

Virginia Primary Elections - June 23

To avoid risk of COVID 19, VOTE ABSENTEE!

June 16 - Deadline to Request Absentee Ballot

- **Call your local Registrar’s office (phone numbers below) and request an “Absentee Ballot Application.”** It will be sent to you in the mail. 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 7190

- **OR, you can apply for an Absentee Ballot—by going online:**
<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/> and follow the prompts to apply for an Absentee Ballot.

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 can also go directly to their local Registrar’s website by clicking on your Registrar’s link in the list below:

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

[Albemarle County Registrar](#)

[Fluvanna County Registrar](#)

[Greene County Registrar](#)

[Louisa County Voter Registration](#)

[Nelson County Registrar](#)

Note: This year’s primary elections are being held by Virginia Democratic and Republican parties to determine candidates for the office of U.S. Senator and Congressional Districts. When voting, either in person, or absentee, voters must request either a Democratic or Republican ballot. **To see sample Democratic and Republican ballots**, click on Registrar websites (see links above).

For more voter and elections information, go to The League of Women Voters website: vote411.org

LWV CVA 2020 Annual Meeting Report by Pat Cochran, President

This year's LWV CVA Annual Meeting scheduled for May 3 was cancelled due to the coronavirus. Instead, members were mailed the Annual Packet and asked to vote by return postcard. Of the 143 mailings that were made, 69 postcards were returned.

The following "Action" items were **Approved** by members (there were no "Nays"):

- Operating Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- Local Program for 2020-21
- Local Program Updates for 2020-21 on Child Care, Natural Resources and Government. [These updates will appear in the 2020-21 Member Handbook due for publication this summer.]
- Slate of new LWV CVA Officers, Directors, and Committee Members – see below.

We welcome:

Officers (2 years) July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022

President: Pat Cochran

Secretary: Carolyn Fitzpatrick

Elected Directors (2 years) July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022

Newsletter editor/Webmaster: Michele Kellermann

Membership: Anita Pilling

Nominating Committee (1 year) – July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Shirley Payne

Peggy Slez

Mary Stamps White Committee (3 years) – July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023

Sally Thomas

Note: LWV CVA Annual Board Retreat – June 10 has been rescheduled as a Virtual Meeting—details forthcoming. New Board members are invited! An agenda will be emailed prior to the meeting.

LWV CVA June Calendar

For Information about LWV CVA Committees holding virtual meetings contact:

Voter Services – Sue Lewis, swlcville@gmail.com

Justice Reform – Kit Murphy McNally, murphymcnally@gmail.com

Natural Resources – Muriel Grim, msggrim2012@gmail.com

June 6 – LWV-VA Council – Eventbrite registration at lwv-va.org

June 10 – LWV CVA Board Retreat – Virtual meeting - details forthcoming

June 23 – Virginia Primaries

June 25-28 – LWV US Convention – Follow on <https://www.lwv.org/2020convention>



It's time to renew your League of Women Voters Membership!

Our membership year is based on the fiscal year, so your **DUES ARE DUE July 1, 2020.**

Member Annual Dues:

Individual Membership: \$65

Household Membership (two persons at the same address): \$90

Student Membership: Free to students who are at least 1/2 time

Life Members (persons who have been members for 50 years or more): No dues

Please note: Members who join (or renew) after the first day of the fiscal year and before four months prior to the start of the fiscal year shall pay full dues. If you became a member in the four months prior to the start of the fiscal year (i.e., March to July 1, 2020) you do not have to pay dues for the coming fiscal year. Life members and students have no dues.

Mail your check to:

Anne Claar, LWV CVA Treasurer
3 Stigger Rd
Palmyra, VA 22963

Or pay by credit card: Go to our website, lww-cva.org, open the dropdown menu "Explore the League" and click on "Join the League/Renew Your Membership."

Be sure to let us know of any changes to your email or mailing address and/or phone number, as we are preparing the 2020-21 Member Handbook for publication this summer. You can do this by email: lww@lww-cva.org. Or print the slip at the bottom of this page and return it with your check.

Thank you for being/becoming a member of the League of Women Voters!

Questions? Please email: lww@lww-cva.org

Pat Cochran, President, LWV CVA

Change of Address, Email, and/or Phone Number as follows (please print):

LWV CVA Member Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

LWV-VA Election Laws Position Study Group Update

By Carol Cutler, LWV CVA Vice-President

LWV CVA members are invited to participate in an *ad hoc* “Election Laws Position Update Committee” to develop a response to the LWV-VA election laws study group committee. It includes reviewing the in-depth information provided regarding laws and regulations on election processes (intended to ensure free and fair election results, transparency, security and accountability); as well as formulating an opposition statement to internet voting, and the requirement for photo ID at the polls. All LWV-CVA members should have received an emailed document on this March 4 from LWV-VA.

