

## **REFORMING JUSTICE FOR WOMEN**

**This is an Online Event: Register to Attend – See Next Page**

Join the LWV-CVA on **Sunday August 16 from 3-4 pm** to consider the need for evidence-based alternatives to incarceration for women in the greater Charlottesville area— what’s new, what’s working and what more is possible to reduce incarceration as well as criminal involvement.

Neal Goodloe Jr., Criminal Justice Coordinator/Planner for the Thomas Jefferson Area Community Criminal Justice Board will discuss his recently completed analysis of local justice initiatives and the impact on individual and the communities in which they reside.

Dorothy Tompkins, MD, founder and Board Member of *Georgia’s Friends*, a highly regarded alternative to incarceration for women in Charlottesville, will provide a look inside “Georgia’s House” and the reasoning behind this model alternative to jail for women.

What’s happening within the justice system locally is the one area not under scrutiny in the current activism targeting the police and prisons. But lasting reform starts at the front end with progressive community diversions, alternatives and deferred prosecution supported by community and justice resources in partnership.

Goodloe has been analyzing criminal justice data for 37 years, implementing evidence-based practices in the Charlottesville, Albemarle, Fluvanna, Louisa and Goochland area. He also served as a consultant to other jurisdictions in Virginia, Wisconsin, South Carolina, and Massachusetts. His consulting services focus on jail population management, jail and prison reentry planning, implementing improvements in community corrections practices and working with specialty courts, pretrial agencies and the Courts.

In addition to founding and serving on the Board of *Georgia’s Friends*, Tompkins is a highly honored physician certified by, and a Fellow of the Society of Addiction Medicine as well as the American Academy of Pediatrics and American College of Cardiology. After retiring as associate professor in the UVA School of Medicine, Tompkins served as “Volunteer Instructor of Substance Abuse” education ACRJ, and founder/past medical Director of Blue Ridge First Step.

The LWV-CVA Justice Reform Committee pursues understanding, support and development of rational, effective and proven justice alternatives to incarceration in the LWV-CVA area, especially pertaining to women. For more information, contact Kit Murphy McNally, [murphymcnally@gmail.com](mailto:murphymcnally@gmail.com)



## **LWV CVA Sunday Seminar – An Online Event**

**August 16, 3 to 4 pm**

**“Reforming Justice for Women”**



**Guest Speakers: Neal Goodloe Jr.**

**Criminal Justice Coordinator/Planner for the Thomas Jefferson Area  
Criminal Justice Board**

**and**

**Dorothy Tompkins, MD**

**Founder and Board Member of “Georgia’s Friends”**

The *League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area* invites you to our August Sunday Seminar “Reforming Justice for Women” with guest speakers, Neal Goodloe and Dorothy Tompkins. Please join us for this important discussion to consider the need for evidence-based alternatives to incarceration for women in the greater Charlottesville area—what’s new, what’s working, and what more is possible to reduce incarceration as well as criminal involvement.

This is an online event: **A link to “REGISTER” will be emailed separately.**

Registrants will be able through the “Chat Room” to participate in this event.

So join us on August 16!

For more information, please contact Pat Cochran, President, LWV CVA, at [lww@lww-cva.org](mailto:lww@lww-cva.org)



## *President's Message*

Dear League Members,

The following letter was approved by our Board at its last meeting as a statement to be sent as "A Letter to the Editor" of the newspapers in our area:

To the Editor,

The *League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area* wholeheartedly supports the Black Lives Matter movement on the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote. The women before us who marched, suffered, and even died for this cause would be proud of our fellow citizens who are demanding justice and equal rights although it's unfortunate that this is still necessary.

The Albemarle County Board of Supervisors plans to hold a public hearing on August 6 to decide what action to take concerning the statue known as "At the Ready" as well as two cannons and 3 stacked cannonballs on the grounds of the Courthouse. The Confederate soldier statue, "At the Ready", is offensive in this location because this is supposed to be the community's house of justice, where there is equal protection under the law. This symbol glorifies a figure who fought to preserve a system that did not offer equal protection. In addition, the inscription omits any mention of slavery, but asserts that Confederate soldiers fought for states' rights. Perhaps, the inclusion of an African American who fought for justice, such as Frederick Douglass, would lend balance to this display if there was proper contextualization of all of the objects.

