



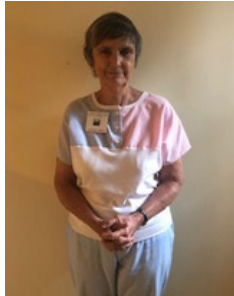
THE VOTER

Quarterly Newsletter

A Message From The President

By Eleanor Green

With the 2022 elections behind us, we'll soon be publishing our always popular Guide to Elected Officials. To celebrate the end of 2022 we held a successful Meet and Greet event at Open Works. Now we're looking ahead to our Annual Meeting, tentatively scheduled for June 14.



Our League is active in a number of important programs in a variety of different areas. Our Membership Committee is busy recruiting new members; it now has an attractive brochure to aid in this effort. We regularly register to vote an impressive number of high school students within Baltimore City public schools, and The Time Is Now project continues its valuable work with these students. We also have a new program to register formerly incarcerated citizens.

Advocating for positive change within the city is always more effective when advocates unite. The League has recently joined the Inclusionary Housing Coalition to work with others toward alleviating housing problems in Baltimore.

The most immediate concern of the Board at the moment is the relocation of our League office to somewhere within Baltimore City. We have several sites in mind for our new home. In the meantime, we will likely remain at York Road until the end of August.

This promises to be an extremely busy and productive year for us. We continue to be a visible and active organization within our city!

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Sam Novey Lois Moseley

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INTRODUCING:

Welcome New League Members

Alexus Jefferson
Kyana Sanchez Rodarte
Willilexia Royal-Cox
Danyelle Rosebrough

Maya Cummings
Diana Emerson
Monica Johnson
Betty Clark

We recognize that these are challenging economic times and LWV Baltimore City expresses its sincere gratitude to the following individuals for their generosity to the League:

Thank you for a grant from Baltimore Votes to support the Time is Now youth voter registration projects.

Thank you for donations to the League Operating Account and to the Sadie Crockin Memorial Fund since October:

Pamela Young
Joanne Nathans
Flo Valentine
Lu Pierson

Bequest from the Estate of Betty Lewison
Olivia Wolz, Barbara Livermon, Pamela Myette, and Janet Kantor in Memory of Anne Gresser

Interested in joining the Baltimore City League? Click [here](#).

In Memoriam

Honoring our Past Members

The League would like to take a moment to honor the passing of two of our own. Past President, Anne Gresser, and former Board Member, Serena Baum.

The strength of the League is in its members and we are honored that these two incredible women dedicated their time to our organization, our City, and defending our democracy.

Please click [here](#) to read Anne's obituary.

Please read [this article](#) for more information on Serena's tireless work for civil and women's rights.



Anne Gresser, (February 24th, 2023)



Serena Baum, (March 17th, 2022)

Elijah E. Cummings Democracy and Freedom Festival

by **Billie Roberts-Spann, Ph.D., 1st Vice President & Paige Bacon-Ortiz, Director**

In February, League members attended the SNF Agora Institute for the Elijah E. Cummings Democracy and Freedom Festival—a free event bringing together scholars and practitioners from across the country to join with the Johns Hopkins and Baltimore communities to grapple with some of the most urgent challenges facing democracy, model civic engagement across divides, and celebrate democratic resilience and opportunity.

Through this year's theme, “cities and citizenship,” the event explored questions about the challenges cities face at the frontlines of democracy and highlighted the innovations they are making to strengthen local citizen engagement. Sam Novey and Maya Cummings, LWV members, were among the speakers. Click [here](#) to see the full agenda and speaker profiles.





Not Too Young to Run—

Engaging Youth in the Political Process

by Deanna Ikhinmwin, 2nd Vice President

On Wednesday, February 8th a group of 24 international visitors were invited by the U.S. State Department to visit Baltimore City. The visiting group was composed of young political party leaders and activists; election or pro-democracy civil society and NGO leaders. They were national, state, and local government officials working for their country’s governmental election authority; and politically active influential religious and cultural leaders. One of the topics that they hoped to explore while they were in this country was civic education for youth and engaging this age group in the political process.

The League of Women Voters--Baltimore City was asked to meet with the visitors and provide the group with information on the League's advocacy efforts, including the publication of the Voter’s Guide, voter registration efforts, and political forums and debates.

During the question and answer portion of the workshop, several of the international visitors stated that they would like to explore ways for the youth in their country to interact with the youth in Baltimore City. A list of the 24 international visitors and the countries that they represented is attached.

