December 2022 "eVoter" Update

LWV CVA Program Planning set for Saturday, December 3! In-Person Meeting: Saturday, December 3, 2022 10 am – Noon Central Library, Market Street, Charlottesville followed by LWV-VA "Money in Politics" presentation 1 pm to 2 pm

What is "Program Planning"? Program Planning happens annually at the local League level. It is the time when we consider the positions taken by our League on the local and state or national levels. Our positions give the League a voice and are the result of an established process: the LWV takes action on an issue or advocates for a cause when there is an existing League position that supports the issue or speaks to the cause. Without a position, League action/advocacy cannot be taken. This is what your League of Women Voters is all about and Program Planning is your opportunity to weigh in.

For 2022-23, we will study **Local** and **State League positions** in preparation for our May 2023 *LWV CVA Annual Meeting* as well as the June 3-4 LWV-VA convention. Do we wish

- to retain current positions;
- to act on them; and/or
- begin new studies with the goal of establishing consensus and positions for action on other issues? [Click here for sample "<u>Checksheet for Local Program</u>."]

To prepare for our 2022 meeting, check out our **Local Program: Positioned for Action** as described in the *LWV CVA 2022-2023 Member Handbook* [yellow cover]. On pages 16 -21, you will find "Action" items on: **Government, Natural Resources**, and **Social Policy**. (These positions can also be found on our website: <u>lwv-cva.org</u> under the pull-down menu, "Explore the League" – Advocacy, then click on "Local.") LWV CVA Vice-President Carol Cutler recommends that you read the Program section (pages 16-21) of the *LWV CVA 2022-23 Member Handbook* [yellow cover] *before* you come to the meeting and **bring your copy to the meeting.**

Note: Click here for the <u>report</u> by Stephanie Lowenhaupt, re: proposed action statement to be discussed at our December 3 Program Planning meeting identifying key health care issues pertaining to access and equity in the Charlottesville Area that we can advocate for, educate, and inform. AND, click here for the proposed Government position update.

Similarly, review the <u>LWV-VA state positions</u>. A full description can be found by clicking on <u>Positioned for</u> <u>Action</u>. Carolyn Caywood, LWV-VA Program Planning director, asks us to consider "how each position has, or has not, aided advocacy in the last two years. What has changed since the position was approved and is the position broad enough to cover the new circumstances?" Two goals to keep in mind: this is how we keep our positions up-to-date and member-driven, and afterward members should be more familiar with the positions. We will send in our responses by Feb 28, 2023.

For more information about Program Planning, contact Carol Cuter, email: gertrude3@icloud.com

Please Note: After our Program Planning meeting on December 3, we will have a lunch break and then we will watch the LWV-VA "Money in Politics" presentation, beginning at 1 pm. All members are encouraged to stay to watch the "Money in Politics" presentation by the state league study group. We will watch the presentation so that we can answer their consensus questions. Each local league is requested to answer consensus questions for state studies. If you are unable to attend this afternoon session, the zoom link for the study group presentation is:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89290528131?pwd=NnZvNnpPbkhsYTNSZ3ZqeFNodWhEUT09 M eeting ID: 892 9052 8131 Passcode: 771634

For more information about the LWV-VA "Money in Politics" presentation, contact Carol Cuter, email: <u>gertrude3@icloud.com</u>

December LWV CVA Community Dialogue:

"Growth Plans...Growth Pains"

Presented by the LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Rescheduled Date: Monday, December 5, 2022 - Noon

At this virtual meeting panelists will discuss how and why existing growth management strategies were developed, what they have accomplished, and how they might be modified.

Virtual Meeting! Click on the zoom link at noon:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88569035148?pwd=ZXhLc1IxdXpmOUgvbEpkRzdneksrUT09

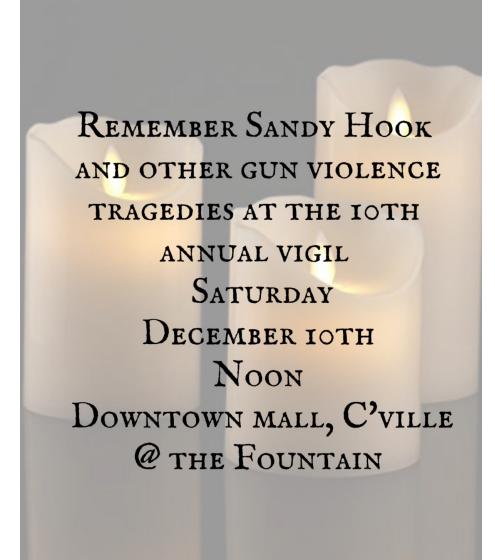
Meeting ID: 885 6903 5148 Dial by your location +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) +1 305 224 1968 US +1 309 205 3325 US