No human being is perfect. Removing all memorials of men or women with connections to the Confederacy during the Civil War will exact a huge cost and do little to improve race relations. Those who wish to keep the statues and those who want them removed will perhaps become even more entrenched in their ideologies. Often these ideologies are based on inaccurate chronicles of what actually took place.

We believe the County of Albemarle is to be commended for offering to bring groups with opposing views together while having experts in the fields of history, the humanities, architecture, education, and health on hand. Having a conversation about their reasons for leaving the memorials in place or removing them gives diverse members of our community an opportunity to listen to each other. *If we want better race relations and justice in our community, it begins with listening.* Source:

<https://www.publicinput.com/courtsquare>

Respectfully submitted,

*Pat Cochran*

Pat Cochran, President

League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area

## **LWV CVA Voter Services Report By Sue Lewis, Voter Services Director**

Following the June 23 Primary LWV CVA members were asked to share their voting experiences – in-person, absentee, mail, etc. About 52 responses were received to various sites. Responses showed that about 90% voted absentee, 72% of which requested their ballot via [elections.virginia.gov](https://elections.virginia.gov) and 16% just called their registrars. 12 % voted “Absentee in Person” (voted at their local registrar’s office). Of the 72 % that went to [elections.virginia.gov](https://elections.virginia.gov) to request an application for a ballot, 65 % used the electronic site that required your complete SS#. The rest printed the form that only required the last four digits of your SS# and mailed in the form. Of the 13 respondees who voted “absentee in person,” 8 were from Albemarle, 3 from Fluvanna, and 2 from the City of Charlottesville. Eight of these 13 voted inside the registrar’s office, and 5 voted “curbside.” All felt safe. To see these results in graph form via the Google Survey set up by President Pat Cochran, go to [lww-cva.org](https://lww-cva.org) and click on “Voter and Election Information” in the drop-down menu, “Explore the League.”

## **LWV CVA Electoral Boards Observer Corps Report**

**By Kerin Yates, LWV CVA Observer Corps Chair**

Post June 23 electoral boards in Albemarle and Louisa Counties and the City of Charlottesville met and reviewed the election and discussed what changes were needed for November. To date, LWV CVA Observer Corps members report that Greene, Nelson, and Fluvanna Boards have not met since the June 23 primary. Minutes of the Albemarle Electoral Board can be found at the Albemarle County website – go to <http://www.albemarle.org/departments.asp?department=registrar&relpage=2940>.

**The following report was submitted by Karen Davenport (Louisa County LWV CVA Observer) who attended the call-in Electoral Board Meeting for Louisa County on July 9, at which the Registrar and Electoral Board Members were in attendance.**

- Registrar's report: June primary (Republican only) was 9.3% turnout (out of 26,000r registered voters). All precincts did well re: health precautions. There were people from the Medical Reserve Board who assisted with protective procedures. There have been changes to the Virginia Elections Law: (I have seen some of them, but will look up the official version). The Board mentioned that early voting can be allowed without a specific reason and that voter ID is required, but not necessarily a photo ID. They've already had 500 requests for voting by mail for November.
- General discussions of the physical aspects of certain polls, how they may impact the ease and safety of voters, and how best to accommodate voters.
- They reviewed efforts to encourage voter registration.
- They also reviewed and discussed poll equipment and other procedural issues regarding the November election and Training Requirements for new election officials.
- Meeting dates were decided: August 4, 2020 – 9 am; September 1 – 9 am; October 6 - 12 pm.

## **LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting Report**

**By Muriel Grim, Natural Resources Committee Director**

The Natural Resources Committee July 16<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting concentrated on organizing our “Comprehensive Plan” reading club. Pat Cochran, LWV CVA president, will arrange using the LWV-VA Zoom account for the discussions. We will divide the Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan into ten sessions. The specific dates and times of the sessions will depend on when the experts we have invited will be available.

The first session will be discussing the Comp Plan overview and the Background and Values+Vision sections of the plan. We are in touch with the Albemarle County Community Development Department to get an expert to participate and to give us a ‘reading assignment’ prior to the meeting. When we have details we will send out information about the meeting and invitations to everyone who has expressed an interest in participating. Anyone who would like to join us should contact Muriel Grim at [msggrim2012@gmail.com](mailto:msggrim2012@gmail.com).

