



League of Women Voters of Virginia
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President's Message -

Happy August!

A friend turned to me the other day and said, “Can we stop living in interesting times, please!” Yes, it feels like we all have political whiplash. However, we can take comfort in the knowledge that whatever the climate, the League sticks to its goals of nonpartisan voter registration and voter education. We are coming under increasing attack from those who feel that encouraging voting is now somehow a partisan act. Funny, when I was a kid, my parents told me that voting was an American act, and that all Americans should vote because it is the backbone of Democracy. I remember teachers in Civics classes explaining how precious voting is and how it is our voice and that we must vote in every election. Not once did any of them tell me that it was partisan to vote. Therefore, I will continue to defer to the wisdom of Mom and Dad and those teachers.

To that end, we have some exciting additions to our website. We have a new section entitled “How to be a Virginia Voter” It contains all of the information any voter, from new resident to

new citizen, to a returning citizen, and beyond needs to vote this November. We will soon have the locations of every drop box in Virginia on the website. We have also made our voting material available to our local leagues including our “care packages” for people who do not have a VA drivers license or State ID or a printer and can’t register on line. These will have registration forms, and stamped return envelopes. We hope to make the League of Women Voters of Virginia your one stop “election information stop.” Voting is an American duty and privilege and encouraging all people to vote is an act of patriotism.

Stay cool- or try to – and thanks for all you do!

- Joan

freedom to read

We Need Some “Stars” For Another Banned Book Week Video.

Our video done in conjunction with the Virginia Library Association (VLA) for Banned Book Week 2023 was such a hit that they have asked to partner with us again!

This year, however, they are not using the words “Banned Book Week” but are calling it “Freedom to Read Week.” It will be held on the week of September 22-28, 2024. Like last year we will have a simple script and you will be able to record your piece on your phone or computer. Let me know if you are interested ASAP – we will need videos in by the end of August! Send an email to Joan Porte [here](#).

League of Women Voters of Virginia Statement on a Replacement Presidential Candidate

Rules and procedures are already established for a political party’s actions in response to the withdrawal of the presumptive party nominee. While this statement concerns the circumstances currently facing the Democratic Party, any political party can choose its nominee in accordance with its own rules. This power is rooted in the First Amendment right of association.

The Democratic Party has no official nominee until the Party chooses that person. Normally that process occurs during the Party’s National Convention, which takes place August 19-22. The statewide primaries determine the candidate that binds the Party’s pledged delegates from that state but, when the candidate withdraws, the delegates are no longer bound by the pledge. Under Virginia law, a party must furnish to the State Board of Elections the names of

the candidates for president and vice president, as well as its electors, by noon of the seventy-fourth day before the election, which this year is August 23.

1 Virginia law for replacing candidates at the state level is consistent, agreeing that a political party may replace its presumptive nominees in accordance with the Party's rules.

2 No state has laws preventing a political party from choosing a candidate other than the presumptive nominee after that person's withdrawal. Furthermore, no state can block the Party's chosen nominee from the ballot, as the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the case where Colorado attempted to block former President Trump from its primary ballot.

3 As no ballots will have been printed before the conclusion of the Democratic Party Convention, the preparation for the election will not be affected.

All Virginians can be confident that this current situation falls within existing rules and our election process will proceed freely and fairly.

1 Va. Code § 24.2-542.

2 Va. Code §§ 24.2-537, 24.2-539.

3 Trump v. Anderson, Slip Op. 23-719 (2024).

The League is Hiring

LWV VA is seeking two organizers with knowledge of voter registration and get out the vote efforts. One would be working in the Fredericksburg area - the other in the Winchester area.

Here are the details: \$15 an hour, up to 30 hours a week for eight weeks Sept 9 - Nov 5. Must have your own car with a clean driving record and be a registered voter in Virginia.

Organizers would be responsible for organizing nonpartisan voter registration efforts with partners, civic groups, libraries, youth groups, etc. at events in the area, distributing nonpartisan voting information and encouraging early voting. For more information and to apply, write to Joan Porte [here](#).

LWVUS National Convention!



The League came together for our **56th Biennial National Convention in Washington** on June 27 - 30. Here with Tracy Adkison, our LWV US National Board liaison.

So many wonderful and fascinating meetings and workshops happened at the Convention. The full recap of events from the moving tribune to the late Dr. Deborah Turner to the resolutions and programs passed can be found [here](#).



Your Board at Work



Anu Sahai, First VP, Joan Porte, President and Erni Bridges, Second VP and their monthly "Four Martini Lunch" which is really a diet Coke and iced tea lunch. To see all the members of your Virginia League board, click [here](#).

