



*February 2024*

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## Primary Candidate Forum

Thank you to the following members who volunteered to help with the upcoming candidate forum: **Kirsten Wallace, Cynthia Saver, Betsy Grater, Sandra French, Barbara Russell, Valerie Montague, and Grace Kubofcik**. We have also invited non-members to help with this event and would like to thank **Babu Prahakar** for volunteering. The Forum will be held on April 17, 2024 at Howard Community College.

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## Valentine's Appeal

*Its not too late to make a donation.*



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**Welcome to our newest board members!**

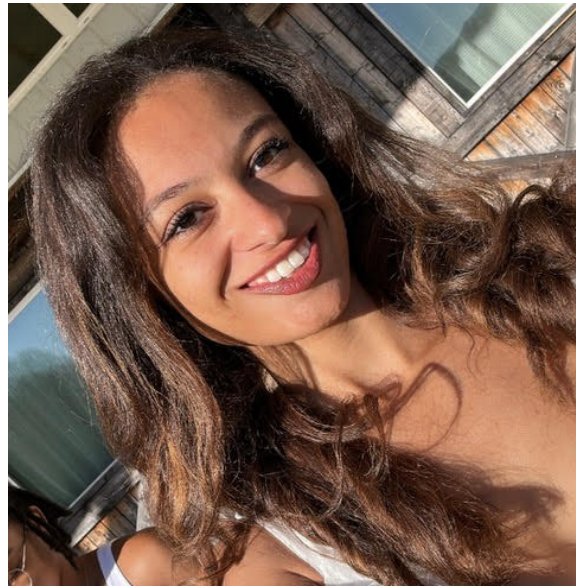


**Jessica Rose-Malm**

### **At-Large Board Member**

Jessica comes from a long line of league members, dating back to the pre-suffrage days. She has a professional background in social work and public policy, and is eager to help the league engage and educate Howard County voters.

[JRoseMalm@lwvmd.org](mailto:JRoseMalm@lwvmd.org)



**Kirsten Wallace**

### **At-Large Board Member**

Kirsten joined the league to deepen her understanding of local politics, help educate citizens, and get involved in advocacy work. She has an undergrad degree in International Relations from George Mason University, a Master's Degree in Public Administration from GW, and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Public Administration from the University of Baltimore. She is hoping to utilize the skills gained from these degrees to provide outreach and educate citizens, as well as expand the leagues reach!

[KWallace@lwvmd.org](mailto:KWallace@lwvmd.org)

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## Keep an eye out for emails with more details soon!

- April 17 - Candidate Forum (Primary)
- April 25 - Annual Meeting
- June 19 - Midsummer Gala Fundraiser

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### Testimony

*Laura Mettle submitted written testimony in support of HoCo 6-24, Board of Education Elections - Ranked Choice Voting*



**The League of Women Voters of the United States** “supports electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable, and enhance representation for all voters. In addition, we support electoral systems that maximize effective votes, minimize wasted votes, and promote sincere voting over strategic voting.” *Governments are encouraged to implement alternatives to plurality voting,” such as Ranked Choice Voting, to systems that permit a candidate with a plurality of votes to win an election.*

[Read the Full Statement on our website.](#)

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## Old Books Find New Homes



Once upon a time, the League raised money by selling books. We'd collect boxes of books that members donated and store them in a member's garage. Then everybody hauled boxes to a public area to sell them. However, the last time all of this preparation and work was done, nobody came to buy those books.

Then the name Wonder Books was whispered to us. Two members made the quest to Frederick with a car full of boxes of books and found that it was true! Wonder Books does indeed pay cash and took ALL of the boxes! So a garage with a pile of boxes was converted into cash for the League of \$106.00, and everyone lived happily ever after.

If you happen to have League property sitting in your garage or basement, let me know!

*Submitted by: [Beth Hufnagel](#)*

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## Voters Guides

Leagues all around the US are actively working to populate the [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) database with races and candidates. Howard County has sent out emails to the local candidates asking them to respond to questions. These responses will be viewable on Vote411 in **early April** and also printed in our paper **Voters' Guide**.

Although we are still a few months away from creating and printing these guides, we'd like to thank Kirstin Wallace, Janet Romsaas, Betsy Grater, Sandra French, Barbara Russell and Grace Kubofcik who all volunteered to help deliver them.

**We will be in touch as we get closer!**  
In the meantime, you may find this table on [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) interesting, It displays the Voting Rules for each state.

## Voting Rules

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### Social Media Connections

Join us on **Instagram** for captivating visuals, behind-the-scenes insights, and community engagement. Follow us on **Facebook** for the latest updates, event announcements, and discussions on pressing issues. For real-time updates and lively conversations, join our **Twitter** community. And if you're looking to network with like-minded professionals and stay informed on policy matters, connect with us on **LinkedIn**.



Together, let's empower voters and build a more equitable future.

Follow, like, and engage with us on all platforms to be part of the movement!

[#LeagueOfWomenVoters](#)  
[#EmpowerChange](#)



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League of Women Voters of Howard County - 9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 312, Columbia MD, 21046

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