

## PAPER BALLOTS GAIN NEW RESPECT

We support paper ballots that are marked by the voter (possibly using an assisting device), verified by the voter and, then, cast by the voter. These paper ballots should be the official record of the elections. It is essential that the ballot verified by the voter cannot be changed after it has been verified. If the official record is electronic, it can be changed by a fraudulent agent after it has been verified.

Paper ballots can be counted quickly and accurately by optical scanners in the precinct. Long lines and malfunctioning machines are no longer a problem. More voters can be accommodated by setting up additional tables and adding inexpensive privacy screens.

Voting “machines” are computers. The iVotronic computers used in South Carolina have a troubled history. In

2007, security experts documented poor design and seriously flawed coding. When examining just a few SC counties, we found thousands of missing/miscounted/uncounted votes. Errors are still occurring in reporting the vote totals. Voting on computers is undesirable because they are expensive, not transparent, have been shown to result in incorrect counts, and constantly raise serious issues of computer security.

Paper ballots avoid Cyber-attacks which pose major problems when the vote is recorded electronically in the computer memory. Paper ballots are also less expensive, less complicated for poll workers and can be recounted and audited. Some experts think that the threat from cyber-attack is the most important factor recommending that paper ballots, not computers, be used to count and report

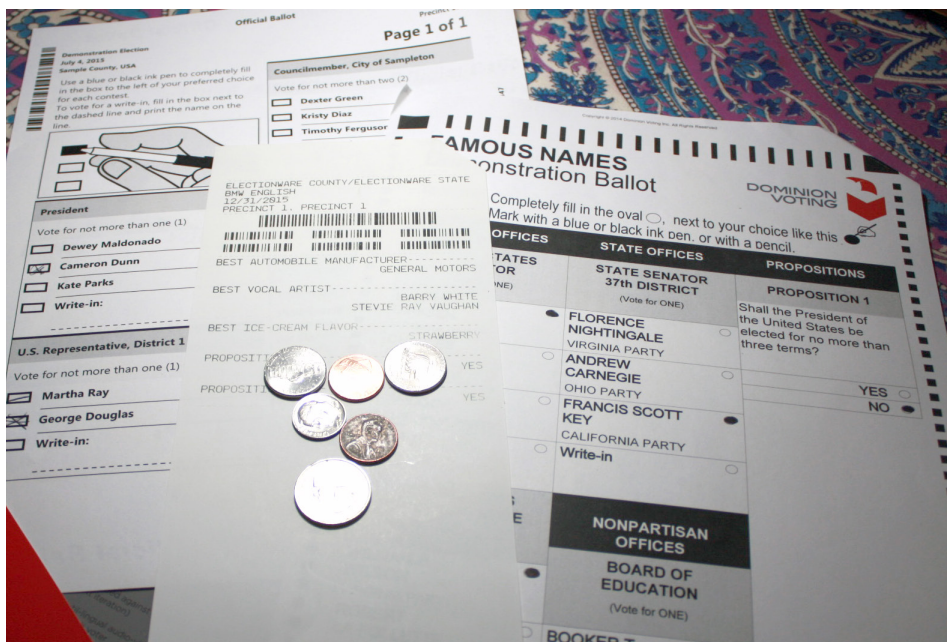
the vote. We live in a world in which all computer data is vulnerable, even data that is not connected to the internet. To these experts, the critical issue is the accuracy and security of the reported vote.

Paper ballots produce a permanent official record that is inexpensive, easily understood by the voter, re-countable, difficult to hack, and trusted by voters.

The complexity of the voting system extends beyond the above discussion. For more information see <http://www.lwvsc.org/votingtechnology.html#statement>

— Eleanor Hare

LWVSC Voting Technology Specialist



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# Co-President's Message

## Nonpartisanship with Conviction

A cornerstone of the LWV is its nonpartisanship. On our nonpartisanship the League has built, over almost 100 years, a sound reputation for credibility and trustworthiness. But in this highly partisan era, that reputation is now threatened, both from without and from within.

The League's nonpartisanship means that as an organization we do not support or promote the interests of any political party or candidate for public office. Our league presidents, voter services chairs, and authorized lobbyists are explicitly barred from any public endorsement of a partisan group or candidate. No active board member may chair or lead partisan fundraising, political campaigns, or party organizations.

Our voter registration drives aim to register all eligible citizens. Candidate forums conducted by the League use trained moderators and follow strict protocols regarding the conduct of the debate, the time allowed to each candidate, and the vetting of questions to eliminate leading or loaded wording.

Our lobbyist, aided by our nonpartisanship, is highly respected by legislators of both parties, is granted entry to behind-the-scenes activities, and works successfully on both sides of the aisle to pursue "good government" policies that strengthen ethics, transparency, and democracy.

