

Empowering Voters.
Protecting Democracy.

REACHING LWVCM

Voice Mail:
704-556-4600

E-mail:
communications@goleaguego.org

On the Web:
www.goleaguego.org
[www.facebook.com/League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg](https://www.facebook.com/League_of_Women_Voters_of_Charlotte_Mecklenburg)

Instagram:
<https://www.instagram.com/lwvcm>

Twitter:
@lwvcm

Newsletter Editor:
Sara Baysinger
newslettereditor@goleaguego.org

1900 Queens Road, Suite A
Charlotte, NC 28207

In This Issue:

Page 2	Coming Events
Page 3	League Action
Page 4-5	President's Address
Page 5	2022-2023 Slate
Page 6	New Members
Page 7	LWVUS Convention
Page 8	LWV License Plate

More at goleaguego.org

VOTE! The Charlotte Municipal Election is Tuesday, July 26! This very unusual election timing was necessitated by the delayed 2020 US Census. Urge your Charlotte neighbors to VOTE!

Voter

Newsletter for July-August 2022

Voters Urged to Use Nonpartisan Voter Guide Ahead of July 26 Election

VOTE411.org is now available to Mecklenburg County residents in the lead up to the July 26 Municipal General Election for the City of Charlotte. Early voting is underway at 13 sites and will conclude on Saturday, July 23 at 3pm. After that time, voters will need to vote at their assigned precincts on Tuesday, July 26 between 6:30am and 7:30pm.

Available in English and Spanish, VOTE411.org is a comprehensive resource on voting information, where voters can enter their address to learn about the policy positions of candidates, find an early voting location in Mecklenburg County, confirm their Election Day polling place, and take the guesswork out of the absentee-by-mail process.

Voters in Mecklenburg can access personalized candidate voter guides. The League has contacted all the candidates, giving them the opportunity to provide voters with their contact information, responses to broad survey questions, and personal profiles. Thank you to all candidates running in the City of Charlotte municipal election who have responded to the VOTE411.org Voter Guide so that voters can be informed before casting their vote. Want more information on a candidate? Encourage them to participate in VOTE411.org.

"Local races—like those taking place on July 26 in North Carolina—are ground zero in the fight for free and fair elections," says Marian Lewin, 1st VP of the LWVNC. "It is the League's hope that a large number of voters will participate this month, as something of a pre-amble to the crucially important mid-terms that will take place in November."



POSTAGE INCREASE ALERT for ABSENTEE-BY-MAIL VOTERS

The U.S. Postal Service increased the price of a First-Class Mail stamp from 58¢ to 60¢ this month. Absentee-by-mail voters will need 60¢ in postage or one Forever stamp on their ballot-return envelope before mailing it back to the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections office.

Make a plan to vote in the July 26 Charlotte Municipal General Election.

Coming Events

Coming Up in July, August, & September

- **July 26**, 6:30am to 7:30pm - Municipal General Election for the City of Charlotte
- **July 26**, 7pm - Book Club talk on Charlotte Walsh Likes to Win by Jo Piazza
- **Aug. 3**, 10am - Education Action Team Meeting
- **Aug. 18**, 2pm - Environment & Sustainability Action Team Meeting
- **Aug. 21**, 11:30am - Charlotte Pride Parade
- **Aug. 27**, 2pm - Women's Equality Day Celebration "Women Firsts": Representation and Real Political Power
- **Sept. 6**, 6:15pm - Board Meeting
- **Sept. 7**, 10am - Education Action Team Meeting
- **Sept. 10**, 1pm - Board Orientation
- **Sept 13**, TBD - The Carter Center's Coalition for Trusted Elections Town Hall in Charlotte
- **Sept. 15**, 2pm - Environment & Sustainability Action Team Meeting
- **Sept. 20**, 6:30pm - League Talk
- **Sept. 22**, 6pm - Civics 101 Fall Program Kickoff (Session 1 of 6)
- **Sept. 29**, 6pm - Civics 101 Fall Program (Session 2 of 6)

HIGHLIGHTS

The **Municipal Election for the City of Charlotte** is July 26, with early voting concluding on July 23 at 3pm.

Come read with us! **The LWVCM Book Club** will meet on July 26 to discuss Charlotte Walsh Likes to Win.

