



*June 2025*

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## 2025 Annual Meeting Recap

### Highlights of the Annual Meeting:

During her opening remarks, President Laura Mettle expressed deep appreciation for the League's lifetime members, whose service remains a cornerstone of our organization. She was thrilled to announce the addition of over 30 new members since April 2024, a clear indicator of the League's growing relevance and reach. Laura highlighted the League's commitment to forging alliances with like-minded groups to champion democracy and civil rights, ensuring that our collective voice remains strong and effective.

Treasurer Jessica Rose Malm's report assured members of the League's continued financial stability. As of late April, our accounts are healthy, with \$14,236.16 in checking and \$32,289.58 in our money market fund. Jessica explained that the adoption of the new national dues collection platform, Chapter Spot, will bring about changes in how we report our finances for 2025-2026.

The League is energized by the appointment of new committee members for 2026, including the Nominating, Budget, and Bylaws Committees. President Mettle stressed the importance of updating our bylaws to reflect current needs and best practices. The nominating committee's diligent work led to a unanimous vote for a new slate of officers and directors, ensuring strong leadership for the coming term. With these dedicated individuals at the helm, the League is well-equipped to drive forward its advocacy and voter education programs.

### Directions to the Board:

The board is directed to move forward assertively with the 2025-2026 voter education initiative, which will require active collaboration. Board members should coordinate with the Columbia Association to leverage their expertise in preparing candidates for Village Board positions. Furthermore, the board is encouraged to increase visibility by advertising both League-sponsored and partner events. To

sustain our momentum, every member is urged to recruit at least one or two new members and invite them to participate in next year's annual meeting, fostering a culture of growth and engagement.

**Call for Board Secretary!** If you have an interest on getting involved and serving on the board, we are looking for someone to serve as Secretary. Please go to our [website](#) for more details on duties for this position. If you have any questions regarding this position or would like to serve, please contact Laura Mettle at [lmettle@lwvmd.org](mailto:lmettle@lwvmd.org).

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## **A Midsummer Night Gala**

**Wednesday, June 18, 6:30PM**

Check-in for the event begins at 6:30 pm, and festivities begin at 7 pm. We have full use of the entire space, so if you would like to have more time to explore the grounds, you can arrive as early as 6:00 pm.

- Dinner and Desserts
- Drinks (soft drinks and wine)
- Planetarium Showing **Secret Life of Stars**, narrated by **Sir Patrick Stewart**

There is no dress code for this event,  
but most attendees come 'business  
casual'

(The event will be held rain or shine.)

Tickets are \$60 per person.

Also, we are in need of some helping  
hands to assist us with set-up,  
registration, basket raffle, and clean-up!  
Please contact **Laura Mettle or**  
**Krista Threefoot** at [office-  
hoco@lwvmd.org](mailto:office-hoco@lwvmd.org) to volunteer.

Purchase Ticket Today!

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## Featured Public Event | Monday, June 23, 2025

### The Story of the U.S. Constitution: Past and Present

You are invited to join the Sandra Day O'Connor Institute as we sponsor this rare opportunity to hear from some of the nation's most acclaimed Constitutional scholars and award-winning authors. The panel discussion will feature Yale professors **Akhil Reed Amar** and **David Blight** in conversation with National Constitution Center President **Jeffrey Rosen**. Together, they'll explore the Constitution along with Supreme Court decisions that have shaped America from its founding to today.



**Monday, June 23**



**6:30 PM – 7:30 PM ET**

**Free | In Person and Online**

Presented in partnership with the **National Constitution Center** and the **Organization of American Historians**.

Don't miss this dynamic discussion on the past, present, and future of the Constitution.

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## Tribute



## Grace Kubofcik

It is with great sadness that the HC League of Women Voters shares news of the passing of longtime LWV member and community advocate Grace Kubofcik following recent surgery. Grace joined the LWV in the 1980s, was elected co-President in 2007, and served with distinction in a variety of both board and off-board positions over the last 40 years. Also an important contributor to and supporter of the Association of Community Services, Patapsco Heritage Greenway, EC250, and HC Affordable Housing Coalition, she made a significant difference wherever she served.

Grace was an advisor, mentor, and educator to elected officials and community members who wished to understand the history, challenges, and intricacies of county processes. Grace was always happy to share how we got here, where we should be going, and what it would take to get us there - together.

She either knew it all or would not stop asking questions of those in charge until she did. When Grace testified before the General Assembly, County Council, or local Boards & Commissions, everybody listened because no one was more respected by leadership, colleagues, or even the loyal opposition.

From her strength of character, commitment to facts, and a lifetime of hands-on experience, Grace always knew what was the right thing to do, and had no trouble making a compelling case for action, and holding people responsible when what should happen did not. Always more than willing to do the work necessary to bring together those who could and should make it happen, she never gave up.



We will share funeral information as it becomes available.



## Civic Education Series

We are planning a civic education series for Howard County residents interested in serving in local offices, such as Board of Education and County Council, and state offices, such as the legislature.

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 are looking for volunteers to help recruit speakers and host the events, which will be held this Summer and Fall. 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.

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## HOT TOPICS FORUM

### Immigration and Refugees

Forum held on **Thursday, May 22, 2025** at the Central Branch of the Howard County Library.

**Gabriel Moreno**, CEO of Luminous Network, **John Handley**, Deputy Chief of Staff at Global Refuge, presented on services for immigrants and refugees. **Richard Gibson**, Howard County State Attorney, advised the audience of the legal framework surrounding immigration and current enforcement practices.

The discussion aimed to raise awareness about immigration issues and services available in the community, with an emphasis on the rights and processes for immigrants.

**Full Summary:** [https://hoco.lwvhowardmd.org/immigration\\_and\\_refugees](https://hoco.lwvhowardmd.org/immigration_and_refugees)



## Membership Portal

As a reminder, our membership information is now stored in the new system rolled out by the National League and referred to as the **‘Portal’**. Please take a moment to log in to the portal, make sure your information is correct and check the status of your membership.



We have some **long time members** whose membership have **recently expired or are about to expire.**

Go to our website -

<https://hoco.lwvhowardmd.org/>

Click on the button **‘LWV Portal’** - from there you will be prompted to log in.

If you need help with this please reach out to us via email to **‘[office-hoco@lwvmd.org](mailto:office-hoco@lwvmd.org)’**.





## 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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