



June 2026 "eVoter"

2026 Annual Meeting and Democra-Tea

We will hold our Annual Meeting on **June 13** from **2:00-4:00pm** at the **Unitarian Universalist Church** to elect new officers, vote on positions and priorities for the 2026–2027 year, approve the budget, and hear highlights from the past year along with plans for the year ahead! Light refreshments and drinks will be provided.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Corinne T. Field, Associate Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality in the History Department at UVA, as our guest speaker. Dr. Field will speak on her current research which focuses on the contributions of older women to the women's suffrage movement.

A Win For Campus Safety

A Hard-Won Victory for Gun Safety on Virginia Campuses

On May 12th, Governor Abigail Spanberger signed legislation making it illegal — not just a matter of policy — to carry firearms on Virginia's college and university campuses. This long-sought victory is especially meaningful at UVA, where three football players lost their lives to gun violence.

The bill was championed by Senator Creigh Deeds and Delegate Katrina Callsen, who persisted through previous vetoes to see it become law. We are grateful to all who worked tirelessly to make our campuses safer for students and families.

Membership Renewal

Renewal time is upon us! For most members who paid dues prior to January 2025, our renewal date is July 1, 2026. LWV-US has already

sent your renewal notice — look for an email with the subject line "MEMBERSHIP," and **check your spam folder if you don't see it.**

Before your busy summer begins, take a few minutes to renew!

Dues remain at \$75 this year, with a sliding scale starting at \$20 for those who need it. Your dues cover membership in both LWV-US and LWV-VA — our local League receives 20% of what you pay, which works out to \$15 of a \$75 payment or \$4 of a \$20 payment.

You can renew using the link in the LWV-US email or through [our website](#) or using [this link](#). If paying by credit card, we now use Zeffy instead of PayPal — meaning no processing fees are deducted from your payment. Renewing through our website nets our local League more of your membership fee. Credit card payments also now offer the option to set up auto-renewal, a new feature this year!

If you choose to pay by check, make payment to: LWV-CVA with MEMBERSHIP on the MEMO line.

Save the Dates *Upcoming Events*

June 20

Louisa African American Heritage Festival

We will be back with a booth at the African American Heritage Festival at Moss-Nuckols Elementary School this year! This free, family-friendly event is dedicated to celebrating, preserving, and sharing Black history, arts, and culture. As always, we are proud to be a part of this annual event. Come out, enjoy the festival and stop by to say hi!

June 23

NRC Zoom Talk: The Risks of Sewage Sludge

7:00pm

Join the Natural Resources Committee for a free public Zoom presentation featuring Stuart Overbey, a rural Albemarle County resident and founder of [Don't Spread On Me](#), a grassroots organization raising awareness about the use of biosolid sludge containing PFAS as fertilizer on farms and forests. Learn how this practice affects all of us and how you can support local efforts to regulate this use to better protect our natural resources and our health.

Although this program is addressed to Albemarle County, the risks extend to all surrounding communities.

Contact Peggy at peggygilges@me.com for the Zoom link.

Updates

LWV-VA Biennial Council

LWV-VA will hold their virtual biennial Council on June 6.

President Lisa Hilgartner and Vice President Stephanie Lowenhaupt will serve as LWV-CVA's voting delegates at this year's LWV-VA Virtual Biennial Council. Look for a recap in the July eVoter.

LWV-US Biennial Convention

LWV-US will hold their Biennial Convention in Columbus, Ohio June 25-28.

President Lisa Hilgartner and Vice President Stephanie Lowenhaupt will attend in person as voting delegates for LWV-CVA. Meg Heubeck, GVP Director and former LWV-CVA President, will join virtually as our third voting delegate. A full recap will appear in the July eVoter.

May in Review



Batesville Day Parade

May 2, 2026

League members turned out in fine form for this annual community celebration! Lisa Hilgartner led the way in suffragist attire, marching alongside Stephanie Lowenhaupt and Lucy Aslett. Kim and Sam Harris and Pam Dolgin staffed our tent, where attendees young and old stopped by to test their voting knowledge on the trivia wheel. The League was well received, and a good time was had by all!



Healthy Streets, Healthy People

May 30, 2026

LWV CVA hosted a table, again, at the Healthy Streets, Healthy People festival at Washington Park. The festival had a wonderful turnout and our volunteers shared voter guides, information on the three proposed constitutional amendments, and resources to help young people become savvy, critical consumers of social media — an increasingly important skill in an age of misinformation and disinformation.

