid will have to pay during rush hours. After the tolling begins, only motorcycles can travel free.

Whereas prior to the tolling, HOV-2 restrictions applied during rush hours; now one can travel solo during rush hours but will have to pay for the privilege with an E-ZPass. Cars with two people will not have to pay the toll during rush hours, but only if they have an E-ZPass “Flex” which keeps the charge from occurring if the “carpool switch” is turned on. However, if you have an E-ZPass without the “Flex” button, you will be charged as if you are driving solo. A non-Flex E-ZPass can be traded in for a Flex version. For information about how to get an E-ZPass transponder and how it works, go to [www.ezpassva.com](http://www.ezpassva.com).

There will be no tollbooths or cash payments; tolls will be collected electronically. When drivers pass under overhead gantries, their E-ZPass account will be debited in the amount of the trip. Drivers without an E-ZPass device will receive a bill in the mail, including a penalty for not having an E-ZPass. The toll will vary depending on traffic. VDOT says the requirement is to maintain a minimum average speed of 45 mph. The price will vary to control congestion to achieve that goal. There is no cap on the toll pricing, which means the toll will increase as congestion rises and decrease as congestion lessens.

According to *The Washington Post* in an October 7, 2017, article titled “Virginia’s latest experiment with toll lanes to test thousands of commuters on I-66,” adjusting to the new requirements and rules may be the biggest challenge for commuters. This will be the first rush-hour-only, peak-period toll system of its kind in the United States.

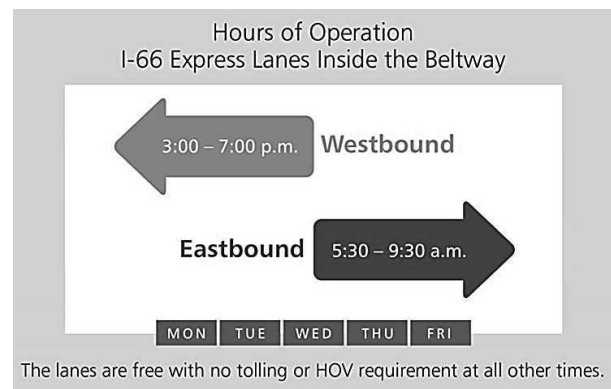
“Driving in HOT lanes is about the most complicated thing we ask local commuters to do,” said Robert Thomson, who

wrote extensively about the I-66 toll plans in his former role as *The Washington Post*’s Dr. Gridlock. “You need to have an E-ZPass — the right kind of E-ZPass — and you need to know the hours the HOT rules are in effect and you need to be aware of how ‘dynamic tolling’ works, meaning the toll can vary from time to time and day-to-day **with no upper limit.**” *Emphasis added.*

If the toll plan works as intended, he said, the end result should be better traffic flow even when the lanes open up to solo drivers. Success depends heavily on multiple factors, including persuading today’s drivers to move to carpooling and bus alternatives.

As part of the effort to expand capacity, an eastbound lane will be added next year from the Dulles Toll Road to Ballston. That expansion is expected to alleviate the biggest chokepoint for Washington-bound traffic, at the toll road where about 70 percent of traffic merges moving into the District and Arlington. After the new lane is completed, the occupant requirement will go to HOV-3. On I-66 outside the Beltway, a \$2.3 billion expansion will add toll lanes by 2022. That project spans 22.5 miles from the Beltway to University Boulevard in Gainesville in Prince William County.

More information on this project can be found at <http://www.66expresslanes.org/>, and [www.novatransit.org/i66commuterchoice](http://www.novatransit.org/i66commuterchoice).



