

# State Board Letter

## Contents

- 1 Calendar
- 2 Presidents' Message
- 2 State Board Meeting Highlights
- 3 Program Planning
- 3 DEI Book Club
- 4 Candidate Forums
- 5 Online Services Support
- 6 LL Spotlight: Harford County

### LWVMD

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(instagram, twitter, facebook)

Co-Presidents: Deborah Mitchell  
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Editor: Stacey Morrison



## LWVMD Calendar

- Nov**
  - 1-30 American Indian Heritage Month
  - 8 LWVMD Get to the Polls ends
  - 8 General Election 7am-8pm
  - 24 Thanksgiving
  - 29 Giving Tuesday
  - 29 LWVMD DEI Book Club virtual, 4-5pm
- Dec**
  - 1-31 Local Leagues review LWVMD positions
  - 10 Human Rights Day
- Jan**
  - 1 New Year's Day
  - 11 MD General Assembly begins
  - 16 Martin Luther King, Jr., Day
  - 21 LWVMD Winter Workshop hybrid, time TBD

### VOTING PROBLEMS?

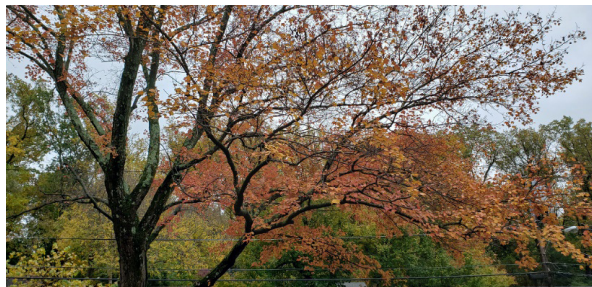


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**ELECTION PROTECTION** The logo for "All Our Vote" is a circular emblem with the words "ALL OUR VOTE" inside.

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

## Presidents' Message



As I look out my kitchen window at the maple tree, always the first on our street to change color and slowly shed its leaves, I am reminded that no matter what is happening in the world, the seasons march on - and so do the members of the League of Women Voters - working day in and day out, year in and year out to create a better democracy and future for our country. We are close to wrapping up our efforts to educate voters and encourage them to take part in the upcoming critical general election. I know we are all eager to learn the election results here in Maryland and across the country.

In my last President's letter, I shared that LWVMD filed an [Affidavit to support of the Petition for Emergency Relief](#) filed by the State Board of Elections to allow early processing of mail-in ballots. The decision by the Circuit Court to grant the request was appealed to the

Maryland Court of Appeals and on October 7 the State Board of Elections was granted the right to begin canvassing mail-in ballots before the election. Due to the expected huge influx of mail-in ballots this will make it possible to certify the election in time to meet the deadlines set in law for swearing in newly elected state and local officials.

In other legal news, LWVMD and the Leagues from all 50 states have signed on to an Amicus Brief that will be filed by LWVUS in the case of *Moore v. Harper* which is before the Supreme Court; read the [press release](#) here. The Court is being asked to adopt a fringe political theory called the Independent State Legislature Theory, which would give state legislatures nearly unrestricted authority to set the rules for federal elections. It would remove the existing governmental checks and balances in every state. Unlike today, state courts would not have any say in election rules. This could impact how election districts are adopted and even election results are certified.



*LWVMD President Nancy Soreng*

### State Board Meeting Highlights

LWVMD is selling Democracy Donuts until November 27. The proceeds from the donut sales will help the LWVMD fund the production of Voters' Guides into the future. To purchase your donuts, visit the [LWVMD events' page](#) or click [here](#).

Join the [LWV Baltimore County](#) at a happy hour at Key Brewing in Dundalk on Friday, November 18, from 5-7 p.m. to celebrate all the hard work done by everyone connected to the League who has worked hard to produce and provide general election information for voters.

On November 4 the LWVMD Action Committee hosted a virtual training called *How to be a Legislative Advocate*, where attendees learned how to track and report on bills; how to write testimony and meet with legislators; and what to do when you receive an Action Alert. Click [here](#) to watch the recording.

*Stacey Morrison, SBL editor*

## Committees

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### Program Planning for 2023-2025 Starts Soon

The LWMVD Convention will be held on May 20-21, 2023; location and other details are being worked out. One of the things we will do at convention is review the program for 2023-2025. "Program" includes LWVMD positions, development of new LWVMD positions through consensus or concurrence, and action (advocacy) based on those positions. When we review positions, our options are to re-adopt them, call for updates to them, or identify areas where positions are lacking. Study proposals are typically submitted if an existing position needs a significant update or to develop a new position, allowing for the issue to be studied and presented for consideration. As a grassroots organization, LWVMD's positions reflect the consensus of its members.

