

Celebrating 75 Years!

The League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area
invites you
to view a display commemorating
the 75th anniversary
of the founding of our local League!

Northside Library, Rio Road, Charlottesville
Tuesday, August 3, 1 to 4 pm
Refreshments served!

We respectfully ask that you wear a mask while inside the library.

Celebrating 75 years since its beginning in 1946, the *League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area* continues to honor its commitment to voters to educate, to inform, and to address issues that have been studied by our membership. A display of who we are as a League on the local, state, and national levels will be available at Northside Library, Rio Road, from August 2 to August 31, 2021.

***You are invited to a celebration of the opening of the display on
August 3 from 1 - 4 pm in the main hall of the library.
Refreshments will be served.
We respectfully request that you wear a mask.***



Have you sent in your Member Dues for fiscal year 2021-22?

Our membership year is based on the fiscal year, so your **DUES ARE DUE July 1, 2021.**

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, 2021) you do not have to pay dues for the coming fiscal year. Life members and students have no dues.

Mail your check (payable to *League of Women Voters*) to:

League of Women Voters

P.O. Box 2786

Charlottesville, VA 22902

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."

The 2021-22 Member Handbook is being prepared for publication late August. Current members should check their 2020-21 Handbook to see that your information is correct for the 2021-22 edition! Corrections can be sent by email to lww@lww-cva.org or print the slip at the bottom of this page and return it with your check. Handbook missing? Send current information.

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 CVA Justice Reform Committee Meeting with
Chief Magistrate Avnel A. Coates
Zoom Meeting open to LWV CVA Members
Thursday, August 19, 11 am**

The *League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area* Justice Reform Committee has arranged an online (Zoom) meeting on **Thursday, August 19, at 11 am**, with

**Avnel A. Coates
Chief Magistrate 16th Judicial District
Magisterial Region 4 Department of Magistrate Services
Office of the Executive Secretary Supreme Court of Virginia**

The main job of the magistrate is to provide an independent, unbiased review of complaints brought to their office by police officers, sheriffs, deputies, and citizens. Magistrates determine whether there is probable cause for a warrant or summons to be issued. When an arrest is made, a magistrate is likely the first person one meets in the administration of criminal justice in Virginia.

Our committee is looking forward to learning how magistrates are hired, their qualifications, how *they* see their responsibilities, proportion of women magistrates to men magistrates, how they determine bail, how long they serve, how they can be removed, among other things.

All interested in this topic are welcome. **Please notify Kerin Yates at kerinyates@hotmail.com if you wish to join this ZOOM meeting. It will be from 11 am to noon, August 19, 2021.**

**LWV CVA Voter Services: Governor's Challenge to High Schools
Volunteers Needed**

In the month of September, volunteers are needed to assist high schools in Albemarle, Charlottesville City, Greene, Nelson, Louisa, and Fluvanna Counties in helping them meet the ***Governor's Challenge*** of registering 65% of their Senior Class members to vote in 2021 (and again later in the spring for 2022).

A volunteer for each county would be ideal. You will be given the details and materials needed in order to do this before you start. Students are our future voters, lawmakers and facilitators of change in our society. ***It is vital that we reach out to them to register to vote and learn about civic engagement.***

If you think you may be interested in doing this, please email Lisa Hilgartner at lisamezzo@gmail.com or call 434-466-9960.

From the LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee
By Muriel Grim

“Affordable Housing”

Albemarle County and Charlottesville are developing policies to make housing more affordable. After discussing the housing chapter of ***the Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan*** as part of the Natural Resources Committee “book club” study of comprehensive plans, we have been following the development of those housing policies.

We have a basic concern. Albemarle County’s goal seems to be houses at a price that people can afford. An affordable price is essential but is only a partial goal. The full goal should be being able to financially live in a desirable home in a convenient location. This means having an environment that supports good health and convenient access to shopping, services, social gathering places, and green space. It means having places where the residents, whether owners or renters, can pay for housing but also for transportation, utilities, home upkeep, child care, and taxes. In addition home owners in affordable houses should be able to expect their homes to be a source of increasing wealth.

