

LWV CVA Sunday Seminar

Safe and Secure Ballots:

What Voters Need to Know

**Sunday, September 12, 2021
Central Library, Market Street,
Charlottesville**

(Market Street Parking Garage is one block away)

**Doors open at 1:30 pm for "Meet and Greet"
Meeting will begin promptly at 2 pm**



"Voting Security" is a hot topic during election season. Now with 24-hour news cycles and social media, information relayed to the public can be founded or unfounded or just plain false. How can voters tell what goes on in their city or county to make sure all ballots are counted securely and carefully?

To help us understand voting security, LWV CVA has invited two speakers who are election officials from Albemarle County and Charlottesville City to describe to us what the voting process actually entails. **Jake Washburne, General Registrar of Voters, Albemarle County**, has been the County Registrar for over 15 years, and is responsible for implementing requirements of state and federal voter registration and elections law for 71,000+ registered voters, voting in the 28 County voting precincts. **Taylor Yowell is Acting Director of Elections and General Registrar for the City of Charlottesville** and serves the city's approximately 34,000 voters in four wards with nine voting precincts. Both registrars will show us what voting security looks like in their jurisdictions from registration to counting of ballots.

The LWV CVA Voter Services Committee invites you to attend this Sunday Seminar, the first this 2021-2022 year, as part of our effort to expand the knowledge of the fully engaged voter. Please note the meeting will be held in the Swanson Room (previously McIntire Room) – take the elevator to the third floor of the Library. Masks are requested in the library even if you are fully vaccinated. This event will also be offered on zoom—contact lwv@lwv-cva.org for link.

For more information about this event, contact Pat Cochran, LWV CVA President, email: lwv@lwv-cva.org.



November 2, 2021 Elections! Are You Ready to Vote?

The following information is taken directly from the Virginia Department of Elections website: www.elections.virginia.gov

- **Offices on ballot:** Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, House of Delegates, some local offices (varies by locality).
- **First day of in-person early voting** at [local voter registration office](#): Friday, September 17, 2021.
- **Deadline to [register to vote, or update an existing registration](#):** Tuesday, October 12, 2021.
- **Deadline to apply for a ballot to be mailed to you:** Friday, October 22 2021. Request must be received by [local voter registration office](#) by 5:00 p.m.
- **Voter registration offices open Saturday**, October 23, 2021 and October 30, 2021 for early voting.
- **Last day of in-person early voting** at [local voter registration office](#): Saturday, October 30, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Where and How to Register? Deadline to Register is October 12, 2021

- Voters can apply in person or call your local Registrar's office:

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	434 589 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

- Apply "Online" at www.elections.virginia.gov

Check out YOUR Sample Ballot by going to your registrar's website at these Charlottesville Area government websites and clicking on "Voting" or "Registrar":

Albemarle County: www.albemarle.org

Charlottesville City: www.charlottesville.gov

Fluvanna County: www.fluvannacounty.org

Greene County: www.greenecountyva.gov

Louisa County: www.louisacounty.com

Nelson County: www.nelsoncounty-va.gov

Or go to the League of Women Voters Election Information website: www.Vote411.org



“Building a Just Commonwealth” – Saturday, Sunday – September 18 – 19, 2021

[Register here](#) for one or both days.

How can we build a Commonwealth that truly embodies the term “liberty and justice for all?” Find out how you can be the change we all want to see at the League of Women Voters of Virginia “Justice Weekend.”

Speakers include:

Dr. Janice Underwood, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer of Virginia

Paul Smith, J.D. Vice President for Litigation and Strategy at the Campaign Legal Center

Jennifer Mitchell, Director, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

We will cover a wide variety of justice topics during the weekend. so join us for the topics that matter most to you.

