

LWV CVA Sunday Seminar – A Free Online Event

January 10, 2 to 4 pm

**"LWV-VA Election Laws Position Study" Update
Part 2 Review – Section E - Ranked Choice Voting
and Section F - Voter Suppression**

Guest Speakers: Members of the LWV-VA Project Oversight Team

Lisa Koteen Gerchick (Arlington), Sidney Johnson (Fairfax),
Jane Newell (Richmond), Allison Brown (Falls Church)



Join us for a "virtual" discussion on the LWV-VA's **Election Laws Study** Committee's recommendations to guide League members in education and voting advocacy for citizens. At our previous Election Laws Study Sunday Seminar (on September 20), we reviewed and gave feedback on Part 1 of the Study which included issues of cybersecurity as well as physical security challenges to the integrity of elections; no-excuse early voting; and LWV-VA's opposition to the photo ID requirement.

Now we will turn to Part 2 of the Study: Section E - Ranked Choice Voting, and Section F – Voter Suppression. The full LWV-VA report on Part 2 of the Election Law Position Update can be accessed by clicking on:

[ElectionPositionReportPart22020-1114](#) along
with [ElectionLawsPart2DiscussionQuestions](#) and
the [ElectionLawsPart2FeedbackForm](#).

Our guest speakers will review these two sections. You will be able to use the "Chat" box to pose any questions or concerns about each part of this study. Your input will help us to prepare our local League's response to the state committee's feedback form. Join us on Sunday, January 10, and become part of this important discussion on Virginia Election Laws Study. This is an online event: **Here is the link to get your free Eventbrite "Ticket":**

**To Join the Zoom Sunday Seminar on January 8,
Click here on ["Tickets"](#)**

Or copy and paste this link to your browser:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/league-of-women-voters-of-the-charlottesville-area->

The link to join will be emailed to [tickets](#) prior to the event.

President's Message:

Dear Leaguers,

Having traveled through the holiday season during the most bizarre of years, I wish you, your family, and friends the most joyous and healthy New Year possible. We did the very best that we could this past year. In spite of this tragic pandemic, we used every avenue possible to inform the public of their electoral choices and allowed nothing to stop us from our mission. Being part of that effort is something for which we can all be eternally proud.

As the new year dawns again, so will we. Mark your calendar for a few exciting events coming up and remember, the next General Assembly Session begins on January 13!

Happy New Year and thank you,

Pat Cochran

President, League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area

2021 Annual LWV CVA Finance Drive to be launched in January!

Now is the time to make an "Early Bird" Donation:

Dear League Members-

As we conclude our year celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the *League of Women Voters*, we invite you to join us in ensuring that the League is prepared to move into the next 100 years by supporting our **"Early Bird Fundraising Drive"**! We will accept donations either by check or by electronic donation through our website. And **if we receive your donation by January 15, 2020, we will not send you our annual fundraising letter when the finance drive is launched at the end of January.** This saves paper in your mailbox, and the cost of printing and mailing the appeal. It's easy to donate to the LWV CVA. You can write a check either to LWV or to the LWV CVA Education Fund, & mail to:

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

Or, **you can scroll down to the bottom of the LWV CVA website homepage lww-cva.org and click on the 'Donate' button.** You will then have the choice of giving to the Operating Fund [not deductible] or to the Education Fund [tax deductible]. A modest processing fee is deducted from online contributions.

These donations are not dues. Dues are payable in June, and do not fully support our activities.

Whatever your decision, we welcome your support – whether it is this month, or in response to our 'regular' Finance Drive appeal. **THANK YOU!**

HELP WANTED – LWV CVA NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS INPUT!

The League's program, like Democracy, is not a spectator sport. Consider participating on the 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 2021 annual meeting in May are:

- Two 2021-2023 Officers: **Vice-President** and **Treasurer**
- Two 2021-2023 Directors: **Community Engagement** and **Voter Service**

Additionally, these off-Board committee positions are open for election in May:

- One 2021-2024 member of the **Mary Stamps White Committee**
- Two 2021-2022 members of the **Finance Drive Committee**
- Two 2021-2022 members of the **Nominating Committee**

For more information or to offer your name or another member's name to the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee, please contact Shirley Payne (shirleypayne@outlook.com) or Peggy Slez (mjslez@gmail.com).