[http://www.66expresslanes.org/about\\_the\\_lanes/default.asp](http://www.66expresslanes.org/about_the_lanes/default.asp)

### Sources:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/heres-what-you-need-to-know-about-the-new-i-66-toll-lanes/2017/10/07/7b9c4674-a9e0-11e7-92d1-58c702d2d975\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.afcdc9781ac4](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/heres-what-you-need-to-know-about-the-new-i-66-toll-lanes/2017/10/07/7b9c4674-a9e0-11e7-92d1-58c702d2d975_story.html?utm_term=.afcdc9781ac4)

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/virginias-latest-experiment-with-toll-lanes-to-test-thousands-of-commuters-on-i-66/2017/10/07/31d3246c-a7a7-11e7-850e-2bdd1236be5d\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/virginias-latest-experiment-with-toll-lanes-to-test-thousands-of-commuters-on-i-66/2017/10/07/31d3246c-a7a7-11e7-850e-2bdd1236be5d_story.html)

# Update on the Fairfax Public Library/Friends of the Library

By Jessica Storrs, League Observer to the Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees

In recent months the Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees has been working to update the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Library and Friends of the Library (FOL). This effort quickly turned contentious, with members of the FOL raising many concerns about the proposal and taking exception to the fact that they were not involved as equal partners during the drafting process.

The Fairfax County Public Library operates 22 regional and branch locations, each supported by its own FOL. In addition to these groups, there are three additional FOLs, making for 25 total. These include the Friends of the Virginia Room, Friends of Access Services, and Music Friends of the Fairfax Library. Each FOL is autonomous and operates separately from the others. There is no umbrella organization covering all 25 of the Friends groups and each signs an MOU with the library.

FOLs are 501(c)(3) nonprofit entities that are staffed by volunteers. They function in partnership with the library but are independent of the Library's oversight. Among their activities FOLs organize used book sales from public donations to provide revenues in support of Library services that would otherwise fall outside the Library's budget. Friends contribute a combined total of approximately \$250,000 a year for materials and programming. The terms of this partnership between the Library and each FOL is spelled out in the MOU, which was last updated in 2007.

In 2015 the Fairfax County Library Trustees announced a plan to revise the MOU to ensure it conformed to current federal and state regulations as well as good governance practices. The effort gained momentum this past spring, with Trustee Miriam Smolen working with Library Director Jessica Hudson and the Fairfax County Attorney's office to draw up a draft MOU, which was presented to the FOLs for comment in May. The language models the MOU the County signed with the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter earlier this year, as well as the draft being considered by the Friends of the Fairfax Park Authority.

The initial MOU draft included both minor and major changes, and many new additions. It expanded from a

one-page document to five. Some clauses were merely clarified, for example, ensuring FOLs are registered with the IRS as 501(c)(3) organizations. But new language was also added, such as requiring the groups to register with the Virginia State Corporation Commission and advising FOLs maintain their own insurance policies to protect against accident and loss. Fairfax County notified the FOLs in 2015 that its own insurance policy could not cover them, but this issue had not been addressed in the previous MOU, and not all groups had secured coverage.

The old MOU stated that FOLs must maintain appropriate financial records but the terms were expanded to make these records available to the library on an annual basis. It also included a new guideline that FOLs hold no more than three years of revenues on hand, suggesting that FOLs with large fund balances needed to prioritize moving those funds back into library services in a timely manner.

The FOLs' reaction to the draft MOU was swift and mostly negative. The requirement to limit funds they could maintain garnered a lot of backlash and was viewed as arbitrary and intrusive. FOLs noted that the bureaucracy they encounter when trying to follow County procurement policies means it can take a very long time for them to actually spend their money. Additionally, if a library was planning a renovation or new service, the FOL might earmark money for a large future project, thus leaving the funds to sit temporarily.

The requirement for separate insurance policies for each group also sparked concern. The smaller FOLs balked at the suggestion to maintain individual insurance policies, saying the cost was prohibitive to their operations.

From the Trustees' point of view, the FOLs are raising funds in the name of the Library, and therefore they are obligated to ensure each group is following all regulations for nonprofit operations and transparency as well as employing good governance practices. The community donates books to the Library with the understanding that these donations will ultimately benefit the Library, and both sides have an obligation to uphold the public's trust. The Trustees maintain that they are striving to put into place assurances that these funds are being appropriately managed and that all parties are protected.

