

# VOTER

League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg

September-October 2018

## REACHING LWVCM

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## Get Yourself Ready to Vote

In an historic first, 16 women's organizations, including the League of Women Voters, have joined together to present three candidate forums featuring different elected offices at each event.

The forums are set up to "give a woman's perspective on the issues because women's issues are everyone's issues and everyone's issues are women's issues," according to President Delores Johnson Hurt.

### The Candidate lineup for these offices:

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Thursday, Sept. 20 | NC State Senate<br>County Commission (at Large)<br>County Commission (districts)   |
| Tuesday, Sept. 25  | NC House of Representatives  |
| Thursday, Oct. 4   | US House of Representatives<br>Superior Court Judges<br>District Court Judges<br>NC Court of Appeals<br>NC Supreme Court |

All forums will be at First United Methodist Church, 501 No. Tryon St., beginning at 6 pm. Free parking in the church Ninth St. garage. Take your ticket with you to be validated.

### Be sure to attend all three

to hear candidates' answers to the organizations' questions and to ask your own.

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Find updates for League action and activities at [goleaguego.org](http://goleaguego.org)



Councilwoman Dimple Ajmera describes city's environment initiatives at Sept. 12 League Lunch. See p. 2

# Coming Events

## Lunch With the League Wednesday, Sept. 12



Charlotte City Councilwoman Dimple Ajmera will be speaking on the “Sustainable and Resilient Charlotte by 2050 Resolution,” the Strategic Energy Action Plan and Charlotte’s tree canopy at the Sept. 12 Lunch with the League.

Passionate about creating a sustainable, equitable and safe Charlotte, she currently chairs the city’s Environmental Committee which is focused on committing Charlotte to become a global leader in environmental sustainability while balancing economic growth and preserving our natural resources.

The 2050 Resolution details the city’s goal to reduce city-wide gas emissions to meet proposed carbon dioxide levels. Read the resolution [here](#).

Ms. Ajmera was elected to a first term on Charlotte City Council in November 2017. She previously served one year as an appointed District 5 representative. Prior to her election as Councilwoman, Ajmera was twice appointed to the Board of Commissioners for the Charlotte Housing Authority (CHA). Dimple is widely known for her leadership in bringing new life and opportunities to the former 69-

acre Eastland Mall site.

She has the proud distinction of being the first Asian-American and the youngest woman to serve on the Charlotte City Council.

Lunch will be at 11:30 at the League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave., Rm. 210. You may purchase a lunch for \$10 (RSVP by Sept. 10) or bring your own. Drinks will be provided. If you haven’t responded to the invite, go to the League’s events page [here](#). Under comments, give your food selections if you intend to buy a lunch.

**SAVE THE DATE:** October League Talk Tuesday, Oct. 16, 6:30 pm. Topic: Health Care

## Civics 101 Dates, Topics

- Monday, Sept. 24  
City Government  
Government Center
- Tuesday, Oct. 2  
County Courts  
County Courthouse
- Tuesday, Oct. 9  
CMS School Board  
Government Center
- Tuesday, Oct. 16  
County Government  
Government Center
- Tuesday, Oct. 23  
Graduation/Meet  
the Press  
Charlotte Observer

**SIGN UP TODAY**

the registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis for a maximum of 60 attendees. The price for the five sessions, including materials, snacks for the first four sessions and a catered dinner at the last one, is \$60. The link to the Civics 101 registration is:

<http://goleaguego.org/Civics.html> .

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: LET'S TALK FINANCES!

Dear Colleagues,

Here's hoping you had an enjoyable summer and are ready to commit to a variety of upcoming League projects.

One such project entails raising funds for the **100th Anniversary Celebration in 2020** of the founding of the League of Women Voters. All across the country, the national league (LWVUS) and local and state leagues have begun planning for this auspicious event.

In Charlotte Mecklenburg, we look towards a big celebration on February 29, 2020 at the Meridien Hotel in uptown Charlotte. Plans are tentative, however, because we will need to raise \$50,000 for the celebration, which will hopefully include funding to support on-going League projects such voter registration at high schools and naturalization services, community education forums, our annual meeting and other League expenses.

We are approaching private persons and corporations to sponsor the celebration at different funding levels, but we also need the financial support of all League members.

