

APRIL 2026

STATE BOARD LETTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND



A DOOR CLOSES; A WINDOW OPENS

It's a busy and important moment for the League! As the legislative session comes to a close and we turn toward the 2026 elections, our focus is turning towards engaging voters, strengthening our outreach. From action alerts on priority legislation to preparations for the primary, this is a critical window for impact.

Read on for updates from across the League, including new voter education resources and upcoming events. Thank you for all you do to support this work.

UPCOMING LEAGUE EVENTS

APRIL 13	Last Day of Session!
APRIL 21	Making Democracy Work Breakfast
APRIL 27	Day on Capitol Hill
JUNE 6	LWVMD Council

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Linda Kohn, LWVMD President

Let's Make Voting Contagious

Diseases spread from person-to-person. One person may be infected and transmit a disease when they interact with other people. For example, one person infects 2 other people, and each of them infects 2 others, and so on and so on. Eventually, there can be a large outbreak or an epidemic. We recognize it when flu or measles spreads around a community. This happens because of the process of "exponential growth," which means that something grows faster and faster as it gets larger. The more people who are infected, the more people will get infected too.

Instead of spreading infectious diseases, let's make voting contagious! If one person talks to 2 people and each of them talks to 2 people, and so on, we have the potential to reach large numbers of voters in a very short time. For example, starting with 1 person who talks with 2 others who each talk with two people, and so on and so on, it would only take 17 rounds to reach more than 250,000 people! Conceptually, less than a month.

So here's my ask of you. Talk to 2 people during April and ask each of them to talk to two other people and so on. The message does not have to be complicated. Just tell them how important it is to vote in the primary election because that is how the ballot in November gets set. Tell them that Vote411.org has all the information they need about voting dates, candidates on their ballot, and where to vote. One minute. That's all it takes. And, of course, always stay non-partisan.

Think about how many people you encounter each day. Friends, family, neighbors, club members, co-worshippers, classmates, other parents at your kids' school or park. Just stay non-partisan and focus on the importance of voting in the primary. Surely you can find 2 minutes in a day to talk about voting!

Linda Kohn

"Vote411.org has all the information they need about voting dates, candidates on their ballot, and where to vote."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Get Involved with The League!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK Breakfast



Keynote Speaker
SPEAKER JOSELINE PEÑA-MELNYK

APRIL 21, 2026

8:30 - 11:00 am

The Atrium in Annapolis, MD

Register Now! [LWVMD.org/DemocracyBreakfast2026](https://www.lwvmd.org/DemocracyBreakfast2026)

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK BREAKFAST

April 21st 8:30 AM

Join LWVMD, legislators, advocates, and the new Speaker of the House as we celebrate democracy and gear up for the 2026 election cycle!

Register Here:

<https://www.lwvmd.org/democracybreakfast2026>

DAY ON CAPITOL HILL

April 27th 9:30 AM - Virtual

LWVMD is hosting its annual Day on Capitol Hill. We will meet with the federal delegation to discuss national issues. Please register to attend. This is a member-only event!

Register Here:

<https://www.lwvmd.org/dayoncapitolhill2026>

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND

Virtual DAY ON CAPITOL HILL

APRIL 27, 2026

9:30 AM

www.lwvmd.org/dayoncapitolhill2026

LWVMD COUNCIL 2026

June 6th 9:00 AM - Virtual

In “even” calendar years, LWVMD holds its state-wide Council meeting in early June. This year, we will meet on Saturday, June 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This will be a virtual meeting. The only required business to conduct is the adoption of a budget for 2026-2027. We will also provide updates on our activities and are lining up some interesting speakers to offer a good program. Voting delegates to the council include the LWVMD board and two representatives from each local League or Member-At-Large unit. Registration information will be posted soon.



ACTION ALERTS

Tell Your Senator: Move Special Elections to a Conference Committee.

SB 5 has returned to the Senate, where action has stalled over a House amendment the League does not support. Contact your Senator and urge them to move SB 5 to a conference committee.

[Take Action on SB 5](#)

Protect Maryland Voters! End Vote Dilution. Pass the MDVRA.

The Maryland Voting Rights Act is at a critical stage and must move forward without changes. Urge lawmakers to pass SB 255 without amendments.

[Take Action on SB 255](#)

Better Transportation Options. Stronger Communities. Pass TCA!

The Transportation & Climate Alignment Act ensures Maryland invests in reliable, affordable travel options that support our climate goals. Urge your Senator to vote YES on HB 437/SB 59!

