



*April 2025*

## LWV Local News

### Federal Judiciary Study Consensus Report:

The LWVUS is conducting a nationwide study consensus of the Federal Judiciary. The LWVUS has never had a position about the Federal Judiciary. At the 2024 National Convention, the delegates directed the Board to conduct a study in preparation for adopting a position. The expedited process was directed, and a new position will be approved by the national board of directors at their June 2025 meeting.

We held our consensus meetings on April 8th and 9th, with about 20 members participating. **Thanks to all who turned out. I hope you enjoyed being the grassroots of the LWV!**

**The Study report included 12 possible statements for inclusion in the new position. They are listed below, along with our decisions.**

- 1) Transparency is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary. **Strong Consensus FOR**
- 2) Accountability is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary. **Strong Consensus FOR**
- 3) Independence is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary. **Strong Consensus FOR**
- 4) Ethics is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary. **Strong Consensus FOR**
- 5) There should be binding universal standards of conduct for judges and Justices at all levels of the Federal courts. **Strong Consensus FOR** the concept of universal standards of conduct, with expressed concern about the implications of "binding"

and possible methods of enforcement. Enforcement of ethics code should not be open to political interference.

6) Court hearings, documents filed in the court, and rulings for all federal cases should be open and available to the public. **Strong Consensus AGAINST**

7) There should be an effective enforcement mechanism for the Federal Judiciary Code of Ethics at all levels. **Strong Consensus FOR**

8) An enforcement mechanism should include a process to require a judge or Justice to recuse him or herself when a reasonable litigant would believe that the judge or Justice has a bias against any party or an issue raised in the case. **Moderate Consensus AGAINST**

9) A judge or Justice's decision and rationale to recuse or not to recuse should be publicly disclosed in writing. **Moderate Consensus AGAINST**

10) Federal judges and Justices should be subject to rigid financial disclosure requirements, enforcement, and penalties for all financial benefits, including, but not limited to income, gifts, paid speaking engagements, and book deals. **Moderate Consensus AGAINST**

11) Stability of Law (stare decisis) is a value that contributes to a strong democracy. **Moderate Consensus FOR**

12) Public perception of the Supreme Court's legitimacy contributes to a strong democracy. **Strong Consensus FOR**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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# ANNUAL MEETING



Join us for our Annual Meeting which begins at **6:00 pm on Tuesday, April 22, 2025**, at 9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD 21046.

**Open to Members only.**

Buy your dinner ticket online by **Friday, April 18, 2025**. **Link to purchase tickets:** [https://hoco.lwvhowardmd.org/annual\\_meeting\\_2025](https://hoco.lwvhowardmd.org/annual_meeting_2025)

We need volunteers to set up, clean up, and take notes during the meeting.

Please contact **Laura Mettle** at [lmettle@lwvmd.org](mailto:lmettle@lwvmd.org) to volunteer.

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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### Midsummer Night Gala

Mark your calendars for the Midsummer Night Gala, to be held at the Robinson Nature Center on **Wednesday, June 18, 2025, beginning at 6:00 pm.**

We are in need of volunteers to help with ticketing at the door, collecting donations for raffle prizes (think gift baskets), and set-up and clean-up.

If you're interested in helping out, please email the office at [Office-hoco@lwvmd.org](mailto:hoco@lwvmd.org) or sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoB44AAAE2AABFFC16-56264852-midsummer>

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## Asian American Pacific Islander Festival

We will once again attend the **Asian American Pacific Islander Festival** at **Symphony Woods on May 10, 2025**. The festival begins at noon.

The Festival is wonderful entertainment, and has delicious food! Come out and enjoy this wonderful cultural event, and spend an hour staffing our booth at the event. (We'll have chairs and a tent).

Please contact the office at [Office-Hoco@lwvmd.org](mailto:Office-Hoco@lwvmd.org) to volunteer for a shift or sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoB44AAAE2AABFFC16-56264585-aapi>



## Civic Education Series

We are planning a civic education series for Howard County residents interested in serving in local or state elected office.

If you're interested in being part of the team to make arrangements and find our guest speakers, please contact Laura Mettle or Krista Threefoot at [Office-hoco@lwvmd.org](mailto:hoco@lwvmd.org).

**We will begin work in May.** We need **publicists, hostesses, moderators, and event staff.** And, if you have served as an elected official, we'd be very happy to hear from you as we begin planning these events.

