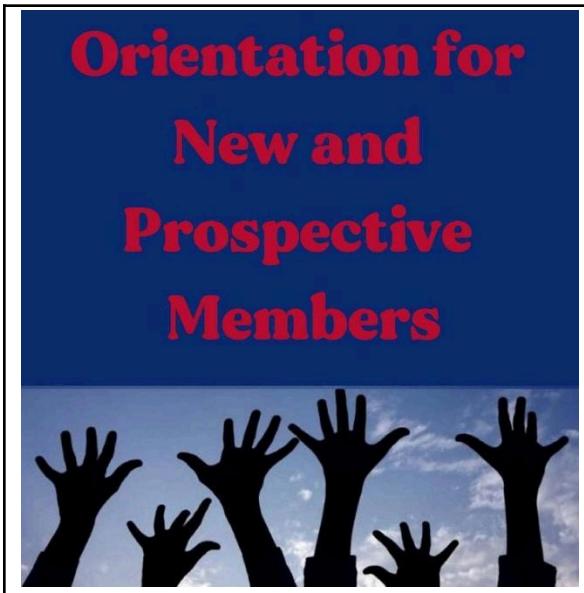
# JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

If you are interested in the topics in this issue of the newsletter, please reach out to the contact person noted in each news item.






On Jan. 24, the LWVFC Membership Committee is hosting an event for all LWVFC members, plus potential members and members of the public to learn about the many ways to become involved with the League. This fun and pressure-free event will include an opportunity to chat with current members, and to wander among stations that will be set up for each League project, committee and activity. This free event, which includes lunch, will be held at the Community Room of the C. Burr Artz Library, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please use this link to RSVP: https://forms.gle/1U12XMUGzho5c1MQ8

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

The event will also serve as another one of our diaper drives for the Centro Hispano of Frederick. Please consider bringing a box of diapers for this donation effort.

# Legislative BREAKFAST

On Dec. 6, at the at the Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ in Frederick, LWVFC hosted a Legislative Breakfast which provided an opportunity for members of the public to meet and talk with elected officials who represent Frederick County in the Maryland General Assembly. County Executive Jessica Fitzwater and Frederick Mayor Michael O'Connor also attended and spoke about county and city initiatives. The event was well-attended and netted LWVFC $350 in donations.



Polly Schmitt asks a question of the elected officials.



Elected officials take questions from the audience.




Last spring and summer, LWVFC participated in 21 community events around the county. These events were in addition to the info and voter-registration tables we staffed at every county high school last fall. Sue Kunkel (sckunkel@gmail.com), who coordinated our participation at most of these community events, reports that 32 LWVFC members combined efforts to staff our table at these 21 events, representing more than 200 volunteer hours. This

generated, among other interest, more than 200 passers-by signing up to receive more info about the League, many of whom later became members.




Karen Paris is planning a March 2026 event with local Girl Scouts where the girls can complete their Democracy Badge. It will be either March 22 or March 29, and probably held at C. Burr Artz. Karen expects a total of about 50 scouts at the Cadette and Senior level (ages 12-15) to participate in the event that will feature five stations through which the girls will rotate. Stations will include local experts, activities and materials relating to local government, state government, and the federal judicial branch, legislative branch, and executive branch. Activities will touch on a variety of topics including how to encourage people to vote, term limits, gerrymandering, the structure of the U.S. Congress, presidential trivia, what it's like to be a judge, voter registration etc. At the end of the event, the girls will turn in sheets showing what they learned, to verify to their troop leaders that they completed the process and earned their Democracy Badge. Kate Jones (axelkjz@msn.com) will make opening remarks about the history of the League and the electoral college. Additional LWVFC members will be needed to help plan and run this event. Let Karen know - at ksparis15@gmail.com – if you are interested in helping.

**AN ITEM FROM THE…**









George Carroll (Carrollg007@gmail.com) was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame (MSCHF) for his volunteer efforts with Meals-on-Wheels and the Department of Aging and for leading sing-alongs at assisted living and dementia-care facilities. Interestingly, the MSCHF materials did not mention George's work with LWVFC although we know that is definitely part of what makes him worthy of this recognition.

