



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of Baltimore County The Voter

Volume 2020-21 Issue 1
September 2020

CALENDAR

All events are posted and updated at <http://lwwbaltimorecounty.org/calendar>



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September:

- Saturday, Sept. 19 – Vote411.org goes live!
- Tuesday, Sept. 22 – National Voter Registration Day
- Saturday, Sept. 26, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. – LWVMD Fall Workshop
- Tuesday, Sept. 29, 12 p.m. – Bret Schafer of the Alliance for Securing Democracy discusses “Defending Democracy from Disinformation: How to Protect the Election from Information Manipulation”, register online, <https://bit.ly/3bj9gJO>
- Wednesday, Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m.– Book Club: Tough Love: My Story of the Things Worth Fighting For by Susan E. Rice

October:

- Thursday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m. – Board Meeting
- Monday, Oct. 5 noon, – *The Voter* deadline
- Wednesday, Oct. 28
 - 12:30 p.m. Speaker Dr. Mileah Kromer, “Polling and the 2020 Election” LWV Baltimore City/County online series
 - 7:30 p.m. – Book Club: *Begin Again: James Baldwin’s America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own* by Eddie S. Glaude, Jr.

November: VOTE on or before November 3!

- Thursday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m. – Board meeting
- Monday, Nov. 9, noon – *The Voter* deadline
- Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m. – *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins

Have you renewed your 2020-21 membership? If not, visit our website <https://www.lwwbaltimorecounty.org/join-or-renew>. If you are not certain about renewal or want to pay by check, please call the office.

CO-PRESIDENTS LETTER

Dear League Members,

As we start a new League year, let us exercise our collective voice. The language of democracy is voting. Our League's efforts in voter registration, education, and advocacy empower the residents of Baltimore County to speak this language. We would love to hear all the voices of our members this fall.

Until November, our top priority is *Getting Out the Vote*, (GOTV), for the presidential election. We are pulling out all the stops to provide voters with the information they need to vote. A few of our projects include:

- Providing information to voters on the candidates, how to vote, and where to vote through advertising with *The Baltimore Sun*, sending emails, and posting on social media
- Reaching out to local high schools, colleges, and retirement homes
- Sending editorials to local newspapers
- Increasing printed copies of *The Voters' Guide*
- Driving participation in VOTE411.org
- Updating our website with the latest voting information



Because of this, we would love each of you to find some way to participate in our efforts. There is room for you to help in small and large ways. We need member engagement to fulfill the admirable goals of our League in defending democracy in Baltimore County.

In this issue of *The Voter* you will find information about volunteer opportunities. If you have been thinking about spending a few hours a month or a few hours a week, we have opportunities for you to engage with the League. If you have wanted to stretch your creative muscles, you can create graphics, work on website updates, or create content for social media. If you want to work with a dynamic group of movers and shakers, join one of our committees. And if you have been thinking about growing your leadership skills, we need leaders for several committees.

If you're not ready to support the League with your time and gifts, you can still make a difference in this election. Below are a few small ways you can make an impact:

- Apply for your mail-in ballot now or prepare a plan for voting in person. (Many polling locations have changed, so do your research!)
- Help your friends and family prepare a voting plan that adapts to this year's changes in the election process.
- Share information about why the Postal Service is an essential service. (Learn more at: <https://www.lwv.org/blog/why-we-need-fight-united-states-postal-service>.)
- Share local election information on your Facebook or Instagram accounts when it launches September 19, and follow us at facebook.com/LWVBaltimoreCounty, if you don't already.
- Support poll-worker recruitment by sharing information from www.powerthepolls.org.
- Share our "First-Time-Voter Checklist" with new voters, www.vote411.org/first-time-voter-checklist.
- Share our informative pamphlet that is available on our website, [Voting in Baltimore County](#).

After elections, we'll get back to some of our other priorities, such as looking for opportunities to support the Enterprise Baltimore County Strategic Plan, reviewing our local positions, and addressing action items, such as advocacy for public transportation and support for food insecurity.

Our League is welcoming new members who are interested in Getting Out the Vote, but more importantly, we want every one of our current members to know that we value you. Get involved. Join us in speaking this beautiful language of democracy!

