



2025 Annual Report

Book II

Report on 2024-2025 Activities

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

5:00 to 8:00 PM

Annual Meeting

Please register at lwvcalvert.org

BOOK II

A REPORT ON 2024-2025 ACTIVITIES

State of the Chapter:

The second half of 2024 was a whirlwind of election activities including continuing voter registrations, a Board of Education candidate Forum as well as Chesapeake Beach mayoral and town council candidate forum. Added to that was a distribution of Vote 411 cards to commuters at county bus stops. At all voter registration events LWVCC provided League materials, voter guides or QR cards to point to them online, as well as information about early voting, vote by mail, and Election Day voting. The annual Legislative Evening coordinated by JC Hooker in November was well attended by County residents who came out to make their voices heard.

The LWVUS transformation was launched in January, 2025, changing the way that dues will be collected from now on, and reallocating the division of dues and donation revenue among the national, state, and local Leagues. We are benefitting from the tasks that LWVUS is now assuming, freeing us to focus on programs and membership recruitment. Also for MLK Day in January, LWVCC collected items needed by residents of Safe Harbor shelter and brought them to Sharon DiMaggio for delivery.

In February and March, 2025, we gathered at IHOP for coffee and conversation. Sheriff Ricky Cox and staff joined us for one of those occasions, giving us insights into the challenges that they face. We were invited to tour the Detention Center which the Sheriff described as outdated and inadequate for providing the services that are needed for inmates and corrections staff. We were able to raise questions and believe that we have initiated a line of communication with the Sheriff's department.

On April 26th, we co-sponsored a citizen's educational forum on voting with Calvert Library that included Jared DeMarinis from the State and Gail Hatfield and Kristen Scott from the Local Boards of Election as well as Todd Eberly, a professor from St. Mary's College, and Ralph Watkins from Montgomery County LWV. Attendees remarked on how much they learned from the session that was offered in-person, on Zoom, and then posted on Calvert Library's YouTube channel.

This June 2025 we are undertaking a new fundraising initiative in partnership with the NAACP of Calvert County. There is much for us to learn in this process, but we are excited to engage in what promises to be an enjoyable and prosperous event.

As we both rotate out of our Co-Presidency roles, Gladys and Sandy are grateful for the tremendous support we've received from our active Board and League members who have pitched in whenever there was a need.

ONE ASK: Please arrange to participate in at least one event or activity this next year so we can share the workload; you may be surprised how much fun we have! For voter registration and candidate forums, speak to Gladys. For observer team, speak to JC. For social action, speak to Sandy.

Warm regards,
Sandy and Gladys



League of Women Voters of Calvert County Calendar of Activities for 2024-2025

June 2024

June 2-4: LWVMD Convention

June 5: Observation team meeting

June 15: LWVCC Board meeting and Retreat at Southern Community Center, Lusby

June 17: NAACP Family and Community Day at Jefferson Patterson Park

July 2024

July 1: Annual dues

July 3: Observer team meeting

July TBD: Voter registration training

July TBD: Voter registration at SMILE

July 12: LWVCC Board meeting

July 29: Voter Services meeting

August 2024

August 1: National Night Out at Calvert Pines and Chesapeake Beach

August 7: Observer team meeting
 August 9: LWVMD meeting
 August : Voter Service Committee meeting

September 2024

September 11: Observer team meeting
 September 13: LWVCC Board meeting
 September: Voter registration training
 September: LWVMD Fall Workshop
 September 17: National Voter Registration Day at CSM
 September: voter registration

October 2024

October: Board of Education Forum
 October 2: Observer team meeting
 October 11: LWVCC Board meeting

November 2024

November 5: General Election
 November 6: Observer team meeting
 November 8: LWVCC Board meeting
 November 13: Legislative Evening with State Officials

December 2024

December 7: Winter Social
 December 4: Observer team meeting

January 2025

January: New dues policy takes effect
 January 2: Observer team meeting
 January 10: LWVCC Board meeting
 January: LWVMD Winter Workshop

February 2025

February: WOW Planning meeting
 February 5: Observer team meeting
 February 14: LWVCC Board meeting

March 2025

March: Community Resource Day

March 4: Observer Team meeting
 March 13: LWVCC Board Meeting
 March: WOW celebration
 March: Calvert County Public Schools History Fair

April 2025

April 1: Observer team meeting
 April 6: Voter registration training
 April 10: LWVCC Board meeting
 April 19: CSM Spring Fling voter registration
 April: Green Life festival at Anne Marie Gardens
 April 26: Huntingtown HS voter registration

May 2025

May 6: Observer team meeting
 May 6: Voter Services meeting
 May 14: LWVCC Board Meeting
 May: TBD Voter registration
 May: TBD voter registration training
 May 28: Annual Membership Meeting

June 2025

June: LWVMD Convention
 June 3: Observer team meeting
 June 8: Virtual voter registration
 June 12: LWVCC Board meeting
 June 15: NAACP Family and Community Day at Jefferson Patterson Park

COMMITTEE & PROGRAM REPORTS

Green Life Festival

This event was not held in 2025.

