



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

BULLETIN

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Candidate Forums

These League Forums are co-sponsored with the Montgomery County, Radford City, Floyd County branch of the NAACP, NRV chapter of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, and the News Messenger;

**Blacksburg
Town Council
Thursday, Oct. 3
7 p.m.**

Town Council Chambers, Blacksburg Town Hall, 300 S. Main St., Blacksburg
Moderator: Alvin Humes, president of the local NAACP

Four candidates for three seats on the Council:
Incumbents Susan Anderson, Krisha Chachra, Cecile Newcomb, and challenger April DeMotts.
(Incumbent Mayor Ron Rordam is unopposed)

**Christiansburg
Town Council
Thursday, Oct. 10
7:30 p.m.**

Town Council Chambers, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 East Main St., Christiansburg
Moderator: Judy Snoke, president, League of Women Voters of Montgomery County

Five candidates for three seats on the Council:
Incumbents R. Cord Hall, Steve Huppert, and Bradford "Brad" Stipes and challengers Samuel "Sam" Bishop II, David Fransulich
(Vice mayor, Councilman D. Michael Barber is unopposed for mayor)

**House of
Delegates
Thursday, Oct. 17
7 p.m.**

Town Council Chambers, Blacksburg Town Hall, 300 S. Main St., Blacksburg
Moderator Beth Obenshain, former executive director, New River Land Trust and Roanoke Times editor

7th District: Incumbent Nick Rush; challenger Michael Abraham
12th District: Incumbent Joseph R. Yost; challenger James D. Harder
(8th District: Incumbent Greg Habeeb is unopposed)

**Montgomery
County
Board of
Supervisors/
School Board
Thursday, Oct. 23
7 p.m.**

Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. Christiansburg
Moderator: Wayne Worner, education consultant, retired Virginia Tech faculty

Board of Supervisors:

District A: Incumbent Annette S. Perkins is unopposed
District C: Incumbent Gary D. Creed and challenger Tacy L. Newell
District D: Incumbent James D. Politis, and challengers Michel T. "Todd" King and Michael B. Miller

School Board

District A: Gunin A. Kiran is running unopposed
District D: Incumbent Jamie M. Bond and challenger Thomas "Tom" Zuckerwar

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

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President's Message from Judy Snoke

Program Helped Us Get To Know

Those Whose Work It Is To Answer Questions



Speakers at the League program are: (from left) Becky Wilburn, representing Christiansburg, with Judy Snoke, president, Megan Rhyne, VCOG, Lisa Sedlak, Blacksburg, and Ruth Richey, Montgomery County.

Both the Freedom of Information Act and the concept of Open Government were looked at from several sides at the League program Sept. 19.

“The League wanted to provide education about using FOIA and give

specifically protected under the law, while government agencies have the right to expect reasonable compensation for work done and materials used.

Ruth Richey, public information officer for Montgomery County, illustrated how the work of her office promotes open government in Montgomery County in televising public meetings, developing a website that educates and informs, and organizing public events.

Lisa Sedlak, communications specialist for the Town of Blacksburg, described how Blacksburg uses social media along with conventional media to inform the whole community. The job demands mastery of many, rapidly changing, modes of technology while maintaining high quality print and television offerings for broad impact.

Becky Wilburn, director, human resources and public relations for the Town of Christiansburg described the transition the town has undergone to become a model of open government. Pressure from citizens using FOIA was instrumental in reorienting Christiansburg practices.



Audience collects information. the audience the chance to understand the impact on our local government,” Megan Rhyne, executive director of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government, a nonprofit alliance that promotes expanded access to government, addressed conflicts that might occur between citizens seeking government documents and government officials. She called for understanding of the Act “from both sides of the counter.” Citizens have the right to request documents which are not

What It Means from Bobbie Littlefield

League's Action Chair Explains Her Plan: Yes, We Can

Our Action! Committee is preparing to MOVE forward.

First, we reviewed League guidelines for Action and made note of the difference between:

- A. Lobbying (naming specific bills and asking for committed favorable votes to our position), and
- B. Advocacy, (emphasizing our perspective on an issue without specifying any current bills; thus allowing the use of charitable funding for any expenses incurred)

Issue Teams - We decided to organize our Committee into mini issue specific teams so that we could more easily recruit League members and also interested citizens who would like to join our efforts to influence policies and legislation they care about. Our beginning thoughts regarding priority "hot" issues we may want to tackle included: Health Care, Voting Rights, Education, Environment/Agriculture, Open Government, Women's Right To Choose, Planned Community/Growth, and Criminal Justice/Prisons.

Strategies for Influencing Public Opinion and Specific Decision Makers. With direction from our Board the Action Committee hopes to gear itself up to encourage and assist with such things as:

1. Letter Writing - to the editor or a legislator. A Note: Whenever we decide to use the League's name we must get the proper clearance and the signature of our LWVMC President.
2. Enabling Responses to Action Alerts by our members and friends - whether issued by our National League, State or our LWV MC (local). These may include timely phone contacts or face-to-face visits.
3. League Visibility with regard to its presence and its intentions to promote open, ethical government that benefits all people, not just the "well connected".

We are dedicated to studying important issues in the public domain and encouraging citizen participation in government.

We can take Action! when provoked or inspired, too.

Yes We Can!!

Contact Bobbie Littlefield if you want to be included in any of these potential issue teams. Ph: 540 961 1418 bobbilittle65@gmail.com. We hope our teams' members will develop a sense of camaraderie, as they laugh, play and do their meaningful work.

As of Wednesday afternoon, the Virginia Governor Candidates have agreed to participate in a debate at Virginia Tech, Thursday, Oct. 24.

Ken T. Cuccinelli II (R)
Terry R. McAuliffe (D)

The debate is sponsored by Virginia Tech and WDBJ-TV

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Nov. 5

Last Day To Register To Vote
Oct. 15

Calendar

- Oct. 1, noon First Tuesday Luncheon, Famous Anthony's, finalize plans for the Forums
- Oct. 3, 7 pm Blacksburg Town Council Forum, Blacksburg Town Council Chambers, Blacksburg Town Hall, 300 S. Main St. Blacksburg
- Oct. 8, 11 am League Board of Directors, Community room, Blacksburg branch, Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library.
- Oct. 10, 7:30 pm Christiansburg Town Council Forum Christiansburg Town Council Chambers, Christiansburg Town Hall 100 East Main St. Christiansburg
- Oct. 17, 7 pm House of Delegates Forum, Blacksburg Town Council Chambers, Blacksburg Town Hall, 300 S. Main St. Blacksburg
- Oct. 23, 7 pm Forum for Board of Supervisors/School Board, Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg.

Bulletin Sponsors

Warm Hearth Village, Blacksburg's Retirement Destination - (540) 552-9176

Runabout Sports – A Great Place for Shoes (540) 552-9339

Education Programs & Services LLC – Wayne “Dempsey” Worner (540) 552-8807

Companion Animal Clinic, Inc., Blacksburg (540) 552-6800

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TODAY

Become a member of the League of Women Voters. The annual membership fee is \$50. This payment includes local, state, and national membership dues. Members receive The National Voter, The Virginia Voter, and The Montgomery County Bulletin. Email: Membership@lwvmcva.org. Or email Alison Wilson at alisonwilson@verizon.net