

Have You Voted Yet?

If you applied for and received a mail-in ballot, remember to mail early—ballots must be postmarked no later than November 3 and received by your registrar no later than November 6. Or drop off your completed ballot in a "drop box" location through November 3 or at your polling place on Election Day.

Early Voting in Person: September 18 – October 31

- **Vote at your registrar's office (addresses below) through October 31 – ID is required**

Albemarle County	1600 5 th St Extended, Charlottesville 22902
434-972-4173	
Charlottesville	120 7 th St NE #142 City Annex 22902
434-970-3250	
Fluvanna County	265 Turkeysag Trail, Suite 115, Palmyra 22963
434-58-3593	
Greene County	32 Stanard St, Stanardsville 22973
434-985-5213	
Louisa County	1 Woolfolk Av, Louisa 23093
540-967-3427	
Nelson County	571 Front St, Lovingston 22949
434 263-7190	



- **OR Vote on Election Day, November 3, at your precinct – ID is required. Polls open 6 am to 7 pm. If you have an Absentee Ballot, take it with you.**
- **Check your precinct's location at elections.virginia.gov**

Vote "Yes" on Ballot Question #1!

The League of Women Voters Supports the Redistricting Constitutional Amendment:

The National and State LWV **strongly support** passage of the referendum in conjunction with OneVirginia2021.org. Go to this link for further information:

https://www.onevirginia2021.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQjws536BRDTARIsANeUZ5-PK_8lb36Cc2MZwmo_fUs4eiV3r9rpxLESf5UXqwUOf74SpRER72saAsqqEALw_wcB

Attention All Voters! Adjusting election results timing expectations: All the new covid 19 measures that altered our election practice have created challenges for total vote count finals. Final counts for many VA locations won't be available before Monday November 9th. Please share with friends and family the altered expectations.

President's Message

Dear LWV CVA Members,

In this Covid-19 year of “stranger than fiction” we have joined with League members across the state and country to facilitate voting. We adapted to our environments for voter registration efforts; we did our best with voter education in the face of ever-changing precinct rules about how and when to vote; we navigated the turbulent waters surrounding the redistricting referendum with repeated efforts with postcard writing and yard signs and distribution of nonpartisan information regarding the referendum question; we supported remote candidate debates; we worked with our city and county registrars; and we supported each other’s wavering peace of mind throughout it all. I thank each and every one of you who have given your time and hearts to this uniquely challenging effort. Once again, you make me proud to be a member of the League of Women Voters. We persisted and did what we do best to get out the vote!

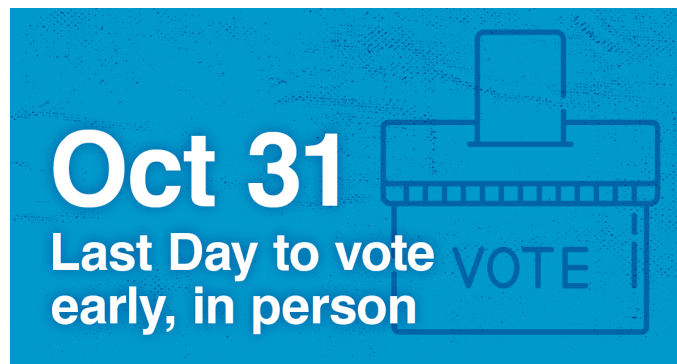
Pat Cochran

LWV CVA President

P.S. I truly do miss RBG. Keep your heads down and your shoulders into the wind during the aftermath of November 3, whatever it may bring.



Early Voting at Albemarle County Registrar's Office – 1600 5th Street Extended – Charlottesville



LWV CVA Voter Services Report by Sue Lewis, Director

This was the most active time for Voter Services, and the election will be upon us as you read this! Thanks are in order for all that you have done leading up to this election, so here's a recap:

Thanks to **Audrey Dannenburg**, for arranging for Leaguers and other organizations to conduct registration drives at various City-supported housing sites, and to **Karen Christiansen** and **Karen Davenport** for helping me out at Michie Drive, Riverside Drive and Madison Avenue sites.

Thanks to the following Leaguers for picking up, delivering and returning boxes of voter registration and absentee ballot applications to 13 rural post offices in Albemarle County: **Beth Alley, Carol Diggs, Lisa Hilgartner** and **Kerin Yates**. Several trips were involved in this request from the County!

