



Charlottesville Area
League of Women Voters
Newsletter
October 2017

Office Phone:
(434) 970-1707

E-mail:
lwv@lwv.avenue.org

Visit Our Website:
lwv.avenue.org

LWV CVA Sunday Seminar

Who Gets to



Sunday, October 22, 2 – 4 pm
CitySpace, on the Downtown Mall

Voting rights are under attack nationwide. Many states have passed voter suppression laws that make it harder for many Americans – especially the elderly, students, people of color, and people with disabilities – to exercise their basic right to cast a ballot. Voter ID laws, cuts to early voting, and purges of the voter rolls are among the most prominent of the measures. We have invited two local speakers knowledgeable about voting rights to our **Sunday Seminar on October 22, from 2 – 4 pm, at CitySpace** on the Downtown Mall, Charlottesville, to address this issue of voter suppression. **Jake Washburne** is the Albemarle County Registrar, a position he has held since 2006. He is a member of the Voter Registrars Association of Virginia, and is presently chair of this organization's Legislative Committee which monitors pertinent legislation before the Virginia General Assembly. **Michael Gilbert**, Professor, UVA School of Law, joined the UVA faculty in 2009. Dr. Gilbert teaches courses on legislation, election law, direct democracy, and judicial decision-making. His recent papers examine judicial independence, campaign finance disclosure and the interpretation of ballot initiatives.

The **League of Women Voters of the United States** holds this basic position ("Impact on Issues" 2016–2018): "Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote." The **League of Women Voters of Virginia** believes that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens; that voting is a right and responsibility; and that election laws, regulations and administrative procedures should be uniformly designed and applied, and adequately funded to facilitate and increase voter participation throughout Virginia.

Specifically, the League supports measures to ensure the availability of voter registration and to encourage and facilitate increased voter participation in elections, including: absentee voting by mail and in-person without a reason; an adequate number of voting machines and trained election officers; the use of satellite voting; split shifts for election officers when needed; and measures that take advantage of technological advances such as online voter registration and the use of electronic poll books. The League also supports the shared funding of statewide registration and voting systems by the localities and the Commonwealth; providing adequate authority and resources to the Department of Elections (ELECT) and the State Board of Elections (SBE) for oversight and enforcement of laws and standards for registration and elections uniformly throughout the Commonwealth; and the use of secure electronic means to facilitate voter registration and absentee voting for Virginia's military and overseas voters. **Join us on Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. at CitySpace to learn what is happening in Virginia and what we can do in support of the League positions.**

November 7, 2017, General Elections: Are You Ready to Vote?

Are you a registered voter in Virginia? You can check your voter registration status and polling place at the Department of Elections website, www.elections.virginia.gov (or call 804 864-8901 or 800 552-9745, 8 am to 5 pm weekdays.) Or click on [City of Charlottesville](#) or [Albemarle County, Fluvanna County](#), or [Greene County](#), for information about voter registration, absentee voting, and elections in your area. You may also find voter information (i.e., where your polling place is, what's on your ballot, etc.) by going to the League website: vote411.org.

Absentee Voting: Apply for Absentee Ballot by contacting your local registrar. Applications for ballots to be mailed/emailed/faxed must be received by the voter registration office no later than **Tuesday, November 1, 2016**, at 5:00 PM (7 days before election day). But, don't delay! **Your voted ballot must be received by the office by election day** or it cannot be counted. Allow plenty of time!

You may vote "Absentee" in person! The Office of Voter Registration recommends that any voter wishing to vote absentee within ten days of the election do so in person at the Voter Registration Office. Voting absentee in person is a "one-stop" process, where you apply for, are issued, and can cast your ballot all at the same time. This method ensures that your ballot is received by the deadline of 7:00PM on Election Day and removes your reliance on the Post Office to deliver your ballot in time. The in-person process is hassle free and is available to any voter who is eligible to cast an absentee ballot beginning 45 days before all regularly scheduled elections.

