



## **League in Action**

February 3, 2021

### **President's Message**

Is it February already? Good grief. Anyway, we look ahead to a new month and a new program. We are beginning our adult civics education program! **We want to provide basic civics instruction** for people who hadn't thought about it since grade school.

**Our first meeting** is this month on

March 1 – 1 pm

--- join us! It will be a fun learning process for all of us!

Looking down the calendar – keep a few dates in mind:

May 21- 23, 2021 – LWW VA virtual Convention

June 5, 2021 – LWW Arlington virtual Annual Meeting

Onward!

**Thanks,**

Joan

---

## **Vision Zero in Arlington and Alexandria City**

**Both Arlington and Alexandria City have Vision Zero efforts designed to eliminate traffic fatalities.**

Arlington is in the process of finalizing their plan and is having a community forum on Feb 11.

Information is below. If anyone is interested in "attending" and reporting back please let me know.

Alexandria is looking for partners in their effort. More information is here:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/VisionZero>

Again, if anyone in Alexandria is interested in watching and reporting on their program, please let me know!

[Find more information here](#)

---

## **Can You Contact Your Virginia Legislator on Campaign Finance?**

**Campaign finance laws protect representative democracy** from distortion and add transparency so voters can make informed choices.

Unfortunately, Virginia's campaign finance laws rank 47th out of 50 states.

- **Virginia is one of only five that do not limit contributions.**
- **Virginia does not prohibit candidates from using campaign funds for personal expenses.**

**The ethics council and other entities have no authority to enforce any consequences.**

There are several bills before the General Assembly that would tighten this issues but we need to make sure that your members hear from you.

More talking points can be found below. Please let your voice be heard. (And then complete the advocacy challenge form to record your action.)

[Talking points](#)

[Advocacy challenge](#)

---

## **Local Legislators advance bills to prevent gun violence**

The League supports consumer safety including gun violence prevention. Bills advanced by members of the Arlington delegation to the General Assembly are now in progress to support firearms safety.

**SB 1382 (Senator Favola)** proposed to disarm domestic abusers. These bills prohibit those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence from possessing firearms and has passed out of the Judiciary Committee and has been referred to Finance and

Appropriations.

**SB 1381 (Senator Ebbin)** proposed to prohibit guns from Capitol Square and state government buildings, except weapons in vehicles in parking lots and garages. It has been amended and passed the Senate yesterday.

**HB 2128 (Delegate Lopez)**, which extends criminal records checks for firearm sales, has passed the House.

You can follow all legislation at <https://lis.virginia.gov/>

Read about progress of gun violence prevention legislation in the General Assembly in the news at [wavy.com](http://wavy.com) posted Jan 27

Remember to Record All State Advocacy

---

## **Arlington's Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission Observer(s) Needed**

The League needs observers to the Arlington Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission, (C2E2).

C2E2 advises and assists the Arlington County Board in meeting Arlington's commitment to climate action

The group meets monthly; of course, it is virtual.

Let us know if you are interested in following this important issue.

[More information is available here](#)

[Read the call for Environmental Commission Observers here](#)

Alexandria City residents - Alexandria has a Climate Change Task Force!!

[Find information on the Alexandria Climate Task Force here](#)

We need to hear from both areas!

Let me know and thank you!

---

## **Arlington County is Hosting "Listening Tours" of Its "Missing Middle Housing Study."**

Arlington County has been working on the "Missing Middle" program to study ways to incorporate ways to introduce more housing types to assure better diversity and affordability. They are hosting several "listening tours" which you are encouraged to attend.

We have several talking points in our Housing Policy which you may choose to use if you want to make comments (see below.) Arlington has a housing problem and will soon price itself out of the chance to have teachers, first responders and other vital

professions able to live her. The League supports efforts to diversify housing and encourages all members to learn about these efforts to rectify the problem.