We are trying to increase awareness of the many additional costs, related to location and design, that are built into the total expense of a residence. Total cost should strongly influence the standards that a proposed affordable housing development is expected to meet.

As a first step in raising awareness the LWV CVA sent the following letter **[see next page]** to the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors presenting our concerns and suggestions that might improve the policy. The Natural Resources Committee is now forming a committee to carefully study the Charlottesville and Albemarle policies and the LWV-VA study on affordable housing issues so that we can advocate for positions that will provide housing that is truly affordable. If you are interested in joining us please contact Muriel Grim at msggrim2012@gmail.com

The following letter was sent to the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors presenting our concerns and suggestions that might improve the policy.



June 16, 2021

Today there is a critical need for affordable housing. Housing policy must address this need but affordability is not the only housing policy goal. The comprehensive plan states that *“housing will be safe, decent, and sanitary; available to all income and age levels; located primarily in the Development Areas; and available equally to all current and future County residents”*. The overall goal is not just shelter but assurance of a desirable home within each family’s means.

Housing should provide *affordable livability* for everyone. In addition to safe, decent, and sanitary housing, a community is actually livable when it has an environment that supports good health and convenient access to shopping, services, social gathering places, and green space. It is a place where the residents, both owners and renters, can easily afford the housing and also afford transportation, utilities, home upkeep, and taxes. Home owners in a livable community should expect their homes to be a source of increasing wealth. It is this *livable* housing that should be *“available equally to all current and future County residents”*.

Government doesn’t usually provide the roof over families’ heads, but its policies, expenditures, and ordinances are crucial in determining livability. In its deliberations care must be taken not to focus on the cost of the roof at the expense of all the rest. Many objectives and strategies in the March 17, 2021 version of the draft housing policy will lead to livable housing. Others could conflict with the vision and strategies of the comprehensive plan if they are not carefully stated, followed, and monitored. Examples of both, taken from the draft housing policy, are attached to this letter.

Also we suggest the inclusion of some things that do not seem to be in the policy:

- clearly defining the words “affordable” and “workforce” and distinguishing among all the ranges of needs covered by each type of housing
- addressing the ability to build wealth with home ownership
- reestablishing the “Buyers Club” that provided potential owners with the ability to be ready to purchase whenever the right property became available
- encouraging use of communication technologies to create “virtual communities”, particularly for seniors – to facilitate access to service providers, transportation, social events, etc.

Most importantly, all objectives and strategies, before being included in the policy, must be evaluated in terms of how well they support affordable livability, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and the goals of the Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan. Priority should be given to the ones that support all three.

Thank you,
Patricia M Cochran, President, League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area

“Gun Violence Prevention” Tabling Event Held on June 19 – Downtown Mall

The Gun Violence Prevention Committee of the *League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area* in partnership with the **Charlottesville Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention** held a **tabling event on Saturday, June 19, from 9 am to 2 pm on the Downtown Mall**. The purpose of the event was to bring awareness to the devastating increase in gun deaths. Sadly, 2020 was the deadliest gun violence year in decades. More than 20,000 died from gun violence in that year with an additional 24,000 who committed suicide with a gun. Unfortunately, 2021 is on track to be even worse with 8,100 deaths in the first five months. That equates to 54 “death by guns” per day, according to *The Washington Post* Gun Violence Archive. As the summer is generally the time when most gun violence occurs, these numbers are particularly alarming.

The group collected signatures in support of Senate Bill 529 that would increase background checks for firearms. As this is a federal bill it’s critical that it passes. The group also distributed literature reminding parents that before they send their children on a play date to ask the hosting family if there are guns in the home and, if so, is it unloaded and locked away from curious children.

Participating in the event were League members Carolyn Fitzpatrick, Carol Cutler, Michele Kellermann, Beth Alley, Frances Schutz, Karen Christiansen, Debbie Garth, Lois Sandy, Anne Claar, Judy Freeman and Maggie Hoover. Seen below (from left to right): Beth Alley, Debbie Garth, Carolyn Fitzpatrick, David Garth, Gay Lee Einstein, and Frances Schutz.