## Membership Portal

Our move to the new League of Women Voters membership system is going smoothly. We encourage all of you to visit the membership site, often referred to as **chapter spot** or the **'Portal'**, to check the status of your membership.

For your convenience we have added a link to the LWV Portal to our website.

**Here are the steps you should follow.**

1. Click on the link to the portal (from our website) or right here!  
<https://portal.lwv.org>
2. Enter your email address
3. Check your emails - you will receive a **one-time passcode**



The email will come from '**League of Women Voters**' and the subject will be '**Login Confirmation**'

4. Enter the passcode

5. Click Verify

6. You are in!

7. Your membership card will be visible at the top and will show basic information such as your expiration date

If you need to **renew**, click the **renew button**

**View your profile** and make sure the information is correct (**address, phone, etc.**)

You do not need to create a new password for this system. Every time you log-in you will go through the same process, receiving an email verification code.



ACT NOW to support Electrify HoCo/Electrify Our Future campaign

It is now All Hands on Deck time for electrification of new commercial and residential buildings and substantial renovations in Howard County.

We learned earlier this week that Council Chair Liz Walsh, at the request of the county executive, prefilled [CB24-2025](#), Adopting - Howard County Building Code. This is the bill that we have been anticipating that updates Howard County building codes to the 2024 building codes. Unfortunately, it does not include language to require electrification of new commercial and residential buildings and substantial renovations in Howard County even though hundreds of Howard County residents sent postcards to the county executive asking that this language be included. The bill will be officially introduced on Monday, April 7, at the [County Council Legislative Session](#) at 7 p.m.

We need the County Council to introduce an amendment to add language to this bill to electrify new commercial and residential buildings and major renovations in Howard County.

This language was in the [county executive's 2024 report](#) that informed the County Council what language the updated building code legislation needed to electrify new

buildings, based on language developed by the International Codes Council (ICC). All the Council needs to do is amend the draft bill with the ICC language before passing it.

[Here is more background information](#) on our 3 ½ year work to require new buildings to be “Smart from the Start” and be fossil-fuel-free in Howard County.

A County Council hearing has been scheduled for Monday, April 21, at 7 p.m. on a draft bill ([CB24-2025](#)) to approve new county building codes. The Council will likely vote on the draft bill in May. Whatever bill passes will become the law for at least the next three years.

WE NEED YOUR HELP to PACK THE ROOM

PLEASE TESTIFY AT THE HEARING. WE CAN HELP YOU PREPARE



Actions for individuals and organizations

- Send this [Action Alert](#) to your friends, neighbors and members of your organization.
- [Let us know](#) if you can Pack the Room on Monday, April 21, at 7 p.m. for the hearing and if you can testify in person, virtually or by submitting written testimony. We will help you prepare. More details will be forthcoming.
- Let your [county councilmember](#) know you want an amendment to CB24-2025 to enact energy-efficient, all-electric building standards for new construction, major renovations, and additions.
- Plan to Pack the Room for the vote tentatively set for Monday, May 5, at 7 p.m.
- [Volunteer to help table at GreenFest](#) on Saturday, April 12.

Hard opposition to our proposed amendment is likely from the building industry and real estate interests as well as the gas and propane industries, which claim to care about climate change but actually want things to stay just as they are. They will do all they can to kill any amendments. WE NEED CITIZEN VOICES TO DROWN THEM OUT.

On March 31 and April 1, US Sen. Cory Booker stood and spoke for more than 25 hours in the Senate chamber because he is appalled at how things are going in the nation. Senator Booker said that his staff challenged him to take risks, so he did.



His inspirational speech referred frequently to John Lewis' idea of "good trouble" and concluded with this: "For all Americans, it's a moral moment. It's not left or right. It's right or wrong."

TAKE A RISK. JOIN US TO DO SOMETHING RIGHT FOR THE CLIMATE AND OUR HEALTH. [PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP](#). WE'LL HELP YOU AT EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

Please contact [electrifyhoco.eof@gmail.com](mailto:electrifyhoco.eof@gmail.com) with any questions.



## Stay Socially Connected

☀️ Stay socially connected with us and be part of an amazing community! 📸 Dive into our vibrant world on [Instagram](#), where you'll find stunning visuals and exclusive behind-the-scenes glimpses that will inspire you! 💬 Don't miss out on our lively updates and discussions on [Facebook](#)—join in and share your thoughts! 🤝 Follow, like, and interact with us—together, we can empower change and make a real impact! 💪 ✨  
#LeagueOfWomenVoters  
#EmpowerChange



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

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