For more information about voting, go to our website: lww.avenue.org and click on "Voter and Election Information" where you will find links for voting in City of Charlottesville, Albemarle,

What's On Your Ballot? In 2017, Virginians are voting for:

- **Governor:** Ralph S. Northam (Dem); Edward W. Gillespie (Rep); Clifford D. Hyra (Lib)
- **Lieutenant Governor:** Justin E. Fairfax (Dem); Jill H. Vogel (Rep)
- **Attorney General State of Virginia:** Mark R. Herring (Dem); John D. Adams (Rep)
- **House of Delegates District Member:** Go to State Board of Elections website and type in your address to determine your District candidates.

In local elections (see page 3 for listing of LWV CVA candidate forums):

- **Albemarle County Board of Supervisors (Jack Jouett, Rio, and Samuel Miller Districts)**
- **Albemarle County School Board (Jack Jouett, Rio, and Samuel Miller Districts)**
- **Greene County Board of Supervisors (Midway and Stanardsville Districts)**
- **Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors and School Board (Columbia, Cunningham, and Rivanna Districts)**
- **Louisa County Board of Supervisors**
- **Charlottesville City Council**

Local ballots also contain other elected offices such as Sheriff, Commonwealth's Attorney, Commissioner of Revenue, Treasurer

2017 Voter Service Events

By Dena Imlay,
LWV CVA Voter
Service Director

The following forums will be conducted by our League as part of our voter service efforts for the November 7, 2017, local elections. For further information about any of these events, contact Dena Imlay, 296-6651.



Key: Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.
Dem = Democratic
Rep = Republican
Ind = Independent

Greene County Board of Supervisors : Midway and Stanardsville Districts

Midway District Candidates: Marie C. Durrer (Ind); Jim F. Frydl (Ind)

Stanardsville District Candidates: J. Frank Morris (Rep); Bill B. Martin ((Ind)

Commonwealth's Attorney Candidates: Matthew D. Hardin (Rep); Andrew Wilder (Ind)

Wednesday, October 4

6:30 - 8:15 pm

William Monroe High School Performing Arts Center

254 Monroe Dr

Stanardsville, VA 22973

Moderator: Bobbie Williams

Charlottesville City Council Candidates:

John Edward Hall (Ind), Heather D. Hill (Dem), Kenneth Wayne Jackson (Ind),

Amy J. Laufer (Dem), Paul Edward Long (Ind), Nikuyah R. Walker (Ind)

Wednesday, October 11

6:30 - 8:00 pm

City Council Chambers, City Hall

605 E Main St

Charlottesville, VA 22901

Moderator: Marge Cox

House of Delegates for 58th and 65th Districts

58th District Candidates: Rob Bell (Rep); Kellen J. Squire (Dem)

65th District Candidates: Francis Stevens (Dem); R. Lee Ware, Jr (Rep)

Co-hosts: Fluvanna County Chamber of Commerce

Thursday, October 12 - 7:00 - 8:15 pm

Sts. Peter and Paul Church

4309 Thomas Jefferson Pkwy Palmyra, VA 22963

Moderator: Bob Gibson

Albemarle County School Board – Jack Jouett, Rio, and Samuel Miller Districts

Rio District Candidates: Katrina E. Callsen (Ind); Mary G. McIntyre (Ind)

Jack Jouett District Candidate: Kate Acuff (Ind)

Samuel Miller District Candidates: Graham T. Paige (Ind), Julian D. Waters (Ind)

Thursday, October 19

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Jefferson Madison Regional Library

Central Branch

201 E Market St

Charlottesville, VA 22902

Moderator: Michele Kellermann

Albemarle County Board of Supervisors - Jack Jouett, Rio, and Samuel Miller Districts

Rio District Candidates: Ned L. Gallaway (Dem)

Jack Jouett District Candidate: Diantha McKeel (Dem)

Samuel Miller District Candidates: Lizbeth A. Palmer (Dem), John C. Lowry (Rep)

Thursday, October 26

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Albemarle County Office Bldg

401 McIntire Rd

Charlottesville, VA 22902

Moderator: Mimi Bender

President's Message -

Campaign season is upon us and certainly as members of the League of Women Voters you do not need to be reminded. So following is a checklist for all of us to personally review and to then share with your friends and neighbors.

