

THE VOTER

A Quarterly Newsletter of the LWVAAC

Winter 2026, Issue 139

LWVAAC Monthly Meetings

Board Meetings (virtual)
(first Thursday of the month, except May)
Thu, Mar 5, Apr 2, June 4 4:30pm to 6pm
lwvaacmd.org/board_meeting_info

The League Connection (TLC)
(first Saturday of the month)
Sat, Mar 7, Apr 4, May 2, June 6 10:30am to noon
Panera, Festival at Riva, Annapolis

Speaker Series & Monthly Meetings
(second Wednesday of the month)
Wed, Feb 11, 7pm to 8:30pm [webpage](#)
Annapolis Friends Meetinghouse,
351 Dubois Rd, Annapolis
Wed, Mar 11, 7pm to 8:30pm [webpage](#)
Wed, Apr 8, 7pm to 8:30pm [webpage](#)
Community Room, Southern District Police Dept,
35 Stepneys Ln, Edgewater

LWVAAC Online

Governing Board, board-aac@lwvmd.org
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Facebook/Instagram: @lwvaac
Join/Renew: www.lwvaacmd.org/join2
Donate: lwvaacmd.org/efdonation
Voter Toolkit: lwvaacmd.org/voter_toolkit

Activities and Events

LWVMD Legislative Day (virtual)
Mon, Mar 2, 9am to noon [webpage](#)

LWVMD Democracy Dialogues (virtual)
Tue, Mar 3, 7pm to 8pm [webpage](#)

ERA NOW Driving the Vote for Equality
Wed, Mar 4, 12:30pm to 6pm Annapolis
See pp. 10-11

LWVAAC Local Program Planning (virtual)
Thu, Mar 5, 4:30pm (at Board meeting)

LWVMD Lobby Day (in person)
Thu, Mar 12, Annapolis, details TBA

LWVAAC Annual Meeting
Wed, May 13, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Annapolis
Meeting & Dinner 5pm to 7pm
Speaker 7pm to 8:30pm

Happy 106th Birthday to the LWV!
February 14, 2026

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Election Alerts

USPS adopts new postmark policy

On, December 24, 2025, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) announced that letters and packages will be postmarked with the date they are processed at a postal facility rather than when they are dropped off in a mailbox — a policy that could affect whether time-sensitive items, such as mail-in ballots, are considered on time.

The USPS recommends that voters who plan to vote by mail send their ballots at least seven days before Election Day. Voters who want to ensure that their mail-in ballot is postmarked on the date it is received by USPS may go to any post office or other USPS retail location and request a manual postmark free of charge. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Maryland voters are encouraged to deposit their mail-in ballots in designated Board of Elections dropoff boxes. Dropoff boxes are secure, well-lit, easily accessible and conveniently located. Mail-in ballots may be returned to a dropbox up until 8pm on Election Day.

Report election misinformation to the State Board of Elections

Spread the word! The Maryland State Board of Elections' [Rumor Control](#) website is a reliable source for questions about voting registration, ballot boxes, early voting, voting machines (also called "ballot marking devices"), mail-in ballots, and more. It's also where you should report any mis/disinformation you come across pertaining to this year's elections, especially on social media. Use their online reporting form so that state officials can counter threats to our elections and get voters accurate information before and on election day.

Volunteer for this year's elections any way you can

The League's election-related work is critically needed to encourage voter participation and instill confidence in integrity of the election process. You can protect and strengthen democracy by distributing the Voters' Guide, answering voters' election questions, helping to conduct a candidate forum, serving as an election judge or becoming a Voter Registration Distributor. See p. 8 for volunteer opportunities, select tasks that fit into your schedule and interests and contact our Voter Services team at votersvc@lwvaacmd.org.



Member Spotlight

Faces of our League

Alma Naghedi

What prompted you to join the League?

I was interested in joining the League because I've always been passionate about community involvement. The League very closely aligns with my personal interests and is a practical and productive way to engage with my community through hands-on work!

What civics issues do you care most about?

A civic issue I care deeply about is civic education, especially among youth. A trend I've noticed in recent years is a lack of civic education among my peers, and a subsequent lack of civic efficacy. Much of my community has lost faith that their involvement can influence our government, and I want to change that!

What school or college do you currently attend? Briefly share your career goals and aspirations.