The discussion topics and League presenters were as follows:

- . League of Women Voters: History, Structure, and Activities---
Barbara Corbin and Megan Shook
- . Why Young People Don't Vote----- Paige Bacon
- . The Time Is Now: Voting Programs for Youth---
Deanna Ikhinmwin

Click [here](#) for the full agenda and list of attending countries.



2022 Elections Impact

Just in case you missed our Facebook post take a moment to view the impact that women, young people, and people of color had in the 2022 midterm elections. Thank you to the voter registration committee and all our volunteers during election season. Your commitment and dedication matter. Read the full report from LWV US [here](#).



2022 Election Report: At a Glance

The 2022 midterm elections demonstrated the power of women, young people, people of color, and all voters who care about democracy.

Across the country, the League of Women Voters powered the elections. 750+ state and local Leagues registered voters, trained volunteers, served as poll workers, and organized to get out the vote!

The following data represents a snapshot of our impact in the 2022 midterm elections as of March 13, 2023.

<p>Contacted 27+ million voters with election info</p>	<p>Protected 17.4+ million voters through legal action</p>
<p>Shared election info with 4.8+ million voters via VOTE411.org</p>	<p>Reached 3+ million voters with English and Spanish- language ads</p>
<p>Drove 225k+ visits to VOTE411's Spanish-language pages</p>	<p>Covered 52k+ candidates in voter guides</p>

VOTER REGISTRATION

ABCs of Voting Program for Baltimore City High Schools by Deanna V. Ikhinwin, 2nd Vice President

The League of Women Voters has created a Voter Education Registration Program for high schools in Baltimore City called the ABCs of Voting. This voter registration program is divided into two parts. The first part is a voter education section where high school students receive training to become Voter Ambassadors. As Voter Ambassadors, the high school students receive 15 service learning hours, develop a voter registration festival for the students who attend their school, and receive a letter of recommendation from the League of Women Voters.

The second part of the League's high school program registers students who are 16 years old and older to become voters in the state of Maryland. Those high schools with the ABCs of Voting program on their campus are listed below.

If you know of a high school in Baltimore City that would like more information on the ABCs of Voting program, please contact the League of Women Voters in Baltimore City.

- I. Academy of Academic Excellence High School
 - a. 16 Student Ambassadors
 - b. 69 students registered

- II. Dunbar High School
 - a. 11 Student Ambassadors
 - b. Voter Registration Festival (to be determined)

- III. Forest Park High School
 - a. Student Ambassadors (Sessions March 28th and March 29th)
 - b. Voter Registration Festival (to be determined)

- IV. Western High School
 - a. Student Ambassadors (Sessions April 18th and April 25th)
 - b. Voter Registration Festival (to be determined)

- V. Douglass High School
 - a. 18 Student Ambassadors
 - b. Voter Registration Festival (May 11th)

VOTER REGISTRATION

Returning Citizens Program

by Shawn Nolan, Graduate Student at UMBC and Volunteer on Voter Registration Committee

The League is partnering with [No Struggle No Success](#) (NSNS) in a returning citizens voter registration program to set up a Voter Registration table at their Graduation event on Saturday, April 22nd from 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm at the Pimlico Racetrack. They are also requesting the League to schedule voter registration opportunities for their 600 program participants in May on Thursdays or Saturdays.

NSNS is a full-service re-entry program that services 220 individuals per year who live throughout the state of Maryland. Individuals in the Program have served lengthy sentences from 10-55 years or are disconnected youth from ages 11-24 who have been directly impacted by someone that has been incarcerated.

The program started when Janette's (President) son was 13 years old. He got into a fight and although no one was hospitalized, injured, raped, or murdered he was sentenced to 25 years. He served eight years and has been home 9 months.

The NSNS program has a 91% success rate for re-entry, and their office is located on Light St. and Maryland Ave.

Why this matters:

Maryland is one of sixteen states that automatically restore voting rights to formerly incarcerated citizens upon their release from incarceration. However, "**Automatic restoration**" **does not mean that voter registration is automatic**. The person is responsible for re-registering through the normal voter registration process upon their release. This information is not widely available and the League can help with registration events like this.

History of the restoration of rights movement in Maryland:

- Between 1851 and 2007, anyone with a felony conviction was permanently disenfranchised from voting.
- In 2002, a group of voting rights advocates known as the Maryland Voting Rights Restoration Coalition, helped lead the charge to finally have that antiquated law changed.
- The Voter Registration Protection Act of 2007 allowed 50,000 Maryland residents who completed their court-ordered sentence and remained free for three-years after release regained their right to vote.
- In March of 2016, The Unlock the Vote coalition successfully advocated to restore voting rights for formerly incarcerated individuals who were on probation and parole
- May 2018, HB222 passed to educate on the right to register to vote upon their release.

