

## December 2025 "eVoter"

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### LWV CVA Holiday Party

This has been a banner year for us and we'd like to celebrate it with all of our members!

Please join us at **Eastwood Winery** on Wednesday, **December 17th** from **5:30-7:30pm**

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### Youth Advocacy Training

Are you ready to take action against gun violence? [TeamENOUGH's](#) Youth Advocacy Training Program is now open for Virginia and Florida! No experience required. Apply now: [Youth Advocacy Training Program](#)

**Apply by Monday, Dec 1, 2025:** <https://www.bradyunited.org/enough>

**Team ENOUGH**, Brady's youth-led initiative, has opened applications for its **Youth Advocacy Training Program** in **Virginia** (and Florida).

This six-week, hands-on program trains young people (ages 13–26) to meet with lawmakers, advocate for GVP legislation, and develop leadership skills.

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**Save the Dates**  
*Upcoming Events*

December 3rd  
**Women's Legislative Roundtable Pre-Session**

**Virtual via Zoom**

**9am-1pm**

*Hosted by Joan Porte, President of the League of Women Voters of Virginia*

Legislators in the General Assembly talk about their plans for the new session beginning in January.

If you can't make it, sign up for it and you will be a recording of the event.

Register at Eventbrite [here](#)

December 8th  
**Pre Session General Assembly**

**Virtual via Zoom**

**7-8pm**

LWV CVA will join Senator Creigh Deeds, Delegate Katrina Callsen and Delegate Amy Laufer for a discussion of legislative priorities for the upcoming 2026 General Assembly. Come prepared to ask questions!

Register at Eventbrite [here](#)

December 13th  
**Sandy Hook Memorial Reading of the names of Gun Violence Victims**

**Downtown Mall**

**12pm**

Charlottesville Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention will be hosting the Sandy Hook Memorial on December 13th on the Downtown Mall. We will meet at the Central Place Fountain area again. Please join us in this moving act of remembrance for all victims of gun violence.

January 17th  
**Program Planning**

**The Center at Belvedere**

**11am-1:45pm**

Come join fellow league members as we review League Federal and State Positions and provide recommendations for updates. Our recommendations will be passed along to our state league and National in preparation for the National Convention in June 2026.

Come have your voice heard. Snacks will be provided.

Please come prepared, we strongly encourage you to review Impact on Issues 2024-2026, focusing on pages 12-17 for a Summary of Public Policy Positions. The link can be found here: [LWV Impact Issues](#) Feel free to delve deeper as you desire.

For Local Programs refer to the latest Member Handbook Pages 19-24. Looking forward to a great discussion.

## January 19th MLK Vigil and Advocacy Day

Mark your calendars for **Monday, January 19**, for the annual **MLK Vigil & Advocacy Day** in Richmond!

Details on bus transportation and a virtual prep meeting to go over the firearms bills (early December) will follow. Even if you plan to attend the Moms Demand Action Advocacy Day, please also plan to join the MLK event — strong turnout at both underscores the urgency of GVP to all legislators.

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## Committee News

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### **Voter Services Committee** by Kim Harris

And just like that, election season is over for another year! Picture me with a big smile on my face!!

Many, many thanks to everyone who volunteered to put up and retrieve election protection signs on Election Day. We now have a stash of signs stored for future elections, which is great!

I would like to thank everyone again for your volunteer work with Voter Services this year. We had a phenomenal amount of community engagement in so many different ways. Which leads me to 2026...

Are you interested in working with our youth more? We are going to focus on our area high schools in the spring, but it's not just voter registration, it's Civic Circles: Student Voices!

We are going to focus on Civic Circles planning at our next committee meeting - Tuesday, 9 December, at 5 pm on ZOOM! Contact [kwharris555@gmail.com](mailto:kwharris555@gmail.com) to get the zoom link.

### **Healthcare Taskforce** by Stephanie Lowenhaupt

On November 13th, the LWV-VA held a zoom presentation and discussion regarding the proposed concurrence to update the national Privatization position that will be introduced at the 2026 National Convention. Presenters were Judith Esterguest of LWV-NY and Barbara Pearson, LWV-MA. The Update would add healthcare to its enumeration of "public goods" and "human needs" and makes explicit that, under certain circumstances, the League may advocate for de-

privatization. League members are encouraged to watch the recording (please insert recording link here).