Agenda

Saturday, Sept. 18

10–11 a.m. Opening: Dr. Janice Underwood

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Criminal Justice – (Justice and the nexus with Behavioral Health) –

[Note: LWV CVA Leaguer **Dorothy Tompkins will be presenting *Georgia’s House*.**]

12:30–1 p.m. Lunch Break

1-2:30 p.m. Criminal Justice – (Gun Violence Protection and Domestic Violence)

2:30-3 p.m. Break

3–4: 30 p.m. Community Justice – (Transportation, Affordable Housing and Environmental Justice)

Sunday, Sept. 19

12-1 p.m. Opening Speaker

1-3:30 p.m. Voting Justice – (Election Security, Money in Politics, Redistricting and Voting Access)

3:30-4 p.m. Break

4-5:30 p.m. Youth Justice (Childcare and Education)

To register for this virtual meeting, click on:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/justice-weekend-building-a-more-just-commonwealth-tickets-165027564889?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

For more information, go to <https://lwv-va.org/building-a-just-commonwealth/>



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, lwv-cva.org, open the dropdown menu “Explore the League” and click on “Join the League/Renew Your Membership.”

Note: 2021-22 Member Handbooks were mailed to members on August 25—have you received yours? If you did, and your member listing needs updating, please send by email to lwv@lwv-cva.org or print the slip at the bottom of this page (and return it with your check if you still need to pay your 2021-22 dues). We will list “corrections” in the upcoming “eVoter” newsletter.

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

Questions? Please email: lwv@lwv-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 Child Care Committee News

By Beth Kariel, chair, LWV CVA Child Care Committee

The Child Care Committee is excited to be learning about The Toddler's House of 10th and Page. This program will offer high quality child care for low-income children. It also will be a research site for UVA faculty and students. This new initiative in Charlottesville is a joint effort of the UVA psychology department's Montessori Science Program, the UVA Equity Center, and community partners Pilgrim Baptist Church and City of Promise.

Would anyone like to help Beth with the state league child care study? This would not take a lot of your time. I'm looking for some helpers who could interview people about child care. For each interview I can provide the template of questions and the interview should just take about half an hour. It can be done on the phone or in a masked meeting. The first group we will be interviewing are parents. Call Beth Kariel at 964-6238 for more information. Thanks!

LWV CVA Gun Violence Prevention Committee News

By Beth Alley and Maggie Hoover, LWV CVA Committee Chairs

“Ordinance 21-10 passes in Albemarle County”

Albemarle Board of Supervisors unanimously approved **Ordinance 21-10** that bans guns from buildings, parks and community centers owned or used by the county for governmental purposes. Charlottesville passed a similar ordinance last year. Thank you to all League members who supported this ordinance by contacting the Albemarle BOS and helping to make our communities safer from gun violence and intimidation by those carrying guns. For more information about the LWV CVA Gun Violence Prevention Committee, contact Beth Alley, 434-996-8075, or Maggie Hoover, 703-625-9219.

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.

LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting

By Muriel Grim, chair, LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee

The Natural Resources Committee meeting was held virtually on August 24, 2021.

We reviewed our “Letter-to-the-Editor” regarding affordable housing. We will send this out as the start of an effort to make people aware of all of the costs associated with where someone lives, not just the price of the house. To be considered truly affordable, the house must be sited where transportation, utilities, child care, electronic communications, and access to services are also affordable. If they aren’t, living in the house is not affordable.

On Tuesday, August 31, we will discuss the last chapter of the Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan. Next month we will study the implementation section of the plan to find out how well the plan has been followed.

There was discussion about Crozet and other areas not appearing to follow the comprehensive plan as they proceed with development. We should monitor this and prepare to comment on it.

LWV CVA members should be reminded to comment on “Healthy Steams Initiative” strategies by September 8. The URL for information is <https://publicinput.com/Y5062>

The next NRC meeting (virtual) will be Tuesday, September 28, at 1 pm.
Contact Muriel Grim, msggrim2012@gmail.com for zoom meeting link.

