

# State Board Letter

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### LWVMD

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## LWVMD Calendar

- |             |       |  |
|-------------|-------|--|
| <b>June</b> | 1-30  | LGBTQ Pride Month  |
|             | 4     | VOTE411.org goes live  |
|             | 4     | LWVMD Council 2022 virtual, 9:30am-12pm                                    |
|             | 12    | LWVUS Convention Briefing for all League delegates from MD virtual, 4pm    |
|             | 15    | LWVMD Civic Education & Youth Engagement Working Group virtual, 10:30am    |
|             | 18    | Moral March on Washington Washington, D.C., 10am                           |
|             | 19    | Juneteenth   |
|             | 23-26 | LWVUS Convention virtual and in Denver                                     |
|             | 28    | LWVMD DEI book club virtual, 4-5pm   |
| <b>July</b> | 7     | Early voting begins  |
|             | 12    | Deadline for registered voters to request a mailed or faxed mail-in ballot |
|             | 14    | Last day of early voting   |
|             | 19    | Primary Election Day   |
|             | 21    | LWVMD Board Retreat virtual, 9:30am-12:30pm                                |



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

## President's Message

As I write this, our awesome Voter Service volunteers, who are ably guided by LWVMD Voters Services Chair Barbara Crain, are scrambling to get Vote411 and print Voters' Guides published. They have put in many, many long hours toward this goal. The redistricting court cases caused a delay in the candidate filing deadline; a delay in determining precincts based on the new local, state and federal election districts; and ultimately a delay in the date for the Primary Election. All of this put extra pressure on our incredible volunteers. Added to that pressure was the roll-out of an "enhanced" system for Vote411. As anyone knows, new technology often comes with glitches and bumps that are frustrating and time-consuming to handle.

When you open your print Voters' Guide or log onto Vote411 to inform yourself by using the massive amount of information on candidates and the offices they are seeking,

please think about all of the work that went into collecting and publishing that. And if you know anyone who had a part in this project, please give them a well deserved thank you. Doing this work is one of the core projects of the League of Women Voters, and it could never happen if every local League didn't pitch in with volunteer support.

We are in the home stretch of the LWVMD's work year. I hope many of you can attend our virtual Council on June 4; see page 3 for more information on this event. If you can't attend, please take a moment to read the Council Workbook which will be posted on the [LWVMD website](https://www.lwvmd.org) sometime before the event; it will have a recap of our accomplishments over the last year.



*LWVMD President Nancy Soreng*

### State Board Meeting Highlights

Is your League holding a Candidate's Forum? If so, send the dates and information to LWVMD member Ralph Watkins, [rwatkins@lwvmd.org](mailto:rwatkins@lwvmd.org), and he will post it to the [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) site.

A big thank you to Jennifer Suttor of LWV Montgomery County and Ruth Crystal of LWV Baltimore City for agreeing to co-chair the LWVMD's Living Wage study.

A workshop for all local League treasurers is on its way. LWVMD Treasurer, Janet Bellizzi, will send out an invite once everything is ready. For more information, contact Janet at [jbellizzi@lwvmd.org](mailto:jbellizzi@lwvmd.org).

LWVMD is now a member of the [Health Care for All](https://www.healthcareforall.org) coalition. Its mission is to make sure every Marylander has access to affordable and quality healthcare. Thank you LWV Baltimore County member, Nora Miller Smith, for serving as the LWVMD liaison to this group.

*Stacey Morrison, SBL editor*

## Events

### DEI Book Club

#### LWVMD DEI BOOK CLUB

*Stay and Fight* by Madeline Ffitch

Tuesday, June 28th from 4-5pm  
(virtual)



This month the DEI Book club will be reading *Stay and Fight* by Madeline Ffitch. In this debut novel we learn about independent spirit, family, and freedom. Please join us as we continue our knowledge and 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@lwvmd.org](mailto:stateoffice@lwvmd.org).

