



2016

AND BEYOND

How the League is Making Democracy Work®

2016 was a remarkable year for the League of Women Voters of the United States as well as the League of Women Voters Education Fund. It was also a presidential election year of historical importance that gave the League an opportunity to reach millions of voters across the country.

Our advocacy and education work has an enduring, positive and significant impact at both state and federal levels. Our leadership on voting rights continues to raise our visibility in the press, and the American public continues to rely on our reputable, non-partisan organization created to encourage active participation in government.

Below we reflect on the important work we have accomplished this past year:

Impact & Relevance

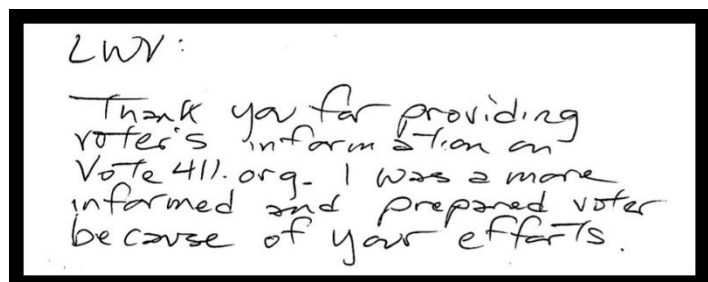
Election Services

The League works year-round, every year, to empower millions of people to register and vote. We saw unprecedented success in 2016.

VOTE411.org

Helping more than 4 million voters in 2016

Data provided for nearly 45,000 candidates in nearly 24,000 races across the country



Hand-written thank you note from a VOTE411 user

In 2016, VOTE411 was bigger and better than ever before.

Every single voter in America was able to come to the League's VOTE411.org site to find information about voting in their state, including which candidates were on their ballot. In all, the site served more than 4 million voters in 2016, an unprecedented reach.



A billboard in Kalamazoo, Michigan, weeks before the election (Nov 2016)

A screenshot of the VOTE411 Widget. The title is 'VOTE411 Widget with logo'. Below the title is a blue header with the text 'Find personalized voting, ballot and polling place information.' The form has four input fields: 'Street *', 'City *', 'State *' (a dropdown menu with '- Select -'), and 'Zip *'. There is a green 'Enter' button. Below the form is the text 'A project of the League of Women Voters®' and the VOTE411.ORG logo with the tagline 'ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED'.

VOTE411 WIDGET

The League worked to develop a VOTE411 widget for the 2016 election cycle.

The stand-alone application allowed League partners and media outlets to display this digital voter-friendly tool on their websites.

This is an area the League plans to grow in future elections, to help reach more voters and provide our election services to additional audiences.

Local League Debates

Over 500 debates and candidate forums hosted nationwide

Candidates at every level of government – from city council to state legislature to Congress – participated in League-sponsored forums and debates in 2016. Leagues around the country hosted hundreds of opportunities for voters to hear directly from the candidates.

National Voter Registration Day



More than 350 state and local Leagues participated in National Voter Registration Day, hosting well over 400 voter registration events and contributing to registering more than 19,000 voters.

Over 300 regional and local news articles mentioning League-related voter registration events in conjunction with National Voter Registration Day.

The League of Women Voters is proud to have been the largest on-the-ground participant in National Voter Registration Day for the last five years running.

New Citizens Registered

Nearly 19,000 new Americans registered to vote.

League volunteers registered tens of thousands of new citizens to vote in 2016.