Since 1987, the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame has been honoring distinguished senior citizens who have made volunteer civic and humanitarian contributions to the state. Each year, nominations are accepted and reviewed by the selection committee and a maximum of 25 nominees aged 65 or over are inducted at an October luncheon. All inductees receive a membership certificate, and an MSCHF lapel pin, and are featured in the annual Blue Book, a copy of which is placed in the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame archives at the University of Baltimore's Langsdale Library. Congratulations George!

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| | Our Annual Meeting will be on a Saturday in April (exact date and time TBD), at the C. Burr Artz library, with a Zoom option for attending virtually. At this meeting, we will adopt a **local program** for the ensuing year, **elect officers and directors**, and members of the Nominating Committee, adopt our **budget**, accept **annual committee** |




**reports**, discuss **amendments** to our bylaws etc. In addition, the meeting will feature a **presentation by a guest speaker** yet to be named. Watch for updates here: https://my.lwv.org/maryland/frederick-county/event/annual-meeting-lwv-frederick-county.

The meeting will also serve as another one of our diaper drives for the Centro Hispano of Fredreick. Please consider bringing a box of diapers to our Annual Meeting for this donation effort.

MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Last fall, LWVMD requested that members of LWVFC meet with our state representatives to present LWVMD's two legislative initiatives and one local issue of our choice. In response, between November 3 and December 2, Kate Jones (axelkjz@msn.com), Peggy Durbin Durbinpeggy@gmail.com and Sue Kunkel sckunkel@gmail.com) did just that.

They met with state representatives or the Chiefs of Staff of state Senator Karen Lewis Young, 3rd District Delegate Kris Fair, 3rd District Delegate Karen Simpson, 4th District Delegate Barrie Ciliberti, 4th District Delegate April Miller and 3rd District Delegate Ken Kerr.

The legislators shared info on their own wide-ranging legislative priorities and Kate, Peggy and Sue talked to the legislators about:

- LWVMD's desire for Maryland to fill General Assembly vacancies by special elections instead of the current method of appointment
- LWVMD's position that ballot issues should be presented to voters in plain language
- Performing a data center impact study in Maryland.

Peggy said, "I'm pleased to see that legislators have overridden Gov. Moore's veto of the Data Center Study bill. Public support for it influenced the vote."

Overall, the trio from LWVFC reported that the legislators were receptive to their presentations and in some cases indicated their definite support for the issues.

Sue said she "enjoyed meeting with the legislator's and learned a lot about the legislative process in Maryland," and added, "All were very helpful and seemed glad to meet with League members and share their interests and plans for the upcoming session."

Kate said she enjoyed these meetings more than expected "because it was scripted by LWVMD, and all the representatives were politically savvy enough to treat us well. I encourage members to step up and volunteer for this!"

SHOP THE

# LWVMD STORE




**Find it here:**
https://lwvmd.printify.me/category/all/1













Here's a story about our Legislative Breakfast:

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Public is Invited to Breakfast with the Frederick County General Assembly Delegation

The League of Women Voters of Frederick County is hosting a Legislative Breakfast on Saturday, December 6, where members of the public can meet and talk with elected officials who represent Frederick County in the Maryland General Assembly. The breakfast will be at the Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ, 15 W. Church Street, in Frederick.

Doors open at 8 a.m. for pre-breakfast networking. Breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. During the event, each member of the Frederick County General Assembly Delegation will have an opportunity to address the gathering and share their legislative agenda, as well as answer audience questions, before they depart to Winchester Hall for the annual Delegation Hearing.

Attendees can make a suggested minimum donation of $10 (by cash or check) at the door. The event will conclude by 9:30 a.m. Attendees should RSVP using the "Register Here" button on the League's website: www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-frederick-county.

The League is expecting excellent representation from the 11 delegates and 4 state senators who represent Frederick County. ■




***Democracy Dialogues:*** **Misinformation & Democracy**

Join LWVMD for our next *Democracy Dialogues* event, a conversation on **misinformation, disinformation,** and their **impacts on democracy** in Maryland.

**When:** Thursday, February 5th at 7:00 PM

**Where:** Virtual - Register for Zoom Information

**REGISTER HERE:**

https://www.lwvmd.org/misinformation_democracy?e=3cf036786bb94b7ebca82f0c41f780c1&utm_source=lwvmaryland&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=winter_26_upcoming_events&n=8




**Next board meeting is**
**TUESDAY, Jan. 20, 5pm**
**(libraries are closed on Monday)**
**at the C. Burr Artz Library**
**with a Zoom option**
(Zoom link is on the
League website homepage.)