

LWV[®] VOTER

League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg

November-December 2019

REACHING LWVCM

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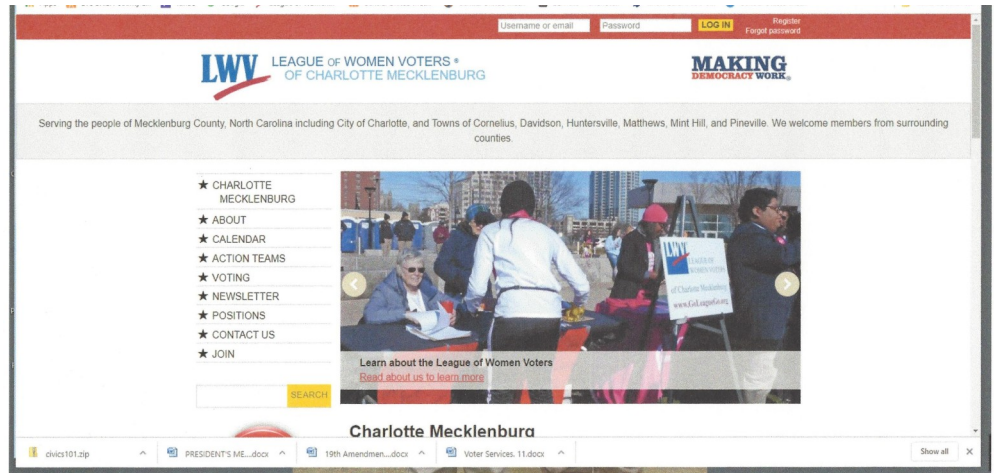
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[@lwvcm](https://twitter.com/lwvcm)

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Goleaguego.org has a new look



*Thanks to LWVCM member
Lucia Trevino-Lane...*

the LWVCM website has a refreshing new look with more pictures, more information and easier navigation in a beautiful format that went live this week.

It took months of work to change the League's website to its new look using the MyLo format of California's LWV.

Thank you **Lucia**. Your hard work has paid off for the rest of us who now need to help you keep it up-to-date and fresh.

You do not need to sign in or register to use the website. The possibility exists to incorporate a "Members Only" section, but it has not been established at this time.

If you bookmarked the former website, it will work for the new goleaguego.org as well.

Lucia has kept the website updated for several years now. She did not expect either her floor refinishing project to be suddenly pushed forward nor her emergency appendectomy in Savannah during the time she planned to wrap up this website project. Nevertheless, she persisted.



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Calendar

Find updates for League action
and activities at
goleaguego.org

GARAGE SALE

Saturday, Nov. 23, 8 am – 1 pm
6366 Providence Road
BENEFIT FOR THE LEAGUE
See page 2 for details

Use Vote411.org before you vote

Folks continue to be amazed at helpful information they find on the League's Vote411.org website. Use it to compare candidates for Mecklenburg Board of Education, city council seats and others. If you haven't voted early, get to your poll on **Tuesday Nov. 5**. **Cheryl Bruins Rozier** is the director.

Coming Events

2020 Census: Lunch with the League Wednesday, Nov. 13

Lawanda Blair Foster, Charlotte Mecklenburg Director for Census 2020, will be the speaker for the LWVCM Lunch with the League Nov. 13 about the controversial 2020 census.

She will talk about the Census in general, why it is important to Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, key dates, and how to get involved, including new initiatives to increase accurate self-response and participation.

Watch for your Pingg invitation for more information about the lunch.

Ms. Foster has been a project manager for Medicare and Life Engagers Programs and a project management contractor.



Anniversary Speaker with Rare Credentials: The Most Powerful Woman in Banking

Cathy Bessant

will headline LWVCM Gala

Feb. 29 Celebrating Women

Catherine P. Bessant, Chief Operating and Technology Officer at Bank of America, will be the featured speaker when LWVCM celebrates the 100th anniversary of the League and women's right to vote.



Since 2010, she has led Global Technology and Operations for the bank which she joined in 1982. She is in charge of 95,000 employees in 35 countries.

