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LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF DARE COUNTY

December 2018 Newsletter

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Co-President's Message

Message from Co Presidents



The 2018 Midterm Elections set a new record for voter turnout. About 49% of eligible voters turned out to cast a ballot and this was the first midterm in history to exceed over 100 million votes (113 million to be precise and who knows how many more if ballots in certain states had been properly counted).

The House of Representatives will seat 90 women Representatives, an historic high mark. Refreshingly, both parties could claim historic firsts for women in this election. The Democrats will be seating Ilhan Omar (Minnesota) and Rashida Tlaib (Michigan), the first two Muslim women elected to the House. The Democrats also elected the first two Native American women to Congress, Deb Haaland (New Mexico) and Sharice Davids (Kansas). Arizona's newest Senator, Kyrsten Sinema is the first openly bisexual senator and the first female senator from Arizona. And, of course, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez became the youngest woman elected to Congress at 29.



Even monsters support Equal Rights!

The Republicans elected Marsha Blackburn as the first female Senator from Tennessee. Kristi Noem is headed to the governor's mansion in Pierre as South Dakota's first female governor.

We hope that these women can find common ground on issues important to women including reproductive rights, fair pay and, of course, the Equal Rights Amendment.

Unfortunately, Dare County fell far short when it came to empowering women in this last election. This just means we have a lot more work to do to get Dare County with the times to give women a voice at the table so

Upcoming Events - December and Beyond

Holiday Lunch and Silent Auction

When: Friday, December 7, 2018, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Where: Duck Woods Country Club (DIRECTIONS)

What: The Holiday Lunch and Silent Auction at Duck Woods Country Club is another opportunity to gather with members and share the holiday spirit with one another. It is also a fund raising event to cover the many forums and programs we video and present for the general public to educate and inform. You can help by

1) donating a personal or household item you may have in good condition that you may not be using, but someone else may use (great way to recycle).

2) Asking a restaurant or business you frequent for an item or gift certificate to donate to Dare League of Women Voters. This is not tax deductible, but they may be able to use it as a marketing expense. If you would like a copy of the League's Donation Letter, please email Fran at fkapinos@aol.com. Donation suggestions include restaurants, boutiques, spas, salons, jewelry stores, weekend or week stays at a vacation home or resort, gift baskets, fitness sessions, etc.

Please e-mail Carol Butscher in advance at cab313@yahoo.com with the item(s) you will be donating, and bring the items prior to 11:30 on Dec. 7. If you cannot attend and would like the item to be picked up in advance contact Nancy Birindelli at bbirindelli@aol.com

Women's March

When: Saturday, January 19th, 2019

Where: Washington, DC

What: Our League is planning a bus trip to Washington D.C. to participate in the Women's March 2019. The date is Saturday January 19, 2019. The scheduled "Gathering & March" is scheduled from 10 am to 4 pm. This means that our bus will be leaving early that Saturday morning and not returning til late that evening. We have tentatively reserved a bus with 28 seats, and if we can fill or come close to filling those seats ..."We'll be going on a bus trip!!!" Although the details have not all been worked out, we anticipate the cost PP will be \$70-75.

We made this Women's March journey to D.C. in January 2017, as well. It was not only a great success, but a truly inspiring experience!

PLEASE RESPOND to LORELEI DIBERNARDO IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GOING or have questions! Ltd32@charter.net (252) 261-4365

Please plan on joining us if you are committed to

- * Standing up for Women's Rights
- * Marching for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)'s passage in 2019
- * Raising your voice against any form of discrimination or bigotry

Reply to Lorelei with your Name, Town of Residence, Phone Number & Email Address.

Also, please, please, please, feel free to spread the word & forward this among your friends!

Click [HERE](#) for link to more information about the Women's March or copy and paste <https://www.womensmarch.com/2019> into your web browser.

First Friday/Hot Topic Luncheon Event

When: Friday, February 1st, 2019

Where: To Be Determined

What: To Be Announced

See our full calendar of events for December and beyond [HERE](#).

Reminder - Membership Renewal

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, now is the time to do so! We need you!

\$55 individual, \$80 family

Checks payable to: **LWW Dare, PO Box 689, Kitty Hawk, 27949**

You can pay online through PayPal [HERE](#). Follow the link to the page then scroll to the bottom.



First Flight Students Energize League Luncheon by John Towler



Lauren Law, Taina Santana and Caroline Murray were the special guests at the League's First Friday Luncheon at Rooster's Southern Kitchen in Kill

Devil Hills. The young women are all active and engaged seniors at First Flight High School. The seniors were invited to share their perspectives on the election and what is important to them as younger voters. None of the three were actually old enough to vote in the recent midterm elections, however that did not keep them from participating in the process.

