

Inside This Issue

State League Releases Videos	1
Presidents' Message	2
League to Host Lobby Day	3
The Arithmetic of Voting	4
Local Leagues Have Busy Schedule	5
Liaisons to Local Leagues Appointed	6
Statewide MLD Conference Call Held	7
Two Redistricting Cases Argued at Supreme Court	7
Prioritized for Action	8
Parole Review Commission Report	9
Effective Outreach Improves Voter Rates	9
Election Officers Needed	10
Coalitions: Victories and Events	10
Leaguers Appointed to State Advisory Commission	11
Breaking News . . .	11

**State League to Distribute
 Two Videos on Primary Voting
 Information**

Co-Presidents Dianne Blais and Lois Page have authorized the release of two videos with information about the upcoming primaries. Leaguers Carol Lindstrom and Carolyn Caywood have been instrumental in preparing the videos.

The co-presidents decided that the complications surrounding the upcoming March 1 presidential primaries deserved special publicity. According to Page, LWV-VA was especially concerned about informing 17-years-olds who will be 18 by the November election that they may vote in the primaries.

Another concern is to let voters know that they must ask for the ballot of their party of choice party ballot at the polls. The Republican Party is requiring voters in their primary to sign a statement that they are Republicans, though the party will not gain access to their names and email addresses.

Both videos have been posted on the LWV-VA's facebook page. The access information for both videos has been sent out to League presidents, who have been asked to pass them on. It is especially important that copies be sent to local

middle and high school newspapers and government classes. Members will also have received a Constant Contact notice about the videos and will be asked to send it to 10 friends and neighbors, plus any local media connections.

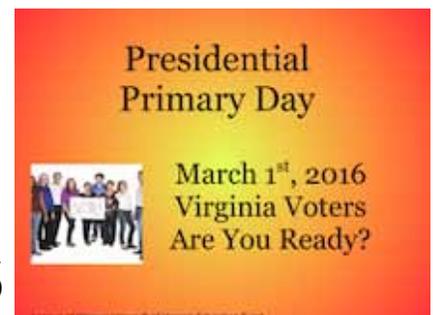
Video #1 is called "2016 Resolutions for Voter Empowerment"--encouraging citizens to be ready for Virginia's March 1 presidential primaries. The under-one-minute video asks the viewer to resolve to vote in every upcoming election and to become aware of the issues. It also makes the point that normally very few voters decide who runs for President. To view the video, go to <https://youtu.be/Ob5hqpTQ124>



Video #2 is called "Are You Ready?" [for the Primary]. It includes more dates, including deadlines for requesting absentee ballots. It can be accessed at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ST0sIZ57KEo>

Your help is needed to make this effort a success. Send the links to family members and at least 10 friends. Encourage them to do the same thing.





Presidents' Message



One item that is not covered in this Voter is the marvelous WLRT Pre-session that was hosted by LWV-VA in December. An array of civic activists, all in tune with League legislative priorities, shared their hopes and dreams for the upcoming session. The emphasis was on fairness: fair treatment for Virginia voters being mistreated by our redistricting process; fair treatment for those needing mental health and other medical treatment and not able to afford it under our present system; fair treatment for our students who are weighed down with college tuition debt or whose teachers are marginally employed; and fair treatment for people who are declared felons based on the theft of only \$200. And so it goes. We loved hearing from these sincerely committed people.

Many thanks to the incomparable Carol Noggle whose efforts led to the excellent attendance of speakers, and to Lynn Johnston who made sure we had a place to meet and food. The entire state board pitched in as needed for which much thanks.

As for what is happening next, you will see information inside about the series of WLRT's, with special emphasis on League Lobby Day, February 3. While you have your calendars out, it's not too early to be thinking about Council, set for June 4 in Richmond. We are planning to include a series of highly informative workshops this time around, so we hope each local League will plan to send more than their voting representatives. Everyone is welcome.

Two weeks later the LWVUS National Convention is scheduled for DC. Information about it is already on the LWVUS website. Our members have some work to do before the convention, namely to respond to the national-level program planning proposals we have been asked to examine and provide feedback. We hope your League has set aside some time for this.

Of course, the most immediate activity in our near future is to provide voters with the information they need regarding the upcoming presidential primaries March 1. We hope you will find extensive outlets for the two videos we have just published to spread the word about this likely epic voting adventure.