I currently attend Crofton High School and have recently committed to Duke University as an International Relations major. I am also interested in studying political science or public policy, and would love to be a public servant when I'm older!

What might other members be interested in knowing about you?

One fun fact about me is that I was born and raised in Germany. This is something that significantly influences my worldview. Living in Germany exposed me to different political systems and cultures very early on, which has shaped who I am today. #



Member since December 2025



Annapolis

Amy Battaglia
Carolynn Grammas
Diane Leason
Sara R. Walter

Crofton

Alma Naghedi

Deale

Yamillette Waite

Gambrills

Noor Anwar

Linthicum Heights

Lynn Gilbert

Odenton

Tracy Starr

Severn

Heather Pallett

League Activities

Monthly meetings: topics, dates and speakers

By Karen Agee, Committee Chair

After months of planning, we were delighted to kick off our Speaker Series & Monthly Meetings on January 14 with an informative and timely discussion of gerrymandering led by LWVAAC member, Ashley Oleson. Ashley walked us through the history of gerrymandering, current efforts for mid-cycle gerrymandering nationally and in Maryland, and the possible implications for voter confidence and elections administration in Maryland. A gathering of 23 members and guests attended, several of whom asked great questions to add to our discussion. Our meeting also garnered two new LWVAAC members. Welcome to Yai Waite and Amy Battaglia!



Featured speaker and LWVAAC Director Ashley Oleson. (photo by V. Herath)

Primary Elections. We'll meet on **February 11, 7-8:30pm at Annapolis Friends Meeting House**, 351 Dubois Road in Annapolis. If we have bad weather, our snow date is February 25 at the same site. For more details and to RSVP, please go to lwvaacmd.org/26feb11_voters

Josh Kurtz, founding editor of *Maryland Matters*, will lead a discussion about **Ranked Choice Voting** on **March 11, 7-8:30pm** at the **Southern District Police Station Community Room**, 35 Stepneys Lane, Edgewater. For more details and to RSVP, go to lwvaacmd.org/26mar11_rcv

Our April topic will be **Special Elections v. Appointments**, and the discussions will be led by **LWVMD Executive Director Nikki Tyree**. We will meet **April 8, 7-8:30pm** at the **Southern District Police Station Community Room**, 35 Stepneys Lane, Edgewater. For more details and to RSVP, go to lwvaacmd.org/26apr8_tyree

See the **Annual Meeting Save the Date announcement** (see p. 6) for a sneak peek at what we have planned for you in May, including an amazing guest author and speaker!

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LWVAAC Director and Speaker Series committee chair, Karen Agee. (photo by V. Herath)

We are excited to present our Speaker Series events for the coming months. All of the topics are timely and align with the top picks from our member survey last fall.

For February, **Jared DeMarinis, State Administrator of Elections**, will lead a discussion about **Unaffiliated Voters and Maryland's**

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You can be an integral part of meeting the LWVAAC mission of championing voting rights and supporting democracy by **inviting friends and family!** Help us grow our membership and engage the community by sharing the event links provided above. **As always, we look forward to learning together and engaging with you in the coming year! #**

LWVAAC's Speaker Series and Monthly Meetings are regularly held the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at a public venue in Anne Arundel County. Attendance is free and all are welcome. Contact Karen at program@lwvaacmd.org with questions or topic suggestions.

Volunteer to help LWVAAC build community connections



Food for Thought Community Outreach, Inc. is an Anne Arundel County nonprofit organization with a mission/vision to assist individuals, families and veterans in need of nutrition, housing, counseling, and job skill development.

Food 4 Thought's founder and president is Shawn Ashworth, Ed.D, a former AACPS educator. The 501c3 nonprofit primarily serves the Brooklyn Park community.

[Click here](#) for volunteer opportunities. Questions? Contact Vicki Jordan at outreach-aac@lwvmd.org.



A last minute change of venue, from Light House Bistro to Eggcellence, didn't deter members from celebrating the season at LWVAAC's annual holiday breakfast and charity drive, which raised \$1,075 for the Light House. (photo by V. Jordan)

SAVE THE DATE!