In the weeks leading up to the election, the trio held voter registration events, raised awareness on issues important to them and participated in marches and protests. Santana and Murray said they both volunteered at the polls. They were able to meet most of the candidates and speak with them one-on-one and also engage with individual voters. Santana said it was "exciting to be there in the moment and see the process play out."

The students agreed that politics is difficult to discuss with their peers. Murray felt many of her fellow students opinions are formed by what they read on Twitter or what their parents are vocal about. She said it was difficult to pin down some students exact ideology: that sometimes they just follow what their family or friends believe and can't really explain why they feel a certain way on important subjects.

When asked specifically about young people's feelings about the Equal Rights Amendment, the group's consensus was that many male students don't understand what it is about and take it as a joke. Many don't recognize the importance of the ERA.

"Even female students don't appreciate the need (for ERA). Once they are out in the real world and start working they'll appreciate it," Murray said.

One topic the group felt many First Flight students shared concerns about was the issue of school safety. Mass shootings, particularly at schools across the country, weigh heavily on these young people's minds. They do not share the false sense of security many adults in the community have about this being a safe area to live and thereby immune to such tragedy. They know kids at Parkland, Columbine and Sandy Hook all probably felt safe until it happened to them, too.

Murray said she went to a march in DC and it "opened my eyes to the issues." The three First Flight Seniors have formed connections with students from other schools who have been involved in school shooting incidents and the possibility of violence at First Flight is "big on students minds."

"There have been so many incidents and nothing has been done," Murray said.



Senior Caroline Murray shared thoughts about the Equal Rights Amendment and working the polls on Election Day.



Taina Santana, a First Flight Senior, touched on school safety and teacher compensation.

Santana expressed concern about the safety protocols at First Flight, noting her own ability to enter and leave the school with no oversight from the administration. As most school shooters are either current or former students, this concerns her. As for the general public, she said anyone can walk up to the front door and get buzzed in. While visitors are supposed to check in with the front office, that would not be an impediment for someone going to the school intent on doing harm.

Guns are obviously an issue connected to school shootings but that is a topic that the group indicated was difficult to talk about with their peers due to

strong feelings about gun laws and gun ownership. They did feel that the school took mental health issues seriously and noted that Nighthawk News, the student newspaper, had recently published an article about how to spot and help people who might be having a mental health crisis. Any student who feels another student is having a mental health problem can report the situation to a teacher.

Another area of concern involved teacher compensation. Santana has two family member in education; Murray has one. They both have first hand experience about how little teachers make versus what is expected of them. While admitting some teachers do a minimum to meet expectations, the majority go above and beyond what is asked of them, including using their own money to pay for classroom supplies.

A final area of general consensus among First Flight students concerns the cost of higher education. All three seniors on the panel wish to continue their education after graduation but they face a number of obstacles, most of them financial. Law said she was limited on how many schools she could apply to because of the high cost of each application. College applications vary, but the students agreed \$85 seem to be the minimum cost, with fees of \$100 or more being much more common. Law indicated the process was hardest on middle class families; those too well off to qualify for financial assistance but not wealthy enough to be able to shoulder the burden of student loans.



First Flight High School senior Lauren Law discussed the burdens of student loans, college applications and education.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, League co-president Fran Kapinos reminded the group that the Dare County League of Women Voters waives the annual fee for students

interested in becoming member. She encouraged the First Flight students to consider joining the League and to spread the word to their fellow students.

Editor's Note: Part of the discussion included articles published in the award winning student newspaper [Nighthawk News](#). Click [HERE](#) to visit the online version of the paper if you are interested in following issues important to students in Dare County. A link has also been provided on the side bar.

What's Next for Voter ID in North Carolina

Recommended Reading suggested by James Cofield

Analysis by Craig Merrill

Insightful Article from the Long Leaf Pine concerning the new North Carolina Constitutional Amendment requiring ID to vote.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Craig Merrill has studied this bill and offers the following insights based on his reading. A full copy of the bill can be viewed [HERE](#)

This amendment was a duplicitous effort, so reading this draft bill requires one to use two critical thinking modes; one that considers the direct impact of the proposed bill and a second that explores the hidden (and more treacherous) consequences. I have annotated which of my comments address which effect.

