



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF VIRGINIA

## Virginia Voter Express

March 2016

This communication is designed to share information updates between issues of *The Virginia Voter*. We are exploring ways to get information to our members in a more timely manner.

Your thoughts and comments on this issue are most welcome. Please [click here](#) to respond.

### **In This issue:**

2016 Council Meeting - June 4  
Celebrate Women's History Month - March  
LWVUS Adopts Two New Positions  
Olga Hernandez Citizen of the Year

### **First Call for the Biennial Council Meeting of LWV-VA**

**When?** Saturday, June 4, 2016 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Where?** At the beautiful Virginia Diocesan Center at Roslyn, 8727 River Road, Richmond, VA. 23229

**Who?** Two members from each local League (preferably the president and another officer) plus the State Board will be voting members at the Council business meeting from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

**Who else?** Every Leaguer is urged to come as your state board is planning a very useful program

**What program?** Tentative plans call for a panel of Millennials who will give us insights into how we might reach and involve them (11:00-12:30), some updated information about expanded voter service initiatives, (during lunch from 12:30 to 1:30) and a series of League related workshops. (1:30 -3:30).

**Food?** Registrants at 9:30 will find coffee and snacks on hand, a cookie break will occur midmorning and the lunch is guaranteed to be delicious.

**Overnight?** Accommodations are available to persons wishing to stay overnight. More information to come.

**In conclusion?** Mark your calendars for June 4.





*Click underlined text below to see slide show*

## **Celebrate Women's History Month**

Born out of the long struggle to guarantee women's right to vote, the League of Women Voters has spent nearly a century helping shape our country's political and social history. To celebrate Women's History Month, we've pulled some pictures from the archives and put together a brief slide show highlighting a few of the League's accomplishments over the last 96 years.

[As you watch the slide show, I hope you share my sense of pride in being part of such a distinguished organization.](#) And I hope we can count on your continued commitment to carry this legacy forward for many years to come.

Thank you for standing with us!

Sincerely,

Wylecia Wiggs Harris  
Executive Director, League of Women Voters

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## **Two New LWWUS League Positions Adopted**



Following the January 2016 meeting, the League of Women Voters board announced a new position calling for safeguards to govern the constitutional convention process. State Leagues can use this new position, as well as the new position outlining considerations for evaluating constitutional amendment proposals, to address the ongoing debates in many legislatures regarding constitutional conventions, in particular as they related to the Balanced Budget amendment.

1. Position on Constitutional Conventions under Article V of the U.S. Constitution
2. Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals

Link to Text of Positions:

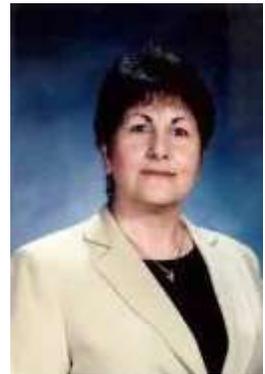
<http://forum.lww.org/member-resources/article/league-position-adopted-constitutional-conventions-under-article-v-us-const>

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## **Olga Hernandez Citizen of the Year**

The Fairfax Federation announced that Olga Hernandez has been selected as their 2015 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year. Olga has spent the last 20 years volunteering with the League of Women Voters in the Fairfax Area, in the National Capital Area, and in Virginia as well as various county and state committees.

Olga served on the Help America Vote Act committee for Virginia, the Virginia State Board of Elections Residency Task Force and state Census Complete Count Committee. She is an officer of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government and the LWV of the National Capital Areas. She served on the Fairfax County Bi-Partisan Election Improvement Commission and has also served on various community committees



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**League of Women Voters of Virginia**  
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League of Women Voters® of Virginia, 501 East Franklin,  
Suite 624, Richmond, VA 23219



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**League of Women Voters of Virginia**

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## Virginia Voter Express #3

April 8, 2016

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### In This Issue:

- Conversation with Senator Favola
- Governor Vetoes Legislation Legalizing Discrimination
- Learn to Lead Meetings Like a Parliamentarian

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## A Conversation with Virginia State Senator Barbara Favola

A Conversation with Virginia State Senator Barbara Favola. Join the Arlington League for a conversation with Senator Favola about domestic violence and firearms issues, including the recent gun legislation signed by Governor McAuliffe.

Sunday, April 17th -2:00 - 3:30 p.m. George Mason University in Founders Hall, Room 113, Arlington Campus

This event is part of the League of Women Voters of Arlington's monthly article and film club.

The League is a non-partisan organization open to everyone men and women. Questions? Email [amy.hjerstedt@gmasil.com](mailto:amy.hjerstedt@gmasil.com)



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## Governor McAuliffe Vetoes Legislation Legalizing Discrimination

RICHMOND - Governor Terry McAuliffe today vetoed Senate Bill 41, which would shield from civil liability those who actively discriminate against same-sex couples. The Governor's full veto statement is below:

March 30, 2016

Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution of Virginia, I veto Senate Bill 41, which would shield from civil liability those who actively discriminate against same-sex couples.

