



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

# BULLETIN

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P.O. Box 10133, Blacksburg, VA 24062-0133  
(540) 951-0644; <http://civic.bev.net/lwvmc>

## *Election Information Forums*

Hear candidates at these League Forums

Thursday, Oct. 1 7 - 9 p.m. <b>Montgomery County School Board</b> Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, County Government Building Christiansburg	Monday, Oct. 5 and Monday, Oct. 26 7 - 9 p.m. <b>Blacksburg Town Council</b> Council Chambers, Blacksburg Town Hall	Monday Oct. 12 8 p.m. <b>Governor of Virginia</b> Richmond	Thursday, Oct. 15 7 - 9 p.m. <b>House of Delegates Districts 7 and 12</b> Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, County Government Building Christiansburg
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***See page 3 for more details on each of the programs.***

Voter Guides, giving candidate-written short biographies and responses to League questions, will be available at [www.lwvmcva.org](http://www.lwvmcva.org) and in paper at Forums and in the public libraries. Instructions on how to do write-in voting will also be available on [www.lwvmcva.org](http://www.lwvmcva.org).

Blacksburg Mayor Ron Rordam and the candidates for Montgomery County Board of Supervisors from Districts A, C and D have no opposition. All Board of Supervisor candidates are Incumbents. They are: District A: Annette S. Perkins; District C: Gary Creed; District D: James D. Politis. We have asked Mayor Rordam and the Board of Supervisor candidates to provide Voter Guide information, but they have not been asked to participate in League forums.

## Election Day: Tuesday, Nov. 3

**First Tuesday Lunch** Join your League friends for lunch at noon. and talk about hot public policy issues, League activities, or just about ourselves. Bull and Bones is making its private dining room available for us.  
**Oct. 6**

*The League of Women voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

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# Click on New League Website Lots More Information

*[www.lwvmcva.org](http://www.lwvmcva.org)*

The Montgomery County League has switched websites. It is now [www.lwvmcva.org](http://www.lwvmcva.org). Carol Lindstrom took over as webmaster and listserv holder soon after our long term webmaster, Connie Anderson, died in May. Carol began making changes to the bev.net site (the former League site was <http://civic.bev.net/lwvmc/>). She noted its size limitations to the Board at the August 31 meeting. Then, she was unable to add or change information on the web site, and the bev.net staff could not figure out why. With candidate forums and elections coming up, we decided we had to switch web sites to [www.lwvmcva.org](http://www.lwvmcva.org). Go to it. Not only will you find league information, but also links to a world of public policy information.

### Second Site at [vaopengov.org](http://vaopengov.org)

Last spring, the Board authorized a second League site, <http://vaopengov.org>, to follow through our communications commitment as one of the eleven national winners of the LWV US Citizen Initiative for Transparency grant. Though initiated to provide “how to” information for Virginia citizens who want to access local and state government records using the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), it will also host League audio/video recordings and other information.

The additional features include: (1) The final draft of our League’s Citizen Initiative for Transparency study, written by Carol Lindstrom; (2) The video of our September 2008 program “Community Re-Entry for Non-Violent Felons” and links to information on the topic; (3) Carol’s handbook on how to inexpensively put audio or video recordings on a website (Carol prepared the handbook for the LWV-VA August 29 workshop) and (4) A series of articles on Internet use that Carol has been asked to write for the Virginia League by LWV-VA webmaster, Sheryl Wolfe. The first article, “Safe Surfin” is available now. Next month the website will host videos of the School Board and House of Delegates candidate forums.

### Social Media part of Plan

The U.S. and Virginia Leagues have taken a strong interest in using the Internet, particularly Blogs, Twitter, Facebook, and Audio/Video components as a part of communications between members and to the public. Creating and maintaining effective, useful websites that will be used by the public is one of the best ways to begin expanding the horizon of internet usage and the League.

Please take a few minutes to look at these two websites. Any suggestions will be welcomed by our webmaster Carol Lindstrom (email: [calindstrom@verizon.net](mailto:calindstrom@verizon.net) or phone: 540-382-6431/540-381-9064). Also, check out Carol’s information website, <http://MyVaResources.com>; it is filled with useful information for public policy analysis and it hosts the Christiansburg government information she obtained with FOIA requests and audio or video recordings of Christiansburg government meetings.