Sincerely,

Co-Presidents

Camille Wheeler

Tana Stevenson



Camille B. Wheeler

Tana RH Stevenson

LWVUS/LWVMD

Be on the lookout for email updates from LWVUS and LWVMD. They contain the latest information and strategies to maximize voter engagement and power. Sign up now for the Fall Workshop!

LWVMD

Virtual Fall Workshop

Saturday September 26, 2020

9am-12:00pm

Agenda

- 9:00 - 9:20 Sign in
- 9:20 - 9:30 Welcome, Announcements, Roll Call
- 9:30 - 9:50 State Ballot Questions Briefing
- 9:50 - 10:15 Action 2020 – A New Direction
- 10:30 - 12:00 Briefing on “Vote by Mail” Study and Consensus process with Q&A

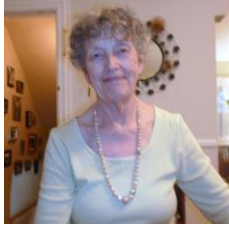
Register online at https://www.lwvmd.org/fall_workshop_2020 for the virtual workshop.

Member cost is \$5 and non-member \$10.

LWV BALTIMORE COUNTY

OUR OFFICE MANAGER

Hello! My name is Maggy Lindgren, and it is my pleasure to serve as the Baltimore County LWV Office Manager. Since I began in the early summer months, I have learned a great deal and have begun to apply this learning to keeping the office as efficient as possible. My background contains many exciting jobs...from a switchboard operator to a 5th grade basketball coach to a college professor, with lots of gigs in between, mostly in education. I'm available at the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and, at most other times, I'm available at maggylindgren@lwvbaltimorecounty.org and at contact@lwvbaltimorecounty.org. Please let me know of any ways I can help you.



LWV BALTIMORE COUNTY

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Thursday: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

By appointment

Contact:

410.377.8046

contact@lwvbaltimore.org

www.LWVBaltimoreCounty.org

COMMITTEES AND REPORTS

ADVOCACY

Betsy Sexton (esexton2009@lwvbaltimorecounty.org)

July:

- Our Co-Presidents sent a letter to members of the Board of Education urging support for the election of the **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school meal funding option**, which allows eligible schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students. This will enable the eligible schools to become *Hunger-Free Schools*.

This was adopted by the Board of Education. In August, 87 schools were brought into the program! These students are eligible for Covid Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) federally funded benefits of \$5.86 per student per day while school facilities are closed.

- Our Co-Presidents sent a letter to the County Council in support of Council Resolution No. 76-20 “establishing the **Baltimore County Adequate Facilities Ordinance (APFO) Task Force** to help the County adapt to the pressure that growth places on school capacity and for the purpose of providing a predictable planning environment for the provision of public school facilities by requiring development projects to pass certain tests as a condition of development approval.”

The task force will issue its findings to the County Executive and County Council by November 1st. League member Yara Cheikh will represent us on this seven-member task force.

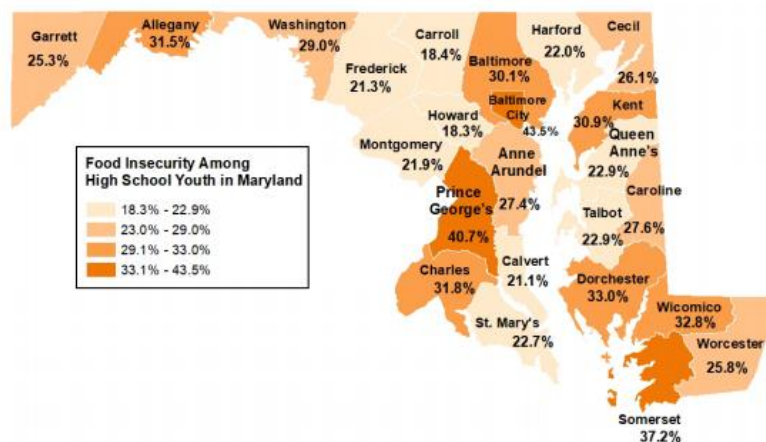
FOOD INSECURITY IN STUDENT POPULATIONS ACROSS MARYLAND

Laurie Taylor-Mitchell, President, Student Support Network

In a recent study published by No Kid Hungry (and this data is pre-pandemic), **30% of all high school students in Baltimore County now suffer from food insecurity – i.e. they have limited or uncertain access to nutritious food, which is a tremendous stress upon them and their families**

The risk of food insecurity for a student of color is more than double that of a white student. See the graphics below from the report [FOOD INSECURITY AMONG MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MARYLAND](#), written by Tam Lynne Kelley, Senior Project Manager for No Kid Hungry.