2020-21 LWV CVA Program Planning Update: On December 6, 2020, a virtual Program Planning Meeting was held with 18 LWV CVA members participating. Under review at this meeting were **Local Program** and **State Program** in preparation for member approval at the 2021 LWV CVA Annual Business Meeting (May 3, 2021) and the LWV-VA Convention (June 5, 2021).

On December 16, 2020, the LWV CVA Board reviewed a Draft Report of the December 6 meeting at its monthly Board meeting. Carol Cutler, LWV CVA vice-president, presided over both of these meetings and has prepared the report for review by members—see page 4-5 of this newsletter. We will continue to use the coming weeks to prepare the final draft of this report for members to review for consideration at the Annual Business Meeting on May 3, 2021. We await the official feedback form from the State League to submit our State Programs report.

Please note that as part of the Local Program discussion at the Program Planning Meeting, Muriel Grim proposed an overarching statement to be inserted at the head of our *Local Program: Positioned for Action* document that would address "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion". Dialogue on the wording of this statement continues by email among LWV CVA Board members and will be discussed further at the next Board Meeting on January 13.

LWV CVA Members Present at 12.6.20 Program Planning: Carol Cutler Maggie Hoover, Kit Murphy McNally, Kerin Yates, Frances Schutz, Michele Kellermann, Pat Cochran, Muriel Grim, Beth Kariel, Sue Lewis, Gerry Kruger, Beth Alley, Anne Claar, Rosalie Simari, Karen Davenport, Shirley Payne, Dave and Carol Hogg, Susan Roberts

LWV CVA Members Present at 12.16.20 Board meeting: Carol Cutler, Pat Cochran, Michele Kellermann, Carolyn Fitzpatrick, Beth Kariel, Muriel Grim, Beth Alley, Maggie Hoover, Lisa Hilgartner, Gerry Kruger, Sue Lewis, Kit Murphy McNally, Kerin Yates

LWV-CVA Program Planning for 2020-21 Report

LWV-CVA Local Program	Retain	Update	Take Action	Delete	COMMENTS*
Government:	✓				
Intergovernmental Cooperation					
Tax System	✓				
Magisterial Districts	✓				
Redistricting	✓				
Election Integrity	✓				See suggested rewording to clarify*
Sustainability Accords	✓				
Transportation	✓				
Natural Resources:	✓				
Climate Change					
Energy	✓				
Land Use	✓				
Water	✓				
Waste Management	✓				
Social Policy:	✓				
Child Care					
Education	✓				Continue to study – see below
Firearms Safety	✓				
Health and Family Life Education and Health Services in Area Public Schools	✓				Continue to study – see below
Housing	✓				
Regional Library System	✓				

*(See page 5 of this newsletter)

1. Is there a new study (one only) on a local issue you would suggest? Describe issue and give scope for the study.

Volunteers willing to work on the study. Yes. The LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee, in accord with state and national LWV policies, will study elements of the local criminal justice system to ensure fairness and equity for people who may be affected by Virginia's state and local systems of justice.

Volunteers willing to work on the study. Kit Murphy McNally and LWV-CVA Justice Reform Committee. (Preliminary to the study, Kit McNally and Frances Schutz will compose a statement that reflects current state or national justice reform positions and include Justice Reform as the seventh category under social policy for 2021. This will be reviewed by the Board by March 1 and may be approved at the Annual Meeting.

2. Is there an update (restudy) of a current position you would suggest? List reason for restudy and define scope.

1) Yes. Continue to study the "Education" position to assess the need for increased internet access and cyber education in schools. **Volunteers willing to work on the continuation of the study:** Michele Kellermann, Carolyn Fitzgerald

2) Yes. Continue to study the "Health and Family Life Education and Health Services in Area Public Schools" position to assess how behavioral health matters are handled in the schools; training for school personnel in recognizing crisis behavior; and the adequacy of the FLE curriculum to address positive coping skills, resilience and suicide prevention.

Volunteers willing to work on the continuation of the study: Mimi Bender, Carol Cutler

Continued on next page

3. Is there a position you want to **delete**? **No.**

4. Is there a LWV-CVA position you think needs to be emphasized for **action**? **No.**

Local Program Planning Addendum

The following is a draft of suggested rewording to Local Program as discussed at the Program Planning meeting on December 6, 2020.