**Feb 3 - TODAY! - 7 PM - for 22204 and 22206**

<https://housing.arlingtonva.us/events/housing-arlington-listening-tour-missing-middle-housing-study-22204-22206/>

**Feb 4 - 7 PM for 22203, 22205, 22201, 22209**

<https://housing.arlingtonva.us/events/housing-arlington-listening-tour-missing-middle-housing-study-22203-22205-22201-22209/>

**IF YOU WANT TO REPORT** ANYTHING FROM THESE MEETINGS TO OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE **PLEASE EMAIL -**  
[LWVARLINGTONVA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LWVARLINGTONVA@GMAIL.COM)

**The committee meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7 PM. if you are interested in joining us - let us know.**

### **Arlington Housing Position**

-Efforts in Arlington to retain and expand affordable housing geared primarily towards those with incomes 60- 80 percent of the median income or below

-Expansion by the County of methods and programs to protect elderly residents with limited resources from displacement

-Increased emphasis by the County on programs to enable low-and middle- income households to purchase homes

-The development by the County of additional low-cost rental housing for the mentally

and physically disabled

-Efforts to reverse historic systemic racism in zoning practices

The entire policy can be found at:

<https://my.lwv.org/virginia/arlington/position/affordable-housing>

---

## EVENTS

**February 3 - TODAY!**

**February 10**

**League of Women Voters of Virginia – Women’s Legislative Roundtables**

(WLRT) 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

WLRTs will be virtual – so tune in and see all of the great work the League is doing this year.



**Feb 3 & 10 – 8:30 AM**

[RSVP here](#)

**February 22**

**League of Women Voters of Arlington – Dialogue on Race and Equality**

Feb 22 – 1 PM–3 PM

The LWV Arlington is participating in the Arlington County "Dialogues on Race and Equity" initiative. We will be conducting two small interactive virtual dialogues among League members to learn and discuss race and equity in Arlington. These are private, hands-on work. **Kristen Shattuck**, League Member, will facilitate the Challenging Racism curriculum. Everyone has different experiences, backgrounds, insights, opinions, and beliefs about race and equity.





**Space is very limited – so if you RSVP but learn you cannot attend, please cancel so we can open it to someone else.**

**Feb 22 - 1 - 3 PM**

[RSVP here](#)

**February 22**

**Join the League of Women Voters of Virginia for TRIVIA NIGHT  
in honor of the birth of Congressman John Lewis**

Feb 22- 6 PM



How will you be commemorating Congressman John Lewis' birthday (February 21)? Join your LWV - VA friends for a fun evening of virtual trivial via Zoom and Kahoot (a web based learning/trivia platform) on February 22 from 6pm-7pm.

Try your hand at questions like "Was the LWV founded by Carrie Nation, Carrie Catt,

Carrie Fisher, or Carrie Stanton Blatch? " Or, who said, "Ain't I a Woman?" You bring your snacks and beverages, we will supply the platform, questions and fun! Register today.

Please have two different devices available - for example a cell phone and a laptop.

[RSVP here](#)

**Save the dates!**

**May 21- 23**

### **LWV VA virtual Convention**

This year's theme is Democracy for All – Now is the Time.

**June 5**

Our **Annual Meeting** will be June 5, 2021 – 9 AM

Yes, we will still sadly be virtual but at least we can be together in some way.

---

**League testimony before General Assembly January, 2021**

P&E Elections Subcommittee



**Joan** testifying for the LWV Virginia before the **Virginia House Privileges and Elections Committee** in opposition to **HB 2278**, requiring voters to declare for a political party before voting. The bill did not pass.



**Lisa Koteen Gerchick** testifying to the **Senate privileges and elections committee** on **SB 1331** absentee voting: accessibility for Voters with visual impairment or print disability



**Julia Tanner** testifying before **Senate privileges and elections committee** on **SB 1245** allowing drop-off locations and curing of ballots

---

## **FOR THE BIG PICTURE**

### **Virginia Museum of History and Culture virtual programs**

**If you got a chance to visit** the VA Musuem of History and Culture during last year's League Day festivities, you know how much wonderful information they have to share. They are continuing with fantastic virtual programs including mythbusting historical movies and lecture series on the history of Virginia.