Despite this, in recent years there have been those who have called our nonpartisanship into question. It has become more incumbent on us than ever to eschew associations with partisan groups, even for nonpartisan projects, and to monitor the protocols used in forums. Any minor incident — even bad faith behavior on the part of a candidate or a photo taken at an event of a League leader standing next to a candidate — can be used as a reason to accuse the League of partisanship.

It complicates the situation that the League's mission includes the robust promotion of civic responsibility through informed and active participation in government. The League takes positions and action on selected public policy issues after nationwide member study and agreement. Further, the LWV recognizes that the League experience uniquely



equips its members for public life. It encourages all non-board members to participate fully, on an individual basis, in the activities of the political party and causes of their choice.

This means that, especially in the politically energized atmosphere we currently inhabit, our informed and engaged members generally do have political opinions, often very strong ones. Sometimes our own members threaten our reputation as nonpartisan by using the name of the League in ways that are unauthorized and inappropriate. This can be even harder to combat than the threat from without because the errors are often inadvertent and the intentions good.

Therefore, all League leaders and members need now to be very alert. The League must double down on its nonpartisanship, which is perhaps our most precious and powerful asset. As circumstances increase the difficulty, it becomes ever more imperative to treasure our nonpartisanship, to protect it, to promote it, to insist on it.

*Christe McCoy-Lawrence, Co-president,  
LWVSC*

## 2019 Program Planning Meetings

Beginning in January, local League members will consider the LWVSC's priority issues for the 2019-2022 biennium. Program planning meetings allow local Leagues to discuss current issue positions taken by the LWVSC and rank them by priority. The timeline for the program planning process is:

January-February 2019	Local Leagues conduct meetings for members to participate in the program planning process.
March 1, 2019	All local League Response Forms are due to LWVSC.
March 14, 2019	LWVSC board reviews response forms and approves the proposed program for the 2019-2021 biennium.
April 1, 2019	Proposed Program is sent to all local Leagues to review.
May 4-May 5, 2019	At the LWVSC Convention in Charleston, delegates adopt 2019-2021 LWVSC program after debate and discussion of the proposed program, as well as any non-recommended items granted consideration by the convention.
May 2019-April 2021	LWVSC board implements the adopted program.

# VOTER EMPOWERMENT

## *Nobody does it like the League!*

**W**E do it ALL! And we're bringing it into the 21st Century with VOTE411.ORG—**Over 94,000 SC users consulted VOTE411.ORG before the midterm elections!**

**VOTE411:** In January 2018 Leagues signed up for VOTE411. Leagues joining included Beaufort, Charleston, Clemson, Columbia, Darlington, Greenville, Hilton Head/Bluffton, Spartanburg, and LWVSC. Claire Bush, of the Charleston League, handled the technical aspects of the statewide races and their VOTE411 team took care of the 184 candidates. There were varying levels of candidate participation with most Leagues getting 50 to 60% responses. The state League, with statewide candidates, had 85.7% participation and John Riolo of Hilton Head/Bluffton had an extremely good representation with 94% response rate.

**The total number of users of VOTE411 throughout the state was over 94,000 with 127,597 user sessions.** Shayna Howell connected Leagues with SCIWAY (South Carolina Information Highway) where a VOTE411 ad was designed and placed on state and county election pages connecting them to VOTE411. About 35,000 people visiting SCIWAY election pages clicked on the VOTE411 ad taking them to our candidate and election information. With such success, most Leagues are starting their discussions about preparing for VOTE411 in 2019.

### **VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES:**

Leagues participated in National Voter Registration Day; even the state League participated—registering 35 students and faculty at Greenville Technical College. Beaufort held 25 different drives. Darlington County and Georgetown County held several voter registration drives with Georgetown registering 111 people. Greenville, Spartanburg, Clemson, Charleston, and Columbia registered naturalized citizens at swearing in ceremonies. Hilton Head/Bluffton

was able to register 270 potential voters. Sumter County registered voters at adult education programs and Columbia registered the homeless. Clemson was very active as they registered 1,103 people. Events were held at high schools, colleges, technical colleges, festivals, farmers' markets, and libraries.

