

LWV CVA Sunday Seminar

Hot Matters: Climate in Crisis

What actions should we take?

Sunday, February 16, 2020
CitySpace on the Downtown Mall

Doors open at 1:30 pm for "Meet and Greet"
Meeting will begin promptly at 2 pm



We understand the depth and urgency of the warning--global warming is placing our planet in peril. **But what specific actions can we take, both individually and as the Central Virginia community, which would be most effective in confronting climate change?**

Invited by the LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee to answer this question at the February 16 *Sunday Seminar* are panelists **Cheryl Gomez** from UVA Facilities Management, **Susan Kruse** from the Charlottesville Climate Collaborative, **Kristel Riddervold** from the City of Charlottesville, and **Kristie Smith** from the Virginia Conservation Network. In addition to learning effective measures for our personal lives and for our lives as advocates, we will seek guidance on deciding how to best focus our energy and support.

Meet Our Panelists:

Cheryl Gomez, director of operations for University of Virginia Facilities Management, leads over 750 staff members responsible for: environmental resources, the office for sustainability, energy and utilities, building maintenance and operations, landscaping, geospatial engineering services, and systems engineering. Having served on several advisory boards and committees, she is a past chair of the International District Energy Association and current co-chair of the UVA Committee on Sustainability. Ms. Gomez earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Iowa and an MBA from the UVA Darden School of Business. She is a registered professional engineer and a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Accredited Professional in building design and construction.

Continued on next page

LWV CVA Sunday Seminar - Sunday, February 16, CitySpace

Hot Matters: Climate in Crisis – What Actions Should We Take?

Panelists (continued from previous page)

Susan Kruse, executive director of the Charlottesville Climate Collaborative (C3), has been an advocate for environmental protection and justice for over 25 years. She helped to found the National Forest Protection Alliance and ultimately served as its executive director. After serving ten years as director of development for the Legal Aid Justice Center in Charlottesville, Susan returned to environmental work in 2016 at Appalachian Voices. She became C3's executive director in 2019 and was recently appointed to Virginia's Clean Energy Advisory Board.

Kristel Riddervold has served as the environmental sustainability manager for the City of Charlottesville since 2002 when the City formally established its environmental program dedicated to environmental compliance, public education, pollution prevention, and environmental stewardship opportunities. To support the City's environmental sustainability and "Green City" goals her division's work includes climate and natural resource protection, resource efficiency and conservation, and community engagement (through educational, regulatory, and collaborative interactions) at internal, local, regional, and national levels. Kristel has a Bachelors and a Masters degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of Virginia. Prior to working for the City of Charlottesville, she was an environmental scientist and project manager with The Environmental Company, Inc. (now CARDNO).

Kristie Smith is Policy and Campaigns Manager for Clean Energy and Transportation Reform for the Virginia Conservation Network. She has been monitoring this year's General Assembly session to promote legislation on renewable energy, fossil fuel transition, transportation electrification and other important matters. Before her current position, she served, in Montana, in multiple positions working for policies that support fair taxes and budgets, environmental protection, and economic justice.

Join us for this informative meeting and discussion on **Sunday, February 16, 2020, at CitySpace, Charlottesville Downtown Mall (parking in the adjacent Market Street parking garage). Doors open at 1:30 pm; program begins promptly at 2:00 pm.** All League seminars are open to the public.

2020 ANNUAL FINANCE DRIVE UNDERWAY: A hard-working group of LWV CVA members met on Saturday, January 25, in the Bishop's Conference Room at Westminster Canterbury to write notes and stuff envelopes to members and friends of the *League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area* for our annual appeal. Donations from our annual appeal allow the local League program to proceed. If for some reason you did not receive an "appeal for donation" letter this past week or if you have questions about our League's budget, please contact kerinyates@hotmail.com.



LWV-VA 2020 Women's Legislative Round Table (WLRT) – Richmond, Virginia

On Wednesdays during the 2020 General Assembly Session, the League hosts an hour-long morning briefing by Legislators and/or Advocacy/Issue groups (WLRT Women's Legislative Roundtable Meetings). Thus, we get updates on legislation throughout the Session so that our advocacy messages are very timely. League members who attend on Wednesdays arrange to visit their legislators and committee meetings and floor sessions. To learn more about the Roundtable, read LWV-VA's [brochure](#).