Election Integrity

Suggested Rewording to clarify:

Support local citizen awareness regarding potential security vulnerabilities in election systems, as well as the disruptive nature of disinformation campaigns and voter suppression tactics. Work with and support local registrars and others to address these concerns as needed, and thereby strengthen the integrity of election outcomes. Support transparency and accountability in post-election audits. Disseminate voting information to local citizens about upcoming elections by issuing public service announcements, offering nonpartisan candidate forums, and other means.

From Shirley Payne)

My suggested revision for our League's Election Integrity position follows. Also, here are a few points I had in mind while drafting it:

- I think the current reference to the LWV-VA position is unnecessary. There are only two other positions in the handbook that include this language, yet multiple others correlate to state positions. The reference just doesn't add anything, in my view.
- I purposely replaced "vulnerabilities in *our local election system*" with the more general "vulnerabilities in *election systems*." Our public awareness efforts would, I believe, never spotlight specific security problems in our local system. The registrars would never forgive us! 😊
- I left out "risk-limiting audits" because it's a term I think quite a few people don't yet understand. I believe the word "audits" could be interpreted to include the risk-limiting audits.

Currently in program handbook:,,,,"support public education on vulnerabilities in our local election system and the potential for disruptive disinformation campaigns or voter suppression. (remove , and) Work with others, such as local registrars, in making our voting systems accurate. Support transparency, security, and accountability in local post-election audits and risk-limiting audits. Support dissemination of local voting information by public announcements and offering nonpartisan candidate forums. [2020]

Sustainability Accords

Action: Support of the Sustainability Accords, (TJPDC, 1998) particularly of the section on Government—
'Goal: Governmental decisions are made in an environment that promotes widespread, informed, and civil public participation.' (could not find this in sustainability accord document) [1990] **Suggestion to add the word "transparent." Suggested "Reaffirmed in 2007)**



Come to League of Women Voters of Virginia WLRT

LWV-VA Women's Legislative Roundtable, Weekly Wednesdays, beginning January 13 as virtual meetings!

Please join us for virtual Women's Legislative Round Tables (WLRTs) at 8:30am Wednesday mornings during the General Assembly session. Legislators are invited to speak on the highlighted issue of the week. Attendees may also hear from our partners about legislation they're following as well as from our volunteer lobbyists and issue leaders. The public is welcome.

- January 13: Voting Rights, 100% Right to Vote
- January 20: Campaign Finance Reform, National Popular Vote Compact, Voting Rights Amendment
- February 3: Environment, updates on remaining legislation.

You can register for one or all by clicking on the link below. The same Zoom link will be used for all and will be sent one day before each WLRT begins! **Click on**

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-legislative-roundtables-tickets-133592010299?utm_source=eventbrite&utm_medium=email&utm_content=follow_notification&utm_campaign=following_published_event&utm_term=Women%27s+Legislative+Roundtables%21&aff=ebemoffollowpublishemail

From LWV-VA: Issue Groups

It is exciting that we have so many vibrant advocacy groups ready to get into action in time for the next General Assembly. The role of these groups is to help the League identify and develop legislative and regulatory reform actions to help us achieve our goals. In addition, they can identify educational opportunities for interested members. All meetings are virtual as these are state-wide groups.

Contact Joan Porte to get involved: FirstVP@lwv-va.org.

- Affordable Housing, chaired by Alice Tousignant, meets third Wednesday of the month at noon.
- Behavioral Health meets third Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm.
- Campaign Finance, chaired by Janet Boyd, meets second Wednesday at 2pm.
- Child Care, just forming, will meet monthly on third Wednesday at 1pm.
- DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion), chaired by Doris Bey, meets the second Tuesday of the month at 2pm.
- Domestic Violence, still forming, contact Joan Porte for more information.
- Education, meets second Friday at 1pm.
- Election Security, chaired by Lisa Koteen Gerchick, meets third Thursday at 1pm.
- Environment, chaired by Monica Florio and Carolyn Caywood, meets fourth Monday at 7pm.
- GVP (Gun Violence Prevention), chaired by Christine Payne and Ruth Huffman, meets the second Monday of the month at 7:30pm.
- Justice, chaired by Kit Murphy McNally, meets third Friday of the month at 11am.
- Redistricting, chaired by Chris De Rosa, meets every Thursday at 2:45pm beginning December 3.
- Transportation, meets third Wednesday of the month at 5pm.
- Voter Access, chaired by Pam Berg and Don Craig, meets third Friday of the month at 1pm.

