



Virginia Voter

September, 2018

EMPOWERING VOTERS, DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

VOL. 66 NO. 03

From the President

Sue Lewis, President, LWV-VA

September – Labor Day (last vacation of the summer!), school starts everywhere, National Voter Registration Day (9/25), cooler nights (maybe) and beginning of fall colors.

This month's Virginia Voter has the reminder of the Fall Workshops on 9/8 in Williamsburg, although registration is closed; we have over 80 leaguers registered! There is a report by Deb Wake on the Special Session of the GA called by Governor Northam on 8/30, a report on the NCA summer workshop, two PR pieces by Adarsh Trehan, your Publicity/PR director, a reminder of why to push VOTE411.org from Joan Porte of the Arlington LWV, and a great update from Carol Lindstrom on the LWVUS guidelines for logos and other branding issues. Read them all!

September also brings membership meetings for many local leagues. And gearing up for registration drives. And getting candidate forums lined up. And lots more – our local leagues are busy this time of year!

One other thing about September – it is frequently the time for address changes (college dorms, new jobs, etc.) It is also, this year, my change of residence. I've sold my home of 41 years and will be moving (on the 10th) to a smaller apartment in a charming older building near the downtown mall of Charlottesville. Downsizing is not easy! But I'm excited about the move, especially to be close to downtown, where I will get used to walking around more! My new address will be in the upcoming Directory, but phone and email will remain the same.

Important Dates

September is Voter Registration Month

September 8th : LWV-VA Fall Workshops

September 17th: Constitution Day

September 25th: National Voter Registration Day

October 15th: Last Day to Register/Update Voter Info for General Election

Redistricting Update, Including 1st Day of Special Session

Deb Wake
Action Director, LWV-VA

On June 26, 2018, the Eastern District Court of Virginia ruled that 11 House Districts were racially gerrymandered and the lines drawn in 2011 were unconstitutional and needed to be redrawn by October 30, 2018. A timeline can be found here:

<https://www.brennancenter.org/legal-work/bethune-hill-v-virginia-board-elections>. On July 6, 2018, Republicans in the Virginia House of Delegates filed an appeal of the ruling saying that a redrawing of lines would lead to confusion, they didn't have much time to comply and that they felt the ruling was wrong and would be overturned.

On July 19, 2018 Attorney General Herring issued a statement that he would not be appealing the June 26 ruling or asking for a stay.¹ On August 20, 2018 Governor Northam called a Special Session for August 30, 2018.² On August 29, 2018, the Democrats released a map redrawing the 11 districts in question³ and the Republicans immediately released a statement calling the Democrats' map partisan and racially drawn.⁴

During the floor debate, Delegate Toscano said that they reached out to the Republicans a couple of times about working on redrawing the lines together but received no response. In fact, he said the Court gave the Republicans an August 24 deadline for issuing a response. He said the

Democrat-drawn map was produced with same rules followed by Reps, and historical criteria used in the drawing of districts--a 1% deviation in population. He argued that if the Republicans found the map unconstitutional, they should vote against it.

Delegate Gilbert said the map was created to disenfranchise Republicans while keeping Democrats safe. He argued that the Democrats' map did not fix court-ordered changes but, instead, created new ones. Republicans identified 115 issues pointed out by the court, indicating that only 29 were fixed by the Democrats' map.

Speaker Cox made several appointments to the Privileges & Elections (P&E) Committee: Del. Robert Bell (58th) to replace Del. Gregory Habeeb (8th) and Del. C. Todd Gilbert (15th) to replace Del. S. Chris Jones (76th).

About 30 minutes after the session recessed, the P&E committee meeting began at 2:25 p.m. in House Room 3. The meeting picked up where the floor session left off with the Republicans grilling the Democrats on who drew the maps, who was present, whether race was a criterion and how it was that Republicans were drawn out of their districts while Democrats were kept safe. The Democrats said that they did not know where the incumbent Republican lawmakers live and that unpacking of African American voters will necessarily change the makeup of surrounding districts. Democrats did

not interpret the court ruling in the same way as Republicans regarding specific recommendations for each district/precinct but rather mainly focused on unpacking black voters and trying to keep populations within 1% deviation--which, as the Republicans pointed out--they were not always successful in achieving.

Public comment followed a 15-minute recess. Many who spoke were volunteers with OneVirginia2021 and insisted that a nonpartisan citizen commission is needed to fairly redraw the lines.

Sue Lewis, LWWVA president, expressed disappointment that both sides were unable to work together for a solution.

Following public comments, Delegate Sickles pressed for amendments to address Republican concerns with (1) the map, (2) three hearings on September 8 for public comment and (3) reconvening on September 12. Delegate Gilbert moved to adjourn, motion seconded. Voice vote followed by show of hands; the committee adjourned with no date for next meeting and no adoption of Sickles's proposals.