Carol is requesting at least three people help in formulating our response. She plans to meet electronically via email or zoom approximately two times before our response is due. Our local committee is asked to send comments to the LWV-VA Project Oversight Team by October 31, 2020.

Email Carol Cutler, carolcutler91@gmail.com if you are interested in joining this committee.

To learn more about what is involved with this update, there will be a presentation of this update at the LWV-VA Council Meeting on June 6, which will be a “virtual” meeting. [See announcement below in this newsletter for “Joining the Meeting.”]

LWV-VA June 6, 2020 “Virtual” Council Meeting – Agenda

Join us for 2020 Virtual LWV-VA Council: It’s free and open to all League members. You can register to attend by clicking on this Eventbrite link from the LWV-VA website:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-lwv-va-council-meeting-tickets-102720539900?fbclid=IwAR3i0Z6ZLbQFaqZingMBP26IAdgKhNSTYYB-y9Q7kL3I8-AXBUNFn99MX0g>

June 6 starts with breakfast and our plenary session. Keynote speaker is Allison Robbins – Director of Elections & General Registrar for Wise County, VA.

There will be time to hear about our two state policy studies: Election Laws Position Study Group Update and Affordable Housing Study Report Summary.

Other Topics Will Include:

- Ranked choice voting • National Popular Vote Compact • 2020 Election Voter Education Plans
- Constitutional amendment affirming the right to vote in Virginia that cannot be abridged by law

For more information about this year’s LWV-VA Council, go to <http://www.lwv-va.org>

State & Local LWV Support COVID-19 Justice Coalition

By Kit Murphy McNally, LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee Chair

In this time of COVID-19 in Virginia, the state League of Women Voters (LWV-VA) and Charlottesville Area League (LWV CVA) joined forces with more than 50 diverse organizations throughout the state seeking action to empty prisons and jails of all women and men who can be *safely sent home*.

The activist initiative, headed by the ACLU of Virginia, is open to any concerned organization or individual. Meeting online bi-weekly, organization representatives use their collective strategies, actions and power to influence state and local policy makers and justice systems.

In a special session of the General Assembly in late April, Governor Northam won approval for the early release of more than 2000 eligible inmates in Virginia. However, by mid-May fewer than 250 had gone home. There are counter forces to early release from within the system and in some communities, both for those previously eligible and those who could be.

However, some local jurisdictions were already taking action by April. In Charlottesville, Commonwealth Attorney Joe Platania reported, “Prosecutors in the City of Charlottesville and the County of Albemarle, along with judges, court clerks, defense attorneys, law enforcement partners, and the superintendent of the local jail, have undertaken aggressive and proactive measures to release 113 individuals from custody, reducing our jail population from 421 to 308 in under four weeks.” It’s a start.

Beginning in the 1970’s a “tough on crime” edict came down from the Federal Government and launched the surge of mass incarceration for great and small infractions. Increasingly people of color, diverse origins. . . and women filled the jails and prisons of the United States in numbers exceeding the rest of the world. The League of Women Voters has a long history of advocating for justice, fairness and safe, effective alternatives to mass incarceration at all levels, fully understanding the disastrous impact of incarceration on women and their children.

Demands of the COVID-19 Justice Coalition include:

- * Release any person in custody who does not pose a demonstrable imminent threat of bodily harm to someone else.
- * Release people as soon as possible.
- * Statewide and local decision makers must hold themselves accountable and share information daily with the public.

The Justice Reform Committee of the Charlottesville Area LWV focuses its education and advocacy on the front end of the justice system, examining how the positions of local police, sheriff, magistrates, prosecutors, judges and juries impact women and their families as well as the residual impact on the greater good of the area.

At the same time, the committee studies the potential for alternatives to incarceration needed now, such as Charlottesville’s successful Georgia’s House, founded by LWV member Dorothy Tompkins. Georgia’s is a successful example of a frontend diversion for women. However, Georgia’s can provide services to only

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State & Local LWV Support COVID-19 Justice Coalition

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12 women at a time. The LWV Justice Reform Committee advocates for significant expansion of the Georgia's House concept, along with other community based programs that assist women with drug addictions, health care, job training, childcare and safe affordable housing.