[Take Action on TCA](#)

MISSION AT WORK

Committee Updates: Voter Services - Communications

LWVMD has developed multiple new items that anyone can use to help educate voters about the upcoming primary. First, we have a series of “one-pagers” that are aimed at individual voters to encourage turnout in the primary. These can be used individually or together and are available in both English and Spanish. The topics are:

- Reasons to Vote in the Primary
- Key Dates for the 2026 Primary
- Voting By Mail
- Voting in Person
- Know Your Rights as a Maryland Voter

Local Leagues and individual members are encouraged to share them with anyone for them to also share with others. For example, you can share it with another organization for them to share with their constituents. You can share it with your neighbors, your Home Owners Association, at the gym or pool you visit, or the place you worship. They can be printed, emailed, posted on websites, and shared on social media. If another organization, such as a place of worship, wants to reproduce copies and place them near their entrance, say yes! Turn it into a poster and place it in the libraries or a coffee shop. It's all up to you.

Click [here](#) to view or download them.

And there's more! In addition, a slide presentation is being finalized about the importance of voting in the primary. It covers the basics of a primary, such as who's on the ballot and voting dates, as well as showing what happens when too few people vote in the primary. Local Leagues can offer to do a presentation to local groups and other organizations—you have a presentation ready to go! It's easy for people to complain about the choices on the ballot in November, but if voters don't show up for the primary, their voices are lost. The graphics on the slides can also be turned into social media postings. LWVMD will share a link to the slide presentation with members/local Leagues when it becomes available this month.



Top Reasons to Vote in the Primary

Early Voting: June 11–18, 2026 **Election Day:** June 23, 2026

1. The Governor is on the ballot. So are other state and local offices.

State offices are on the ballot, including the Governor, Attorney General, State Senators, and Delegates – all of whom make the laws you live under in Maryland and affect your taxes, schools, roads, and public safety. The decisions by people who hold state and local offices can sometimes impact your life more than federal offices.

2. Democracy requires that voters.....VOTE!

Typically, in Maryland, just over 25% of voters cast a ballot in the primary, meaning almost 75% of voters stay home. That means only a handful of Marylanders are choosing who sits in office. Your voice is important -- as important as any other citizen.

3. Primaries often decide who gets into office in November.

The primary is where candidates within the party compete to get onto the November ballot. Because most seats in Maryland are "safe seats," whoever wins the primary will typically win the General election in the fall. So, if you often find yourself not liking the choices in November, vote the primary.

4. VOTE411.org makes it easy.

Learn what the candidates stand for by going to www.vote411.org for non-partisan information from the League of Women Voters Maryland. You can also find information on the many ways Marylanders can vote, including by mail or in person at early voting or on election day (see other side).

5. You can influence the direction of your party.

Maryland's "closed" primary means only those registered as Democrats may vote in the Democratic primary and only those registered as Republicans may vote in the Republican primary. There are many different voices within each party. Make sure your voice is heard.

MISSION AT WORK

Committee Updates: Events

THIRD LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

LWVMD's third Legislative Breakfast will take place on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 8:30-11:00 a.m. at the Atreem in Annapolis. We are honored to have The Hon. Joseline A. Peña-Melnyck, Speaker of the House in the Maryland General Assembly, as our keynote speaker. She has a long history of advocating on a variety of issues, including health care, education, minimum wage, and opportunities for minority businesses. She also participates in the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, Inc., and Women Legislators of Maryland. Her tenure in the Maryland General Assembly follows a legal career

An annual fundraiser to support LWVMD, tickets are selling rapidly, so click [here](#) to purchase yours.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK



Breakfast

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 The Atreem in Annapolis, MD



Keynote Speaker
**SPEAKER JOSELINE
PEÑA-MELNYK**

Register Now! 

LWVMD.org/DemocracyBreakfast2026

MISSION AT WORK

Committee Updates: Events

DAY ON CAPITOL HILL

“Save the Date! LWVMD’s annual “Day on Capitol Hill” will be Monday, April 27.

We will continue with our “virtual” format and look forward to the opportunity to interact with our Senators and Representatives in Congress or their knowledgeable staff. The topic will be “Federal Threats to Voting Rights and How We Can Protect Them”.

The event will require prior registration and will be limited to LWVMD members, as in previous years.

<https://www.lwvmd.org/dayoncapitolhill2026>



Virtual DAY ON CAPITOL HILL



APRIL 27, 2026



9:30 AM

www.lwvmd.org/dayoncapitolhill2026



ELECTIONS 2026

By LWVMD

NEW ELECTION EQUIPMENT COMING TO MARYLAND!

The Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) is considering the purchase of a new voting system to be used beginning in the 2028 Presidential election cycle to replace the current “ballot marking devices.” These devices can be used by any voter but are especially designed to assist visually impaired voters in casting their ballot independently. A new scanner to tabulate marked ballots is also planned. As part of the certification process, SBE hosted a few days in March for the public to see how the ballot marking device and scanner would work. New pollbooks were not part of this demonstration, but we’ll keep an eye open for them as well.

Here are some League members who attended one of the open houses to view the equipment.



THE LWVMD STORE

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100% of the profits from your purchase goes directly to helping The League advance its mission of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy.

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T-SHIRT



DEMOCRACY
HOODIE

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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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