

State Board Letter

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LWVMD

121 Cathedral Street
Suite 2B
Annapolis, MD 21401

phone: 410-269-0232
web: lwvmd.org
email: info@lwvmd.org
social media: [@lwvmd.org](https://www.instagram.com/lwvmd.org)
(instagram, twitter, facebook)

Co-Presidents: Deborah Mitchell
Nancy Soreng

Editor: Stacey Morrison



LWVMD Calendar

Sept 15-30 National Hispanic Heritage Month

Oct 1-15 National Hispanic Heritage Month

- 1 LWVMD Get to the Polls begins
- 3 Candidate Forum: Gubernatorial hybrid: Reginald F. Lewis Museum, Baltimore and virtual 5:30pm reception, 7pm forum
- 6 Candidate Forum: Comptroller virtual, 7-8pm
- 10 Students Learn Students Vote Latinx/Hispanic Community Hero nomination deadline
- 13 Candidate Forum: Gubernatorial virtual, 7-8:30pm
- 14 Webinar: Everything You Wanted to Know About How the General Assembly Works virtual, 3pm
- 18 Voter registration closes
- 27 Early voting starts 7am-8pm

Nov 3 Early voting ends 7am-8pm

- 4 LWVMD Advocacy Volunteer Orientation virtual, 3pm
- 8 LWVMD Get to the Polls ends
- 8 General Election 7am-8pm
- 24 Thanksgiving

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

Presidents' Message

Summer is wrapping up and we are heading into fall and the peak of the 2022 election season. While some of us had an opportunity to take a break over the summer, our awesome voter service volunteers were busy updating Vote411 for the General Election, arranging for printing their Voters' Guides, and planning candidate forums, voter registration events, and Get Out the Vote activities. I hear over and over from community members around the state how much your hard work means to voters. Hats off to all of you!!!!

Many of you are aware of the problems that were caused by the Governor's veto of [HB 682/SB 163](#) which would have allowed the local Boards of Election to begin processing mail-in ballots before election day instead of following current law that says no canvassing of these ballots shall take place until the Thursday following the election. Due to the vast increase in voters choosing to vote by mail, and the many time-consuming and labor-intensive steps that go into reviewing, opening, sorting, counting, and organizing these ballots, some jurisdictions took a month to certify their election. Therefore, the State Board of Elections filed a petition for emergency relief to address issues related to processing absentee ballots. LWVMD filed an [Affidavit of Support](#) for this petition. On

September 23, the judge ruled in favor of the State Board of Elections. Thanks to this ruling, beginning on October 1, boards of elections may begin to process mail-in ballots, but results of counts will not be announced until after the election.

The LWVMD's State Board Letter (SBL) is published as way to keep the lines of communication open between the LWVMD and our local League members. Please feel free to copy or summarize any of the information in SBL for use in your own newsletter, websites, and other communications. We also hope to use SBL to highlight some of the achievements of our local Leagues. Nikki and I met with the local League presidents this month and were, as always, impressed by the impact that your Leagues make in your communities and the many hours that your volunteers put in. If your members have achieved something that you are particularly proud of, please let us know so we can share it in the SBL.



LWVMD President Nancy Soreng

State Board Meeting Highlights

The LWVMD Nominating Committee welcomes Diane Hibino as the new Co-Chair. Diane will be working with fellow co-chair, Jane Hardy, and members of the nominating committee to fill positions for the 2023-2025 board. For more information, see article on page 5.

Ericka McDonald, LWV Baltimore County, has resigned from the LWVMD Board of Directors. During her tenure as board member, Ericka contributed greatly to the LWVMD, especially in the areas of Police Accountability and DEI Advocacy. Thank you for your service, Ericka.

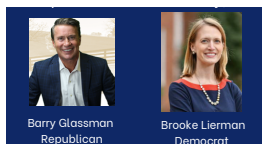
The LWVMD is no longer part of the [Maryland Marijuana Policy Project](#). However, it has joined the following coalitions this year: Coalition for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, the [Maryland Education Coalition](#), [Marylanders for Open Government](#), and Trans Agency, Safety & Health.

