

State Board Letter

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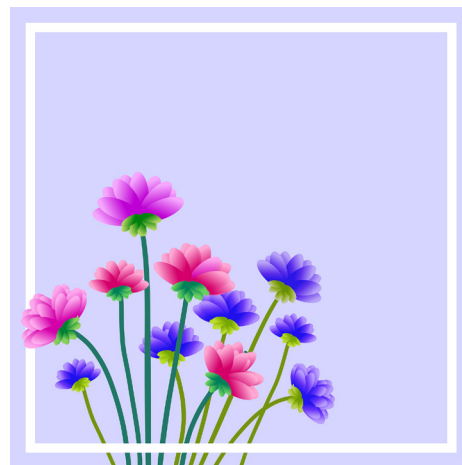


LWVMD Calendar

- Mar**
- 1-31 Women's History Month
 - 29 LWVMD DEI Book Club
virtual, 4pm-5pm
 - 31 Harvard Case Method Project
Community Discussion
virtual, 6:30pm-8pm
 - 31 Civic Education and Engagement
Leadership Summit
virtual, 9:30am-2pm

- April**
- 7 History on the Voting Rights
Amendments Discussion
virtual, 3:30pm
 - 27 LWVMD DEI Book Club
virtual, 4pm-5pm

- May**
- 1-31 Asian Pacific Heritage Month
 - 1-31 Jewish American Heritage Month
 - 13 LWVMD Day on Capitol Hill
format and time TBD



The SBL is a monthly LWVMD publication that seeks to strengthen understanding and collaboration between the Board and local Leagues statewide

President's Message

March was Women's History Month which certainly has meaning for the League of Women Voters. LWVMD's March DEI Book Club selection, *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* by Elaine Weiss, was a fascinating read and a deep dive into the political maneuvering by the pro- and anti-suffrage factions.

As I remarked at the DEI workshop that was held on March 19, when the League of Women Voters of the United States began to plan for a commemoration of the League's hundredth Anniversary, the Board made the decision that while the formation of the League of Women Voters and women securing the right to the vote were important milestones, our part in the suffrage movement wasn't very pretty; we need to own that. Whether for political expediency or outright racism, African American women and men who were League allies were often marginalized or excluded altogether. In order to secure passage of the 19th Amendment, especially in the southern states, League founders made disturbing assurances that guaranteeing women the right to vote did not

mean that Negro women would be playing a large role in elections, and the same tools that were being used to disenfranchise Negro men could be used to limit the influence of Negro women in elections.

Thankfully, the League has made a conscious decision to recognize its past failings and create a future path for the next 100 years that will be committed to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in every aspect of the organization. If the League is to survive, it can no longer count on the leaders of the past – older white women like me - to be the leaders of the future. The world is changing and League members need to open their minds and hearts and change too. However, changing a 100-year-old culture is not a simple task. That's why we need to be intentional about it and why I am so grateful for our LWVMD DEI Committee and the commitment that they bring to this work.



LWVMD President Nancy Soreng

State Board Meeting Highlights

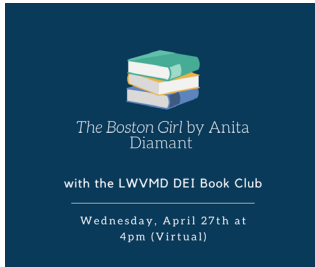
May 13, 2022, will be the LWVMD Day on Capitol Hill. Details will be available once the event has been scheduled.

Thanks to the almost 50 LWVMD Action volunteers, the League has been able to advocate on bills addressing administration of justice, election processes, firearms control, redistricting, natural resources, social policy, and DEI related legislation.

Stacey Morrison, SBL editor

Committees

DEI Book Club



This April we are reading New York Times Best Seller the *Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant. Join us to learn more about the main character Addie and her experiences growing up in Boston in the early twentieth century. As always we hope to further our understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The book club is free and open to all. To join the conversation, register [here](#). If you have questions, email Executive Director Nikki Tyree at stateoffice@lwwmd.org.

The Boston Girl, by Anita Diamant
Wednesday, April 27, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Nikki Tyree, Executive Director

Are you going to be a delegate at the LWVUS convention in June? If so, you'll want to keep track of concurrences that will be proposed for a vote. Last month, we noted four concurrences that are being proposed on immigration reform, digital equity, health care, and criminal justice. Five(!) more have been added:

1. Election Security: identifies elements of election security and calls for an explicit LWVUS position. Proposed by LWV of Colorado.
2. Digital Democracy Study: proposes a study to examine how online platforms and social media affect democracy and the election process. Proposed by LWV of Maine.
3. Personal Information Security and Information Protection: directs government, individuals and organizations to have strong cybersecurity protections and deterrence as well as uniform privacy rights. Proposed by LWV of Oregon.
4. Electronic Business and Social Media, Cybersecurity Responsibilities: Recognizing the right to free speech, calls for organizations conducting electronic business and social media to bear the responsibility for protecting information, including liability for failure to protect individuals from harm. Proposed by LWV of Oregon.
5. Monetary System: seeks advocacy for change in the monetary system consistent with LWV's commitment to government policies supporting democracy, the meeting of human needs, and promoting environmental protection. Proposed by LWV of Athens County (Ohio).

