

State Board Letter

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LWVMD

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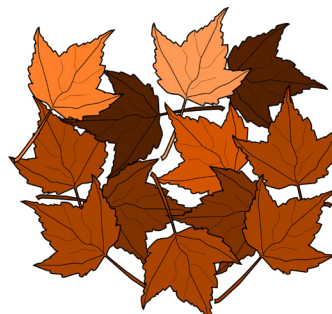
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Editor: Stacey Morrison



LWVMD Calendar

- Oct**
 - 1-15 Latinx Heritage Month
 - 1-31 LGBTQ+ History Month
 - 2 Maryland Charity Campaign begins
 - 13 Voters' Guide and VOTE411 question suggestions due to LWVMD
 - 17 Deadline for LL to give feedback on LWVMD's Legislative Advocacy Priority survey
 - 27 LWVMD advocacy training on the MD General Assembly virtual, 3pm
- Nov**
 - 1-30 Native American Heritage Month
 - 10 Veterans Day
 - 16-17 National Student Vote Summit UMD College Park 8am-6:30pm and 9am-1:30pm
 - 17 LWVMD advocacy training on the How to Be an Advocate virtual, 3pm
 - 23 Thanksgiving
- Dec**
 - 10 Human Rights Day
 - 11 Maryland Charity Campaign ends



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

President's Message

WHY WE NEED STRONG LOCAL LEAGUES

In last month's President's Message, I wrote about why I'm in LWV. This month, I want to convey why local Leagues are so important to LWVMD. My "home" League is Montgomery County, where I served for one term on the board and then joined the state board. Having both the local and state league perspectives, I can easily identify why I believe local Leagues are so important to the future of LWVMD.

1. Members in local Leagues have direct contact with voters. When you are present at farmer's markets, local festivals, community colleges, and elsewhere, you talk directly with current and prospective voters, educate them about elections, and help them become active voters. You are the face of the League.
2. For many members, the local League is the first (and sometimes the only) way they interact with LWV. Those interactions determine whether they get involved—and whether they stay involved.

3. Local Leagues bring a diversity of views, perspectives, and experiences to our conversations. This helps expand our understanding and deepen our insights into any issue or challenge we face and because of it, we are stronger and smarter.
4. Local Leagues have different approaches for educating voters, increasing membership, conducting special events, and every other activity we do. When we can learn from each other's experiences, we can maximize local League activities without having to start from scratch each time.

Write to me at pres@lwvmd.org and let me know your ideas for growing strong local Leagues!



Linda Kohn, LWVMD President

State Board Meeting Highlights

The LWVMD Action Team has created a spreadsheet that contains current MD legislators, their districts, and the counties they represent. To view this document, click [here](#).

LWVMD's Vice President, Genie Massey, is creating a list of all local League members who help coordinate high school voter registration activities. If your League has such a person, please email that person's name and contact info to gmassey@lwvmd.org.

A new study committee on distracted driving continues to seek a chair/co-chair and members. If you are interested, please contact Genie Massey at gmassey@lwvmd.org.

Stacey Morrison, SBL editor

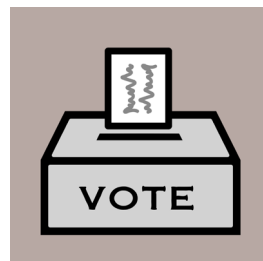
Events

The [Maryland Association of Student Councils](#) is partnering with the [League of Women Voters of Maryland](#) and the [Maryland Civic Education Coalition](#) to host a webinar for MD high school students called:

Falling for Civics: A How-To Guide for Voter Registration
October 19 at 7:00 p.m.

This webinar will help students learn about the importance of voter registration and how they can set up their own voter registration drive at their school or in their community. To register, click [here](#); registration closes at 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, October 17.

High School Voter Registration Webinar



Student Vote Summit 2023

The [Students Learn Students Vote](#) (SLSV) Coalition's annual [National Student Vote Summit](#) is coming up soon:

National Student Vote Summit 2023
November 15 - 17, 2023
UMD College Park

Anyone who is interested in advancing the #StudentVote on college campuses is welcome. This includes students, campus faculty and admin, nonprofit professionals, philanthropic partners, election officials and more!

The cost to attend the summit is \$150 for nonprofit professionals, philanthropic partners, election officials and campus professionals and \$75 for students. In addition to summit sessions, the costs cover Wednesday's evening reception, Thursday's evening social, and breakfast and lunch on Thursday and Friday.

The deadline to register for the summit is October 25; to register, click [here](#). If you have questions about this event, please email Bianca Rosales at bianca@slsvcoalition.org. This is a connected event with the [All In Campus Democracy Challenge's 2023 Awards Celebration](#).

Genie Massey, LWVMD Vice President



Events

LWVMD's 17th Constitution Day Program

Our 17th annual collaborative program with the [University of Maryland, Baltimore's Carey School of Law](#) was Monday, September 18, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Fifty-four Leaguers RSVP'd to attend. The remaining seats in the law school's Ceremonial Moot Court Room were filled with faculty, current law students, some graduates and some from the broad professional campus that is the University of Maryland, Baltimore. This year the prelaw students from UMD, College Park and their Professor Robert Coolidge attended virtually from their campus.



[Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development Peter G. Danchin](#) convened the event. Linda Kohn, President of [League of Women Voters of Maryland](#), gave a welcome speech. Danchin announced the program topic, *The Second Founding?* We oriented the program to celebrate the recent publication of a major constitutional law book by faculty member, [Mark A. Graber](#) (BA, Dartmouth College, MA and PhD, Yale University, JD, Columbia University), who is the University System of Maryland Regents Professor. There have only been seven Regents Professors in the history of the University of Maryland

System and Graber is the only one on the UMDB professional campus. He is one of the leading scholars in the U.S. on constitutional law and politics. Oxford University has published 4 of his books and Cambridge University has published another. He has authored other books and over 100 articles. He has been on the University of Maryland faculty since 1993, first in the Department of Government and Politics at UMD, College Park, then in the UMD, Baltimore's School of Law. He has been a visiting faculty member at Harvard University, Yale Law School, the University of Virginia School of Law, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Mark A. Graber's magnum opus is *Punish Treason, Reward Loyalty: The Forgotten Goals of Constitutional Reform after the Civil War*. (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 2023.) It is volume 1 of a 3-book series entitled *The Forgotten Fourteenth Amendment*. This book has 361 pages which include 41 pages of preface before the 221 pages of the text. The appendix of 42 pages in phenomenal detail shows the voting statistics of all members of both houses in the 1st Session of the 39th US Congress as well as the daily calendar of both houses. A 12-page index concludes the book. The reader will find that, despite the serious, intricate topics, Graber's text is fluidly written and has frequent instances of wit.

Danchin began the Constitution Day program content with discussion of the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard College*. He discussed the debate between Justices Clarence Thomas and Sonia Sotomayor in dissent regarding the nature and implications of the Reconstruction and post-Civil War Amendments for many controversies facing us today such as affirmative action and other issues of racial justice and equal citizenship.

Professor Graber spoke at length to frame the discussion. He said the Gettysburg Address predicted the Second Founding of our country after the Civil War. The original Constitution does not mention slavery. Its existence is ignored. Amendments 13, 14, and 15, the Post-Civil War Amendments, are our country's Declaration of Independence! They broke the slave system that usually denied good education for slaves. The opposite of the slave holder's slave power oligarchy is free labor, which has no hierarchy. Human status now prevailed.

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Events

[Professor Michael Ross](#) is from the Department of History at UMD, College Park, and he also is a lawyer. He spoke next about the 14th Amendment. Immediately after the Civil War Louisiana was a model of reform with 40% of former slaves involved in government and an integrated education system, but this status did not last. The Slaughter House Case was the first case after the Civil War contesting post-Civil War conditions. There was a rise in Blackcoats, the name of black freedom supporters. In 1873 the Supreme Court indicated negro slavery was protected. "Jim Crow" undid the 14th Amendment.

LWVMD's 17th Constitution Day Program, cont.

[Dean Renee M. Hutchins](#) spoke next. She was recently appointed the 14th Dean of the UMD Baltimore Carey School of Law, making her the first female Dean. Dean Hutchins has emphasized the importance of affirmative action and having a diverse student body. She said diversity prevails at Carey School of Law; twenty-four percent of the freshman class is Black, UMDB is ranked #1 among US law schools for its number of female law students, and it is also ranked #14 for its number of female faculty.

[Professor Guha Krishnamurthi](#) was the concluding speaker. He said the constitutional system was predominantly exclusionist. "Colorblindness" is predominantly exclusionist. He spoke about affirmative action.

After the program concluded, we adjourned to the adjacent atrium, where the delicious reception awaited. Leaguers donated appetizers and desserts. The University of Maryland, Baltimore served two large sheet cakes decorated atop with the words of the Preamble to the Constitution. Pizza slices were also provided by the University while the law school provided coffee and tea. Attendees could also browse a nearby display from the law school's library of recent books written by faculty, which included a few copies of Mark Graber's new book. Though his book was not available for sale at the event, the scoop was the publisher would be offering a deep discount for a while because the book had so recently been published.

Thanks go to all League volunteers: Ralph Watkins, our perennial head usher; his assistant Marg Duffy; head hostess Laura Mettle and her assistant Jen Haire; and greeter Judy Plymyer. Thanks to all our food donors. Looking forward to seeing a good Leaguer turnout next year at the 18th Annual Constitution Day Program and Reception at the UMD Baltimore, Carey School of Law.

Andrea Morris Gruhl, LWVMD Constitution Day Coordinator



Committees

Fact Sheet on Meeting Basic Human Needs



The most recent fact sheet and executive summary produced on “Meeting Basic Human Needs” is available on the [LWVMD's fact sheet webpage](#); click [here](#) to read the fact sheet and [here](#) to read the summary. The LWVMD fact sheet webpage will also offer the slides presented at the Fall Workshop on September 30, 2023.