Stacey Morrison, SBL editor

Event

2022 General Election Candidate Forums

LWVMD is partnering with the [University of Baltimore Schaefer Center for Public Policy](#), [Maryland Nonprofits \(MANO\)](#), [Maryland Reporter](#), [Maryland Matters](#), and [Maryland Latinos Unidos](#) to host the following 2022 general election candidate forums. All LWVMD forums and taped interviews will be available on the [UBalt Public Affairs YouTube](#) shortly after their conclusion.



COMPTROLLER Thursday, October 6, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Candidates: Brooke Lierman (D) and Barry Glassman (R)

Host: Henry Bogdan, MANO

Moderator: Josh Kurtz, Maryland Matters.

Registration link: https://ubalt.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Txd4KYBES7atJo7Psloewg



GUBERNATORIAL Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

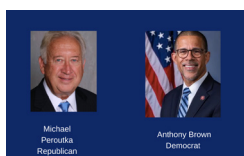
Candidates: Dan Cox (R), David Harding (Working Class), David Lashar (Libertarian), and Nancy Wallace (Green)

Host: Ann Cotton, UB Schaefer Center

Moderator: Len Lazarick, Maryland Reporter and Josh Kurtz, Maryland Matters

Registration link: https://ubalt.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_I_LjReFyR4mggsLQ1TkuRQ

ATTORNEY GENERAL Interviews will be taped and posted to the web



The Candidate Forums committee is conducting separate interviews with Attorney General candidates Anthony Brown (D) and Michael Anthony Peroutka (R), which will be taped and posted on the web. Len Lazarick, Maryland Reporter, will conduct each interview and Nancy Soreng, LWVMD, will host.

Second Gubernatorial Forum: The LWVMD is also partnering with the [Reginald F. Lewis Museum](#), [Baltimore City NAACP](#), [Baltimore Votes](#), [Black Girls Vote](#), the [Greater Baltimore Urban League](#), and [Out for Justice](#) to host a Gubernatorial Candidate Forum centering issues impacting Black Marylanders. Gubernatorial candidates Wes Moore (D), David Harding (Working Class), David Lashar (Libertarian), and Nancy Wallace (Green) have all confirmed their participation.



2nd GUBERNATORIAL FORUM

Monday, October 3 Reception: 5:30 p.m. Forum: 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

The forum is hybrid, with in person at the Museum (830 Pratt Street) and live streaming through Facebook, YouTube, or LinkedIn.

Registration link for in person attendance:
<https://17527.blackbaudhosting.com/17527/Gubernatorial-Forum>

Gail Sunderman, Candidate Forum Planning Committee Chair

Committees

Every day more and more voters feel overwhelmed by not only misinformation but lack of real unbiased nonpartisan information they can trust. Our democracy relies on every voter being able to make informed choices, choices that can only be made if they have access to this information and trust its source. The League of Women Voters of Maryland has a 100-year reputation that stands on the principles of Empowering Voters, Protecting Democracy. Our focus has been to do this through invaluable tools such as Vote411 and our Voter's Guides.

Get to the Polls MD

To do more to spread the word about these tools, from October 1 through November 8, the [LWVMD](#) is launching a campaign called [Get to the Polls](#) to encourage Marylanders to exercise their right to vote. As a means of encouraging people to cast their ballots in the general elections, participants in this campaign can either collect pledges for every mile they walk, run, bike, or wheel in the effort to Protect Democracy and Empower Voters. You can also participate by pledging others who will clock the miles instead. As this is the League's 102 anniversary, a goal of 102 miles would be great, but not necessary; every mile earned is a mile that helps. Every dollar raised will go directly to helping the LWVMD's efforts to educate voters and get out the most reliable nonpartisan candidate information possible, the Voters' Guide. With your support, the League will continue to combat disinformation, register voters, and educate residents about elections. Before the primary elections, 418,000 Maryland residents received the Voters' Guide or viewed candidate information on [VOTE411.org](#).

With the funds the LWVMD raises through this campaign, we will work to ensure rural counties and cities will have the resources they need to get the Guides into every voter's hands. Your support allows the LWVMD to continue the sacred mission of Making Democracy Work.

