



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

BULLETIN

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P.O. Box 10133, Blacksburg, VA 24062-0133
<http://www.lwvmcva.org>

Anger, Frustration, and the 2016 Presidential Election

Hear why political analysts note the 2016 Presidential election is different

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

German Club, Southgate Dr., Blacksburg

Co sponsored with the LifeLong Learning Institute



Caitlin Jewitt



Daniel Reed



Charles Walcott



Karen Hult, moderator

Caitlin Jewitt, professor of political science at Virginia Tech, has researched political campaigns and presidential primaries and caucuses.

Daniel Reed, professor of political science at Radford University, has studied voter mobilization and political campaigns.

Charles Walcott, political science professor emeritus at Virginia Tech, has co-authored two prize-winning books on White House governance as well as articles focusing on the U.S. Presidency. The books' co-author, Karen Hult, chair of the political science department at Virginia Tech will be moderating the panel.

The League of Women Voters, a community-based 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 is a non partisan political organization that does not support or endorse any political party or candidate, 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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PBS Gerrymandering Program To Be Broadcast Oct. 18

WCVW-TV, Richmond public television, in cooperation with One Virginia 2021, has produced a 56-minute documentary on Gerrymandering and redistricting in Virginia.

According to Brian Cannon, Executive Director of One Virginia 2021, the documentary will be shown on public TV stations throughout Virginia, including WBRA, Tuesday, Oct. 18. Short sections of the documentary can be viewed on the One Virginia 2021 web site, www.onevirginia2021.org.

Voter Service Activities

League Making Efforts To Inform Voters About Two Elections, Two Constitutional Amendments

In a presidential election year, voter service activities accelerate. Two elections and two Virginia Constitutional Amendments will be on the 2016 Montgomery County ballot. In addition to the presidential election, voters will choose between Morgan Griffith, (R) Incumbent, Derek Kitts (D) and Janice Boyd (I) to represent the 9th Congressional District. Information on the two Virginia Constitutional Amendments is posted on VOTE411.org.

We have not yet received a response from Congressman Griffith to our invitation to him and to Derek Kitts to participate in a Candidate Forum. Our invitation gave the candidates six possible dates in October and ten in September.

The US League's election web site, VOTE411.org, requested the three candidates for the 9th Congressional District respond to a Voter Guide with four policy questions. Two of those questions were required by the Virginia LWV, the other two came from the Washington County LWV and our League. Derek Kitts and Janice Boyd's Voter Guide responses are posted on VOTE411.org. They will be printed in the next newsletter and posted on our web site, lwvmcva.org. Congressman Griffith did not respond the Voter Guide request.

The League is widely distributing information about how to register to vote and how to vote absentee in Montgomery County and Radford, especially at Virginia Tech and at Radford University. This year, the Virginia Department of Elections encourages individuals who have a

Virginia driver's license or DMV ID, to register on line at www.vote.virginia.gov. That same web site can be used to check your registration. The deadline for registering to vote in the Nov. 8 election is Oct. 17. Members who have been helping distribute this information are: Ann Hess, Susan Gurley and Jane Wills, working with Penny Franklin in Christiansburg and Susan Anderson, Phyllis Albritton, Carol Linker and Alison Wilson in Blacksburg.

For registered Virginia voters who need to vote absentee this year, the application for an absentee ballot must be filed with the General Registrar in the County or City where the voter is registered. The General Registrar then sends a ballot to the applicant and the applicant returns the completed ballot to their General Registrar. To get an application for an absentee ballot, applicants must either get the application at their General Registrar's office or from <http://elections.virginia.gov/Files/Forms/VoterForms/VirginiaAbsenteeBallotApplication.pdf>

League volunteers have registered voters and distributed voter information at: the NAACP Juneteenth celebration on June 18 in Christiansburg, the AARP Health and Wellness Fair on Sept. 14, and Hollins University on Sept. 15. Volunteers will be at the Meadowbrook Harvest Festival on Oct. 1. Members who have helped at these events are: Phyllis Albritton, Susan Gurley, Mary Houska, Mary Ann Johnson, Carol Linker, Molly McClintock, Tacy Newell, Irene Peterson, Nancy Warren, Jane Wills, and Alison Wilson.

Thank you for donations

Edie Shumacher

David Scheim

Mary Ann Johnson honor of co-presidents

Ann Hess

Susan Baker

Jeanie Baker

Mary Powe

Joseph Merola and Catherine duBreuil
Phyllis Albritton in honor of Mary Houska
Harriett Cooper in memory of Mary Britt
Ann Goette in memory of Mary Britt and

Mary Ellen Lloyd

Janice Litschert

Judy Snoko

Bev Fleming

Lindsay West

Carolyn Rude

Nancy and Charles Warren

Mary and Charles Houska

John Muffo

Alvin Humes

Debbie Nuss

June and Don Mullins

Lillian Moore

Catherine Snyder

Leanne Mitchell

Working With Others in Community Makes It Possible To Accomplish Goals

The League would not be able to play its role in the community were it not for the help from scholars, local governments, community activists, and organizations. Here is a list of some of them. We know that many individuals take actions that make the events happen seemingly easily and the League is grateful for those unsung helpers.