The latest change in law is simple, if you aren't behind bars for a felony conviction you can vote. This expansion in legislation restored voting rights to an estimated 42,000 citizens.

*Information courtesy of [Out for Justice](#).

VOTER REGISTRATION

New Citizens Program

by Barbara Corbin, Voter Registration Committee

After a three-year hiatus due to COVID restrictions, the League of Women Voters/Baltimore City is once again participating in the naturalization ceremonies at the US District Court in downtown Baltimore. The ceremonies are being held on the first and third Thursdays from March 2, 2023 to November 16, 2023 (first Thursday only for August). The standard number of participants for each session is fifty.

We have a dedicated group of volunteers who will attend each session to greet and register our newest citizens. Our first day back was on 3/16/23 and out of the fifty new citizens we registered just about half.

In addition to registering the new citizens after each ceremony, we provide them with information on what to expect after they have registered. Since the participants are from many areas of the state we provide contact information for the County Boards of Elections. We also inform them of how they can obtain the Voters Guide by mail or through VOTE411.org.

Thank you to the volunteers who are helping these new citizens remain civically informed and engaged:

Argentine Craig
Suzy Filbert, Pat Denholm, Dawn Lettman
Joyce Chapman and Barbara Corbin



Inclusionary Housing

by Vickiana Franco

The NAACP Baltimore Branch and the Inclusionary Housing Coalition (IHC) held a press conference in front of City Hall on 22 March to announce the details of an action to compel Baltimore City to fulfill its duty to affirmatively further fair housing. The NAACP sent a letter to the Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Martha Fudge notifying her of the intent to file an administrative complaint against Baltimore City for failing to [affirmatively further fair housing](#) in exchange for federal funds.

What are the grounds for this administrative complaint?

Baltimore City promised, in its 2020 Fair Housing Action Plan Baltimore to renew and strengthen the 2007 Inclusionary Housing law before its sunset date of June 30, 2022. This was the City's principal, and really their only, strategy for producing new affordable housing in the White L and areas of opportunity. They have failed to fulfill their commitment, allowing the law to expire while continuing to dole out subsidies for luxury housing in the White L- the neighborhoods that least need incentives for construction. Register to see the Tax Broke documentary screening on April 11th to learn more about these incentives.

You can find more information by following the [League](#) and [Baltimore City IHC](#) Facebook pages or the following hashtags: #AFFh #BmoreInclusionary #StopTheStall #PassTheLaw

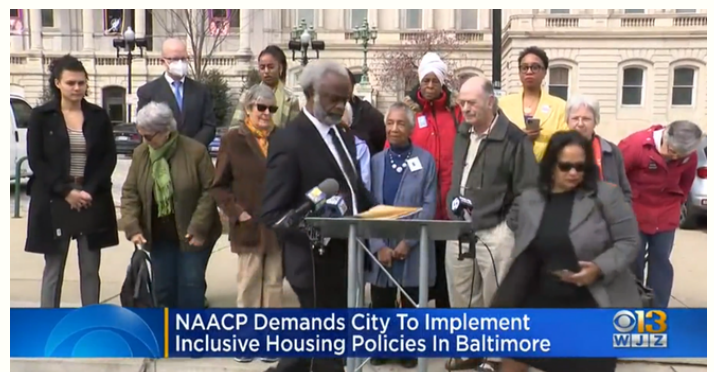
Click [here](#) to see WJZ coverage of the event.

Click [here](#) to see the full recording by the NAACP Baltimore City Branch.

What Now? Visit bit.ly/stopthestall and let Baltimore City officials know it is time to pass Council Bill #22-0195.



Char McCready (CPHA) and Argentine and Deanna (LWV) representing the IHC at this event



Documentary Screening

by Vickiana Franco

The League of Women Voter's Baltimore City is co-sponsoring a free documentary screening of Tax Broke with UMBC's American Studies, Public Humanities, and Schriver Peaceworker's Program.

Tax Broke is a documentary by The Real News Network that explores how developers are given Tax Increment Financing (TIFs) and Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) for new construction in the City at the expense of its working class. It also explores the lack of transparency and accountability at the City level into the process.

This is an important issue to understand regarding development and continued segregation in Baltimore City ahead of an election year. Please join us for this important event.

The event will start at 5:30pm with light food served by Mera Kitchen Collective and interaction with the sponsors, documentary viewing from 6-7, and a Q&A panel from 7-8.

