

## Leading as the League January 2025 Newsletter

### LWV NEWS



#### EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

It's been 101 years since the proposal of the Equal Rights Amendment, and 104 years since the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote. Isn't it about time women's rights were written into the Constitution? All League chapters in all 50 states and D.C. submitted a letter last month to President Biden and members of Congress to immediately place this amendment into the Constitution. Add your voice by clicking this link: [Contacting Pres. Biden](#)

### IMPACT ON ISSUES 2024 – 2026 A Guide to Public Policy Positions of the LWV



The 2024-2026 edition of Impact on Issues helps League members understand public policy positions and effectively promote them nationally, state-wide, regionally and especially at a local community level. Available online at [Impact on Issues](#) and in paperback through Amazon through this direct link: [Amazon link](#)

Sussex LWV is a 501(c)(3), all-volunteer, nonpartisan organization.

Our mission in Sussex County depends on your dues and donations.

*For 67 years, the Sussex LWV has empowered County voters and educated County government. We promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. We do not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. **The LWV of Sussex County is Not For Women Only!** Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to anyone 16 years of age or older who subscribes to the purpose and policies of the LWV of the United States.*

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**LOOKING FORWARD**



**ALL HANDS ON DECK**



**League of Women Voters-Sussex County**

**All Member Meeting**

**Come be a part of the action in 2025!**

*What do we need to convey to the (mainly new) Sussex County Council?*

*How can we support good education and healthcare for Sussex?*

*What about those windmills?*

**Saturday, January 25, 10am - 12:30pm (Bring a sack lunch)**

South Coastal Library, 43 Kent Ave. Bethany Beach 19930



**Special Guest Rev. Rita Paige**, Pastor of Star Hill AME Church, Dover, will share with us about community action. Among her many community roles, Pastor Paige is the Chaplain for the Dept. of Public Safety, Delaware State University and President of the Dover Education and Community Center Board of Directors.

**Join us in working on a 2025 LWVSCDE plan of action!**

Register your attendance at this [LINK](#)

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## LEAGUE, LIBATIONS & LEARNING

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 🍹 11:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.  
Cottage Cafe, 33034 Coastal Highway, Bethany Beach, DE



*Chris Keeler*



*Katrina Mears*

Come hear more about the Sussex County property taxes reassessment. Our speakers, **Chris Keeler**, Director of Assessment for Sussex County and **Katrina Mears**, Business Services Manager for Sussex County's Finance Division, will address **The Ins & Outs of Tax Reassessment**.

**Libations and Lunch will precede the 45 minute presentation.**

**Questions & Answers will follow.**

**More details & reservations (space limited) at this [LINK](#)**

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The League of Women Voters-Delaware will again be participating in Do More 24 Delaware. **This 24-hour giving event helps nonprofits raise more money and engage new donors.** The event begins at 6 PM March 6th and runs through 6 PM on March 7th. [Sign up](#) now for a reminder when the event begins at 6 PM on March 6th. Share

LWVDE's participation on your social media and with your family, friends and neighbors. Donations during the 24 hours (ending at 6 PM on March 7th) can help LWVDE win extra money. See this link: [LWVDE DoMore24](#)

***This year, each county league will receive 10% of the total funds raised.***

### LWVSCDE FILM FUNDRAISER

**SAVE THIS DATE!**

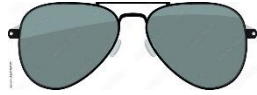
**Monday, March 24, 6-9:30 PM** (during Women's History Month)

LWVSCDE will be hosting our second annual film fundraiser at the

**Cinema Arts Theater, 17701 Dartmouth Drive, Lewes**

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## LOOKING BACK



This info is from the 2024 LWVDE summary of this Election session’s Vote411:

- For the 2024 primary, there were 82 candidates, the largest number of candidates for a primary ever. Vote411 had a total candidate participation rate of 72%, with the US Congress race at 20%, statewide races at 80%, and state general assembly at 77%.
- For the 2024 general election there were 80 candidates in competitive races. The Vote411 candidate response rate was 68% with the federal offices at 14%, statewide at 100%, and state assembly races at 70%. During this election, 14,000 users accessed Vote411 which was an increase of 35% from 2022.
- Sussex County percentages for candidate response rates and number of users accessing Vote411 increased substantially from 2022. This was partly due to LWVSCDE using Vote411 questions for their candidate forums, promoting Vote411 to Sussex users, and to having two individuals diligently contacting clients. The number of Sussex users more than doubled from 2022 to 2024.

Thanks to our Vote411 volunteers Susan Curtin and Constance Jones for getting candidate responses and to Voter Services co-chairs Judy Perkins and Ida Rowe and their volunteers for promoting Vote411.org!

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### POLL ACCESSIBILITY MONITORING



On Election Day, 54 volunteers, including 12 LWV members, monitored Delaware polling places for accessibility. Altogether, 258 of the 284 total sites - nearly 91% - were successfully monitored.

46 of 48 in Kent (96%)                      75 of 80 in Sussex (94%)

137 of 156 in New Castle (88%)

A press release was also jointly issued by Community Legal Aid and the League of Women Voters-Sussex County addressing the need for poll accessibility compliance.

Thank you to Joann Kingsley, Voting Rights Advocate at Community Legal Aid, for this opportunity and information and to all volunteers—and to Spotlight Delaware for their article on this work (See [SpotlightDE accessibility article](#)).

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## ELECTED OFFICIALS' RECEPTION



*Left to Right: Connie Malin, LWVNCC; Coralie Pryde, LWVNCC; Pat Newcomb, LWVSCDE; Lisa Malone, LWVSCDE; Letty Diswood, LWVDE; Susan V. Mitchell, LWVDE; and Michael Smith, LWVNCC.*

At the conclusion of the election season, an Elected Official Reception was sponsored by DELCOG.org, the DelawarePressAssociation.org, LWVDE and the New Castle County Civic League in December recognizing elected officials and journalists. Rep. Paul Baumbach, co-vice chair of the Retiree Healthcare Benefits Advisory Committee, who retired after serving House District 23 for twelve years, was acknowledged with the Government for the People Award. Sarah Mueller, political reporter for WHY, was the recipient of the Distinguished Journalism Award. Amy Roe and Sarah Bucic jointly shared the Distinguished Service Award. Lisa Malone represented LWVSCDE at this event.

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**Thank you to Denise Mueller for her work on this newsletter.**



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