The spread of COVID-19 underscores the need for immediate action followed by broader reform and community alternatives to mass incarceration. League positions and actions emphasize safe, effective, humane alternatives to incarceration.

For more information about LWV Virginia positions on justice reform, contact: Deb Wake, LWV-VA President: president@lww-va.org

For more information about the Justice Reform Committee of the LWV- Charlottesville Area, contact: Committee Chair, Kit Murphy McNally, murphymcnally@gmail.com or LWV-CVA President, Pat Cochran, patcochranlwwcva@gmail.com.

For more information about the COVID-19 Justice Coalition, visit COVID19@ACLU.com.

LWV CVA Child Care Committee Update by Beth Kariel, chair

Beth has been following national, state and local child care issues during the pandemic. She recently listened to a webinar, led by Jenna Conway and Tara Ragland, in which they discussed child care policies related to Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the opening process in Virginia in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Jenna Conway is a member of Governor Northam's "Children's Cabinet" and she is in a leadership position, overseeing child care during the pandemic. Tara Ragland is the director of child care licensing. It has been good to see stronger child care leadership, coming from the state government, even if all of their policies aren't quite what the LWV CVA Child Care Committee would advocate for.

At the local level, currently there is not enough child care available to meet child care needs. Also there is concern that more centers will go out of business permanently. We are monitoring this unfortunate outcome of the pandemic.

For more information about the LWV CVA Child Care Committee, contact Beth Kariel, bethkariel9@gmail.com.

Welcome New LWV Members!

Traci L Griggs
1524 Double Top Lane
Gordonsville, Virginia 22942
571-283-9497
traci.prober@gmail.com

Tammy Purcell
3288 Waldron Church Road
Louisa, Virginia 23093
540-748-3945
tdocpurcell@gmail.com

In Memoriam:

Sadly we note the passing of **Dan Bourque**, who died on Saturday, May 16, 2020, due to complications of Parkinson's disease. Dan was a healthcare policy expert and advocate. Our condolences are extended to his wife, Cherry Bourque. The Bourques have been longtime LWV CVA members. [Click here](#) for Dan's obituary in The Washington Post.

LWV CVA Voter Services Report by Sue Lewis, LWV CVA Voter Services Director

We are up and running! We held our second Zoom meeting on May 18 with 18-20 Leaguers signing in! The main topic of this meeting was to discuss distribution of the "Absentee Voting" flyer (see page one of this newsletter). Based on reporting by many Leaguers, we have distributed to area newsletters, apartment complexes, HOA's, and outside groups. **If you want to help distributing, let Pat Cochran (lwvcvapatcochran@gmail.com) and/or me (swlcvlle@gmail.com) know, and we will add you to the list that Pat is keeping.** In another article (see below), Kerin Yates reports on contacts by Leaguers with local Electoral Boards and Registrars, a connection that we plan to continue into the fall elections.

Once the June 23 Primary is behind us, we will schedule another Zoom meeting to talk about voter registration plans and other activities leading up to the November election. Let me know if you want to be added to the list of Leaguers who want to participate in making sure that our citizens are informed and help them actively participate in their governments. Sue Lewis, swlcvlle@gmail.com.

LWV CVA Observer Corps for the Electoral Boards by Kerin Yates, LWV CVA Voter Services

Thanks to several interested members our League now has an "Observer" for the electoral boards/registrars for each jurisdiction we cover in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District. That means we have our own point person to call when Board members need information regarding voting in that area. This saves time for both the electoral board members and registrars and for our board. It reduces duplication of effort, and perhaps most importantly the jurisdictions are made aware that the *League of Women Voters* cares what is happening in regard to the voting system. Following are the current LWV-CVA Electoral Board/Registrar Observers:

City of Charlottesville: Sue Lewis swlcvll@gmail.com 434-295-1485
Albemarle County: Kerin Yates kerinyates@hotmail.com 434- 964- 1840
Fluvanna County: Frances Schutz schutz67@embarqmail.com 434- 979-5413
Greene County: Rice Sumner Wagner ricew123@aol.com 386-527-5392
Louisa County: Karen Davenport kgdavenport@gmail.com 434-979-0992
Nelson County: Anne Geraty moss8350@gmail.com 434-812-2931

Observer Corps Reports:

Nelson County: Email from Jacqueline Britt, Registrar, to Anne Geraty

Hi Anne,

Thank you for your email regarding the upcoming June Dual primary in Nelson County. Our Electoral Board did not have a meeting on April 7. They are not currently meeting on a monthly basis.