2020 WLRT Remaining Schedule:

Date	Time	Location
2/5/20	8:30 am-9:30am	SunTrust Center , 919 E Main St, Richmond (Tidewater Rm 4 th fl)
2/12-13/20	8:30 am -	League Day (see below) – Starts with WLRT at 8:30 am – 9:30 am SunTrust Center , 919 E Main St, Richmond (Auditorium - 4 th fl)
2/19/20	8:30 am-9:30am	SunTrust Center , 919 E Main St, Richmond (Tidewater Rm 4 th fl)
2/26/20	8am-10am	SunTrust Center , 919 E Main St, Richmond (Tidewater Rm 4 th fl)

The League of Women Voters is 100 Years Old: Celebrate the Yesterdays and Tomorrows of Nonpartisan Voter Action at League Day, Wednesday, February 12-Thursday, February 13.

League Day 2020 will be a very special day as we celebrate the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters! We have a full two-day agenda planned. **Come for as much or as little as you can.** Please click the "Register Now" button above for more details and to register.

JOIN US IN

Richmond, VA

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY

[Register Now](#)

February 12, 2020:

8:30 WLRT (Women's Legislative Round Table) in the SunTrust Building Auditorium
9:30 Visit Legislators and their staff
11:00 Line up to be recognized in the gallery of the House and the Senate
1:00pm 100th Anniversary Luncheon at Delta Marriott; special speaker A'Lelia Bundles

February 13, 2020:

9:30 Visit Maggie L Walker's home OR visit Legislators and their staff
12:00 attend Legislative Session
1:00 lunch at American Civil War Museum-Historic Tredegar

2020 Primary ELECTION INFORMATION

Next Election - Tuesday, March 3, 2020 Democratic Presidential Primary. Look up your registration securely on the State Board of Elections website: www.elections.virginia.gov/registration.

LAST DAY TO REGISTER (if you are not already a registered voter in Virginia) is Monday, February 10, 2020.

Official SAMPLE BALLOT Democratic Party Presidential Primary

Absentee Voting for March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary

RICHMOND, VA – Registered voters may now request an absentee ballot for the March 3, 2020 Virginia Democratic Presidential Primary be mailed to them by going online to www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal or find the form to fill out and mail to their local voter registration office at www.elections.virginia.gov/forms.

Virginia Republicans will choose delegates to their national convention at a state convention. Therefore, no Republican candidates will appear on the ballot in the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary.

A list of the 20 acceptable reasons a voter can give to vote absentee in Virginia is available at www.elections.virginia.gov/absentee.

In-person absentee voting began in mid-January. If a voter is unsure where to vote in-person absentee in their locality, they should contact their local voter registration office. They can find information about their local office at www.elections.virginia.gov/vro.

Other important absentee ballot dates to remember if voting in the March 3, 2020, Virginia Democratic Presidential Primary, include:

- The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail is at 5pm on Tuesday February 25, 2020.
- The deadline to vote absentee in-person is on Saturday February 29, 2020.
- The deadline for returning your ballot by mail is on Election Day, Tuesday March 3, 2020.

Virginia voters casting an absentee ballot either in-person or on Election Day must show an acceptable photo ID. Voters can get a free Voter Photo ID at their local voter registration office. Voters who do not have an acceptable form of ID may still vote absentee in-person after completing the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application and receiving a Temporary Identification Document from their voter registration office. Find out more about Virginia's voter ID requirements at www.elections.virginia.gov/voterid.

The last day to register to vote or update voter registration information in order to vote in the March election is Monday February 10, 2020. More information on voter registration can be found online at www.elections.virginia.gov/registration.

For more information on the March 3, 2020 Virginia Democratic Presidential Primary or other election-related inquiries, go to vote.virginia.gov, send an email to info@elections.virginia.gov or call the Virginia Department of Elections at (800) 552-9745.

International Relations/Federal Government Committee Report by Gerry Kruger

Marge Cox hosted the International Relations/Federal Government Committee on January 15th. Those fortunate enough to attend were treated to two invaluable reports by **Elaine Longerbeam and Anita Pilling.**

All of us need to be aware of the requirements and necessity of obtaining a **Real ID**. Elaine informed us that if we don't get a Real ID by October 1, 2020, we must have an alternate form of federally accepted identification to enter a secure federal facility or board a domestic flight.