LWV CVA Child Care Committee Report by Beth Kariel

The Child Care Committee recognizes that the problems we identified in our 2017-2019 study update are currently being addressed at the state level of government.

Going into this year's General Assembly, Governor Northam is proposing key funding measures for Early Childhood Care and Education. These include restoring initiatives for the public pre-K pilot program and an incentive grant to attract future early educators to the field as well as addressing pay for early educators.

We continue to think it's important to acknowledge the work and advocacy of First Lady Pamela Northam for her work to improve Early Childhood Care and Education and to address issues of equity in child care.

As we've noted before, the 2020 General Assembly passed transformative legislation which created one unified point of accountability for Early Childhood Care and Education in the Department of Education and a uniform quality rating and improvement system by 2023. All of that work is continuing, despite the pandemic.

For more information about the LWV CVA Child Care Committee, contact Beth Kariel, email: bethkariel9@gmail.com or phone 434-964-6238.

LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Report by Muriel Grim

At the December 22nd meeting of the Natural Resources Committee we concentrated on preparations for the February Sunday Seminar. Twenty years ago the LWV-CVA wrote a report on the quality and quantity of our local water supply and what should be done to protect it. The February seminar will focus on water, our most valuable natural resource. In addition to changes to water protection over twenty years, we will highlight water-related activities of local environmental groups. The NRC will meet virtually on Tuesday, January 5 at 1 pm to finish planning for this event, especially how to organize presentations by representatives of the environmental groups. Anyone interested in joining us at this meeting should contact Muriel Grim (msgrim2012@gmail.com) to get on the Zoom invitation list.

We also discussed the next **Comprehensive Plan Study Group meeting which will be on Monday, January 25, at 10 am.** Kat Imhoff and Rex Linville from the Piedmont Environmental Council will be our presenters for Chapter 7, The Rural Area.

Our regular January meeting will be Tuesday, January 26 at 1 pm.

TRANSFORMATIVE Defines Justice Pursuit

by Kit Murphy McNally, Justice Reform Committee chair

After a December hiatus the LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee gears up for a structured 2021 focus directed at transforming the system as it impacts women – at the front end. Specifically, the Committee is delving deeper into the efficacy of alternatives to incarceration in jail or prison that have proven effective through research and practice. Of those, what could potentially be expanded or adopted in the greater Charlottesville area and what are the barriers to change?

The starting point aims at a broad five county* examination of:

- how the system is working locally;
- current alternatives and diversions;
- data evaluations and recommendations;
- local impact of recent justice reform legislation in the General Assembly;
- actions of local commonwealth attorneys; and
- how women are affected overall.

*LWVCVA includes Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Nelson Counties and Charlottesville City.

The Committee has already compiled information and data on some existing diversions such as *Georgia's House*, and alternatives overseen by Offender Aid and Restoration with results in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District researched and documented by Neal Goodloe [presented at the April 2020 Sunday Seminar via zoom].

Committee member Traci Griggs has outlined a thorough process to guide the committee as it works through 2021. Part of that process will engage an understanding of recent and continuing justice reform emanating from the Virginia General Assembly and local Commonwealth Attorneys. For example, Fairfax Commonwealth Attorney Steve Descano, recently eliminated cash bail – a long known disparity in the administration of justice --in his northern Virginia jurisdiction. Additionally, the LWV-VA has connected leaders of League justice committees throughout the state, so the work of one is shared with all. For example, the Arlington LWV has researched and proposed adoption of restorative justice, a practice developed in the early 1980's with scattered implementation across the nation.

More justice reform is anticipated in the short session of the General Assembly this month extending an atmosphere of reform at the state level to engage and drive LWV CVA justice initiatives and action.