The **2022 Charlotte PRIDE Parade** will take place on August 21. The Pride Parade is the largest parade in Charlotte, and offers us a terrific opportunity to let the public know we support the LGBTQ+ community and civil liberties for all. We will be working hard to get out the vote with a voter registration table in the festival area. Get ready to march sporting Pride logo LWV swag from our [Café Press shop](#)!

The LWVCM is partnering with the American Association of University Women Charlotte (AAUW) to celebrate **Women's Equality Day** on August 27 with a program called "Women Firsts: Representation and Real Political Power" at the Myers Park Baptist Church Education Center, Room 250. The program will feature a panel of five local women who represent all women who have broken barriers.

The Carter Center, in collaboration with local Leagues, will host the **Coalition for Trusted Elections Town Hall Series** in Charlotte on September 13.



League Action & Happenings

"Felon Law" Kicks in July 27

The new "Felon Law" is set to take effect on July 27, one day after the Charlotte Municipal Election.

Currently if you have been convicted of a felony and served your sentence, but are still on parole, you cannot vote. Starting July 27, those who have been convicted of a felony, served their sentence, but are still on parole and owe restitution can now register to vote. New forms are being printed since the current form has language that makes signing a felony.

LWVCM members who are active with Voter Services events should be cognizant of the need to use the correct forms. LWVNC Board Liaison and Chair of Voter Services Regan Aduddell has plans to work with NC Legal Justice Center and VoteRiders in early October to assist parolee's in getting registered. She will be looking for volunteers as this effort gets organized.

Civics 101 Returns with In-Person and Virtual Attendance

The Civics 101 team is planning the Fall Program! Dates have been set and rooms reserved at the Government Center to host this event. Reserve your spot by sending an email to: lwvcmcivics101@gmail.com ! Everyone on the waiting list will be contacted in mid-August when it is time to register.

The Program will be offered both in-person and virtually (Zoom) at a cost of \$60 per person. Six sessions covering the Board of Elections, Mecklenburg County Government, City of Charlotte Government, CMS/ Board of Education, NC Court System and a media panel will be held on successive **Thursday evenings from September 22 through October 27.**



State Board of Elections Rejects "Signature-Matching" Proposal After Hundreds of League Members Speak Out

More than 8,000 public comments were raised to the NCBOE in opposition to the Signature-Matching proposal that would require election workers to compare the voter registration signatures against those on absentee ballots. Opponents view the proposal as potentially problematic for elderly and disabled voters, not to mention inviting human error.

The LWVNC Endorses the Carter Center's Coalition for Trusted Elections

The initiative was presented to the LWVNC board and is being led by Suzanne Elsberry, League President of Charlotte Mecklenburg. League chapters are serving as key partners, assisting with hosting, and promoting a series of town halls in North Carolina's 14 Congressional Districts from August to October 2022. The town hall meetings, one strategic effort of the Carter Center's NC program, will educate attendees on electoral processes in NC, strengthen their confidence in our election system and officials, and bolster belief in the integrity of the

Town Halls in or near Mecklenburg:

9/13 Charlotte
9/14 Belmont
9/15 Albemarle
9/21 Hickory
9/22 Wilkesboro
9/27 Southern Pines

election process. Town Halls will feature bi-partisan panels including county Elections Board officials, attorneys, operatives from both major parties, media personalities, cyber security experts and government officials familiar with threats to election law.

The Carter Center, a non-partisan organization established in 1982, has been monitoring elections outside the U.S. for decades to strengthen democracy, resolve conflicts and fight disease. Results from a pilot study implemented prior to the 2020 elections revealed the concerning trends of: Polarization, Dehumanizing of people, Confusion, Disinformation and Disruption, threats against peaceful transfer of power after an election, and most disturbing: loss of support for Basic Democratic Norms.

Thus, the decision was made to bring the center's experience and expertise back to the U.S. to help mitigate these threats. The Carter Center is targeting 4 states, including North Carolina, in which studies indicate there may be elevated risks for these problems likely to escalate during the 2022 elections.

Former Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts and retired NC Supreme Court Justice Robert Orr are directing the primary strategies centered around establishing networks of community leaders and organizations willing to advocate for and endorse the North Carolina program.

As liaison for the collaborative effort, Suzanne Elsberry reports finding participating League leaders as very enthusiastic about the events in their districts and eager to assist.