1. 163A-869.1(a) & (b) This will have a massive impact on the workload of the county boards of elections and potentially an unfunded mandate on the NCSBE and the counties. I don't see how it could be anything less than 100s of millions of dollars statewide. [Direct]
2. 163A-869.1(c)(2) The workload is likely to be extremely non-uniform because voters will attempt to get their voter IDs near election time. How will the boards of elections staff-up to handle this, and do so during their busiest time? Many rural counties already have difficulty finding enough poll workers to handle early voting and election day. [Direct]
3. 163A-869.1(c)(2) It is likely that the boards of elections in many regions will not be able to handle the workload in a timely manner, resulting in many potential voters not being able to obtain the ID prior to an election and concomitant disenfranchisement. [Hidden]
4. Because of the issues stated in 1, 2 and 3, it would make much more sense to add this new function to DMV not the county boards of elections. DMV is already in the business of issuing IDs and their process is designed to "help prevent identity theft and fraud."
[Direct] (<https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/license-id/driver-licenses/Pages/issue.aspx>)
 - a. Doing this raises the concern for counties that do not have DMVs . . . in those cases, the county board of elections should take over the responsibility as listed in the current bill.
5. 163A-869.1(c)(1) There is no requirement for the NCSBE to provide any information to validate the birth date and SSN information provided by the voter. If such information is not provided, then this will not prevent voter

fraud. For example, could I not just go in and give the county board of elections a made-up birth date and last four of an SSN? Also, it does not appear to require the voter give his/her name. [Direct]

6. 163A-869.1(c)(2) It will require potential voters without the approved IDs listed in § 163A-1145.1(a)(1) to take time off from work to go to their county board of elections. This makes it not free and will have a significant impact on the most vulnerable voters in the community (low income, working elderly, disabled) and will likely keep them from voting. [Hidden]

7. § 163A-1145.1(a)(1)g. The student identification cards that could potentially meet the NCSBE standard for voter ID do not include high schools or private universities. According to NCPedia, there are 39 independent colleges and universities in NC, with over 80,000 students. [Hidden and Direct]

8. § 163A-1145.1(b) How strictly must a person look like their photo ID? How will poll judges deal with changes in hair style, facial hair, glasses, etc.? If they are strict about it, it could bring elections at polling places to a halt while they execute the challenge process. [Direct]

9. § 163A-1145.1(b) Studies show that people are very poor at visually identifying individuals of other races and ethnicities if not exposed to them on a regular/continuous basis. This sets up a situation where minorities are more likely to be challenged for not resembling their voter ID photo. [Hidden]

10. § 163A-913(c) incorrectly discusses needing a birth certificate or marriage license to obtain an photo ID.

Education Report

by Marion Midgett

This is an abbreviated education report. During the fall the Dare Board of Education has been busy dealing with routine matters, learning about new initiatives from the superintendent and central office. Also, it received the school/student achievement and growth report for last year. These will be detailed in the next article.

November's election brought back two incumbent board members, Margaret Lawler and Joe Tauber, and added a new member, Frank Hester, all of whom will begin their four year terms in December. In two years four other seats will be up for election.

Below is a corrected list of the NCLWV Education Action Team positions which ran without the heading in the September newsletter.

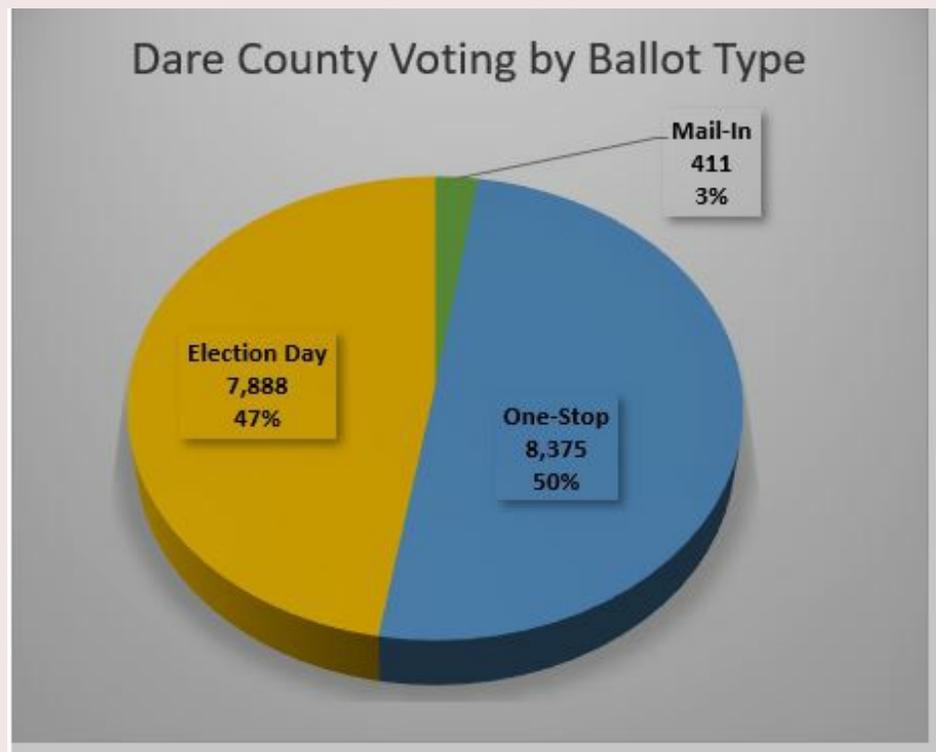
- The NC League of Women Voters Education Action Team advocates for the following education positions:
 1. Raising per pupil funding for public schools to at least the national average.
 2. Raising pay for public school teachers to at least the national average.
 3. Increasing the numbers of school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, and school nurses for all public schools to at least the recommended national ratios per pupil.
 4. Providing full public funding for pre-K for all eligible children in NC.