Here is a full list of federally accepted identification:

1. US passport
2. US passport card
3. DHS trusted traveler cards (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST)
4. U.S. Department of Defense ID, including ID's issued to dependents
5. Permanent residence card
6. Border crossing card
7. Federally recognized, tribal-issued photo
8. HSPD-12 PIV card
9. Foreign government-issued passport
10. Canadian provincial driver's license or Indian and Northern Affairs Canada card
11. Transportation Worker Identification Credential
12. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Employment Authorization Card (I-766)

You can obtain a Real ID when you visit the DMV to renew your driver's license. When you go, be prepared for a long wait. The minimum wait is about 1 1/2 hours. The best days are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays around 10:00 am. Wednesdays are best. Elaine recommends getting this done early. As an alternative to going to the DMV, you can visit The Center (formerly called The Senior Center); and some retirement homes in this area also invite the DMV to issue Real ID's. Check with these alternative sites to see when they offer this service.

Before going to get the Real ID, you must take several "Required" documents:

- One proof of identity
- One proof of legal presence
- Two proofs of Virginia residency
- Two from the primary list, (see below) or
- One from the primary list and one from the secondary list
- One proof of your social security number, if you've been issued one Current driver's license if you are applying to exchange one issued by another US state, territory or jurisdiction for a Virginia driver's license.

[See next page of this newsletter for "Most Commonly Used Documents"]

Continued on next page

Obtaining a Virginia Driver's License or Identification Card (ID) Card

Most Commonly used documents:

Proof of Social Security Number:

- Social Security card (Individual Taxpayer identification numbers NOT accepted)
- US Internal Revenue Service tax reporting W-2 form
- Payroll check stub issued by employer that shows full Social Security number

Primary Proof of Virginia Residency:

- Deed, Mortgage, monthly mortgage statement or residential rental/lease agreement
- US Postal Service change of address confirmation form or postmarked US mail with forwarding address label
- Utility bill, not more than two months old, issued to the applicant (cell phone bills are not accepted)

Secondary Proof of Virginia Residency

- Postmarked mail displaying the applicant's name and current address
- Official document or correspondence from a federal, state, or local government agency displaying the applicant's name and current address (DMV-issued documents without postmarked envelopes are not accepted)
- Billing statement or other official document from a recognizable business displaying the applicant's name and current address

U.S. Citizens: Proof of identification and Legal Presence

- Official birth document issued by a U.S. state, jurisdiction or territory (birth documents issued by a hospital; notifications of birth registration; and Puerto Rico birth certificates issued before July 1, 2010 are not accepted)
- Valid, unexpired U.S. passport or U.S. passport card (temporary passports are not accepted)
- U.S. Certificate of Citizenship or Certificate of Naturalization

Non-U.S. Citizens: Proof of identification and Legal Presence

- Unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired U.S. visa and unexpired I-94 or entry stamp
- Unexpired Employment Authorization Document (I-766) and USCIS form I-797 displaying applicant's name (depending on the nature and purpose of the form, the I-797 may not be accepted)
- Unexpired Permanent Resident Card

Temporary documents and photocopies will not be accepted. All documents must be originals. All documents will be subject to verification with the issuing entity, which may delay the issuance of your credential. If you have official documentation, not listed below, that you believe meets DMV requirements, please present it to your local DMV office for review. This list of acceptable documents may change without prior notice. Note: You may redact (blackout/whiteout) your sensitive financial information.

Renew or Replace? If the expiration date on your license is less than one year away, you may choose to renew your driver's license instead of replacing it. Don't wait until the last minute!

International Relations/Federal Government Committee Report
Continued from previous page

Anita Pilling's report was on China's repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang. Anita's extensive knowledge comes from exhaustive study and teaching in college and prep school and visiting the areas where Uyghurs have settled in western China. China doesn't recognize Uyghurs as being indigenous because they are natives of regions outside of the four municipalities--Beijing, Shaanghai, Tianjin, and Chongqing. Indigenous Hans occupy mainland China and refer to the Uyghurs in derogatory terms ("rag-heads" or "turban-heads"). Uyghurs differ from the Hans in geographic location, religion, social life, and culture and have been in conflict for hundreds of years. Today's Xinjiang conflict is an ongoing separatist/independence conflict that claims the incorporation of the Turkistan republic (region where Xinjiang lies) was illegal. It has been under Chinese occupation since 1949.