We have posted registration/absentee informational flyers and applications at the Post Offices and other locations around the county, reached out to both parties, and used social media to encourage voters to vote absentee by mail. All of our absentee ballots we are sending out have the revised instructions from the Department of Elections concerning not having to have a witness if they do not have one available. We do not have any radio or TV stations in Nelson County. There is a small weekly newspaper; however, it does not have wide circulation within many parts of our county.

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LWV CVA Observer Corps for the Electoral Boards

Nelson County - *Continued from previous page*

We are working to ensure as much PPE for our polling places as possible. We have had cloth masks made and donated by the spouse of one of our officers of election for all of the workers. We are also securing disposable masks, gloves, disinfecting wipes and alcohol spray bottles to clean our voting equipment. The Department of Elections has advised that they are sending us single use pens for ballot marking that the voters will take with them. Our maintenance departments are building sneeze guards for the tables where our workers will be sitting to separate them from the voters. Our precincts will be marked on the floor to guide social distancing for our voters. Privacy screen voting areas will be separated for social distancing. We plan to have signage at each polling place advising the voters what to expect once inside. This is an ongoing and evolving project. We are trying to be as proactive as possible within the supply limitations we have faced trying to obtain PPE for the June primary.

We do not know what will be in place for November and will address that at a later time as we are now currently working to ensure the integrity and safety of the June primary.

Greene County: Email from Jennifer Lewis-Fowler, Registrar (lewis-fowler@gcva.us 434-985-5213) to Rice Wagner.

Preparations:

Voters can - register in person at 32 Stanard Street (Stanardsville)

- print and mail an application to P.O. Box 341, Stanardsville, VA 22973
- go on line to either elections.virginia.gov or www.vote.virginia.gov

Absentee ballots--Voting by absentee ballot seems to be encouraged due to a concern regarding CV-19 and a possible lack of workers and social distancing. Voters must apply by June 16 although it is noted that there will be a very short time to process and return a ballot. Code 2A is the reason for requesting said ballot and voters must remember to indicate whether they want to vote in a Democratic or Republican primary. Ballots are to be returned by mail or can be brought into the office with a proper ID. Voters can only bring in their own ballot. If mailed, people can call the office or send an e-mail to be certain that the ballot was received. Regarding absentee ballots, Jennifer Lewis-Fowler is quoted as saying that she believes that fraud is minimal since ballots are mailed directly to the person who has registered. Then the ballots are returned by mail or in person with proper ID. There are no outside collection boxes.

Problems:

- Someone to monitor the number of voters at a precinct at any given time.
- Possible pre-processing absentee ballots
- Training regarding increased health safety standards (PPE protocols)

This and other possible changes are being discussed at regular ZOOM Electoral Board meetings. The minutes of each meeting can be found on the Internet.

Communication with Citizens:

- Minutes of the above mentioned ZOOM meetings (Greene County Registrar's page)
- Daily Progress--Charlottesville paper (good article on May 7--Register to vote, for absentee ballots).
- General information on the Greene County webpage.

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LWV CVA Observer Corps for the Electoral Boards

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Fluvanna County

From Frances Schutz: schutz67@embarqmail.com

Mon 5/18/2020 3:50 PM

Most recent first: I delivered our AB ballot applications to the registrar's office when I went to volunteer on Thursday. They reported being 'swamped' by applications [including many for the November General Election]. We received ours in the mail Saturday.

The Electoral Board met 10 am-12:45 pm on 5/7, and planned to continue with the closed session to discuss security procedures on 5/13 after a longer than planned meeting ran into one member's deadline.

The vendor for the ballot readers is not planning to come to the county, so the electoral board [EB] & Registrar will need to do the programming and L & A testing [logic & accuracy]. All the electronic materials are now programmed. The EB decided to go through the L & A process, & call for tech help only if needed.

90 surveys had gone out to potential Officers of Election [OEs] the night before. 47 responses had been received. Very few positives. Many OEs are in the most susceptible to Covid 19 category, and quite a few respondents had indicated they were waiting to see how the 'opening up' would go to judge the riskiness of serving. The EB will ask the county's help to recruit younger workers.

Plans are in place to do mainly on-line training, both with materials from the state, and with local videos. They need to do in-person training with Chief/Asst Chief/ & Admins. They hope to do this in a tent sometime after 6/10 = prefer 6/13, since that is before the office is open on Saturday for the last days of in-person absentee voting.

