

LWW[®] VOTER

League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg

November-December 2020

REACHING LWVCM

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Find calendar & updates for League action and activities at

goleaguego.org

Last Chance to Vote 11/3

CAST YOUR VOTE at your polling place on Nov. 3, 6:30 am-7:30 pm. Go to Vote411.org to find your polling place.

TAKE YOUR MAIL-IN (ABSENTEE) BALLOT to the Board of Elections, 741 Kenilworth Ave., Suite 202, Monday 11/2 or Tuesday, 11/3. Note: you cannot take your ballot to your polling place on Nov. 3.

AS A LAST RESORT: Making sure you have it postmarked by Nov. 3, mail your ballot to the Board of Elections address indicated on your ballot.

NEED A RIDE to your poll Election Day?

Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America is offering rides. To request a ride, call 1-888-495-6222. Members of the National Federation of the Blind can contact the organization for a ride and receive an exclusive discount code with Lyft.

RUN INTO A PROBLEM at the poll: Contact a Protect the Vote volunteer at the voting site or call the voter assistance hotline offered in multiple languages. You will be connected to trained, legal assistance administered by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. For English: 866-OUR-VOTE; for Spanish: 888-VEY-VOTA.

WANT TO HELP? Volunteer to do virtual phone banking for DemocracyNC. You need to view a training video before you start. Go to DemocracyNC.org to sign up.

BE PATIENT: Final results may not be reportable Tuesday night.

Months of League action to protect democracy assisted thousands of area voters

- Voter registration drives plus New Citizen voter registration
- Reminder mailings to new voters
- Billboards flashing Vote411.org
- Presentations to numerous organizations about voting by your President and Voter Services Director

Thank you to every member who took part.

There is League life after the election. See p. 2

Coming Events

LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE, Wednesday, 11:30 am on Zoom

School Finance and the Leandro Decision in NC, presented by **John Lee**, co-chair of the LWVCM Education Committee, will introduce League members to the critical issue of underfunded public schools in North Carolina.

The Education Committee wants to build a conversation around the issue of underfunding the public schools and what it portends for students and communities. North Carolina is ignoring a constitutional mandate to provide an education system that meets the educational needs of all the students.

Our concern is that by underfunding education today, the state is eroding the future intellectual capital necessary for a vibrant economy. The Leandro court case highlights critical areas where NC has fallen short in providing a sound basic education for all NC students.

John has investigated public school funding in the state and will detail the ways the WestEd consultant report provides a roadmap to address the unmet needs. Appropriate and consistent funding is required at the state and local level. Get your questions ready to ask for a better understanding of the issue.

Watch your email for your Evite registration opportunity coming soon.



John Lee

Leandro Webinar, Dec. 3

LWVCM is partnering with Every ChildNC to educate the public and parents about the court-directed path forward through the Leandro case to improve NC public education and address the long-term inequities. The virtual program starts at 7 pm with a link to Zoom or live-streamed on Facebook.

The Covid-19 pandemic has deepened the inequities, especially for at-risk children.

The agenda will include background on the Leandro ruling and the accompanying WestEd report, an update from CMS and a panel of local experts with "on the ground" experiences. Time will be allotted for Q&A.

In addition to educating parents, the goal is to reach elected officials who are involved in public school education policy and budget at the state and county level. Send an email to urge your state representatives and senators to attend this webinar. Watch for your Evite invitation to register or register here: <https://bit.ly/34xYBJI>. For more information, contact Jeanne Smith, co-chair, at jessmith8412@gmail.com.

Picking Up the Pieces During Pandemic and Beyond:

A GENERATIONAL OPPORTUNITY for EQUITY and EXCELLENCE in NC EDUCATION

December 3rd, 2020 7:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION: <https://bit.ly/34xYBJI>



sponsored by:

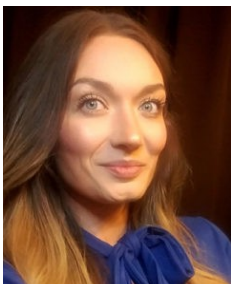


LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG



League Talk, Tuesday, Dec. 8, 6:30 pm

A chance to learn about the Charlotte Reproductive Action Network (CRAN), a coalition of a dozen organizations working on reproductive rights, health and justice, will be offered at the virtual League Talk, Tuesday, Dec. 8, 6:30 pm.



Amber Smith

Amber Smith, head of Partnerships for CRAN will give an overview of the organization, its advocacy goals and activities. She is seeking a partnership with LWV of Charlotte-Mecklenburg in their work.