How are Food Insecurity Rates Different Across the State?



The job losses and economic disaster resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic have worsened hunger and food insecurity across the nation and in Maryland. **News from the Student Support Network:**

With the schools remaining closed, we will keep distributing food and other essential items at our three distribution sites until Jan. 29, 2021, the day now given by BCPS as the end of online instruction.

Parkville High School: Yara Cheikh, ycheikh@aol.com

Loch Raven Technical Academy, Towson: Delegate Cathi Forbes, cathiforbes@verizon.net

Owings Mills High School: Vicki Almond, vickialmond9@aol.com

We distribute every Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers arrive around 9 a.m. to set up for the distribution and organize the groceries, produce, bread and eggs arriving in trucks and vans, and household items being delivered by volunteers. We are currently assisting about 3,700 people every week, i.e. students and their families. All BCPS students, regardless of where they go to school, and their families, are welcome.

Volunteering at a distribution site is an extraordinary experience (we have strict health protocols and a health monitor at all events, all volunteers are trained before working, and the police are present).

If you or people you know are interested in volunteering, or sorting, and bagging before a site opens, please contact our Executive Director Jess Wodarczyk, execdirector.ssn@gmail.com, to get your or their names into the rotation for a site.

Good News: The Community Eligibility Provision will be implemented in 87 schools in BCPS for the next four years! All students attending these County public schools will be offered breakfast and lunch at no charge, ending lunch shaming, meal card debt, and annual paperwork for students and their families, thereby becoming “hunger free schools.” About 60,000 students will benefit from this federal program.

Visit <https://www.bcps.org/news/articles/article12828.html> for a list of the 87 schools mentioned in the BCPS press release:

The League of Women Voters of Baltimore County, the Student Support Network, and many other advocacy groups, have supported the efforts to increase implementation of CEP in County public schools for the last four years. Special thanks to Yara Cheikh of the Education Committee for her crucial advocacy on this issue.

The full report, *Food Insecurities in Middle and High Schools in Maryland*, can be found on our LWV Baltimore County website under [Resources](#).

EDUCATION

Camille Marx (marx7633@lwvbaltimorecounty.org)

Education - Free meals

The Community Eligibility Provision allows schools in high poverty areas to serve free breakfast and lunch. A school qualifies for CEP if the percent of students certified for free meals is at least 40%. Eighty-seven schools in Baltimore County qualified for CEP. Parents do not need to fill out free and reduced lunch applications.

Led by education committee member, Yara Cheikh, the Baltimore County League of Women Voters championed the expansion of CEP to feed the poorest children in our schools. The pandemic effects on families have many more needing assistance with basic needs.

Adequate Public Facilities:

Annually the school system conducts a review of overcrowded schools and relief measures in process to mitigate. If a school has a utilization rate of 115%, it is deemed overcrowded. State-Rated Capacity is defined by MSDE and is calculated based on the number of classrooms in the school. SRC applies to the permanent building and does not include relocatable units. Education committee member Yara Cheikh will represent the Baltimore County League on this task force.

MEMBERSHIP

Ericka McDonald elmcd@lwvbaltimorecounty.org

We've had a great deal of interest from members and volunteers to help get out the vote in 2020! Please share [LWVBC Facebook](#) posts and the [VOTE411](#) website on your social media accounts! Help encourage voting and spread important information about voting in Baltimore County!

And while the League is busy planning for the November election (more opportunities will follow), we currently need help with the following:

- Deliver Voters' Guides to nursing homes in October
- Develop voting information for social media posts
- Coordinate with LWV Baltimore City on joint programming (events)
- Serve on a committee to help plan the January legislative breakfast
- Contact local College and University Presidents and student body Presidents



MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

COALITION COMMITTEE

This committee reaches out to other organizations to promote voter education voting issues. Joining with other organizations allows LWV to maximize voters' understanding of county, state, and national issues.

