

March 2026

STATE BOARD LETTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND



LWVMD IS FEELING LUCKY!

Are you feeling lucky this March? 'Cause we are!

The Maryland General Assembly is halfway done! Already, LWVMD is having success in advocating for our priorities, and we expect the wins to keep coming.

LWVMD is planning several events for March and is looking forward to doing all we can for the June primary elections!

UPCOMING LEAGUE EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| MARCH 10 | LWVMD Lobby Day |
| MARCH 16 | Maryland Votes Lobby Night |
| MARCH 17 | Democracy Dialogues |
| APRIL 21 | LWVMD Legislative Breakfast |

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Linda Kohn, LWVMD President

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE "MONTHS?"

Every February is Black History Month. In the summer of 1915, Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and Minister Jesse Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History). In 1926, the group sponsored National Negro History Week during the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. After many decades, and local celebrations and proclamations, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the nation to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Every March is Women's History Month. It began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California, in 1978. Celebrations spread across the state and country until a group of women's groups and historians successfully lobbied for national recognition in 1980, and that year, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the second week of March as National Women's History Week. The month of March was selected to coincide with the United Nations sponsorship of International Women's Day that occurs that month. In 1987, Congress passed a law to designate March as "Women's History Month," and since 1995, each president has issued an annual proclamation designating the month of March as "Women's History Month."

Why do we recognize and celebrate months like this? There are several reasons. First, we acknowledge the past and honor the contributions of those who came before us. Our rights today stand on the shoulders of the people who came before us. Second, we acknowledge that the battles fought by previous leaders are ongoing today. We still fight for equality, justice, and basic human rights. We are writing today's story for future generations. Third, the celebrations educate the public about our history and choices about the future. They remind us to consider our part in making society better. There will be a tomorrow.



"Change is never easy but always possible."

*Barack Obama,
former president
of the United
States*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Get Involved with The League!

Lobby Day

March 10th, 2026

Annapolis, MD

Join LWVMD for Lobby Day to meet your legislators and make your voice heard in Annapolis!



LWVMD LOBBY DAY

March 10th 8:30 AM

Join LWVMD as we meet up with our legislators and advocate for our priority bills! This is a great event and an easy way to get involved.

Register Here: https://www.lwvmd.org/lobby_day_2026

EVMD LOBBY NIGHT

March 16th 5:00 PM

Can't join LWVMD during the day? Come join us on the night of the 16th! We will be working with our coalition partners to push the Everyone Votes Maryland's priority bills!

Register Here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdcHIDiH1nI2Fh03nq_3qzrEr-7eKqjRKMBjUlyUObFOtosxw/viewform



ANTI-SCIENCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

THE MOVEMENT TO DISCREDIT SCIENCE AND UNDERMINE OUR PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM



Ed Hunter, MA



Peter Hotez, MD, PhD

DEMOCRACY DIALOGUES: ANTI-SCIENCE

March 17th 7:00 PM

Join the next episode of Democracy Dialogues as we discuss the rise in Anti-Science. LWVMD will be joined by Dr. Peter Hotez of Baylor University and Ed Hunter former field director for the CDC.

Register Here:

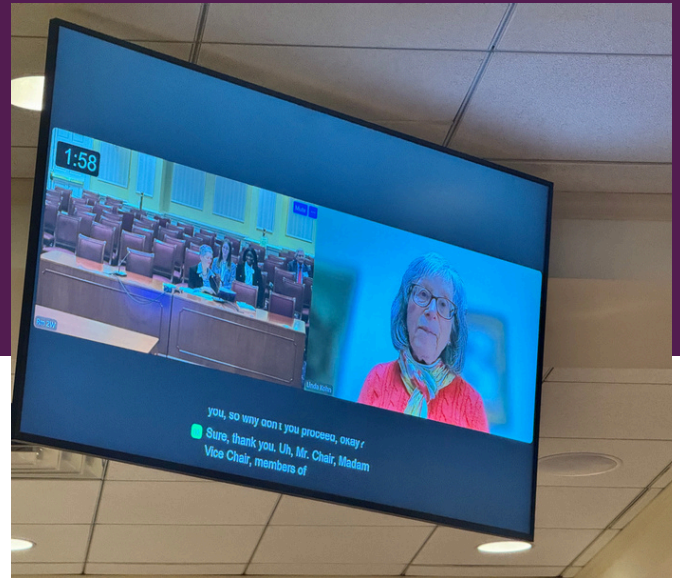
https://www.lwvmd.org/publichealth_democracdialogues



March 17, 2026
7:00-8:00 PM
Virtual

Scenes from Session

General Assembly 2026 is halfway done!



LWVMD SHOWS UP FOR MARYLAND!