The League's position on reproductive rights is "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices." LWVCM has previously partnered with CRAN on voter registration efforts.

Watch your email for registration information to get the zoom link.

League News

President's Message

Dear Members,

As this issue of the Voter reaches you, we won't yet know the direction our country will take in the November elections. For those of us who have voted and urged others to do so, the decision is not now ours. We have done our part, hoping that the end of this election season will bring cheer to those of us who want to see this American democracy, although greatly flawed, continue and succeed to greater heights.

Some may think the League of Women Voters is also at a crossroads. Although this year we celebrated our 100th anniversary with aplomb—and our mission remains as strong as ever—we are still not a household name. If that is among our aspirations, and why not, we will need to attract more youth and diversity in our ranks to carry on the great work we do.

Author Molly Selwin's recently published article broaches the subject. She writes from California, but her overview of the League is well-taken. The link to her article is here: <https://blueprint.ucla.edu/feature/special-report-the-league-of-women-voters/>.

Continue to stay well.

Sincerely, Delores



President Delores Johnson Hurt, R, with friends Jessica Lawrence, L, Anquanette Howze, back, & Tonia Barrett.

WELCOME To New and Returning Members

Leslie Phelps Perlik	Michael Arnholt
Roger Mitchell	Robin Peterson Coira
Deborah Richard	Carolyn Sax

Please renew your dues

Remember that your dues payment is tax-deductible and are due now.

If you have decided not to rejoin the League, please contact membership chair **Margaret Howe-Soper** at margaretsoper@hotmail.com and let her know why, to help us improve our organization.

In Memoriam

The League extends its deepest sympathy to the family of **Jean Burke**, a long-time member of the League, who passed away Sept. 25. Jean had been a League president in Ohio before moving to Cornelius and becoming an active member in LWVNC.

Thank You to LWVCM Donors

Contributions to the LWV of Charlotte Mecklenburg are greatly appreciated and are put to good use in fulfilling the League's mission of empowering voters, defending democracy.

- Seattle Foundation
- Blackbaud Giving Fund
- Saxe Family Charitable Fund
- Penninsula Club Women's Golf Assn. in memory of Jean Burke
- Connie Cook & Friends in memory of Jean Burke
- Mary Terese Kelly
- Mary Alice Warren
- Sandra Cross
- Guna Kommareddi
- Laura Hamelau
- Doris Chevalier
- Pat Boike
- Lucille Howard

League Needs Your Help Now

TREASURER & DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

If you have any accounting experience you are urgently needed by the League to serve as **treasurer**.

The position of **communications director** also is open. Please consider helping the League keep in touch with members.

Contact President **Delores Johnson Hurt** at president@goleaguego.org.

Member **Cate Stadelman** can be seen on Facebook in the Charlotte Interfaith Virtual Choir singing "We are One (SiSi Ni Moja)"

League Advocacy Steps Up

Healthcare advocacy must become a priority

League members have completed Herculean and critical tasks preparing for the election, among them registering voters, producing Vote411, and monitoring and advocating for fair election laws and processes. But our work is not done. Post-election, healthcare must once again become a high priority for Leagues.

At a time when the United States faces two pandemics: Covid-19 and systemic racism, the healthcare of millions of people, especially people of color, hangs by a thread.

The future of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will be argued before the Supreme Court of the United States on November 10, 2020. The most prominent arguments are likely to be around severability. That is, if a provision is removed as was done when the individual mandate to purchase insurance was ruled to be unlawful, can the remainder of the ACA stand? Opponents of the ACA, namely the litigants bringing the case, say it cannot.

If the ACA is ruled invalid, consider these potential impacts:

- Over 20 million Americans could lose their health coverage.
- Millions more could lose ACA-guaranteed protections such as coverage for:
 - people with pre-existing conditions, including those who have Covid-19
 - adult children under age 26 who are covered under their parents' policy
 - Medicare patients who have enhanced prescription drug coverage
 - women who have access to birth control at no out-of-pocket cost



Karen Bean

Though GOP attorneys general make up the plaintiff in this case, there is no known replacement healthcare plan currently being considered in Congress. Leagues need to diligently monitor these issues and be prepared to act.

Legislation to watch:

Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act (H.R. 6906) was introduced in the House of Representatives in July 2020 by **Rep. Pramila Jayapal**. The bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to pay out-of-pocket expenses of individuals receiving medically-necessary care or services during the Covid-19 pandemic. Specifically, the bill covers the costs of services provided through public or private health insurance and to uninsured individuals until a Covid-19 vaccine is widely available to the public. This bill was referred to a Subcommittee on Health.

