



May 2020 LWV CVA Newsletter "eVoter"

LWV CVA President

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Gov. Northam moves Virginia's Primary Elections to June 23.

Originally scheduled for June 9, Virginia's Primary Elections were moved to **June 23** due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The primary elections, in our area, will determine Virginia's Republican nominee to run for the U.S. Senate against Democratic incumbent Sen. Mark Warner. Other areas of Virginia will have primaries for House of Representatives races, which include both Democrat and Republican nominees. **Town elections have also been rescheduled from May 5 to May 19.** In the LWV CVA area, this includes **Town of Scottsville in Albemarle County, and Town of Louisa in Louisa County.** Both the Governor and the *League of Women Voters of Virginia* strongly encourage voters to **vote absentee by mail** in all of these elections. See below for how to apply for an Absentee Ballot online.

For general information about Virginia voter registration and elections, go to Department of Elections website, www.elections.virginia.gov (or call 804 864-8901 or 800 552-9745, 8 am to 5 pm weekdays.)

OR, voters in the Charlottesville Area can go directly to their local Registrar's website by clicking on your Registrar in the list below:

[City of Charlottesville Voter Registration and Elections](#)

[Albemarle County Voter Registration and Elections](#)

[Fluvanna County Registrar](#)

[Greene County Registrar](#)

[Louisa County Voter Registration](#)

[Nelson County Registrar](#)

Absentee Voting: Voters may submit an absentee ballot application online by going directly to the Department of Elections website: www.elections.virginia.gov Due to COVID-19, it is strongly recommended that voters request a mailed absentee ballot using reason code 2A, "My disability or illness," on the application. **Registrars will also accept applications via regular mail and email: see links above to the website of your local Registrar. Or call your local Registrar. Phone Numbers for area registrars:**

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

Note: For primary elections, you will need to state on your application whether you would prefer a Democratic or Republican ballot.

LWV CVA and Upcoming Elections by Kerin Yates, LWV CVA Voter Service

I am sure it is apparent to all of our members that the logistics for holding this year's elections in the presence of the pandemic will be more than challenging. How to keep election officials and voters safe is a major concern of our Boards of Election throughout the state. On Friday, April 24, LWV CVA President Pat Cochran, Voter Service Director Sue Lewis, and I "attended" the Electoral Board Meeting of Albemarle County by ZOOM to learn what they were planning. We learned that all involved were very actively working to establish safe systems for all election officials and voters to make sure that all registered voters would be able to cast their vote. Reports were given that showed us that the Registrar's Office was working in tandem with the County Supervisors, the County Police, and the County Board of Education. Discussions of the many problems yet to be solved showed us that the people who work for us in the Registrar's Office and on the Board of Elections are more than aware of what must be done. It was very reassuring. Minutes of the meeting and previous meetings are available through the Albemarle County website: www.albemarle.org. We "went" because by learning the process and problems we, as the League of Women Voters, may be able to provide suggestions or actions for solutions.

Prior to the meeting we read the Minutes of the Electoral Board's April 16 meeting. They showed one problem was the need for more election officials – those people at the polls who review your ID cards/tend the voting machines/answer questions. From the Minutes: 443 inquiries were sent out by the Registrar's Office to previous election official volunteers to see if they would be willing to work in November. Only 117 to date said yes, 73 said no, 29 maybe. Age and the pandemic is likely the main reason for so few willing to serve. Volunteers last year by age: 4 in the 18-25 age group, 32 in the 26 -40 group, 77 in 41-60, 153 in 61-70, 137 in the 71-80 group and 29 over 80.

The Electoral Board believes they will not have staffing problems for the June 23rd primary since historically few people vote. It is the staffing of the November election that must be solved.

One way the League may be able to help with this is to encourage registrants 18-25 years old to step up and volunteer to be election officials. Schools are to be closed for the election and that group could easily be trained on Facebook. We have forwarded that suggestion to the Election Board and to our state League (LWV-VA).

While this article focuses on Albemarle County it is of course not the only jurisdiction our League covers. We have six different electoral divisions. It is our hope that we can find volunteers to cover each division. This requires only an interest in voting and a willingness to donate perhaps an hour a month to keeping track of the electoral board to which you may be assigned – all from the convenience of your home!! Please consider filling one of these positions. Just e-mail Kerin Yates, kerinyates@hotmail.com.

“Hot Matters: Climate in Crisis! What actions should we take?” The well-attended LWV CVA Sunday Seminar on February 16 was organized to answer this question. We asked four invited panelists to discuss what they each had decided were the most effective actions, the barriers that stand in the way of accomplishing effective action, and advocacy that has achieved results. The LWV CVA is grateful to Sean Tubbs for providing both an audio recording as well as a written summary of the seminar. Click on the **LWV CVA website home page article (lww-cva.org)** for his summary or to hear the audio recording: **click here**. **A list of climate change related Reference Materials can be found by scrolling down to the end of the article. Thank you to the LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee for providing this valuable information.**

LWV CVA Annual Meeting Packets were mailed on April 17. Have you received yours? The packet contains the yearly reports of the League’s committees; proposed Operating Budget for fiscal year 2020-21; Local Program for 2020-21; and Slate of Officers and Elected Directors for 2020-22. Enclosed with the packet is a return postcard for members to use to cast their vote on those items of the Agenda that call for member Action. Questions or more information, please contact Pat Cochran, lww@lww-cva.org.

Welcome New LWV CVA Members: Evette Barton and Ellie Syverud. All Members: Want to keep up-to-date with the League of Women Voters as we advocate and educate? Follow us on **Facebook, Twitter, and/or Instagram** icons found at the bottom this email!