The state will be sending PPEs – in the form of 'sneeze guards' The EB discussed sanitizing procedures & cautions [don't get the chits or ballots wet – info will disappear]. They will send a memo to the Health Dept to ask for any other suggestions, and will send out to OEs who will be serving

The final discussion was on how to encourage AB voting, and to counter the myths that the votes would not be counted – this was of special concern after the fiasco of the primary election this spring in Wisconsin. Again, the issue is how to get the word out.

Albemarle County: Current information may be had by going to the Electoral Board/Registrar's website and reading their minutes (which are out of order).

<https://www.albemarle.org/departments.asp?department=registrar&relpage=2940> .

If you are on a page that does not include current minutes (e.g. Electoral Board Members) click on Document Center then choose the minutes of interest.

City of Charlottesville: Current information can be found at:

<https://www.charlottesville.gov/972/Electoral-Board> and at

<https://www.charlottesville.gov/396/Voter-Registration-Elections>

LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting Summary by Muriel Grim

The Natural Resources Committee held a Zoom virtual meeting on May 21, 2020.

We discussed the request for a special use permit for the proposed (Boyd Tavern Market) service station at the I-64 interchange at Exit 129. This is another issue made very complicated because of the “stale zoning” problem. After a long public hearing on 20 May, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors decided to postpone a vote until June 17. According to the Comprehensive Plan this is not an acceptable use for that site. But by being zoned “commercial” it would be an acceptable use. A decision either way would be legally defensible (or indefensible). Also arguments can be made either way for the development of this proposed combined gas station and store at the site.

Climate Action Plan: We decided to send a statement of support for the Climate Action Plan (CAP) to the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors in time for its work session on June 17. We intend to focus on how the specific actions in the CAP support the Comprehensive Plan and area Master Plans. The CAP actions show ways that the Comp Plan goals can be achieved.

This discussion led to again considering the need to educate the community about the Comprehensive Plan and also the fact that all land use should now be looked at in its relationship to climate change.

For more information about the LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee, please contact Muriel Grim, msggrim2012@gmail.com. Next virtual meeting: Thursday, June 18, 11 am. To join, contact Linda Goodling, linniecg740@gmail.com

LWV National Convention June 22 – 24, 2020 – Going Virtual!

From Chris Carson, President, LWVUS Board of Directors/Virginia Kase, CEO, LWVUS

Hello, Leaguers! Welcome to our 54th Biennial National Convention and our first ever national virtual convention! We're thrilled you'll be joining us for our centennial year convention, and we want to thank you for pivoting with us as we've made this difficult change from our planned meeting in Washington, D.C., to the virtual space. Despite these very different circumstances, we are certain this year's convention will be filled with commemoration, connection, and celebration. Our foremothers worked through a pandemic—the 1918 flu pandemic—to get the vote over 100 years ago, so it almost feels fitting that we honor them a century later by moving the work forward through the COVID-19 pandemic. We know our League members can persist through anything, and we can't wait to see how you will bring your excitement and enthusiasm to our online convention space. We are so looking forward to connecting with you virtually this year.

CBS Evening News anchor Norah O'Donnell will be the keynote speaker. Check it out on the League of Women Voters website: <https://www.lwv.org/2020convention>



Pat Cochran,
LWV CVA President

Michele Kellermann
LWV CVA Newsletter Editor

Meetings and Events for June 2020:
Mark Your Calendars Now!

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Sat., June 6	LWV-VA Council	Virtual Meeting	For further information, Eventbrite registration at lwv-va.org
Wed., June 10	LWV CVA Board Retreat	Virtual Meeting	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com
Tuesday, June 16	Last Date to request application for an Absentee Ballot for June 23 Primary Elections	Contact your registrar	[See page one of this newsletter.]
Thurs., June 18, 11 am	LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Virtual Meeting(s)	For further information, Linda Goodling linniecg740@gmail.com
Tuesday, June 23: 6 am to 7 pm	Primary Elections	Your precinct!	For further information, go to www.elections.virginia.gov/registration
June 25 to 28	League of Women Voters Convention	Virtual Meeting	For further information, follow on https://www.lwv.org/2020convention
	LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee Meeting	Virtual Meeting(s)	For further information, contact Kit Murphy McNally, murphymcnally@gmail.com



Vote Absentee by Mail in the June 23 Primaries!

Check out [vote411](#) - for the 5th District Democratic Primary candidate information, as well as the Republican Primary for US Senate.