Medicare for All Act of 2019 (H.R. 1384) was introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Pramila Jayapal in February 2019. This bill aligns with the criteria outlined in the LWVUS position on Healthcare.

Stay tuned for more specific advocacy action as this issue unfolds!

Interested in more detail about several possible options for what could happen to the ACA? Link [here](#).

—Karen Bean

Advocating for Fair Election Districts

Cutting the time for enumeration by the US census is sure to cripple reapportionment of the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, according to LWVCM Redistricting Reform director **Harry Taylor**, who is calling for an end to gerrymandering as a legislative priority in 2021.

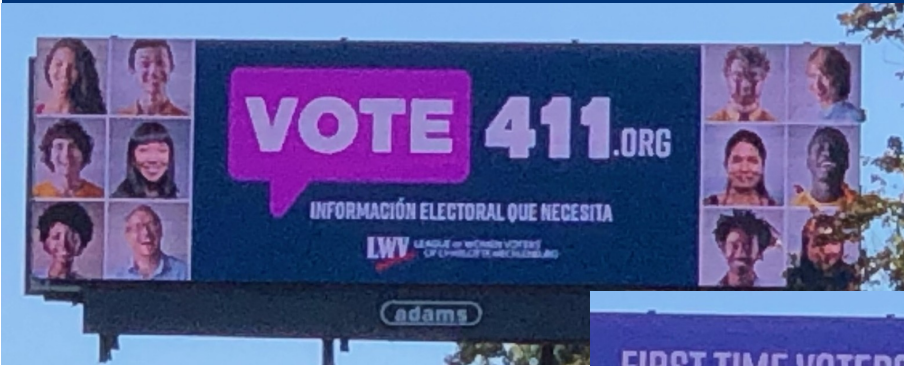
In addition to heading his own Flush Gerrymandering campaign, Harry is the LWVCM representative to Fair Districts NC, a coalition of Leagues advocating for an end to gerrymandering using an independent commission. Fair Districts NC advocates a citizens' commission as the best way to draw districts, recognizing when politicians draw their own districts, it creates a conflict of interest and leads to rigged districts, whichever party is in power.

Fair Districts NC has held a number of virtual forums featuring conversations with NC legislators. To listen to these recorded programs and to get the notices about future events, sign up [here](#). While at the Fair Districts NC website, find action you can take immediately. Be sure to endorse Five Principles of Redistricting Reform.

Nobel Peace Prize winner **Leymah Gbowee** was one of the highlights of the League's November program "What's at Stake: Our Voice" about social media platforms and democratic participation. She won the prize for her work leading a women's peace movement bringing an end to the Second Liberian Civil War.

Some 49 members were on the zoom call with Election Director **Michael Dickerson** talking about early voting.

Vote411.org Online Voter Guide for 2020



Your donations and profit from the 100th Anniversary Gala paid for aggressive promotion of the League's Voter Information website. Flashing billboards and posters at bus stops were produced in both English and Spanish.

League had billboards all over town advertising our on-line voter guide.

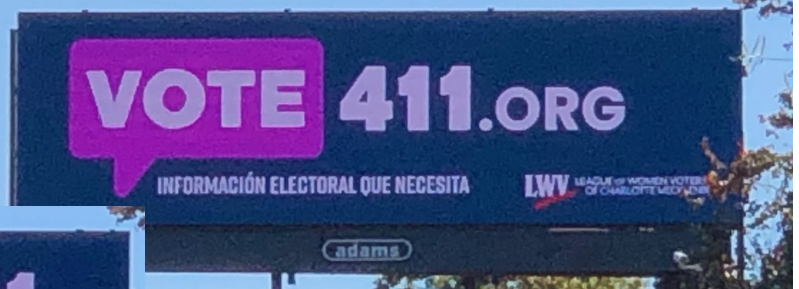


The League's Vote411.org website was the winner of a 2020 Webby Award honoring excellence on the internet.



Carolyn Lyons

Carolyn Lyons, Cate Stadelman, June White, Cheryl Bruins and Committee chair Delores Johnson Hurt planned and did the legwork to get billboards designed and produced to be seen September, October and through the election.



Vote 411.org is the "go to" website for election information, candidate bios and answers to League questions as well as showing every race and ballot issue specifically for you.



Voter Services

Regan Aduddell-Mahoney has worked tirelessly on the League's Voter Services the entire year, leading up to November's election. And the work doesn't end Nov. 3 because voter services are offered to new citizens at ceremonies which continue year around.

