



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VIRGINIA

The Virginia Voter

100+ Years Strong

League of Women Voters of Virginia
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United States

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President's Message

I will never be able to fully express how astounded I was by the amazing work done by members of the League of Women Voters of Virginia during this past election. We registered thousands of new voters, conducted hundreds of candidate forums and boosted access to citizens to find their voting information on Vote411.org. All of this while fighting against an illegal purge of citizens from our rolls. In under two weeks, we rallied to mail almost 7000 postcards to people enmeshed in the purge to inform them of their rights and instruct them how to cast their votes. Many of you joined a phone bank to try to reach these people.

When I spoke to a naturalized citizen who was caught in the purge, their response was of total shock. They told me they had been a citizen since childhood and had voted several times. "How can I be purged? This makes no sense." Yes, we know it makes no sense and that is why we continue the fight against this purge.

Also be assured that we will not ignore that the incoming administration's policies and rhetoric do not align with our organization's values. We are not partisan but have always been...and will remain political. Our work for climate justice, common sense gun violence reduction, reproductive rights, public education, fair housing, access to childcare, immigrant justice, LGBTQ rights, campaign finance reform and more is critical and will continue.

We have never nor will we ever renege on our goal to "defend Democracy." That is not an idle slogan. It is a promise.

I would also like to give a special thanks to our wonderful attorney's at the Campaign Legal Center, The Lawyers Committee For Civil Rights Under Law, the Advancement Project and Protect Democracy who continue to work incredibly hard for the citizens caught in the latest purge of legal voters. Their dedication to Democracy is awe inspiring.

Rest, enjoy your family and be ready to start again. There are several special elections on January 7. Our General Assembly begins on January 8, and we will be there to defend our legislative priorities. Of course, because we are in Virginia, we have another important election cycle again in 2025 and we will be there again, yes, "informing voters and defending Democracy."

Thank you for all you do.

Joan

LWV-US Statement on Election Results

The League of Women Voters of the United States president Dianna Wynn and CEO Celina Stewart released the following statement on the 2024 election results:

“The 2024 election underscores the dedication of poll workers, election officials, and volunteers nationwide, who ensured that every eligible vote was counted, and every voice was heard. This year’s election was marked by integrity, transparency, and high turnout. The American people have spoken.

“While we celebrate a fair and secure election, the outcome of this election has made the future for women unclear. Given the disturbing rhetoric made during this election season, we are deeply concerned about challenges we may face, particularly regarding the issues that disproportionately affect women, from health care and reproductive rights to economic security and equal representation. “We are thankful to Leagues across the country for their tremendous work supporting the election infrastructure and supporting voters, as well as every election worker and democracy defender who guaranteed our fair and free voting process. We are thankful for the work they have done so far this cycle and the counting, curing, and certifying work that will take place in the weeks ahead.

“The League is dedicated to our mission of defending democracy. As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advocate for policies that uplift women and ensure equitable representation in all levels of government.”

LWV US Condemns Racist Text Messages

LWV US spoke up against racist text messages sent after the election. "LWV strongly condemns the racist text messages sent after Election Day targeting Black residents in multiple states across the country. These vile messages have no place in our democracy. We stand united against hate & for the protection & civic participation of all communities."

Upcoming Events

We have several exciting events coming up! Please take a look at these educational forums and join us. All are virtual.

First is Pre-Session: This is the League of Women Voters of Virginia's yearly virtual event where we learn of the legislative priorities of the League and our partners.

The Virginia General Assembly convenes on January 8, 2025 – Pre-Session is our unofficial kick off – and our first educational event!

December 4 9:00 – 1:00 PM

See agenda [here](#)

[RSVP here](#)

More on the Electoral College and LWV's Moon Shot to Abolish It!

December 11 – 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Join us in this virtual event where we explore the League's Moon Shot Plan to abolish the antiquated Electoral College, which has roots in our racist past. This will be presented by LWV VA Board Member, Jane Newell.

[RSVP here](#)

Women's Legislative Roundtables 2025

Join us for the 2025 Legislative Roundtables! All will be hybrid - the zoom link will be the same for each roundtable. The in person sessions will be held at the Virginia General Assembly 7th Floor Conference Room

201 North 9th Street, Richmond. All begin at 8:30AM and end at 9:30 AM

Schedule:

Jan 8 Voting and Elections

Jan 15 Gun Violence/Domestic Violence

Jan 29 -Education/Physical Health

Feb 5 Childcare

Feb 12 Environment/Housing

Feb 19 – Virtual Wrap Up virtual only

[RSVP here](#)

League Day - Jan 22, 2025

Join us for League Day featuring the Constitutional Amendments supporting voting and reproductive rights!