The Committee currently meets the second Friday of the month; however, it will actually be the third Friday this month, **January 15, 2021 at 11:00 am via zoom**. Interested in joining or just checking out the committee, contact Kit Murphy McNally murphymcnally@gmail.com

International Relations /Federal Government Committee News by Gerry Kruger

The International Relations/ Federal Government Committee met on Zoom on December 16th.

Rice Wagner reported on her in-depth study of the recent \$23 billion arms deal between the US and the United Arab Emirates. Two procedural votes failed to gain a majority in the Senate and block the sale. They failed by votes of 47 to 49 and 47 to 50. All but two Democrats voted to block the deal. One Republican broke ranks to vote against the sale.

The arms deal will allow the sale of three types of military equipment:

1. F-35's, fighter jets that are considered the "best of the best."
2. Drones
3. Air to ground and air to air missiles

Those against the deal, which also includes some human rights groups, argue this will create more instability in an already unstable region and cause the number of migrants fleeing war to increase. Democrats are opposed to the arms race it could promote. They also cite the UAE's treatment of Yemen and links to al-Qaeda and China as well as sending arms to Libya.

Those who argue for the agreement want to militarily support countries that could aid in the fight against Iran. They also say it will create jobs in the US and help American workers.

In addition to the arms agreement, Rice informed us of the Abraham Accords signed on September 15, 2020. It's referred to as a peace accord, although the countries involved haven't been at war: UAE, Bahrain, and Israel. On October 23, Sudan, which has been labeled as terrorists by the United States, joined the accord. Although Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu signed, he still wants to have more arms than the other countries. Two groups that stand to lose the most are the Iranian leadership and the Palestinians. Our committee plans to discuss both groups in future meetings, beginning with Iran.

Our next meeting will take place on Zoom on January 13, 10 am, because our regular meeting day conflicts with the inauguration on January 20. Join us as we delve into consequential developments. Contact Marge Cox, for the zoom link to the meeting at: margevcox@gmail.com.

From LWV-VA -

Need Zoom Training? The quote of many a Zoom meeting in 2020 was "you're on mute!" Let's resolve to make such comments ancient history! LWV-VA membership director will host four virtual training and refresher courses on the best practices for Zoom and how to host a Zoom gathering. We will play games to help test our Zoom skills and knowledge. These sessions will be about an hour and recorded. Please join us on any or all of the following training sessions: Tuesday, Jan 5 at noon; Tuesday, Jan 5 at 6:30 pm; Thursday, Jan 7 at noon; Thursday Jan 7 at 6:30 pm. Email Andrianne Konstas-Salvette at membership@lwg-va.org to RSVP or for more information.

Meetings and Events for January 2021:
Mark Your Calendars Now!

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Fri., Jan 8 – 1 pm	LWV-VA Election Laws Position Update – Committee Meeting	Virtual link	For further information, contact Carol Cutler, Email: gertrude3@icloud.com
Sun., Jan 10, 2 – 4 pm	LWV CVA Sunday Seminar: LWV-VA Election Laws Study Update – Part 2 – Ranked Choice Voting and Voter Suppression	Virtual Meeting	Click on this ticket link to sign up for the zoom meeting: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lwv-va-election-laws-position-study-part-2-update-sunday-seminar-tickets-135175305979
Wednesdays, Jan 13, 20, 27	Women’s Legislative Roundtable (WLRT)	Virtual Meeting - Richmond	See page 6 of this newsletter for registration to WLRT meetings
Wed., Jan 13, 10 am	LWV CVA International Relations/ Federal Gov’t Meeting	Virtual Meeting	Contact Marge Cox, 245-5228, or email margevcox@gmail.com for zoom link
Wed., Jan 13, 3:00 – 5:00 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, 434-326-7873
Fri., Jan 15, 11 am	LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee Meeting	Virtual Meeting	For further information, contact Kit Murphy McNally, email: murphymcnally@gmail.com
Mon., Jan 25, 11 am	LWV CVA Natural Resources “Comprehensive Plan Study Group” Meeting	Virtual Meeting	For further information, contact Muriel Grim, email: msgrim2012@gmail.com
Tues., Jan 26, 1 pm	LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Virtual Meeting	For further information, contact Muriel Grim, email: msgrim2012@gmail.com



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