For the third consecutive year, she ranked No. 1 among the "25 Most Powerful Women in Banking" by American Banker. Bessant received the 2019 Women in Technology and Data Trailblazer (Lifetime Achievement) Award from WatersTechnology. She has also appeared on Working Mother magazine's "50 Most Powerful Working Moms" list.

According to BOA, she has been active in the community and region, receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and other prestigious awards. She has been named to Business NC's Power 100.

She chairs the North Tryon Vision Plan Advisory Committee and led the formation of the Council on the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

(continued at right)

According to *American Banker*, Cathy Bessant broke in her hiking boots to prepare for a climb up Mount Kilimanjaro while wearing a business suit at work—even during a speech.

In her speech accepting the No. 1 Award in 2018, Cathy started singing "Ain't Too Proud to Beg", *American Banker* reported.

She finished, the report said, with a quote: 'Here's to strong women. May we know them. May we be them. And may we raise them'.

LEAGUE FUNDRAISER GARAGE SALE

SAT., NOV. 23,
8 AM-1 PM

6366 PROVI-
DENCE ROAD

(Home of Ann Wood)

DONATIONS &
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED



(No clothes please)

**CONTACT PEG CHA-
PIN 704-846-2540
ptcha-
pin@hotmail.com**

President's Message

EXCITING NEWS! We have a new, viewer-friendly website! I urge you to immediately check it out and give us your feedback. Thanks are in order to our webmaster and League member, Lucia Trevino-Lane, for the fantastic job she did in getting the site on line.

The work of the League continues to be immensely productive, thanks to dedicated board members and League volunteers. Highlights of September and October's activities:

1. The Education Committee nominated two of its members, **Jeanne Smith** and **Tom Bowers**, to the CMS Community Equity Advisory Committee. The League strenuously lobbied for the Equity Committee and continues to work on achieving a quality education for all CMS students.
2. Voter Services established an on-going relationship with the Levine Museum of the New South and such neighborhood venues as apartment complexes and local breweries to register voters and make the community aware of the work of the League.
3. Civics 101 received overflow registrations for classes which started September 23. Applicants over the 60-class limit are on a waiting list for the spring session.
4. Membership continues to grow. Membership co-chairs **Peg Chapin** and **Margaret Howe-Soper** are adding members to their committee and plan orientation and fundraising activities.
5. The Environment Action Team is meeting with city and county officials to assess issues on which to focus.
6. With the news of possible movement in the North Carolina General Assembly, the Women's Issues Team is urging members to call legislators to pass the Equal Rights Amendment.
7. The push for fair elections and an end to gerrymandering continues on the state level. However, the Charlotte League is in dire need of a dedicated volunteer to chair our Fair Elections Team. **WE NEED YOU TO STEP UP!** Contact me at deloreshurt@yahoo.com to express your interest. The state league will take you through the steps of how to make this committee work.



ONLY FOUR MONTHS REMAIN BEFORE WE CELEBRATE OUR 100TH BIRTHDAY GALA AND FUND-RAISER ON FEBRUARY 29, 2020 AT THE LE MERIDIEN HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN CHARLOTTE! WE HAVE UNDER \$10,000 (JUST A QUARTER OF WHAT IS NEEDED) FOR THIS EVENT. WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW! DO NOT WAIT! OUR PLANS CALL FOR 400 PEOPLE TO ATTEND. THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE OVER THE PAST HUNDRED YEARS IS TOO IMPORTANT NOT TO CELEBRATE IN A GRAND WAY! IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO BUY TICKETS NOW! GO TO THE WEBSITE TO PURCHASE TICKETS OR MAIL YOUR CHECK TO THE LEAGUE OFFICE! THERE IS ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE ADS FROM YOUR FRIENDS AND THE BUSINESSES YOU PATRONIZE. SUZANNE ELSBERRY WILL EMAIL YOU SOON ABOUT AD PRICES. DO NOT LET US DOWN!