**Here's what we are discussing:** encouraging members to pay for tickets at \$100 per person and inviting family and friends to do likewise. We believe that allowing you time to save will not present a hardship to you. We have a deadline for reserving the hotel at the beginning of the new year, with subsequent installment payments. We need your help to pull off a truly once-in-a-lifetime event!

The second financial consideration is any contribution you can make (in addition to your dues) to help **pay for the new rent increase** levied by the Midwood International Cultural Center because it now has to pay Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools \$35,000 a year to lease the property, instead of the previous \$1 a year agreement.

The third consideration is your **support of our online Vote411 challenge**. Your contribution will be matched dollar for dollar by a generous donor. The deadline for your gift is September 15; you can go to our website, [goleaguego.org](http://goleaguego.org), to see how to pay.

**REMEMBER - ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE BECAUSE WE ARE A 501(c)3 CORPORATION!**

League members are fully dedicated to our mission of encouraging informed and active participation in government. Our actions show it!

Best regards, **Delores**



## Welcome to New Members

Joining since June 30, raising membership to 195:

Laverne Blue	Cheryl DeMaio
Laura Hamelau	Stuart Jones
Patricia Kelly	Mary Richards
Carolyn Sax	Jennifer Taylor
Renee Walls	

**It's time to pay your dues**, if you haven't already, to keep your membership current. You should have received an invoice in your email or you can go to the website [goleaguego.org](http://goleaguego.org) [here](#).

## Voter Registration Opportunities

Voter registration opportunities for League members have widened considerably to include events in Winston-Salem and at the Carl Sandburg Home in Flat Rock, NC.

League members also will be registering new citizens at the Simmons YMCA, the Levine Museum of the New South and the Government Center during the month of September, in addition to a full schedule at the usual Homeland Security site.

Two naturalization ceremonies occur on **National Voter Registration Day Sept. 25**.

To volunteer, go to Voter Services at <http://goleaguego.org/contact.html> or link [here](#).

## Fair Elections Action Team (FEAT)

**Reasonable Redistricting Reform** attracted a crowd to the League Education Center for a workshop featuring Dr. Jennifer Bremer from the LWVNC and



Dr. Jennifer Bremer

LWVCM Fair Elections Action Teams. She presented the League's findings from a study of recent legislation in 15 other states to prevent gerrymandering and ways to remedy North Carolina's gerrymandered voting districts

Possible solutions developed from the research have been presented to North Carolina legislators as a Legislator's Guide to Reasonable Redistricting Reform: Findings from the League of Women Voters White Paper on Emerging Alternatives for Redistricting Reform – 22-



July 2018. You can view the entire guide [here](#).

In addition to creating an independent commission with the Legislature's involvement, the League of Women Voters found it's also important to make the commission's decisions final – and to include citizens and impartial experts on the commission.

While the paper does not recommend a specific plan, it lays out options and gives the pros and cons. The goal is to start with an independent commission and build consensus on a workable solution—and get it done before the next required redistricting in 2021.

### 5 Principles for Reasonable Redistricting Reform:

- 1 - Include a role for the legislature in the process, such as naming some of the commissioners
- 2 - Include citizens and/or impartial experts as commission members
- 3 - Set strict rules for the commission's work that:
  - apply traditional redistricting standards (compact, contiguous, communities of interest)
  - do not allow the use of partisan data or partisan objectives
  - use voting rules that require bipartisan support for the maps
- 4 - Provide for extensive citizen participation and transparency
- 5 - Make the maps final on the commission's vote

## FEAT Report

### by Debbie Snowdon, co-chair

In June, FEAT (Fair Elections Action Team) members **attended the Mecklenburg Board of Elections' meeting** during which early voting sites and hours were finalized. We also marched in **Hickory Grove's annual 4th of July Parade and Charlotte's Pride Parade** where we distributed information about the proposed NC Constitutional amendments that will appear on November's ballot – and proudly displayed our new sashes!

On August 25, the Charlotte FEAT team along with the NC FEAT held a Reasonable Redistricting Reform workshop. (See report above) Attendees re-

sponded with enthusiasm, and we feel confident that the Charlotte LWV will play a key role in forging a workable solution to NC's gerrymandering quagmire.

Kudos to **Cate Stadelman, Cheryl Stewart Carol Pelchat and Karen Bean** for their work on the event.

