

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FALLS CHURCH



The League of Women Voters®



## FALL 2016 VOTERS' GUIDE

### GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016 POLLS OPEN 6:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

*This Voters' Guide is published by the League of Women Voters. The League has a long tradition of publishing the verbatim responses of candidates to questions important to voters. Go to [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) to get personalized information about your ballot. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.*

#### PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, REPRESENTATIVE TO U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TWO COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND CITY OF FALLS CHURCH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOND REFERENDUM

Contact the City of Falls Church Voter Registration and Elections Office at (703) 248-5085 or email: [vote@fallschurchva.gov](mailto:vote@fallschurchva.gov) regarding voter identification requirements, absentee voting by mail or in-person and sample ballots. Online, go to [www.fallschurchva.gov/vote](http://www.fallschurchva.gov/vote). In-person absentee voting is available through Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016 at 5 p.m. at City Hall.

#### CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

The City of Falls Church was incorporated as an independent city in 1948 and covers a 2.2 square mile area. Falls Church operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The City has its own school system, library, police department, public works, recreation and parks, and other departments. It has its own District Court but combines with Arlington County to make up the 17th Judicial District of Virginia. The Falls Church school system is comprised of five schools. Their combined enrollment as of October 12, 2016 totaled 2,680 students. The City's fiscal year begins July 1 and end June 30 of each year. A complete list of city services and information can be found at: [www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov). Registered voters who live in the City of Falls Church are eligible to vote at the appropriate polling place for their residences.

**Ward 1:** Thomas Jefferson Elementary School  
601 South Oak Street  
Oak Street Gym entrance  
(Park on Oak Street, Fellows Court, Parker Avenue or  
Timber Lane)

**Ward 2:** Oakwood Apartments  
501 North Roosevelt Street  
Main Building, conference Room  
(Park in back lot and enter next to Convenience Store)

**Ward 3:** Falls Church Community Center  
223 Little Falls Street  
(Park in Community Center lot or on Little Falls Street)

#### IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED TO VOTE

**The Commonwealth of Virginia now requires all voters to present valid photo identification.** IDs with expiration dates must be current or not be expired for more than 12 months. Registered voters may use one of the following types of photo identification to vote:

- Virginia voter identification card, which can be obtained from the Falls Church City Registrar
- Valid Virginia driver's license or special identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles
- Military Identification card
- Any federal, Virginia state or local government-issued identification with photo

- Valid student identification card with a photo issued by any higher education institution in Virginia
- Valid employer-issued photo identification card
- U.S. Passport

Voters without a valid photo identification card may cast a provisional ballot but must submit identification to the Elections Office by noon Monday, November 14 to have their ballots counted.

#### ABSENTEE VOTING

In Virginia, registered voters who meet one of the 19 eligibility criteria may vote by absentee ballot, in-person or by mail. This requires the completion of a Virginia Absentee Ballot Application Form. You may be eligible if:

- You will be working or commuting for 11 hours or more between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.;
- You will be away from Falls Church City on business, personal business, or vacation;
- You are a student or the spouse of a student attending a school outside Falls Church City
- You are active duty Merchant Marine or Armed Forces
- You are unable to go to the polls due to illness or disability, are pregnant, or are the primary caretaker of a confined family member;

A full list of reasons can be found at the Virginia ELECT website: [vote.virginia.gov](http://vote.virginia.gov).

**Absentee voting by mail:** Your request for an absentee ballot by mail must be received by the Voter Registration and Elections Office by 5 p.m. Tuesday, November 1, 2016. You will be mailed the absentee ballot which must be mailed back in time to reach the electoral board by 7 p.m. on November 8.

**Absentee voting in-person:** Absentee voting in person began 9/23/2016. You may vote in-person at City Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays and until 7 p.m. on Thursdays, Oct. 27 and Nov. 3; also on Saturdays, Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). The last day to vote in-person absentee is on Saturday, November 5.

#### ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This Voters' Guide is published by the League of Women Voters. The League has a long tradition of publishing the verbatim responses of candidates to questions important to voters. **The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.** The League of Women Voters of Falls Church, which includes both women and men, is a nonpartisan organization founded in 1951, whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. Please visit [www.lwvfallschurch.org](http://www.lwvfallschurch.org), for more information.

The League of Women Voters US provides the platform for locales throughout the US to inform voters of their specific elections via VOTE411.org. When you enter your street address, VOTE411.org allows you to link with official Virginia voter sites. It lists your polling place. You can compare two candidates' responses to the questions that were posed to them by the League of Women Voters. The responses of the candidates for president can be found on VOTE411.org. The League of Women Voters of Virginia and league members from Virginia Congressional Districts 8, 10 and 11 formulated the questions that the candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives have answered. VOTE411.org's content is duplicated in this publication.

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ON NEXT PAGE

**NOTE:** Candidates appear in the order they appear on the ballot as determined by the Virginia State Board of Elections.

## PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The President is the head of state of the United States of America and is the Chief Executive Officer and the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are described in the Constitution and federal law. Subject to Senate approval, the President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme

Court Justices and federal judges. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress. Term: Four years. Limit of two terms. The base salary is \$400,000 per year.

## ELECTORS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES – VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE

### Hillary Clinton (D)

Tim Kaine

[Hillaryclinton.com](http://Hillaryclinton.com)

### Donald J. Trump (R)

Michael Pence

[Donaldjtrump.com](http://Donaldjtrump.com)

### Gary Johnson (L)

Bill Weld

[Johnsonweld.com](http://Johnsonweld.com)

### Jill Stein (G)

Ajamu Baraka

[Jill2016.com](http://Jill2016.com)

### Evan McMullin (I)

Nathan Johnson

[Evanmcmullin.com](http://Evanmcmullin.com)

## U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (VIRGINIA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8)

### THE OFFICE

The member of Congress for Virginia's 8th District represents constituents in Falls Church City, as well as Arlington County, the City of Alexandria, and parts of Fairfax County, including Reston.

**TERM:** Two years, with no term limits.

**SALARY:** The current salary for Members is \$174,000.

**DUTIES:** Legislative powers, with responsibility for making laws, raising revenue and adopting the federal budget; sole power of impeachment.

**BACKGROUND and RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS:** Provided by each candidate without edit.

## CANDIDATES FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE

### Donald S. Beyer, Jr., Democrat

Don Beyer, a two-time lieutenant governor and Obama-appointed ambassador to Switzerland, is completing his first term in Congress. He is a small businessman, a father of four, and a lifelong advocate for the environment, education, and the most vulne.

Web Site: <http://friendsofdonbeyer.com>

Campaign Phone: (703) 795-1239

### Charles A. Hernick, Republican

Charles is an international environmental consultant who has worked at the intersection of economic growth and environment for over a decade. He has worked across the United States and in over a dozen countries in Latin America and Africa.

Web Site: <http://www.charleshernick.com>

Campaign Phone: (717) 779-4848

### Julio Gracia, Independent

I am a retired 26-year FBI Special Agent. My wife, three sons, and I have lived in Fairfax County for 16 years. Congress is not representing us. Reportedly, our representatives spend 60% of their time on fundraising. If elected, I will not fundraise.

Web Site: <http://Gracia4Congress.com>

Campaign Phone: (703) 534-5787

### Do you support any change to the federal campaign finance laws and if so, what specific change(s) do you support?

**Donald S. Beyer, Jr.:** Unlimited spending, dark money, and the disastrous Citizens United decision are all threats to American democracy. It's no wonder many Americans believe the system is rigged against them. I am a proud cosponsor of the Government By the People Act, which would counter the influence of big money in politics by adopting a publically financed election system.

**Charles A. Hernick:** I support transparency and accountability in the communications that affect elections. I support full disclosure statements for who is paying for what and why. We must defend the freedom of speech and the competition of ideas. As Thomas Jefferson said: "Information is the currency of democracy."

