



**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.

Dear League Members,

It has been a busy two months for our League: We hosted two community forums-the first in February on community and school safety; and the second in March on growth in school enrollment and its impact on the City's budget, tax rate, and development policies. In addition, the League made a statement to the Falls Church City Council in support of dedicated funding for the arts. We thank Linda Garvelink for organizing these forums and Barry Buschow for addressing the City Council on behalf of LWVFC and our position on arts in the City.

The February 21 forum on community and school safety featured Falls Church Police Chief Mary Gavin and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Toni Jones. During the session Chief Gavin and Superintendent Jones stressed their ongoing close collaboration to keep the community in general, and especially our schools, safe and secure. They described current initiatives, among them (1) police officers regularly joining students for lunch at all four City schools and at St. James, thereby getting to know students, their teachers and school administrators, and the facilities themselves; and 2) plans to build a fence around the perimeter of George Mason High School. Falls Church Community TV (FCC-TV) taped this session, which included questions and answers from the audience. FCC-TV has made the forum available on the cable station's website, by clicking [here](#).

The second forum titled "Let's Talk About School Growth" was held on March 20 in City Council chambers. This forum explored the impact of population growth on the Falls Church

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City schools and the implications of increasing enrollment for the City as a whole. Speakers included:

- Gary Fuller, principal planner with the City, who provided an overview of the past 10 years of the City's changed and changing demographics;
- Johannah Barry, City Council member, who highlighted some of the budget and development policy challenges the Council faces as it seeks to serve all of its citizens; and
- School Board Chair Susan Kearney and School Superintendent Dr. Jones, who detailed how they are working to manage the growth in enrollment while delivering the best possible education to our students.

While 26 percent of the City's population is under the age of 18, the City's population is far more diverse, including seniors, empty nesters, and singles, all of whom have interests and needs beyond the school system. The central question addressed by speakers and members of the audience alike was: How can the City best serve its diverse population while maintaining its award-winning schools? Once again, FCC-TV taped the forum, which can be viewed on YouTube by clicking [here](#).

Finally, on March 11 Barry Buschow represented the League before City Council, speaking in favor of Council's passage of a resolution to adopt its fiscal year 2013 funding recommendations for the arts and cultural grants. Barry referenced LWVFC's 2011 study on the arts in Falls Church, saying "The League found that the arts are far reaching in their impacts. From measurable benefits, such as improved student performance and economic growth, to intrinsic values, such as development of community bonds and personal pleasure, the arts enrich our City and its people." He noted that the Arts and Economic Prosperity study developed by Americans for the Arts shows for every dollar invested by government in the arts, seven dollars are returned to the community. Council passed the resolution, TR13-09, unanimously on a roll call vote.

Our next event is LWVFC's annual meeting, scheduled for Saturday, June 8th, at La Cote D'Or restaurant. Police Chief Mary Gavin will be our featured speaker. Details will follow soon. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
Edith Snyder
President

Pam Spofford
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Jane Scully
Newsletter Editor
Bernadette Baroukh
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Sara Fitzgerald
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Bob Donaldson

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION AWARDS CELEBRATION
HONORS 13 WOMEN

On March 16, the League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA) hosted the inaugural Democracy in Action Awards Celebration at The Westin Richmond Hotel. The event was part of the League's statewide campaign to recognize women who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in the areas of good governance and active civic engagement.

This year's Celebration featured Falls Church City's former state senator, Mary Margaret Whipple, who delivered the keynote address, stressing the need for more women to run for office at all levels of government. Six elected leaders were paid special tribute for their commitment to governing well in Virginia. In addition, seven local leaders in the commonwealth were recognized as engaged citizens.

Honorees for the Good Governance award were Sen. Janet D. Howell, Council Member Judith N. Knudson, Del. Jennifer L. McClellan, Sen. Linda T. ("Toddy") Puller, School Board Member J. Marie Waller, and Del. Vivian E. Watts. Honorees for the Engaged Citizenship award included Kristin Goss, Jill Hanken, Therese Martin, Mary Sue Terry, Sally Thomas, Shannon Valentine, and Barbara Worthen. LWVFC President Edith Snyder and her husband David represented the Falls Church League at the event, which was attended by approximately 125 people, including Senator Tim Kaine and his wife, Anne Holton.

