



WHY VOTE?

The following article was written by our LWV CVA Community Engagement Director, Lisa Hilgartner, as an op/ed column to encourage people to vote in the coming November election. It is reprinted here as a guide for our LWV members to use to encourage all who are registered citizens to GET OUT AND VOTE!

Why vote? Virginia holds elections every June and November and this year our ballot has an important state-wide gubernatorial election and members of the House of Delegates along with many local races for city council members, county boards of supervisors, school board members, and other town positions. Even the best-intentioned voter who understands the power vested in the elected office holder may have a hard time finding exactly what is on his or her ballot. Often this leads to voter apathy. But if we've learned nothing else from the elections of the past decade, voting is the heart of our democracy, and we need all citizens who are eligible to cast a ballot to inform themselves and vote.

What does it take?

First, **make sure you are registered to vote.** If you have recently moved from another state or another part of the Commonwealth, you will need to register or change your registration to the voting district where you reside. You must have turned 18 on or before the next general election to be able to register to vote. If you obtained a driver's license when you were 16, you were not automatically registered to vote. You can verify this and apply online by going to <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/> OR by going to your local registrar's office:

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 Turksag 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, Lovingson 22949	434 263 7190

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

WHY VOTE? - *Continued from previous page*

Second, **find out who and what's on your ballot**. It's important to know what government posts are up for the election and if there are any referendums or constitutional amendments that will appear on the ballot. This can be done by going to VOTE411.org, or elections.virginia.gov, or going to your local registrar's office's website to see a sample ballot.

Who and What are on the 2021 ballot?

*Incumbent

Office of Virginia Governor:

Terry R. McAuliffe (Democratic)
Glenn A. Youngkin (Republican)
Princess L. Blanding (Liberation)

Office of Lieutenant Governor:

Hala S. Ayala (Democratic)
Winsome E. Sears (Republican)

Office of Attorney General:

Mark R. Herring (Democratic) *
Jason S. Miyares (Republican)

Office of House of Delegates:

20th District:

Randall K. Wolf (Democratic)
G. John Avoli (Republican) *

25th District:

Jennifer L. Kitchen (Democratic)
Chris S. Runion (Republican) *

56th District

Blakely K. Lockhart (Democratic)
John J. McGuire III (Republican) *

57th District:

Sally L. Hudson (Democratic) *
Philip Andrew Hamilton (Republican)

58th District

Sara H. Ratcliffe (Democratic)
Robert Bernard Bell III (Republican) *

59th District

Benjamin A. Moses (Democratic)
C. Matt Fariss (Republican) *

Also on the ballot: Local Elections which may include City Council, Board of Supervisors, School Boards, and Town Officers: See "Sample Ballot" for your precinct on your local registrar's website. [See website addresses below.]

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

WHY VOTE? - *Continued from previous page*

Third, and this is an important step, **find out the duties and power these positions** have so that you can understand how decisions made by that elected office holder can affect your job, and your life and those of your family and friends. What can a governor do? What is the role of Lieutenant Governor? Just what does a Supervisor on the local Board of Supervisors do? It has been proven to be true that decisions made on the state or local levels have more impact on our day to day lives than federal government decisions. [A good resource is the latest book by David Toscano, *Fighting Political Gridlock* [Univ. of Virginia Press, 2021]. In his book, Toscano, a former Charlottesville City Councilor, and Virginia Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly, describes how states shape our nation and our lives.]

Finally, **think of the issues that are important to you. Check out the positions that each candidate has.** If they have a position on an issue that is dear to you, see if they have a specific plan for what they intend to do. If funding is needed for this, what funds will they use for it? Be wary of generalizations, or shallow promises. Check voting records for incumbents and campaign promises. Check out the positions of new candidates. These are often found at Vote411.org or on the candidate's website, Facebook page, Instagram account, or other media platform. Attending forums or debates, tuning in when they are televised, or later catching them on YouTube are other ways to find out more about the candidates. Engage in civil discussions with other voters. Don't rely on friends or political endorsements to make the decision for you. Their reasons for endorsements may not be in your best interest.

What Issues Concern You?