Two other things we'd like to mention:

1. Most LWV-VA members have no idea of all the groups with whom LWV-VA interacts. Carol Noggle, 1st VP and Legislative Coordinator, attends SO many meetings and knows so much about these coalitions! I'd like a whole column in the next *Voter* about our coalitions.

LWV-VA is a member of LWNCA (National Capital Area) which meets monthly at the national office at 1730 M St. in Washington, DC. NCA is the host for the upcoming LWVUS Convention June 16-19. They also are arranging for the *Capitol Steps* performance to be held the Friday night of convention. More information will be in the next *Voter*.

2. On December 9, a letter, written by the LWV-VA Firearms Safety task force, approved by LWVUS and signed by LWV-VA co-presidents, was sent to President Obama. This letter stated why using executive powers for gun safety is particularly desirable in Virginia. Three LWV-VA task force members and Co-President Page, met with Speaker Howell in his office in Fredericksburg December 10. A similar letter to what was sent to POTUS, was sent to our Governor and the Richmond Times Dispatch on December 14. LWV-Va is participating in a national task force's monthly conference calls.

LWV-VA The Virginia Voter 2015 - 2016

This newsletter funded by the League of Women Voters of Virginia, is published several times each year from September to June by:

The League of Women Voters of Virginia
501 East Franklin Street, Suite 624
Richmond, VA 23219
804-521-4171
www.lwv-va.org LWV-VA@gmail.com

Co-Presidents: Dianne Blais 703-830-1998
dblais.lwvva@gmail.com

Lois Page 703-690-0908
lpage.lwvva@cox.net

Editor: Ron Page 703-690-0908
pagegolfer@cox.net

Coordinator: Flo Marks 434-591-0230
ffmarks@aol.com

The Virginia Voter also is available to non-Virginia League members on our website.

Please e-mail address corrections to the office

LWV-VA Hosts Series of Women's Legislative Round Tables During GA Session: League Lobby Day Set for February 3



The WLRT is a forum, moderated by the League of Women Voters of Virginia, and is open to all Virginians and legislators. It is held **Wednesday mornings** throughout the legislative session in the General Assembly Building from **January 20 to March 16**.

The first 2016 forum will be **Wednesday, January 20 in the General Assembly Building, 4th floor, East Conference Room from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM**.

The League provides this non-partisan forum for the discussion of public policy issues and the legislation to address them. This forum is an opportunity for citizens to learn about legislative issues from the legislators. We invite legislators of all parties to speak about and explain pending legislation. We also invite non-profit groups to explain legislation that they are tracking.

The WLRT forum is designed as an exchange of information regarding facts of pending legislation. It is not designed for the League to advocate for specific action on any issue nor to challenge the positions of legislators who attend.

League Lobby Day, Wednesday, February 3, is a special chance for Leaguers to gather to hear about pending legislation of interest to the League from 8:30 to 9:30, to then visit members of their delegation with concerns, or

attend committee hearings which will be listed for your convenience. When the Session begins at 12:00, Leaguers usually attend one of the sessions and will be recognized. Leaguers usually find a good place to go for lunch after the introductions, often with members of our coalition groups.

Carol Noggle, Legislative Coordinator, suggests the following for Leaguers on Lobby day: **Interview your legislators that day.**

- Call and make appointments by January 20th.
- The Roundtable meets from 8:30 to 9:30.
- An appointment before then may be best to avoid conflicts with the legislators' committee meetings.
- All legislators have a caucus meeting at 11:30 just prior to the convening of the noon session so a meeting with a legislator needs to be scheduled before the caucus.

LWV-VA has set aside and will fund two hotel rooms, double occupancy, at a nearby hotel for those having difficulty arriving in time for this event or any WLRT session. The first four to reach Lynn Johnston, LWV-VA Arrangements Director, at lynncastle1@aol.com will be the winners! Others will have to get up early!!

Each week a report of that week's WLRT will be available on the LWV-VA website.



League members in Senate Gallery awaiting to be introduced at last year's Lobby Day

Join fellow League members from across the state as they gather in Richmond to make their presence known to the legislature. It's an opportunity to let your legislators know how you feel on various issues.

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

No reservations needed.

The Arithmetic of Voting

How important is a single vote? To make the math easy, let's talk about 100 people being eligible to decide an issue.

