


**New Member Orientation:
Training & Discussion
Thursday, May 29, 2025
[Zoom](#)
7 to 8:30 p.m. ET**

1. Welcome and Introductions
Ann Lloyd Breeden
2. How To: Two Models of New Member Orientation
Carol Stephens, Richmond Metro League
Judy Helein, Fairfax Area League
3. Q&A/Discussion





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF RICHMOND METROPOLITAN AREA

ORIENTATION

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE RICHMOND METROPOLITAN AREA
LWV RICHMOND METRO
LWV RMA

Version 7 January 2024

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Mission * Vision * Values * Policies

Mission

**Empowering voters.
Defending
democracy.**

Vision

- We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

Value

- We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

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Mission * Vision * Values * Policies

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

The LWV of Richmond Metro recognizes, appreciates, and respects diversity and seeks to promote active engagement and inclusiveness in all regards. This includes but is not limited to gender identity, ethnicity, race, nationality, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, language, educational level or background, political affiliation, or physical or mental ability. We believe our stance ensures equity among our membership and the communities in which we live and work.

LWV Richmond Metro 2021

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Mission * Vision * Values * Policies

Non-partisanship

The League is proud to be **nonpartisan**, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. We work to encourage informed and active participation in government and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Roles

Voter Service/Citizen Education

Action/Advocacy

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HISTORY

1860s

Ratification of 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments

These amendments abolished slavery and prohibited race-based voting discrimination

1920

League of Women Voters

In early 1920, several suffrage organizations merged to form the League of Women Voters

1920

Ratification of 19th

Women are granted the right to vote 6 months after the League's formation

1920

League of Women Voters

Richmond League is the founding organization of the LWV of VA

1965

Voting Rights Act of 1965

Federal legislation that prohibited racial discrimination in voting

1970

Ratification of 26th Amendment

Voting age lowered from 21 to 18 during the Vietnam war

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LWVUS

- Lobbies on national policy
- Professional lobbyists
- Lobby Corps
- Brand stewardship
- Chartering
- Standards of Operation
- Resources
- Ed Funding

LWV Virginia

- Advocates on state policy
- WLRT
- Testimony at committees
- League Day
- Ed Funding
- State Studies
- State Committees

LWV Richmond Metro Area

- Advocates on local level
- Voter Registration/Information
- Committees/Public Meetings

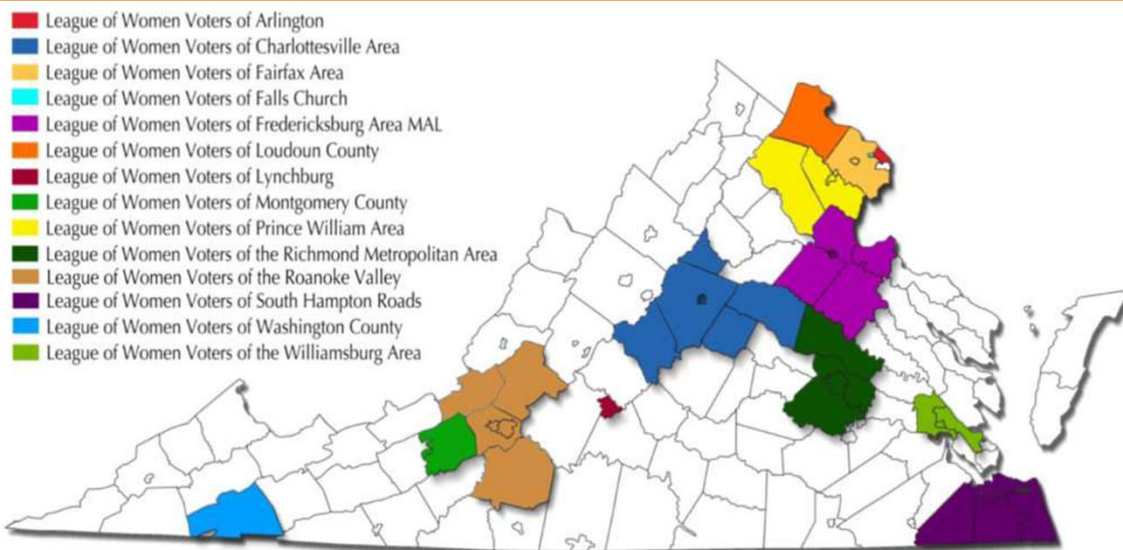
You are a member of...