9:00 - 11:00 AM Plated Breakfast and speakers

Then we go off to visit our delegates at the General Assembly!

Omni Richmond Hotel, 100 South 12th Street

\$35 per person

[RSVP here](#)

Omni is offering discounts of 10 percent off rack hotel rates - link not yet available.

Advocating for the League



Mary Crutchfield, Joan Porte, Faye Pritchard, Patricia Black Evers, Linda Rice and Chris de Rosa went as a team to advocate before the House Privileges and Elections Committee on behalf of the Voting Rights, Reproductive Rights, and Marriage Equality Constitutional Amendments. All of the bills we spoken in favor of made it out of Committee, for the General Assembly to consider in January. Well done, team!

Below, Patricia Black Evers testifies on behalf of the Marriage Equality Amendment.



Help Wanted

Social Media Team

Our social media guru, Candi Bradshaw, is stepping down. We thank her for her work to help keep us front and center!

There are so many aspects of social media that we would like to build a team to divide the up the work. Right now we are on Facebook, Threads, X, Snapchat, Instagram and TikTok. Please consider taking a one or even two of these and helping us get our messaging flowing. Contact Joan if you are interested!

Issue Group Leaders

We are in need of leaders for two issue groups; *Reproductive Rights* and *Behavioral Health/Criminal Justice*. These groups, like all issue groups, meet monthly to plan educational programs and work on legislation.

Thanks to Grace Lawler, whose hard work on the Reproductive Rights Group. She will be missed but we are so happy for her new job even though it will take her away from us a bit!

Contact Joan if you are interested!

LWV Virginia Conducts Elections for the Rappahannock Tribe



On November 9, 2024, President Joan Porte, state board member Jane Newell, and past president of LWV Arlington Alexandria, Connie Potter, conducted elections for the Rappahannock tribe.

It was a wonderful experience and we think Chief Anne Richardson (next to Joan) for the opportunity.

LWV US Action Alert on ERA

Equal Rights Amendment *It's Time!*



Sign the Alert [here](#)

The ERA will protect against the rollback of rights, provide a vital tool for the judicial branch to decide sex discrimination cases, and pave the way for further legislative progress toward sex and gender equality.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Evette Barton, LWV VA DEI Chair

DEI@lww-va.org

We are excited to announce the formation of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee as part of our ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive and equitable environment within our community. This initiative aims to bring together passionate individuals dedicated to making a meaningful impact. We are recruiting League members who share our goals and want to make a difference to serve on a LWV-VA DEI Committee.

Why Join?

- Collaborate with like-minded members to promote DEI values.

- Contribute to creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all.
- Develop and implement realistic and achievable goals that reflect our collective vision.

Our Goals:

1. Assess the current state of DEI within our organization.
2. Identify areas for improvement and set measurable objectives.
3. Implement strategies and initiatives that promote inclusivity.
4. Evaluate progress and adjust goals as needed to ensure continuous improvement.
5. Develop and Implement relevant workshops and training.

We believe that with your support and participation, we can make significant strides towards a more inclusive and equitable community. If you are interested in joining the DEI Committee, please reach out to Evette Barton [here](#)

Are you Politically Passionate? Join an Issue Group!

Issue Groups are the backbone of our advocacy plans as they work on testimony, identify legislation, and provide educational programs on the issues that we support. We need more people to become involved with this vital work. You don't need to be an expert in the field, you just need to be willing to learn and contribute.

We have a wide array of topics from behavioral health to reproductive rights, that you can find on our website [here](#).

Use the form there to join up...again, we are all learning together.

Issue Groups are only open to LWV VA members.

Key Dates for the General Assembly

As you prepare to advocate for the League, keep these key dates in mind. Find the list [here](#).

Educational Programs - Recordings

In November we sponsored two educational programs

One was on the pros and cons of citizen sponsored ballot initiatives and the other of the environmental cost of the proliferation of data centers.

These and ALL of our educational programs can be found on our YouTube channel [here](#).

Please become a follower of our channel!

Also, the LWV of the Fairfax Area held an excellent program on the origins of and issues with the Electoral College. The recording can be found [here](#)

December 2024 Calendar

Dec 3 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Giving Tuesday

Dec 4 - Pre Session

Dec 11 - The Electoral College Educational Forum (see above)

Dec 15 - Bill of Rights Day

[unsubscribe](#)