Nikki Tyree, LWVMD Executive Director



Committees

On September 13, the Action Team met to lay plans for another year of successful advocacy by our wonderful volunteer advocates. The team will kick off the year with a webinar on October 14 that will review how a bill moves through the General Assembly, how the state budget will be shaped in 2023 (a completely new process this year), and how you as an individual can help shape public policy. The webinar will be open to League and non-League members whether they are considering being a volunteer advocate or just want to learn more about the Maryland legislative process.

The basic introductory course will be followed on November 4 by a briefing for individuals who are considering being an LWVMD advocate. Attending this briefing is not a commitment, however it will help you understand what volunteer advocates do, how they are supported by their teams and LWVMD, and how this experience can be incredibly informative and rewarding.

Shortly before the 2023 legislative session begins, the LWVMD will get together with volunteer advocates and Advocacy Team Leaders to update them on new information and answer questions they may have about the upcoming session.

Nancy Soreng, LWVMD President

LWVMD Action Team Gears Up for 2023 Session



DEMOCRACY
IS NOT A
SPECTATOR
SPORT

Join the LWVMD Board of Directors



Are you concerned about the future of democracy in our country? Looking for an opportunity to make a difference? Why not become a member of the LWVMD Board of Directors for the July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025 term? We need your ideas and energy as we work to protect the freedom to vote, improve elections, and fight for fair redistricting. Your participation will be most welcome.

Most of LWVMD's meetings are virtual, so no matter where you live in Maryland you can easily take part in our efforts. If you have questions, or would like to add your name to our pool of prospective nominees, please email nominations@lwvmd.org or contact any of the following LWVMD Nominating Committee members:

Janet Bellizzi, jbellizzi@lwvmd.org

Jane Hardy, Co-Chair, janewhardy@gmail.com

Diane Hibino, Co-Chair dianehibino@comcast.net

Beth Hufnagel, bhufnagel@lwvmd.org

Richard Willson, rwillson@lwvmd.org

Jane Hardy, Nominating Committee Co-Chair

Committees

VOTE411 and Voters' Guides Now Available



Local League volunteers have been working hard on VOTE411 and Voters' Guides for the 2022 general election. Since September 24, candidates' responses to the League's questions are available at the [VOTE411.org](https://vote411.org) website, the date by which the first ballots were scheduled to be mailed. Each local League has also been preparing a PDF version of their county's Voters' Guide, a copy of which will be sent to the LWVMD.

The LWVMD wants to send a big thank you to all League members around the state who helped compile these resources. 2022 has been a particularly challenging year to put this information together because of the new software for VOTE411, which is still incomplete, and because of the delays in the primary election, which also affected some of the deadlines for the general election. Great job everyone on getting this information to MD voters in a timely manner.

Barbara Crain, Voter Services Chair

The [LWV of the Mid-Shore](#) offers their hearty congratulations and gratitude to two of their long-time members, Pat Comella and Barbara Hale, who played an important role in bringing about the recently issued Valley Proteins Consent Decree. This order will require the Eastern Shore poultry rendering plant to pay approximately \$1 million to settle lawsuits stemming from their operational practices that have adversely impacted the water quality of Transquaking Creek in Dorchester County.

In November 2018, Pat and Barbara worked with the [Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth](#), the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#), and [ShoreRivers](#) to organize a non-partisan, non-adversarial forum that brought this issue to public attention. Subsequently, they worked with the NGO partners to provide data to the [Maryland Department of the Environment](#) as it investigated the case.

Thank you, Pat and Barbara, for your hard work and dedicated devotion to protecting the fragile Eastern Shore environment.

To read more about the decree, please read the article from the Talbot Spy at <https://talbotspy.org/mde-and-conservation-groups-secure-consent-decree-to-stop-pollution-from-valley-proteins/>



Kathi Bangert, LWV Mid-Shore member

Committees

Youth Advisory Council of the Maryland Civic Education Coalition

The Youth Advisory Council of the [Maryland Civic Education Coalition](#) (MDCEC) held a leadership retreat on September 11, 2022, that was centered around serving others and helping the Maryland community. As part of Youth Service America's 9/11 Day of Service, we learned more about the events leading up to the attacks on 9/11 followed by a video including many stories of people whose lives were changed through others' assistance on and after 9/11. With this, Youth Advisory Council members and I participated in service-learning activities keeping in mind the selfless care that the heroes on 9/11 had for strangers.