Yours most sincerely, *Delores*



Promoting Vote411.org in Charlotte's Labor Day Parade were, from left, **John Lee, Christine Danis, Jim Michaels, Carolyn Lyons, Ms. Giarda, Erin Giarda**. Also marching were **Lucille Howard and Ross Danis**.

League in Action

Report by Regan Aduddell, Voter Services Director

Voter Services is continuing to register new voters across Mecklenburg County. All of this is possible because of our hard working and dedicated volunteers! I would like to thank them for their help!



Regan Aduddell and June White at Candidate Forum

During the week of National Voter Registration Day (Sept. 24), voters were registered by League volunteers at 10 different events.

We have continued to greet our newest citizens with voter registration application in hand. We have had a strong presence in both the schools and surrounding community with a very productive night at the Dowd YMCA--address changes galore!

We are now getting ready to educate new voters on the Voter ID law taking effect Jan 1, 2020 and the difference between Voter ID and the Real ID which kicks in Oct 2020.

We will have new district maps coming out along with new ballot machines! This will be a busy upcoming year and thanks to the volunteers we are more than ready. If you are interested in volunteering with

voter services or have ideas for a voter registration drive please email me at raduddell61@gmail.com or go to our new website goleaguego.org and click on voter services.

Leta Bosc, director of voter registration at Naturalization Ceremonies, called for **48 volunteers** just for the month of November's 12 ceremonies in Charlotte. She has asked for four volunteers for each ceremony. **Now is the time to consider volunteering.** Contact her at lpbosc@gmail.com or 704-641-9879.

If you are new to this activity, let Leta know so she can arrange on-site training with one of our experienced folks.

Civics 101 Concludes Fall Session

Civics 101 fall session ended with 78% of the class of 60 receiving a Distinguished Certified Public Activist Certificate for attending all four of the government sessions. The large percentage indicates the high level of engagement by participants, according to director **Tom Murdock**.

Celebrity speakers included former **Mayor Jennifer Roberts**, **Sheriff Gary McFadden**, former **Mecklenburg Commissioner Jim Puckett**, **County Budget Director Michael Bryant**, former **Charlotte Mecklenburg School board member Trent Merchant**. **Charlotte Observer reporter Jim Morrill** and **Managing Editor Taylor Batten** spoke at the class's graduation dinner about the press.

Ten women and men who left out of the fall class are already on a waiting list for the Spring 2020 Civics 101 session. Join the waiting list for the next session at <http://goleaguego.org/Civics.html>.



Tom Murdock

Congratulations

To LWVCM members



Louise Woods, along with husband Dick, for being awarded the Laity Service Award for 2019 by Central United Methodist Church for, among many reasons, speaking out for justice and for calling attention to voices not being heard.

Ann Wood for receiving the Doris Cromartie Award from the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County for her decades-long legacy of commitment to human rights and philanthropy. She is with Rep. Wesley Harris.



League News

WELCOME To New Members

Nancy Bloom	Tierra Fender
Margaret Fritze	Emily Jenkins
Cheryl Johnson	Janet Tanner
Charles R. Payet	Frances T. Payet
Rhiannon Fionn-Bowman	

Women's Issues Action Team Introduces Conference Call Meeting

Cate Stadelman, Women's Issues director, has scheduled the regular fourth Monday meeting of the Action Team to be a conference call.

Anyone interested may call in Monday, Oct. 28 at 6:30 pm. Contact Cate at 704-995-7041 or cate.stadelman@gmail.com to obtain the call number, pin and agenda.

She Shared the World: NC Women Breaking Barriers Event Highlights Women



President Delores Hurt, third from right, and LWVNC President Jo Nicholas, third from left, at Women Breaking Barriers event

Women from throughout North Carolina attended the NC State Capitol's event celebrating women, co-sponsored by a number of women's organizations, including LWVNC. .



Donna Brewster, Delores Hurt and Lucille Howard .