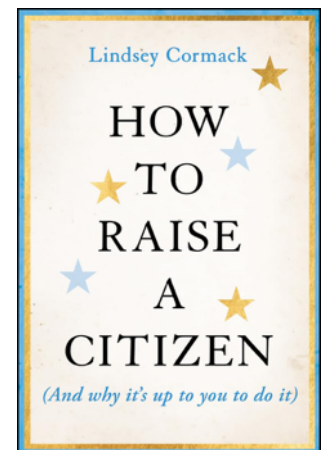
LWVAAC Annual Membership Meeting & Dinner

Wednesday evening, May 13, 2026

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Annapolis



with guest speaker
Lindsey Cormack,
author of
How to Raise a Citizen
(And why it's up to you to do it)



The League Connection (TLC)

Connect with members of our League and learn more about what our organization does to support democracy.

TLC events are informal gatherings for conversing and idea sharing, held at a local coffee shop or restaurant on the first Saturday of each month. Anyone interested in the League is invited to stop by...just look for the LWV sign!

DATES: Saturday, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6

TIME: 10:30 a.m. to noon

LOCATION: Panera Bread, Festival at Riva, Annapolis

QUESTIONS? Contact Alexis at vp@lwvaacmd.org



**The League
Connection**

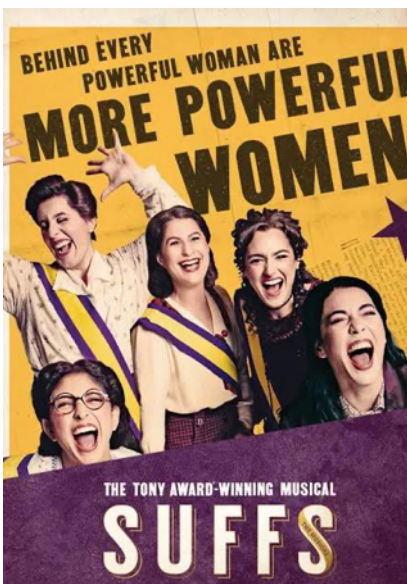
A field trip and experience not to be missed!

This summer, on tour from Broadway, comes the award-winning musical *Suffs* about the brilliant, passionate, and funny American women who fought tirelessly for the right to vote, including League of Women Voters' founder, Carrie Chapman Catt.

Created by Shaina Taub, the first woman to independently win Tony Awards for Best Book and Best Score in the same season, this "thrilling, inspiring and dazzlingly entertaining" (Variety) musical boldly explores the triumphs and failures of a struggle for equality that's far from over.

LWVAAC and nine sister Leagues in the DC/MD/VA region have reserved group ticket blocks for the **2pm matinee** performance of *Suffs* on **Saturday, June 20, 2026** at **The National Theatre in DC**. If all the reserved tickets sell, League members and friends will fill nearly one fifth of the theater seats! League groups plan to meet and mingle in the theater cafe before the show. Some will be in suffrage costumes, some will have on sashes, and all are encouraged to wear white or purple. It'll be a fun party, a wonderful theater experience and an opportunity to show off the LWV in public!

LWVAAC has reserved a small block of seats in the 2nd and 3rd rows of the Right Front Balcony. Tickets are available on a first come first served basis at an all-in cost of \$115.25, payable by check or Zelle. Please email Niecy or Alfa at editor@lwvaacmd.org for purchase instructions.



If you prefer to sit in a different section or seat, you may purchase a ticket directly from the theater and still be a part of our group. It's also possible other Leagues will sell extra tickets in their blocks closer to the summer.

LWVAAC plans to arrange carpools to New Carrollton for interested group members and travel together by Metro to the National Theatre.

If you can't join us on June 20, tickets are on sale for all performances of *Suffs* at the National Theatre, June 16-28, as well as for the national tour's run at the Baltimore Hippodrome, May 26-31, 2026. #

[National Theatre Suffs webpage](#)

[Hippodrome Suffs webpage](#)



BEHIND EVERY POWERFUL WOMAN...
ARE MORE POWERFUL WOMEN.

Voter Services

Planning ahead for a busy election year

by Vera Herath, Voter Services Co-Chair

It may be cold, it may be quiet, it may be mid-winter...but your Voter Services (VS) team doesn't hibernate! Knowing a gubernatorial election was coming, we met in early December to make plans for 2026.

On February 18, VS will attend the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Council (CRASC) nominating convention for the Student Member of the Board of Education, where we'll assist with voter registration and provide voting information. From February 19 to March 12, we will conduct a High School Voter Registration drive at each of the 15 county public high schools. As always, we will invite our AAUW and NAACP partners to assist. Please plan to join these fun and worthwhile efforts to inspire and engage our students! Plenty of opportunities to volunteer are available. Stay tuned for the SignUpGenius with the full schedule and details.