LWV CVA Community Engagement Committee News

By Lisa Hilgartner, LWV CVA Community Engagement Director

LWV CVA Community Engagement Committee met on September 1 to update our contacts with print, online, radio and TV through Public Service Announcements, event calendar listings, and news spots on local TV when possible. Including our Facebook coordinator and webmaster helped us all have a better understanding of what each of us do and how we can better coordinate our efforts.

The fall election is our focus for September. Promoting our September *Sunday Seminar*, Lisa will continue updates on WINA *Plug Away Mondays* at 7:40 each Monday informing voters with ballot information and deadline notices for registration and ballot casting right up to Election Day.

The Daily Progress has again agreed to give us a half-page ad that will give in-depth information for the fall election that any reader can clip and save to refer to before casting his or her vote. Special thanks to Michele Kellermann and Gerry Kruger for taking on this task.

For *Constitution Week* (September 17-23) our Facebook page will feature a daily article for the seven articles in our US Constitution. If you have not done so, please take the time to following our local league on Facebook. Go to lwv-cva.org and click on the Facebook icon at the bottom of the homepage. If you have your own Facebook account, please feel free to share out our postings. The more you share out the more the LWV CVA helps fulfill our mission of educating and informing the voter.

LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee Learns about Magistrates

By Kerin Yates, Justice Reform Committee

The LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee (established at our League's 2018 annual program planning meeting) knew from the start that we wanted to learn of ways in which we might assist in promoting positive prison reforms especially for women. We were aware of many of the problems that seemed to exist, but we also knew we were not well versed in actually how the Virginia criminal/judicial system was organized or worked – knowledge necessary for any forward movement. Since then we have been learning! This report covers in part our committee Zoom meeting held August 19 which focused on magistrates.

Why learn about magistrates? We had become aware of the fact that a citizen's first contact with Virginia's Judicial System is with a magistrate and we knew little of the requirements for the position. James Hingeley, Albemarle Commonwealth Attorney, told us "They generally get little attention, although they play an important role in administering criminal justice in Virginia." Two magistrates who happen to be women met virtually with us on August 19: **Avnel Coates, Region 4, 16th Judicial District Chief Magistrate;** and **Cheryl Thompson, Region 4, 16th Judicial District Supervisor.** They were forthright and outstanding in responses to our questions put forth by committee members including: Who hires and pays them? Are they non-partisan? How do their daily jobs evolve? Do they determine bail? How do they see their responsibilities? What made them apply to become magistrates? Do they find their jobs interesting? They took the meeting from there.

"Who hires and pays and oversees the magistrates?" - Although the Executive Secretary does officially hire, we learned it is the **Chief Magistrate** and the **Regional Supervisor** who do the ground work. It is a long, long process. Before 2008 when the system was restructured there were no specific requirements to be a magistrate. The position now requires that one have a bachelors degree but not in any particular field. (Those in positions prior to the restructuring were grandfathered.) A law degree or the ability to read the law and do legal research is a plus because the position requires both. An example: One authority of a magistrate is to "issue an arrest process." The issue, such as assault and battery, is brought before them and it is the magistrate that decides if the complaint meets the Virginia code to issue an arrest process. The magistrate's insight or opinion has nothing to do with providing the issue of the arrest process or not. It is all "by the Virginia code". Applicants must pledge to be absolutely neutral and unbiased. (Should one wish to run for any political position or be a part of any partisan group, they must resign their position.) There is a great deal of "in house" training and oversight for new magistrates with continuing education annually for all.

Chief Avnel and Regional Supervisor Cheryl took us through their hiring experiences and the daily work of a desk magistrate, where all begins. They said that no day is the same and for each decision made, never will both sides be pleased. In addition to their administrative and supervisory roles both magistrates said they cherish the days they can "work the desk", where they are actually providing professional service to citizens. For further information about magistrates:

<http://www.courts.state.va.us/courtadmin/aoc/mag/home.html>

Video transcript of August 19 meeting: contact LWV CVA President Pat Cochran, lwv@lwv-cva.org.