For more information about the League’s Gun Violence Prevention Committee, Maggie, maggie.hoover@gmail.com or Beth, beth.alley@gmail.com



Photo by Bob McAdams

LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Government Committee News

By Gerry Kruger

The International Relations/Federal Government Committee continued our study of women heads of state on **May 19, 2021** via Zoom. First, **Carol Cutler** reported on Mette Fredericksen, a 44-year-old, who has been the Prime Minister of Denmark since 2019. Denmark is ruled by a “parliamentary constitutional monarchy” and is a member of the EU and NATO. This country has long been acclaimed for its numerous contributions to the arts.

Prime Minister Fredericksen began her political career at the age of 23 in 2001. In 2011 she was made Minister of Employment. At that time, she was a proponent of immigration because she thought letting more workers into Denmark would be good for the economy, but 2011 was also the beginning of the Arab Spring, and immigrants arriving in great numbers overwhelmed the country.

From 2011 to 2014 she served as Minister of Justice, during which time there was less support for globalization and mass immigration. She referred to Islam as “a barrier to integration of immigrants.” She claimed Muslims didn’t respect the Danish judicial system and the women didn’t work for religious reasons. She advocated closure of Muslim schools because girls were subject to “massive social control.” She also issued a ban on the wearing of burqas and hijabs.

During her term as Minister of Justice, immigrants crossing the border had their money, valuables, and jewelry confiscated. This caused the UN Human Rights Council to condemn Denmark for its treatment of immigrants. Fredericksen also encouraged resettlement of immigrants to North Africa, where they worked as slaves.

Her opposition to immigration eventually led to her being selected Prime Minister of Denmark. As prime minister she led the response to the pandemic. Denmark had fewer cases and deaths than some other Scandinavian countries, and Fredericksen is credited with this success because she acted swiftly to lock down the country and close its borders.

Our next report by **Jean Minehart** was about Finland’s Prime Minister, Sanna Marin, the youngest prime minister in the world at the time of her election in 2019. Finland was ruled by Sweden for 700 years until it was occupied by Russia until the end of World War I. It has been independent since 1917. Like Denmark, it’s a member of both the EU and NATO and is the most sparsely populated country in the world.

Marin heads a coalition government that is a sharp contrast with the older, male dominated government in power from 2015 to 2019. Having been brought up in poverty and the first in her family to attend college, the prime minister is an advocate for human rights and feels society should be inclusive. An advocate for equal rights and protections, she advocates for the Sami’s (also known as Laplanders), women, and the transgender population. She’s also concerned about the treatment of Uighurs and would like to be elected to the Human Rights Commission.

Other issues of importance to Marin are sanctions against Russia, cyber security, climate change, education and health care. Finland has universal health care and has a tax rate of 50%. Like Denmark’s prime minister, she has received acclaim for her handling of the pandemic, locking down the country and closing the borders.

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LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Government Committee News

By Gerry Kruger

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On **June 23**, we heard reports from **Kathy Sudduth** and **Elaine Longerbeam**. First, Kathy introduced us to Halimah Yacob, President of Singapore since 2017. A member of the conservative, center/right People's Action Party, she was elected in an uncontested election.

President Yacob has championed many causes, especially those dealing with women, the economy, and labor. Singapore is well known as a tax haven and is sixth in the world in the banking industry. Labor unions in Singapore are much more inclusive than those in the United States. They include members of professional organizations as well as laborers.

Yacob uses her position to educate the citizens about issues that are important to her. She includes videos of some of her activities on Facebook. Since only 34% of the population has been vaccinated, she strongly encourages everyone to get their Covid shots. She also promotes awareness of climate change and has commended Naomi Osaka for pulling out of the French Open because of mental health issues.

The government of Singapore is generally perceived as competent, transparent, and free of corruption. However, its criminal system and voting practices have been criticized. It is referred to as a "controlled democracy." Our discussion after Kathy's report brought up the strict laws in Singapore and their intolerance for homosexuality.

