



Letter from the President

The first month of 2023 has sped by as the local legislative season heats up. We began the year with our legislative breakfast with the Howard County State Delegation, which set the stage for the many issues that will be coming up over the next several months. I'd like to send a huge round of applause to our volunteer organizers, especially LWVHC Vice President Laura Mettle, who did an excellent job planning and leading the event. A special thank you goes to Valerie Montague for serving as our moderator.



Delegates Jen Terassa, Pam Lanman Guzzone, Jessica Feldmark, Courtney Watson, Natalie Zeigler, and Chao Wu, as well as Senator Guy Guzzone graciously joined us for the event, and we sincerely appreciate their willingness to address issues important to our voters. The breakfast was well-attended, and our members and guests did a great job representing the League with their thought-provoking questions. Thank you all for helping us Make Democracy Work.



FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Special General Membership Meeting, Feb 9

We sent an email earlier this month about our need to schedule a special general meeting to elect a nominating committee. The job of the nominating committee is to propose a slate of candidates to fill roles for 2023-2024 Board. The meeting will be held on Feb 9th, 2023 7pm-7:15 via Zoom, immediately followed by our monthly Board meeting.

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88915921840?pwd=T2syRXB5UVAzTTJpREZSckhxZnJLZz09>

So far we have had 1 person volunteer to be on the nominating committee but we need 2 more members. Thank you Betsy Grater!

Unit Meeting, Feb 16

We will be sending out more information, via email, about our Feb 16th Unit meeting

What is Happening in HoCo?

Environmental Legislation

This month, LWVHC member Ruth Alice White testified on our behalf in favor of CB5-2023, a County Council Bill related to the electrification of buildings in Howard County. To read the bill, visit

<https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/PrintSummary.aspx?LegislationID=13183>

HCPSS Education Budget Proposal and Process

Dr. Michael Martirano, Superintendent of Howard County Public Schools released the proposed FY24 HCPSS operating budget on January 25. You can find the full budget here.

<https://www.hcpss.org/f/aboutus/budget/fy24/fy24-proposed-superintendent-operating-budget.pdf?a>

County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball released a statement later that day in response to the budget increases requested in the Superintendent's proposal. You can read his statement here

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News012523>

What Happens Next?

The Howard County Board of Education will review the superintendent's request and vote to adopted their final versions of the operating and capital budgets at their meeting on February 16, 2023. They will hold work sessions at 1 pm on Feb. 1, Feb. 2, Feb. 8, and Feb. 14. The public hearing, when citizens can advocate for/against budget provisions will be held February 6, at 7 pm following the Board of Education work session from 2-5 pm.

On February 16, the BoE approved budget will go to the County Executive, who will review their request and submit his own education budget proposal to the County Council in April, along with the rest of the Howard County FY24 budget. There will be a public hearing in March, date TBD. The County Council will review the budget and hold their own public hearings through May, when they vote on the final approved HoCo Budget.

After they receive the education budget from the County Council, the Howard County Board of Education will finalize allocations based on the approved funding, and will adopt the official HCPSS FY24 budget on May 25, 2023.

If you are interested in following what is happening in Education in Howard County, please let us know. You could join the board or simply act as a Liaison and provide us with email updates to share with our members. (Send us an email by clicking on the button below, if you are interested)

Yes, I'm
interested in
following
Education
happenings in
HoCo

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