KRISTIN GOSS TO SPEAK ON GUN CONTROL AT
NCA'S ANNUAL CONVENTION MAY 4th
SILENT AUCTION DEBUTS

The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area has invited Dr. Kristin Goss to give this year's keynote at NCA's annual convention on May 4th in Washington, DC. Dr. Goss will speak on "Has Sandy Hook Make Gun Control Possible?" An author, a professor, and a member of LWV-Arlington, Kristin is a woman of many accomplishments. In addition, for the first time the LWWNCA is adding a silent auction to its Convention. Each local League is responsible for one auction item. LWVFC will donate a Family Fun Basket, consisting of an assortment of games. Many thanks to Ellen Salisbury for putting our basket together.

The Convention itself will be held Clyde's of Gallery Place Restaurant, located at 707 7th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The meal will be a buffet brunch. Registration is due Monday, April 29th; the form can be clicking [here](#).

Clyde's is half a block from the Gallery Place Metro station. Garage and metered street parking is available. More information on transportation is on the registration form. Convention business will include: (1) the election of officers and directors for a two-year term and a nominating committee for a one-year term; (2) the adoption of a budget; and (3) consideration and adoption of a two-year program. The program will cover the results of NCA's program planning survey, the Naumann Award presentation, and the silent auction, which will be held during the brunch.

**SAVE THE DATE: LWVFC'S ANNUAL MEETING
SET FOR JUNE 8, 2013**

POLICE CHIEF MARY GAVIN TO SPEAK

The League's annual meeting will be held on Saturday, June 8, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at La Cote D'Or, located at 6876 Lee Highway in Arlington. Falls Church Police Chief Mary Gavin will speak about her career in law enforcement and the lessons she has learned in general and in a role where few women are in leadership as she is. Information on how to register for the annual meeting will be available soon.

**PREPARING FOR THE NOVEMBER 2013 ELECTION:
CBC FORUM FOR PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES
AND PRIMARY ELECTION VOTER REGISTRATION
AND ABSENTEE VOTING DATES**

June 11, 2013 is the new filing deadline for those seeking candidacy for the City Council or School Board in the next Falls Church City Election, which will be held in conjunction with the General Election for state offices on November 5, 2013. The Citizens for a Better City (CBC) will host a "How to Become a Candidate" Forum on Thursday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 130. The forum will feature short presentations and a panel discussion to provide basic information on how to begin a campaign.

June 11 is also the date when the City of Falls Church will hold a primary election for Democratic Party candidates for state offices. Key dates for this primary election are:

- Voter Registration: April 29, 2013 is the last day to register to vote for the June election. To register to vote, you can download the voter registration application by clicking [here](#) or by contacting the Falls Church City Registrar at (703) 248-5085.
- Absentee Voting: To vote absentee, you will need to download the Virginia Absentee Ballot Application Form by clicking [here](#). June 4 is the last day to vote absentee by mail; June 8 is the last day to vote absentee in person in the registrar's Office at City Hall, 300 Park Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046.

On November 5, 2013 citizens of Falls Church will vote for candidates for the following offices:

- Virginia Governor
- Virginia Lieutenant Governor
- Virginia Attorney General
- Virginia Senate
- Virginia House of Delegates
- Falls Church City Council
- Falls Church School Board
- Falls Church Treasurer
- Falls Church Commissioner of the Revenue
- Falls Church Sheriff

Voters will also consider a referendum on the settlement between Falls Church and Fairfax County that would transfer the City's water system to Fairfax County's Water Authority in exchange for cash and land.

LWVFC will prepare and distribute a Voters' Guide at various venues and through the local media throughout October and early November. The League will also join with the Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS) to host a forum on the water system referendum and a Council Candidates forum where the public can ask questions of the individuals running for Falls Church City Council. October 14, 2013 is the last day to register to vote for the November election.