Did you know? Voter registration volunteers are now known as Voter Registration Distributors (VRD). County Board of Elections requires that anyone wishing to serve as a VRD be certified, even if you have helped at voter registration events in the past. The certification process is simple. It involves a short training session and submission of an affidavit of completion. VRD certification is valid through the end of 2026. If you are interested in volunteering at one of our

events, please make a note to become certified as a VRD ASAP, so you can join us! Contact VS Co-Chair Vera Herath (votersvc@lwvaacmd.org or 410-703-7463) or Nicole Hill at the County Board of Elections (Nicole.Hill@maryland.gov or 410-222-0411) with any questions.

Continuing our partnership with both Anne Arundel County correctional facilities, VS Co-Chair Vicki Jordan is scheduled to provide voter registration and education at the centers several times before the June primary.

VS also does forums! Candidate forums are one of the League's most impactful activities in fostering informed and active participation in local, state, and national government. Preliminary planning is underway for an early September forum for candidates seeking to fill retiring Congressman Steny Hoyer's seat in Maryland's 5th Congressional District. The 5th District encompasses Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, and parts of Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties. We have initiated conversations with these county Leagues in hopes of partnering. Charles County does not currently have a League of its own, so perhaps an added benefit of the forum partnership will be interest in forming a chapter!

In another critical local election, the entire Anne Arundel County Council is up for election. Plans are underway for an early to mid-September forum for that important election, too. Stay tuned for more details, and plan to assist!

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Mark your calendars! Primary day is June 23; General election is November 3. Though not a presidential election year, it is still an important election year, with many Congressional seats and state and local offices on the ballots nationwide.

Remember that EVERY election is important, and EVERY vote matters! We must continue the hard work to inspire every eligible voter to get to the polls. Maryland's election system is safe, secure, and reliable. Come work with us! VS needs your energy and inspiration (votersvc@lwvaacmd.org). #



LWVAAC VS Co-Chair Vicki Jordan and member Sheila Glesmann

The LWV steps up to defend democracy! Members from several Leagues accompanied LWVMD Executive Director Nikki Tyree to the State House on Wednesday, February 4 to distribute fact-based election security literature in response to the Secure the Vote rally held that same day at Lawyer's Mall. Secure the Vote organizers use rhetoric intended to make Marylanders believe that our elections are not safe. LWVAAC was "in the house" to offer a different perspective.



Action & Advocacy

The League of Women Voters has advocated for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) since 1972.

On Wednesday, March 4, [ERA NOW](#) is hosting a special day of action in Annapolis to celebrate women's history and raise public awareness of the ERA.

LWVAAC encourages League members and friends to join with our partner organization, the American Association of University Women, in support of this timely, festive and utterly unique call to action.

DRIVING the VOTE for EQUALITY

Coming to ANNAPOLIS on Wednesday, MARCH 4

With the mighty golden Saxon that drove for women's suffrage in 1916

FOR SECURITY:
Please do not post this schedule on social media or issue press releases at this time.

JOIN US TO...

- **WELCOME** the *Golden Flyer II* to Annapolis
- **CELEBRATE** Alice Burke and Nell Richardson and the work of the suffragists, and **HELP REPLICATE** their successful journey today for the ERA
- **HEAR** Mayor Littmann speak about the benefits of the ERA
- **MEET** Jeryl Schriever, author of *Driving the Vote for Women* and hear about Alice and Nell's courageous 1916 journey for women's right to vote
- **PURCHASE** *Driving the Vote for Women* (signed) and *I or Around America to Win the Vote*, the children's book about the trip by Mara Rockliff and Hadley Hooper

WHERE TO FIND US...

- **12:30-3:30 PM:** Annapolis Market House, 25 Market Space, Annapolis (Dutch treat lunch, Mayor Littmann will be speaking, selfies, book sales, meet friends and supporters) - 10% of proceeds to benefit ERA NOW
- **3:00-4:30 PM:** Find us motoring around the center of Annapolis in the *Golden Flyer II* flying our banner for equality (selfies, find us in the downtown area spreading the word about the status of the ERA)
- **4:30-6:00 PM:** Old Fox Books & Coffeehouse, 35 Maryland Ave., Annapolis (book sale and signing event with author Jeryl Schriever)

ABOUT

Driving the Vote for Equality is a project of [ERA NOW](#), a 501(c)(3) organization working to have the Equal Rights Amendment recognized by Congress as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution. [ERA-NOW, Inc.](#) engages in nonpartisan advocacy to advance constitutional equality. We do not support or oppose candidates for public office.