As President, Yacob is considered commander-in-chief of the armed forces. Singapore receives military aid from Great Britain, the United States, and China. Considered a major tax haven, it's ranked sixth in the world in the banking industry.

Elaine's report on Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados from 2018 to present, focused on the economy, health care, and education. Before the slave trade in Barbados was outlawed in the 1800's, slaves worked on sugar cane plantations. With the abolition of slavery, other industries began to take shape as well. Their exports are highly diversified. 1999 to 2000 were peak years for the Barbados economy. Then it weakened during the global recession and began to grow again. But the economy waned once more with the Pandemic of 2020. They have received some aid from the European Union.

Mottley was elected Prime Minister by a landslide popular vote. She received her law degree from Queen's College in London and has had a long career in public service, holding numerous offices. She was the first woman to head many of them. Barbados has a two-party system. The Parliament consists of a lower house whose members are elected, and an upper house with appointed members.

The country has universal health care, which is considered among the best in the world. Even so, only 23% of the population has been vaccinated for Covid. The literacy rate is 100%. Education is compulsory, but its students must take tests to determine whether or not they can be admitted to a higher level. Prime Minister Mottley has been involved in specific programs geared toward increasing the numbers of students that attain a higher level of education, so they can qualify for higher level jobs. Unemployment is now at 11%.

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LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Government Committee News

By Gerry Kruger

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Our final IR/FG Zoom meeting took place on **July 21. Natalie Testa**, who has friends in New Zealand, gave us an intimate look into a country that has been governed by women for since 1997.

New Zealand consists of two large islands and hundreds of small islands. It is the size of the United Kingdom or Japan, and its population is only five million. 70% are of European descent, 20% are Maori, the indigenous people, 5% are other Polynesians, and less than 1% are Latino or African. Most people live in the north island. The southernmost island is lush with beautiful scenery which has drawn extensive tourism in modern times, at least until the Pandemic.

New Zealand became a British colony in 1840 and was fully independent in 1947. However, it is still a member of the British Commonwealth and considers itself the most progressive country in the world. They passed legislation in 1893 to give women the right to vote and since the 1980's, have held a strong belief in preserving the environment.

In 1997 the Parliament appointed the first woman Prime minister, Jenny Shipley, as leader of the Nationalist Party. Labour's Helen Clark became New Zealand's first elected female Prime Minister following the general election in November, 1999. The Nationalist Party is made up of the most affluent, while the Labour Party generally consists of union members and blue-collar workers. The legislative branch of government has diverse representatives that are proportional to the population. Seven seats are reserved for the Maori whether they win elections or not. Some seats are also reserved for the Green Party.

New Zealand's third female Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, is the youngest prime minister ever elected. She was 34 when she was elected in 2017. Elected again by a landslide, she is now 41. She is extremely popular and has been able to accomplish a great deal due to this popularity. In March 2019, 51 people were fatally shot and 49 injured in two mosques in Christchurch. Ardern announced her government's intention to introduce stronger firearms regulations. Less than one month after the attack, the New Zealand Parliament passed a law that bans most semiautomatic weapons and assault rifles, parts that convert guns into semiautomatic guns, and higher capacity magazines. Hunting guns are still legal. There have been no more mass shootings since.

Ardern's public service and compassion for people stems from her upbringing by her parents. She grew up in the Church of Latter-day Saints. From a young age, she had much experience serving the poor.

Marge Cox researched and presented Angela Merkel, Germany's Chancellor, who is now in her last term. She was from a religious Lutheran family and is of Polish and German descent. An excellent student, she studied physics and has a doctorate in quantum physics. When the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, she joined a new party, Democratic Awakening. Following that, she was appointed to several government positions. In 2000, she became the first female leader of a major German party, and in 2005 she was elected Chancellor.

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LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Government Committee News

By Gerry Kruger

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As Chancellor, she has placed emphasis on international cooperation regarding the Internet as well as transatlantic economic matters. During her tenure the European Union is stronger and has agreed to work together in the digital sphere. She has been recognized for her handling of the economic crisis in Germany and taking measures to counteract the recession.