In late May the Trustees had their first meeting with the FOLs regarding the new proposed language, with about 50 people in attendance. Emotions ran high and it was clear that the two sides were far from an agreement. The trustees followed up by scheduling several meetings in August to solicit additional input from the FOLs and to try to address their concerns.

From these meetings a new draft MOU was issued in September, which was posted on the Library Trustees' website and open for public comment. The provision requiring that funds not exceed three-years' worth of revenues was removed.

But some FOLs still feel the overall tone and language of the MOU is problematic. As one commenter said, "It appears to be written by lawyers for lawyers" and doesn't recognize the valuable services that the FOLs provide. They see themselves as equal partners with the Library, but under the proposed MOU, they would become subordinate, thus drastically altering a core tenet of their partnership and limiting their autonomy. Some resent the intrusion into their financials and recordkeeping. As 501(c)(3)s they have an obligation to report their financials to the IRS, which then becomes public information. Therefore they believe additional reporting to the library is unnecessary. Some FOLs have stated they will not sign the current draft MOU as is.

Library staff compiled the comments received from the

## LWVFA Needs You - for Its Observer Corps!

How does the Board of Supervisors govern Fairfax County? How does the School Board make decisions? What about the Park Authority, or the Library, or... Would you like to know or be involved? If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions then you need to be a member of the Observer Corps.

LWVFA has a group of dedicated members (the Observer Corps) who serve as representatives or observers on various boards, authorities, commissions, and committees for Fairfax County, Fairfax City and Fairfax County Public Schools. The Observer Corps monitors governmental bodies for information of importance to the League and the community, and keeps LWVFA informed so issues of concern can be addressed in a timely way. Local League observers are the eyes and ears of the League, pinpointing issues for local study and action.

Depending on the group, meetings can occur monthly, quarterly, or as needed. You may even be able to be an LWVFA observer from your home, since some meetings are broadcast on Channel 16 or Channel 21! Interested? We are especially in need of observers for:

- Fairfax County Board of Supervisors twice monthly meetings.

FOLs and the public for presentation to the trustees at the November 8th Board meeting. Director Hudson will make recommendations regarding which suggestions are feasible for incorporation and which might be problematic. The MOU proposal was listed on the November agenda as an action item for review, with the expectation that further discussion will be required before a final vote is scheduled.

Sources of information:

- Board of Trustees meeting minutes, MOU comments and related documents available on their [website](#).
- Information and documents provided by member Kathy Kaplan, Fairfax Library Advocate and co-chair of the Library Committee of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations.
- Phone conversation with Director Jessica Hudson on 10/31/17.
- Some small media outlets/blogs such as the [Annandale Blog](#) and the [Fairfax Library Advocates](#).

- FCPS Board of Education twice monthly
- Health Care Advisory Board (HCAB) meetings
- Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning

For a list of boards or committees go to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bacs/>, <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/city-council-boards-and-commissions>, and <https://www.fcps.edu/school-board/school-board-committees>.

If you are interested in being a member of the Observer Corps or would like more information, please contact Peggy Knight at 703-772-4939 or [peggy.knight1@verizon.net](mailto:peggy.knight1@verizon.net).



**(Meredith, From Page 4, Column 2)**

Living in Fairfax County, Virginia – I was born in D.C., I grew up in Northern VA and graduated from Mount Vernon High - has many positive aspects, especially if you are interested in voter registration. As you all know, in Virginia you can, and should, vote every year - there is always something coming up! A recent book referred to Fairfax County as a “A Nation of Nations” - we have a very diverse County. People move here to live from all over the country and the world. The mix of people from all over make for an exciting and interesting place to live. That diversity also creates lots of good discussion when meeting with the public, whether near a Starbucks at a mall, at Woodson’s evening adult high school, a neighborhood center like Cornerstones in Herndon, the Reston Multi-Cultural Festival, the Dunn Loring neighborhood picnic, or with high school seniors – you know there will be people from all over. It’s fun – you always learn something new.