Although couched as a "religious freedom" bill, this legislation is nothing more than an attempt to stigmatize. Any legitimate protections afforded by Senate Bill 41 are duplicative of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; Article I, Section 11 of the Constitution of Virginia; and the Virginia Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Any additional protections are styled in a manner that prefers one religious viewpoint-that marriage can only validly exist between a man and a woman-over all other viewpoints. Such a dynamic is not only unconstitutional, it equates to discrimination under the guise of religious freedom.

This legislation is also bad for business and creates roadblocks as we try to build the new Virginia economy. Businesses and job creators do not want to locate or do business in states that appear more concerned with demonizing people than with creating a strong business climate. Legislation that immunizes the discriminatory actions of certain people and institutions at the expense of same-sex couples would damage Virginia's reputation for commonsense, pro-business government. We need only look at the damage these types of laws are doing in other states to understand the harm this bill could bring to our Commonwealth and its economy.

We should be pursuing policies to make Virginia a more vibrant and welcoming place to live, work, and raise a family. Senate Bill 41 would accomplish the opposite by making Virginia unwelcome to same-sex couples, while artificially engendering a sense of fear and persecution among our religious communities. Accordingly, I veto this bill.

Sincerely,

Terence R. McAuliffe

- See more at: <https://governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/newsarticle?articleId=14787#sthash.qrcECjVf.dpuf>

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## LEARN TO LEAD MEETINGS LIKE A PARLIAMENTARIAN



Sunday, May 22, 2016@4 p.m.

Arlington Public Library: Auditorium in the Central Library

Central Library  
1015 N. Quincy Street  
Arlington, VA  
Time: 4-5:30 p.m.



Join the League of Women Voters of Arlington and Arlington's Central Library to learn about running effective meetings.

This workshop, with thoughtful entertainment and streamlined meeting tools, will give civic leaders, club members,

and community activists resources to run successful meetings--just in-time for the 2016 Election frenzy.

To learn more about this workshop, please contact Amy Hjerstedt  
[amy.hjerstedt@gmail.com](mailto:amy.hjerstedt@gmail.com)  
[www.lwv-arlingtonva.com](http://www.lwv-arlingtonva.com)

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- We are Changing Emailers
- Call for The Biennial Council Meeting
- Sewell-Belmont House Designated as National Monument

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## Virginia Voter Express

Issue No. 4

April 15, 2016

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### Special Note: We are Changing Emailers

While designating the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum as a national monument on Equal Pay Day in Washington, D.C., President Obama said he hopes there is a day when American children are "astonished" that there was a time "when women earned less than men for doing the same work." (Reuters)

President Obama paid homage Tuesday to those who had fought for women's equality, designating a historic house on Capitol Hill a national monument, and hinting that his successor could represent yet another victory for women's rights.

Speaking at the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum, which has housed the National Woman's Party since 1929 and will now be called the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, the president called the site "a hotbed of activism, a centerpiece for the struggle for equality, a monument to a fight not just for women's equality but, ultimately, for equality for everybody."

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"I have faith because what this house shows us is that the story of America is a story of progress," Obama said before a crowd of women's activists that included tennis legend Billie Jean King and Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.).

For additional information go to: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2016/04/11/obama-to-designate-a-national-monument-in-d-c-to-honor-womens-equality-tuesday/>

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**Food?** Registrants at 9:00 will find coffee and snacks on hand, a cookie break will occur midmorning and the lunch is guaranteed to be delicious.

**Overnight?** Accommodations are available to persons wishing to stay overnight. More information to come.

For additional details on the schedule: go to: [http://www.lwv-va.org/files/council\\_2016\\_04\\_15\\_prelimschedule\\_lpage.docx](http://www.lwv-va.org/files/council_2016_04_15_prelimschedule_lpage.docx)

For the registration form go to: [http://www.lwv-va.org/files/council\\_2016\\_04\\_15\\_registform\\_rpage.pdf](http://www.lwv-va.org/files/council_2016_04_15_registform_rpage.pdf)

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### Our contact information is:

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The Virginia Voter is Available Online

Governor Restores Voting and Civil Rights to 200,000 Virginians

Cortes Speaks Out About Achievements and the Future

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## ***The Virginia Voter Express***

*Issue No. 5*

*April 25, 2016*

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### **Spring Issue of *The Virginia Voter* is Available**

*The Virginia Voter* is now available on the League website, packed with information about the upcoming State Council meeting and the LWVUS National convention in Washington, DC.

Also of note is the Governor's initiative to register high school students. The League expects to be heavily involved in this campaign over the next 12 months. LWVSHR is already running with this initiative. [Click Here](#) to read the entire issue.