[Find more information here](#)

**From the National Constitution Center -**

## **Restoring the Guardrails of Democracy**

Feb 4 – 11 AM - **TOMORROW**

Join National Constitution Center, in partnership with the SNF Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins University, for a discussion on “Renewing the Republic”: a program exploring how to “restore the guardrails” of democracy—or ways to strengthen American constitutional democracy, structurally and normatively, against future threats and insurrections.

Leading commentators **Anne Applebaum**, SNF Agora Senior Fellow, Pulitzer-prize winning historian, and staff writer for The Atlantic; **Daniel Ziblatt**, political scientist and a professor at Harvard University and co-author of How Democracies Die; and Pulitzer-prize winning journalist **George Will**, will join moderator **Jeffrey Rosen** for a wide-ranging conversation.

[Get the link here](#)

---

## **LWV-VA Virginia Voter February, 2021**

### **Jim Crow Must Go! Support for SJ272**

President **Deb Wake**

### **Partnership Spotlight - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority**

**Yvonne Lewis**, Immediate Past Virginia Social Action Coordinator, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and LWV-South Hampton Roads

### **Legislative Update: Pandemic Version**

by **Julia Tanner**, Action Coordinator, LWV-VA

### **New Virginia Redistricting Commission Begins Work**

by **Chris DeRosa**, LWV-VA Redistricting Committee Coordinator  
and **Sara Fitzgerald**, LWV Falls Church

### **It's Trivia Time Again!**

Monday, February 22, 6-7 p.m. (See in events above)

### **Calling all Social Planners**

by **Krysta Jones**, Chair New Member Task Force

### **Virginia League Convention 2021 to be Held Online**

### **Important Dates in February**

**Feb. 1** First day of Black History Month

**Feb. 3** WLRT (Women's Legislative Roundtable). Register here.

**Feb. 6** International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

**Feb. 10** WLRT (Women's Legislative Roundtable). Register here.

**Feb. 20** World Day of Social Justice

**Feb. 22** Trivia Night. Register here.

**Feb. 24** Barriers to Women's Political Leadership

**Feb. 25** LWV-VA Board Meeting

Read the February Virginia Voter here

---

**FROM LWV US**

**ACTION ALERT - For The People Act**



The 117th Congress has made the *For the People Act* their top priority. [The League supports this comprehensive democracy reform bill](#) (known as H.R.1 in the House, and S.1 in the Senate) with important provisions, including the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*, fair redistricting, D.C. statehood, and more!