The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy and the local branch of the NAACP have co-sponsored our Candidate Forums for years. Stephanie Gilmore and Mary Lough, and the VICPP volunteers helped at our Candidate Forums and the Conversation with Senator James Shuler about Redistricting in Virginia. Alvin Humes and the NAACP always help getting posters up, especially in Christiansburg. Alvin's advice during the Forums is especially helpful. Ben Crawford and the local AARP help with Candidate Forums.

The News Messenger also was a co-sponsor of our Candidate Forums.

Brian Perdue, former editor of The News Messenger, was moderator for the Constitutional Officers Forum. Brian helped persuade some candidates to participate.

The News Messenger printed a long essay on Redistricting in Virginia that was in our January Bulletin, helping us educate the public about the problems with partisan redistricting and the efforts of organizations such as OneVirginia 2021 to bring about nonpartisan redistricting.

Charles Walcott, Virginia Tech political science professor emeritus, spoke at the Annual Meeting on "Anger, 'Trumpism,' and the 2016 Presidential Election."

Great Decisions participants heard insights on the eight topics from resource persons: Professors Bill Hopkins, William Ochsenwald, Rachel Scott, Laura Zanotti, Eunja Hwang, Darrel Clowes, Phillip Jordan, Yannis Stivachtis and Ilja Luciak and Donald Back. Professor Deborah Milly spoke at the Great Decisions preview. By co-sponsoring Great

Decisions, the Lifelong Learning Institute greatly expanded the participant base and provided a new location. Jerry Niles, Patricia Hyer, Michael Hyer, and Linda Woodard provided the LLI support.

Montgomery County and the Town of Blacksburg videographers skillfully video-recorded our Candidate Forums and the County put the Forum videos on YouTube. The Town of Blacksburg and Montgomery County generously allow us to use their meeting rooms for these Forums.

Registrar of Elections, Randall Wertz, and his staff registered 100 County high school students at the high schools, the last week in April.

Blacksburg Mayor Ron Rordam and the Blacksburg Town Council joined us for breakfast in February and the Montgomery County School Board and Superintendent Mark Mear joined us for dessert in April.

Radford City Chamber of Commerce co-sponsored the Radford City Candidate Forum. Chamber President, David Horton, was moderator. Its Executive Director is Lisa Davis

Review from National Convention

Membership To Include 16 year-olds; Defining Non-partisan; Setting Empowering Voters Main Work

The 52nd League of Women Voters National Convention was held June 16-19 in Washington, DC. Our voting delegate, Terry Ellen Carter, brought back valuable information on many subjects. Three topics are of particular interest: a change to the bylaws, a change in language, and a return to our roots as the League of Women VOTERS.

Articles 1-3 of our local bylaws must conform with the National bylaws. Article 3, defining "voting members" was changed at the convention. That used to read "citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members." Article 3 now reads "PERSONS at least SIXTEEN years of age..." The following paragraph redefines "Associate Members" in relation to that change, now stating "all others who join shall be associate members."

A second important change concerns the language that we use to describe the League. We are instructed to stop

saying LWV is non-partisan; people don't understand "non-partisan." We will use the definition of non-partisan when describing the League. Simply: The League of Women voters does not support or endorse any political party or candidate.

The third key takeaway was the overarching theme of the convention: the League of Women Voters, all of us, must focus on a united platform for action and impact on voting and voting rights. The LWVUS CEO, Wylecia Wiggs-Harris, delivered a very clear message of "one voice, one program" - getting back to the focus on voting. Grow the vote, protect the vote, inform voters.

We were reminded that we must grow the vote by registering voters. This is a staple of the League's work.

We were reminded that we must empower voters by informing them. More than one speaker made the point that the League is a highly trusted source of information, and that the Voter Guides

may be the most important thing we do.

We were reminded that we must protect voting rights. This is the first year without the full protection of the Voting Rights Act. We must ensure that tools like the national voter hotline (1-866-OUR-VOTE) and VOTE411.org are known to voters. Regardless of where this information is supposed to be already available, we must have that information on the tip of our tongue up to, and on, Election Day 2016.

Wylecia wrapped up by pointing out that League of Women voters voice is diminishing in the face of lots of new advocacy and issue groups. There are better qualified groups to advocate for health care or early childhood education. Who will advocate to protect voter rights if we are talking about fracking and guns?

We must go back to our beginnings as the League of Women Voters and grow the vote, protect the vote and inform voters.

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Nov. 8

Calendar

Sept. 26 - First Presidential Debate
Oct. 4 - 11:45 am - First Tuesday Lunch at 622 North Main, Blacksburg
Oct. 4 - 7 - 8:30 pm - "Anger, Frustration, and the 2016 Presidential Election" German Club Manor
Oct. 4 - 9 pm - Vice Presidential Debate
Oct. 9 - Second Presidential Debate
Oct. 11 - 4 - 5:30 pm - LWV-MC Board Meeting, Habitat ReStore, Christiansburg
Oct. 17 - Last day to register to vote in November 8 election
Oct. 18 - Gerrymandering PBS documentary program on Virginia Redistricting, WBRA-TV
Oct. 19 - Third Presidential Debate

Sponsor

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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.