We are actively working with Hadassah, Jack and Jill, HCR4US, Towson University, Baltimore County Public Schools, Baltimore County Local Health Improvement Coalition, and Observer Core. If you are involved in a group that works to promote voting education and rights, or other league advocacies, please volunteer to be a liaison.

HEALTH CARE

This committee is co-chaired by Sharon Walker and Carol Wynne. The goal of this committee is to review and update the Baltimore County League of Women Voters position on health care as it pertains to Baltimore County. With a population of greater than 800,000, it is essential that our county health care position reflects the needs and health initiatives that will optimize health care in this county. Goals and timelines for this committee are yet to be set. If you are interested in health care advocacy or have a role in health care, we need you.

Please email *Erica McDonald* elmcd@lwvbaltimorecounty.org to volunteer.

VOTERS' SERVICE

VOTE411 AND YOUR *VOTERS' GUIDES*

Barbara Crain, Voter Service, Barbara.Crain.10@lwvbaltimorecounty.org

For the general election, the League of Women Voters of Baltimore County will once again be mailing copies of its *Voters' Guides* to all members. The *Guides* will go out at approximately the same time as the ballots, beginning the last few days in September. Copies will also be mailed to new voters in Baltimore County, distributed by the Baltimore County Public Library, and provided to senior living facilities in our county. If you are available to help with the deliveries, please email or call Barbara Crain (barbara.crain.10@LWVBaltimoreCounty.org or 301-541-8064).

Are you looking for information on your candidates and ballot questions before then? Check out the League's online *Voters' Guide*, VOTE411.org, which will go live on September 19. Just type in your address to see what will be on your ballot. Please use only your street address, and do not include an apartment or unit number.

Make your voting plan and VOTE!

If you are adept at research, you can find everything you need online. For those who only want the latest election rules and best practices, we are constantly updating our website, LWVBaltimoreCounty.org. Please check the following sites.

- Maryland Board of Elections: <https://elections.maryland.gov/>
- LWV Baltimore County Blog: https://www.lwvbaltimorecounty.org/presidential_general_election_2020.
- Download and share [How to Vote in Baltimore County](#).
- [Vote 411.org is now available in Spanish!](#)



PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

BOOK CLUB

There is plenty of room to join book club since now all meetings are virtual. Please contact Betsy Sexton, esexton2009@lwvbaltimorecounty for the link and time.

Wednesday, September 30- (New Date) *Tough Love: My Story of the Things Worth Fighting For* by Susan E. Rice

Wednesday, October 28- *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own* by Eddie S. Glaude, Jr.

Wednesday, November 18- *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins

Wednesday, December 16- *The Address* by Fiona Davis

Wednesday, January 27- *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson

COMBINED PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE WORKS WONDERS

Over the summer, LWV Baltimore City and County combined forces to create outstanding zoom programs available to all. In our first program we heard Dr. Ida E. Jones speak on the history and intersection of African American women in the suffrage movement. If you missed it or want to see it again, a recording of the event is available at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=234472931193765&ref=search>.

We will be hosting our second online event at noon, Tuesday, September 29, when we conference with Bret Schafer of the Alliance for Securing Democracy, discussing, "Defending Democracy from Disinformation: How to Protect the Election from Information Manipulation". Complete event information is available at the end of this newsletter. This program is open to everyone, and registration is available now.

Also, add 12:30, October 28th to your calendar, when Dr. Mileah Kromer, associate professor and director, Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center, Goucher College, updates us on "Polling and the 2020 Election: From Lessons Learned to New Trends". That information will be sent out later.

NEW MEMBERS

LWV BALTIMORE COUNTY WELCOMES YOU!

Patricia Payne
Tanya Taylor
Nancy Seibel
Teresa Hammer
Toya Campbell
William Barnard
Ericka McDonald

Donna Evans
Audrey Clarkson
Susan Chouinard
Donna DeLeno Neuworth
Frances Burman
Elaine Schaefer



OF INTEREST

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



READ BEYOND

Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?



CHECK THE AUTHOR

Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?



SUPPORTING SOURCES?

Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.



CHECK THE DATE

Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.



IS IT A JOKE?

If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.



CHECK YOUR BIASES

Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.