Besides the fact that four elections have been held since the lines were drawn in 2011, which now been found to be unconstitutional, there is the original cost of drawing the lines, the cost of defending of the lines in the courts, court costs and the costs of the special session. There is still no resolution and more costs will be incurred before the October 30 deadline is met or missed. It

is possible that the courts will end up having to draw the lines.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports the formation of an independent commission to draw districts.

In the evening of August 30, 2018, the court denied the Republican appeal.⁵

1<https://augustafreepress.com/herring-urges-ga-to-eliminate-racial-gerrymandering-in-house-districts/>

2https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/northam-calls-aug-30-special-session-for-legislature-to-redraw-districts/2018/08/20/c9905d58-a489-11e8-a656-943eefab5daf_story.html?utm_term=.957e363c2375

3https://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/virginia-democrats-propose-redistricting-plan-to-address-racial-gerrymandering-gop/article_dd6fde39-ed5c-53db-8134-3b9cb1d17568.html

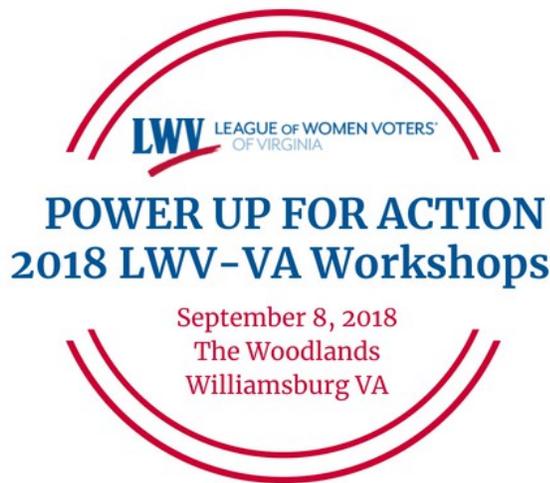
4<http://www.dailypress.com/news/politics/va-general-assembly/dp-nws-politics-redistricting-map-29-districts-20180829-story.html>

5<https://twitter.com/AndrewCainRTD/status/1035302183644917760>

2018 Fall Workshops

On September 8th in Colonial Williamsburg the LWW of Virginia is holding The 2018 LWW-VA Fall Workshops.

There is a lot of excitement in the air over these Workshops!



Empowering League members is how we begin the process of “Empowering Voters” and that is exactly what this Workshop is designed to do. While providing a lot of good information and ideas, the Workshop also serves as a way for us to strengthen our bonds across Virginia Leagues.

LWV-VA has a wealth of resources available through our members. Networking with other local Leagues helps to:

- generate new ideas
- share what worked and did not work in education, fundraising, etc.
- learn about important changes at national and state level and best to implement them in your local League

Some of the topics being presented are:

Membership and capacity building:

- Transformational Journey
- Attracting New and Engaging Current Members
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Local Leagues Exchange...Community Building and Ideas

- Fund-raising, Revenue Development, How to Use Social Media
 - Voter Outreach/Access
 - Redistricting
 - Registration
 - Voting Rights: Election system and process security, Voter Access
 - VOTE411
 - All About Debates
- Advocacy

- Advocacy vs Lobbying
- Behavioral Health
- Education
- Election Integrity
- ERA Ratification
- Gun Violence Prevention

Do not be left out just because you were unable to attend Workshops. Find members of your local League who are attending and make plans for meetings in your area after Workshops where the attendees can fill you in on all the information about these important topics. Great excuse for a potluck! Maybe a dessert potluck!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA HOSTS

Barbara Lipsky,

SUMMER WORKSHOP ON CREATING STRONG LEAGUES

The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNCA) held its annual workshop on August 11, 2018, in Bethesda, Maryland. LWVNCA is an umbrella group that coordinates the work of local leagues in Washington, D.C. and the surrounding

communities in Maryland and Virginia. The August workshop was lively and well-attended, and focused on the theme of “Creating Strong Leagues.” The day-long event included presentations on the LWV’s Transformational Journey, Data Collection, Expanding Your Reach through Social Media, and Building Diversity. It also featured a panel of members from local leagues, who shared their “best practice” recommendations for holding candidate forums, preparing voter guides, using Vote411 and holding voter registration events.