100 people are eligible to vote. If ALL register AND vote, then 51 votes decide the election. If only 60 people register to vote (even though 100 people are eligible) AND ALL 60 vote, 31 votes win the election.

If 60 people register to vote, but only 30 of them (50%) vote... then it takes only 16 votes to win the election.

This is essentially what happened in the 1994 Congressional elections. Many local elections were close. Because many people did not vote, a small group of active voters controlled the outcome.

When you choose NOT to vote, you give more clout to every vote that is recorded.

One Vote Makes a Difference

- In 2010, Al Franken became the senator from Minnesota by just 312 votes statewide. That averaged to one extra vote for Al from each of Minnesota's polling places!
- In 1985, Jim Chapman won the First Congressional District seat in Texas by fewer than 5 votes per precinct.
- In 1978, Marc Garcia won a seat in the California State Senate by 90 votes.
- In 1974, Jerry Brown won the race for California governor by a margin of fewer than 8 votes per precinct.
- In 1968, Hubert Humphrey lost the presidential race to Richard Nixon by a margin of fewer than 3 votes per precinct.
- In 1960, Richard Nixon lost the presidential election and John Kennedy won by a margin of less than 1 vote per precinct.

And Look at These Local Elections

- In April 1996, in the 17th Aldermanic District in Milwaukee, Willie Hines won by 14 votes.
- In Milwaukee, the Seventh District alderman race of 1992 was won by Fred Gordon by 75 votes out of more than 9,000 cast.
- In Mequon in 1986, a coin toss decided the winner of a tie vote between Daniel Abendrott and Carol Hoit for alderman. One absentee ballot, which would have decided the race, was rejected because it was improperly witnessed.

From LWV of Milwaukee County Website 11/24/15

Are You Particularly Interested in Voter Protection?

State League Looks to Start Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Teams

Through the national Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project (PAVP) and dozens of state-based volunteer activist teams, the League works year-round to combat voter suppression through advocacy, grassroots organizing, legal action and public education.

LWV-VA would like to form a group in Virginia interested in this topic.

In 2016, the national League's PAVP program will host monthly calls for all PAVP states, where Leagues will be able to talk about the legislation they are pushing for in their state, compare strategies, and talk about legislative wins. Would you be interested in participating in these monthly calls?

If so, please contact LWV-VA's Voter Service Chair Maggi Luca at mkluca8620@gmail.com. If there are specific topics you would like to see covered, let Maggi know.

Local Leagues Continue Busy Winter Schedules

Williamsburg League Hosts “Great Decisions” Discussions

In cooperation with the **Williamsburg Regional Library**, the LWVWA sponsors a series of eight lectures on foreign affairs as a service to the Williamsburg area community. Held on Tuesday mornings in February and March at the Williamsburg Library on Scotland Street. Lecture topics are chosen by the Foreign Policy Association. Note that the Tuesday dates may be changed to accommodate speakers' schedules.

Refreshments are served beginning at **9:45 am, with the lectures at 10:30**. Speakers are experts on the topics and usually come from Virginia or the Washington, DC/New York areas. For more information contact Doug Wood dougwoodimmlaw@msn.com
757-220-2217

Fairfax Area League Gets Its Own Spot on Turning Point Donor Wall

Although members of LWVFA have donated generously in the past to the successful campaign to raise \$1,000 from Virginia Leaguers so that the state League would be listed on the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial's Donor Wall, a recent development has added a new dimension.

A recent anonymous donor has designated her \$1,000 donation to give Fairfax a separate listing on the Donor Wall. This is very appropriate since the Fairfax League was the founding member of the effort to build a memorial to the suffrage movement in general, and to the suffragists in particular who were imprisoned and tortured at the Occoquan Workhouse. Their “crime” was picketing the White House during Woodrow Wilson's presidency.

Lois Page, LWV-VA Co-President, said, “This is a lovely gift and a much deserved tribute to the leadership the Fairfax League exerted in the early days of the memorial planning.” The Fairfax Area League, The Virginia League, and LWVUS are all partner organizations with the memorial effort.