Before 2014 China hoped that an improved economy would dissolve the conflict, but ethnic separation and terrorist violence have been on the rise. The Uyghurs are now under constant police surveillance. Over a million are detained in mass "re-education camps". Children whose parents are behind bars are told, "Treasure the chance for free education that the party and government have provided to eradicate the erroneous thinking" If they are fortunate enough to "graduate" from detention camps, they may get a job working in a sweatshop and paid the equivalent of \$175 a month, even though they may have formerly been skilled businessmen, intellectuals, and scientists.

The International Relations/ Federal Government members have agreed to change our meeting date to the **third** Wednesday of the month. Join us as we discuss topics related to global and government issues.

PLEASE NOTE: We have decided to offer suggested books that deal with topics we have discussed. Look for the **"Suggested Book List"** in the newsletter from now on. For this month, three suggestions have been made:

The Silk Roads, a New History of the World by Peter Frankopan. *Vanity Fair* called it a "glorious read" and it is! Not only is it a well researched new history of the world, but it is beautifully written. "Frankopan realigns our understanding of the world, pointing us eastward. It was on the Silk Road that East and West first encountered each other through trade and conquest, leading to the spread of ideas, cultures, disease, and religion. This book shows how the fate of the West has always been inextricably linked to the East. From the Middle East and its political instability to China and its economic rise, the vast region stretching eastward from the Balkans across the steppe and South Asia has been thrust into the global spotlight in recent years. In order to comprehend what is at stake for the cities and nations built along these intricate trade routes, we must first grasp their astounding pasts." There is not a more informative book that will help a western reader better understand past and current developments in Asia. (Copyright 2015; 505 pp)

Continued on next page

International Relations/Federal Government Committee Report

Continued from previous page

The Woman's Hour, the Great Fight to Win the Vote, by Elaine Weiss. This book should be read by all League of Women Voters to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. It “is the gripping story of how America’s women won their own freedom, and the opening campaign in the great 20th-century battles for civil rights.” The suffragists faced vicious opposition from politicians, clergy, corporations, and racists who did not want black women voting. They all converged in Nashville in mid-August 1920 since Tennessee was the 36th state needed for ratification. Carrie Catt, Alice Paul, and other LWV heroes were there to combat opposing forces which included many women. It’s a breathtaking narrative that concludes with the formation of the League. (Copyright 2018; 340 pp)

The Library Book, by Susan Orlean. The author manages to transform the story of the Los Angeles Public Library fire in 1988 into the story of literacy, civil service, municipal infighting and vision, public spaces in an era of increasing privatization and social isolation, and the transformation of Los Angeles from a small provincial hamlet to an innovative model for civic engagement. Most importantly, she makes a convincing argument for the central role libraries have always and will always play in the life and health of a bustling democracy. (Copyright 2018; 310 pp)

HELP WANTED – LWV CVA Nominating Committee Seeks Input!

The League’s program, like Democracy, is not a spectator sport. Consider participating on the 2020-21 LWV-CVA Board. Serving on the Board, which is responsible for executing your League’s program, gives one a new perspective on the League and its activities. No experience necessary. Past and current Board members are ready and willing mentors. Board meetings are held once a month – usually for two hours or less, the day and time decided by each new Board. Board positions open for election at our annual meeting in May:

- Officers (2): **President; Secretary**
- Elected Directors (2): **Webmaster/Newsletter Editor; Membership**
- Off-Board committees: one member to the Mary Stamps White, and two members to the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee.

Also Needed – **Social Media Specialist**. If you do Facebook, Instagram and/or Twitter and enjoy social media, this job is for you. Help our members keep up with current developments by posting events and pictures from our League. This job can be done from any location. Our present Social Media Specialist, Megan Tracy, who has relentlessly and patiently brought our League into the needed social media world, has offered her services for training. This position will keep you connected not only with our local League but with national and state League initiatives as well. The position can be a Board or Off-Board position.