Meeting ID: 885 6903 5148 Passcode: 328616

Find your local number:

https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kcnkfL7sbB

For more information about this event and the Natural Resources Committee, contact Muriel Grim, <u>email: msgrim2012@gmail.com</u>



For more information concerning the vigil, contact LWV CVA Gun Violence Prevention Directors, **Beth Alley** (email:beth.alley@gmail.com) or **Maggie Hoover** (email:maggie.hoover@gmail.com)

LWV CVA International Relations/Federal Government News By Anita Pilling

The IR/FG Committee met November 16 at the Charlottesville Central Library under the direction of Carol Cutler. Apart from the parking challenges, it was a wonderful historical venue in which to meet. At the previous month's meeting the members had chosen to have a post-election discussion with each attendee bringing an article/s to share with the group.

Carol began the discussion with an article from The Economist (9/3/2022) discussing the extreme

polarization that exists in our current Disunited States. The article identified three specific issues: immigration, abortion, and voting rights; and pointed out that opinions and legislation on those issues have become more extreme over the past decade, deepening the divide.

Anita's article from *The Washington Post Magazine* (11/6/2022) made suggestions on how to avoid that extremism which is exacerbated by gerrymandering. Along with ranked-choice voting, would be collective primaries open to all affiliations, and runoffs to ensure the nominee gets a majority. Alaska put these strategies into practice this past election. Another suggestion included expanding the House of Representatives. In 1929 when the current number of 435 representatives was decided, each member represented 280,000 constituents. Today, each member represents 762,000. Multi-member districts were another suggestion.

Jean Minehart brought an article by Frank Bundi that listed several candidates that might replace President Biden as the Democratic nominee in 2024. The consensus of our group was even though Biden will be the oldest candidate for President in U.S. history, he appears healthy, alert, and very knowledgeable. In addition, he is widely respected by democratic world leaders. The fact that all in attendance are lively octogenarians (Anita is a youthful 79) may have influenced our thinking. In conclusion, we are optimistic about the future of our republic since so many voters rejected "denialism" and affirmed a woman's right to make decisions about her own health. Women are smart enough to realize abortion is an economic issue. Democracy won in this year's election.

Join us! For more information about the IR/FG committee, contact Rice Wagner, 386-527-5392. See below for holiday get-together--<u>all</u> League members invited!

LWV CVA Holiday Get-together! <u>Wednesday, December 14, 10 am to 1 pm</u>, at the home of Anita Pilling, 120 West Street, Louisa. Please RSVP to Anita Pilling, 936-662-5744, or email: anitapilling.ap@gmail.com. Include what you would like to bring. Questions, comments? Contact Rice Wagner: 386-527-5392.



THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-CHARLOTTESVILLE AREA

CORDIALLY INVITES ALL LEAGUE MEMBERS to

A covered dish holiday get together...

- DATE DECEMBER 14TH (2nd Wednesday)
- TIME 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
- ADDRESS 120 West Street, Louisa, VA

PLEASE RSVP to

ANITA PILLING 936-662-5744 anitapilling.ap@gmail.com

Also please include what you would like to bring. (drinks will be furnished)

LWV CVA Calendar of Events for December -Mark your Calendars!

LWV CVA Program Planning: <u>Saturday, December 3, 10 to noon.</u> Followed by Consensus Meeting on "Money in Politics" from 1 - 2 pm. Central Library, Market Street, Charlottesville. LWV CVA Natural Resources Committee Community Dialogue: "Growth Plans...Growth Pains" - Monday December 5, noon. New zoom link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88569035148?pwd=ZXhLc1IxdXpmOUgvbEpkRzdneksrUT09

<u>Saturday, December 10, noon</u>."Remember Sandy Hook and Other Gun Violence Tragedies" - 10th Annual Vigil on the Charlottesville Downtown Mall at the Fountain.

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League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area President: Meg Heubeck eVoter Editor: Michele Kellermann Visit our website: <u>Iwv-cva.org</u>

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We are committed to applying the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of our operations and activities. We support governmental policies that apply these principles in addressing the social, environmental and economic problems in our communities.

League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area | PO Box 2786, Charlottesville, VA 22902

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