Excerpts from Minutes from Electoral Board Meeting for Louisa County

August 4, 2021

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

NEW BUSINESS

Early Voting Hours are currently scheduled as follows:

Operations:

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday

Closed Columbus Day

Open on the following Saturdays - 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

October 23rd and October 30th, 2021

Evening Hours – A motion was made and approve to have additional hours on Wednesday, October 20 and October 27 until 7 pm. The dates will be finalized and announced as defined by law.

Early Voting Facilities

A discussion was held regarding the Early Voting Facilities currently offered. The facilities have been deemed an insufficient space to handle the election requirements for Election Officials, Observers, Voters, and ADA requirements. The e-Pollbook and Check In table may need to be placed in the hallway.

Ballot Order/Requisition

Nine styles of ballots will be required for the November General Election. A motion was made for Mrs. Watkins to purchase enough ballots to cover 100% of registered voters (or minimum allowed) to meet the needs of the election. The motion was carried in acclamation.

OLD BUSINESS

Officer of Election Split Shifts (24.2-115.1)

A discussion was held regarding the use of “split shifts”/allowing Election Officials to work half days. Several factors have been identified:

1. More Election Officials may become available if shorter shifts are available.
2. Louisa County is an agricultural community where residents have other responsibilities at home and in the community. By implementing a “Split-Shift” operation, workers would be able to work partial hours then tend to other responsibilities.

A motion was made by Mr. Haymore and seconded by Mrs. Wolf to allow the use of “Split-Shifts” provided the Election Officers identify an approved Election Official, coordinate with their Election Officer counterparts and coordinate such with the General Registrar. A paragraph describing the intent of the “Split-Shift” will be provided in the Election Officer’s Training Letter scheduled to be mailed on or about August 5, 2021. The motion was carried by acclamation.

Page Program

A motion was made by Mrs. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Haymore as follows: The LCHS Page Program in support of the 2021 General Election will resume operations under the review of Mrs. Wolf. Mrs. Wolf will contact LCHS Mr. Harris to share additional information and training.

Promote the Vote Day

Laura Watkins, LCHS, (894-5436) is currently responsible for the “Promote the Vote Day”. Mr. Koege will contact LCHS to verify the status of Promote the Vote Day this year.

NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Louisa County Electoral Board has been scheduled for September 9, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

November 2, 2021 Elections! Important Dates and Deadlines:

- **First day of in-person early voting** at [local voter registration office](#): Friday, September 17, 2021.
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Meetings and Events for September 2021: *Mark Your Calendars Now!*

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Sun., Sept 12, 1:30 – Meet & Greet; program begins at 2 pm	LWV CVA Sunday Seminar: Elections 2021: “Safe and Secure Ballot: What Voters Need to Know”	Central Library, 201 E. Market St., Charlottesville	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com
Wed., Sept 15, 3 – 5 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Zoom meeting	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com
Sat., Sept 18 – 10 am; Sun., Sept 19 - Noon	LWV-VA – “Building a Just Commonwealth”	Zoom Meeting	To join the meeting, register at https://lwv-va.org/building-a-just-commonwealth/
Tues, Sept 28	National Voter Registration Day!		For further information, contact Lisa Hilgartner, lisamezzo@gmail.com
Tues, Sept. 28, 1 pm	LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Virtual Meeting	For further information, contact Muriel Grim, msggrim2012@gmail.com

The 2021-22 Member Handbook was mailed to members on August 25. Have you received yours? Corrections can be sent by email to lwv@lwv-cva.org. Here are the latest updates since its publication:

Change of address for Elaine Longerbeam: 2088 Kober Way, Charlottesville, VA 22901

Add phone number for Lisa Hilgartner: 434-466-9960

Correct phone number for Robert Bond: 650-380-3045

Correct street address for Tammy Purcell is: 3288 Waldrop Church Road



Pat Cochran,
LWV CVA President

Michele Kellermann
LWV CVA Newsletter Editor