Pandemic Health Safety Mandates Taxes

Road Construction and Maintenance

Zoning and Affordable Housing Business Licensing and Regulations

Climate Change Public Lands and Natural Resources Land Use

Firearms Alcohol and Drug Regulations

School Standards and Regulations

From Governor to General Assembly Delegates to Boards of Supervisors to School Boards - State and Local Government Officials Decide These for You!

Founded right after women fought hard to win the right to vote in 1920, the **League of Women Voters** has worked to assist the voter. We strive to educate, inform, and advocate for all people, applying the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in our operations and activities. We do not endorse or oppose candidates for political office or political parties.



**VOTE EARLY Sept 17 - Oct 30
AT YOUR CITY/COUNTY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE
Or on Election Day
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2**



2020 Elections: Early Voting at the Albemarle County Office Building, 5th Street Extended, Charlottesville



Action Alert

Virginia: Redistricting Commission Testimony

The League of Women Voters of Virginia has given its full support to the Virginia Redistricting Commission to provide fair and accurate redistricting maps. Locally, Michael Rodemeyer, has provided an update on the work on the Commission. Below is his email that alerts Leaguers in the Central Virginia area:

The Republican and Democratic consultant map-drawers have released a second set of House of Delegate maps that include incumbents and political considerations. Perhaps surprisingly, the new proposals for Charlottesville and Albemarle have changed very little (if at all) from the first set. [VPAP](#) has good information on the maps.

The Republican proposal would continue to divide Albemarle into three pieces: one (75) combined with Charlottesville for a very strong Democratic district, one “competitive” district (76) that combines southern Albemarle with two other counties (Nelson and Amherst) all the way to Lynchburg suburb, and a third (74) strong Republican district that includes northern Albemarle and parts of Greene and Orange.

The Democratic proposal divides Albemarle into two districts. One (80), combined with Charlottesville, would be a strong Democratic district, and the second (81) including the remainder of Albemarle and a slice of Augusta county, for a “competitive” district.

The Senate proposals are not all that different and don’t pose any particular issues — other than the fact that Creigh Deeds does not currently live in either of them.

Next week, the Redistricting Commission will be holding VIRTUAL hearings by region. Hearings for OUR region (Central VA) will be on **Wednesday, October 6 at 4:00 pm. To testify, you need to sign up in advance by noon, Tuesday, October 5th. [Leaguers received the link in an LWV CVA “Action Alert” email sent on Friday, October 1—if you didn’t receive it contact lwv@lwv-cva.org** This will be our **best** chance to influence the Commission before it submits final maps to the General Assembly. It’s important to show that we care enough about this issue to SHOW UP. Virtual hearings make it easy.

Continued on next page

Tell the Redistricting Commission: *Continued from previous page*

But there are also two ways to leave **written comments**. You can go to the Democratic House of Delegates map: <https://www.virginiaredistricting.org/legdistricting/comments/plan/154/1> click on the 81st district, and then click on ADD COMMENT and comment away. You can also go to the Republican House of Delegates map

<https://www.virginiaredistricting.org/legdistricting/comments/plan/155/1>

click on district 76 or 74, then click on Add Comment and then write your comment.

[You can also submit a comment directly by using the form found in our Action Alert email.]

Tell the Commission:

- Don't divide Albemarle — oppose the Republican House of Delegates map! It continues the long practice of political gerrymandering. The very rural areas (further away from Charlottesville) of Nelson, Amherst, Greene and Orange have little community connection to Albemarle.
- Keep Albemarle (and Charlottesville) together as a community of interest. Everyone in Albemarle shares economic and cultural ties to Charlottesville and the University of Virginia.
- The Democratic map shows that there is no need to divide Albemarle to get districts of equal population.
- The better way to get the additional 12,000 people to complete Albemarle's second district is to go south to Nelson (route 20 and 29 corridors), southwest to Fluvanna (Lake Monticello), or north to Greene county (Rt 19). Augusta is over the Blue Ridge and is much more connected to the communities west of the Blue Ridge.

THANK YOU!

Michael Rodemeyer
Roving Correspondent

LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting

By Muriel Grim, chair, LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee

At the September 28 Natural Resources Committee meeting we discussed the importance of planning for the need to generate more electricity. Large industrial scale solar farms may severely damage the land on which they are built making it useless for natural habitat or agriculture. We strongly support the development of solar energy but will contact the Thomas Jefferson Planning District and the Albemarle County government about steps being taken to make sure the generation of solar energy does not do any environmental harm.