Committee News

Voter Services Committee by Kim Harris

Are you ready for the upcoming election season? Voter Services is! We have new information for our tabling events, including the proposed Va Constitutional amendments, as well as some new, fun swag. Come join us!

We just attended the Healthy Streets, Healthy People Festival in Washington Park. As usual, our Trivia Wheel was a hit (or should I say, the candy was...)!

We're excited to be tabling at the Louisa African American Heritage Festival on Saturday, 20 June. Come see us and enjoy the festivities there! It's always a great event!

Natural Resources Committee by Peggy Gilges

Our Essential Resource: Water

Thank goodness for some rainy days recently! According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#), as of May 26, central Virginia is in a state of extreme drought, with rainfall totals running well below normal. Keep an eye on it—we can probably all be more efficient with our water usage if we do.

Data Centers, etc.

The NRC continues to monitor the AI/data center boom in Virginia. The Virginia General Assembly has [not yet settled on a budget](#) for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, stuck on the issue of whether Virginia can afford to continue its generous tax breaks to data centers. (Last year those tax breaks amounted to \$1.9 Billion.)

Meanwhile Louisa County is in the process of building data center campuses for Amazon, [causing anxiety for residents](#) over the impacts of these massive projects on their quality of life.

Data center construction is just the tip of the iceberg; new fracked gas pipelines, compressor stations, methane-fueled power plants, and transmission lines are being forced on communities at an accelerating pace to supply AI enterprises with the power they demand in the quest for industry dominance. Virginia residents are paying for it with higher electricity bills (building out that infrastructure!), damage to our climate (lots more fossil fuels burned!), dirtier air (diesel backup generators, new gas power plants!), risks to our water supplies (millions of gallons per day for data center cooling, millions more for fracked gas power plants!), plus 24/7 industrial sound and light for those unlucky enough to be living nearby. Unfortunately the expansion of the AI data center industry is spreading across the country, afflicting virtually every state. See [Brockovich AI Data Center reporting](#) for an overview.

Save the Date! Tuesday June 23rd zoom with Stuart Overbey

NRC will host a free zoom talk, open to all, given by Stuart Overbey. She is a resident of rural Albemarle County who couldn't ignore the known risks of using sewage sludge as a fertilizer on farms and forests. She founded [Don't Spread On Me,](#) a grass-roots organization, to educate the public about this practice and the risks it poses. Please join us on the evening of June 23rd to learn how the use of sewage sludge affects all of us, and how we can support local efforts to regulate this use to better protect both our natural resources and our health.

Contact [Peggy Gilges](#) for more information about the LWVCVA's Natural Resources Committee.

In Memoriam

Virginia "Ginny" de Simone

We mourn the passing of Virginia "Ginny" de Simone, a dedicated League leader and longtime member of LWV-CVA.

Ginny served as LWV-VA President from 1993–1996 and as First Vice President of LWV-US in the 1990s. Drawing on her experience chairing the LWV-US Lobby Corps, she recruited and trained League members to advocate directly with members of Congress and the Virginia General Assembly on legislation where the League held positions. She was especially passionate about the issue of money in politics.

After many years of service in Arlington, Ginny became a cherished member of our local League. She will be greatly missed.

Update Your LWV-CVA Handbook WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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LWV CVA Calendar of Events June 2026

Visit our [website calendar](#) for more information

June 5 4pm, Natural Resources Meeting, Piedmont Environmental Council Office

June 6, LWV VA Council Meeting, Virtual

June 9 5pm, Voter Services Meeting, via Zoom
Contact kwharris555@gmail.com to join

June 13 2pm, LWV CVA Annual Business Meeting, Unitarian Universalist Church

June 18 1pm, IR/FG Meeting, Our Lady of Peace Assisted Living Facility

June 18 3pm, Board of Directors Meeting, via Zoom

June 20 10am, Louisa African American Heritage Festival, Moss-Nuckols Elementary School

June 23 7pm, NRC Community Dialogue: The Risk of Sewage Sludge, via Zoom

Contact [Peggy Gilges](#) for Zoom link

June 25-28, LWV US National Convention, Columbus Ohio

League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area

President: Lisa Hilgartner

eVoter Editor: Jessica Harris

Visit our website: lww-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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