**Background:** At the LWV US Convention in June 2024, there was a LWV Vermont proposed update for the LWV US Privatization Position. The proposal was for LWV US to oppose the privatization of healthcare. The proposal did not pass.

LWV New York has revised the proposal presented in 2024, to be voted on at the 2026 LWV US Convention and is requesting state and local Leagues to support the following revised position:

*“The League believes that healthcare, like other programs that provide and protect basic human needs, should be considered a public good. The League favors a system where fiduciary responsibility (for such programs) is to patients and the public. Because private for-profit corporations have a fiduciary responsibility to their shareholders rather than to patients or public health, the League believes the for-profit business model for healthcare is inappropriate for the common good or to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable members of society.*

*In sum, the League opposes further privatization of needed healthcare. Where private entities fail to deliver programs that provide and protect basic human needs, the League supports de-privatizing them”*

To learn more about the proposal, please watch the recording: [Privatization Seminar Nov. 2025](#)

Our Local League will be discussing including this position locally and nationally during our Program Planning on January 17th. Questions may be directed to the [Health Care Task Force](#).

### **International Relations and Foreign Government** by Gerry Kruger

On November 20, 2025, Anita Pilling led our discussion of Ukraine at Linden House from 1:00 to 2:30 pm. Attending members were Carol Cutler, Donna Price, Rosalie Samari, Kathy Sudduth, Dena Imlay, Diane Skalak, Kerin Yates, Gerry Kruger, and Lois Sandy, our hostess. Ann Dagler, who recently moved to Linden House, met with us as well.

We discussed how Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has affected both countries economically, and militarily, and the human cost of the war. Following are some of the conclusions that we drew:

- Discontinuing US Aid not only causes harm to countries around the world but puts all of us in danger. Viruses and diseases will be allowed to spread to our country.
- Although we hope Ukraine doesn’t lose this war, there is concern that their military is corrupt, even their generals.
- Our defense could suffer because of our backing out of Ukraine. By refusing to continue aid to Ukraine, the United States risks losing customers in countries around the world who buy military equipment. This forces other countries to upgrade their equipment and compete with the United States.
- France prefers to spend money in Europe rather than in the US. They’re not interested in buying US products.
- Many of the best and brightest engineers and technicians are moving out of the US where their skills will be compensated fairly.

- Donna Price brought two maps that show the growing number of European NATO countries. This could have been a factor in Putin's determination to destroy future NATO countries that Russia might have to defend against.
- Perhaps the US should consider helping other countries economically rather than militarily.
- Russia doesn't get credit for some of the good things they've done, such as helping us win WWII and accomplishments in art and music.
- If Russia defeats Ukraine, China may be encouraged to attack Taiwan.
- People in countries run by authoritarians don't really understand democracy and can't understand the freedom that people claim democracies offer.

Anita Pilling will send out a list of topics for next year's meetings. We will vote on our choices using ranked choice.

*IR/FG will not meet in December*, but there will be a holiday party on December 17. More details about that are forthcoming. We will continue to meet on the third Thursday at 1:00 pm next year.

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## Update Your LWV-CVA Handbook

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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## LWV CVA Calendar of Events

### December 2025

*Mark your Calendars*

**December 3 9am-1pm, WLRT Pre-Session**, via Zoom

**December 8 7-8pm, General Assembly Pre-Session with Deeds, Calsen, and Lawson**, via Zoom

**December 9 5pm, Voter Services Meeting**, via Zoom  
Contact [kwharris555@gmail.com](mailto:kwharris555@gmail.com) for more information

**December 13 12pm, Sandy Hook Memorial, Downtown Mall**

**December 17 5:30-7:30pm, Holiday Party, Eastwood Winery**

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**League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area**

**President: Lisa Hilgartner**

**eVoter Editor: Jessica Harris**

**Visit our website: [lwv-cva.org](http://lwv-cva.org)**



**The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization,** encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We are committed to applying the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of our operations and activities. We support governmental policies that apply these principles in addressing the social, environmental and economic problems in our communities.

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