We also discussed proposed housing that might meet our standards for being truly affordable. Housing is affordable when it is located and designed so that the residents, whether owners or renters, can easily pay for the house and also for needed transportation, utilities, internet, child care, and community services.

On September 30 the Natural Resources Committee finished its “book club” format reading and discussion of the Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan. We will be submitting comments and suggestions during the comp plan updating process. If you would like to participate with us in working on the comp plan please read the “Summary of the Plan” which is online at <https://www.albemarle.org/home/showpublisheddocument/264/637202449454500000> and view the video recordings of our “book club” meetings’ discussions. The URLs for the YouTube recordings are posted on the Natural Resources Committee page of the LWV-CVA website - <https://www.lwv-cva.org/positions-and-committees/natural-resources-committee/> Send your comp plan update comments and suggestions to msggrim2012@gmail.com.

In mid or late-October we will meet to decide what to submit as League input to the county updating process and how we can best participate. Of course as individuals we all can and should take part in the Citizen Participation phases of the Plan update.

The next NRC meeting will be Tuesday, October 26, at 1:00.

LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Government Committee

A Note from Committee Chair Marge Cox --

The LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Government Committee is taking a break from formal meetings until we can again meet in person. We hope, of course, that the Pandemic will be under control before too many more months.

For information about our Committee and its meetings, please contact Marge Cox, LWV CVA IR/FG Committee chair, email: margevfcox@gmail.com.

LWV CVA Electoral Boards Observer Corps Report

By Kerin Yates

The Albemarle County Electoral Board met on September 1. Increase of pay for election chiefs and assistants was passed: \$20 for chiefs, \$10 for assistants. Budget did not allow an increase for regular officers at this time. Decisions for how to do training for the November election were not set due to Covid. Recruitment of officers for the election was proceeding well.

Covid protocols: For VOTERS protocols will be the same as last year. OFFICERS will be required to be masked only while on duty. Personal protection equipment has been inventoried. Software for handling election official assignments, etc., remains a work in progress.

Final decision to have a day of Sunday voting was deferred. Sue Lewis suggested this might be helpful for 6 day a week employees.

It was noted that Witness Signatures are required for absentee mail-in ballots unless the Governor declared a health state of emergency. As of this report he has not. Board considered publicizing this requirement.

The electoral Boards of Fluvanna, Nelson, Greene, and Louisa have not met or have met and not posted minutes of their September meetings since the September newsletter.

LWV CVA Community Engagement Committee News

By Lisa Hilgartner, LWV CVA Community Engagement Director

Our Community Engagement team working with the Voter Services Committee promoted the LWV CVA September Sunday Seminar using Public Service announcements and event calendars for local print and web media and Facebook, as well as radio and TV. We were fortunate to have CBS19 and NBC29 cover the event. We have all pitched in to work on the “Why Vote?” OpEd at the beginning of this newsletter.

National Voter Registration Day was heralded by NBC29 covering the kick off of the Governor’s Challenge- an award for participating schools if they have 65% of their Senior Class registered to vote by April 30th, 2022.

We will continue to aid Voter Services by placing flyers in local stores when they allow it, with our QRCode poster to register to vote; followed by the “Vote Early” poster (see below). An announcement is made each Monday morning on WINA 1070’s *Plug Away Monday* at 7:45 with an update on election deadlines and urging voters to go to the polls this fall in this very important election.

Questions? Comments? Contact Lisa Hilgartner: email – lisamezzo@gmail.com. See next page for a printable copy to the LWV CVA VOTE poster/flyer that Leaguers can easily run off on their home printer and distribute.

What Issues Concern You?

Pandemic Health Safety Mandates Taxes Road Construction and Maintenance

Zoning and Affordable Housing Business Licensing and Regulations

Climate Change Public Lands and Natural Resources Land Use

Firearms Alcohol and Drug Regulations School Standards and Regulations

From Governor to General Assembly Delegates to Boards of Supervisors to School Boards -

State and Local Government Officials Decide These for You!