DONATE

In 1916, the Golden Flyer created a moving spotlight that politicians couldn't ignore. In 2026, we're doing it again—your donation helps force Congressional recognition—so no court can credibly deny the ERA as the 28th Amendment. [Click here to donate.](#)

Read more about the 1916 Suffrage Tour and the ERA in the current issue of *MS Magazine*.

For more information, email team@sign4era.org.



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“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

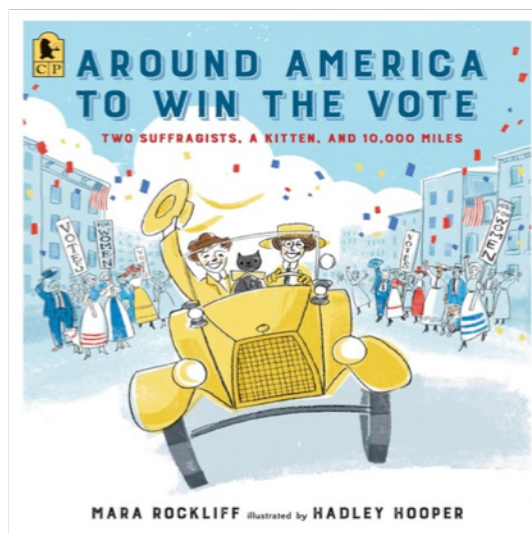
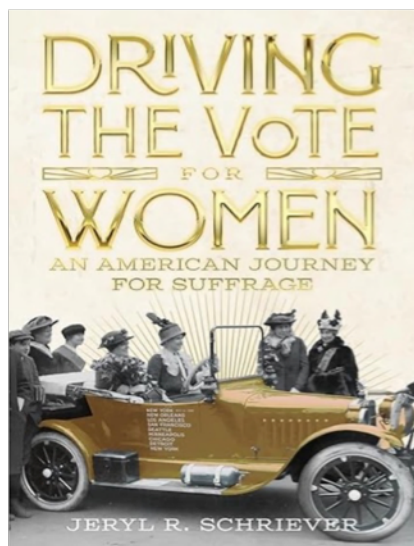
Additional Pertinent Details:

Annapolis Market House 25 Market Space, City Dock, Annapolis MD

- **JOIN YOUR FRIENDS FOR LUNCH OR LITE BITES** & Learn about these 2 previously unlauded Suffragists during Women’s History Month!
- **PRE-PURCHASE** *Driving the Vote for Women* by Jeryl R. Schriever (for signing by the author) and/or *Around America to Win the Vote* the children’s book about the trip by Mara Rockliff and Hadley Hooper. Order via Old Fox Books at: <https://forms.gle/wkUfZnMmcn6dbkdj8> or <https://www.oldfoxbooks.com>
- **TAKE PHOTOS** with the Golden Flyer II, an original 1914 restored SAXON auto, as it arrives in Annapolis! Dress-up props Welcome! Antique Auto Expert will be available to answer questions about the car that was marketed as “easy enough for a woman to drive” - and they DID - around the whole Country!
- **HEAR** National & State Speakers talk about the Fully Ratified EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT; watch Annapolis Mayor Littman & others sign the petition & learn what YOU can do this year to make sure the FULLY RATIFIED ERA is recognized as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution. <https://era-now.org/>

If you are JOINING the Celebration at The Market House, near the Annapolis Dock, <https://annapolismarkethouse.com>
Parking is available in nearby Hillman garage. <https://www.annapolisparking.com/parking-locations/Hillman-garage/>

4:30- 6PM THE CAR & PARTY CONTINUES! Old Fox Books & Coffeehouse, 35 Maryland Ave. where Lite snacks will be served!



FOR SECURITY REASONS, PLEASE DO NOT PUBLISH THIS EVENT TO SOCIAL OR LICENSED MEDIA, TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS/INSTITUTIONS OR TO PRESS OR PUBLIC CALENDARS.
(Press will be present as the Celebratory Day unfolds!)