5. Providing full funding for K-5 enhancement teachers for art, music, physical education, and world languages.
6. Increasing per pupil funding for textbooks and other instructional resources (digital and hard copies), supplies, etc. to at least pre-recession levels.
7. Adoption of programs that have been demonstrated to reduce the achievement gaps for economically disadvantaged students, including programs to improve public school equity, integration, and inclusion.
8. Fair and equitable evaluation of teachers and schools using a variety of metrics for student and teacher performance, not just standardized test scores.
9. Phasing out school vouchers for private schools, and ensuring that existing private schools receiving public voucher funds meet the same accountability and performance standards as public schools.
10. Establishing a moratorium on new charter schools until stronger accountability standards and better authorization mechanisms are implemented, including empowering local school boards with the ability to create charters and keep them under their governance.

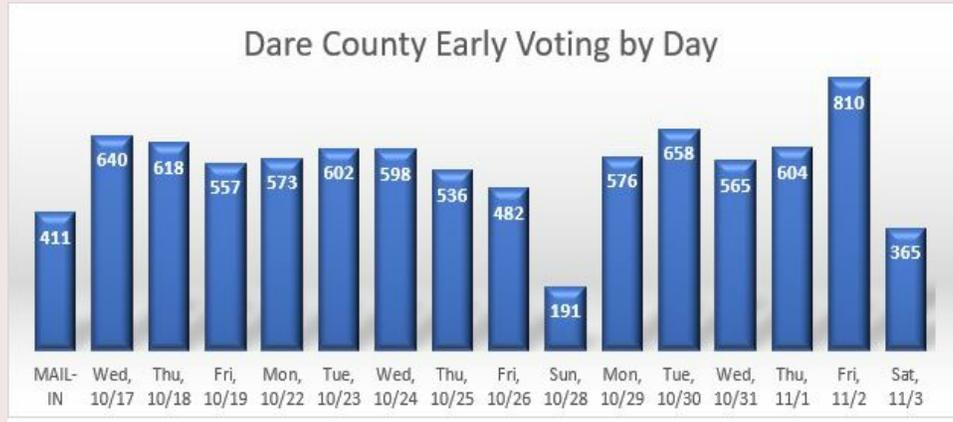
Early Voting in Dare County

by Craig Merrill

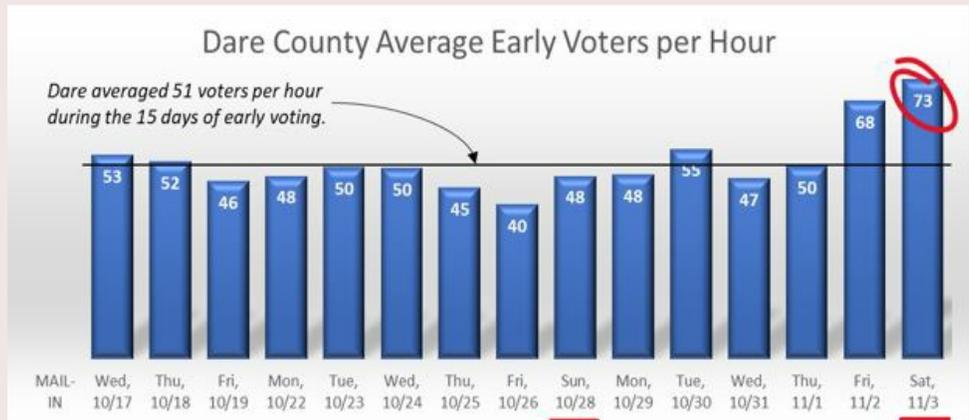
The 2018 General Election saw an unusually large turnout. Nearly 53 percent of registered North Carolinians voted this year, and Dare County was even better with at just over 55 percent voter participation. Perhaps even more interesting is the fact that most voters in the county voted early, as shown in the figure below.