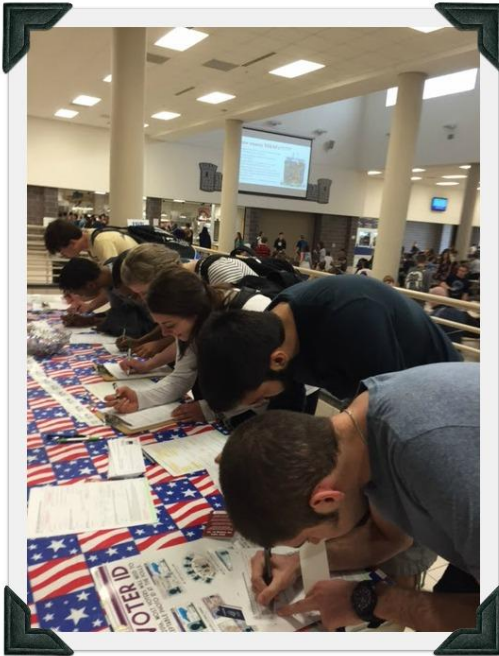
In the spring of 2016, the League of Women Voters Education Fund launched a program to support these volunteer-driven efforts in fourteen communities nationwide.

From Houston to Atlanta, Upstate New York to South Carolina, 500+ League volunteers attended more than 220 naturalization ceremonies, interacting with tens of thousands of brand-new citizens.



A League volunteer supports a new citizen registering to vote, Los Angeles, CA

High School & Community College Registration



High school students in Union County, North Carolina fill out voter registration forms

League volunteers in 25 communities registered nearly 15,000 high school and community college students to vote this past spring.

Now in its sixth year, the League's national Youth Voter Registration Project has successfully registered tens of thousands of young people to vote.

League volunteers handed out more than 19,000 educational materials to students and collected nearly 15,000 completed voter registration applications.

Advocacy

Our work to defend the rights of voters is having a positive major impact across the country. From courtrooms to Congress, LWVUS is working to increase understanding of major public policy issues and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Lobby Day

Members of the LWVUS Lobby Corps met with members of Congress and their staff on several key pieces of legislation this year. Topics included the Voting Rights Act, presidential public financing, restructuring the Federal Election Commission and the EPA's Clean Power Plan. Lobby Corps is a group of volunteers from DC, Maryland and Virginia who meet for briefings once a month in the LWVUS office.



LWV Board & Staff meet with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi during Lobby Day.

Court Cases

The League intervened in many legal battles in 2016 – from redistricting to proof of citizenship to environmental concerns. Our successful efforts continue to protect voters.



Kobach v. EAC

LWVUS, LWVKS & LWVAZ argued that the decision of the states of Arizona and Kansas to require proof of citizenship when registering to vote, disenfranchises voters. Case is pending.

Ohio Voter Purge Case

The League joined Common Cause and Project Vote on an amicus brief to the United States Court of Appeals in the case of *A. Phillip Randolph Inst. v. John Husted*. The brief argues that Ohio's decision to remove hundreds of thousands of voters from the rolls violated provisions in the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The League of Women Voters of Ohio sprang into action, calling potentially affected voters to ensure they were able to cast a vote on Election Day.

Virginia Redistricting Case

The League joined an amicus brief in the case of *Bethune-Hill v. Virginia State Board of Elections*. The case argues that the Virginia legislature's redistricting map was intentionally gerrymandered on the basis of race.

Florida Extending Voter Registration Deadlines

In October, LWV of Florida filed an emergency complaint against the Governor and Secretary of State for refusing to extend voter registration deadlines in the aftermath of Hurricane



Matthew. In a huge victory for the League, the judge ruled in favor of voters, extending voter registration for an additional week.

Clean Power Plan (June 2016)

League supporters attended public hearings and sent over 90,000 messages to President Obama and the EPA over the course of the Clean Power Plan rules finalization process.

The Final Rule reflects much of the feedback that the EPA received from the League.

League of Women Voters v. Newby

LWVUS and the state Leagues of Alabama, Georgia and Kansas filed a brief on appeal for *LWV v. Newby*. Eligible voters in these three states are being prevented from registering to vote without documentary proof of citizenship when an applicant uses the federal mail voter registration application form.

McCrorry v. Harris

LWVUS joined an amicus in the case and the brief argues that the North Carolina legislature's redistricting map was intentionally gerrymandered on the basis of race and therefore cannot be legalized by using the explanation that it was a political gerrymander.



Zubik v. Burwell

The League joined an amicus brief in the case of *Zubik v. Burwell*, a challenge to the contraception accommodation in the Affordable Care Act.