Anyone interested in protecting the vote and making democracy work for NC is welcome to join our team by contacting one of the co-chairs: **Asleigh Morgan** at [mashleigh37@gmail.com](mailto:mashleigh37@gmail.com) or **Debbie Snowdon** at [Debbie.snowdon@yahoo.com](mailto:Debbie.snowdon@yahoo.com)

Jennifer and Debbie will be speaking with radio host, Francine Marie of Beasley Media, on Sept. 11 for an interview on redistricting .

The next meeting of FEAT will be Monday, Oct. 1, 11:30 am at the League Education Center.

## Redistricting Rulings



### NC Voters Win (Again)

In a victory for NC Voters, a federal court struck down the state's congressional district map as an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander—for the second time.

"We look forward to the day North Carolinians will have fair maps that truly represent our great and diverse state," said LWV North Carolina co-president, Janet Hoy.

"North Carolina voters have waited far too long for districts that reflect our populations equally. Now is the time to end partisan gerrymandering once and for all."

How can North Carolina implement reasonable redistricting reform? A LWV North Carolina study cites five main principles lawmakers can use when crafting legislation to reform redistricting.

**Chris Carson**, president of the LWVUS, wrote the above about the NC League's Appeals Court victory this week as her first entry on her weekly update. The national League is watching the North Carolina cases closely, and President Carson reports regularly about them. Sign up for her updates [here](#).

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### Take note - election information in this Voter is subject to change.

It was a three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals Fourth Circuit that found the NC Legislature's latest congressional district map unconstitutional partisan gerrymandering in a suit brought by the League of Women Voters of NC and Common Cause.

Previously, courts had thrown out NC congressional maps for racial gerrymandering after LWVNC and Common Cause sued.

"There's no way out of this situation that doesn't involve confusion and chaos," according to **Vann R. Newkirk**, writing in [The Atlantic](#), Aug. 29, 2018.

Newkirk said the certainty of more drama recalls an important issue that was highlighted by Judge James Wynn, who wrote for the panel's majority. "**We continue to lament that North Carolina voters now have been deprived of a constitutional congressional districting plan—and, therefore, constitutional representation in Congress—for six years and three election cycles,**" Judge Wynn wrote.

The ruling ordered the General Assembly to redraw the 13 congressional districts or the court would hire a "special master" to do it. NC legislators said they would ask the Supreme Court to intervene, according to the [Charlotte Observer](#).

Or alternatively, the judges said the state could forgo new primaries and just continue with the general election in November using the current candidates, but running for the new districts. Another possibility would be to use the November election as a primary and hold a general election later.

Therefore, while the ruling on the League's lawsuit successfully moved the state another notch (*for the time being*) toward constitutionally elected Representatives, it may be a very unusual election with new dates and candidates in the offing. At least, that is the way it looks at this writing.

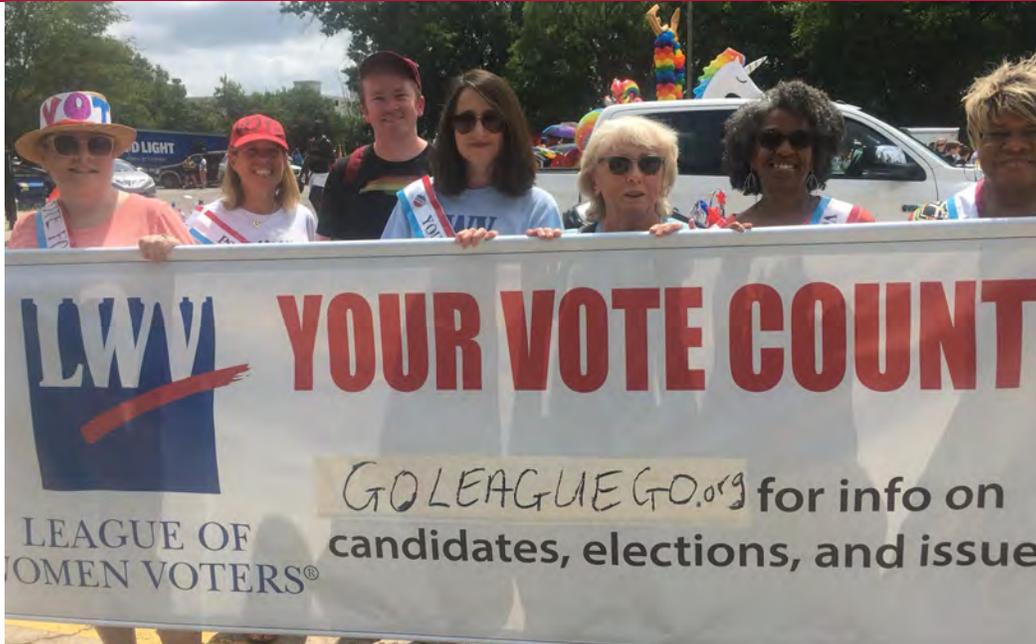
**Pay attention to daily news reports, and, no matter what happens, be sure to vote whenever. . . .**