Falls Church League Hosts Specialist on Amending the Constitution

In preparation for a LWVUS consensus, LWVFC invited Thomas H. Neale, a specialist in American national

government with the Library of Congress's Congressional Research Service, to be their keynote speaker at a national issues forum. The forum explored Article V of the Constitution, which provides methods of amending the nation's fundamental charter. Neale reviewed the path that was used for the 27 amendments that were previously ratified and also the convention method for proposing amendments.

Prince William League Gaining Members

LWVPWC reported the following in their most recent newsletter: “Gaining new members has been very exciting for us this year. The addition of these new members brings our roster total to 47 members. Welcome new members! We look forward to your participation in the League and all the fresh ideas we are sure you will bring.”

South Hampton Roads Featured Andrew Goddard on Gun Safety



Andrew Goddard, Legislative Director for the Virginia Center for Public Safety, gave SHR Leaguers his expert view of the kinds of legislation he expects to see in the next General Assembly at their recent General Membership Meeting. He pointed out that while the 2008 opinion in *District of Columbia v. Heller* found that there is an individual right to own a gun, that right is subject to government regulations that cover who can possess what kind of gun, where they can take it, and how they can sell it.

Goddard observed that the “gun show loophole” has become an Internet sales loophole. Also, the limitations on who can have a concealed carry permit have mostly evaporated. His organization wants to restore the ability of the CDC to do public health research on gun violence, to add “possess” to the bans on purchase and transport in cases of domestic violence, to prosecute the gun's owner when a gun is misused by a child, and to require background checks before sales.

LWV-VA Board Appoints Board Liaisons to Local Leagues

By Linda Garvelink, LWV-VA Membership Director

The LWV-VA Board of Directors at its December meeting agreed to an outline of the Board Liaison duties and approved the list the Board members who have volunteered to work with the local Leagues.

Purpose of Program:

The intention of the Board Liaison program is

- to enhance communications between the LWV-VA and the local Leagues,
- to assure that local League's ideas and concerns are considered by the Board,
- to let local Leagues know about Board actions and activities well in advance of execution, and
- to give the local Leagues a specific resource for questions and guidance related to League administration, issues, positions, and policies.

LWV-VA Board Liaison's Job Description:

- Encouraged to contact local League president after a LWV-VA Board meeting or whenever special communications are required,
- Keep local League up-to-date on Board actions
- Visit at least one local League member board or member meeting, e.g., annual meeting,
- Be a source of support and information for local League Board, if needed or requested, and
- Take local League issues and concerns to the Board for consideration and solution, when possible.

Local League's Role:

- Add Liaison to mailing list, include on all member communications,

- Introduce the Liaison whenever she attends your League meetings,
- Call/email her to share any successes, questions, and administrative & policy concerns, and
- You, of course, still may call/email the co-presidents or any other Board member.

Liaisons:

Arlington:

Adarsh Trehan, 703-356-8368, adatrehan@gmail.com

Charlottesville Area:

Pat Hurst, 434-978-4532, phurst@embarqmail.com

Fairfax Area:

Lois Page, 703-600-0908, lpagel.wvva@cox.net & Dianne Blais, 703-830-1998, dblais.lwvva@gmail.com

Falls Church:

Frances Schutz, 434-979-5413, schutz67@embarqmail.com

Loudoun County:

Linda Garvelink, 703-532-2859, garvelink@earthlink.net

Lynchburg:

Sue Lewis, 434-295-1485, slewis.lwvva@gmail.com

Montgomery County:

Rebecca Shankman, 540-250-3434, rhshankman@gmail.com

Prince William Area:

Linda Garvelink, 703-532-2859, garvelink@earthlink.net

Richmond Metropolitan Area:

Sue Lewis, 434-295-1485, slewis.lwvva@gmail.com

South Hampton Roads:

Carol Noggle, 703-743-1831, cnogg@comcast.net

Williamsburg Area:

Lynn Johnston, 804-282-6512, lynncastle1@aol.com

Washington County MAL Unit:

Elaine Head, 540-552-0263, ehhead@swva.net



LWV-VA Holds First State-wide MLD Conference Call

By Linda Garvelink and Sue Lewis

More than 20 Membership Directors and Presidents of all LWV-VA local Leagues participated late last fall in a Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Program conference call, a first for Virginia Leagues.