**Julio Gracia:** Citizens United, Super-PACs, and dark money are antithetical to democracy. I will work to eliminate them and to propose legislation where only individuals can contribute to candidates and causes. Contributions could still be aggregated, but there must always be full disclosure of the contribution amounts and the contributors. All contributions must be public info.



# VOTE

GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016  
POLLS OPEN 6:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

**What federal legislation, if any, would you support to reduce gun violence?**

**Donald S. Beyer, Jr.:** I have authored or cosponsored legislation to close background check system loopholes; to ban domestic abusers and those on the terror watch list from buying a gun; to end the ban on federal research into gun violence; to limit access to high-capacity magazines and military-style assault weapons; and to make possible the temporary removal of guns from those in crisis.

**Charles A. Hernick:** There is no acceptable level of gun violence. First, we must better enforce existing laws and background checks. I believe we can do more to address the root cause of gun violence by addressing poverty and mental health. I support legislation that keeps guns out of the hands of bad people -- but does not impeded a law abiding citizen's right to due process.

**Julio Gracia:** The Dickey Amendment, 1996, banning the CDC from gun violence research, must be repealed to develop effective policies for safety. An example of a safety policy is a suicide prevention bill passed in Washington state, which was supported by the NRA and the Alliance for Gun Responsibility. The Second Amendment will never be repealed. But let us strengthen existing laws.

**What will you do about economic challenges facing families such as minimum wage, equal pay, paid family leave, affordable housing and childcare?**

**Donald S. Beyer, Jr.:** I am a strong supporter of responsible policy solutions that support working families. That is why I have supported legislation to raise the minimum wage, to make childcare and diapers more affordable, to help eliminate the wage gap, to prevent employment discrimination for LBGT and pregnant workers, and to allow for paid sick, medical, and family leave.

**Charles A. Hernick:** Women and men who do equal work deserve equal pay. Period. I am proud to have always guaranteed that for my staff -- and I believe any honorable employer must maintain the same standard. The best thing we can do to raise wages is increase economic growth -- the primary cause of low wages is economic stagnation. Greater opportunity laborers and competition between businesses will drive up wages for skilled and unskilled work and improve the menu of benefits available to employees.

**Julio Gracia:** The majority of American adults no longer live in the middle class. Tax reform can address the economic challenges. I propose a comprehensive restructuring of our tax code, where the hourly minimum wage yields a yearly minimum wage not subject to taxation. This is to start a national discussion on a taxation system where Americans can allocate money for healthcare, retirement, and education before any money goes to the government. Programs like Social Security and Medicare must be strengthened.

**VOTE**

**GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016  
POLLS OPEN 6:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.**



**What will you do to ensure that post high school education is affordable for all?**

**Donald S. Beyer, Jr.:** I have supported efforts to make community college tuition free as well as efforts to help address college debt, including bills to ensure students have access to Pell grants year round, to allow student loan refinancing, to allow grad students to be eligible for subsidized Stafford loans, and to ensure financial counseling for those who take out loans to pay for college.

**Charles A. Hernick:** First we need to ensure that high school graduates are fully prepared for college. Students needs options or community college or four year degrees that match local and regional workforce opportunities. But we also need to reform student loan programs since they have been stripped of nearly every standard consumer protection (e.g., bankruptcy, statutes of limitations).

**Julio Gracia:** Colleges need to be accountable for rising costs. Is the money being spent for curriculum or stadiums? Detailed cost information before enrollment helps students decide whether to attend a college where they pay dearly for non-academic programs. Government is seeking ways to forgive student loan debt, whereas it should consider phasing out student loans and replacing all of them with grants.

**What are your other federal legislative priorities?**

**Donald S. Beyer, Jr.:** Other policy priorities include abating climate change, environmental and animal protections, women's economic empowerment, federal employee and contractor issues, and gun safety. I also make great efforts toward bipartisanship and restoring civil discourse in our communities and nation.

**Charles A. Hernick:** We need to lower the corporate tax rate to 25% and simplify regulations for small business. We also need to reinvest in national security by ensuring our troops have clear missions and are well-equipped and taking care of veterans. Finally we must establish systems to reward innovation and top performance by Federal employees and upgrading information technology.