Opinion Page

Editors' note: Welcome to the Opinion Page, a new feature of LWVAAC's quarterly newsletter. We invite members to submit opinion pieces or letters on topics relevant to the League's mission and principles for future issues. Please email editor@lwvaacmd.org for more information.

Our inaugural contributor is Noor Anwar, a Crofton High School senior and AACPS Board of Education intern, who recently joined our League. Noor is the Opinion Editor for her school newsletter, *The Cardinal's Nest*. We're delighted to share an example of her writing as our first opinion piece.



Reprinted from *The Cardinal's Nest* ([link to article](#))

Supreme Court Set to Hear Arguments on Firing FTC Commissioner

[Noor Anwar](#), Opinion Editor

[December 18, 2025] In March of this year, Rebecca Slaughter, a former commissioner for the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), filed suit against President Trump after he fired her for "inconsistency with the administration's priorities". The FTC is an agency led by five commissioners that serve seven-year-terms upon appointment by the President and confirmation by the Senate. In 2018, Slaughter was appointed by Trump.

The FTC Act of 1914 established independence for the Commission from the executive branch, limiting the president's authority to remove commissioners from office. In *Myers v. U.S.* (1926), the Court held that the president did have the power to remove officers within the executive branch, but the FTC does not fall under the executive branch's jurisdiction.

This principle was upheld in a 1935 Supreme Court case, *Humphrey's Executor v. U.S.*, in which it was established that President Hoover could not fire a commissioner based on policy because the Constitution did not grant him that power.

Essentially, over a century of precedent has sustained the concept of an independent FTC whose commissioners cannot be dismissed to support a president's political agenda. The president may only remove commissioners for "inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office". When fired by Trump, Slaughter was not informed that her dismissal was due to any of these reasons.

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Disclaimer: The views, thoughts, and opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the individual author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the League of Women Voters.

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The main issue at hand is whether or not the Supreme Court will expand the executive branch's authority under the "unitary executive" theory - the belief that the president should have complete control over the executive branch, including all independent agencies like the FTC - a completely unprecedented ruling. It is important to note that throughout Trump's second term, the Supreme Court has been widely criticised for often siding with Trump over precedent and Constitutional principles. In a two-hour hearing last week, a majority of justices seemed to side with the Trump Administration.

In court, Slaughter has argued the doctrine of stare decisis, which states the Court should avoid overturning precedents (like Humphrey's

Executor) without solid reasoning. The Trump administration has stated that Article II of the Constitution places executive power in the hands of the president, giving him control over those who execute laws (commissioners).

Lower courts have ruled in favor of Slaughter. D.C. District Judge Loren Alikhan ordered her reinstatement. The Trump administration asked for this order to be put on hold in September while appealing the decision, but the D.C. Circuit rejected this plea. However, as arguments have been heard in front of the Supreme Court, it seems apparent that Justices are set to rule in favor of increasing the president's power and scope within the executive branch. #

You're invited to the ZOOM where it happens!

Board meetings are where important League issues are discussed and plans are made. All LWVAAC members are invited to participate. Meetings are held via Zoom from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on the following Thursdays:

March 5, April 9, and June 4

Changes will be posted on the [LWVAAC calendar](#).

Sign up at lwvaacmd.org/board_meeting_info to receive Board meeting notifications and agendas.

Join us at the March 5 board meeting for this year's local program planning review.

Watch your email for more information.

Community Partners

***Editors' note:** LWVAAC is an organizational member of both Growth Action Network (GAN) and the Anne Arundel Affordable Housing Coalition (AAAHC). The following analysis of prospective state legislation on affordable housing was prepared by GAN and shared with its members. As a county League, LWVAAC does not advocate at the state level and has no stance on this bill.*

SB36 overrides local control to achieve increased housing density and affordability

Matt Minahan, [GAN](#) Executive Director

The Maryland General Assembly has before it the [Starter and Silver Homes Act of 2026](#) (SB36/HB239) which is promoted as a means to increase affordable housing in the State. Although this bill has the potential to significantly reduce local control over land use in the County, Growth Action Network supports efforts to increase affordable housing throughout the state in a manner that is effective and preserves the environment and quality of life for its citizens. Consequently, we offer support for the bill but request several essential amendments.