One part of the discussion focused on local Leagues' experiences and issues with the new LWVUS database. There were some similar complaints related to ease of use, repeated names, and identification numbers. The MLD Co-Coordinators Sue Lewis and Linda Garvelink urged the Roster Managers to be patient, to learn as much about the new system as they can, and make it work for them. Local Leagues should continue to seek help from LWVUS database support and continue to record issues and problems.

Although some of the features may not be important to some Leagues now, the database was designed to meet current and future needs of all Leagues. LWV-VA local Leagues were in one of the very first groups to be given access to the new database. Therefore it is important that we report issues but,

at the same time, continue to be patient as the LWVUS rolls out the system to all the other Leagues nationwide.

Another discussion was about "national membership." Linda Garvelink discussed the issue with LWVUS staff, who advised that there are no national members. However, any checks sent to LWVUS are considered donations. The LWVUS donor database is a completely separate from the member database. Neither State nor local Roster Managers have access to the national donor list. However, LWVUS staff assured Linda that League "siloeing," that is a "separateness" and at times even seeming competition within the League at National, State and Local levels, is a concern of the new Executive Director and Board.

The next Membership and Leadership Development conference call will be scheduled early next quarter. If you would like to be included in the conference call, please send your name and email address to Linda Garvelink (garvelink@earthlink.net) or Sue Lewis (slewis.lwvva@gmail.com).

Two Redistricting Cases Before the U.S. Supreme Court Challenge "One Man One Vote" and Independent Redistricting Commission Principles

By Karen Kimball, Arlington League

What does equal representation mean when counting population for redistricting purposes? Does it mean counting everyone or counting only eligible voters? This is the question the U.S. Supreme Court has been asked to consider in Evenwel v. Abbott (14-940).

This challenge to Texas's state Senate redistricting plan was brought by two registered voters in two different state Senate districts who claim that the state Senate apportionment violates the "one person, one vote" principle as interpreted under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. The 31-state Senate districts are approximately equal based on total population numbers (the Texas plan). However, gross disparities exist in the numbers of eligible voters within some of those districts, some by almost as much as 50%. Using total population as the metric, the resulting total deviation from the ideal as a result of Texas's redistricting is 8.04%. Appellant voters do not claim that the Texas plan fails to achieve substantial population equality;

they simply prefer a plan that counts only eligible voters.

Any challengers to the redistricting plan must prove that the plan fails to achieve substantial equality of population among the various districts so that the vote of any one citizen is approximately equal in weight to that of any other citizen in the state. That has been the common understanding of the "one person one vote" principle. As Justice Sotomayor noted at argument, there is both a voting and a representational interest implied by the "one person one vote" principle.

Generally, courts tend to leave to the states the choice of which population base to use in apportioning districts absent the unconstitutional inclusion or exclusion of specific protected groups. It has not been the role of federal courts to impose a better apportionment method on a state legislature unless that chosen method violates the Constitution. States have traditionally used total population as the metric when redistricting. To read the entire article go to http://lwv-va.org/files/studies_redistricting_2016_08_01_twocasesbeforesupremecourt_kimball.docx

Prioritized For Action 2016: LWV-VA Legislative Priorities for the 2016 GA Session

By Carol Noggle, LWV-VA Legislative Coordinator

The Virginia General Assembly convenes January 13th to process hundreds and hundreds of legislative proposals during the 60-day session. The League of Women Voters of Virginia is dedicated to analyzing these proposals and then advocating in support or opposition when they are supported by our Positions.

Setting priorities for action is necessary because of the vast number of legislative proposals. We want all members to be prepared to respond to requests for specific grassroots lobbying. **Action alerts will give specifics on the bills so that members can respond with messages to individual legislators.**

All Virginians can view the daily floor sessions using the [General Assembly video](#) system. The floor sessions begin at noon each day with debate on bills that have passed out of committees. The House and Senate meet at the same time so some people watch both by using two computers. The agenda for the session is displayed.

Members are strongly encouraged to learn and use other features of the General Assembly [website](#), particularly those providing daily, even hourly, updates on the status of bills, the agenda and schedule of meetings of committees, subcommittees, press conference and commission meetings. [Lobbyist-in-a-Box](#) is available free for a limited number of five bills so that a subscriber-- an “armchair lobbyist” -- can choose bills of particular interest and track them and request hourly updates.

Well-informed engaged members will add immeasurably to advocacy success.