## **LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Government Committee Update**

**By Marge Cox, IR/FG Chair**

The IR/FG committee will meet by Zoom on Wednesday, September 16. New members will be introduced and a report on Cuba will be given by Elizabeth Franks. For more information about this committee and how to attend meetings, contact Marge Cox, 434-245-5228, or email: [margevcox@gmail.com](mailto:margevcox@gmail.com).

## **LWV CVA Child Care Update**

**By Beth Kariel, Child Care Committee**

Beth Kariel has continued to follow child care issues during the pandemic. Unfortunately, the pandemic has exacerbated some of the problems we identified in our recent child care study. (See *Child Care Report-2019*, by clicking on “Child Care Study Committee” in the “Explore the League” dropdown menu on our League website: [lwv-cva.org](http://lwv-cva.org)). For example, additional health and safety costs have made it even more difficult for child care owners to make ends meet. Finding good staff has also become more difficult. Many parents are feeling more cautious about putting their children in child care.

The good news is that Virginia is moving forward with child care legislation, which was passed in the 2020 General Assembly. On July 22, Beth attended a webinar called, “The Future of Early Learning in Virginia”. It featured First Lady Pamela Northam, Delegate Delores McQuinn, Chief School Readiness Officer Jenna Conway and Taren McCoy, owner and CEO of Small Steps Learning Academy. They discussed the implications of SB 578 and HB 1012, which the governor signed that morning. These identical bills will unify and consolidate the Commonwealth's major early childhood programs under the Virginia Department of Education and charge the State Board of Education with developing an early childhood quality rating and improvement system.

## **LWV-VA Election Laws Position Study Update**

**By Carol Cutler, LWV CVA Vice-President**

On July 13, 2020, a committee of LWV CVA members, Shirley Payne, Karen Christiansen, and Carol Cutler, met to discuss the LWV-VA Election Laws Position Update, Part 1, which pertained to cybersecurity and physical security challenges to the integrity of elections, no-excuse early voting, and League of Women Voters of Virginia's opposition to the photo ID requirement. (See your May 7, 2020 email from LWV-VA.) LWV-VA Election Laws Position Update, Part 2, which addresses voter suppression and explores the effectiveness and impact of ranked-choice voting, will be sent to League members in mid November, 2020. Our committee reviewed the following questions about Part 1 requested by the state committee. Please let Carol know if you would like to add to these responses, email: [gertrude3@icloud.com](mailto:gertrude3@icloud.com).

### **1. Is the Virginia Department of Elections doing enough to make the election system secure?**

Yes. Our general impression is that the current Virginia Department of Elections leadership understands today's security risks and is vigorously pursuing mitigation strategies. We are aware, for example, that last year Virginia applied for and was one of only six states selected to work with the National Governors Association's Solutions Homeland Security and Public Safety division to develop plans for refining and implementing promising cybersecurity operations practices that help ensure election integrity.

### **What measures struck you as particularly effective, and where do you see room for improvement?**

One of the effective mitigation measures detailed in the LWV-VA Study Committee's report (B2, p.15) was that the State Board of Elections (SBE) established and issued minimum security standards to localities in November 2019. Possibly because of potential cost and time needed for some localities to apply these standards, however, the SBE chose to "highly encourage", not require, them to do so prior to the 2020 elections. Not even those standards that would address critical and high security risks were mandated. This is disappointing. We would like to see such standards mandated in the future.

### **2. The General Assembly passed legislation providing for no-excuse absentee voting in person or by mail for the full 45-day period and providing for eliminating the requirement to provide a photo ID. Do you think it is now necessary for LWV-VA to state positions on no-excuse absentee voting or the photo ID?**

Yes. Even though since July 1, 2020 this is a Virginia state law, the administration/legislative bodies could change.

### **3. Does it seem essential to you that general registrars in all of the jurisdictions should be trained and supported with enough funding and expertise to conduct risk-limiting audits (RLAs) before the election is certified, or is it sufficient for them to conduct audits after certification?**

Yes, most definitely have the RLAs before certification of election results. It isn't sufficient to conduct audits after certification.

### **4. Would you advocate that any security measure in the future be required of all jurisdictions, no matter how expensive, if it promised to reduce risk successfully? In principle, would you be willing to see any amount of public funding allocated to the Virginia Department of Elections for that purpose?**

Yes, we recommend that a sufficient amount of public funding for staffing and funding for security measures to reduce risk are justified. The question as to "any amount of public funding" doesn't provide enough information to make a judgment. Should the position include a statement as to where the funds would come from, i.e, state or local government? And specify what oversight there is for accountability of funds.