**More
Concurrences
Proposed
for National
Convention**

**YES
or
NO**

Lots more information is provided for all of the proposals at the LWVUS convention's program planning [Wiki page](#). LWVMD will convene a meeting before convention for all of Maryland's delegates to review the proposals and other business that may come up at the meeting.

Linda Kohn, VP Program

Committees

Civics Education and the Harvard Case Method

The LWV Anne Arundel County invites you to join an interactive community discussion modeled after the Harvard Case Method on:

Martin Luther King Jr. and the Struggle for Black Voting Rights
Thursday, March 31, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

What would you have done? It was to be the march following “Bloody Sunday”. While marchers didn’t know it at the time, officials offered Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., a “turn around” option. What led up to his decision - and what would you have done?

Moderated by Anne Arundel County public school teachers, the discussion will follow the renowned Harvard Case Method Project approach to civics education, which engages participants in how to examine and respond to a situation by keying in on a specific moment in American history, putting themselves in that time and situation. Case materials will be provided with registration.

To register for this free virtual event, visit lwvaacmd.org/22Case_MLK. If you have questions about the event, please email LWV Anne Arundel VP Gail Viamonte at vp@lwvaacmd.org.

Gail Viamonte, LWVAAC Vice President



Looking for answers to technical questions? Check out the revamped [NationBuilder Resources](#) page on the LWVMD website. “How to” instructions and other League-specific tips are now provided in an FAQ format and sorted by searchable category:

- Getting Started in NB
- Member Management
- Website Management
- Communications and Eblasts
- Financial Management
- G Suite and Google Tools

Online Resources Webpage: New Look, Expanded Content

The Online Services Committee is continuing to add to these resources, and we encourage members to let us know what’s missing by emailing online@lwvmd.org. Additional resources available for viewing include a video recording of the LWVMD’s February 26 training on [NationBuilder skills](#) and LWVMD Secretary Richard Willson’s video explanation about the use of [copyright material](#) in League print and online media.

Niecy Chambers, Online Services Committee Member

Committees

Legislative Day 2022 Wrap-up



The LWMD Legislative Day on March 7 was a well attended and informative event. The LWVMD was fortunate to have Senator Ronald N. Young, Delegate Sara Love, and Victoria Gruber, the Executive Director of Legislative Services, as the event's speakers. Senator Young informed participants about a wide spectrum of bills that have come to the Senate this session. He took questions from the audience and was able to let us know how citizens could get more involved. Delegate Love talked about her environmental initiatives including bills for which the LWVMD testified, such as clarifying labeling on recyclables. Victoria Gruber gave an overview of the state budget, which is always a big hit with members.

Several LWVMD action team leaders also gave mid-session reports on the bills their teams are tracking in the Maryland General Assembly, including Election Protections, DEI, Transportation, Campaign Finance, Administration of Justice, Redistricting, and so much more. Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Legislative Day such a success.

Nikki Tyree, Executive Director

Maryland's Primary Election Day has been delayed for three weeks because redistricting lawsuits are still pending for Maryland's congressional and state legislative districts. Other dates in the election calendar have been changed accordingly, as listed below:

Primary Election Delays and VOTE411

April 15, 2022	Deadline to file for candidacy
June 28, 2022	Deadline to register to vote, update registration or change party affiliation for the primary
July 7, 2022	Early voting begins (7 am – 8 pm)
July 12, 2022	Deadline for registered voters to request a mailed or faxed mail-in ballot
July 14, 2022	Last day of early voting
July 19, 2022	Primary Election Day (7 am – 8 pm). Voter registration available at polling places

[VOTE411.org](https://vote411.org) will go live with candidates' responses to LWV's questions on June 4. PDFs of the Voters' Guides for each county will be posted on lwvmd.org in late June.

Barbara Crain, Voter Services Director



Save the Dates

History of Voting Rights Amendments

Join the LWVMD on Thursday, April 7, at 3:30 p.m. for a discussion on the history of voting rights amendments. This event is offered in conjunction with the [National Constitution Center](#) in Philadelphia, PA. Registration is currently open; to join the discussion, click [here](#).

Genie Massey, Youth Engagement Director



The [MD Civic Education Coalition](#) will be hosting a Civic Education and Engagement Leadership Summit on Saturday, April 30, from 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., with an introductory "coffee hour" starting at 8:30 a.m. At this day long event, participants will learn from and interact with youth, educators, community partners and others from across the state. This event is free and open to anyone interested in the idea of empowering youth to improve our communities.

To register, visit the MD Civic Education Coalition's [2022 Summit](#) page. Register by March 31st and include your address to receive an attendee celebration kit.

Civic Education and Engagement Leadership Summit

Genie Massey, Youth Engagement Director