# Schedule of Voter Information Forums

**Thursday**  
**Oct. 1**  
**7 to 9 p.m.**

Thursday, October 1: Montgomery County School Board 7 – 9 p.m.  
Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, County Government Center  
755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg  
Moderator: Meghan Dorsett  
Candidates:  
District A: Phyllis Albritton (incumbent), George R. Still III  
District C: (write in), Drema Foster  
District D: Jamie M. Bond (incumbent), Leonard H. “Lenny” Session  
*A video tape of this forum will be available for viewing at: [www.lwvmcva.org](http://www.lwvmcva.org) and it will be shown on WTOB, the Comcast local access Station, Channel 2.*

***There are ten candidates, so the League is presenting two Town Council forums.***

**Monday**  
**Oct 5**  
**7 to 9 p.m.**

Monday, October 5: Blacksburg Town Council 7 – 9 p.m.  
Council Chambers, Blacksburg Town Hall

Monday, October 26: Blacksburg Town Council 7 – 9 p.m.  
Council Chambers, Blacksburg Town Hall  
Moderator for both Forums: Ann Hess  
Candidates for 3 seats on Town Council:  
Susan Anderson (Incumbent), John L. Bush, Bryce Robert Carter, Krisha M. Chachra, Greg T. Fansler, Paul J. Lancaster, Frank R. Lau, Cecile G. Newcomb, Robert T. “Tom” Rogers, Sr., Michael D. Sutphin.  
*Video tapes of these forums will be available for viewing at: [www.blacksburg.gov/WTOB/](http://www.blacksburg.gov/WTOB/), and both will be shown on WTOB.*

**Monday**  
**Oct. 12**  
**8 p.m.**

Monday, October 12: Governor of Virginia sponsored by LWV VA and AARP in Richmond 8 p.m.  
This forum will be broadcast on WBRA (public TV) and WSLs-7 (CBS in Roanoke)  
Moderator: Judy Woodruff  
Candidates: R. Creigh Deeds (D), Robert F. “Bob” McDonnell (R)

**Thursday**  
**Oct. 15**  
**7 to 9 p.m.**

Thursday, October 15: Virginia House of Delegates, Districts 7 & 12 7 – 9 p.m.  
Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, County Government Center  
755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg  
Moderator: Robin Lawson  
Candidates:  
District 7: David A. “Dave” Nutter (R) Incumbent, Peggy H. Frank (D)  
District 12: James M. Shuler (D) Incumbent, Paul M. Cornett (I)  
*A video tape of this forum will be available for viewing at: [www.lwvmcva.org](http://www.lwvmcva.org) and it will be shown on WTOB.*

Local Voting Issues

# State Board of Elections Implements Recommendations That Impact College Students Registering To Vote

*Olga Hernandez, president of the Virginia League of Women Voters, sent this to all the League leaders in Virginia. She and Cynthia Chappelke, a League member and a member of the Montgomery County Board of Elections, both served on the Task Force on Residency which studied the issue and made recommendations which were approved by the State Board of Elections. This is an article from the Daily Press, Newport News, about the changes.*

RICHMOND — College students now have the right to register to vote in the locality where they study.

The State Board of Elections on Saturday (August 31, 2009) approved changes to the state statute that guides registrars on who can vote in local, state and federal elections. The unanimous vote by the three-member board came after a two-day meeting in the state capital.

In most jurisdictions, college students are considered temporary residents of the city where they attend school. However, the Task Force on Residency was appointed earlier this year by the General Assembly to make changes to the law.

Under the updated statute, residency requirements are defined broader to give more people the opportunity to register and vote, elections board officials said.

According to the statute, a person's primary home is the physical place where the person lives and "considers to be the center of his domestic, social and civil life."

For a homeless person, that would be where he or she usually sleeps at night, said James Alcorn, an elections board policy adviser.

A person can have an established intent to remain in a location for an unlimited time, even if they plan to leave in the future, according to the statute.

This includes a career change, graduation from school, military transfer, deployments or other relocations and medical emergencies.

The statute also states that a "college student does not need specific intent to stay in the college jurisdiction beyond graduation" to establish residency.

The new rules state that the duration of time a person intends to live in a specific place cannot be used against him or her when attempting to establish residency.

Saturday's decision by the Board of Elections is a huge win for college students, who for years have been part of discussions at the state and local levels as registrars broadly interpreted the state law.

## Montgomery County Registrar Says No Problem here

When I became the Registrar in 2004 my office has not treated the students any differently than any other registrant. They are adults and can determine where they are domiciled. We are and have been registering students in their dormitories. For example, last August, September and the first week of October, we added an additional 8,000-plus registrants to our rolls and a majority of these individuals were located in Virginia Tech dormitories.

So the new rules will not affect us in Montgomery County. The schools that will be affected are as follows: Radford University, James Madison University, William and Mary, etc. They will be affected because mail cannot be sent directly to the students domicile (room). Their mail goes to one mail box on campus and as a result has been considered a commercial property. The schools will have to do something to change this and the students will have to identify their dormitory when completing their address on the registration form. We do not have this problem because students get mail delivered directly to their dormitories. *Randy Wertz*

## Change in E-1 Precinct to Kipps Elementary School Means Voters Need To Get New Address Form

Voters in the E-1 Precinct usually vote at St. Michaels Church on Merrimac Road, but that Precinct will be temporarily moved to the cafeteria at Kipps Elementary School. Residents who have moved since November 2008 must fill out a change of address form and bring or mail it to the Voter Registrar's office, 755 Roanoke St. Christiansburg, 24073. The deadline to register to vote is October 5. Voter registration forms

may be obtained at the Registrar's office, public libraries and Post Offices.