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## **LWV-VA Election Laws Position Study Update**

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**5. Should the Commonwealth continue to develop standards in addition to federal standards, and is that a prudent way to expend financial resources and personnel time? [Should the Commonwealth take more advice from other states and adopt more national standards?]**

Yes. State of VA election standards are needed in addition to federal standards. For example, the federal Election Assistance Commission may not be as up to date as necessary due to commission dysfunction (vacancies left unfilled, funding not provided) from one administration to another. Virginia standards should be advised by those from other states, as well as recommendations from research centers such as the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and the Brennan Center for Justice.

**6. Many of you have had experience as election officers or have witnessed the preparation of election equipment before an election. Did the security precautions seem effective to you?**

In the Charlottesville area localities, security precautions appear to be taken and we are not aware of any previous breaches of security. An important factor and concern for the future is the potentially insufficient number of election workers trained and available to take care of voter needs at precincts.

**7. What is the appropriate balance between making voting as accessible as possible and keeping elections secure, which can sometimes make voting less easy? For example, online voting would be convenient for many and might well boost voter engagement, but it is vulnerable to computer errors and hacking.**

Under no circumstances do we believe online voting is a reliable or valid way of voting at this time.

**8. Does this study have the right amount of depth to facilitate your review and consideration? And to facilitate review by policymakers? If not, do you have feedback as to whether the study group should add detail or edit further to shorten the document?**

Yes. Yes. This would be better read if it is made into a shorter document.

**9. Please comment on any of the recommendations that struck you, that you agree with, or that need revision.**

Regarding Question 1: For a more results-oriented statement, we suggest “The League further believes that continuous security risk assessment and mitigation, to address both cyber- and physical threats to all components of the elections system and process, ensures that the citizens can trust the integrity and outcomes of elections.

**10. What actions or advocacy would you like to see LWV-VA take in view of this study?**

We have two suggestions:

- ☐ If the State Board of Elections meetings are open to the public and the LWV-VA is not already attending these, we believe that having a regular presence there would be useful. At a minimum, meeting minutes should be monitored if they are not already.
- ☐ We are very concerned about the threat of disinformation presented to voters who are trying to find accurate information about candidates, absentee and in-person voting logistics, election results and other election issues. Strengthening security in certain election process and technology areas, e.g., strictly limiting update access privileges and implementing two-factor authentication for election websites and other public communication methods, can help reduce disinformation risks. We suggest that this aspect of election security be added to the Study Committee’s final report, as it may further strengthen the case for relevant committee recommendations.

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## LWV-VA Election Laws Position Study Update

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11. Were you given enough information on this topic? Yes

12. Is there something you would like to comment on that has not been mentioned?

We support all Part 1 recommendations made by the Study Committee. Very well done!

**LWV CVA Sunday Seminar (virtual meeting) on September 20 will feature an update on the “LWV-VA Election Laws Position Study.”** More information about this meeting to follow in the September “eVoter” newsletter.

### **LWV CVA Program Planning Notes from Carol Cutler, LWV CVA Vice-President**

**Put September 12, 2020, on your calendar!** This is the date of the **LWV-VA Fall workshop** which will have a component on program planning. It would be great for all members to tune in to the speaker’s description of this process and have any questions we have addressed. Hopefully, this will give us a more consistent understanding about our local program process for 2021.

### **LWV of Arlington (VA) to hold Voter Registration Training**

Arlington LWV is hosting a virtual voter registration training to be conducted by Taylor Melton of the VA State Board of Elections. This will qualify toward the required third party voter registration. The event will be **July 29 at 6:30 pm**. Everyone must register at the link below in order to receive the WebEx link for Mr. Melton.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/x/voter-registration-training-2020-tickets-113363952634>

## **Are You a Registered Voter?**

You can check at

[elections.virginia.gov](https://elections.virginia.gov)

**OR**

Check out the Leagues’s [vote411](#)  
- for the links to voter  
registration





## Juneteenth Becomes a State Holiday!

“RICHMOND—**Governor** Ralph Northam today [June 16, 2020] announced that he intends to mark **Juneteenth** as a permanent paid state **holiday**, starting by giving state employees a day off this Friday, June 19. **Virginia** has long marked **Juneteenth** by issuing a proclamation, but the date has not previously been considered a state **holiday**.”