*Stay and Fight*, by Madeline Ffitch  
Tuesday, June 28, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

*Nikki Tyree, Executive Director*

There is still time to register for the LWVMD 2022 Council, held virtually this year on **Saturday, June 4, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

### LWVMD Council 2022

This year's theme will be Creating a More Just Society and the keynote speaker is Senator Jill Carter, who will address juvenile justice reform. Participants will also hear from LWVMD Redistricting Team Leader Beth Hufnagel as she discusses the power impacts of redistricting and Rebecca Rehr, Director of Climate Policy and Justice at the Maryland League of Conservation Voters, who will speak about climate change and social justice. Our last breakout session will examine adjusting to a non binary world. The Council is also the time where members adopt the LWVMD budget.

To register for this event, and to see the proposed budget, click [here](#). Tickets are \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. We hope to see you soon.

*submitted by Stacey Morrison, SBL editor*

A poster for the LWVMD 2022 Council event. The background is a dark image of the Maryland State Capitol building. The text "LWVMD 2022 COUNCIL" is in large white letters. Below it, the theme "Our theme for this year is Creating a More Just Society." is written. A list of featured breakout rooms includes "Power Impacts of Redistricting", "Adjusting to a Non-Binary World", and "Climate Change and Social Justice". A circular portrait of Senator Jill Carter is shown, with her name and title "Keynote Speaker on Juvenile Justice Reform" below it. At the bottom, the date "04 June, 2022" and time "9:30am-12pm" are listed, along with the LWV logo.

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## Events

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There were 140 million Americans living in poverty or one emergency away from economic ruin before the pandemic. Today, millions continue living on the edge of hunger or eviction, without access to health care or living wages. They are the people most vulnerable to decisions like the potential overturning of Roe v. Wade. They are the people most vulnerable to climate change, systemic racism, and economic oppression.

### Moral March on Washington and to the Polls

This June, the LWV is joining the [Poor People's Campaign](#) in demonstrating the power of poor and low-income people and demanding systemic change by organizing the [Moral March on Washington and to the Polls](#). LWVUS is a mobilizing partner for this event, and LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase Solomon and a League member are speakers on the agenda. For those unable to join in-person, digital actions will be available. Click [here](#) to find a rideshare near you. Please note, rideshare spaces are limited and filling quickly.

**WHEN:** June 18 2022, 10 a.m.

**WHAT:** Moral March on Washington and to the Polls

**WHERE:** Washington, DC

*Nancy Soreng, President*



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### LWVUS Convention Delegate Briefing

The LWVUS Convention is just a few weeks away, June 23-26. There is still time to register delegates, the number of which are allotted to each League based on membership size. Leagues with 1-49 members can send 1 delegate, 50-99 members can send 2, and 100-149 or more can send 3. It is likely that not every League in Maryland will be able to fulfill their designated delegate slate.

Fortunately, those extra spaces may be filled by members of other League's whose maximum allotment has already been met. If your League has met your maximum but has additional members who would like to serve as delegates, contact LWVMD Executive Director Nikki Tyree at [stateoffice@lwwmd.org](mailto:stateoffice@lwwmd.org) to find out how to make this happen.

Prior to the convention, LWVMD President Nancy Soreng will be holding a briefing for all delegates, both from the LWVMD and local Leagues, on **Sunday, June 12, at 4 p.m.** At this briefing, delegates will learn more about the convention's structure and processes, discuss the resolutions that will be presented at the convention, learn how to access the pre-convention videos the LWVUS has put together, and discuss whether the LWVMD will man a wares table. To ensure that everyone receives this invitation, please send the names and contact information for each of your delegates to Nancy at [pres@lwwmd.org](mailto:pres@lwwmd.org).

*submitted by Stacey Morrison, SBL editor*

## Committees

The virtual LWVMD Board Retreat will be held on **Thursday, July 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** to set goals and develop a calendar for the 2022-2023 work year. This meeting is open to all members, and the agenda and Zoom link will be shared with local League presidents. Any member who would like to attend this retreat or the monthly LWVMD Board meetings should please contact their President or Co-President. The LWVMD is interested in hearing what you think the state League should try to accomplish in the next year, and your thoughts on how to get there. Send a message to President Nancy Soreng at [pres@lwvmd.org](mailto:pres@lwvmd.org) if you have ideas.