First – **Make sure you are voter ready.** Check your registration, especially if you have moved or had an address change or a name change since you last voted

- You can easily do this by going to VOTE411.org or sbe.virginia.gov. Vote411.org is the national voter guide of the League of Women Voters; sbe.virginia.gov is the Virginia State Board of Elections website. Follow the simple instructions on these websites for a myriad of voting information, including your voting precinct, what's on your ballot, and forms to register to vote.
- Keep the voter information on page 2 of this newsletter by printing it out, or flagging it in your Inbox, so that it is available to share when voting questions arise. Refer to our LWV CVA website, lwv.avenue.org and click on the "Voter and Election Information" page.

Second – **Ask those with whom you interact if they are registered to vote.** Especially ask new neighbors, service personnel, grocery store checkers when you are shopping. You get the picture. Registration drives are not the only way to increase the number of voters. Each of us, by asking, can help. Do your part.

Third – **Be an informed voter.** Go to the forums that are available – see page 3 of this newsletter. Ask the candidates your questions. Log onto VOTE411.org. You will be able to check your registration, your voting district, your polling place, what is on your ballot, and candidate information, including candidate responses to League generated questions specific to the office for which the candidate is running. Hopefully, the candidates in your district have filed their information with the League **and** answered the questions proposed. **VOTE411**, after all, is the electronic version of the traditional newspaper *LWV Voters' Guide* that many voters used before deciding for whom to vote.

We have Dena Imlay, LWV CVA Voter Service Director, to thank for all the questions – a monumental task since the questions differ of course depending on the office for which people are running. If you do not find your candidates' information, check again in the upcoming weeks as we have extended the deadline for them to respond.

Finally – **VOTE.** Take a friend. Tell everyone that "Democracy is not a spectator sport". This is what the League of Women Voters is all about, the most important thing we do.

Kerín Yates

President, League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area

IMPORTANT Dates for VOTERS

September 22: Absentee ballots become available; first day to vote "absentee in person"

October 16: Voter registration deadline: last day to register or make changes to current registration

October 31, by 5 pm: Last day to request an absentee ballot to be mailed

November 4, by 5 pm: Last day to vote by absentee ballot **in person**

November 7: Election Day! Mailed absentee ballots must be received on or before this date.

VOTERS – HELP OUR REGISTRARS – DON'T REGISTER TWICE NEEDLESSLY!

By Kerin Yates, LWV CVA President

In February of 2017, the League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area (LWV CVA) was asked by the LWV of Virginia to interview the registrars within our jurisdiction. For LWV CVA that means all the counties within the Thomas Jefferson Planning Area, including the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, Fluvanna County, Greene County, Louisa County and Nelson County. We did this, and discovered that all the registrars mentioned that **one of their main struggles was with people reregistering who did not need to do so**. This causes the registrar's office many problems, consumes a great deal of time, and therefore wastes funds from their budgets.

These are the main reasons that one must reregister: Change of name and or change of address since the last election in which one voted.

Many organizations want to conduct voter registration drives before elections and this is a good thing. But good intentions sometimes bring unintended consequences. Needless reregistering is one of them. People are asked at various venues if they are registered and their response is to register again without really thinking about it. Some just think they'll do it again just to make sure. Some people who registered through the DMV have forgotten. **PLEASE THINK ABOUT IT.** Before you register, check to see if you are already registered. It is easy to check: On your smart phone, your iPad, or computer, go to VOTE411.org or sbe.virginia.gov and input your information. You will quickly know if your registration is in place. You can also call your registrar (see local phone numbers below). They will be more than happy to check for you.

Taking the few minutes to do this will save the registrars a great deal of time and may make your voting experience a much smoother one.

Want to talk to a real live person about any voter questions? For example, find out if you are registered at your current address? Here are the LWV CVA area Voter Registrar Office phone numbers:

- City of Charlottesville – 434 970 3250
- Albemarle County – 434 972 4173
- Fluvanna County - 434 589 3593
- Greene County - 434 985 5213
- Louisa County – 540 967 3427
- Nelson County – 434 263 4068

Your registrar's office is open for normal weekday business hours--usually Monday through Friday from 9 to 5 pm.

