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League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE HUNTINGTON AREA

August 2020 E-mail Bulletin

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SECURING THE U.S. 2020 ELECTION (By Nyoka Chapman;
also published in the Herald-Dispatch)

ELECTION 2020 

With the passage of the HEROES Act, \$400 million was dedicated to assist states in meeting the challenges of securing the Vote during the current viral pandemic. Funds were allocated based on need from estimates submitted by respective states with a percentage of matching funds required (eac.gov). During a recent hearing of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee more funding was recommended of \$3.6 billion, a sum calculated by the Brennan Center for Justice. The funds would further ensure that states can go the distance to secure a safe and accountable election, to complete necessary steps to protect the health of voters and poll workers from potential exposure to Covid-19, address availability, security and counting of absentee ballots, expand online voter registration and same day registration, require states to increase early voting periods, add polling places, workers and more voting machines, increase voter education, counter voter manipulation and increase cybersecurity.



WV Secretary of State Hon. Mac Warner was one of several that gave testimony at the Election Preparations Hearing. West Virginia has an excellent reputation for election operations and received praise. WV already has online voter registration (sos.wv.gov), e-voting for citizens that are currently residing out of the country, and a substantial early voting period. WV doesn't require the tedious extra step of witnessing or notarization of absentee ballots as there is a signature matching system in place (per the NCSL there are 10 states that do require notarized or witnessed signatures). West Virginia has around half of the funds received from the HEROES Act that remain to be spent. Yet, after viewing the entire hearing (senate.gov), the evident voting disparities among states, the need to prevent foreign and malicious interference in our elections, the right of voters to have easy access to an absentee ballot if they fear voting in person, among other factors, made a case for the additional funding.

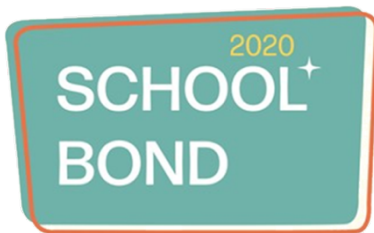
The administration of an extra \$3.6 Billion to secure the vote would be particularly justified if tied to Bill H.R. 4 "Voting Rights Advancement Act," which passed the House in December of 2019 but has yet to be taken up by the Senate. The Bill is being renamed in honor of the now late civil rights activist Rep. John Lewis to the "John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act." Senator Lewis was severely beaten and gassed along with others who peacefully marched on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma AL on March the 7th, 1965. Though 55 years have passed, that Bloody Sunday is still being reenacted. Without the restoration of Section 5 and enhancement of the original "Voting Rights Act" of 1965, previously contested in "Shelby County vs Holder" in 2013, compromised voters will continue to have little but

personal recourse against what are clear and obvious voting inequities. The passage of this Bill should be clearly bound to any additional funds needed to secure the 2020 general election.

The U.S. Senate must pass and support the "John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act" and any and all funding deemed necessary to secure the enactment of a safe and accountable election in November 2020 and beyond. Seizing the opportunity to make things right NOW is the just choice.

GENERAL ELECTION - APPLICATION FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

Beginning on August 11, voters may fill out their applications for an absentee ballot online at GOVOTEWV. The Secretary of State's office will email the application on to the county clerk. The county clerk will send the voter the ballot to fill out and mail back into the office.



VOTE IN THE SCHOOL BOND LEVY ELECTION
(By Marcia Daoust)

OPTIONS FOR VOTING

You may vote an absentee ballot now.



August 7th – 19th Early Voting at the Cabell County Courthouse and Milton City Hall

August 17th Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot from the Cabell County Clerk, 304-526-8625.

August 22th VOTE at your polling place, August 22, 6:30 am- 7:30 pm.

(After Marcia sent information on the election to Kindred Communications, they agreed to urge people to vote.)



POLL WORKERS ARE NEEDED (by Monika Rowe)

Poll workers are needed to work in the upcoming Special Election of the Public School Bond Levy. To apply, call Phyllis Smith, Cabell County Clerk, 304-526-8625 or Teresa Powell, 304-526-8626. They will give you detailed information, including the rate pay. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 am- 4:30 pm. If you call after hours, leave a voice message and your call will be returned the next business day.

In accordance with WV's Code par.3-1-46, each election official must attend training prior to the election day in order to work on election day. Poll workers must report to their assigned polling place at 5:30 am. Polls open at 6:30 and close at 7:30 pm.



CANDIDATES FORUMS (By Martha Woodward)

WSAZ has agreed to partner with the League in televising House Districts, Huntington Council-at-Large, and Huntington Mayor races. They will take place in the studio with safe practices followed. The mayoral race will be live, and the others streamed on the station platform, therefore available for viewing at anytime. Please send any questions for these candidates to Martha Woodward, woodward@marshall.edu or Phoebe Randolph, ppr@etarch.com



MOTORCADE TO CELEBRATE THE CENTENNIAL OF THE PASSAGE OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT (By Phoebe Randolph and Helen Gibbins)

Join us to celebrate the centennial of the passage of the 19th amendment to the constitution that allows women the right to vote. Women and men fought for over 70 years for women's suffrage. On August 26, a celebratory motorcade will drive from the east end of the St. Mary's Center for Education, 2825 5th Avenue, to the courthouse and back to the Marshall University parking lot on the northeast corner of the intersection of Third Avenue and Hal Greer Boulevard. The event starts at 3:30 pm and the motorcade begins at 4 pm.

The celebration will begin with a Toast to Tenacity, with grape juice provided by Marshall University Student Affairs and the Women's and Gender Studies Program. We will watch a preview of a special program developed for the event via YouTube on our electronic devices in our cars. A longer video program will be released at a later time, including performances by Marshall University students who dramatize Sojourner Truth and Alice Paul; a Marshall University choral group singing the songs of the era along with pictures of the day, and words from Marshall University's President Jerry Gilbert and Huntington Mayor Steve Williams.

To register for the event, access the event page on Eventbrite. Registration Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-suffrage-centennial-celebration-driving-for-democracy-registration-113108115418>

Kudos go to Wendy Thomas, who coordinated the planning of the event. We also thank the many Marshall University employees and members of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority and League of Women Voters for their extensive planning and work on this event.

We hope to see you at the celebration in a decorated vehicle.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that neither supports nor opposes candidates or parties. Membership is open to anyone of voting age. Dues are free for full time students, \$50 for an individual, and \$75 for two persons in a household. Dues may be paid to the League of Women Voters, 16 Nancy Lane, Barboursville, WV 25504.