LWVCM President's Annual Meeting Address



LWVCM members gathered on June 16 for our Annual Meeting. Though many braved a horrendous storm to do so, others were unable to venture out. President Suzanne Elsberry delivered her "State of the Union" excerpted here:

Last June, at the beginning of our 2021 year, LWVCM faced two significant challenges: securing a new home and resurrecting our Civics 101 program. Thanks to the persistence and talent of a few dedicated members both challenges were met with timeliness, aplomb, and efficiency. We owe the following members a huge debt of gratitude: John Lee, Cate Stadelman, Lucille Howard, Margaret Howe-Soper, Linda Levy, Margaret Fritze, Jane Hoffmann, Shanda Martin, Sara Baysinger, Stacey Jenkins, Leta Bosc, Connor Choka, Kelly Hofstatter, Regan Aduddell, and Shannon Mullaly.

Our Action Team Leaders, whose reports appeared in our last VOTER, should also be congratulated for their yeoman's job of leading webinars, coalitions, zoom meetings, panels, roundtables, forums, letter and telephone campaigns, rallies, marches, lobbying, advocacy, hearings, workshops, and conferences. These extraordinary leaders sacrifice their time, energy, and treasure to assure the smooth

and impactful operation of the League. ALL our volunteers and donors are vital to our efforts and without their dedication and generosity the League could not exist.

Exciting events this year include the merger of Union County Members-at-Large with our chapter and the pending transition to Club Express, a management tool which will help us connect more effectively in the future. Of course, the relocation of our office from the Midwood International Cultural Center to the Myers Park Baptist Church has been a big change, yet we are settling in nicely.

Personally, I enjoyed an incredibly busy and productive year: I had the honor of representing our chapter at the State Council in Morehead and attending the National Convention in Denver, Colorado where I lobbied for the ultimately successful adoption of the National Popular Vote into the LWVUS program. I also marched with the NC delegation and hundreds of other convention attendees to the Colorado Capital to protest the SCOTUS decision to overturn ROE, announced on the second day of the meeting.

*Having reviewed our year, I would like to turn to some national issues of concern to consider acting upon as leaguers or as individual citizens. **Our democracy is hanging by a thread!** One has but to listen to the January 6th Select Commission hearings to understand that our democracy is severely threatened. LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase Solomon said, "our democracy was assaulted by criminal seditious...who stormed our nation's capital in a deadly attempt to overturn the will of the people in the 2020 election...we support the bi-partisan January 6 Commission to provide a road map for action to ensure our democracy isn't threatened in that manner again." The League, even after 102 years, is still strong, still relevant, and still determined to empower the vote, realizing that every single vote means life or death for our democracy! Unless and until we as voters hold accountable those who ruthlessly promote anti-democratic, authoritarian rule and oppose free and fair elections and the peaceful transfer of power we will lose our democracy. As Thomas Paine said, "A body of men holding themselves accountable to nobody ought not to be trusted by anybody." Only voters have the power to hold these insurrectionists accountable by voting them out of office. More than 12 million High School seniors become eligible to vote every four years-tragically fewer than 20% register to vote! It is vital for us to increase that number to protect the growth of democracy!*

Guns are now the number one killer of children. The League believes the proliferation of handguns and semiautomatic assault weapons is a major health and safety threat to its citizens and supports regulation of these weapons and measures to limit accessibility by private citizens. It is time we put the welfare of our children and citizens above politician's desires to remain in office by kow towing to the gun lobby!

***The Supreme Court overturned Roe V. Wade.** Most Americans favor Roe, despite this fact, in last year alone, a record 97 restrictions were enacted throughout the country limiting reproduction rights. The League has joined litigation efforts opposing these anti-abortion restrictions. Over the 50 years since Roe became law, 1,300 restrictions have been enacted by state legislatures. LWVUS reacted vigorously to the news that SCOTUS overturned ROE. A joint statement issued by President Dr. Deborah Turner and CEO Virginia Kase Solomon said the ruling: "...strips women and those who may become pregnant of their bodily autonomy and will have devastating-and-immediate-consequences across the country... We will use our anger to fight in the legislatures, in the courts, and in the streets...Women hold the power to create a more perfect democracy. We will not stand by as constitutional rights are stripped away, one by one. Women's rights are human rights, and we will continue to fight until the right to abortion is restored. Our lives depend on it."*

Continued pg. 5

President's Address (continued from pg 4)

Poland's 29-year abortion ban provides a mirror for the horrors American women might expect. Thousands of women traveling abroad for abortions, a steady erosion of women's autonomy, and government required pregnancy registries. Pregnant women in Poland are dying unnecessarily with cancer because their doctors, afraid of harming the fetus, deny them life-saving treatment. The rights of the fetus are almost always put ahead of their mothers in Poland.