It's already been a breathless 2026 session of the Maryland General Assembly. Thanks to the enormous efforts of all our advocates, LWVMD is nearing 100 testimonies submitted. And we're just at the halfway mark for this year's 90-day session.

We had a good Legislative Day on March 2, hearing from 6 key legislators on bills they are sponsoring that align with League priorities. On March 10, we will hold Lobby Day in Annapolis, starting at 8:30 a.m. On Lobby Day, you can visit your own elected officials and spend a few minutes in their office sharing information about League priorities for this session. We will provide you with a handout to share, and you can go in pairs so you're not on your own. It's very powerful when elected officials see their own constituents in Annapolis.

MISSION AT WORK

Committee Updates: Democracy Dialogues

ANTI-SCIENCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

THE MOVEMENT TO DISCREDIT SCIENCE AND
UNDERMINE OUR PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM.



March 17, 2026



7:00 – 8:00 PM



Virtual



Ed Hunter

Fmr. Director, CDC Washington Office



Peter Hotez, MD, PhD

Vaccine Scientist & Dean, National
School of Tropical Medicine

Register at: LWVMD.org/PublicHealth [DemocracyDialogues](#)

INTERNET VOTING IS NOT SECURE!

By Linda Kohn, President

LWVMD OPPOSES INTERNET VOTING

Two bills have been introduced during the current session of the General Assembly that could create an entirely new voting method in Maryland, so we are highlighting them here.

SB901 and HB1027 would create a telephone voting system. The State Board of Elections (SBE) would acquire a telephone voting system for absentee voting by eligible voters who attest to having a print disability. If passed, it would introduce an entirely new method of voting. Both bills were heard on February 25, 2026, in both the Senate and the House. Note that the option for telephone voting would apply only to mail-in voting for people who cannot vote using a paper ballot.

Proponents who supported the bills noted the potential to improve accessibility and privacy for a population of voters who have difficulty casting a mail-in ballot and are unable to do so with complete privacy since they require help to complete a mail-in ballot. This is especially difficult if someone is travelling during the election period and must vote absentee. There were claims that the voting method would not be connected to the internet because it is done by phone and not on a computer. LWVMD and others spoke out in strong opposition to the bills. Today's phones are indeed connected to the internet and could be hacked; it is not secure.

The US Election Assistance Commission, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology have stated that “electronic ballot return faces significant security risks to the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of voted ballots.....that can ultimately affect the tabulation and results and can occur at scale.” Examples of telephone voting in other countries have included crashes that locked voters out and required redos of elections.

There is unanimous agreement on expanding access to the ballot, and the League stands for breaking down barriers to voting, including for voters with visual disabilities. It is hard to stand in opposition to a voting method that, according to affected voters say can improve their experience. But we also believe the voting systems have to be secure for everyone, so voters have confidence in the integrity of the system and the results, especially when people are already subjected to mounds of disinformation about election integrity.

For additional background, check out LWVMD's issue paper on internet voting here:
https://www.lwvmd.org/internet_voting_issue_paper

NEWS FROM LWVUS

LWVUS CONVENTION TO BE HELD JUNE 25-28, 2026

The 2026 National Convention will take place June 25 through June 28 in Columbus, Ohio. Registration is currently open, with early-bird rates available until March 31. The meeting will be held in person in Columbus, Ohio, or you can join virtually. Regular business includes electing a new Board of Directors, passing bylaw amendments, adopting the budget, and setting League priorities by voting on LWVUS positions (program). Each local League has been notified of the number of voting delegates that can attend. If you are interested in attending, contact your local League president and let them know! But the Convention is open to all members, so you can also attend as an observer. More information about the LWVUS Convention can be found on the LWVUS League Management website (“events”).

LWVUS holds its biennial convention in “even” years (like 2026), and LWVMD holds its conventions in “odd” years (like 2027). The in-between years are for Council meetings. LWVMD’s next state-wide Council meeting will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2026, virtually.

NO KING’S RALLY, SATURDAY MARCH 28

LWVUS is again a national partner for the next No King’s Rally that is scheduled for Saturday, March 28. Leagues are welcome to lean in locally and participate with partners in your own areas. If you participate as an LWV member, please remember to stay non-partisan. Focus on actions that are contrary to our positions. You can wear LWV t-shirts or buttons; avoid LWV banners that can be a safety hazard. Peaceful, non-violent protests are a basic tenet of democracy. If you participate as an individual, League rules do not apply. Regardless of how you participate, stay safe.

THE LWVMD STORE

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LWVMD VOTE
T-SHIRT



DEMOCRACY
HOODIE

SHOP OUR COLLECTION

With stylish apparel, accessories, and perfect gift items, our merchandise collection has something for everyone. Browse our full product line-up in the LWVMD Online Store!



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