**Debbie Snowdon** represented the League at a summer mentoring program graduation for S.A.V.E. (Safeguard, Atone, Validate, Educate). Founded by former inmate Cedric Dean, SAVE offered a program to at-risk youth which focused on entrepreneurship, character building, parenting, leadership, and theater/entertainment.

**Help the League meet the Vote 411 Challenge by sending your contribution today.**

**Your donation is tax deductible and will be matched dollar for dollar by an anonymous League friend. Follow this [link](#).**

# Pride Parade



League members distributing information about amendments on the November ballot were, from left, Ashleigh Morgan, Debbie Snowdon, Carolyn Lyons, Mary Klenz, Cheryl Stewart and Delores Hurt.



Ashleigh Morgan, left, Tom Bowers



Cate Stadelman, left, Delores Hurt

## Amendments on the ballot questioned by the League:

League members distributed flyers at the parade calling on voters to carefully consider whether to approve four amendments on the November ballot.

At this writing, the proposed amendments are still being challenged in court, one of the issues delaying printing of ballots.



# League News

## SPOTLIGHT on Tricia Garcia Decorator Extraordinaire



If Beth's convertible is being decorated for a parade, League member **Tricia Garcia** is there attaching the red, white and blue ribbons, flowers, balls and banners.



When signs are being made to carry in the parades, when handouts are being designed, when the League Education Center is decorated for a party, Tricia is almost always involved, providing her artistic touches that enhance League actions.

A relatively new member of the League, Tricia started in 2017, first attending Civics 101. Ever since then, she has been a member of the Civics 101 production crew. Using her marketing, branding and process flow skills learned in previous employment, she has added valuable expertise to the program. She



Civics 101 leaders, from left, Tom Murdock, June White, Leta Bosc and Tricia Garcia.

gives each participant a welcome call, verifies information and lets them know the leaders look forward to meeting them because she wants the Civics 101 experience to be positive, educational and an excellent first encounter with the League.

Tricia can usually be spotted at the sign-in desk, not only for Civics 101, but other League events as well. She has also been a member of the gerrymandering committee and Fair Elections Action Team.

She is extremely passionate about encouraging citizens to vote.

She began her second career as a registered nurse on the hematology, oncology unit at Atrium Health in 2012. Prior to nursing she worked at GE in various positions.

Thanks, Tricia, for all you do for the League.



### Did you know. . . .

**Karen Bean**, left, is the new co-president of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina.

**Beth Springston**, right, is first vice president of the LWVNC. Both have been members of LWVCM for several years and served as local presidents in the past.

Karen works with the state League's Action Teams and Beth has had major responsibilities for Vote411.org.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG

1817 Central Ave., Rm. 210  
Charlotte, NC 28205



**Advocate—Educate—Empower**

Visit LWV-CM's Website:  
[www.goleaguego.org](http://www.goleaguego.org)

**Dated Material**

**Forwarding Service Requested**

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

Sept. 4 (Tues)	League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
Sept. 7 (Fri)	First day of absentee voting by mail (maybe)
Sept. 12 (Wed)	League Lunch, 11:30 am, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave., p. 2
Sept. 12 (Wed)	LWV Education Committee, 3 pm; Subcommittees, 1:30 pm,
Oct. 1 (Mon)	FEAT meeting, 11:30 am, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
Oct. 2 (Tues)	League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
Oct. 12 (Fri)	Deadline to register to vote
Oct. 16 (Tues)	League Talk, 6:30 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
Oct. 17 (Wed)	First day to vote absentee in person
Oct. 30 (Tues)	Last day to vote absentee by mail
Nov. 3 (Sat)	<b>Last day to vote absentee in person before 1 pm</b>
Nov. 6 (Tues)	League Board of Directors, 6:15 pm, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.
Nov. 6 (Tues)	ELECTION DAY 6:30 am-7:30 pm
Nov. 14 (Wed)	League Lunch, 11:30 am, League Education Center, 1817 Central Ave.