International Relations /Federal Government Committee News

by Gerry Kruger

Dena Imlay, the consummate hostess, welcomed the International Relations/Federal Government Committee into her home on September 13. Our program began with **Natalie Somer reporting on the plight of undocumented immigrants since the election of Donald Trump**. A New York Times article, "The Border All Around Us, It's Growing," by Laila Lalami, a Moroccan-American novelist and essayist, was the focus of her report. Natalie shared with us several stories of illegal immigrants, arrested and held in detention for little more than being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents are relentless in making arrests of illegal aliens since President Trump took office. Although Trump insisted that only those involved in criminal activity would be deported, large numbers, guilty of merely being without documentation, are being arrested and detained. The Fourth Amendment (unlawful search and seizure) is ignored as the agents destroy the lives of these otherwise law-abiding citizens and their families. As many as eleven million undocumented immigrants could be deported.

After Natalie's description of immigrant harassment, **Marge Cox explained the dire educational experiences of many poor Native American students in "Left Behind: Indian Schools."** She described idle students sitting in front of computers with an unqualified teacher and basically on their own in an alternative school. Native American students have some of the lowest high school graduation rates with very few attending college. High rates of suspensions and expulsions, problems with alcohol and drugs, discrimination, poverty, negative stereotypes of Native Americans in history classes, and cultural differences that affect their trust of instructors all contribute to this situation.

Suggestions for improvement include funding commensurate with the present enrollment--they are still using figures from 1994; training for teachers in cultural awareness; more Native American teachers; using in-school suspension instead of out-of-school suspension and expulsion; hiring social workers to work with students; and requiring that Native American history be taught to all students.

We invite you to join us as we delve into issues that affect us, our countrymen, and humanity around the world. See the back of this newsletter for our meetings' times, dates, and venues.

LWV CVA Firearms Safety Committee News by Natalie Testa, Firearms Safety Committee Chair

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The nexus of gun violence and domestic violence accounts for 57% of shootings in the US, and in an average month, 50 women are shot to death by intimate partners. Over the past four years, over 20 states have strengthened gun laws to disarm domestic abusers as the result of much lobbying by gun safety organizations. A new law in Virginia was expanded to prevent a person who is subject to a family abuse final protective order from not only owning a firearm, but even possessing one. However, the most dangerous time for a victim of domestic abuse is immediately after the abuser leaves home, so we are hoping to extend the removal of firearms under an emergency order during the first 48 hours.

The Firearms Safety Committee will be showing the film **"Under the Gun"** which highlights this horrendous problem in our society on **Wednesday, October 25**, from 2 - 3 pm. If you are interested in attending, please contact Natalie Testa at natesta@embargmail.com for more information.

Have you returned your “Member Interests Survey”?

From Beth Alley, LWV CVA Membership Director

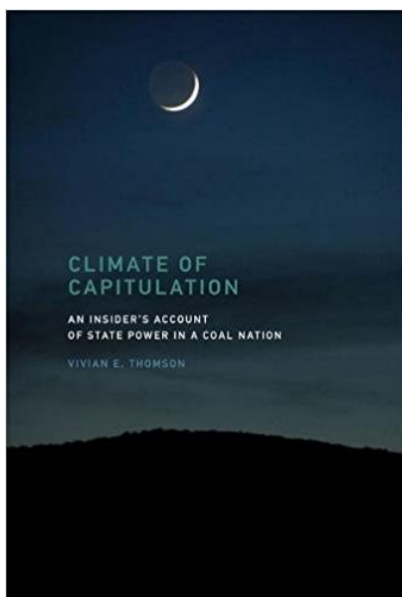
Dear League Members,

By now everyone should have received the LWV CVA email with a recently updated membership survey (LWV CVA “**Member Interests Survey**”) or perhaps received one at an LWV event. The membership survey which was sent by email has two attachments: you can print the pdf, fill it out and mail it to Beth at her address below. Or if you have Microsoft Office installed on your pc home computer, you open the Word.docx attachment, which is an interactive document that allows you to enter your responses, save it under a new name (so you can find it in your files), and then attach it to an email addressed to Beth (see her email address below).