Civics Education for Youth

See Social Action Report

Communications Committee

Submitted by Sandra Ravio

The social media team continues to post regular items of interest and keeps abreast of upcoming events, as does our bi-monthly newsletter and website. Newsletters are sent to every member while event flyers and information go to members and our partner organizations.

An exciting new activity was the creation of a video on voting for youth that was produced by our social media team under the direction of JC Hooker and the local Calvert County Elections Board. The video received widespread praise.

History Fair

Submitted by Cheryl Hannon

The 2024 Calvert County Public School History Fair was again organized by Nicole Penix, Chair of the Social Studies Program, and held at Calvert High School on March 9th. This year's theme was titled "Turning Points in History." Cheryl Hannon was our League representative, and Helenmary Ball assisted as a judge for the event. LWVCC donated gift cards to the following winners:

Award for Women's History: "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" by Ava Hall, Calvert Middle School

Award for Women's History: "Augusta Ada King-Noel" by Madelyn Nash and Laya Jones, Southern Middle School



Legislative Evening with Elected Maryland State Delegation

Submitted by JC Hooker

LWVCC once again hosted a successful Legislative Evening with elected state officials on November 15, 2024 at the Calvert Library in Prince Frederick. A capacity audience attended, including Commissioner Catherine Grasso and several leaders of our partner organizations. The event was moderated by Dixie Miller, and Edna Primrose, and attended by Sen. Michael Jackson and Delegate Todd Morgan.

Membership and Membership Events

Submitted by JC Hooker

LWVCC welcomes all members, and especially new members, to attend what we previously called our “Eggs and Issues” socials, now renamed “Chat Sessions.” These informal gatherings are typically held weekday mornings at the IHOP in Prince Frederick. In addition to good food, we discuss topics that concern our county and sometimes hear from guest speakers. Some good ideas for programs have emerged from these discussions.

The membership committee assists new members to participate with our local, State, and National Leagues. GREAT NEWS!!! Our LWVUS has recently streamlined our membership renewal process so that members will now receive an email notification of their renewal date based upon the date that they joined us. Dues payments can be made online, or mailed to our local Calvert address. We encourage donations to our Education Fund for tax deductible credit--any contribution is greatly appreciated. You may donate online at the time of membership renewal, or anytime on our website at lwvcalvert.org. Thank you for supporting our League!

Observer Teams

Submitted by JC Hooker & Tracy McGuire

Planning Commission & Board of County Commissioners: The LWVCC observer team continues to follow the County’s process of governing to ensure that programs and decisions benefit the community with a transparent and accountable government.

Planning and Zoning staff have updated Town Center Master Plans and the Zoning Ordinance. Changes to the Town Centers and Zoning Ordinance can be found on the website www.calvertcountymd.gov/ZoningOrdinanceUpdate. Further, the following link (<https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/1501/Meetings-On-Demand>) provides the agendas, meetings, and videos for the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners.

P&Z has seen changes to their staffing and two new appointments to the Planning Commission, with Jason Brinkley serving as the new Director of Planning and Zoning. Mark Willis, the County’s Administrator, will be retiring June 30, 2025.

The County Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2019 and amended in 2022. In order to bring the Zoning Ordinance into compliance with the Comprehensive Plan (and State

requirements), County staff and the Comprehensive Plan consultant conducted an analysis of existing conditions and then developed and updated a draft Zoning Ordinance mandated to regulate land uses, neighborhoods, public facilities, and overall development in the County. Several drafts were presented at the Commission's meetings, as well as results of public comments and hearings. The updated Zoning Ordinance went into effect on March 1, 2025. The observation team has monitored the Board of County Commissioners discussions of the Comprehensive Plan, Town Center, and Zoning Ordinances. In approving the Town Centers and Zoning Ordinance Plans, they have acknowledged concerns raised in public comments and public hearings.

The FY 2026 Budget remains an ongoing topic to be monitored due to adjustments in funding from state and federal sources. This link: [operating and capital budget proposals](#) provides information on the process and updates for the budget. The recommended Operating and Capital Improvement Budget was released in March 2025 followed by a public hearing and comments. The Commissioners will release the recommended FY 2026 Budget soon and hold a public hearing in May, 2025. The final budget will be adopted in June, 2025.