All members are encouraged to read the fact sheet and local Leagues can use this material to support an interesting discussion at their own meetings. The fact sheet contains data for every jurisdiction in Maryland. Thank you to the study committee: Ruth Crystal (co-chair), Jennifer Sutton (co-chair), Nancy Diamond, Kathryn Gargurevich, Erin Hustings, and Marcia Kingman.

Linda Kohn, LWVMD President

The League’s current education position has multiple components to it, including one part that states “continuation of local control over schools.” Given the passage of the [Blueprint for Maryland’s Future](#), aimed at reforming education across the state, local Leagues stated the need to review only that portion, not the whole position. It is recommended that such a study define what is meant by “local control,” what is mandated by the state, and where flexibilities may exist for local input and direction.

If you have an interest in joining the Local Control of Education study committee, please contact LWVMD Director Gail Sunderman at gsunderman@lwvmd.org.

Gail Sunderman, LWVMD Local Control of Education Study

Local Control of Education Study Committee



LWVMD’s State Board Letter Needs a New Editor

State Board Letter

The current SBL editor, LWV Baltimore County member Stacey Morrison, will be stepping down from this role in March 2023. If you have any interest in helping to put together the SBL, we will make the transition as easy as possible; Stacey has offered to help train and/or provide guidance for her successor.

Currently, the editor attends monthly LWVMD board meetings as a non-voting member to help coordinate the collection of articles from state League members, after which she edits the content as needed and then formats it all into a final document.

If you would like to be the next SBL editor, please contact Executive Director Nikki Tyree at stateoffice@lwvmd.org or President Linda Kohn at pres@lwvmd.org.

Committees

League in Action is a League of Women Voters branded outreach platform that is powered by OutreachCircle and supported by [LWVUS](#). It has an associated mobile app that members and supporters can download. Leagues can use it to send information on issues, event reminders, push notifications and calls to action. With the app, you can have easy access to League information on your mobile device.

League in Action



LWVMD is just starting the process to join the League in Action app. However, the app already hosts LWVUS and LWV of Anne Arundel County, which recently joined League in Action, as well as many other Leagues around the country. You can download the app by searching for "League in Action" on [Apple's App Store](#) (iOS/iPhone) or [Google Play](#) (Android) and create an account. You can then search for and join any League in Action circles that interest you.

Local Leagues interested in joining and using League in Action can reach out to online@lwvmd.org for more information.

Amanda SubbaRao, LWVMD Director

Learn to Teach Civics with the Harvard Case Method

Harvard's [Case Method Institute](#) offers case method training throughout the year to U.S. history, government, and civics high school teachers with students in grades 9-12. Case method learning, the core pedagogy used at many leading professional schools, is one in which a case is presented to students with a historically rich narrative, leading up to a key decision point and posing the perennial question: "What would you do?" Led by a teacher's use of carefully designed questions, students engage in rigorous, evidence-based discussion and debate to draw out key concepts from the case.

Born as an experiment to bring the case method to high schools, the program now has a proven record in every type of classroom environment: students show not only improved academic performance, from critical thinking to content mastery, but also enhanced civic interest and engagement.

Everything, including the workshop, curriculum, and supporting resources, including access to 22 previous case studies, is entirely free of charge. To submit a form expressing interest in a training, click [here](#); after you apply you will receive a list of training dates.



Committees

Voter Services Calendar for 2024 Primary Election

The Voter Service Calendar for 2024 Primary Election is listed below to help local Leagues plan various voting related events. Local Leagues are asked to submit suggestions for questions for statewide offices. For 2024, that will be US Senators and Representatives, judges and party convention delegates – a total of 3 sets of questions. A LWVMD board committee will review and compile a final list of questions. Send your responses to Dr. Gail Clark Dickson no later than Monday, October 18, at gclarkdickson@lwvmd.org. Local Leagues please also identify volunteers to work on VOTE411 and Voters' Guide. Training events will be scheduled in January 2024 in Queen Anne and Howard Counties.

Dr. Gail Clark Dickson, LWVMD Voter Services Chair

Date	Board of Elections Event	LWVMD Voter Service Tasks
October 18		Questions for state offices due to LWVMD from local boards; local Leagues preparing questions for local offices.
December 21		Approval of statewide questions at the LWVMD board meeting.
January 15-22		VOTE411 training in Columbia and Centerville.
January 15		Begin loading races and questions. Track down missing email addresses. Update templates for invitations and reminders. Save files for future reference.
February 9	Filing deadline for candidates.	Deadline to finalize races and questions and to email templates.
February 13	Deadline for candidates to withdraw.	Begin bulk upload of all candidates into VOTE411 (LWVMD).
February 13-16		Find missing email addresses. Check that all candidates are loaded, upload any missing candidates individually, and delete any candidates who have withdrawn. Archive any candidates not on the primary ballot.
February 16-23		Invitations go out to candidates.
March 1		Deadline for candidates to respond to questions.
March 11	Ballots displayed online.	Verify VOTE411 and Voters' Guide info against ballots.
April 1	Transmit Mail-in ballots to voters who requested 60 days in advance.	Deadline for VOTE411 to go live.
April 23	Voter registration closes.	Deadline for posting PDF files of Voters' Guides on lwvmd.org
May 2-9	Early voting	
May 14	Primary Election Day	