TAX BROKE
FREE SCREENING APRIL 11TH
 DOORS OPEN 5:30PM BEGINS@6 DISCUSSION AT 7
 FOOD: MERA KITCHEN COLLECTIVE
 @THE REAL NEWS 231 HOLLIDAY ST

SPONSORED BY: UMBC PUBLIC HUMANITIES UMBC COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
UMBC AMERICAN STUDIES SHRIVER PEACEWORKER PROGRAM
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS BALTIMORE CITY

PANEL GUESTS: NNEKA N'NAMDI FIGHT BLIGHT BMORE, DR NICOLE KING UMBC, CHAR MCCREADY CITIZENS PLANNING AND HOUSING ASSOCIATION, TAYA GRAHAM&STEPHEN JANIS OF TRNN

EventBrite link for the Tax Broke screening on April 11 (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tax-broke-screening-umbc-and-league-of-women-voters-baltimore-tickets-577631219527>)

Screening Address: 231 Holliday St, Baltimore, MD 21202

Paid and street parking can be found: 400 E Saratoga St, Baltimore, MD 21202 and 315 Guilford Ave, Baltimore, MD 21202

COMMITTEES

Please email info@lwvbaltimorecity.org if you are interested in learning more and/or would like to get involved.

The League is heading into another exciting year of service to Baltimore City. See the list below for all League of Women Voters Committees 2022-2023 to get involved.

Endowment Management Committee

Sally Grant (Chair)
Eleanor Green (ex officio)
Barbara Dent (ex officio)
Virginia Richardson
Paul Walker

Budget Committee

Barbara Dent (ex officio)
Eleanor Green (ex officio)
Sally Grant (ex officio)
Sherry Phillips

Finance Committee

Sally Grant (Chair)

Nominating Committee

Flo Valentine (Chair)
Lois Hybl (elected)
Nancy Lawler (elected)
Millie Godfrey (elected)
Paige Bacon (appointed)
Vickiana Franco (appointed)
Deanna Ikhinmwin (appointed)

Communications and Online Services Committee

Vickiana Franco (Chair)
Makeda Scott

Voter Data Analysis Project

Nancy Lawler
Flo Valentine
Sam Novey
Dawn Teele

Membership Committee

Billie Roberts Spann (Chair)
Flo Valentine Willilexia Royal-Cox
Sam Novey Betty Clark
Karin Kendrick
Toni Moore-Duggan
Roslyn Smith

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Toni Moore-Duggan (Chair)
Mary Ellen Vanni
Flo Valentine
Teresa Leslie
Sally Grant
Sam Novey

Voter Registration and Recruitment Committee

Deanna Ikhinmwin (Chair)
Juliet Aze Paige Bacon Joyce Chapman
Barbara Corbin Vicki Franco Shawn Nolan
Nancy Lawler Akosua Lee Megan Shook
Meri Robie-Craven Lois Moseley Roberta Van Meter

Committee to Prepare Voters' Guide (election years only)

Nancy Lawler Sam Novey
Toni Moore-Duggan Lu Pierson
Billie Roberts Spann Sally Grant Lois Hybl
(Vote 411)

Upcoming Events

During these months we acknowledge the following observances:

[April](#), [May](#), [June](#) (Let us know if you try any out)

April: Click [here](#) for calendar details

*Any color other than red indicates a League coalition, partner, or other activity

League of Women Voters Baltimore City

Today ◀ ▶ April 2023 ▼ Print Week Month Agenda ▼

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1
	10pm IHC Member M	12pm Forest Park Hi 7pm BMI: Women of	12pm Forest Park Hi			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2pm MEMBERSHIP C	10pm IHC Member M	5:30pm LWV Balt Cit		12pm New Citizens V		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	10pm IHC Member M	5:30pm Tax Broke Dc				10am Voter Registra
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	10pm IHC Member M	12pm Western High		12pm New Citizens V 3:30pm Maryland Civ		2pm NSNS Graduat 2pm The Annual AFF
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	10pm IHC Member M	12pm Western High				
30	May 1	2	3	4	5	6
	10pm IHC Member M			12pm New Citizens V		

Events shown in time zone: Eastern Standard Time - Cancún Google Calendar

**League Board meetings are held over Zoom
the first Tuesday of every month.**

All League members are welcome to observe.

Please contact admin@lwvbaltimorecity.org to confirm meeting dates and links!

**For more information on Committees and Events,
please visit www.lwv-baltimorecity.org**

Thank you to all of our
newsletter contributors!

- Vickiana Franco, Newsletter Editor



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