LWV-VA plans advocacy on these significant issues:

1. Voting Rights and Voter Protection that will extend power to the voter by establishing “No Excuse Absentee Voting” [HB68](#), establishing automatic Voter Registration with DMV transactions, assuring best practices using e-signature with online requests for Absentee Ballot applications, adding more eligible Photo IDs [HB32](#), increasing the hours and days for absentee in-person voting, and supporting a pilot program for primary election Vote Centers. To protect the vote, the League will oppose a Photo ID requirement for absentee ballot mail applications and

the addition of a Photo ID requirement to the electronic pollbooks. The League also will oppose proof of U.S. Citizenship for voter registration.

2. Public Safety: The League resolved at its 2015 Convention to support certain [firearm safety measures](#) that will prohibit possession of firearms by those subject to a protective order in cases of domestic violence. This bill [SB49](#) has been introduced: and referred to the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice.

3. Criminal Justice: The League resolved at its 2015 Convention to support regulations to reduce barriers to employment for persons with criminal records – the Ban the Box regulation that removes the query regarding criminal convictions from applications for employment. Legislation during the 2015 General Assembly session did not pass. In 2016 the League will actively advocate to Ban the Box.

The League’s criminal justice positions will support advocacy for legislation ([SB23](#)) to raise the felony larceny level from \$200 to at least [\\$500](#), to increase local diversion programs for arrestees awaiting trial or sentencing, and reforms to the court system such as [problem solving courts \(SB26\)](#) designed to reduce recidivism and reduce the incarcerated population.

4. Restore Voting Rights of Felons: The League has long supported expediting the restoration of felons’ voting rights. Our advocacy will continue to support expanding eligibility, convenience, public awareness, and an expedited process. The League also supports a Virginia constitutional amendment for automatic restoration of voting rights such as [HB107](#).

5. Redistricting: The League continues to support fair redistricting and fair elections including by depoliticizing the process of drawing legislative district lines. Legislation to make changes in statutes has been proposed for the 2016 General Assembly by both [Senators](#) and [Delegates](#).

6. Safe, Protected and Preserved Environment: Virginia’s environment – its geography, air, land, water and resources -- varies greatly from coastal areas to the west, south and north. Challenges to meet the needs and interests of all Virginians for a safe and high quality environment for today and the future are significant. Proposals in 2016 for regulations may include, among others, ones to affect fracking, controls for

clean air and water, protections for areas subject to recurrent flooding [Virginia Coastal Protection Act](#), and prohibition of uranium mining. Bills: [SB21 Clean Power Plan](#),

7. Women: Rights, Equality and Safety

LWV-VA will support legislation that promotes these League principles:

No group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination, every person should have access to a free

education, and that the government should share in the solution of economic and social problems. Legislation in 2016 where these principles apply may include ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment [ERA](#), women's reproductive rights, equal pay for equal work, [nondiscrimination](#) in employment, [including for medical conditions](#), and housing. Bills: SB12, HB139, SJ1

The Parole Review Commission: Did It Review Parole? Did It Reinstate Parole in Virginia?

By Carol Noggle, LWV-VA Legislative Director

The Parole Review Commission was established by the Governor's executive order and given an agenda to explore how to reduce the incarcerated population, to reduce recidivism and to assure public safety.

Governor McAuliffe stated when he announced the members of the commission, "This bipartisan panel of Virginia leaders will bring an array of perspectives to this important discussion about how our Commonwealth can best keep our communities safe while spending every taxpayer dollar as wisely as possible."

The 27 panel members did indeed bring a wide array of backgrounds and connections to our criminal justice system. At five meetings of the full commission extensive data and descriptions of programs in Virginia and elsewhere were presented leading to thoughtful dialogue and statements of concern about the current sentencing process, classification of violations, lack of resources for diversion programs, prevalence of offenders needing treatment for mental illness, the parole hearing process and results, the cost of incarceration, the variation of sentences granted by a jury versus those granted by a judge, where it is best to spend dollars, and what is the best way to address public safety challenges.

Certainly the discussion went beyond a review of the parole system in Virginia such that a different name for the panel was considered.

Questions about the effect and purpose of parole were stated. If parole would be reinstated what incentives would there be to earn or keep parole? How could it effectively prevent subsequent criminal activity? Is parole considered being too "soft" on crime? Without parole is there any incentive for an offender to strive for good behavior in prison? Should there be different incentives depending on the level

of the criminal conviction? Does the publicity of long sentences with a guarantee of no parole actually deter crime?