LWV United States

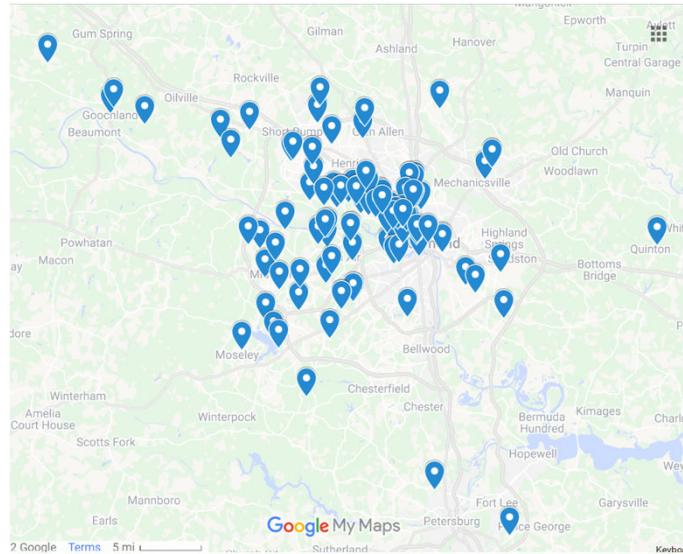
LWV Virginia

LWV Richmond Metropolitan Area

The Richmond Metro Area League includes the City of Richmond, and the Counties of Chesterfield, Henrico, and Hanover. Hanover includes the town of Ashland which holds local elections. We are the dark green area of the map. We also welcome members from surrounding localities.



We cover
the area
and then
some...



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Governance

We are governed by Bylaws, Policies and Guidelines

We are a 501(c)4 (IRS) non-Profit

Educational Funds at US and state levels are 501(c)3 and thus contributions to those funds are tax deductible

We were certified by the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) in 1929

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Members should know...

We are careful about

SPEAKING FOR THE LEAGUE

Official testimony or “speaking for the League” is only done by a League President or a designated representative.

We must proceed with care with any spoken or written word to assure that it is aligned with our positions and voiced by a League President or designated representative. Yet, we want to empower members to act. This can be a difficult balancing act.

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Positions

The League is governed in its advocacy by documented position statements.

Positions are developed through [studies](#).

The LWV Richmond Metro League holds its **Advocacy Program Planning** meeting each January to discuss proposed state positions from studies and local advocacy priorities.

Here are links of two sources for our position statements.

LWV United States: [Impact on Issues](#)
(Updated 2020)

LWV Virginia: [Positioned for Action](#)
(Updated 2021)

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League Lingo

Ed Fund

council

PMP

consensus

convention

WLRT

portfolio

concurrency

"League Lingo"

A Glossary of League Terms

<https://lww-va.org/publications/league-lingo/>

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Getting
engaged
locally

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Get engaged through RMA Committees

- **Affordable Housing**
We study the various aspects of affordable housing in our region and try to inform the public as well as influence policy makers.
- **Transportation**
Our motto is "Transportation IS Social Justice!" We lobby County Boards for better pedestrian commuter safety as well as increased bus transportation to all our local areas
- **Education**
We observe school board meetings, track education bills and budget items at state and local levels, hold informational forums with other groups
- **Membership & Engagement**
Help us create educational and social programs for members and prospective members.
- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**
Working for a Richmond Metro League representative of the Richmond Metro Area!
- **Communication**
We maintain our web presence, the coordination of all Richmond Metro communications, and our YouTube station. Twitter, FB, Instagram, Media contact list
- **Election Modernization - Electoral Board Observation Teams**
Members observe local Electoral Board meetings and report back on practices and compare as well as State Electoral Board meetings
- **Voter Services - Voter Registration**
Help us reach out to register voters and focus our efforts on those least likely to vote.
- **Voter Services - Vote411**
Create questions for candidates! Reach out to candidates to respond
- **Voter Services - Voter Fact Sheets**
Last year, we wrote and distributed more than 4000 paper fact sheets to local organizations, including Meals on Wheels.
- **Voter Services - Civics Education Programs**
We have written and tested a great program for high school seniors on civic engagement and registering to vote. Can you help us connect with schools to deliver that program?
- **Voter Services - Public Outreach/Call12**
Help us answer voter questions on NBC News Channel 12 the night before and morning of the November election.

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Getting engaged statewide

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Get engaged through Current Virginia Studies

There are no studies underway at the present time.