Thanks to the following Leaguers who staffed the registration table at the UVA Medical Center for five days, two two-hour shifts per day, leading up to the last day to register: **Pat Cochran, Karen Davenport, Carol Diggs, Amy Gillespie, Traci Griggs, James Moak, Gloria Morgan, Kabby Rouse, and Bobbie and Peyton Williams**. This was a real coup to have the opportunity to be at the hospital, and I thank **Sonjia Smith** for getting that ball rolling.

Thanks to **Kerin Yates, Anne Geraty and Carol Wise** for their lobbying to support the Redistricting Constitutional Amendment. Thanks to **Frances Schutz** for getting the Fluvanna County "Facts for Voters" out to those voters. And many thanks to **Pat Cochran, Gerry Kruger** and **Lisa Hilgartner** for behind-the-curtain work on getting our messages out.

While there was not a way to participate in emergency election day assistance to patients at the hospital due to Covid19 restrictions, I was able to connect *CARS2Vote* to the staff, and there are procedures in place to help those who need to travel to the registrar's offices for several trips to get an emergency application, their ballot and vote on time on November 3.

I also want to thank all the Leaguers who have signed onto our periodic Voter Services Zoom meetings – we'll have one more after the election! I do want to know, for next month's Voter, which Leaguers will have worked at the polls on Tuesday, either as an Election Official, poll watcher, or other information providers. So please keep in touch, Sue Lewis, swlcville@gmail.com

LWV CVA Program Planning – 2020-21 – Meeting Announcement – Sunday December 6

By Carol Cutler, LWV CVA Vice-President

LWV-CVA Program Planning meeting will be held Sunday, December 6 via zoom 2 – 4 pm. We will review our Local Program and evaluate the state LWV-VA positions. Our work on this is preliminary to full membership voting on our “Local Programs/Positioned for Action” at our annual meeting May 2021 as well as giving our input for the LWV-VA Convention this spring. The **LWV CVA 2020-2021 Member Handbook** (yellow cover) enumerates our **Local Program** on: **Government** (Inter-government Cooperation, Tax System, Magisterial Districts, Redistricting, Election Integrity, Sustainability Accords, Transportation) **Natural Resources** (Climate Change, Energy, Land Use, Water, Waste Management), **Social Policy** (Child Care, Education, Firearms Safety, Health and Family Life Education and Health Services in Area Public Schools, Housing, and Regional Library System). These positions are also on our website: lwv-cva.org under the pull-down menu, “Explore the League” – Advocacy, then click on “Local.” **For LWV-VA positions**, go to LWV-VA website (lwv-va.org) and click on “**Action**” on the homepage.

At the LWV-VA Fall Workshop on September 12, 2020, a presentation on program planning addressed mainly the national program statements. We are guided by the LWVUS and LWV-VA positions in our local advocacy **on issues relevant to voters and government**. Many of our own local programs are based on these positions. However, we may identify local issues that do not seem to be covered in a state or national position. Then we may begin a study, as Beth Kariel and Kathryn Dillon did last year with Child Care, with the goal of establishing consensus and local positions for action.

Guidelines for local studies we might undertake follow a specific path for approval:

- Any study is thorough in its pursuit of facts and details. As the study progresses, a continuing discussion of pros and cons of each situation occurs.
- Study committee develops pro/con material as the result of their study for membership consideration along with consensus questions for Board approval as well as the method for taking consensus. Committee then presents information to the members and records the membership agreement.
- Additional discussion, pro and con, takes place as members (not part of the study committee) learn the scope of the study. After the members reach consensus, the LWV CVA board formulates positions based on that consensus.
- It is the consensus statement — the statement resulting from the consensus questions — that becomes a position when approved by the League board and the membership. Firm action or advocacy can then be taken on the particular issue addressed by the position.

If you know that you or your committee will be bringing a new or updated study proposal to the December 6 zoom meeting, it would be very helpful if you would let Carol know ahead of time. Most of our work on local and state program review will be done in the month of November in committees and individual discussions. Carol would appreciate your attention to updating our local position on “**Housing**” and supporting the LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee in a study that could lead to establishing a position on **justice reform** this year. All of our local positions are important. Let her know your priorities for our local league advocacy in the community. Contact Carol Cutler (434-293-2463; 434-390-2551) or email: carolcutler91@gmail.com) for questions and comments.

LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee Report

By Kit Murphy McNally, Justice Reform Committee Director

Special Legislative Session Does Justice ... Somewhat

Some called it revolutionary, others sighed over the limitations. But what most advocates admitted, Virginia's legislators delivered criminal justice reforms in the recently ended special session that will have *some* positive impact on policing, the courts, mental health and racial profiling.

The Covid-19 statewide justice advocacy coalition to which the Virginia and Charlottesville LWV belong, drew up a list of key reforms, engaging 50 member agencies in developing advocacy campaigns that made creative use of innovative media and zoom presentations, as well as phone calls and emails. The coalition identified seven major areas of needed reform affecting policing, response to mental health, prosecutorial discretion, racial profiling, equitable sentencing process, equity in the prison system and COVID-19 relief.

The LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee has focused on the role of magistrates and prosecutorial discretion in charging and recommendation for dismissal or community diversion for nonviolent offenses. In conjunction, the committee has begun to look more deeply into the need for evidence-based diversion programs providing in-community treatment and training alternatives for nonviolent offenders, especially women.

One action which did not occur during the special session was legislative consideration of how police funding is allocated with a focus toward mental health care, drug treatment and other restorative issues that are too often at the root of police calls and actions.

Within the Covid-19 Justice coalition much of the deliberation and consequent advocacy for reforms encompassed policing, resulting in some frustration with the limited reforms. Nevertheless, the Coalition and the LWV CVA Justice Committee forge forward toward vital justice reform.

Toward that end, some lawmakers indicated the actions during special session were but a beginning, and that more discussion will occur during the regular session beginning in January.

The LWVCA Justice Reform Committee meets Thursday, November 12 at 11 am via Zoom. If interested contact Kit Murphy McNally <murphymcnally@gmail.com>

Welcome New Member!

Frankie Szynskie
804 Raymond Road
Charlottesville, VA 22902
402-679-2012
szynskief@gmail.com

LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting Report

By Muriel Grim, Natural Resources Committee Director

At our virtual committee meeting on October 27 we scheduled our next meeting for November 24 at 1pm. There were no specific issues or projects to address. We discussed how important it is to integrate climate change planning into all comprehensive planning and that more staff people are needed for the county to fully implement climate change related actions. However, the COVID emergency will make Climate Action Plan funding more difficult. We also discussed development of hydroponic farming and effective and most environmentally beneficial solar power installation.

The October meeting of the Comprehensive Plan Study “book club” was about Chapter 4 of the plan, the most important one for our group, “Natural Resources.” Albemarle County Community Development Department Natural Resources Manager Kim Biasioli's comments and a slide presentation by Scott Clark, Senior Planner, also with the Albemarle County Community Development Department, gave us very valuable information for a thought provoking discussion. Our next book club meeting will be in late November with the exact date dependent on our presenter's availability. The chapter will be “Historic, Cultural, and Scenic Resources.”

For more information about the NRC, as well as the Comprehensive Plan Study Book Club, contact Muriel Grim at msggrim2012@gmail.com.

LWV CVA Child Care Update

By Beth Kariel, Child Care Committee Chair

The importance of addressing issues of social equity is relevant to early childhood care and education. It pertains to all of those involved in child care, including child care center owners, teachers, assistants, parents and children.

Beth attended a webinar, "Building Equity in ECE Settings through Perspective Taking and Empathy". It provided helpful methods for teaching empathy and also showed how empathy and equity often are connected.

Beth also watched a documentary, "Through the Night", about a woman who offers child care in her home, day and night. This was with the "BlackStar Film Festival". This kind of real life story sheds light on issues of social equity and how it's relevant to child care.

The BlackStar Film Festival is an annual celebration of the visual and storytelling traditions of the African diaspora and of global communities of color, showcasing films by Black, Brown and Indigenous peoples from around the world.

For more information about the LWV CVA Child Care Committee, email: bethkariel9@gmail.com.

LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Government Committee Update

By Gerry Kruger

The International Relations/Federal Government virtual meeting of October 21, 2020, featured two reporters whose timely presentations stimulated much discussion and interest. In addition, we were delighted to have Flora Patterson and Natalie Testa join us from Purcellville and Richmond.

First, **Virginia DeSimone** spoke of how the United States has dealt with other countries in trying to shape our economy.

It is clear that China wants to replace the United States as economic leader and technical giant on the world stage. China provides their technical companies with all the subsidies and support they need to be dominant in the field of technology.

At one time US economic leaders disagreed about how to deal with countries like China, but now they have come together to prevent China from wresting dominance from the United States. Since 1976 we have been losing the trade war with China, resulting in US manufacturing shrinking and big corporations moving outside the US.

In order to gain control over our economy, we need to:

- Build the necessary infrastructure to meet the challenges of the modern world.
- Pass laws that dictate buying technical products made in the United States.
- Boost federal loans to small businesses, such as those that provide medical equipment.
- Build research and development facilities and train workers for them.

Susan Roberts presented an argument for rebranding America's origin story. The *American Creation* by Joseph J. Ellis discusses how many Americans today view our founding fathers as gods or villains. As we denigrate them as rogues rather than extol them as greats, we may also forget the principles on which our country was founded. In rejecting our forefathers, we may also reject their ideals.

What are the ramifications of this state of affairs? We no longer have a national identity nor willingness to compromise. There is no unity or respect for those whose opinions differ. In the midst of this division, there are no role models that we all respect. By insisting on rejection, we eliminate the good with the bad.

What can we do to remedy this situation? We can retell our history more completely, recognizing mistakes, but including the strong and positive points. These were men who were devoted to their country and service to it. We should accept a more accurate version of their strengths and weaknesses.

There is much to be proud of. By embracing our multiculturalism, teaching critical thinking skills, and giving more aid for higher education, we can build a more solid foundation for examining our past and reaching for a more harmonious future.

Our November meeting will take place on **Wednesday, November 18 at 10:00 am**. Join us on Zoom for another stimulating presentation and discussion. Contact Marge Cox, for the link to join this meeting, margevcox@gmail.com if you are not already a member.



Pat Cochran,
LWV CVA President

Michele Kellermann
LWV CVA Newsletter Editor

**Meetings and Events for November/December 2020:
Mark Your Calendars Now!**

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Tues., Nov 3 – Polls open 6 am to 7 pm	2020 General Elections Day – a State Holiday!	For your voting precinct, check elections.virginia.gov	Or, check your voter registration information at vote411.org
Thurs., Nov 12, 11 am	LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee Meeting	Zoom Meeting – Free	For further information, contact Kit Murphy McNally, email: murphymcnally@gmail.com
Sun., Nov 15	LWV CVA Sunday Seminar has been unscheduled		
Wed., Nov 18, 10 am	LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Gov't Committee Meeting	Zoom Meeting - Free	Contact Marge Cox for how to join this meeting, margevfcx@gmail.com
Wed., Nov 18, 1:30 – 3:30 pm	LWV CVA Board of Directors Meeting	Zoom Meeting (open to the public)	For further information, contact Carol Cutler, carolcutler91@gmail.com
Tues., Nov 24 1 pm	LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Zoom Meeting	For further information, contact Muriel Grim, msggrim2012@gmail.com
Wed., Dec 2	LWV-VA Pre-Session: Women's Legislative Round Table	Virtual Meeting	Information forthcoming from LWV-VA
Sun., Dec 6 – 2 – 3pm	LWV CVA Program Planning	Zoom Meeting	For further information, contact Carol Cutler, carolcutler91@gmail.com
Wed., Dec 16 – 1:30 – 3:30 pm	LWV CVA Board of Directors Meeting	Zoom Meeting (open to the public)	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com

Know where to vote?

You can check at

elections.virginia.gov

OR

Check out the Leagues's vote411.org
- for the links to voter information

For the November 3, 2020 election, you may vote in person at your polling place, OR if you requested an absentee ballot, you may complete it and drop it off at any drop-off location in your county or city. There is a drop-off location at your local registrar's office, at every voter satellite office in your county or city, and on Election Day at each polling place in your county or city. If you drop off your absentee ballot, it MUST be returned in the sealed envelopes that are provided. Your county or city may also offer additional locations where you can drop-off your ballot.