



2025

IMPACT REPORT



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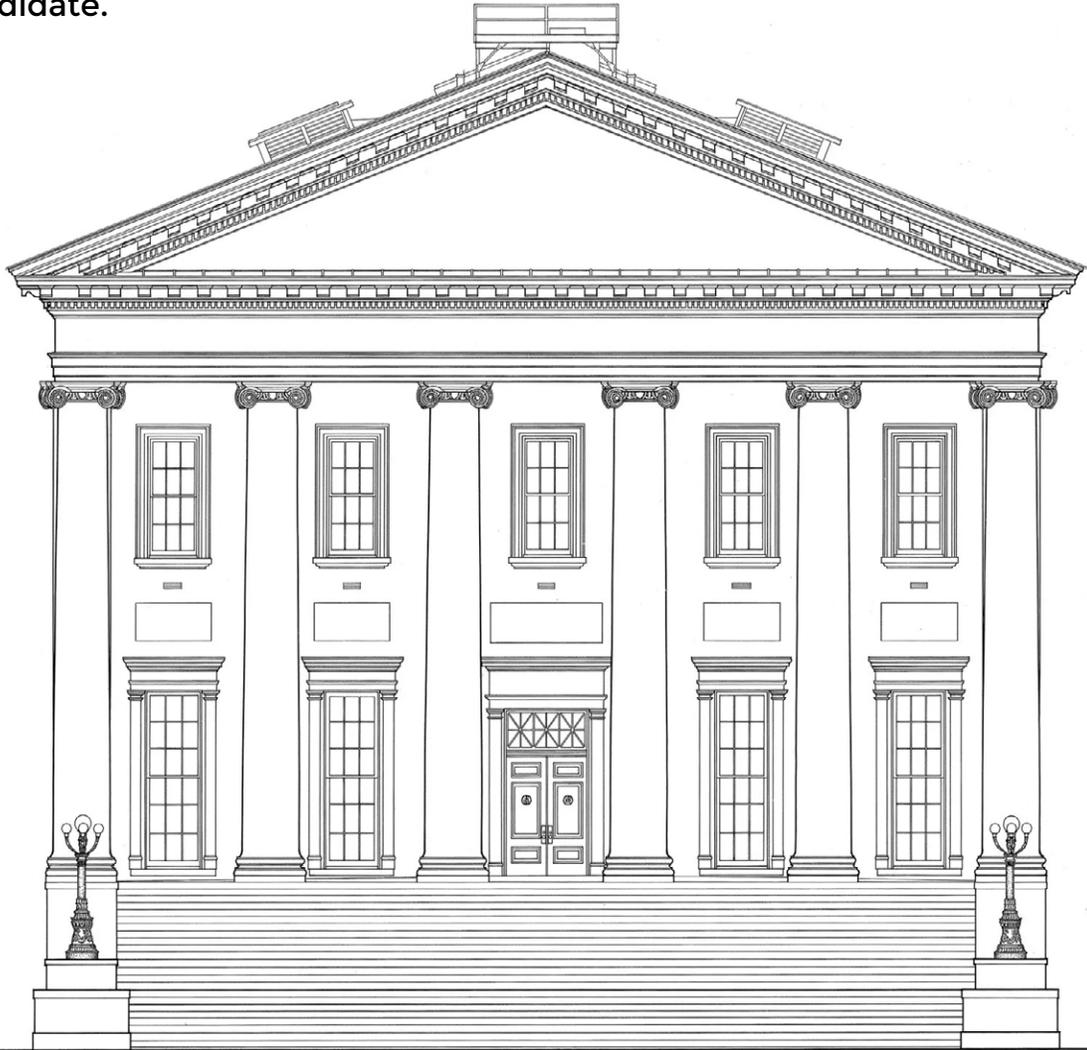
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Who We Are. What We Do.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia formed November 10, 1920, out of the suffrage movement. The League encourages informed and active participation in government to increase understanding of major public policy issues and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

We are Nonpartisan. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.



Message from the President

Welcome to the first annual Impact Report of the League of Women Voters of Virginia.

We started the year with a new website with new handbooks for Board members and local league leaders. In addition, the League created planning calendars for future presidents, voter services, advocacy and events chairs to assure that future leaders will not be caught off guard when they take office.