The day was densely packed with great ideas for increasing the effectiveness of our local leagues. Here is a round-up of just a few of the ideas and suggestions shared at the workshop:

- **Data Collection** is extremely important in order for local leagues to be able to assess the effectiveness of their activities, demonstrate their achievements when making grant applications, and encourage members with documented success stories. LWV Montgomery County, MD, has developed an easy-to-use excel spreadsheet for capturing data about voter registration and other events.
- **Use of Graphics in Social Media** can be a very effective way to engage with a wide audience. LWVNCA has developed a series of graphics that can be used to support voter registration and information drives. They are “evergreen” in that they do

not reference any particular event or date. Local leagues can add details about a particular event or election in the post accompanying the graphic. Keep each post using these graphics simple. For example, a single post is more effective if it highlights just one reason for voting, rather than a long list.

- **Candidate Forums** continue to be a key service offered by local leagues. Some of the tips shared for a successful forum included scheduling the event shortly before the beginning of early voting and including a time for candidates to “mix and mingle” with attendees, either before or after the forum. It is good to use both pre-written questions developed by the sponsoring organizations and questions from the audience. To avoid repetitious questions, ask the audience to submit written questions on cards, which can be screened to ensure a wide mix of questions.
- **Vote411:** Promote and demonstrate the use of Vote411 at voter registration and education events. Be sure to emphasize that it contains great links to State Board of Elections sites, permitting voters to register to vote, change addresses, check their registration status, learn how to vote absentee, and learn about voter ID requirements.
- **Voter Registration Drives:** Ask local small businesses if you can set up a voter registration table on their property. Holding voter registration

drives near barbershops, grocery stores or dollar stores may help you reach a wider segment of the community. Partner with a diverse range of community organizations (such as civil rights organizations, religious organizations, high school groups) in holding your local league events. This will help your local league to reach more segments of your local community and create an opportunity for attracting new members into the league. Voter registration drives held at naturalization ceremonies are often very successful. Inviting new league members to help with registration drives at naturalization ceremonies can help provide an inspiring and satisfying first experience with the league.

- **Fostering diversity within our local leagues:** Strive to create a welcoming atmosphere for new members, which is free from assumptions or stereotypes based on an individual’s background. Reach out on a personal level and look for common ground. Find out what attracted the new member to the league and help to connect each new member with meaningful volunteer opportunities aligned with their interests.

Many thanks to the Workshop presenters and organizers: Kathy McGuire (LWVNCA), Diane Hibino (LWVNCA), Alex Dickson (LWVDC), Alice Keck (LWVMC), Meredith Gross (LWVMC), Bea Ditzler (LWVMC), Martha Cooper (LWVFC), Deborah

Mitchell (LWVPG), Linda Garvelink (LWVFC), Linda Softli (LWVDC), and Mimi Hassanein (LWVMC). For more information about the topics discussed at the LWVNCA workshop, you are welcome to contact Barbara Lipsky at blipsky@cox.net.

September is National Voter Registration Month



Adarsh Trehan
Public Relations Director, LWV-VA

Voting is the way we choose our leaders to represent us at the Federal, State and local levels of government. Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the League of Women Voters, correctly stated that the vote was the “emblem of equality” for all citizens. However, in order to vote we first have to be registered to vote.

Recognizing the importance of voting in our democracy, on September 6, 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed Proclamation 3489, designating September as National Voter Registration Month. This Proclamation states, “...” a disturbingly large number of citizens, who would otherwise be qualified to vote in Federal, State and local elections, are barred from voting

because they fail to register to vote in compliance with State election laws [and] each citizen has not only a right to vote but also a civic obligation to do so”...This is still true so many decades later!



Furthermore, recognizing the importance of voter registration, the National Association of Secretaries of State designated September 25, 2012, as the first National Voter Registration Day. It has been celebrated on the fourth Tuesday in September since then. This year, it will be celebrated on September 25. More than 300 local chapters of League of Women Voters will be registering voters in their counties, cities and towns during September.

Please register to vote. You may be registering for the first time, or because you have recently moved or changed your address. Please check our website to get information on our League’s voter registration drives. Our web address is:

Women’s Equality Day was on August 26!

Adarsh Trehan
Public Relations Director, LWV-VA

On August 26, our nation celebrated Women’s Equality Day. This day recognized the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote.

Many fearless and dedicated women suffered jail time, physical assaults by the police and spectators (at demonstrations), as well as insults, during the struggle for voting rights. This struggle spanned more than seven decades. However, it was not until 1973 that Congress by resolution designated this day as “Women’s Equality Day”.

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 by Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, during its convention which was held six months before the ratification. She was a women’s rights activist and a suffragist, who stated correctly that the vote was the “emblem of equality” for all citizens, women and men.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA) celebrates the fact that in 2018 there are 38 female legislators in the General Assembly as compared to 24 in 2015, an increase of 14. Although the LWV-VA does not endorse any candidates, we recognize this historical achievement.

Why VOTE411.org?