## LWVMD Board Retreat and 2022-2023 Calendars

Shortly after the retreat the LWVMD calendar will be shared with all local Leagues so they can refer to it when planning their own calendars; hopefully this will minimize the planning of events that are in conflict with each other. To avoid such conflicts, last fall the LWVMD collected local League monthly meeting information and will use this when planning the calendar for the coming year. If the dates and times listed below are no longer valid, please let Nancy know.

*Nancy Soreng, President*



League	Meeting Dates/Times
Anne Arundel	2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m.
Baltimore City	1st Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.
Baltimore County	1st Thursday, 10 a.m.
Calvert	2nd Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.
Frederick	3rd Monday, 6 p.m.
Howard	2nd Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
Kent	2nd Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.
MidShore	2nd Wednesday, 10 a.m.
Montgomery	1st Wednesday, 6:45 p.m.
Prince George's	1st Saturday, 10 a.m.
St Mary's	2nd Monday 6 p.m.
Queen Anne's	2nd Monday, 6:30 p.m.
Washington	2nd Thursday, 7 p.m.



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## Committees

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### Civic Education & Youth Engagement Working Group

Leagues have a long history of partnering with schools to promote civic education and youth engagement in local communities. The pandemic disrupted many of those efforts and the climate within schools is still in some turmoil, but there is hope! The [MD Student & Military Voter Empowerment Act](#) has opened up new possibilities at community colleges, state universities, and private colleges across the state. K-12 schools are also beginning to embrace new programming as they work to empower students and families. Communities are hungry for meaningful events to increase their political effectiveness in this complicated world. What are

we already doing and how is it going? What are we hoping to do in the future? What are the challenges that we are facing?

Let's meet on **June 15th at 10:30** on Zoom to connect, collaborate, and problem solve together! Contact Genie Massey [gmassey@lwvmd.org](mailto:gmassey@lwvmd.org) to join!

*Genie Massey, Youth Engagement Director*



**LWVMD Civic Education  
& Youth Engagement  
Working Group**

—  
Collaborate with local League  
members & LWVMD to amplify  
our efforts across the state!  
—

Contact: [gmassey@lwvmd.org](mailto:gmassey@lwvmd.org)

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On June 4, [VOTE411.org](https://vote411.org) will have all the candidate information League members have been busily compiling these last few months. Now it's time to direct voters to the site, and the LWVUS has put together resources to help Leagues do just that. Visit the League's [VOTE411 Resources Toolkit](#) where you'll find promotional materials like social media sample posts, press release templates, postcards, graphics, memes, and QR codes. There are also links to the LWVUS merch portal and to the League's YouTube channel for VOTE411 PSA videos; PSAs *Use the Power of Your Voice* and *VOTE411 National Association of Broadcasters* are the only dated videos.

**VOTE411  
Goes Live  
June 4**



There are lots of other ways to get the word out, such as:

- Sending the VOTE411 website link to your personal contacts and faith affiliations.
- Distributing the link and other materials to your League's coalition and community partners.
- Posting the link to your League's website and any listserve to which you subscribe.
- Making VOTE411 cards and fliers to distribute at libraries and at voter registration events.
- Announcing the VOTE411.org site at your League's candidate forums.

If your League has used other means to inform voters about VOTE411, please send that information to the LWVMD at [stateoffice@lwvmd.org](mailto:stateoffice@lwvmd.org).

*submitted by Stacey Morrison, SBL editor*

## Committees

### Working Towards Health Equity

The Baltimore City Health Department periodically publishes *Neighborhood Health Profile Reports*, which compare health outcomes of people living in various City neighborhoods. The data is sobering, and makes clear the impact that social determinants of health have both on a person's quality of life and their life expectancy.

Social determinants of health are those factors other than your physical condition which influence your health and well-being. They include variables like your home, neighborhood, income, job and working conditions, your exposure to violence, pollution and the effects of climate change, your education level, whether you are food insecure, if you have good social supports, access to reliable transportation, health insurance coverage, etc.

These social determinants of health can contribute to shocking health disparities. For example, Baltimore City's 2017 [Neighborhood Health Profile Report](#) noted that people living in the Clifton/Berea neighborhood (94.9% Black) had an average life expectancy at birth of 66.9 years. Those living in the Cross-Country/Cheswolde neighborhood (72.9% White) had an average life expectancy at birth of 87.1 years.