We have also merged our structure into a single 501(c)(3) organization, eliminating the need for two boards and two budget processes and making it possible for all donations as well as a portion of membership dues that goes to the LWV Virginia to be tax deductible. Additionally, the streamlined membership application has increased our revenue from membership by approximately 30%.

Of course, this is Virginia, the land of many elections—and we responded with information for all of them as you will see in the following pages. In short, we texted more than one hundred twenty thousand voters, distributed more than 4000 pieces of voting information to schools and libraries, and our local leagues sponsored more than 40 candidate forums. In addition, we continue to be an active participant in the LWV Vote411.org nonpartisan voter information website.

We are actively involved in the LWV US Unite and

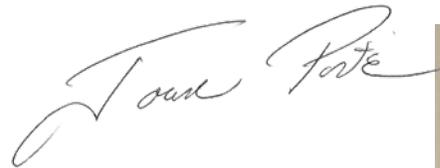
Rise Program <https://www.lwv.org/uniteandrise> with all our local leagues working to defend Democracy. LWV Virginia has not shied from litigation in several cases to protect voter rights and the security of the voting system.

We ended the year with two new units: one in the Greater Roanoke Valley and another including Staunton, Augusta County and Waynesboro. Our ranks include almost 2000 members in a total of fifteen local leagues and units.

We are active members in the Virginia Civic Engagement Table, The Virginian Coalition for Immigrant Rights, The Right to Vote Coalition, the Virginia Coalition for Open Government, Virginians for Reproductive Freedom, Health Care for All Virginians, and the Women's Equality Coalition.

We have also been active in Richmond advocating for the issues important to our members. This is done through our issue groups (described below). As we move into 2026, we are positioned to continue our efforts to protect voters and defend Democracy, be a nonpartisan voice for voting information, and begin a civic education program.

Joan Porte, President






GENERAL IMPACT

1. Texted 120,000 voters with nonpartisan voting information
2. Sent more than 10,000 Get out the Vote postcards
3. Conducted more than 40 nonpartisan candidate forums
4. Provided voter registration assistance to 48 high schools throughout Virginia, helping to ensure compliance with Virginia law requiring high schools to provide qualified students with the opportunity to register during regular school hours.
5. Over 102,000 users reached out to our Vote411 website, which provided detailed information on each of Virginia's 800 races and referenda (Primaries, General, Special),
6. Distributed more than 6000 postcards advising people of the Election Protection Hotline 866-OUR VOTE
7. With the Virginia Civic Engagement Table, distributed 300 Election Protection Yard signs throughout the Commonwealth
8. Distributed to our local leagues 4000 pieces of nonpartisan voting information for the primaries and general election
9. Worked with the Campus Vote Project to Get Out the Vote at colleges. At some campuses, Virginia saw a 41% increase in youth voters compared to 2021.
10. Registered to vote more than 6000 Virginians

We are proud to have contributed to the 54.9% turnout in the 2025 gubernatorial election.

Our members were active in Unite and Rise 8.5 <https://www.lwv.org/uniteandrise>, the League of Women Voters of the United States' program to mobilize 8.5 million voters to rise to the current threats to Democracy. The State League made pass-through grants to all local leagues that participated in marches, Civic Listening tables and increased outreach to partners. In some areas partner outreach was up more than 30%.

Our Women's Legislative Roundtables will be forty-five years old in 2026 and are weekly educational forums on the priorities of the League. Our Pre-Session, held on the first Wednesday of December, is the official kick-off to our General Assembly session. More than 30 partner organizations look forward to presenting their priorities to our members. More than 120 members tuned into Pre-Session. Both Pre-Session and the WLRTS are available for future viewing on YouTube. In 2025, 120 members braved record cold to come to Richmond and advocate for our priorities.



Youth Council

Our Youth Council took off in 2025, and we now have more than twenty Youth Council members. The Youth Council is open to young people 16 - 24 years old. Youth Council members are full members of the League. In addition to activities they may do with their local leagues, the Youth Council members conduct several projects on a state level:

- Produce our monthly podcast, DemocraZy - available on Spotify and our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@leagueofwomenvotersofvirginia>
- Partnered with the DEI Committee to raise more than \$6000 for the eight regional Virginia food banks that feed local food banks
- Produce social media posts
- Provide voting information to their schools through newsletters and other platforms.

