

## Mid-October 2011 E-Bulletin



### League of Women Voters of Falls Church

*A Voice for Citizens and  
A Force for Change in the United States*

The League of Women Voters of Falls Church is a nonpartisan organization that serves the citizens of Falls Church City through encouraging informed and active participation in government, working to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influencing public policy through education and advocacy. For more information, go to [www.lwvfallschurch.org](http://www.lwvfallschurch.org).

Dear League Members,

This Fall continues to be a very busy one for our League. The kick-off meeting at One More Page Book Store featuring League member Sara Fitzgerald and her newly published book was a smashing success. The League participated in a LWVUS Education Study and came to consensus via email, a first ( and last!) for us. Recently, we held a well attended consensus meeting on our local study of the Arts in Falls Church. A lively discussion produced some very positive results. The consensus position will be sent out to members shortly. Many thanks to Study Chair Barry Buschow and his superb committee of Gina Caceci, Marty Meserve, Sally Phillips and special consultant Barbara Cram, who is now our newest member.

We've hit the ground running and there will be a number of events coming up . Thursday, October 20th is our informational meeting on the referendum question on the ballot. Voter Service Chair, Edie Snyder has put together an excellent program. Don't miss this one! On Saturday, October 22, there will be a Town Hall meeting as the Electoral Board is proposing a new three ward map. November 8th ,Election Day , is just around the corner and our Voters Guide and fact sheet on the pros and cons of changing the election date will be published in the News Press and the Falls Church Times. November 15th is the date of our Lunch and Learn. We're co-sponsoring with the Falls Church Chamber of Commerce and the topic is transportation- anyone interested in a trolley for Falls Church? Details on all the above are elsewhere in the bulletin.

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### **2011-2012 LWVFC Board and Off-Board Members**

*President*

*Ellen Salisbury*

*Vice President*

*Linda Garvelink*

*Secretary*

*Regina (Genie) Flahie*

*Treasurer*

*Cindy Donaldson*

*Fundraising Chair*

Our annual holiday party and silent auction is coming up on December 4th and will be held again at the Oakwood Apartments. As always, many are needed to make this event a success. The funds raised support our programs, most especially Voter Service which is our primary function.

As you can see, there's much to take advantage of with our League programs. Make an effort to be a part of the learning process, mark your calendars, and come to our events!

Sincerely,  
Ellen Salisbury  
President

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### **May or November Elections?**

The League invites the community to attend an informational forum on the referendum question **Thursday, October 20, at 7:00 PM at the Falls Church Community Center, Teen Room**. Speakers will include Renee Bergmann Andrews, Secretary of the Falls Church Electoral Board, Bryan E. Polk, Vice Mayor of Manassas Park, a jurisdiction that in 2008 moved its local elections from May to November, and Martha Brissette, Staff Member at the State Board of Elections (SBE).

To help prepare voters for the referendum question on the November 8 ballot, the League of Women Voters of Falls Church has produced a fact sheet, please click [here](#) for the sheet, outlining the pros and cons of holding local elections in May and November. In addition, the League will hold an informational meeting on this issue October 20 at the Falls Church Community Center.

The referendum is a key element of the November 8 General and Special Elections.

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### **City of Falls Church Town Hall Meeting**

#### **Proposal for 3 Voting Wards**

**Saturday, October 22, 2011, 11:00 am**

**Falls Church Community Center Art Room**

The City of Falls Church Electoral Board is proposing a new 3-ward voting map.

To see the details of the plan provided by the Electoral Board, please click [here](#).

The Electoral Board is soliciting voter input on the new plan.

*Bernadette Fancuberta*  
*Liaison to NCA and Alternate*

*Ellen Gross*

*Virginia Long*

*Membership Co-Chairs*

*Edie Smolinski*

*Rebecca Shaw*

*Voter Services Chair*

*Edie Snyder*

*Communications*

*Sara Fitzgerald*

*Local Affairs Chair*

*Barry Buschow*

*Newsletter Editor*

*Bernadette Fancuberta*

*Administrative Team*

*Virginia Long*

*Madalyn Cafruny*

*Pam Spofford*

*Joan Lewis*

*Jerry Barrett*

*Webmaster*

*Cathy Kaye*

*Special Projects*

*Marty Meserve*

*Jane Scully*

Please join the discussion and make your voice heard.