Absentee ballot applications are available at the Registrar's office or at the State Board of Elections website ([www.sbe.virginia.gov](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov)). People can vote by absentee ballot in the Registrar's office between September 21 and Oct. 31. Mailed absentee ballots must be received by Oct. 27.

## Christiansburg Votes on Moving Election Day

This Election Day, Christiansburg citizens will vote on a referendum about moving their Town Council elections from May of even years to November of odd years. In 2007, Blacksburg Town Council voted to ask the 2008 General Assembly to permit them to change their election day from May to November. However, when Christiansburg Councilman, Henry Showalter proposed, in the fall of 2008, that Christiansburg do the same, the Christiansburg Council would not do so.

With some help from the League, Christiansburg citizens led by Mr. Showalter successfully obtained petition signatures from more than 20 percent of the Town's registered voters to hold this referendum. Very few voters, perhaps 10% of those registered, vote in Town elections held in May. A much higher percentage vote in the state and county elections held in odd-year Novembers. The League strongly urges Christiansburg Voters to vote to move Town Council elections to November.

## League supports Internet Town Meetings

Internet Town Meetings? The LWV MC Board voted to write a letter of support for the Virginia Tech Center for a Human-Computer Interaction [HCI Center] NSF grant application titled "Participation on the Virtual Town Square in the Era of Web 2.0". The HCI Center proposes to develop opportunities for on line interaction about local public policy issues for residents of Montgomery County and the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg using website information resources including the LWV MC websites and Carol Lindstrom's MyVaResources.com website.

## League Telephone

The LWV MC Board voted to disconnect the League telephone located in the League office in the old Town Hall. Those messages were recorded on an answering machine. Now that our websites have contact information for our officers, the telephone has lost its usefulness.

## Members new and honored!

We welcome Christiansburg residents V. Grace Abraham, Tamika Akers, Jessica Anderson, and Connie Reed and Blacksburg residents Anna Hawthorne, Mary Holliman, Rhoda Myers, Cecile Newcomb, and Diane Zahm to our League. In addition, Mary Brooks from Roanoke has been added to our roster as a national member.

Members honored: The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors this summer recognized Ann Hess, who retired from the Social Services Board, and E. Maria Roth who retired from the Adjustment & Appeals Board. The County limits membership on County Boards to two terms.

## When you are no longer your mother's league

When Mary Wilson took over the presidency of LWV US in 2006, and Olga Hernandez became president of LWV VA in 2007, the League began to take giant steps into the 21st century. We are becoming a bolder organization in advocating public policy and we are embracing new communications technology. Leaders think these steps are essential to attract younger members and remain a viable organization. The LWV US has taken a strong position in advocating health care reform legislation with a public insurance alternative. Now, opponents to health care reform have founded an organization, League of American Voters, which is sponsoring ads against this legislation. This is alarming to LWV US leaders who are concerned that voters will think this other "League" is the LWV. They are requesting member donations in the event that they will need to go to court. If you want to help LWV US, go to the website, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), read about it, and consider a special gift.

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS®  
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## Calendar

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| September 23, 7 p.m.  | Joshua M. Horwitz, speaking on <i>Guns, Democracy, and the Insurrectionist Idea</i> , Robeson 210, Virginia Tech   |
| September 28, 1 p.m.  | LWVMC Board Meeting, Children's Reading Room, Public Library, Blacksburg   |
| October 1, 7 p.m.     | Candidates Forum - Montgomery County School Board, Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, County Government Center, Christiansburg                                   |
| October 3, 6 p.m.     | NAACP Banquet, The Inn at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg  |
| October 5, 7 p.m.     | Candidates Forum – Blacksburg Town Council, Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, Blacksburg   |
| October 6, noon       | First Tuesday lunch, Bull and Bones, First & Main, Blacksburg  |
| October 12, 8 p.m.    | Gubernatorial Candidates Debate, sponsored by LWV VA & AARP, WBRA & WSLs -7  |
| October 15, 7 p.m.    | Candidates Forum – House of Delegates, 7 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> Districts, Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, County Government Center, Christiansburg |
| October 26, 1 p.m.    | LWVMC Board Meeting, Children's Reading Room, Public Library, Blacksburg   |
| October 26, 7 p.m.    | Candidates Forum – Blacksburg Town Council, Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, Blacksburg   |
| October 27, 6:45 p.m. | <i>Iron Jawed Angels</i> , sponsored by LWVMC & the Student Film Organization, the Lyric Theatre, admission free   |

### JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TODAY

Become a member of the League of Women Voters. The annual membership fee is \$40 for new members (half year dues from January 1 to May 31 are \$20). This payment includes local, state, and national membership dues. Members receive The National Voter, The Virginia Voter, and The Montgomery County Bulletin. Annual dues for renewing LWVMC members are \$45. Mail to: Betty Williams, Membership Chair, 607 Progress St., Blacksburg, VA 24060, or call 552-2357, or email Mary Houska at mfdh@aol.com