VOTE



www.VOTE411.org

VOTE
EARLY
Sept 17-
Oct 30
AT YOUR
CITY/COUNTY
REGISTRAR'S
OFFICE
Or on
Election Day
TUESDAY
NOVEMBER
2ND

LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee: Meeting the Challenge of Doing Justice

By Kit Murphy McNally, chair

The Justice Committee took a deep dive into the front end of the Justice System in August during a highly informative zoom visit with Charlottesville Chief Magistrate Avnel Coates and Judicial District Supervisor Cheryl Thompson. Now the committee must wrestle with ‘where to next?’ Should we follow women (or everyone) further through the system here step by step or should we follow them after front end diversion? What alternatives exist in our five county area? How successful are the programs? What needs strengthening, expanding? What has been a successful diversion from incarceration elsewhere that does not exist here? Are there disparities in services available in our areas of service: Albemarle, Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson? Should the committee confine its focus to women? There are by far more men caught up in the system—but women are often the primary caregivers of the children who too often are deeply affected or ultimately wind up in the system as well. Justice is a small word for a huge overlying crisis in too many neighborhoods and homes. Understanding the power of that word to hurt as well as heal opens avenues to progressive change. So, here at the crossroads, what road should the committee go down?

Join us via zoom October 8 at 11 am to share your thoughts, concerns, and passion to understand and support positive legislative and systemic change embedded in LWV-VA and LWV-US positions on justice. The LWV-CVA Justice Reform Committee meets Friday, October 8 at 11 am via zoom. For more information, and to receive the zoom link, email: Kit Murphy McNally (murphymcnally@gmail.com).

“Voter Pocket Guide”

These amazing one page Voter Outreach/Voter ID Pocket Guides are available from the Department of Elections: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/voter-pocket-guide/>.

League members ran and folded 200 of these Pocket Guides in English, Spanish, Korean, and Vietnamese languages (see below) and distributed them to local ethnic grocery stores and restaurants. We also distributed the Guides at our Sunday Seminar: “Safe and Secure Ballots? What Voters Need to Know!”

Feel free to click on these pdfs and run the Guide on your home printer! Then distribute to neighbors!

- [Voter Pocket Guide - Nov. 2021 - Print \(pdf\)](#) [\(En Español\)](#) [\(Tiếng Việt\)](#) [\(한 국어\)](#)
- [Voter Pocket Guide printing instructions - Nov 2021 \(pdf\)](#) [\(En Español\)](#) [\(Tiếng Việt\)](#) [\(한 국어\)](#)
- [Voter Pocket Guide - Nov 2021 - Digital \(pdf\)](#) [\(En Español\)](#) [\(Tiếng Việt\)](#) [\(한 국어\)](#)

For more information, contact LWV CVA Vice President Carol Cutler, email: gertrude3@icloud.com



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.**

WE STILL HAVE MORE THAN 70 MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR 2021-22 DUES!

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

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.”

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 lww@lww-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: 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: _____

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

Date/Time	Event	Place	Contact
Wed., Oct. 6, 4 pm; register by Tues., Oct 5.	Redistricting Commission Hearings by region	Virtual Meeting	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com
Fri., Oct 8, 11 am	LWV CVA Justice Reform Committee: to discuss Seeking Justice	Zoom meeting	For further information and zoom link, contact Kit Murphy McNally, murphymcnally@gmail.com
Sun Oct 17 - CANCELLED	LWV CVA Sunday Seminar		For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com
Wed., Oct 20, 3 – 5 pm	LWV CVA Board Meeting	Zoom meeting	For further information, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com
Thurs., Oct 21, 7 pm	LWV CVA and NAACP (Fluvanna) Host: Fluvanna County School Board Candidates' Forum	Virtual Meeting:	To register, contact Pat Cochran, patcochranlwvcva@gmail.com
Tues, Oct 26, 1 pm	LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Virtual Meeting	For further information, contact Muriel Grim, msggrim2012@gmail.com
[Meetings cancelled until further notice]	LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Govt Meeting		For further information, contact Marge Cox. margevfcov@gmail.com

November 2, 2021 Elections! Important Dates and Deadlines:

- **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 pm.
- **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 pm.
- **November 2, 2021 – Election day. Polls open 6 am to 7 pm.**



Pat Cochran,
LWV CVA President

Michele Kellermann
LWV CVA Newsletter Editor