Joan Porte
President, LWV Arlington

The League of Women Voters has good news for Valerie Silensky-Lowe (August 24, 2018, "It's Way too Hard to Learn Anything Useful About Local Candidates.")

<https://wapo.st/2MDOawA>

The League operates a non-partisan informational website available to all voters in every state. With a simple click on www.vote411.org, voters can find the following information:

- Candidate answers to pertinent questions
- Election Day information such as their polling location
- Whether their voter registration is current and, if necessary, they can register or update their information. (To be eligible to vote in this year's election, voters must register by Oct 15)
- Information on local and state ballot issues.

Candidates respond to League questions by uploading the information to our site so the information goes directly from the candidate to the voter.

Since 1920, the League of Women Voters has been "empowering voters and defending Democracy." This is just another way we achieve those goals. Information on our many other projects and events in Arlington is available on our website – www.lwvarlingtonva.org.

Get Ready for Some Changes in LWV Logos

Carol Lindstrom

Some big changes are coming to "Branding" particularly as it relates to our Logo usage. If you have not already done so, you need to go to the LWV US League Management web page for LWV Brand Standards and Logo Files.

<http://bit.ly/2oprQIJ>

Please note these key words on their page:

All LWV materials created moving forward—for both digital and printed materials—must adhere to this Brand Standards document.

[Samples of state and national logos—black and white versions are also available]



The new header on this newsletter incorporates the new “square” logo from LWVUS. Additional changes shown in this newsletter are due to trying to match LWV US criteria for official font by using Merriweather font as recommended by LWVUS. The most important changes involved where the word “should” has been replaced with the word “shall”. Many of the Logo applications previously used that did not quite meet the standards but were acceptable, will no longer be allowed.

Local Leagues are not greatly impacted yet because only the LWVUS and state logos have been released. LWVUS will be creating your custom logos for your local League and will send them to you when they are ready. Here are a few things to keep in mind while waiting for and after receiving those new local League logos:

- Continue using the logos you have been using until you receive the new ones.
- For those things which you have applied the old logo, and you have copies left (i.e., letterhead, business cards, etc.) then you can use those until they are used up. Any production of more of those must use the new logos.
- It does not appear that the “square” logo will be provided in a customized state with your League name on it. So you will need to review everything you use the logo on to be sure that you modify it to allow the rectangular logo.

- You can always use the plain LWV square logo WITHOUT your League name attached to it by adding your local League name but at a different location so that it does not appear to be attached to the LWV logo.
- When resizing the Logos, be very sure that you keep it of a size so that it is fully readable.
- All online uses of the Logos (websites, Facebook, Twitter, and, if possible, links on other websites) need to change to the new Logo

I think that hits the high points but there is a lot more information in the [LWV Brand Standards](#) document provided on the LWVUS League Management Site as well as copies of the [LWV Logo Files](#) .

Anyone wishing help with managing these changes, resizing Logos, add the Merriweather font to your computer, or anything else can contact communications@lwg-va.org for help.

And a little something special if you want to use it. You will be able to find this on our [GOTV Resources page](#).



From our friends at Brennan Center for Justice
So tips on how you can help protect our elections from cyberattacks
Original found at:
<http://bit.ly/2NBxFgX>

BRENNAN
CENTER
FOR JUSTICE



8 Ways You Can Help Protect Our Elections from a Cyberattack

This year, Americans like you can play a vital role in protecting the vote by asking your state and local election officials if they are following the steps below:

- 1** If your jurisdiction uses electronic voting machines (known as DREs), ask if local officials provide each polling site with enough emergency paper ballots for two to three hours of peak voting in case of machine malfunctions or failures.
- 2** If your jurisdiction uses electronic pollbooks to check voters in, ask whether local officials keep paper backup of electronic pollbooks in the polling place.
- 3** Find out whether each polling location in your jurisdiction has enough provisional ballots for two to three hours of peak voting so voting can continue in the event poll workers are unable to determine whether an individual is eligible and registered to vote.
- 4** If your jurisdiction uses paper ballots at the polls, confirm that local election officials print sufficient ballots for 100 percent of registered voters.
- 5** If your jurisdiction uses voting equipment with paper ballots or a paper audit trail, confirm that local election officials plan to conduct a post-election manual audit of a portion of the paper records to ensure accuracy of vote totals.
- 6** Confirm that local election officials will send signage to every polling location that clearly notifies voters about equipment problems and alternative methods of voting.
- 7** Ask if plans for machine malfunctions include measures for assisting voters with disabilities.
- 8** Confirm that state officials keep backup copies of digital voter registration records offline on a daily basis in the weeks before the election.

Find your election officials at www.brennancenter.org/officials. Check your voter registration online. If there are changes you did not request, notify your election office.