Talking about issues we care deeply about can sometimes be frightening and disheartening, but it's important to involve others to bring about change and protect the things we hold dear...The outcome of the 2022 election will dictate what happens in 2024, whether we will remain a democracy, or fall to authoritarian rule. We could lose voting rights, the right to choose, free and fair elections, the peaceful transfer of power, the idea that no one is above the law-equal treatment under the law, a sustainable wage, the right to breathe fresh air and to drink clean water, the right not to be shot in a school, church or market, the right to love the person we love, the right to protest and much more.

This is the fight we face if the anti-democratic movement succeeds in breaking our democracy. I urge the members of LWVCM to join me in facing them head on.



**President, League of Women Voters
Charlotte Mecklenburg**

2022-2023 Slate of Offices and Directors Announced for LWVCM

The following slate of Officers and Directors for 2022-2023 were announced and approved at the LWV Charlotte Mecklenburg Chapter Annual Meeting on June 16.

Officers:

2022-2024 2nd Vice President Jane Hoffmann

2022-2024 Treasurer Cindy Moore

Directors:

(1) 2022-2024 Regan Aduddell

(2) 2022-2024 Margaret Fritze

(3) 2022-2024 John Lee

2022-2023 Nominating Committee:

Chair: Donna Armbrister

Member: Delores Johnson Hurt

Member: Sara Baysinger

Continuing for the last year of their term:

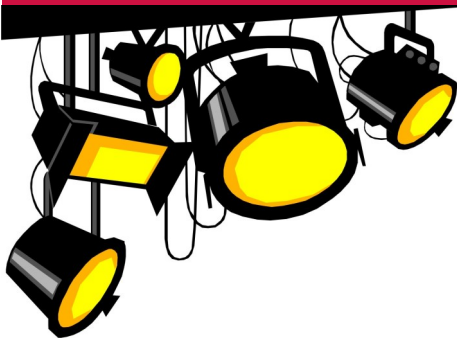
Officers: Suzanne Elsberry (President); Linda Levy (1st Vice President); Susan Harden (Secretary) Directors: Carolyn Lyons, Cate Stadelman, Shanda Martin.

Submitted By the 2021-2022 Nominating Committee: Donna Armbrister (Chair), Delores Johnson Hurt; Lucille Howard (appointee); John Lee (appointee).

New Board Members appointed to a one-year term:

Sara Baysinger; Margaret Howe-Soper; Linda Traum; and Hayne White

League News



Membership Chair Margaret Howe-Soper and Roster Keeper Meg Rodgers renew memberships at the June 16 Annual Meeting at the new office.

Welcome to New League Members

New members June 2022

M. DeWitt Crosby	Randell Hartsell
Shamaiye Haynes	Ina Schuner
Dian Hloros	

New members July 2022 (thru July 18)

Rachel Nemecek	Kimberly Dehler
Irina Kogel	Tandy Graham
Logan Vince Pratt	John Clarkson
Marissa Robinson	

The membership team is looking to shore up all renewals prior to the transition over to Club Express. To date, 103 LWVCM members (79 primary and 24 additional members) have not renewed their memberships that ended June 30. Renewal notices were sent out by Treasurer Cindy Moore in early June and again on July 1. Final letters will be mailed in early August. Members not planning to renew their membership should contact Margaret Howe-Soper, Membership Chair at: mhowesoper2014@gmail.com.

Spotlight on Linda Traum

Linda Traum has recently been named co-chair of the LWVCM Education Action Team to serve with **Jeanne Smith** (Spotlight article in May/June "Voter") and **John Lee**.



Since joining the League in 2020, Linda has worked diligently to push forward advocacy efforts surrounding Teacher Retention and Recruitment by helping organize the webinar co-hosted by Every Child NC, providing public comment at a NC House Select Committee, forming alliances with area education advocacy groups, and organizing Observer Corps of both CMS Board of Education and Board of County Commissioners meetings.