Note: 2021 Convention approved the studies and positions on:

1. Affordable Housing
2. Election Security

These are the four studies completed in 2021-2023:

- **Money in Politics:** to cover the full scope of financing campaigns in Virginia, from a donation through its expenditure including public disclosure of the donor, transparency in actual use of funds before and after the election, limits on personal use, and Virginia executive branch structure to conduct effective oversight and enforcement.
- **Environmental Justice:** to review LWV-VA natural resource position, to address how Virginia can best support environmental justice initiatives to halt or prevent future racial and economic environmental inequalities.
- **Education Equity:** whether state funding is equitable and ensures high quality education for all K-12 students.
- **Childcare:** to examine the nature of Virginia's childcare system.

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Get engaged through Statewide Issue Groups

State issue groups will be reviewing and supporting advocacy on state issues. They will be very busy as bills drop for the next session of the General Assembly.

- **Affordable Housing:** second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m.
- **Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice:** second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.
- **Child Care:** second Sunday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
- **Domestic Violence:** second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.
- **Education:** TBD
- **Environment:** first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m.
- **Gun Violence Prevention:** fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
- **Reproductive Health:** first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm
- **Transportation:** meets quarterly on third Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m.
- **Voting & Elections (includes Elections Security, Money in Politics, and Voter Access):** second Friday of the month at 3 p.m.
- Two new groups forming: **Transparency, Mis/Dis Information**

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Get engaged through Statewide Issue Groups

Voter & Election Sub-Groups

☐ Cybersecurity & Physical Security

☐ Voter Access

☐ Campaign Finance Reform

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Stay engaged through More Opportunities

Statewide Issues

Pre-Session

- Join with Virginia Leagues and like organizations on the issues that are lined up for the next session of the Virginia General Assembly
- First Wednesday each December

WLRT (Women's Legislative Round Table)

- Every Wednesday during the General Assembly session
- Meet with Leaguers, **legislators**, and like-minded advocates

Local Issues

Richmond Metro discusses local advocacy and state positions at our **January meeting** each year. This is how we decided to create new committees for 2023-2024 and to increase awareness of public transportation.

What are your issues? Come to the Program Planning Advocacy Meeting Jan. 20th 10:00 am- 2:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. Share what is important to you!

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Q&A

MAKING CONNECTIONS

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GETTING TO KNOW YOU
LEAGUE OF WOMEN OF THE FAIRFAX AREA
NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION SESSION

An Informal Dialogue with New Members of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

Purpose

Get to know new members – develop a relationship

Find out what new members are interested in

Share what the League is currently working on

Connect new members with areas that they are interested in

Participants

12 to 15 or less new members

2 board members

Handouts

Agenda

Informal Dialogue

1. Introductions

- a) Board members introduce themselves
- b) New members introduce themselves
 - Names and where they live?
 - Why did they join the League?

2. Mission of League

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

Nonpartisan means that the League does not oppose or support any political party or any political candidate.

Credibility and Non Confrontational. (Tell story)

Elevator Speech - We register voters. We educate voters. We get out the vote. We advocate on issues.

3. **Structure of League** – The League is a grassroots organization. By regularly collecting feedback from every level of the organization, the League stays focused on the issues that its membership considers most pressing.

Local - The League of Women Voters of Fairfax Area (LWVFA) focuses on the large geographical area of Fairfax County, Fairfax City and the towns that fall within the boundaries of Fairfax County: Clifton, Herndon and Vienna. This is a large geographical area and for that reason LWVFA members are encouraged to join one of the smaller groups (called Units). There are 10 Units. These groups meet to discuss material published in the VOTER, LWVFA's monthly newsletter. The schedule and location of meetings can be found in the VOTER.

LWVFA also holds a General Meeting, usually held in November and an Annual Meeting that is held in April. These meetings are open to all members.

State – The League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA) is comprised of local Leagues within Virginia and addresses concerns at the state level, such as Voting Rights and Redistricting Reform.

The LWV-VA publishes the monthly Virginia Voter, an electronic newsletter and sponsors the League Legislative Roundtable.

National – The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS)

Headquartered in Washington, DC. Membership operations.

Addresses issues at the national level

4. **What We Do** – Back to Elevator Speech

Voter Registration

New Citizenship Events, High Schools, and Festivals

Voter Education – Program

VOTER articles, Brochures, Flyers, Candidate Forums

Get Out the Vote

Action/Advocacy

League members take action on an issue only if the League has a position on the issue at any level. (Talk about positions.)

Only the Co-Presidents or their designees may speak for the League. However, we encourage all members to contact their legislators as constituents of a particular legislator.

5. **Fundraising** –

Dues –

Giving Tuesday Letter

Condo and Community Center Elections

6. **Current Volunteer Opportunities** –

Refer to ENews for current events

Behind the scenes