

League of Women Voters of Frederick County, MD
May 18, 2026 Board Meeting

Attended in Person: Betty Mayfield, Kate Jones, Lauri Gross, Sue Kunkel, George Carroll, Sarah Weishampel, Sue Krause, Ellen West, Jill Griffith.

Attended Virtually: Cyndi Donovan, Richard Kap Kaplowitz, Karen Paris, Nannette Hobson, Peggy Durbin, Margaret Hindman, Rosanne Roe, Patricia Holahan.

Call to Order: 6:03pm George Carroll called the meeting to order.

Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to accept the February and March 2026 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote. For the 66th LWVFC Annual Meeting minutes, Betty Mayfield suggested that “Programs” be changed to “Program.”

Voter Services—Forums: Nannette Hobson reported that the forums are almost finished, with one coming this week and just a few more to go. The in-person forum for District 6 Republican Congressional candidates is tentatively scheduled for May 27 at ERUCC, but Nannette said that that date may be pushed back to give the candidates more time. The forum for District 6 Democratic Congressional candidates is scheduled for June 1, also at ERUCC.

Lauri Gross will moderate the forum for the Republican Sheriff’s race, which will be held on June 4 at ERUCC. Nannette noted that the forums have gone smoothly thanks to great teamwork. Lessons learned from the primaries will be helpful as the league rolls out forums for the general election in the fall. She noted that in another month, the league will need to begin its work on those fall forums.

Voter Services—Voters’ Guide/Vote411: Lauri stated that the Voters’ Guide for the primaries is up on Vote411 with a PDF of the Guide in English and Spanish. She’s considering working with Kate to create a link in the Voters’ Guide to recordings of the candidate forums. If a change is made to Vote411, it goes public one hour later, so this would be feasible.

A question was asked about the voters’ guide that appeared in the May 16-17 issue of the *Frederick News Post (FNP)*, because it looks much like a league guide. Lauri stated that the newspaper decided to publish their own guide for the primaries and then collaborate with the league on the guide for the general election. To create the league’s Voters’ Guide for the general election, she will archive in Vote411 candidates who lose their primaries, download the winners, and then have the new guide translated, designed, and printed.

Membership: Jill Griffith reported that the league has 118 members, 8 new members since the last board meeting on March 16, and 22 expired memberships. She stated that it’s unclear why members do not renew their memberships. Jill would like to put together a small working group to review the effectiveness of the member survey.

The league will hold its next membership meeting on May 30 in the Community Room of the C. Burr Artz Library from 12-2pm. The meeting will cover procedures for staffing the league’s tables at community events. Also included will be information about Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) and how to answer questions that may come up on this topic. Owen Anderson, Deputy Director, RCV Maryland, will speak at the meeting.

Events: Sue Kunkel stated that the league is tabling at several community events for the rest of May and into July, including First Saturday (June 6, July 4); Community Day and Juneteenth Celebration (June 20); Pride Parade (June 26); Pride Celebration (June 27); and All Saints Block Party (July 18). The league is also planning to table at the Summer Sunday concerts in Baker Park on June 28.

Sue noted that a comment has been made that the selected community events are Frederick-centric. She welcomes suggestions for any non-Frederick City community events for the league to consider. She also noted that, with the help of Rosanne and Dan Roe, the league does cover Railroad

Days in Brunswick in October. If possible, members should use Sign-up Genius to sign up for tabling shifts, but they can also just send their requests for shifts directly to Sue.

Sarah Weishampel, who works at the C. Burr Artz Library, mentioned that the library is currently partnering with organizations to hold programs celebrating the nation's 250th birthday. Each program is nonpartisan and involves civics education. The library has space for a program in October and wonders whether the league would be interested in doing a program. Each program is partner led and not library led meaning that, if interested, the league would take the lead on planning and implementing the program. Sue Kunkel indicated that an email would be sent to members inquiring about interest in putting on such a program.

Noncitizen Voting Study: Kate Jones brought the board up to date on the noncitizen voting study requested by LWVMD. The work group has collected a lot of information, talked extensively with Walter Olson and other experts, and plans to provide a full report to the board in the fall, after the forums for the general election have been completed. Before the league takes a position on an issue like this, it first tries to gather enough information to make an informed decision.

Publicity: Lauri indicated that she has yard signs available to place in members' yards, including those with the latest design, which she showed around. Kap Kaplowitz noted that the Maryland General Assembly just passed a law that, where someone lives in a community with an HOA, it is legal for that person to display a yard sign 45 days before an election.