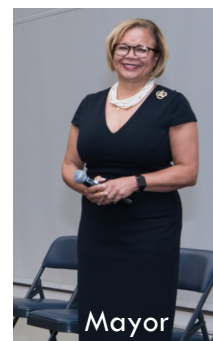
Candidates fill the Stage for Non-Partisan Political Forum

LWVCM joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Social Justice Ministry of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church to co-sponsor the Non-Partisan Political Forum, questioning candidates for the Mecklenburg Board of Education at large positions, Charlotte City Council at large and district positions and Charlotte mayor.

Audience members asked the questions.



School Board



Mayor



City Council

Forum
Photos by
Everett
Blackmon

Redistricting Update

After the Supreme Court ruled in *Rucho v. League of Women Voters of North Carolina* and companion cases, the League of Women Voters US unveiled **People Powered Fair Maps™**, a coordinated effort across all 50 states and the District of Columbia to create fair and transparent district maps nationwide. The Court had ruled that there is no fair test to determine when partisan gerrymandering has gone too far.

When the Supreme Court ruled that federal courts could not play a role in policing partisan gerrymandering, it presented an opportunity for the League to lead a national conversation about other fixes to this flaw in our democracy.

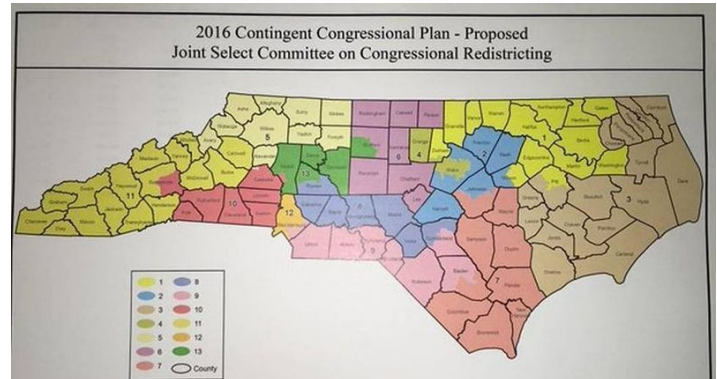
As a long-time leader on redistricting, the League has played a major role in establishing nonpartisan redistricting commissions and effectively challenging the enforcement of an equitable process for district map creation. This campaign is a powerful collaboration between more than 750 Leagues at national, state, and local levels, aimed at ensuring democracy works for us all in 2021 and beyond.

LWVUS promotes transparent and accountable redistricting processes and believes responsibility for fair redistricting should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government.

Here in North Carolina, Federal Judge Louise Wood Flanagan turned down the legislative defendants request to move *Harper v. Lewis*, the Congressional case first filed in 2016, to the Federal courts. A similar, earlier request also had been rejected.

The plaintiffs now are asking a NC Superior Court three judge panel for a preliminary injunction preventing the 2020 Congressional candidate filing, and therefore election from happening using the current map.

The NC House redistricting committee will take up three redistricting reform bills, House Bill 69, HB 140 and HB 648 this week at a meeting scheduled at the same time as the Superior Court hearing in *Harper v. Lewis* on the preliminary injunction. Find information about these bills at ncleg.net.



CALENDAR

All events are at the LWVCM Center, 1817 Central Ave., Room 210, Charlotte 28205 unless otherwise noted. Click [here](#) for driving and parking directions.

Oct. 28 (Mon)	Women's Issues Action Team conference call, p. 5
Nov. 5 (Tues)	ELECTION DAY 6:30 am-7:30 pm
Nov. 6 (Wed)	League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
Nov. 13 (Wed)	Lunch with the League, 11:30 am, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave., p. 2
Nov. 23 (Sat)	Garage Sale, 6366 Providence Rd. p. 2
Dec. 3 (Tues)	League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
Dec. 11 (Wed)	Holiday Party, 4-7 pm Watch your email for details.
Jan. 7 (Tues)	League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
Feb. 4 (Tues)	League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
Feb. 29 (Sat)	100th Anniversary Gala, 6 pm

Check our [online calendar](#) for up-to-date LWVC-M events and meetings at goleaguego.org.