Linda Kohn will convene a zoom meeting in early December for the planning representatives at the local Leagues to explain the process in greater detail. If you want to be included, email Linda directly at [lkohn@lwvmd.org](mailto:lkohn@lwvmd.org). Local Leagues should expect to convene their own meetings in December or January to review LWVMD positions and provide input no later than February 8, 2023. After the Board reviews the input, the proposed program will be sent to members prior to the convention.

This process of reviewing program planning at the state level follows the "odd/even" schedule developed to ensure positions are regularly reviewed at both the national and state levels. During "even" years, such as 2022, national positions are reviewed and/or updated at the LWVUS national convention while in "odd" years, such as 2023, state Leagues convene their own conventions to do the same for state positions. Local Leagues can also review any of their own local positions to coincide with the state process, but that is up to discretion of the local Leagues.

*Linda Kohn, Program VP*

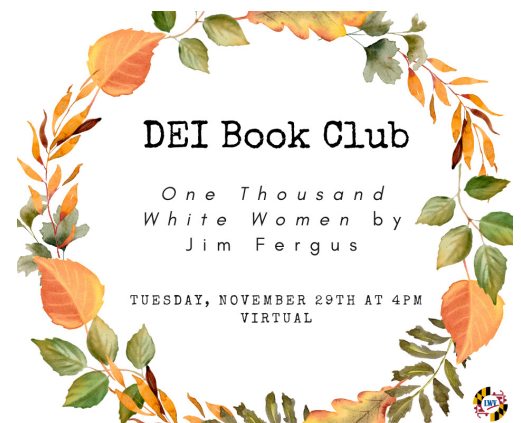
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The DEI book club is back! In honor of November being Native American Heritage Month, we are reading *One Thousand White Women* by Jim Fergus, a novel about the covert and controversial 'Brides for Indians' program launched by the administration of Ulysses S. Grant intended to help assimilate the Indians into the white man's world. Please join us as we continue our understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion by registering [here](#).

**Tuesday, November 29, 4-5 p.m. (virtual)**  
**One Thousand White Women by Jim Fergus**

*Nikki Tyree, Executive Director*

### DEI Book Club



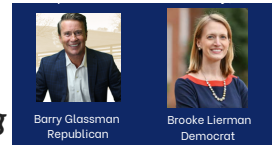
# Committees

LWVMD co-hosted general election candidate forums for governor and comptroller and conducted individual interviews with the candidate for attorney general. Below are summaries of each forum, including attendance rates and links to videos of the forums and interviews. We are grateful to our co-sponsors [UB Schaefer Center for Public Policy](#), [Maryland Nonprofits](#) (MANO), [MD Reporter](#), [MD Matters](#), and [MD Latinos Unidos](#), for their support in organizing and promoting these forums. Links to all the forums and interviews are available on the [University of Baltimore Public Affairs YouTube](#) channel.

## LWVMD Hosts Candidate Forums

### Comptroller Forum

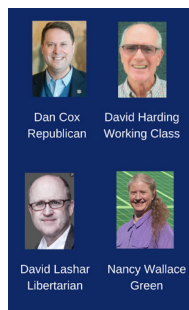
The candidate forum for comptroller was held on October 6, 2022. Barry Glassman (Republican) and Brooke Lierman (Democrat) participated. The forum's host was Henry Bogdan, Director of Policy and Advocacy at MANO, the moderator was John Kurtz from Maryland Matters. [Click here to view a recording of the forum.](#)



- 109 people attended from the 221 who registered, a 49.3% attendance rate

### Gubernatorial Forum

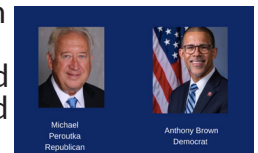
The gubernatorial candidate forum was held on October 13, 2022. Candidates Dan Cox (Republican), David Harding (Working Class), David Lashar (Libertarian), and Nancy Wallace (Green) participated. Wes Moore, Democrat, was invited but declined. The forum's host was Ann Cotten, Director of the Schaefer Center for Public Policy at the University of Baltimore, and the moderators were Len Lazarick from the Maryland Reporter and John Kurtz from Maryland Matters. [Click here to view a recording of the forum.](#)



- 56 people attended from the 207 who registered, a 27.1% attendance rate.