Fisher v. UT

The League of Women Voters joined an [amicus brief](#) filed by the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the Southern Poverty Law Center and 16 other organizations concerned about civil rights and equal access to education. The brief supports the University of Texas admissions policy as necessary in order for students to receive the vast and critical benefits associated with diverse campus environments.

[Evenwel v. Abbot](#)

This case will determine whether states are required to use a metric other than total population, such as registered voters or citizen voting age population (CVAP), in redistricting.

[Oregon Climate Change](#)

LWVUS and LWVOR filed an amicus brief in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon in the case of *Juliana et al. v. United States*. The League supports the 21 young people from across the U.S. who filed the landmark constitutional climate change lawsuit against the federal government, via the Eugene, Oregon-based organization, Our Children's Trust.

Action Alerts!

The League's advocacy work addressed many critical issues of concern in 2016 - from standing up to Citizens United, to calling for a full restoration of the Voting Rights Act, to ending off-shore drilling and more.

Stand Up Against Citizens United!

So many of our members and supporters heeded our call to tell their Representatives to co-sponsor and support HR 425, the "Stop Super PAC -- Candidate Coordination Act" introduced by Representatives David Price and Chris Van Hollen.



Repair the Voting Rights Act!

Members and supporters eagerly complied with our request to urge Congress to repair and modernize the Voting Rights Act. Senators and Representatives were asked to quickly move the Voting Rights Advancement Act forward and end voting discrimination in the country.

Permanently Protect the Arctic and Atlantic from Offshore Drilling!

A letter was crafted and signed by many members and supporters to send to President Obama, imploring him to put the health of our people before the needs of big polluters, and to preserve and protect the Arctic and Atlantic to help stop climate change.

Fix the Federal Election Commission (FEC)!

Members and supporters urged Congress to support and co-sponsor the Federal Election Administration Act to establish a new, effective enforcement body to oversee the nation's campaign finance laws.

Petitions

Stop Voter Suppression

Our post-election petition to “Stop Voter Suppression” **received over 10,000 signatures in the first 2 weeks.** The 2016 election was the first presidential election in 50 years without full protection of the right to vote, and there promises to be more in 2017. We asked members and supporters to stand with the League to ensure that elections are always free, fair and accessible, and to work with the League to stop voter suppression tactics that threaten our democracy and the right to vote.



ACA Must Comply with NVRA

The League petitioned President Obama to ensure that federal-run health insurance exchanges set up under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will offer eligible applicants voter registration services in compliance with NVRA.

Voter Protection

On Election Day, hundreds of League volunteers served as election monitors at polling places around the country.

More than 117,000 calls to the hotline call center in 2016

Throughout the year, hundreds of Leagues worked year-round to protect voters and ensure a smooth process. Leagues held thousands of meetings with elections officials to encourage preparedness.

On Election Day, hundreds of League volunteers served as election monitors at polling places around the country.

In Washington, DC, our League staff contributed to the Election Protection Coalition call center, helping voters find the information they needed and reporting the barriers voters faced in this election.



Election Protection is the nation's largest nonpartisan voter protection coalition.

Partnerships

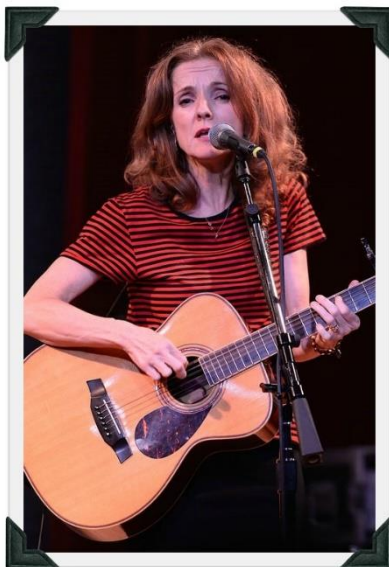
Throughout the election year the League partnered with many groups and organizations to reach more voters.

Designing for Our Democracy – Getting Out the Vote with AIGA

The League joined with AIGA, the professional association for design, for a Get Out the Vote initiative.