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VPIS (Village Preservation and Improvement Society) & CBC  
(Citizens for a Better City) Will Host a Community  
Conversation

on

The Election Date Change Referendum

**Tuesday, Oct 25th at 7:30pm**

at the

**George Mason High School Library**

This meeting will be a great follow-up to the LVW's forum on  
October 20th .

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**Tuesday, November 8, 2011**

Election Day!

**VOTE!!!**

The League of Women Voters has published its Fall 2011 Voters' Guide, please click [here](#), for the General and Special Elections on November 8. Read the guide for positions taken by candidates for Virginia Senate and House of Delegates and Commonwealth's Attorney for Arlington and Falls Church, and review the language of the referendum on whether the City should change the date of its municipal elections from May to November. Incumbent Democrat James M. Scott is running unopposed for the House, as is Democrat Theo K. Stamos, winner of the August 23rd primary, for Commonwealth's Attorney. Incumbent Democrat and current Senate Majority Leader Richard L. Saslaw is being challenged for the State Senate by Republican Robert C. Sarvis and Independent/Green Party candidate Katherine Ann Pettigrew.

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**A Trolley Car Through Falls Church?**

As part of the League's Lunch and Learn Series, The Falls Church Chamber of Commerce and the Falls Church League of Women Voters will be co-sponsoring a presentation providing basic information about Trolley plans and then get into the routing options, benefits and implications of going through Falls Church.

Learn about the plans in Arlington from the Counties' Transit Operations and Planning expert Steven Del Giudice and what Falls Church is doing to potentially take advantage of their efforts from Vice Mayor David Snyder and former Council Member Dan Maller.

The lunch will be on **Tuesday, November 15th at 11:30am at the Italian Cafe.**

The cost will be \$27 per person. Please RSVP to Cindy Donaldson at [Cindy.Donaldson@verizon.net](mailto:Cindy.Donaldson@verizon.net).

Each individual is responsible for cost of lunch in case of "no show" or late cancelation.

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### **Message from Carol Noggle, Legislative Coordinator, League of Women Voters of Virginia**

The Board of Health voted on the new regulations for Women's Health Clinics on September 15th. Some of you may have written letters to the BOH members and to Dr. Karen Remley, the Commissioner of Health, so you will be interested in this information on what regulations were passed.

The draft of the minutes of the meeting includes the public comments and the action on over 15 proposed amendments. Please click [here](#) for the document.

The Virginia Coalition to Protect Women's Health presents their fact sheet [here](#).

The Virginia Coalition to Protect Women's Health is planning a rally on Saturday, October 15th in Richmond. To get further information, please click [here](#).

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### **LWV-US Discussion Lists and How to Sign Up**

State League President Lynn Gordon has sent information regarding signing up for LWV US issue related and role related discussion lists.

As LWVUS does lobbying on a variety of issues, this may be of interest to some of you. Instructions are listed here:

Steps to sign up for discussion list:

1. Go to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

2. Click on Log In in upper right corner.
3. If you have an ID and password, Log In. If you have never logged in before, register and then log in.
4. Logging in will bring you to a page with your name on it and your contact information.
5. In the left column, click on League Sponsored Email Lists. This will bring you to a page with all the discussion lists. Check off those you want to receive. After receiving your welcome email, you can set it up to receive a daily digest of emails instead of an individual email each time someone posts to the list.

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### **League Lingo**

**Position** - A statement of the League's point of view on an issue, arrived at through member study and agreement (consensus or concurrence), approved by the appropriate board and used as a basis for League action.

**Vote411.ORG** - The web portal of LWV-US for election information.

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### **Help Wanted!**

Stay tuned for information and volunteer requests regarding our Annual Holiday Party/Fundraiser scheduled for Sunday, December 4, 2011 at the Oakwood Apartments.

We will need lots of volunteers to ensure a successful event!

If you should have any questions, please contact Fundraising Chair, Bernadette Fancuberta at blf2475@aol.com

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### **2011-2012 Calendar**

Please click on the following [link](#), for the complete calendar  
Here are a few of the upcoming events:

#### **October 20, 2011**

Meeting about the upcoming referendum on the election date change and a chance to meet.

#### **October 22, 2011**

Town Hall Meeting regarding ward changes

#### **October 25, 2011**

VPIS & CBC conversation on the Election Date Referendum.

**November 8, 2011**

Election Day. Check website for further information, by clicking [here](#).

**November 9, 2011**

Board Meeting

**November 15, 2011**

Lunch and Learn Series - Trolley Car in Falls Church?

**December 4, 2011**

Annual Holiday Party and Fundraiser