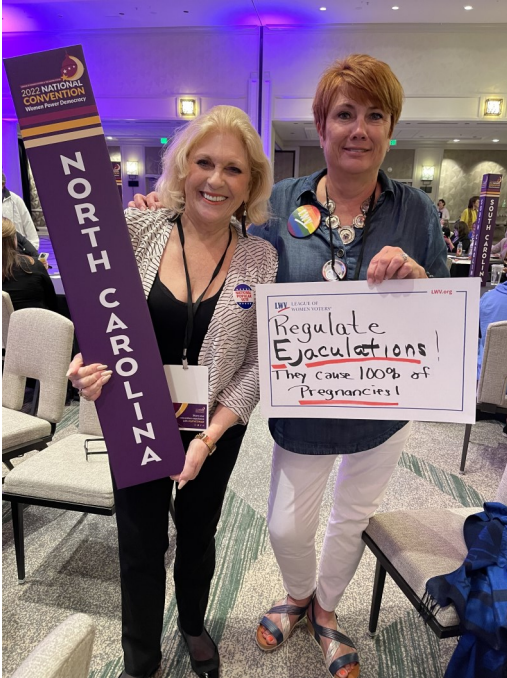
But the advocacy that is closest to her heart and leverages her deep professional expertise is for Early Childhood Childcare and Education (ECCE).

For more than 30 years, Linda worked as a social worker with families of infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and children in K-12. During this time, she worked in schools, homes, hospitals, mental health centers, and community programs. Additionally, Linda trained teachers, home visitors, nurses, and early literacy providers as a consultant/trainer for Touchpoints and Infant Mental Health. She returned to graduate school at age 50 to pursue a Ph.D. in Child and Family Studies. Prior to her retirement, Linda was a professor of early childhood development and learning at Central Michigan University. As a Co-Chair of the Education Action Team, Linda hopes to bring her knowledge, skills, experience, and passion for working in partnership with families and children to the LWVCM.

Linda has been married for 33 years and during that time has lived in Florida, Maryland (outside of Washington, D.C.), South Carolina, New York City, Philadelphia, Tennessee, Michigan, and now North Carolina. She and her husband have two grown children and three wonderful granddaughters (Ages 14, 11 and 4 months). In her leisure, she likes to paint, travel, observe nature, and take care of her two cats Midnight and Dotty.

In Linda's experience, she has found "that knowledge is gained through sharing ideas with others and reflecting on experiences and perspectives together. I look forward to my work with the League in this capacity."

LWVCM Represents at the 55th LWVUS Convention in Denver



Suzanne Elsberry and Regan Aduddell preparing to march to the Colorado Capitol in the ROE protest.

The 55th National Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) was held last month in Denver, Colorado with 654 delegates from 50 states in attendance presided over by LWVUS Board President Dr. Deborah Turner. The first day coincided with the Supreme Court's decision to overturn the constitutional right to abortion. Attendees marched to the Colorado Capitol, and also passed a resolution supporting the rights of women and those who can become pregnant to bodily autonomy, privacy, reproductive health, and lifestyle choice.

The Campaign for Making Democracy Work was adopted and amended to add language around "the election of the president by popular vote." The League's next "moonshot" goal was announced: abolition of the Electoral College.

Delegates also passed resolutions regarding the Equal Rights Amendment, the Climate, Immigration, D.C. Statehood, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples.



North Carolina Delegates Regan Aduddell, Allison Riggs, Dianna Wynn, Elaine Okal, Suzanne Fisher, Suzanne Elsberry, Peggy Crawford, and Jay Embrey pose at the 55th LWVUS National Convention that was held from June 23-26 in Denver, Colorado.

**LWVCM Will Host the
North Carolina State
Convention in Charlotte
in May 2023**



Empowering Voters.
Defending Democracy.

0000x
x

NORTH CAROLINA

Want this stunning license plate for your car? Show your support for the League with a LWFNC Specialty License Plate. The plate was designed by Hillsborough based graphic artist Nan Fulcher, winner of a statewide design contest. Nan said of her design, "I wanted to convey the women behind the League's unrelenting effort to uphold the democratic process: their strength of character, their sense of purpose and their bond of sisterhood." [Apply for your LWFNC Specialty License Plate today!](#)



1900 Queens Road, Suite A
Charlotte, NC 28207

Dated Material

Forwarding Service Requested