A real privilege of involvement in the registration process is to meet someone who has recently moved to the County and wants to vote. In some cases, it is an existing or new County resident who needs to register at his/her new address, for others; they have returned after been deployed or working

overseas. In a few cases, I have met new citizens, who right before my eyes, are putting into practice and taking on the responsibility of being a citizen by filling out a Voter Registration form putting themselves on the path to becoming a new voter.

A real challenge for our society is finding enough people who will serve as volunteers so we won’t burn out those kind folks, who “won’t say no” when they are asked – Will you serve on this board, or lead a scout troop, or study a critical issue such as transportation, or help out with this community event? We know there is no way that this county or country can afford to pay for all the time and effort donated by volunteers involved in the voter education and registration process, much less the other worthy causes I have mentioned.

I am proud that Fairfax County recognizes the service of volunteers with the Barbara Varon Volunteer Award. It is critical to encourage our citizens to participate in our democracy whether through the League of Women Voters or through other civic programs.

So the next time you see a turtle on a fence post – remember it did not get there by himself or herself - it took volunteer to give him a lift...

## LWV Statement on Executive Order to End Healthcare Subsidies

Washington, D.C.

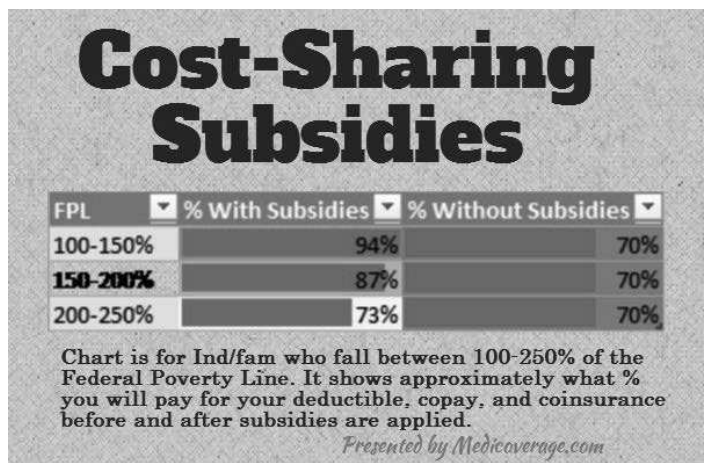
League of Women Voters President **Chris Carson** issued the following statement in response to the White House Executive Order to end health care subsidies in the Affordable Care Act:

“President Trump’s executive order to end health care subsidies for insurance companies will raise premiums and leave more Americans without meaningful health insurance. These subsidies were put in place deliberately to keep costs down for everyday Americans. Removing them now is a dangerous step toward unraveling a fragile system.

“President Trump is attempting to dismantle the American

health care system piece by piece, in the same dangerous and under-the-table manner that the American people made clear to their Congressional leaders is unacceptable.

“We have said many times that the Affordable Care Act is not a perfect law. Congress should work to improve it. The White House should not undo the positive impacts this legislation has had for millions of Americans who previously could not afford health care coverage.”



# Unit Discussion Meeting Locations

## Topic: Program Planning

Members and visitors are encouraged to attend any meeting convenient for them, including the “At Large Meeting” and briefing on Saturdays when a briefing is listed. As of November 1, 2017, the locations were correct; please use phone numbers to verify sites and advise of your intent to attend. Some meetings at restaurants may need reservations.

### Saturday, Dec. 2

**At-Large Unit and Briefing**  
League Conference Room  
Packard Center  
(inside Annandale Community Park)  
4026 Hummer Road  
Annandale, 22003  
Contact: Sherry, 703-730-8118

### Monday, Dec. 11

**12:00 p.m. Greenspring (GSP)**  
Card Room, Village Square  
Spring Village Drive  
Springfield, 22150  
Contact: Edith, 703-644-3970 or  
Gloria, 703-852-5113

### Tuesday, Dec. 12

**7:45 p.m. Mount Vernon Evening (MVE)**  
Paul Spring Retirement Community  
Mt. Vernon Room  
7116 Fort Hunt Road  
Alexandria, 22307  
Contact: Jane, 703-960-6820