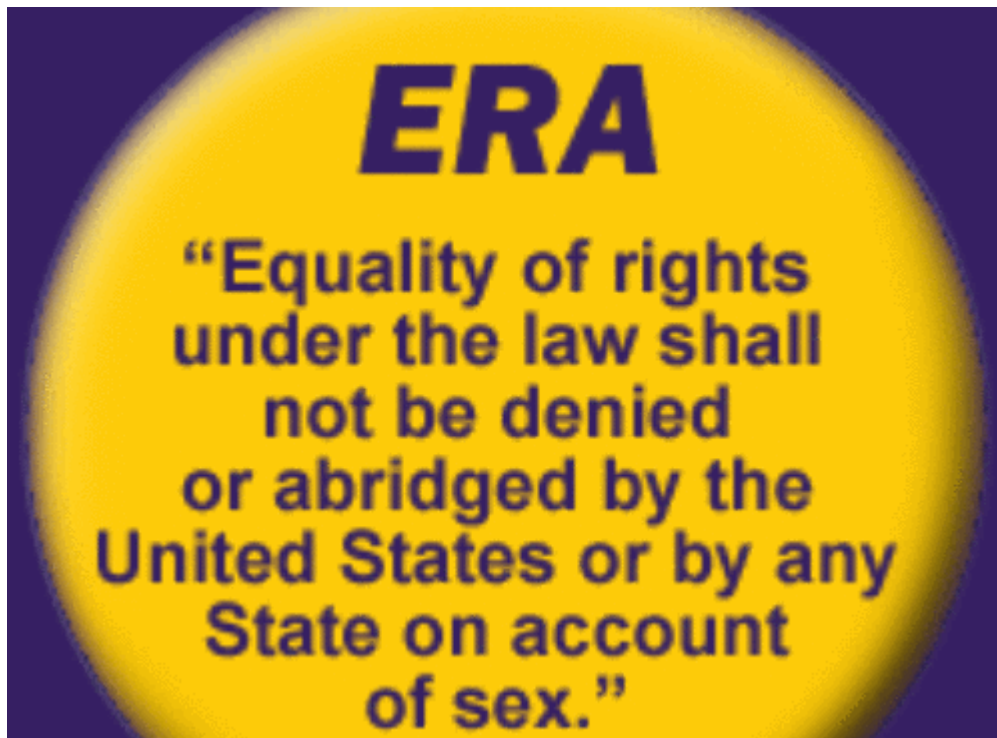
**Contact your Representative TODAY and tell them to pass the For The People Act.**

## **How to Engage in Federal Advocacy for the For the People Act**

Earlier this month, the House of Representatives reintroduced H.R. 1 or the For the People Act. This bill comprises a bold, transformative set of reforms to strengthen our democracy and return political power to the people. A House vote on the For the People Act is expected to take place in the next couple of weeks. For anyone hoping to help advocate for the passage of this bill, LWVUS has put together a comprehensive toolkit that includes sample social media posts and graphics, letter to the editor templates, talking points, and a summary of the bill itself. This is a great resource for any work you want to do around the For the People Act.

[\*\*Find talking points here\*\*](#)

**ACTION ALERT - New Hope for the ERA**



**This month, the House and Senate introduced legislation to remove the time limit on the Equal Rights Amendment** and finally include it in our Constitution! The League has supported ratification of the ERA since it was first passed by Congress in 1972, and we have worked for decades to see ratification by the states.

Last year, Virginia ratified the ERA, bringing the total state count to the required 38. Now it is time for the legislative branch to pass it and finally include women in the U.S. Constitution.

Reach out to your Representative now and urge them to support legislation to remove the ERA's ratification deadline.

**LWVUS priorities for federal legislation on climate change and**

## affordable healthcare

The Biden administration has quickly gotten down to work and is supporting a number of League priorities, including a [commitment to tackle climate change](#) and providing [quality and affordable health care](#) for all Americans. [The League sent a memo to the new administration](#) outlining our top priorities, and we look forward to working alongside lawmakers to advance voting rights and make democracy work.

---

### Committees

**Feb 15** – 7 PM – **Redistricting** – contact **Ann Sharp** - [Sharpab2828@gmail.com](mailto:Sharpab2828@gmail.com)

**Feb 17** – 7 PM – **Election Integrity** – contact **Lisa Koteen Gerchick**  
[Lkoteengerchick@gmail.com](mailto:Lkoteengerchick@gmail.com)

**Feb 21** – 2 PM – **Book Group** – contact **Joan** – [Joan@joanporte.com](mailto:Joan@joanporte.com)  
book - *The Accidental President's: Eight Men Who Changed America*  
by **Jared Cohen**

**Feb 22** – 7 PM – **Affordable Housing** - contact **Joan** – [Joan@joanporte.com](mailto:Joan@joanporte.com)

**Mar 1** – 1 PM - **Civics** – Join our Civics Education Program -  
**Help us spread the word on Civics** – contact **Joan** [Joan@joanporte.com](mailto:Joan@joanporte.com)

---

**Look for next newsletter February 17**



---

*Copyright © 2021 League of Women Voters - Arlington, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