Regan, working with **Leta Bosc**, has assembled an army of volunteers who work on mailings, voter registration events and even carpentry which produced an eye-catching Vote sign that stood in front

SPOTLIGHT ON REGAN ADUDELLE



Regan Aduddell

of the League office in September.

You have read in previous issues of the Voter the extensive activities of the Voter Services Committee which Regan has led, participated in or supervised. In addition to serving thousands of voting citizens in the county, she has forged working relationships for the League with numerous organizations sharing similar interests in good government. Here is her summary report of many hours of activity during the past two months:

"I would like to start by saying THANK YOU! to all of the stalwart volunteers who came out and helped get so many of our citizens registered! This was definitely a "it takes a village" approach. We were able to host over 46 voter registration events from September 1st to October 9th.

We were so fortunate to partner with Inlivan and host events at all of their family complexes as well as all 6 high rise buildings. We were able to identify residents who need rides to the polls and contact groups that were offering those services. We also got 50 Lyft rides for \$15.00 each and donated them to Inlivan for their residents. The staff and volunteers we worked with were also making sure all the residents had participated in the Census.

We are excited about the partnerships we have built and look forward to continuing working together.

We hosted events at Roof Above (formally Urban Ministries and the Men's Shelter) locations as well as the Day Center and Tent City. We worked with League member **Pam Pearson** who also works with Vote Riders, an organization that helps people get ID's. We were able to help many clients and hope to continue working with Roof Above registering voters, helping them get ID's and educating clients on the importance of voting!

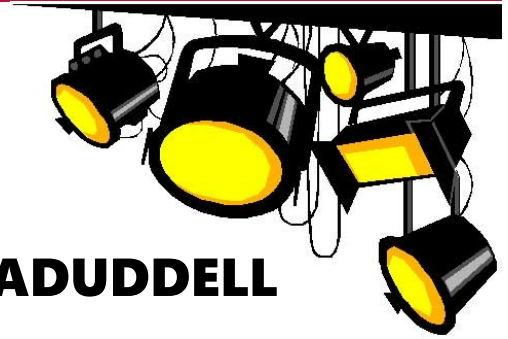
Members **Holly Wood** and **Kelly Hofstatter** tirelessly walked the car lines at Crisis Assistance getting folks registered, educating them on Vote411.org and making sure they had all the information needed to vote. We hope to continue working with Crisis Assistance to make sure that all citizens feel empowered to vote every election.

Compare Foods was another partner that helped the LWVCM reach voters. We hosted four events at the Compare Foods stores across Mecklenburg County. We also filmed a video about Vote411.org for their in store channel. One of the benefits for me was learning new food and great cooking videos on the Compare Foods Facebook page!

We were fortunate to work with many other organizations and informal groups who wanted to reach out to folks and make sure that they were ready to participate in the democratic process.

In addition to all our other events we continued our relationship with USCIS. They continue to have new citizen ceremonies but due to COVID restrictions we still don't have a physical presence there. That being said, USCIS has worked with us to pass out our "Registration Packets", and they have been very well received by the new citizens. We have made over 4,000 packets and after this update is written I am off to make 500 more for November....the "Arts and Crafts Committee" has been busy.

I want to thank all of the volunteers who have helped engage voters, make packets and walk carpool lines! I am excited about all of the partnerships we have made and hope to continue to work together." —**Regan Aduddell**



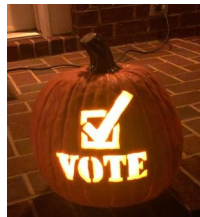
League in Pictures



Donna Armbrister signing the ERA bus visiting polling places.



League co-sponsored Women's March to the Polls. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg also was honored at the event.



Voter Registration drives at Crisis Assistance, Freedom Apts & Roof Above.





1817 Central Ave., Rm 210
Charlotte, NC 28205

Dated Material
Forwarding Service Requested

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

Nov. 3 (Tues)	ELECTION DAY 6:30 am-7:30 pm
Nov. 4 (Wed)	League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm Contact president@goleaguego.org for zoom link
Nov. 4 (Wed)	Education Committee, 10 am. Contact education@goleaguego.org for zoom link
Nov. 11 (Tues)	Lunch (virtually) with the League 11:30 am. Watch email for zoom link to register
Dec. 3 (Thurs)	Leandro Webinar, 7 pm. See p. 2
Dec. 6 (Tues)	League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, Contact president@goleaguego.org for zoom link.
Dec. 8 (Tues)	League Talk, 6:30 pm, see p. 2.
Jan. 3 (Tues)	League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, Contact president@goleaguego.org for zoom link

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