### Wednesday, Dec. 13

**9:30 a.m. McLean Day (McL)**  
StarNut Café  
1445 Laughlin Ave.  
McLean, 22101  
Contact: Anjali, 703-509-5518 or  
Sheena, 703-481-0933

### 9:45 a.m. Mount Vernon Day (MVD)

Mt. Vernon Government Center  
2511 Parkers Lane  
Alexandria, 22306  
Contact: Gail, 703-360-6561 or  
Diana, 703-704-5325

### 10 a.m. Fairfax Station (FXS)

8739 Cuttermill Place  
Springfield 22153  
Contact: Kathleen, 703-644-1555 or  
Sherry, 703-730-8118

### 7:15 p.m. Fairfax City Evening (FCE)

The Green Acres Center  
4401 Sideburn Road  
Fairfax, 22030  
Contact: Elizabeth and Amy,  
[Fairfaxcityunit@lwv-fairfax.org](mailto:Fairfaxcityunit@lwv-fairfax.org)

### 7:30 p.m. Reston Evening (RE)

Hunter Mill District Community Room  
North County Government Center  
1801 Cameron Glen Drive  
Reston 20190  
Contact: Rona, 703-476-5758 or  
703-282-2262

### Thursday, Dec. 14

#### **9 a.m. Reston Day (RD)**

11624 Sourwood Lane  
Reston, 20191  
Contact: Charleen, 703-620-3593

#### **9:30 a.m. Springfield (SPF)**

4468 Edan Mae Ct.  
Annandale, 22003  
Contact: Marge, 703-451-0589

#### **10:30 a.m. Centreville-Chantilly (CCD)**

Olga's home  
Contact: Leslie for directions. 571-213-6384

#### **1 p.m. Fairfax/Vienna (FX-V)**

Oakton Regional Library  
Oakton Room 1  
10304 Lynnhaven Pl.  
Oakton, 22124  
Contact: Bob, 563-299-5316 or  
[VoterRegistration@lwv-fairfax.org](mailto:VoterRegistration@lwv-fairfax.org)

## January Meetings:

### Book Discussion

### “A Nation of Nations”

### By Tom Gjelten



The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)  
 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403  
 703-658-9150. Web address: [www.lwv-fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org)

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 December, 2017

Wendy Fox-Grage, Co-President  
 Judy Helein, Co-President  
 Ron Page, Editor  
 Liz Brooke, Content Editor

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the public to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, regional and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any person at least 16 years old, male or female, may become a member.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

### LWVFA MEMBERSHIP FORM

**Membership Dues:** Individual \$65 \_\_\_\_\_ Household \$90 (2 persons, 1 Voter) \_\_\_\_\_ Student \$32.50 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Dues year is July 1 – June 30** (A subsidy fund is available; check here \_\_\_\_\_ and include whatever amount you can afford.)  
**Membership Status:** New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing \_\_\_\_\_ Reinstatement \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Dues are not tax deductible. Tax-deductible donations must be written on a separate check or PayPal Payment to “LWVFA Ed Fund.”)

*(Please print clearly)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit (if renewing) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (M) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to “LWVFA” and mail to: **LWVFA, 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003-2403**  
**OR** Join Online at: [www.LWV-Fairfax.org/join.html](http://www.LWV-Fairfax.org/join.html).

- I am interested in becoming involved in** *(please indicate by circling the appropriate bullet(s)):*
- **Providing organizational support** (graphics design, website development/maintenance, fundraising/ grant writing).
  - **Voter Services** (e.g., voter registration drives, candidate forums, developing Voters’ Guides).
  - **Researching/writing about issues in which LWVFA has an interest** (e.g., environment, firearms safety, mental health, schools, domestic violence, criminal justice; or, chairing an LWVFA study committee on voter turnout or human trafficking).
  - **Representing the League in governmental fora** (e.g., serving as LWVFA representative on Fairfax County citizens’ committees and agencies, such as affordable housing, Fairfax County Public Schools).
  - **Other** \_\_\_\_\_