



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VIRGINIA

The Virginia Voter

100+ Years Strong

League of Women Voters of Virginia
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President's Message - Disability and the Right to Vote

Last year, LWV Virginia was assisting our friends at REV UP Virginia hosting a table at a disability conference in Richmond. A woman came to the table and proceeded to tell me a stunning story of her daughter's voting disenfranchisement that inadvertently resulted from the mother's efforts to protect her assets. Her daughter is a woman with Down's who was employed and had previously voted. Due to personal reasons, the mother sought guardianship to protect her assets. Her daughter was stunned when, the next time she went to vote, she was told that, due to the guardianship, she had lost her voting rights.

We are exploring this further with State Senator Barbara Favola, chair of the Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee and a member of the Virginia Behavioral Health Commission in a [letter](#) from REV UP and other partners. We are also exploring other options so stay tuned.

Guardianship should not be immediately interpreted as "mental incapacitation" to determine voting ability. This conflation can have terrible consequences like this one and may violate the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Thanks for all you do.

Happy 4th of July!

Joan

July is Disability Pride Month

In alignment with the July 1990 passing of the landmark [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA), disability month is celebrated every year in July. This observance aims to promote visibility and mainstream awareness of the positive pride felt by those within the disability community. Using bold images and powerful words, disability pride awareness events and parades strive to educate and empower people with and without disabilities. For us, pride comes from celebrating the unique experiences that we have as people with differing abilities and the contributions that we offer society.

For more, go to [Ameridisability here](#).

Local League: Montgomery County

The Montgomery County LWV helped celebrate Juneteenth at an event organized by the local branch of the NAACP, by registering new voters. Go, LWV! Pictured below is LWV Montgomery County President Gunin Kiran.



Not-So-Local League

Earlier this month, pop icon Cyndi Lauper invited the League to promote VOTE411.org on her West Hollywood Pride Parade float! Members of LWV of Greater Los Angeles, LWVUS staff, and LWVUS Board represented VOTE411 alongside Planned Parenthood and True Colors United volunteers.

Check it out on Instagram [here](#).

New LWWUS study around the Federal Judiciary for 2024-2026 biennium

The study will:

- o Engage legal and academic experts to help clarify judicial accountability, the role of rule of law, and safeguarding judicial independence,
- o Gain grassroots input from Leagues, and
- o Formulate a position around the Federal Judiciary for Leagues to use to carry out the mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

The study would also serve as a pilot for ways to streamline the process and procedures for effectuating a study within the League as it will be a one year study!

The decision to embark on this study was passed at last month's LWWUS Convention. Stay tuned for more details!

Anyone who wants to be considered for the study should fill out this [form](#).

LWV Council



We were all smiles at the LWV Council 2024! All local leagues sent delegates. We had a wonderful visioning project led by Krysta Jones, Membership Chair, and heard a presentation by Tom Carson, LWV California, about converting leagues to a [501 \(c\) 3](#).

LWWUS Convention

As this newsletter goes to press, Virginia delegates have just finished a rewarding, jam packed weekend with Leaguers from around the country. We'll share more details in next month's newsletter. For now, just know that Democracy has some great defenders!

Virtual Voter Registration for All Members of LWV Virginia, Partners and Individuals Interested in Doing Nonpartisan Voter Registration

July 13, 2024

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Conducted by the Virginia Board of Elections

This training will satisfy Commonwealth requirements to conduct third party voter registration drives for the period July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

All attendees MUST sign up by July 7, 2024 to receive the zoom link.

[SIGN UP HERE.](#)

*Effective July 1, 2013, all individuals or organizations requesting twenty-five (25) or more voter registration applications from the Department of Elections (ELECT) or local voter registration office must register for and complete ELECT certified training.

Meet Our Interns!

LWV-VA has new interns! Here are three of them:



I am Kristin Choi, a rising senior at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, pursuing a degree in political science. Currently, I am an intern with the League of Women Voters, where I am dedicated to empowering voters and protecting democratic processes. My responsibilities include ensuring the community has access to accurate and comprehensive election information. In my spare time, I delight in reading and taking invigorating jogs in my local park. Additionally, I am passionate about animal welfare and frequently volunteer at my local animal shelter, where I cherish spending time with cats and advocating for their care.



I am Meredie Cohen, a rising sophomore history major at the College of William & Mary. My passion for social justice drew me both to my major—I wanted to understand how inequities form—and to my internship with the League of Women Voters of Virginia. With the League, in an effort to inform people on how to access their right to vote, I am creating a guide for Virginia voters. Outside of the League, I volunteer to encourage voter registration via phone banking. In my free time, I like to read and work on my grilled-cheese-making skills.



I am Jason Griffin a Virtual Reality Design graduate from Shenandoah University. I've done an internship with the Air and Space Museum with the Video Production Team there. My skills are in 3D modeling with Blender & Maya Adobe, Creative Cloud Proficiency, Mandarin Chinese C# & Python scripting, Unity Business of ARVR and 360 Film Production SQL.




Ethan Bhatia is a rising sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania studying economics and data science. After watching the rapid growth of misinformation on topics of health and democracy following the COVID pandemic, Ethan developed an interest in how emerging technologies can be used to detect misinformation and protect democracy. This summer, Ethan is excited to explore these topics with the League, and can't wait to dive into some of the interesting projects ahead.

Create a more perfect union!

D.C. STATEHOOD

for 700,000 people who live here



and a Federal District for the U.S. Capital

DC League of Women Voters
www.lwvdc.org

Support Statehood for Washington DC!

More people live in DC than the entire state of Wyoming, and yet the District has no voting representation in Congress. Tell Congress to stop treating them like a colony! The League of Women Voters has supported full representation in Congress and self-determination for Washington, DC since 1938. Want more information? See: [DC Statehood - League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia \(lwvdc.org\)](https://www.lwvdc.org/DC-Statehood)

July 2024 Calendar

July 1 - Anniversary of 26th amendment, lowering voting age to 18

July 4 - Independence Day

July 18 - Nelson Mandela Day

July 19 and 20 - Anniversary of Seneca Falls Convention

July 30 - World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

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