It is National Poll Worker Recruitment Day - August 1!

Our democracy depends on people who make sure every election runs smoothly and everyone's vote is counted.

Sign up with the League's partner, Power the Polls to find out how you can be an integral part of democracy.....tell your friends too!

Share our social media posts to inform others.

Use this League specific [form](#) to sign up



Learning to Register Voters!

More than 200 people took voter registration training sponsored by LWV, Virginia and the National Council of Negro women on July 13. The training was conducted by the Virginia Department of Elections.

All members engaged in voter registration need to get certified every year. If you missed the training go [here](#) to take the online training

Update: Follow Up on Erroneously Removed Returning Citizens From Voting Rolls

You may recall last year when 3500 returning citizens who had previously had their rights restored were erroneously removed from the rolls last October. Despite requests, the Board of Elections has not yet sent a clarifying and detailed letter to them assuring them that they can vote safely. The Virginia League, in conjunction with Nolef Turns, the Campaign Legal Center and the Fair Elections Center, has sent such a letter to them. The letter also provides contact information for them in case they have questions.

If you know a returning citizen who has a question about the restoration of rights, Nolef Turns will host a virtual pop in each Wednesday via Zoom from 10am – 12pm. Individuals may register online [here](#) for one-on-one assistance with any voter registration or restoration of rights questions. Nolef Turns can be reached at 804-918-6470 or this [email](#).

Ratify ERA: Special Showing in Richmond – August 26

“Ratify” follows a multi-racial, multi-generational coalition of activists and politicians taking up the mantle of the 100-year struggle to enshrine the Equal Rights Amendment in the US Constitution by pushing Virginia to become the 38th and final state needed to ratify the ERA.

On Mon, August 26, 2024 at 6:30 PM there will be a showing at the Byrd Theatre, in Richmond. [HERE](#) is the registration link.

If any group or local league would like to show this event please contact [Kati](#) at Vote Equality.

The Nominating Committee Is Looking for Members to Serve on the LWV VA Board!

The Nominations Committee is making plans for the state convention next June. Right now, we are searching to find the most qualified and highly motivated persons who understand the importance of Defending Democracy. This is a critical time for our Board because the work to transform the LWV’s national, state and local organizational structure places far more responsibility on each state’s leadership.

We need your help to find the best candidates to meet this challenge. Our task is outlined in the By-Laws: *“The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the LWV-VA, six directors elected by the convention and not more than six directors appointed by the elected members of the board. All directors shall be voting members of the LWV-VA. The elected directors shall take office on July 1 following the convention and serve for two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The term of office of the appointed directors shall expire concurrently with that of the elected directors.”* Currently, the Board meets in person twice a year with the remaining monthly meetings held on ZOOM.

The Nominations Committee's primary work will begin just after the November elections as we begin to match persons and positions. If you believe that you are interested in sharing your talents or you know of a member who you believe is ready to assume a role on the State Board, please let us know. Each new Nominations Committee draws upon our findings from previous years, so we would love to interview you whether you are interested in exploring options for the new term or one in the future.

Send an email to [here](#) to tell us about your interests, your past work in LWV or related organizations, and your skills. If you wish to recommend a member, please tell us a bit about your candidate.

Become part of the leadership team to bring VA into the next phase of League development.

All Board positions are open - and can be found [here](#)

- Les Solomon, Chair Nominations Committee. [Contact me here.](#)

Local League: Williamsburg

The LWV of Williamsburg was attacked in a "Gazette" letter as being partisan because LWV US uses signs that said "Vote like Democracy Depends On It (It does)". Here is the response from Susan Bivens, President of the Williamsburg Area LWV. Go, Susan!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Voting is not a partisan issue

The Williamsburg Area League of Women Voters was recently criticized in The Last Word anonymously for signs that read "Vote Like Democracy Depends on It (It Does)." These are signs available through the U.S. League promoting the Vote 411 program. Anonymous claims that this makes the League a partisan organization. The League of Women Voters was created 104 years ago following women winning

the vote. The goals, then and now, are to encourage citizens to participate in our democratic process by exercising their right to vote and to educate voters about the issues. We register students who are about to turn 18 to vote, help new residents get properly registered and host forums where candidates from all parties can discuss the issues with voters. The Vote 411 program provides information on voting locations and provides

the issue information supplied by all the candidates regardless of party affiliation.

The LWV does not tell anyone how to vote. We do not endorse political parties or candidates. We are totally apolitical. We know that our democracy (yes, it really is a republic as created by the Constitution, but we are a democracy) works best when everyone is involved.