In response to this news, **LWV CVA Membership Chair, Anita Pilling, writes:**

Juneteenth has had a special place in my heart ever since I was a child growing up in Texas' Gulf Coast raised by my two Black mothers. They took off work to participate in Black community observations, usually commencing in a church service before spilling out under an arbor for a delicious feast. When I was old enough to drive, I drove down I-45 to Galveston so they could visit Ashton Villa where General Granger read the proclamation from the balcony. A small visitors' center was in the back that showed a short film about the big event. That was a very special day for all of us. We couldn't enjoy a seafood dinner on the Strand because restaurants were still segregated in the early 60s, so Nannie prepared a picnic lunch and we ate on the grounds of Reedy Chapel where there is a pavilion for big Juneteenth celebrations today. Yes, I strongly support Juneteenth becoming a national holiday.

As I reflected on this I remembered that most African Americans did not own cars before the 60s. They relied on public transportation. Not only were cars beyond the financial means of most Black folks, but it was almost as hard for them to get a driver's license as it was to register to vote. When I returned home from college one summer, I tutored them to prepare to get their driver's license, then drove them to get those most desired licenses. Having a car and a driver's license represented another kind of freedom.

Anita

Beth Alley shares this link to: **“Monumental Legacies: An Uncomfortable Guide to Race and Place in Charlottesville”** [1:43:47 Now playing Watch later Watch later Add to queue Add to queue](#)

### Welcome New LWV Members!

Carol Diggs  
821 Catalpa Court  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903  
703-307-9886  
[ced3012@msn.com](mailto:ced3012@msn.com)

Anne Cleveland  
550 Commerce Ave  
Waynesboro, VA 22980  
[annec@mcclungco.com](mailto:annec@mcclungco.com)  
434- 242-2762

### Correction to our Finance Drive “Thank You!” Donor List!

Member Donor **Peppy Linden** reminded us of the correct spelling of her first name (Peppy not Peggy)! She writes, “To respond to the obvious... Peppy is my real name. I am Jewish and, as is the tradition, I am named to honor the memory of someone. In my case it was my mother's favorite aunt who was Hungarian. And, I was never a cheerleader in high school, though I do feel your personality is impacted if you have a less typical name, so I tend to be a "half full" person.



Pat Cochran,  
LWV CVA President

Michele Kellermann  
LWV CVA Newsletter Editor

**Meetings and Events for July/August 2020:  
*Mark Your Calendars Now!***

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
July 29	LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee Meeting	Zoom Meeting	For further information, contact Kit Murphy McNally, email: <a href="mailto:murphymcnally@gmail.com">murphymcnally@gmail.com</a>
Wed., Aug 19, 1:30 – 3:30 pm	LWV CVA Board of Directors Meeting	Zoom Meeting	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, email: <a href="mailto:patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com">patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com</a>
Sun., Aug 16	LWV CVA Sunday Seminar: “Reforming Justice for Women”	Virtual Meeting(s): An Online Event	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, email: <a href="mailto:patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com">patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com</a>
Wed., Aug 19, 1:30 – 3:30 pm	LWV CVA Board of Directors Meeting	Zoom Meeting	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, email: <a href="mailto:patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com">patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com</a>
Thurs. Aug 20, 11:15 am	LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Zoom Meeting	For further information, contact Linda Goodling - <a href="mailto:linniecg740@gmail.com">linniecg740@gmail.com</a>

**2020-21 LWV CVA Handbooks will be mailed to all members at the beginning of August.**

Our Handbook is a member bonus for belonging to the League of Women Voters! In addition to the 2020-21 League Meetings “Calendar” and listing of our newly elected and appointed directors and committee members, the Handbook contains: **Mission Statement and Principles of the League**, our **Non-Partisan Policy**, **History of the League of Women Voters**, **Program “Positioned for Action”** statements, **Glossary of League terms**, **Membership and Dues** for belonging to the League (which were due on July 1 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020—see reminder below), and **current member Roster**. Plus ads from our devoted sponsors of many years.

**Reminder: Have you paid your dues for 2020-21?** Reminder notices were mailed to all current members whose remittance is still outstanding! If you are still remiss, go to the LWV CVA website, [lwv-cva.org](http://lwv-cva.org) and open the lead blog, “Join the League/Renew Your Membership!” You can pay by credit card or send us a check!