To read more go to http://www.lwv-va.org/files/studies_felonrights_2016_01_7_parolereviewcommissionreport_noggle

New Report: Effective Nonprofit Outreach Improves Voting Rates

A new report by Nonprofit Vote, produced in partnership with CIRCLE, demonstrated the positive impact of intervention by nonprofit organizations on voter turnout in the 2014 election impact that was especially large for young people and other underrepresented groups that generally have low voting rates.

The report, "[Engaging New Voters: The Impact of Nonprofit Voter Outreach on Client and Community Turnout](#)," is based on an analysis of 129 nonprofits that conducted 2014 voter engagement work in nine states. These nonprofit voters, ages 18-29, went to the polls at a 28 percent higher rate than all young people in that age group.

This research highlights a promising intervention to close stubborn gaps in youth opportunity and electoral participation.

[Ed. Note: Carolyn Caywood LWVSHR wrote: This study is well worth reading. For example, "Asking already registered voters to sign pledge to vote cards was a powerful tool to raise turnout among voters who otherwise may not have participated in the midterm. In spite of demographic backgrounds that indicated a low likelihood of voting in a non-presidential year, the average turnout for nonprofit pledge card voters was 11 points higher than that of all registered voters (59% vs. 48%)."]

Election Officers Needed Statewide

The Office of Elections is currently recruiting voters to serve as Election Officers a few days a year, including the upcoming 2016 elections. Election Officers are needed at each of the 241 precincts in Fairfax County to run the polls and assist the voters.



[View the “Being an Election Officer” Video](#)

In order to be an Election Officer, you must:

- Be fluent in English
- Be a registered voter in the Commonwealth of Virginia
- Be able to fulfill the Federal I-9 employment eligibility requirements
- Attend a 3-hour training class
- Arrive at the polling place at 5:00 a.m. and remain until all work has been completed after the polls close at 7:00 p.m.
- Have basic computer skills

The Election Officer’s main priority is to ensure the

Three Virginia Leaguers Appointed to Virginia State Advisory Commission on Civil Rights

By Lois Page, Co-President

Lorriane Waddill of the Richmond Metro League recently reported on the process by which she and two other Virginia Leaguers received appointments to an important commission:

“Back in the January-February time frame, Carol Noggle was in contact with Ivy Davis, the Director of the Eastern

accuracy and integrity of the election process. A typical Election Day consists of:

- Arriving one hour before polls open to set up voting equipment
- Hanging up pertinent signage
- Preparing the polling room for voting
- Processing voters throughout the day
- Assisting with operating voting equipment
- Securing voting equipment and closing down the polling place at the end of the day

Election Officers are offered a stipend of \$175 for serving a full day. We especially encourage bilingual citizens to serve as we need language assistance in many precincts.

It is a wonderful opportunity for those interested in the election process or public service, and we need civic-minded individuals to help make Election Day a success!

To apply, call the office at (703) 324-4735. You can also [email](#) or visit the Office of Elections [website](#) for more information.

[View the “Being an Election Officer” Video on YouTube](#)

For more information, visit the Office of Elections [website](#) or call 703-324-4735, TTY 711.

Regional Office of the United States Commission on Civil Rights. Because of that contact, I applied to be appointed to the Virginia State Advisory Committee. Though the application process was rather long and slow, I did get appointed. Also, Terrie Griffin of Forest and Sarah Combs of Abingdon were appointed.

“I wanted to make sure that you knew of these appointments. Ivy Davis wanted to make sure everyone went through the bureaucratic procedures (financial disclosure form and an online ethics course) and did not want to announce anything until everything was finished. We have now had our first video telephone conference meeting, so now we are ‘official’.”

Congratulations to these Leaguers. LWV-VA would be well served to have more members on state commissions.

LWV-VA Coalitions: Victories and Events

TransparencyVirginia (TVA)

TVA's leaders Becky Bowers-Liner, chair and Megan Rhyme, secretary have provided a quick link to read about Speaker Howell's recent announcement that he will no longer allow committee meetings at members' desks on the House floor!

http://www.pilotonline.com/news/government/politics/local/pilot-on-politics/virginia-house-speaker-howell-announces-moves-to-promote-legislative-transparency/article_75179781-cede-50c0-98e8-1f99aad43f8f.html

Both are convinced that their members' work last year helped to bring this about. Anne Sterling, former LWV-VA President, was a founding member of TVA.