Graphic designers across the country submitted sleek, beautiful and inclusive posters to encourage participation in the critical 2016 elections. VOTE411.org was featured as a key resource on each of the hundreds of posters created.

As part of this partnership, VOTE411.org was also featured in a Spanish-language PSA which ran daily for months on TV Azteca nationwide, reaching an estimated 39 Million Hispanic individuals before Election Day. This partnership also resulted in a major Los Angeles event featuring the mayor’s office, the League, and voter engagement partners. The partnership has also yielded local opportunities for Leagues and led to significant social media visibility for the League and for VOTE411.org.



38-City “Use Your Voice” Tour

In the spring, the League of Women Voters partnered with **Award-winning singer/songwriter Patty Griffin, Sara Watkins and Anais Mitchell** for a major U.S. concert tour and huge voter engagement drive. Their ultimate goal was to energize women to vote by focusing on the strength they wield in all walks of life and convincing them of their potential for altering the course of history. Through this partnership, 38 local Leagues had the opportunity to directly address tens of thousands of concert-goers and provide personalized voting assistance to fans in each of the cities on the tour.

GRAMMY® Award-winning singer/songwriter Patty Griffin

Visibility

The League staff works to promote the hard work we do all year long. From press outreach to social media posts, the national staff is engaged in communicating our activities to gain recognition for the League.

Telling our stories in the forms of Op-Eds, letters to the editor, and media interviews reaches millions of voters and establishes us as leaders in the voting rights community.

Looking ahead to 2017, we expect our upcoming centennial anniversary to garnish media attention as well as a new social media campaign for the League to commemorate our history.



Earned Media

Throughout 2016 the League was featured in tens of thousands of media reports about voting rights, policy positions, the election, our court cases and VOTE411. We continue to be seen as a go-to source because of our record on voting rights and our history in American politics. League leaders have written letters to the editor in newspapers around the country and placed op-eds in publications reaching hundreds of thousands of voters.

More than 35,000 media mentions in news articles and publications this year



25 ways to be politically active ...

9. Join a voting league or political organization
A non-partisan group like the League of Women Voters is a good way to get informed, or you can choose a political group that aligns with your values.

Social Media



Over 2 million social media impressions in November alone

More than 86,000 likes on Facebook 

16,000+ followers on Twitter 

Across our platforms the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters Education Fund are sharing our work and engaging voters to grow our network and expand our visibility.

Open Letter to Debate Moderators

Candidate debates have a long history in American Politics – and so does the League. This year, LWVUS sent [an open letter to the Presidential and Vice Presidential Debate Moderators](#), urging them to keep voters at the forefront of the debates.



Debate Watch Party Kit

The League prepared a Debate Watch Kit to help voters evaluate candidates and have some fun while watching.

Tips for hosting a debate watch party

Debate Watching 101

Tips for evaluating candidates

Sample social media content to join the conversation about debates

I Know My Vote Will Count

In the weeks leading up to the election, the credibility of the electoral system was questioned.

In response, the League staff launched the campaign “I know my vote will count” providing social media recommendations with key messages, sharing photos with “I voted” stickers and drafting templates for letter writing and posts.

Over 1,000 Facebook users created temporary profile pictures to proudly support the League campaign



**Listen to Voices
from the League**

**First & Third Tuesdays
@ 1:30pm ET**



The Union Edge

The League is excited to partner with The Union Edge, the only nationally-syndicated labor talk radio program in the country. Starting in January 2017, League leaders will participate in regular radio segments to discuss voting rights, public policy issues and advocacy, every first and third Tuesday of the month at 1:30pm ET.

Thank you

As we look forward to 2017, the League is gearing up for the ongoing challenges we continue to face to preserve voting rights and other civil liberties. Our 96-year-old organization is reclaiming the movement to ensure equality of the vote as we move toward our 100th anniversary.

Together, we will continue to carry out the League’s work and create a more perfect democracy so that ALL Americans can enjoy the same liberties and freedoms.