The emphasis of the bill is upon allowing increased development density in all residential zones. Key features of the bill include:

- Redefining the term “single family home” to include townhouses
- Dramatically reducing minimum lot size restrictions in all zoning areas to allow lots of 5000 sq ft or less. This significantly increases possible dwelling unit density

- Significantly reducing setback distances for dwellings
- Allowing townhouses in every zoning category
- Allowing subdivision of improved lots in every zoning category

Although the bill is being promoted as a means to generate more affordable housing, nothing in the bill addresses the selling price of homes. It would radically change the zoning laws in the county without any metric requiring affordability, such as deed restrictions. Nothing assures that the housing units constructed under this bill would be affordable to families with 100% of median income or less. Nothing prevents, for example, high-end townhouse complexes from being built in desirable locations and sold at market rates.

As written, the bill is unclear whether it overrides land development regulations such as adequate public facilities, recreation and open space areas, or stormwater management requirements. The bill would apply to all land served by water and sewer except for land with an agricultural or conservation easement. Critical Areas or forests subject to the Forest Conservation Act are not excluded from treatment.

GAN supports development of affordable housing and in an election year there is an immense amount of legislative interest in creating almost anything that addresses housing affordability. This makes it likely that some variant of the bill will pass. Consequently, rather than oppose, the GAN position on bills SB36/HB239 is support with necessary amendments.

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We propose the following amendments to assure that affordable housing development is done under the bill in a manner that is protective of the environment and quality of life of current citizens. These amendments would significantly strengthen the bill:

1. Identify and record housing development that requires any provision of the bill to enable construction.
2. Require that housing identified in (1) above be affordable to households making less than 100% of the Area Median Income (AMI).
3. Exempt those areas of the State that are
 - a. in the Critical Area,
 - b. subject to State or local environmental laws and regulations
 - c. areas identified by the State or federal government as a priority for future conservation acquisitions, such as Rural Legacy Areas or the federal Southern Maryland Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge
 - d. currently are not served by public water and sewer or do not have additional capacity
4. Require that each jurisdiction establish a committee to evaluate fiscal impacts of development enabled by the bill and identify

appropriate revenue sources as needed.

5. Include a 5-year sunset clause to acknowledge the broad impact of the bill and the potential for significant unforeseen consequences.

We must recognize that projects advanced by (SB36/HB239) will create significant demands on public infrastructure, environmental resources, and the quality of life for current residents of host jurisdictions. Local governments and residents (both current and new) would be well served by independent analysis of such impacts. Identification, quantification and planning to provide adequate facilities needs to be prepared. A means to assure the successful implementation of these plans, including reliable financing must be established. Many Maryland local jurisdictions have planning commissions/boards that should be charged with this responsibility, assessed to evaluate their capacity to do so and strengthened as necessary.

GAN is very concerned about this bill not only because it has the potential to reduce local control over land use in the County, but also because the way the bill is written, it is unclear on certain significant issues we have outlined below. We are asking you to review the bill [HERE](#) and reach out to your elected STATE legislators with the questions below. [This link](#) will provide contact information for the State Senator and Representative serving your area.

At a minimum, encourage your legislators to carefully consider and address the following issues raised by this bill:



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- Although the bill is being promoted as a means of increasing affordable housing, it contains no requirement that the potentially enormous number of new homes it would permit will, in fact, be affordable.
- In its current form, the bill would dramatically increase the number of building lots in the County by overriding minimum lot size requirements the zoning code. It is unclear, however, whether the bill would also eliminate other development regulations such as requirements for adequate schools, transportation, recreation areas, open space, stormwater management, and parking.

- The bill has the potential to dramatically increase the amount of impervious surface in the County, with potential adverse impacts on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.
- The bill expands where single-family homes or town houses (consisting of three or more contiguous homes) may be built but does not include duplexes. Should they not be added?

The Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee will discuss the bill on February 17. The House Economic Matters Committee will hear the bill on February 12. #

LWVAAC is proud to acknowledge the Junior League of Annapolis (JLA) as a community partner. JLA's 3rd Annual Galentine's brunch, held Sunday, February 8, honored community trailblazers Dr. Erin Snell and Dr. Shawn Ashworth, both of whom were recognized for their advocacy and commitment to the well-being of county residents. Keynote speaker, AliceAnne Loftus, CEO of Leading Lady Coaching, spoke on the topic of "burnout", sharing helpful tips about not trying to be all things, to all people, and on every occasion.



LWVAAC members Herath, Jordan, and Stevens.



Jordan and Stevens pose for photo with JLA members Chew and Kund.