Until mass immigration became overwhelming, she welcomed immigrants coming through Hungary and Austria to Germany from the civil war in Syria. But when the numbers became overwhelming, she dealt with it.

The IR/FG Committee invites you to join us as we conclude our study of countries under women's leadership and continue with a new theme, "Health Care around the World." There is no August meeting, but we'll meet in person at Marge Cox's house in September.

LWV CVA Electoral Boards Observer Corps Report

By Kerin Yates

Albermarle County (6/30/2021): Discussed their option of holding early voting on one or more Sundays before the November election; the required change for holding Scottsville Town elections in November rather than May; and a possible increase in Election Officers' pay. No decisions were made. Next meeting: 8/18/2021 9 am.

Fluvanna County cancelled 07/19/2021 meeting. Next meeting: 08/06/2021 12:15 pm.

Nelson County: Office of the Registrar is continuing work on redesigning their Voter Registration and Election website which will be used for the November 2021 election. **Board unanimously approved NOT** having **early in-person voting** on the two Sundays prior to the November election per HB 1968.

Greene County: Next meeting: 09/13/2021 10 am Live.

Louisa County: See Karen Davenport's report on the next page.

Minutes from Electoral Board meeting for Louisa County – July 7, 2021

Report submitted by Karen Davenport, LWV CVA Electoral Boards Observer Corps

The Electoral Board members, other than the Secretary, and County Registrar were in attendance.

- The June minutes were approved

Registrar's report:

- There are no plans, at this time, for moving the registrar's office. Now that COVID restrictions are easing, they are able to use the public meeting room at the County Building for early voting. There will be no satellite this November.
- Security policies have been reviewed. Training on new equipment is this week. There will be a review of risk assessment w/n 90 days of the November election (Aug 1). There have been no exceptions to policies and no security incidents reported.
- There was a review of firearms restrictions @ polling places.
- There was a purge of 270 voters from the rolls. Both parties were notified. It was noted that most of those deleted are no longer in the county.
- Following the November election, there was a Saturday brunch to talk to election officials regarding their experience working the polls.
- The Chairman's Report noted that 1 election official is to be terminated. The reason was not noted.
- The Secretary's report was not discussed as the Secretary was not at the meeting.
- DemTech training of new equipment will be held tomorrow, July 8.
- There was discussion of splitting shifts for election officials. The Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, and the back-ups will all work all day. It was suggested that there be a 1 hour overlap between the shifts for other officials. The registrar will talk to other registrars regarding how they are handling split shifts.
- There will be in person voter registration training at the County building at 1900.
- The next meeting will be August 4, 2021 at 10AM.

Welcome New LWV CVA Members

Christina M. Whitford
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Crozet, VA 22932
434-205-4042 (H)
336-501-2802 (Cell)
Email: cwhitford19@gmail.com

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Crozet, VA 22932
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336-420-8112 (cell)
Email: veronicafwhitford@gmail.com

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

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Tues., Aug 2 to Tues., Aug 31	LWV CVA 75th Anniversary display	Northside Library, Rio Road	For further information, contact Lisa Hilgartner, lisamezzo@gmail.com
Wed., Aug 3, 1 – 4 pm	LWV CVA 75 th Anniversary: Display celebration - Refreshments	Northside Library, Rio Road	For further information, contact Lisa Hilgartner, lisamezzo@gmail.com
Wed., Aug 18, 3 – 5 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Zoom meeting	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com
Thurs., Aug 19, 11 am	LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee Meeting with Chief Magistrate Avnel A. Coates	Zoom Meeting	To join the meeting, contact Kerin Yates, kerinyates@hotmail.com
Tues, Aug mtg TBA	LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Virtual Meeting	For further information, Muriel Grim, msgrim2012@gmail.com
Fri., Aug mtg TBA	LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee Meeting	Virtual Meeting	For further information, contact Kit Murphy McNally, murphymcnally@gmail.com

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Pat Cochran,
LWV CVA President

Michele Kellermann
LWV CVA Newsletter Editor