



League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, VA

<http://www.lwvmcva.org>

On September 22, 2011 , from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. , the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County and the Christiansburg Branch of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library will be cosponsoring an event that you might be interested in attending. The event is a "citizen-driven" discussion of the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education. In particular, we are looking at the impact that national standards such as the Common Core Standards can have on our local schools.

Forty-four of the Fifty States have voluntarily adopted the Common Core Standards as a means of implementing a National basic standard for public education at the K-12 level. Virginia is one of only six states that has chosen not to participate. How is this decision likely to affect students in the state of Virginia? What are the potential impacts to taxpayers? Will this affect the costs of higher education? How will students be evaluated? What guidelines for teaching are required? How will educators and schools be evaluated? Those are just a few of the questions that arise when you take the time to look at the myriad of information available on the Common Core Standards. To see some of this information , go to the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County Education Study website at <http://www.lwvmcva.org/EducationStudy/>. Along with the informational links provided in the text of the page, there are two links on the right hand side for [Background Papers for the LWV-US](#) and [Other Resources for Information](#) that you may find useful.

The meeting involves a series of short, informational videos (10 minutes or less) and small group discussions. After each video, participants will have a chance to discuss the issues, potential problems, and possible solutions related to the role and impact of the Federal government at the local level. The information obtained from the small groups will be put together to help develop a better picture of what the citizens of Montgomery County identify as strengths, weaknesses, and solutions to problems with education locally. This format is the same style that was used for Christiansburg's "Priority-Based Budgeting Process", Montgomery County's Comprehensive Planning Process, and the current Christiansburg Planning Process. In this case, it is the citizens, parents, and educators who are the experts from whom we are requesting information.

Although the focus is to address issues pertaining to the role of Federal Government in education, decisions at the federal level have an impact on local schools. Should the Common Core Standards become Federal requirements, Virginia will need to move in that direction in order to have continued access to federal funds or to have those funds expanded. By beginning to understand what the Common Core Standard, citizens will be in a better position to help empower our students and educators to deal with the transition. Should the Standards not become a federal mandate, the process will help us, as citizens to better understand the problems with our educational system and to be a part of the process of making our schools the very best that they can be.

Come join us for an opportunity to learn and share. We certainly cannot deal with all of the issues facing our schools in one two hour meeting, but perhaps by taking it one piece at a time, we can come up with some ideas that will be useful and help make some positive changes where they are needed. There will be a break during the meeting and refreshments.