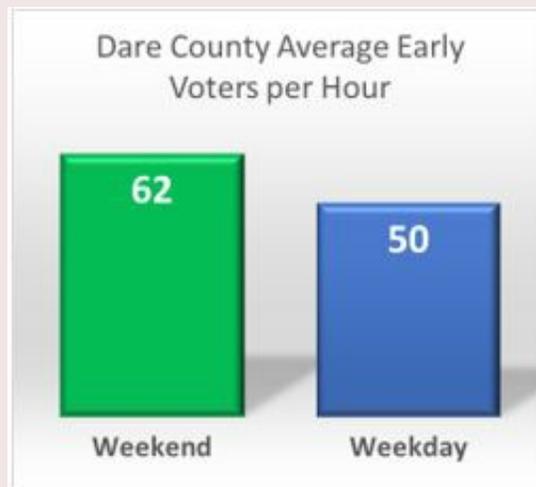
Dare County saw an average of 558 early voters per day. As shown in the following figure, the number of daily voters varied from a low of 482 to a high of 810 for weekday voting. The polls were open for 12 hours except for Saturday and Sunday which were open for only 5 hours and 4 hours respectively.



To get a better understanding of how active the polls were, let's consider the average number of voters who visited the polls each hour. As shown in the next figure, we see that the most active day was the Saturday on the weekend before election day which saw an average of 73 voters per hour. We also note that Sunday saw an average of 48 voters per hour; close to the overall early voting average of 51.



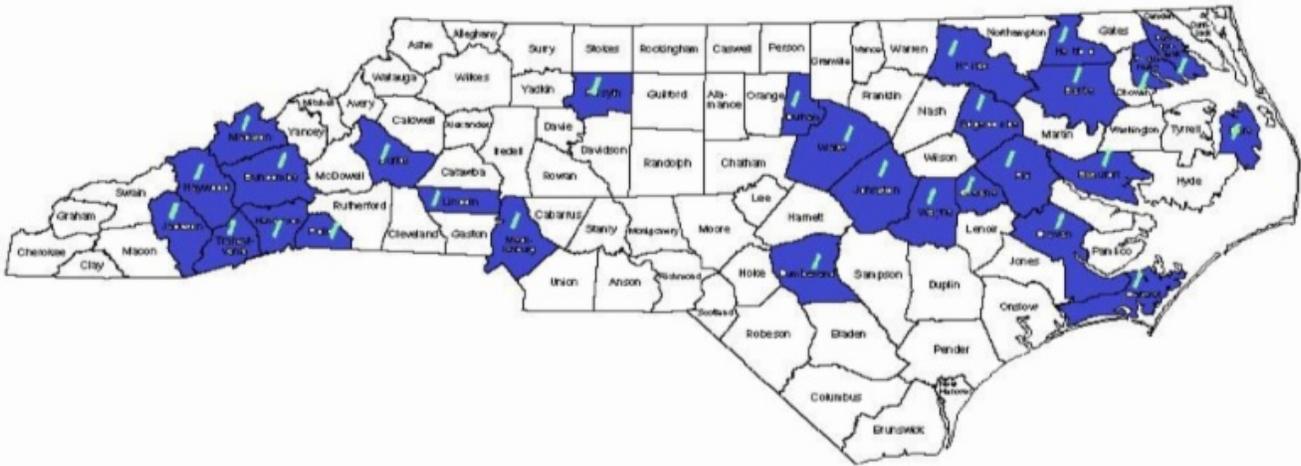
If we consider weekend versus weekday early voting activity, it is clear that weekend voting (62 voters per hour) was significantly more active than weekday (50 voters per hour). This suggests that weekend voting was very effective in Dare County voters and increasing weekend hours in future elections may be a good means of increasing voter participation.



ERA IN EASTERN NC!

We need county captains in all 100 counties in the state. I'm responsible for the eastern part. Together we are going to write, call and persuade our senators and representatives to ratify ERA when it's introduced in March. Have any good friends in Pender, Duplin, Braden, Lenoir-any of the counties in white in map below? If so, please give me their names and contact info and I will woo them. Thanks!
judylotas@gmail.com

NORTH CAROLINA



League of Women Voters of Dare County || lwvdare@gmail.com | <http://lwvdarenc.org/>

Text | [Optional Link](#)