In 2026, we will roll out our youth-to-youth speakers bureau on voting and education on constitutional amendments that will be on the ballot in November 2026. In addition, they will be instrumental in adding a "youth voice"

to our new civic education project.

We now have units at three colleges in the Commonwealth:

- George Mason University, Fairfax
- The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg
- University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg



Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Impact

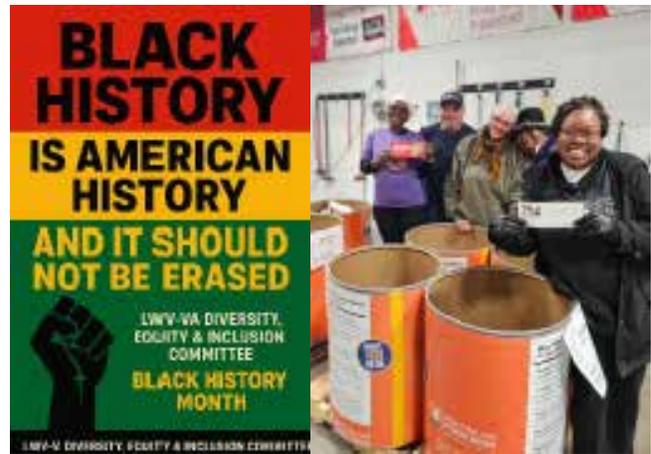
In 2025, LWV Virginia advanced inclusive civic engagement by applying a DEI lens across our work, strengthening community partnerships, and recruiting more young members into League leadership and action. We also created space for timely conversations on democracy and equity, including women’s disparities

and the barriers that limit full participation—so our advocacy and outreach reflect the lived experiences of our communities. In 2026, we will deepen accessibility and language access efforts and improve data tracking to better measure equitable reach and impact.

Positioned for Actions (Program Planning)

The LWV Virginia is in the process of updating our very outdated Women’s Rights position with a very active Women’s Rights Study group meeting monthly to develop a new position that would be voted on at the 2027 LWV-VA Convention.

An educational forum was held to inform members of a proposed update of the LWVUS Healthcare Privatization position proposed by the LWV-NY and the LWVUS Healthcare Advisory Commit-



tee. This proposed update will be considered and voted on by Virginia local Leagues with their recommendations presented to the US League for a possible vote at the LWVUS 2026 Convention.



Advocacy and Issue Groups



LWV Virginia has many active issue groups. <https://my.lwv.org/virginia/issue-groups>

- Affordable Housing
- Child Care
- Education
- Environment
- Gun and Domestic Violence Prevention
- Mis/Dis Information Task Force
- Physical Health Task Force
- Reproductive Health
- Transparency
- Voting & Elections
- Special Task Forces of Voting and Elections
- Campaign Finance Reform
- Cyber and Physical Security
- National Popular Vote Interstate Compact
- Ranked Choice Voting

These issue groups are an integral part of our advocacy program. They write and deliver testimony, track legislation,

and educate the public and League members on their issues. They also provide data for advocacy alerts, which are rapid action responses to legislative actions.

Past testimony can be found on our website.

2025 testimony:

<https://my.lwv.org/virginia/testimony-2025>

2024 testimony:

<https://my.lwv.org/virginia/testimony-2024-0>

2026 testimony:

<https://my.lwv.org/virginia/testimony-2026-0>

Advocacy Alerts for 2025 and 2026 can be found at:

<https://my.lwv.org/virginia/advocacy/advocacy-alerts>



Legislative Priorities for 2026

Constitutional Amendments

- Right To Vote
- Reproductive Rights
- Marriage Equality

Voting & Elections

- Right to Vote Amendment
- Zuckerbucks amendment to repeal, introduce de minimis value (\$500) or clarify language to limit scope specifically to “conduct of elections”
- List maintenance and voter registration bills
- Reinstatement of membership in ERIC [the Governor can reinstate Virginia in ERIC without legislation, although bills have been introduced in the past two sessions]
- Acceptance of e-signatures in voter registration
- 90-day quiet period and extension of time to respond to notices of voter registration cancellations
- Campaign Advertising – disclosure requirements for use of synthetic materials
- Guardianship adjudications to require specific determination of competence for voting purposes [can collaborate with other orgs]
- National Popular Vote Interstate Compact
- Ranked Choice Voting
- Virginia Beach Charter Change



Affordable Housing

Bills

- Preservation of affordable housing. This bill enables localities to establish a right of first refusal (ROFR) during the sale of publicly supported multifamily rental housing whose affordability period is expiring.
- Increasing opportunities for residents and nonprofit housing organizations to purchase parks by providing a ROFR for localities and non-profit organizations.
- Allow all localities the ability to establish Inclusionary Zoning Programs.
- Pay or quit extension: Extend the “pay or quit” period from five to fourteen

days, returning to the longer period that was in place for most of the COVID pandemic.