Our democracy works best when those who vote

understand the system and the issues. Making everyone better informed only makes better citizens. Please consider joining your local League of Women Voters in 2024! Men, women, students, everyone is welcome!

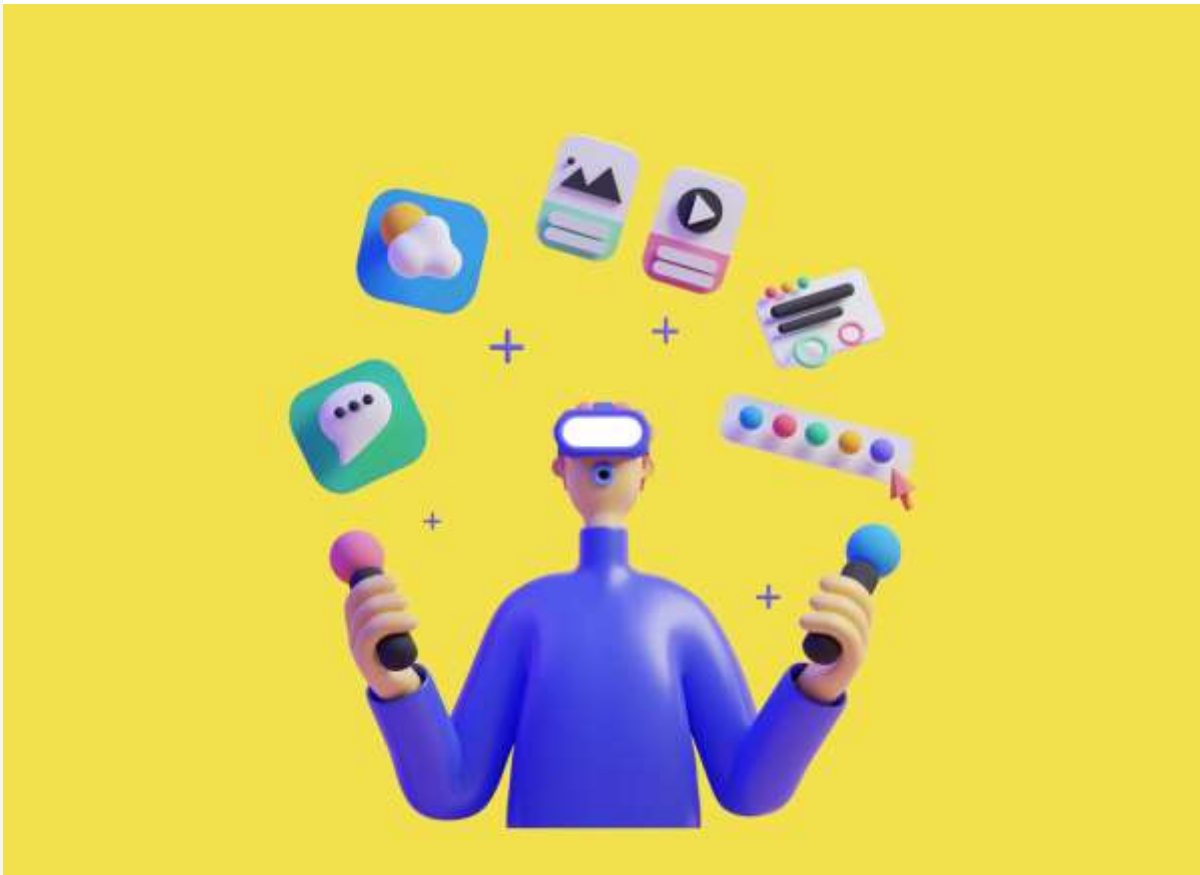
Voting is not a partisan issue! It is a right and a duty.

*Susan Bivens
President, Williamsburg Area League of Women Voters*

League in the News

LWV Virginia was quoted in the "Charlotte Gazette" responding to Gov. Youngkin's Executive Order 31, trying to rebuild what the Electronic Registration Information Center did so well. You can see the quote [here](#).

Play it! A new, fun way to learn about Mis- and Dis-information



An intern at the Alameda, California LWV came up with a new way to help students and others learn to test information for accuracy. The game, called **Verify It!**, can be played singly or as a classroom or other group. It contains questions that are national or that are specific to individual states, including Virginia. it's all free! You can try it yourself [here](#). Feel free to share it with teachers and others, or use it at your next League event as an ice breaker or to draw in bystanders.

August 2024 Calendar

Aug 1 - National Poll Workers Recruitment Day - see above.

Aug 9 - National Women's Day and International Day of World's Indigenous People

Aug 23 - International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade

Aug 26 - The 19th amendment certified in the Constitution - Women's Equality Day

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