**Julio Gracia:** 29% of our population provides care for a chronically ill, disabled, or aged family member or friend. Medical costs are the leading cause of personal bankruptcies. By 2030, 20% of our population will be over age 65. Our nation must develop universal coverage to save billions in administrative costs and restore free choice of doctors.

## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

A **'YES'** vote is a vote **FOR** adding this amendment to the Constitution. (Agree with proponents.)

A **'NO'** vote is a vote **AGAINST** adding this amendment to the Constitution. (Agree with Opponents.)

### Question 1:

#### Right to Work Constitutional Amendment

"Should Article 1 of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to prohibit any agreement or combination between an employer and a labor union or labor organization whereby (i) nonmembers of the union or organization are denied the right to work for the employer, (ii) membership to the union or organization is made a condition of employment or continuation of employment by such employer, or (iii) the union or organization acquires an employment monopoly in any such enterprise?"

**INTRODUCTION:** Right to work laws mean that an employee has a right to work for an employer without being a member of a union (but gets the benefit of the union's negotiations for improvements without paying union dues). Right to Work bans making union membership a condition of employment. The 'Right to Work' laws have been in effect since the 1940's in Virginia.

#### Proponents say:

1. A constitutional amendment would ensure that future General Assemblies cannot easily change Virginia's status as a "right-to-work" state.
2. A constitutional amendment, approved at an election, shows the direct will of the people, not just that of legislators.

#### Opponents say:

1. A constitutional amendment is not necessary since Virginia's current policy has been in effect for over 60 years.
2. A constitutional amendment does not allow for timely modifications.

### Question 2

#### Tax Relief Constitutional Amendment

"Shall the Constitution of Virginia be amended to allow the General Assembly to provide an option to the localities to exempt from taxation the real property of the surviving spouse of any law enforcement officer, firefighter, search and rescue personnel, or emergency medical services personnel who was killed in the line of duty, where the surviving spouse occupies the real property as his or her principal place of residence and has not remarried?"

#### Proponents say:

1. Exemption from the real property tax of surviving spouses recognizes the hardships to families as a result of the death of those who serve to protect Virginians.
2. The exemption is established at the option of localities; thus, it is not considered an unfunded mandate.

#### Opponents say:

1. Exemption from the real property tax by localities could result in reduced revenue for that locality.
2. Changes to the Virginia Constitution should be done only for very extraordinary and compelling needs/reasons.

## CITY OF FALLS CHURCH LIBRARY BOND REFERENDUM

A **"YES"** vote approves of the issuance of the library bond.

A **"NO"** vote does not approve the issuance of the library bond.

**QUESTION:** Shall the City of Falls Church, Virginia, be authorized to contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Eight Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$8,700,000.00) for the purpose of paying the costs incident to constructing, expanding, renovating, reconstructing, replacing in one or more locations, equipping and/or reequipping, in whole or in part, a Public Library including an Archive/Heritage Center, and shall Ordinance No. 1960 of the City authorizing the issuance of such bonds be effective?

**Background:** The City has been exploring ways to expand and upgrade the library since 2012. The referendum authorizes the sale of bonds to execute an Addendum to the 2013 Master Plan. It would fund the construction, renovation, expansion or replacement of the public library in one or more locations. This would increase children's and young adult spaces, add new meeting rooms, and expand study spaces. The Master Plan called for replacement of the heating and air conditioning system and plumbing infrastructure, enlarging the restrooms, and improving the layout so that it conveniently maximizes workflow and access to related services. It would bring the facility into Americans with Disabilities Act compliance.

*The Fall 2016 Voters' Guide was prepared, using monies from the LWV Education Fund, by:*



League of Women Voters of Falls Church  
P.O. Box 156  
Falls Church, VA 22040  
[www.lwvfallschurch.org](http://www.lwvfallschurch.org)



Like us on Facebook  
League of Women Voters of Falls Church

**VOTE411.ORG**  
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED