

**50th Annual Meeting**  
**League of Women Voters of Kent County Maryland**  
**April 28, 2026**  
**Emmanuel Church, Chestertown**

**PROPOSED AGENDA**

Call to Order, Welcome, and Introduction of Guests

Recognition of Past Presidents

Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of Rules/Parliamentarian

Approval of 2025 Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Auditor's Report

Presentation of the Budget

Presentation of the Program

Nominating Committee Report

Election of Officers

Welcome to the New Board

Directions to our President and the new Board from Members

Adjournment

Proposed Rules:

1. Admission is limited to members in good standing and guests.
2. Voting is limited to members in good standing.
3. Any League member has the privilege of the floor.
4. To speak, a member should raise a hand and be recognized by the floor.

5. No member shall speak twice until all who desire to speak have been heard once. The chair may place a time limit on discussion if this is deemed necessary.

The business meeting will be followed by a special presentation from Nikki Tyree, Director of the League of Women Voters of Maryland

## **Presidents of the League of Women Voters of Kent County Maryland**

1976-1977 Pam Hartfield

1977-1981 Anne Briggs

1981-1983 Beverly Birkmire

1983-1984 Mary Corr and Ann Wilmer Hoon

1984-1985 Beverly Birkmire

1985-1986 Susan Comfort and Susanne Hayman (Schmoldt)

1986-1987 Susann Hayman and Eva Bauman

1987-1988 Eva Bauman and Lauren Bedell

1988-1989 Lauren Bedell, Barbara Heck, and Eileen Cox

1989-1990 Eileen Cox and Elaine Naper

1990-1991 Eileen Naper and Kay Hutchison

1991-1993 Rebecca Goode

1993-1994 Rebecca Goode and Pat Dillingham

1994-1995 Pat Dillingham and Virginia Wantling

1995-1996 Virginia Wantling and Jane Hellawell

1996-1997 Jane Hellawell

1997 Vance Goode (Acting)

1998-1999 Anne Wilmer Hoon

1999-2001 Anne Wilmer Hoon

2001-2002 Rebecca Goode and Anne Wilmer Hoon

2002-2004 Rebecca Goode

2004-2006 Jane Hardy

2006-2007 Jane Hardy

2007 Rosemary Myers

2008 Frances Miller

2008-2009 Jane Hardy and Frances Miller

2009-2011 Jeanette Sherbondy

2011-2013 Jeanette Sherbondy

2013-2015 Jane Hardy and Nancy Smith

2015-2017 Sandra Bjork

2017-2018 Lynn Dolinger and Jane Hardy

2018-2019 Jane Hardy and Linda Reed

2019-2021 Cece Trainor

2021-2023 Barbara Flook and Marian Herb

2023-2025 Barbara Flook and Jackie Adams

2025-2027 Jackie Adams

## **Minutes of the League of Women Voters of Kent County, MD Annual Meeting**

### **April 24, 2024 Presbyterian Church Chestertown, MD**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by co-president Barbara Flook at 5:30 PM.

Recognition of Past Presidents: Barb recognized the past presidents that were in attendance: Beverly Birkmire, Jane Hardy, Sandy Bjork and Marian Herb.

Adoption of the Agenda: Moved, seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Adoption of Rules and Parliamentarian: Beverly Birkmire was appointed parliamentarian. Adoption of the proposed rules was moved, seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Approval of April 19, 2023 Minutes: Approval of the minutes was moved, seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Co-President Barb Flook presented the treasurers report for Sandy Dinoff and read the auditor's report.

Auditor's Report: Barb read the auditor's report for fiscal year 2023-2024. The report was prepared by Robert W. Bjork. He reported that the records were complete and in good order.

Treasurer's Report: Total expenses for the year amounted to \$6,405.71 which was under the projected budget amount of \$7,400.00. Income for the year was \$8,030.74 which was over the projected budget amount of \$7,400.00. The total balance in all accounts was \$22,869.85.

Presentation of the 2024-2025 Budget: The proposed budget was presented by Sandy Dinoff. It set total income at \$6450.00 and total expenses at \$6450.00. There was a motion to approve the budget, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

Presentation of the Program: Co-President Barb Flook reported that last year the LWVKC membership voted to address our position on education, particularly the emphasis on local control of education. The LWVMD has since undertaken that as a study, and we will defer to their position on state and local control of education. We also voted to study the question "Should the Kent County Commissioners be increased from 3 to 5?" The scope and mission has been defined as; We will study increasing the

number of commissioners from 3 to 5, the current at-large election representation and staggered terms for commissioners.

Nominating Committee Report: Jane Hardy presented the slate of officers for 2024-2025 and the members of the 2025 Nominating Committee.

Acceptance of the slate presented by the Nominating Committee was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Closing Remarks: Barb Flook asked if there was any advice or guidance that members wanted to give the League for the new year. There was a suggestion to provide more publicity to the public. Barb thanked everyone for attending the 2024 Annual Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Following the Annual Meeting guest speaker, Mr. Jared DeMarinis, State Administrator of Elections, presented "Election Disinformation and Misinformation in Maryland".

Respectfully Submitted,

Fran Peimer, Secretary

# **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KENT COUNTY, MD**

## **1 April 2026-31 March 2027 Proposed Budget**

### INCOME BUDGET

DUES 550.00

CONTRIBUTIONS 1000.00

CORR FUND 5000.00

BERWYN FUND 400.00

MISCELLANEOUS 50.00

FROM RESERVES 1000.00

TOTAL INCOME 8000.00

### EXPENSES

#### OPERATING COSTS

MEMBER PUBLICATIONS 25.00

MEETING SPACE 600.00

PO BOX 250.00

STORAGE 1450.00

SUPPLIES 50.00

#### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

ANNUAL MEETING 350.00

WORKSHOPS & COUNCILS 100.00

CONVENTIONS 300.00

#### VOTER EDUCATION & PROGRAMS

FORUMS 3350.00

PUBLICATIONS 25.00

SCHOLARSHIPS & PRIZES 1500.00

PRESIDENT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

TOTAL EXPENSES 8000.001

## **LWVKC LOCAL PROGRAM**

Local Positions – The positions from which the LWVKC is currently working include:

Education: Support for the concept of educational opportunity in which each child in the county is encouraged to develop to his or her potential.

Housing: Support for the: Active enforcement of the county-wide housing code; active enforcement of the county-wide building code; County government actively seeking means to meet the county housing needs through private and public money. Planning and Zoning: Support for the comprehensive plan for Kent County. The plan should provide for growth but maintain the rural character of the county.

County Government: Support for a home-rule type of county government that has broad subject matter legislative powers and meets the needs of the citizens of Kent County, and whose members are elected from districts. Support to increase the number of county commissioners to 5.

Local Program on Land Use and Growth Management:

Land Use/Growth Management: Action to promote the establishment of coordinated land use plans between Kent County and its towns and unincorporated villages. Action to promote the establishment of design and development standards for Kent County and its communities to achieve land use plans that meet the changing goals and needs of its citizens. The process for establishing design and development standards should be based equally on the following League of Women Voters' principles: Broad-based participation of the public with consideration of the needs of all the citizens; visioning that is ongoing, dynamic, and forward-looking; and consideration of environment and natural resources.

Support for:

Multi-government decision making on land use and growth management issues such as coordination of comprehensive plan issues; Critical Area issues; community services and facilities; rural and agricultural conservation; location /annexation; housing; public waterfront access; infrastructure; parks and

recreation; residential and commercial development; community appearance and design.

Design and development standards categories such as: Density of both structures and population; preservation of natural resources, environment, open space; adequate public facilities and services, including parks and recreation; aesthetics; compatibility of buildings and size plan with surroundings, balance of commercial/industrial and

residential structures; transportation requirements and traffic impact; historic preservation.

Background: We adopted this concurrence at our annual meeting in 2002. We have used it as a basis for testimony at the County Commission level.

Outlook for Work: We will continue to monitor agencies and to testify if possible.

League of Women Voters of Kent County, MD

## **2026 Nominating Committee Report**

League of Women Voters of Kent County, MD

2026 Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of new officers, directors, and nominating committee for the consideration of the LWVKC membership at the 2026 Annual Meeting in April:

2 nd Vice President (two-year term) Cece Trainor (2028)

Treasurer (two-year term) Sandy Dinoff (2028)

Elected Directors (two-year term) Margie Baker (2028)

Chair of Nominating Committee, Off-Board Beverly Birkmire (2027)

Continuing in Office:

President (two-year term) Jackie Adams (2027)

1 st Vice President (appointed to fill the remainder of the term Carol Droge (2027)

Secretary (two-year term) Marian Herb (2027)

Elected Directors (two year terms)

Barb Flook (2027)

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Birkmire, Chair, Nominating Committee 2026

Fran Peimer

Betsy Teutch

Carol Droge (Board member)

Barb Flook (Board member)

## Highlights 2025 - 2026

### League of Women Voters of Kent County Maryland

#### What a Great Year! Here are some of our amazing accomplishments.

We continued to advocate for districted representation on the Board of Commissioners and increasing the number of commissioners from 3 to 5. We presented at organizations around the county and met with county officials to discuss possible pathways to a change. An article in the Kent County News reported on our work on this project.

We increased our involvement with students at Washington College by participating in a panel discussion regarding advocacy at a local government level and presenting to an election math class about our work on districted representation and increasing to 5 commissioners. Two students assisted with our Voter Registration events.

We provided Voter Registration tables at the Farmers' Market, area grocery stores, community food pantries, laundromats, and local festivals to help register voters and answer questions about voting. Twenty-two League volunteers trained to help us with our efforts to get out the vote.

Our 50th Anniversary party was so much fun! We honored past presidents Becky Goode and Jane Hardy, who have both been members of the League of Women Voters for 50 years! Becky regaled us with stories from the LWVUS 75th anniversary train ride from Nashville to Chicago, and Jane told us about her experience in four different state Leagues! We welcomed other past presidents, socialized with old and new members and ate lots of great food and anniversary cake.

Following the party we had a great public event with Dr. Kathryn Lee, retired Professor Political Science from Whitworth University. Her presentation on "The Voting Rights Act of 1965-60 years later" was an overview of the original act and how challenges to the Act have attempted to reduce its effectiveness in protecting against discrimination in voting, particularly among minority, older and younger voters. Dr. Lee reminded us of the important role the League played in supporting the Voting Rights Act.

We sponsored a program with Ken Kozel, President and CEO of University of Maryland Regional Health, talking about the issues of providing health care in our rural environment

As we do for each election cycle, we prepared Vote 411 and Voters Guides for the 2026 election cycle.

We sponsored two Candidate Forums for Chestertown Town elections. Our November forum drew more than 150 Chestertown residents!

We awarded the Corr Scholarship of \$1500. to Kent County High School senior, Olivia Johnson. Olivia will pursue her education in hopes of becoming an environmental journalist.

We continued to observe at Commissioner's meetings, School Board and Board of Elections meetings.