The speaker's announcement also includes some added transparency to the budget process. The rules announced build on some measures Howell implemented last year and have to do with more lead time on posting, reading and voting on the budget to allow more input.

The Centennial Rally for Equal Rights February 16

Announcing a rally at the Virginia State Capitol on Tuesday, February 16, 2016! More than a century has passed since our foremothers rallied for suffrage on the Virginia Capitol steps in 1915. Suffrage was only the beginning. The Suffragists also worked for the Equal Rights Amendment:

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

Individuals, groups and organizations who attend this momentous event will be part of an historic effort for equal rights that began over a century ago. A hundred years is long enough!

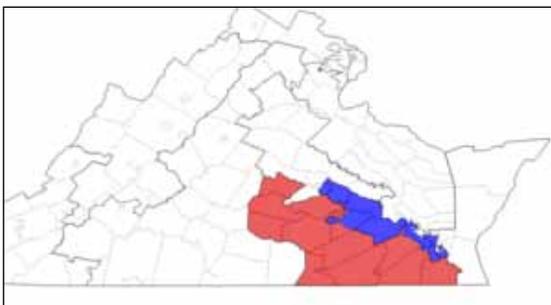
Thirty-five states have ratified the ERA. Virginia is not one of them. THREE more states are needed. The Centennial Rally will bring together groups from across the Commonwealth in a show of support for the Equal Rights Amendment. The American Association of University Women, The League of Women Voters, The National Organization for Women, and Women-Matter are planning this event. We must make it clear to our General Assembly that the time for waiting is over.

- **Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor of Virginia, and**
- **Distinguished Guest Speakers on the Virginia Capitol Steps: 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.**
- **Vigil and Gathering at the Bell Tower: 11 a.m. – Noon**
- **Luncheon at the Library of Virginia: Noon – 1:00 p.m.**
- **Distinguished Guest Speakers and Networking, Library Auditorium: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

With your participation we can heighten awareness of how the ERA can empower women and their families, emphasize the urgent importance of Constitutional equality, and complete the circle of equal rights for all Americans. **Please join us!**

For lunch reservations (\$30), or to make a donation toward rally expenses, please go to vanow.org/rally. For information, contact Pat Fishback, Coordinator, pdfishback@comcast.net.

Breaking News . .



"Judges impose new Va. congressional map, redrawing 3rd, 4th Districts"

BY ANDREW CAIN Richmond Times-Dispatch

A three-judge panel in Richmond has imposed a new Virginia congressional map that seeks to give blacks a chance to elect candidates of their choice in two districts, not just one. [Read article.](#)

http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/article_0ad5053b-6818-5d7e-b96e-c9ce02ad45cb.html



The League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA)
 501 East Franklin Street, Suite 624
 Richmond, VA 23219
 804-521-4171. Web address: www.lwv-va.org

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Merrifield, VA
 Permit No. 2333

The LWV-VA The Virginia VOTER ©
January, 2016
Dianne Blais & Lois Page, Co-Presidents
Ron Page, Editor

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the public to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, regional and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen of voting age, male or female, may become a member.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office, or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

Membership in the League of Women Voters of Virginia

Join: If you are not a member of the League of Women Voters of Virginia but would like to become a member, please visit our website at www.LWV-VA.org and select JOIN. Our membership form is available by clicking the “Join Now” icon on the far right.

Contribute: The LWV of Virginia appreciates donations from members and non-members. Your contribution will allow us to do more to inform voters and advocate for our positions. To be tax-deductible, donate to the “LWV-VA Education Fund.” Education Fund money can only be used for educational purposes. Thank you for including the League in your charitable donations.

Donations may be paid via our website through PayPal or by sending your checks to:
 LWV-VA c/o Pat Hurst, 12 Georgetown Green, Charlottesville, VA 22901

Yes, I want to support the important work of the League of Women Voters of Virginia. Enclosed is my contribution. Only contributions to the LWV-VA Education Fund are tax-deductible.

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Reminder to Members: Please keep your contact information current! Please notify your membership chair or the state League when your email address or other contact information changes.