Board of Education: The Board of Education Observation Team monitors the work of the Calvert County Board of Education. The Team focus is on the following criteria:

1. Identify emerging issues;
2. Assess the level of transparency; and
3. Assess if the elected officials are acting as honest brokers of information and decision-making.

Additionally, the Team reports on Board activity they feel may be of interest to LWVCC members. For observation from July 2024 through April 2025:

The emerging issues for the school board were negative student behaviors and CCPS discipline policy & procedures, budget, Strategic Planning, contract negotiations, school start times, and a new cell phone policy. The level of transparency is good. The Board provides electronic access to all the documents and presentations they will engage with the Monday prior to the Thursday meeting. This allows the community to review the planned work and comment in advance of the meeting or attend and comment in person. Generally, the BoE appears to be acting as an honest broker of information and decision-making.

Activity that may be of interest to the LWVCC Membership:

1. The BoE banned or limited student use of cell phones. Anecdotally it appears to be improving student behaviors in CCPS.
2. The BoE called into question the integrity of the work of LWVCC Voter Registration

activities on CCPS property;

3. The BoE presented a \$0 increase 2026 budget request to the BoCC. This is of concern as the BoE used \$25M of fund balance in 2025 and plans to use \$11.5M in fund balance in 2026. Deficit spending will eventually catch up to the Board and may mean program and or staff cuts;

4. The BoE has begun to unwind some of the work CCPS has done in the last 10 years for equity in education by removing inclusive language from its Mission Statement.

Current observers are JC Hooker, Pat Pease, Gladys White, Lila West, Tracy McGuire

Outreach Partners

Submitted by Sandra Raviv & Gladys White

Our League continues to support our partner organizations and receives support from them in return for mutually beneficial projects. In 2024, we participated in Concerned Black Women's MILE conference, and the annual Juneteenth Community Day sponsored by NAACP. We have also partnered with NAACP of Calvert for an upcoming June 27, 2025 gold tournament fundraiser that will benefit NAACP's scholarship program as well as LWVCC's citizen education programs.

Social Action Committee

Submitted by Mary Ann Zaversnik

As part of its focus on civics education, the Social Action Committee made a presentation in September of "Your Voice, Your Vote" at the College of Southern Maryland for adults studying English as a second language. League participants were Erika Fisher, Sandra Raviv, Gladys White and Mary Ann Zaversnik.

Some members of the Committee also participated in an event entitled "The Longest Table" hosted by the Calvert Library. The event consisted of a light meal and opportunities for conversation about unity and resilience in our community while forging new connections for the future.

In March, Julia Schardt, Sandra Raviv, and Gladys White participated in the 2025, Division 5 Conference, hosted by Calvert Association of Student Councils, St. Mary's Association of Student Councils, and Charles Association of Student Councils. The theme was "Youth Civic Engagement." Also represented was the Maryland Civics Education Coalition. Following presentations by both organizations on their respective missions, students engaged in a lively Q&A session on a range of topics.

Lauretta Grier regularly reported on her meetings with the “Big Conversation” and the Office on Aging.

Mary Ann Zaversnik is stepping down from chair of the committee at the end of this year, but will continue to participate on the committee. It was decided to call meetings as needed with members sharing information relevant to the Committee from other community activities and determining other activities in which we might engage.

Voter Services Report

Submitted by Gladys White

During the past year, the Voter Services team participated in Concerned Black Women’s annual Minority Institute for Leadership Excellence (MILE) in December at CSM with 160 enthusiastic high school students attending. Supt. Townsel was the guest speaker. Gladys White, Sandra Raviv, and Julia Schardt handed out voting materials for the primary and general elections. A number of students took information about serving as election judges.

LWVCC also offered three voter registration trainings in conjunction with the Calvert Board of Elections, and twenty-three voter registration events at SMILE food pantry, all four high schools, the College of Southern Maryland, NAACP’s Juneteenth Celebration, Twin Beaches Library, and for National Night Out at Seagull Beach and Calvert Pines Senior Center.

Additionally, the team hosted two Candidate Forums for the Board of Education and Chesapeake Beach Mayoral and Town Council elections. Vote 411.org and Voters Guides were prepared and QR codes pointing to Vote 411.org were distributed to commuters at several bus stops in Calvert. LWVCC joined the NAACP coalition to turn out voters for the general election in November, and gave handouts to our partners and community businesses. The committee consists of the following people: Janet Ashby, Janet Bellizzi, Julia Schardt, and JC Hooker.

Women of the World Celebration

Not held this year