With guidance from Lena Morreale Scott, Co-Chair of MDCEC's Steering Committee and Professor of Education at the University of Maryland College Park, we explored the knowledge, skills, and values that are involved in being an effective citizen. When we started thinking about what we wanted to accomplish to help Maryland youth during the school year, we conversed about large-scale issues that challenge people around the country and world, including issues ranging from global warming to education disparities. From this, we thought of how these issues

impact and affect our communities across Maryland. We discussed these issues and how they disproportionately affect certain populations and communities, tying in issues ranging from transportation inequalities to funding for extracurricular activities.



We came up with a few main topics that we want to tackle for the 2022-23 school year. In the end, we decided that our first priority would be mental health awareness. We are looking forward to pursuing projects to create and maintain connections with youth, educators, and civic organizations as we progress through the year!

Anisa Kalil, 9th grade member of the Youth Advisory Council from Baltimore County

The partners at [Students Learn Students Vote](#) are celebrating Latinx/Hispanic community heroes during Hispanic Heritage Month! They are looking for students, faculty members, administrators, nonprofit partners, or community members who identify as Latinx/Hispanic and who are doing awesome work for student civic engagement.

Nominations are open until October 10; to nominate someone, visit <https://sls.vote/latinx-nominate>. SLSV will also offer an online Latinx Young Professionals Panel on Oct 12, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Register at <https://sls.vote/latinx-prof-panel>.

*Genie Massey, Youth Engagement
and Civic Education Chair*

Latinx/ Hispanic Community Heroes



Committees

16th Annual Constitution Day Program a Success

The 16th Annual Constitution Day Program co-sponsored by [League of Women Voters of Maryland](#) (LWVMD), the [University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law](#), the [University of Maryland, Baltimore](#) (UMB), and the [MLAW Program of the University of Maryland, College Park](#), was Monday, September 19, from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. in the law school's Ceremonial Moot Courtroom. The previous two years this program was virtual due to Covid, but this year's program was hybrid. Of the 54 Leaguers who RSVP'd, 30 opted to attend virtually. The other 24 Leaguers, seated in the courtroom, were joined by current UMB law school students, staff, and faculty as well as former graduates and faculty.

LWVMD President Nancy Soreng welcomed attendees. UMB Professor Leigh Goodmark, Co-Director of the [Clinical Law Program](#), was the Moderator and introduced the panelists: UMB Associate Professor Chaz Arnett, UMB Professor Leslie Meltzer Henry, UMB Associate Dean Peter Danchin, and Associate Professor Holly Brewer of the University of Maryland, College Park.

This year's panel program topic was, ***"The Supreme Court, and the Constitution: Recent Cases and their Implications,"*** in which:

- Chaz Arnett spoke about the case, *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc. v. Bruen*
- Leslie Henry discussed the case, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*
- Peter Danchin talked about *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*, the praying high school football coach case
- Holly Brewer focused on the significance of the current moment in our Supreme Court's constitutional jurisprudence.

After the Q & A, panelists and attendees adjourned to the Atrium for the Reception. In addition to providing several large pizzas, the University of Maryland, Baltimore, treated everyone to a large sheet cake decorated atop with the Preamble to the Constitution. The law school provided beverages while LWVMD members hosted a refreshment table laden with many homemade treats, cookies, brownies, party sandwiches, trays of assorted cheeses and crackers, strawberries, veggies, and nuts.

LWVMD volunteers at the event were reliable and pleasantly helpful. They were Eleanor Green and Gail Sunderman at the sign-in table; greeter Carole Conors; Marguerite Duffy, LWVMD sign and publications; head usher Ralph Watkins and assistant usher Barbara Crain; and head reception table hostess Jen Haire with assistant hostesses Betsy Sexton and Terry Lawler. The UMB Law Library provided recent publications for the Faculty Publication Display.



image by [msync](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Appreciation goes to UMB Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development Peter Danchin and his assistant Terry George who worked expertly and graciously with this author to plan this event.

Andrea Morris Gruhl, LWVMD Director for Constitution Day