### Attorney General Interviews

To accommodate a candidate's request, separate interviews were conducted with each candidate. The interview with Anthony Brown (Democrat) took place on October 10, 2022 while Michael Anthony Peroutka (Republican) was interviewed on October 11, 2022. Nancy Soreng, LWVMD, hosted and Len Lazarick, Maryland Reporter, moderated both interviews. [Click here to view the Brown interview and click here to view the Peroutka interview.](#)



### Gubernatorial Forum at the Lewis Museum

The LWVMD also partnered with the [Reginald F. Lewis Museum](#), [Baltimore Votes](#), [Black Girls Vote](#), [Baltimore City NAACP](#), [Out for Justice](#), and the [Greater Baltimore Urban League](#) to sponsor a hybrid gubernatorial forum on October 3, 2022. Wes Moore (Democrat), David Harding (Working Class), David Lashar (Libertarian), and Nancy Wallace (Green) participated. Dan Cox had a scheduling conflict and declined. The forum was in person at the Museum with a virtual streaming option. [Click here to view a recording of the forum.](#)

- 169 people registered for the forum in person, while 613 people viewed the forum virtually: 147 via Facebook and 466 via YouTube.

## Don't forget to vote!

Members of committee: Gail Sunderman, Chair, Bee Ditzler, Barbara Crain, Nancy Smith, Ralph Watkins, Deborah Mitchell, Nancy Soreng, Nikki Tyree, Willow Goode

**Gail Sunderman, Candidate Forums Chair**



# Committees

## Online Services Support

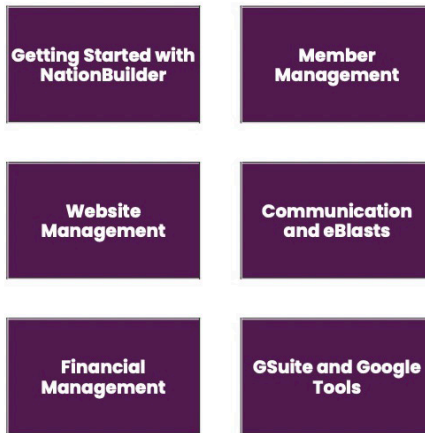
In an ongoing effort to provide League members with ready access to resources related to our online applications, the Online Services team has added a new feature to its support page on the LWVMD website. Members may now submit a suggestion, question, or personal request for assistance to the Online Services team directly from the [Online Services Support webpage](#). This type of interactive form is familiar to webusers and offers a present-day alternative to email.

Is someone new in charge of your local League communications or member roster? The Online Services team has a library of videorecorded trainings related to these portfolios. We also welcome the opportunity to work one-on-one with local Leagues. Please reach out through our support page or by emailing [online@lwmmd.org](mailto:online@lwmmd.org).

If you have experience with online platforms like NationBuilder and Google Workspace and enjoy helping others, please consider joining the Online Services team. Beyond an hour-long monthly team meeting, you manage your own projects and time. Contact Niecy Chambers at [nchambers@lwmmd.org](mailto:nchambers@lwmmd.org) with any questions or to volunteer.

## Online Services Support

The Online Services team has created support documents specific to the League that can help you make the most of all that NationBuilder and Google Workspace have to offer. Select the category you have a question about to get started.



NationBuilder and Google Workspace also provide excellent documentation for their platforms. Help with topics on which we have not provided guidance above may be found [here for NB](#) and [here for Google Workspace](#). Type in the topic or key words and see which articles may apply to your situation. (That is often what the Online Services team does when we are stumped!)

If there is something League-related you would like help with and/or would like to see addressed in these League Management support pages, please submit the form below or email the Online Services team at [online@lwmmd.org](mailto:online@lwmmd.org).

 **Have questions that aren't answered here?** Let us know what else you would like to see in these pages.

Enter your question or feedback

Submit

*Niecy Chambers, Online Services Committee Member*

## Spotlight

Many of our Leagues did amazing work in their communities during September which was National Voter Registration Month. This month, we are featuring the work of the [League of Women Voters of Harford County](#).



LWV Harford County partnered with the [Harford County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.](#), and the [NAACP of Harford County](#) to host a virtual training for volunteer voter registration that was facilitated by a representative from the Harford County Board of Elections.

*Left: Graphic used by LWV Harford County to advertise virtual voter registration training.*

LWV Harford County also registered voters at several locations, including two events at [Harford Community College](#) and multiple [Harford County Public Libraries](#): Joppa, Edgewood, Havre de Grace, Bel Air and Aberdeen branches. Every person with whom they interacted received a [VOTE411](#) card and an explanation of that resource. Said LWV Harford County President, Kira Sconion, “We are confident that we empowered community members to ensure their voices are heard in the upcoming general election by making informed voting choices for candidates of their choosing.”

*Right: New voters registering with the LWV Harford County.*



*Nancy Soreng, LWVMD President*