If any of these jobs appeal to you, please contact Nominating Committee: Lisa Hilgartner (434-466-9960) lisamezzo@gmail.com or Kerin Yates (434-964-1840) kerinyates@hotmail.com.

From Carol Cutler, LWV CVA Vice-President, Program Planning Chair: Below is the suggested wording of an addition to the 2018-20 LWV US *Impact on Issues* Position on “Representative Government.” The LWV CVA Board will hold a discussion of this suggested addition at its February 19 Board meeting and prepare a statement of support to be sent to the LWVUS along with any comments. Members may also weigh in with their own comments. Send to Carol Cutler, email: gertrude3@icloud.com by February 20. **See the following pages 8-13 of this newsletter for Background, Terminology, and Pros & Cons.**

LWVUS Voter Representation/Electoral Systems

Position in Brief:

Support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable and enhance representation for all voters.

Position in Full:

LWVUS promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive. We encourage electoral methods that provide the broadest voter representation possible. Whether for single or multiple winner contests, the League supports electoral methods that:

- Encourage voter participation and voter engagement
- Encourage those with minority opinions to participate, including under-represented communities
- Are verifiable and auditable
- Promote access to voting
- Maximize effective votes/minimize “wasted” votes
- Promote sincere voting over strategic voting
- Require the winner to receive a majority of the votes for executive and single seat offices
- Are compatible with acceptable ballot-casting methods, including vote-by-mail

(LWVUS, ME, OR, CA, MN, MA, FL, NC, OK, SC, VT, WA, Santa Monica) *

The LWVUS believes in representative government. The League supports electoral systems that elect policy-making bodies—legislatures, councils, commissions, and boards—that proportionally reflect the people they represent. We support systems that inhibit political manipulation (e.g. gerrymandering).

The LWVUS supports enabling legislation to allow local jurisdictions to explore alternative electoral methods, as well as supporting state election laws allowing for more options at both the state and local levels. With the adoption of any electoral system, the League believes that education of the voting public is important and funding for startup and voter education should be available. We encourage a concerted voter education process.

(LWVUS, AZ, CA, OR, SC, WA) *

* All language from LWVUS Principles and multiple State positions

Continued on next page

Report on the Pilot Project of LWVUS on Rep/Electoral Systems

Background for Concurrence on Voter Representation / Electoral Systems

We take pride in our name, The League of Women Voters, and our work as a multi-issue organization over the last century. The LWV has positions on a multitude of public policy issues decided by our elected representatives, however, we do not have a position on how we elect the representatives that make those public policy decisions.

Our “plurality” system originating in the late 1800’s, known as “first past the post,” “came over the pond” with the British and it has limits when it comes to “Making Democracy Work.”

Just one example: a voter’s choice can help elect their least favorite candidate due to vote splitting. Potential good candidates often choose not to run because they don’t want to be a “spoiler candidate.” Unsatisfied with the limits of the plurality system and its impact on representation, 14 state Leagues as well as many local leagues have undertaken studies and developed positions supporting alternatives to the plurality system.

In cities around the country, advanced systems have saved taxpayers and candidates money, reduced negative campaigning, achieved majority winners while preventing vote splitting among similar candidates, minimized “wasted” votes and provided more voters a meaningful voice. Additionally, they have helped elect women and candidates more representative of their communities.

Leagues that did studies and consensus discovered no electoral method is perfect. However, some are better than others at representing voters and creating more opportunities for women and under-represented voters. These Leagues recommended election methods as a result of their studies as well as criterion for evaluating a method and best practices. We chose to focus on the criterion, principles and best practices.

This position does not support any particular election method but rather supports the LWV goals for “an open, governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.” It allows for Leagues to use the position to evaluate or propose electoral options. In many jurisdictions, options are needed as remedies to voting rights lawsuits that seek minority representation.

Why Adopt the Position? This position provides us a clear, but flexible, base of principles to explore election method reforms and take action when appropriate for voters. Across the nation, cities in various states have adopted new election methods, including Minnesota, California, Washington, Texas, North Dakota, Illinois, New York and many others, including new methods used for statewide office and Congressional contests in Maine. Most major newspapers have editorialized in support of electoral options to improve representation and reduce voter apathy, recognizing that democracy depends on it.