- Allow non-profit organizations including faith communities to build affordable housing on their land through a streamlined process

Budget Amendments:

- Virginia Housing Trust Fund: Increase base funding from \$87.5 million to \$150 million per year with a priority on funding for permanent supportive housing.
- Increase funding for Virginia Eviction Reduction Program to Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) by \$3.15 million to bring the total program funding to \$6.6 million per year.

Child Care

- Eliminate waitlists for childcare subsidies and expand eligibility
- Enact family and medical leave

Environment

- Keep the Virginia Clean Energy Act (VCEA) unchanged. This will force a cascade of specific actions to incentivize clean energy and rein in both use of carbon fuels and the economic sectors making excessive power demands.
- Regulate data centers. In addition to energy demands, consider water use, siting, noise, diesel emissions, tax credits, etc.
- Incorporate environmental justice/community health in localities' Comprehensive Plans.
- Study microplastics in public drinking water.



Education

- Funding Equity for English Language Students, Special Education and High Poverty Schools, both rural and urban (restore the funding for Title 1 Schools (for example, capital projects; services (Mental Health, Guidance Counselors, and resources).
- Making Sure the State Pays Its Fair Share of Public-School Costs. The near-term

and long-term recommendations of the JLARC Study must be implemented, and funds appropriated in accordance with the study, and we will continue to oppose any diversion of funds from public schools to private schools.

- Revenue Raising for K-12.
- Allow localities to have a referendum to raise a 1% Sales Tax dedicated to their Local Public Schools.
- “The Fair Share Tax Safe and Restorative-Community Schools-Many of the Rural and Urban schools who have adopted this model.
- A Constitutional Amendment to change the wording of public education funding, from “Seek to Ensure” to “Ensure.”



Health Care

- Medicaid and SNAP Funding Safety
- Continuous Medicaid Funding for Children 0-6 Years Old
- DSS Funding for staff (incentives and training) and technology upgrade
- Subsidy for Virginia Marketplace (based on what the federal government funds)
- Paid Medical Leave—there are coalitions for Paid Family Leave and Paid Sick Leave- HC task force considering joining

Reproductive Health

- VA Constitutional amendment for reproductive freedom
- Right to contraception equity
- Shield laws for providers and recipients of reproductive care
- Health insurance coverage for reproductive care

Domestic and Gun Violence

- Firearm Purchaser Licensing (FPL) Initiative
- Opening a State Office of Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention

League membership



Join one of our local leagues here

<https://my.lwv.org/virginia/local-leagues>.

If you don't have a local league in your area, join the State League or you can contact us to help build a unit in your area!!

Arlington-Alexandria
 Charlottesville Area
 Fairfax Area
 Falls Church
 Fredericksburg Area
 Loudoun County
 Montgomery County
 Northern Shenandoah Valley
 Prince William-Fauquier Area
 Richmond Metro Area
 Greater Roanoke Valley
 Staunton, Augusta County,
 and Waynesboro
 South Hampton Roads Area
 Washington County
 Williamsburg Area

The League of Women Voters of Virginia ends 2025 with more than 2000 members and 15 local leagues and units. We added two new unit leagues this year. These are the backbone of so much of the work that we do and work hard on voter registration, election protection, nonpartisan candidate forums, populating Vote411.org and Unite and Rise. In addition, we have the possibility of forming units in Petersburg and Danville in 2026!

Follow us on Social Media

facebook.com/lwvva

instagram.com/lwv_va/

x.com/LWVVA

[.threads.com/@lwv_va?hl=en](https://threads.com/@lwv_va?hl=en)

bsky.app/profile/lwvva.bsky.social



Unite and Rise: Mobilizing People to Save Democracy

On April 17, 2025, LWV CEO Celina Stewart and President Dianna Wynn released the following statement:

“From the flagrant disregard for congressional authority and governmental checks and balances to defying Supreme Court orders...one thing is abundantly clear: our country is in a **constitutional crisis**.