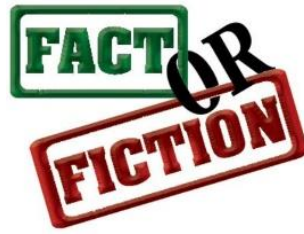


ASK THE EXPERTS

Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions



NON-PARTISAN FACT-CHECKING WEBSITES¹

As we approach the November election, now more than ever, we all need and want factual information. The preceding graphic is from the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and may be shared, and the list is an important source for all of us.

[AP Fact Check](#)- Associated Press' website, an independent global news organization dedicated to factual reporting, founded in 1846

[Fact Check](#)- A project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center

[Fact Tank: News in the Numbers](#)- "Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world. It conducts public opinion polling, demographic research, media content analysis and other empirical social science research."

[MediaBias/Fact Check](#)- A comprehensive media bias resource; currently 3200+ media sources are listed in the database and more are added every day

[Media Matters for America](#)- "A web-based, nonprofit research and information center dedicated to comprehensively monitoring, analyzing, and correcting misinformation in the U.S. media."

[Open Secrets](#)- Run by the Center for Responsible Politics; non-profit, non-partisan. Also lists where candidates get their money. "[Dark Money](#)" is explained in detail.

[PunditFact](#)- "A nonprofit project of the Poynter Institute, dedicated to checking the accuracy of claims by pundits, columnists, bloggers, political analysts, the hosts and guests of talk shows, and other members of the media."

[SciCheck](#)- Fact Check's site "focuses exclusively on false and misleading scientific claims that are made by partisans to influence public policy. It was launched in January 2015."

[Sunlight Foundation](#)- "A national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that uses civic technologies, open data, [policy analysis](#) and [journalism](#) to make our government and politics more accountable and transparent to all."

[TinEye](#)- This is a reverse-image search, which tells you whether an image was altered.

¹ Greller, J. (2020, September, 3, A Media Specialist's Guide to the Internet, <https://mediaspecialistsguide.blogspot.com/2020/08/10-non-partisan-fact-checking-websites.html?m=1&fbclid=IwAR00z7H1RSA6lwGCI-761024h8qxnyYezhLLbMytUWz08BB6YQoAu9ki14> .

Register to Learn How We Can Defend Democracy from Disinformation

Tuesday, September 29 at noon online

The League of Women Voters of Baltimore City and County invites you to learn how we can defend our precious democracy.

Our featured speaker, Bret Schafer of the Alliance for Securing Democracy, will discuss:

“Defending Democracy from Disinformation:
How to Protect the Election from Information Manipulation”



Bret Schafer is the Media and Digital Disinformation Fellow at the Alliance for Securing Democracy. As an expert in computational propaganda, he has appeared in *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*, and he has been interviewed on NPR, MSNBC, CNN, Al Jazeera, CBS radio, and BBC radio.

Previously, he spent more than ten years in the television and film industry, including stints at Cartoon Network and as a freelance writer for Warner Brothers. He also worked in Budapest as a radio host, in Berlin as a semi-professional baseball player, and in Moscow as an intern in the Public Affairs Section at the U.S. Embassy. He has a master’s in public diplomacy from the University of Southern California, where he was the editor-in-chief of *Public Diplomacy Magazine*, and a B.S. in communications with a major in radio/television/film from Northwestern University.

Registration is open now!

To join our event, please [register here](#) or use <https://bit.ly/3bj9gJQ>.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with details for joining the event on September 29th.

Please forward this email to your friends. This event is open to ALL.



LWV BALTIMORE COUNTY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021

Co-Presidents: Tana Stevenson, Camille Wheeler

1st Vice President: Eileen Robier

2nd Vice President: Barbara Crain

Secretary: Betsy Sexton

Treasurer: Neilson Andrews

Elected Directors:

Sue Garonzik, Carol Wynne, Camille Marx,

Ralph Rigger, Sharon Walker,

Betsy Sexton, Judith Schagrin

Newsletter: Sharalyn Luciani

Office Manager: Maggy Lindgren



Not a member yet? Join today!

- Call the office: 410.377.8046
- Visit: www.BaltimoreCounty.org

League of Women Voters of Baltimore County
6600 York Road, Suite 211
Baltimore, MD 21212
Return service requested.



LEAGUE OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Office Manager: Maggy Lindgren

410.377.8046

contact@lwvbaltimorecounty.org

www.LWVBaltimoreCounty.org