Our Process: This position is a compilation of positions adopted by AZ, CA, FL, MA, ME, MN, NC, OK, OR, PA, SC, VT, WA, and established LWVUS principles on representation. While this is not an exhaustive list of state & local leagues that have conducted related studies, these states were instrumental in the formulation of the concurrence position.

How can the League use this Position in the Future?

- The National League could use this position to support or oppose federal legislation.
- A State League can use it to support or oppose state legislation.
- Local Leagues can use it to propose or evaluate an electoral system proposed in their community.
- Local Leagues can propose or support a suitable election method as a remedy to voting rights lawsuits filed when a protected group is under-represented by the current system.

Terminology for Proposed Position on Voter Representation/ Electoral System Concurrence Position

Why? The League of Women Voters currently does not have a position on how we elect our representatives

Our Mission, our Principles (“We believe in Representative Government”) and our trademark “**Making Democracy Work**” all speak to empowering voters through representation.

When voters are denied representation because of where they live, the way district lines are drawn, or because they are an ethnic or political minority, apathy shouldn’t be a surprise. The purpose of having this position is to provide a clear, but flexible base of principles, for evaluating electoral systems that empower voters. (language is from 14 State LWV positions)

The electoral systems we use can enhance or deny representation of voters just as how, and who draws district lines, can do the same. **The position does not support a particular electoral system as no system is perfect.** However, some are better than others at enhancing representation for voters. This position is based on criterion, (not ballot systems) to consider when evaluating electoral options that meet the needs of a community and the voters.

This position does not require local/state League action. Like many of our positions, it is there when we need it. For instance, many California communities are looking at options to plurality voting as a result of California Voting Right Act violations. There may be a different scenario in your state, but one in which this concurrence would apply.

Terminology (in alpha order)

Electoral systems are tied to representation of voters, so we are providing some basic information on electoral terminology. The goal is not to debate systems, but to adopt a position which includes criterion for evaluating the best electoral systems for enhancing voter representation.

At-Large

A type of electoral jurisdiction where representatives are elected from the whole political region. Voters are not divided into districts. Common in cities and counties. Plurality/Winner-Take-All at-large systems allow 51 % of voters to control 100 percent of seats.

Auditable

Transparent procedures to verify (either by hand count or technology) the accuracy of an election outcome.

Delayed Runoff – see Two-round Runoff

Effective Vote

Opposite of “wasted votes” (see elsewhere). Effective votes are those that were useful in successfully electing (or in determining) a winner.

Electoral System

Rules and procedures governing the election of public officials by specifying ballot structure, district magnitude and the way that votes are translated into seats.

First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) Same as Plurality Voting

In a horse race, the first horse to pass the finish line (the post) wins. The same is true for a FPTP electoral, a system that came with the British, which we still use and call Plurality voting.

In an election, candidate with the most votes wins. However, the candidate may not have received a majority if more than 2 candidates in the race, due to vote-splitting. Vote splitting can result in electing the candidate least preferred by voters.

Gerrymandering

Different from “apportionment” which is the allotment of representatives based on an area’s population. Gerrymandering is a political manipulation. Specifically, “gerrymandering” is the manipulation of boundary lines in a district with the intent to advantage or disadvantage a candidate or political party in order to gain more seats than its proportion of the vote. Gerrymandering can be used to disenfranchise a group of voters by racial gerrymandering or disenfranchise members of the opposite party by partisan gerrymandering. [Redistricting is the term used for fair ‘line drawing,’ the goal of an Independent Redistricting Commission.]

Multi-Member District

An area (electoral jurisdiction) from which more than one candidate is elected.

Plurality

The most common electoral system in the US, in which the candidate with the most votes wins, without necessarily receiving a majority of votes. At times, it is coupled with a second, runoff election if a jurisdiction has required that the final winner receives a majority vote. (See above “First Past the Post”). In a multi - winner election i.e. City Council (not divided into districts) the plurality winners are the candidates that receive the most votes. (See “winner-take-all” below.)

Proportional Result

40% of the vote gets 40% of the seats (representation) in a legislative body...not Zero.

60% of the vote gets 60% of the seats (representation) in a legislative body...not 100%

Majority Rule with representation for the Minority (in this example 40%)

(i.e. Cambridge, MA. City Council and School Board proportionally reflect the voters in the community). (Compare this to Winner-Take-All last page)

[While this proposed concurrence does not oppose or support any one system, Ranked Choice Voting is being explained for its more common use]

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) aka Instant Runoff and Preference Voting

Voters are able to rank candidates by preference indicating a “back-up” candidate if their first choice does not have enough support to get elected. They don’t have to go back for a second election to accomplish the same. RCV can be used to achieve a majority single winner without a second election. Examples of places where RCV is now used include St Paul and Minneapolis; MN, Santa Fe, NM; Carbondale, Basalt and Telluride, CO; Takoma Park, MD; San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, and San Lorenzo CA, the state of Maine for federal offices).

RCV can also be used to elect multi-winners to achieve a proportional result (i.e.40% of the voters gets 40% of the seats) in a legislative body. (Cambridge, MA City Council and School Board for over 50 years, and recently, EastPointe Michigan).

Sincere Voting

A term used when a voter chooses to cast her ballot for her most preferred candidate despite the candidate’s chances to win. [This is the opposite of “strategic” voting described elsewhere.] In electoral systems that encourage sincere voting, the voter can vote for a preferred candidate and not worry about “wasting” their vote.

Single Member District

An area (electoral jurisdiction) from which only one candidate is elected.

Spoiler Effect or “Spoiler Candidate”

Generally derogatory terms used to describe the phenomenon in which candidates split the vote. The terms can also apply to same-party candidates in relationship to weaker and stronger support. The most well-known examples of a candidate being labeled a ‘spoiler’ was during the 1992 election when Ross Perot split the vote with George Bush Sr. and helped elect Bill Clinton with 43% of the vote, and in 2000 when Ralph Nader split the vote with Al Gore helping to elect George W. Bush. Those votes for Ross Perot and Ralph Nader are considered “wasted votes” (see wasted votes).

Strategic Voting (aka Tactical Voting)

A voter chooses to vote for a candidate other than her ‘sincere’ choice. This is done in hopes of preventing a less-than-desirable outcome. This is most common when, despite the fact that the voter may prefer an independent, 3rd party or weaker candidate, she believes she would be ‘throwing her vote away’ and instead votes for a candidate presumed to have a greater chance of victory.

Because the spoiler effect (see elsewhere), still sways decisions in the Primary round under Top Two systems (such as used in Washington, California and Louisiana), there is encouragement for voters to vote tactically (instead of sincerely).

They need to choose the candidate they believe is most likely to advance to, or win, the general election, as opposed to voting for their most preferred candidate. They may also decide to vote for the opposite party candidate they would most like to see run against their preferred candidate.

Two Round Runoff

This is an election type used in a winner-take-all (WTA) system, in which a ‘delayed’ or second election is held if no candidate achieves a majority of votes in the first election (or first round). Common in many areas (states, cities, counties), this is sometimes referred to simply as "runoff elections".

Runoff elections ask voters to go back to the polls to ensure a majority (if required) in the second election. A second election costs candidates and taxpayers more money, encourages negative campaigning, and in many cases, fewer voters participate.

Vote Splitting

When more than 2 candidates are on the ballot, voters can split their votes among like-minded candidates and it can help elect a least favored candidate. This can also cause good, like-minded candidates NOT to run for office for fear of splitting the vote. This reduces voter’s choices, especially when parties encourage people not to run. Some alternatives to plurality voting address this problem. (See “Strategic Voting “and “Spoiler Effect” above)

Verifiable

A system (such as a paper ballot) that provides a secondary confirmation that equipment has correctly counted a voter’s ballot.

Wasted Vote

An official political science term that refers to votes that were NOT useful in the election of the winner. More often this means all ballots cast for a losing candidate (or candidates), but can also mean any extra (not needed) votes cast in support of a much-liked winner. If a voter does not vote for a ‘viable’ candidate in most plurality elections, then their vote is “wasted”. It doesn’t count toward electing a winner. Some alternative electoral systems address this problem.

WTA (Winner-Take All)

“Winner-take-all” is a term used to describe “single member district” and “at large” electoral systems (listed above) that award seats to the highest vote getters without ensuring fair representation for minority groups.