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### **Governor McAuliffe Restores Voting and Civil Rights to Over 200,000 Virginians**

**RICHMOND** – Governor Terry McAuliffe today restored the voting and civil rights of more than 200,000 Virginians who were convicted of felonies, served their time and completed any supervised release, parole or probation requirements. Each of those Virginians will immediately regain the right to register to vote, to run for office, to serve on a jury and to serve as a notary public.

“Throughout my administration my team and I have operated on a simple principle: Virginians who have served their time and reentered society should do so as full citizens of our Commonwealth and country,” **said Governor McAuliffe**. “Too often in both our distant and recent history, politicians have used their authority to restrict peoples’ ability to participate in our democracy. Today we are reversing that disturbing trend and restoring the rights of more than 200,000 of our fellow Virginians who work, raise families and pay taxes in every corner of our Commonwealth.”

The Governor implemented his action by signing an order restoring the rights of every Virginia felon who completed his or her sentence and all other requirements as of April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. The total number of Virginians impacted by the Governor’s order today is 206,000. He also instructed the Secretary of the Commonwealth to

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[Ed note: "League and its coalition partners are studying ways to register these newly enfranchised Virginians"]

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## Cortes Speaks Out About Achievements and the Future

Edgardo Cortes, Commissioner for Virginia Department of Elections, speaking to LWV Fairfax Area, last week, defined his job in the words of his son, "Make sure everyone gets a [I Voted] sticker."

He is proud of several significant achievements in his tenure so far:

- The Department's interactive technology now works
- The statewide registration data-base is now supported by in-house staff
- People can now request and receive an absentee ballot online
- Above all, voting rights have been restored of over 2000, 000 felons who have served their time and supervised release.

Moving forward, Cortes hopes to see the following happen soon:

- Improving voter registration processes as related to the DMV
- Transitioning from the touch screen equipment
- Simplifying the absentee voting process (he would like to see a no-excuse needed version)
- Revising the design of the voter registration form to make it more user friendly.

During the Q and A that followed, Cortes shared the following:

The Department has issued around 6000 Photo IDs so far for those not having licenses or other accepted IDs. People applying for such an ID at the Registrar's office do not have to have any underlying (and often expensive) documentation. In fact, they can apply to register to vote at the same time.

The touch screen voting machines that have been declared insecure will no longer be allowed as of 2020.

Finally, Cortes made the point that saving money on elections should not be a consideration, as was recently the case in Arizona that resulted in 5-hour waits to vote. Voting he said, is a core component of our democracy and "voting processes should be funded adequately."

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The Virginia Voter Has Been Corrected

"Creative civility"- Video Presentation Worth Watching

Convention Hotel Block Notice

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## ***The Virginia Voter Express***

*Issue No. 6*

*April 29, 2016*

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### **Link to Voter Has Been Corrected**

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Also of note is the Governor's initiative to register high school students. The League expects to be heavily involved in tis campaign over the next 12 months. LWVSHR is already running with this initiative. [Click Here](#) to read the entire issue. [Ed. Note: Our apologies for the error.]

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### **“Creative Civility” – Video Presentation Worth Watching**

Co-president's note: Below is a video of a talk given by Peter Davis from Falls Church, a millennial, who is speaking to one of the LWV Falls Church community forums. It is rather long, but we found it riveting and an important message for all Leaguers. It illustrates one of the reasons why our panel on “Millennials Matter” may energize us to continue our mission with renewed ideas on how to do it. I'm hoping that we can also learn how to make use of the technology he demonstrates.

View this video of Peter Davis' "Civic Creativity" presentation, Falls Church LWV on “How to get non engaged millennials civically engaged rather than 'finger wagging' - moving from isolation to community.” [Click Here](#).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FG20wz9Anjs>

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**Just in From LWVUS . . .**

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The League's room block at the Marriott Wardman Park is filled to capacity for the nights of 16th, 17th and 18th of June. If you haven't yet gotten a room, be assured we are working to designate a nearby hotel for overflow guests. Once we send out that new hotel information, we cannot stress enough the importance of your acting immediately to reserve a room. Several city-wide conventions are in DC at that time, and hotel space near the Marriott Wardman Park and elsewhere is in extremely short supply.

Here's how to stay on top of this situation and act quickly:

\* Early next week, the new hotel block information will be on the Convention 2016 website. Check there frequently for this addition, and take action as soon as it's posted:

<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/council-and-convention/convention-2016>

\* The information on overflow hotel will also be e-mailed on Thurs., May 5, to all state, local, ILO presidents and executive directors. Please forward it to your League members, ASAP so all can act quickly to reserve a room now given the tight hotel situation in DC in June.

\* If you reserved a room at the Marriott Wardman Park and are able to share, use the Convention Google Group to post an "ISO Roommate" notice. If you're not already signed up for this Convention Group, here's how to join: <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/join-conventionprogram-planning-google-group>

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