At the time of writing this article I have received back 20 completed surveys, but we still have 135 more yet to come in. Please, even if you have filled out one earlier this year or in the past, do take the time to resubmit the newer form. By doing so we can plan events to accommodate the greatest number of people’s schedules and so we can keep you informed about things that might be of the greatest interest to you.

As an extra thank-you to everyone for completing the survey, we are going to offer a raffle at our November “Meet and Greet the Legislators” League meeting. As many of you know, we were fortunate to have Vivian Thomson, former professor of environmental science at UVa and author of “**Climate of Capitulation: An Insider’s Account of State Power in a Coal Nation**,” as our *Sunday Seminar* speaker in September. Part of our raffle prizes will be a hardback signed copy of her book. To accompany that gift, we have a beautiful orchid necklace designed and donated by Johanna Wright of Huppie Designs: <https://www.huppiedesigns.com/>

Thank you for your support,
Beth Alley, LWV CVA Membership Director
210 Willow Brook Rd., Earlysville, VA 22036
beth.alley@gmail.com [434-996-8075](tel:434-996-8075)



Misplaced your LWV CVA “Member Interests Survey” email?

With our busy communications via email, it’s easy to do. If you cannot locate the survey in your Inbox, contact Beth Alley, beth.alley@gmail.com or call [434-996-8075](tel:434-996-8075)

and request that she send (or mail) the survey to you again.



League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area
1932 Arlington Blvd. #111
Charlottesville, VA 22903-1560

LWV CVA

President

Kerin Yates

Newsletter Editor

Michele Kellermann

Save the Date! November 19, 2-4 pm - LWV CVA Sunday Seminar, CitySpace: Meet Your Legislators!

**Meetings and Events for October 2017:
Mark Your Calendars Now!**

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wed., Oct. 4, 6:30 - 8:30 pm	Greene County Board of Supervisors' Candidates Forum	William Monroe High School, Performing Arts Center, 254 Monroe Dr., Standardsville	For further information, contact Dena Imlay, 296-6651
Wed., Oct. 11, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Lydia Peale, 250 Pantops Mountain Rd., #407. 972-2787	For further information, contact Natalie Testa, 589-4067
Wed., Oct. 11, 1:30 - 3:30 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Westminster Canterbury, Pantops, Charlottesville	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., Oct. 11, 6:30 - 8 pm	Charlottesville City Council Candidates Forum	City Council Chambers, City Hall, 605 E Main St., Charlottesville	For further information, contact Dena Imlay, 296-6651
Thurs., Oct. 12, 7 - 8:15 pm	House of Delegates for 58 th and 65 th Districts Candidates Forum	Sts. Peter and Paul Church, 4309 Thomas Jefferson Pkwy., Palmyra, VA	For further information, contact Dena Imlay, 296-6651
Wed., Oct. 18, 1:30 pm	LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting	University Village (small committee room) at 500 Crestwood Dr., Charlottesville	For further information, contact Sally Thomas, 434-295-1819
Thurs., Oct. 19, 6:30 - 8:00 pm	Albemarle County School Board Candidates Forum	Jefferson Madison Regional Library, Central Branch, 201 E. Market St., Charlottesville	For further information, contact Dena Imlay, 296-6651
Sun., Oct. 22, 2 - 4 pm	LWV CVA Sunday Seminar: "Who Gets to Vote?"	CitySpace, 100 5th St., NE, Downtown Mall, Charlottesville	For further information, contact Kerin Yates, 964-1840
Wed., Oct. 25, 9:30 am	International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Maggie Hoover, 2 Hilltop Circle, Lake Monticello, 703-625-9219	For further information, contact Natalie Testa, 589-4067
Wed., Oct. 25, 2 - 3 pm	LWV CVA Firearms Safety Committee	Home of Maggie Hoover, 2 Hilltop Circle, Lake Monticello, 703-625-9219	For further information, contact Natalie Testa, 589-4067
Thurs., Oct. 26, 6:30 - 8 pm	Albemarle County Board of Supervisors Candidates Forum	Albemarle County Office Bldg., 401 McIntire Rd., Charlottesville.	For further information, contact Dena Imlay, 296-6651