Under winner-take-all rules, a slim majority of voters can control 100% of seats, leaving everyone else effectively without representation. Result is under-representation of women, communities of color, third parties, young people, and voters stuck in areas where their voice/representation is diminished and they may they have no seat at the table.

WTA is the opposite of “Proportional Result” which provides for majority rule with minority representation. See “proportional result” above.

Since many areas are dominated by a single political viewpoint, in partisan elections, winner-take-all voting systems will often result in no-choice elections in which one party has a permanent monopoly on power, and the winner is effectively predetermined. (This is often seen in over 90% of Congressional districts in the House of Representatives)

Nearly every emerging democracy has rejected WTA use. Winner-take-all systems, introduced to America by the British during the colonial era, are virtually unknown in other developed countries.

Pro and Con Considerations of Voter Representation/Electoral Systems - (Proposed concurrence from multiple state positions) Date March 2019

PRO

CON

After 100 years, it is a good time for the League of Women Voters to have a position on Voter Representation.	After 100 years, the LWV doesn't need a position on Voter Representation.
This proposed concurrence provides a clear but flexible base of preferred principles (from 15 state positions) for evaluating electoral options to enhance voter representation.	The numerous criteria included are very broad, and, as an entire group, not easily achieved.
This position does not support one particular electoral system, but allows options for local jurisdictions.	This position doesn't specifically name or support a best electoral system, which could be helpful to members.
Along with representation, it makes sense for the League of Women VOTERS to have a position on how we VOTE in our leaders.	As with representation, the LWV doesn't need a position on HOW we elect our leaders, We have functioned without it for 100 years.
The LWV does not have a position that supports or opposes ANY electoral system. Electoral options are needed to improve voter representation.	While the LWV does not have a position on the current winner-take-all plurality system, it is familiar to voters.
Position is in line with LWV mission & principles on representative government. How we elect our leaders has a direct effect on voter representation.	Position introduces too many issues for one position.
This position recognizes that the electoral systems we use can enhance or deny representation just as much as who draws district lines, and how they are drawn. With this position, both issues are addressed.	Redistricting reform with Independent redistricting commissions drawing the lines will help voters be represented.

For more information or questions, contact one of the co-chairs, Barbara Klein (drbarbaraklein@120years.com) or Paula Lee (paula.lee@comcast.net).



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**Meetings and Events for February 2020:
Mark Your Calendars Now!**

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wednesdays, Feb 5, 12, 19, 26 - 8:30 to 9:30 am	Women's Legislative Round Table (WLRT)	SunTrust Center, 919 E Main St, Richmond, VA (Tidewater Rm 4 th Floor)	Further information available at https://lww-va.org/womens- legislative-round-table/
Wed. Feb. 12-13 Events begin at 8:30 am	100th Birthday of the League of Women Voters!	SunTrust Center, 919 E Main St, Richmond, VA	For further information and to register, go to lww-va.org
Sun., Feb 16, 2 – 4 pm; doors open at 1:30 pm	LWV CVA Sunday Seminar: “Hot Matters: Climate in Crisis”	CitySpace, Downtown Mall, Charlottesville	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwwcva@gmail.com
Mon., Feb. 17, 6 – 7 pm; and after 8:15 pm	Voter Registration table with <i>Democracy Initiative</i>	The Haven, downtown, Charlottesville	For further information contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwwcva@gmail.com
Wed, Feb 19, 9:30 am	LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Gov't. Committee Meeting	Home of Jean Minehart, 1714 Yorktown Dr., 971- 1801	For further information, contact Marge Cox, 434-245-5228
Wed., Feb 19, 1:30 – 3:30 pm	LWV CVA Board of Directors Meeting	Westminster-Canterbury, Bishops Conference Room, Pantops	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwwcva@gmail.com
Tues., Feb 25, 11:15 am to 12:45 PM	LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee Meeting	Center for Non-Profit Excellence, 1701-A Allied St. Charlottesville	For further information, contact Kit Murphy McNally, murphymcnally@gmail.com
Thurs., Feb 27, 2:00 pm	LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting	University Village (small committee room), 500 Crestwood Dr.	For further information, contact Sally Thomas, 434-295-1819