On April 15, a press release was sent out about the Voters' Guide and upcoming forums. Blurbs on the forums are also being sent to the *FNP* calendar department, but by the time several early forums were confirmed, it was too late to get them on the *FNP* calendar.

On May 15, DC News Now interviewed Sue Kunkel and Lauri for a two-minute story, which became a 25-second blurb because it was superseded by breaking news. The reporter suggested doing a June 1 story on the league before the start of early voting on June 11. The hook for the story would be that the state is issuing all voters a replacement ballot for the primaries, because its mail-in ballot vendor sent out the wrong party ballot to a small number of voters. The state thought that resending the ballots would maintain the integrity and security of mail-in voting. However, Lauri recommends that for the interview the league stick with its standard election message about the Voters' Guide, Vote411, and candidate forums, rather than wade into an error on the state level.

Ethics: Sue Krause noted that the committee is meeting on May 27 to interview three candidates: Walter Olson, who is applying for a second term, and two other candidates, who are applying for one position.

Observer Corps

Police Accountability Board (PAB): Kate indicated that she was not able to attend a recent PAB summit. The PAB is a supervisory body. Kate is a member of the PAB's Administrative Charging Committee (ACC), which reviews complaints, conducts investigations, and recommends punishments. The first Trial Board Meeting is in process with the complainant pressing charges. Kate will have more to report about the PAB at the June 15 board meeting.

Board of Elections: Several lawsuits are being pursued against the Frederick County Board of Elections (BOE) and its Election Director, Barbara Wagner. Three of them are from the data center referendum committee. Wagner also reported on voter registration deadlines, upcoming municipal elections, efforts to keep voter rolls up to date, ongoing checks on voting equipment, and efforts to recruit and train election judges from all political parties.

The Deputy Elections Director, Anthony Gutierrez, reported on several bills expected to be signed by the governor, but most likely taking effect for the 2028 election. They address Election Day public transit, reinstatement of voting rights for people who were formerly incarcerated, posting of municipal election results, local BOEs maintaining peace at polling places, removal of misinformation on online sites, and plain language on ballots.

County Council, Board of Education: No one attended these meeting, so there were no reports.

Treasurer's Report: For April, the league had a beginning balance of \$22,672 and ending balance of \$23,659. Dues and donations totaled almost \$1,000. The league has already spent \$1,300 on forums with more expenditures to come.

Website: Kate is reviewing the content on the league's website and noted that a lot of content is old and needs archiving, including reports and revisions, old information about elections, and such. She plans to create a section on the website that provides information on municipal elections as part of an effort to increase participation in municipal elections. For example, only 80 people in Myersville voted in the recent municipal election, although the town's population is much higher.

Election Monitoring: Sue Kunkel mentioned that the league has a Election Monitoring Memorandum of Understanding with the BOE. With this Memorandum, league members visit several polling places starting with early voting to assess whether correct BOE procedures are being followed. The BOE will hold a training class on June 9 for those members who are interested in participating in this program. Although election monitors are unpaid, the league is paid for providing the monitors, and this is a good way to learn about the election process. Sarah Matthews is the contact and is sending out an announcement about this volunteer opportunity. Although the BOE has had some concerns about the league's monitoring in the past, Lauri noted that the BOE indicated that the league monitors have followed correct procedures in the last few elections.

Miscellaneous: Sue Kunkel still needs more proxy votes for the two Bylaws changes proposed at the 66th Annual Meeting on April 18. (Passing Bylaws changes requires two-thirds of the members to vote.) The two proposed Bylaws changes are technical in nature and include officers serving one- or two-year terms and the league's fiscal year starting April 1, rather than January 1.

Ayala Ossowski, a local public relations professional, has approached the league about giving a presentation on misinformation and AI in the news to the league. The board discussed whether to invite her to a board meeting to determine whether her program should be offered to the membership. A motion was made and seconded to go ahead and invite her to give a 5-minute presentation to the board at the end of a board meeting.

The league has been invited to give a presentation on voting at the C. Burr Artz Library. Patti Connor and Peggy Durbin plan to cover this request and speak on June 24 from 2-3pm. The age group of the attendees will be pre- to mid-teens. If anyone has suggestions or ideas on what the presentation should cover, please contact Peggy.

Adjourned: 6:07pm George adjourned the meeting. Submitted by Rosanne Roe, Secretary.