What leads to that shocking difference in life expectancy of 20.2 years between the two neighborhoods? The Report breaks down the data into various categories. Here is a sample of some of them:

Health measure	Clifton-Berea	Cross-Country/Cheswolde
% of families with children with income below poverty level	30.2%	10.5%
Percentage unemployed	17.4%	6.5%
Number of liquor stores per 10,000 residents	6.1	0.0
Number of tobacco stores per 10,000 residents	32.4	0.0
% of land covered by green space	11.8%	52.7%
% of land zoned industrial	14.5%	0.0%
Rate of rat complaints per 10,000 households	977.6	26.2
% of 3 <sup>rd</sup> graders at "proficient or advanced" reading level	34.5%	61.3%
Homicide rate per 10,000 residents	7.9	0.3
% of children with elevated lead levels	5.0%	0.0%
Number of vacant lots per 10,000 housing units	1,605	103
% of land covered by food desert	47.9%	0.0%
% of women receiving prenatal care in 1 <sup>st</sup> trimester	51.7%	62.8%
<b>Life expectancy at birth</b>	<b>66.9 years</b>	<b>87.1 years</b>

The social and health disparities illustrated by this data are indeed shocking, and of course are not limited to Baltimore City. They can be found throughout our state and nation.

The League of Women Voters Maryland believes in democracy, justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. League members advocate for equity in education, housing, transportation and healthcare; for environmental justice, social justice, and strong gun safety laws; against racial discrimination and police misconduct; for fair government and voting rights that are iron-clad and cannot be chipped away; for LGBTQ rights, disability rights, and the rights of all of us - regardless of the neighborhood in which we live - to have the best chance to live a long, safe, and healthy life. With all of us in the League working together, the hope is that all of this will be possible - for ourselves, our brothers and sisters, children and grandchildren, and all who come after.

*Nora Miller Smith, LWVMD Liaison to Health Care for All*

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## Committees

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The LWVMD hosted its annual *Day on Capitol Hill* on May 13, 2022. All of Maryland's congressional offices participated in this virtual event as did more than 20 League members. The focus of the discussion was on climate legislation.

### LWVMD Virtual Day on Capitol Hill Recap

Both Maryland Senators Cardin and Van Hollen spoke League attendees, as did Maryland Representatives John Sarbanes (D3), David Trone (D6), Kweisi Mfume (D7) and Jamie Raskin (D8). Representatives Andy Harris (D1), Dutch Ruppersberger (D2), Anthony Brown (D4), and Steny Hoyer (D5) were unable to participate directly but delegated to knowledgeable staffers.

Senator Van Hollen, who is on the critical Appropriations and Budget committees, discussed several bills that he cosponsored for which the LWVMD advocated:

- **Climate Risk Disclosure Act**, which requires publicly listed companies to disclose their climate risks to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Senator Cardin co-sponsored this bill.
- **THRIVE Act**, which asserts that the federal government has a duty to develop a holistic agenda to respond to racial injustice, unemployment, the COVID pandemic, and climate change. Congressman Raskin co-sponsored this bill.
- A **joint Congressional resolution** calling for renewed U.S. leadership in addressing the climate crisis and delegating authority to the relevant executive agencies to prepare a climate recovery plan that puts the U.S. on a trajectory consistent with reducing global atmospheric carbon to below 350 parts per million by the year 2100. Congressmen Raskin and Sarbanes co-sponsored this resolution.
- **RECLAIM Act**, which was incorporated last year into the bi-partisan infrastructure bill and provided funding for states and Indian tribes to promote economic revitalization, diversification, and development in communities adversely affected by coal mining.

All representatives except Andy Harris expressed support for these positions. The legislators indicated that active negotiations are ongoing in the Senate, where they hope a number of the key provisions may be included in the upcoming budget reconciliation package before the summer recess, which could pass with a simple majority and then to reconciliation and passage in the House.

All the legislators addressing the League expressed support for the LWVMD's work and encouraged League members to continue their advocacy.

*Jackie Coolidge, LWVMD Lobby Corps Coordinator*