“We the people must fight back. That is why the League of Women Voters is launching a powerful new initiative, Unite and Rise 8.5.”

Through Unite and Rise 8.5, we will engage and mobilize 8.5 million voters to protect and preserve our democracy.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia is a full participant in Unite and Rise and is actively mobilizing Virginia voters to defend Democracy and our Constitution. The State League has given each local league large pass-through grants to motivate voters through any number of activities such as:

Action	Description	Relationship Focus	DEI Lens	Grant Spending
Civic Listening Circles	Medium-sized gatherings (10–15 people) in public spaces where people share stories and discuss local challenges. Volunteers/facilitators use open-ended prompts to surface community priorities while building trust.	Build trust by listening first, not leading.	Centers BIPOC, queer, immigrant voices; supports accessibility	Venue rental, food/snacks, childcare, interpreters, facilitator stipends
Community Care Pop-Ups	Volunteer tables at community hubs offering care kits and inviting passersby to add thoughts to a “Community Needs Board” about local issues. Volunteers engage gently if interest emerges.	Builds League presence in trusted spaces; shows care.	Focuses on BI-POC/queer-serving locations; removes barriers.	Care supplies (snacks, hygiene kits), booth fees, signage

Action	Description	Relationship Focus	DEI Lens	Grant Spending
Intergenerational Wisdom Circles	Brings elders, youth, and adults together to discuss neighborhood changes and hopes for the future. Prompts foster cross-generational trust and surface civic themes.	Builds cross-generational trust and shared vision.	Elevates elders/youth from marginalized communities.	Space rental, snacks, recording equipment, facilitators
Community Quilt Project	A collaborative art project where residents design fabric squares expressing “What I hope for in our neighborhood.” The quilt is displayed as a symbol of collective voice.	Shared hands-on activity builds connection.	Accessible to all ages/abilities; honors diverse cultural symbols.	Art supplies, quilting materials, artist facilitation
Community Skill Share Nights	Peer-led gatherings where residents teach each other skills and share stories. During a break, volunteers facilitate discussions on “What strengthens our neighborhood?”	Build trust through shared teaching and learning.	Centers community knowledge from BIPOC, queer, immigrant residents.	Space rental, supplies, stipends for community instructors



Litigation

The League does not shy away from litigation to protect voting rights.

Virginia Purging Voters: <https://www.lwv.org/legal-center/virginia-coalition-immigrant-rights-v-beals>

Since 2024 we, along with the Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights (VACIR) and African Communities Together (ACT), filed a suit against the purges of naturalized voters within 90 days of a Federal Election in violation of the National Voter Registration Act through his Executive Order 2024. Although we were successful in Alexandria Federal Court and the Appellate Court, the Supreme Court ruled against us.

However, our case continues based on discrimination, and we are now in the discovery phase.

SAVE system: <https://www.lwv.org/legal-center/league-women-voters-v-department-homeland-security>

Along with the League of Women Voters of the United States, and the League of Women Voters of Louisiana, and the League of Women Voters of Texas, the League of Women Voters of Virginia is suing the Department of Homeland Security, the Social Security Administration, and the Department of Justice to protect Americans' sensitive information from being used in violation of the Privacy Act, the Administrative Procedure Act, and the US Constitution by putting information into the now insecure Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements, SAVE System

ACLU and the Health Marketplace

While we have not filed suit on this, along with the ACLU, we sent a demand letter to the Commonwealth of Virginia to rectify the problem of people not being given the chance to register to vote when they apply to the Virginia Health Exchange which is in violation of the Affordable Care Act. As of this writing, the Commonwealth has agreed to add this information, and we are awaiting confirmation that all who used the Marketplace will get a letter urging them to register to vote





DEMOCRACY

TEACH IN

Join neighbors and changemakers for one-day civic action event in Petersburg for civic skill-building, community power, and effective organizing. This teach-in equips you with the tools to take action and empower local voters.

REGISTER HERE:
[FORMS.OFFICE.COM/R/KXFXGFWWDK](https://forms.office.com/R/KXFXGFWWDK)

09.20.2025

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
10:00AM - 3:00PM ET