**CANDIDATE FORUMS:** Thirty-four candidate forums were held in 2018 in SC. More were scheduled, but due to Hurricane Michael, some were canceled and were not able to be rescheduled. Candidate forums were held for many different races, from probate judges, SC House, school boards, US House, and county and city councils. Georgetown had a candidate forum audience of 200 and live streamed their forum to 780 individuals. Several Leagues reported a concern regarding the "empty chair" candidate forum national League policy. Example: Even though all candidates for a specific race were invited to attend and did confirm attendance, at the last minute some of them canceled or didn't show up. According to national policy the forum has to be canceled. There were also problems with a two-candidate race and one candidate refusing to meet the other publicly, thus leaving the other candidate without the opportunity to express their views and ideas. When this occurred several Leagues turned the forum into a Meet-and-Greet and allowed the audience to ask the candidate questions. More about this issue and ideas for handling it will be discussed at a LEAD Roundtable on January 19, 2019 in Columbia.

### **GET OUT THE VOTE**

**POSTCARDS:** Five-Hundred Get Out the Vote (GOTV) postcards were sent to citizens by the Charleston League. Clemson sent registered high school students 144 GOTV cards for the primaries and 200 cards for the mid-term elections. The Education committee of the Greenville League made a video on the

importance of teachers voting which was sent to 10,000 teachers countywide. Signs, business cards, and bookmarks were made and distributed by the Spartanburg League encouraging voting. Meet-the-People-Where-They-Are voiced the importance of voting. This occurred in churches, restaurants, stores, schools, and on the streets by the Sumter League.

**MEDIA COVERAGE:** Media coverage was better than we ever expected. Clemson held "Pups to the Polls" on the bridge at Clemson University. They brought three friendly dogs to help make their point. It was well received by students and faculty alike and the story was carried by WYFF-TV Channel 4. The print and television coverage for League-sponsored events was massive: Beaufort Gazette, The Island News, Island Packet, Savannah's channel 3, Post & Courier, Charleston Chronicle, WYFF4 (Greenville), Columbia Star, State House Report, Fox Network (Columbia), Beaufort Gazette, Hilton Head Sun, Bluffton Sun, Hilton Head Monthly, and Spartanburg Herald Journal. Charleston, Darlington, Hilton Head/Bluffton, and Spartanburg published either one or more Letters to the Editor and Op-Eds.

**Yes, The League of Women Voters of South Carolina Does Amazing Work!**

— Jean Wood  
Voter Service, LWVSC

**May 4-5, 2019:  
Convention!**

Our biennial state convention will be held this year in Charleston.

**PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES!**

# SCANA AND THE LEAGUE

## *What has happened? What has not?*

The Public Service Commission (PSC) has ruled on the rates that SCE&G can charge for the failed V. C. Summer nuclear reactors and on conditions associated with the buyout of parent company SCANA by Dominion. The main thing that most people will notice is that ratepayers continue to pay elevated rates as a consequence of V. C. Summer, but those rates are significantly lower than SCE&G wanted to charge and was charging until last summer when the General Assembly acted. That is the tip of a very large iceberg.

This is the latest major development in an issue that was brought to the attention of the state League in 2015 by knowledgeable members in Columbia. As a consequence, since 2015 the state League

owns SCANA we would not have been concerned at all. Actually, the Dominion buyout won't change that very much at all – both SCANA and Dominion are publicly traded companies largely owned by the same massive investment groups with the overriding purpose of charging as much as possible to reward shareholders.

Instead, we have lobbied for reform of the regulatory system. We started with the Base Load Review Act (BLRA), which made it almost impossible for citizens to challenge rate increases at V. C. Summer. Rep. Kirkman Finlay of Columbia was the first legislator willing to take this on, when many others remained in denial about the perils of the situation. He filed a bill that successfully passed subcommittee but was overtaken by events when V. C. Summer

been responsible for protecting economic development and the financial integrity of utilities. There was success – in the 2018 General Assembly that mission was reformed. Accordingly, in the PSC dockets the ORS assembled an impressive body of evidence, drew their conclusions accordingly, and made their case with thoroughness and conviction.

Other regulatory changes we wanted failed to get a hearing in the Senate. These included a greater focus on qualifications for PSC commissioners and stronger ethical restrictions on members of PURC, which vets candidates for regulatory positions and conducts their evaluations, as well as overseeing important energy planning studies. We will continue to work on these issues when there is opportunity.

At the PSC, we argued against the constitutionality of the BLRA, aided by expert testimony by League member Sarah Leverette, at the time the only surviving member of the West Committee that amended the SC Constitution to require that utilities be regulated “in the public interest.” Economic testimony was given by LWVSC Co-President Holley Ulbrich, who testified in her role as economist that the transfer of risk from shareholders to ratepayers in the BLRA invited catastrophe of precisely the kind that happened. We also watched the regulatory process with particular concern for the role of an independent quasi-judicial PSC.

In summary, some have asked why the League got into this. The answer wasn't to lower utility rates a bit. It has been, and it will continue to be, about accountable, transparent, ethical government – bedrock issues of Making Democracy Work.

— Lynn Teague, LWVSC lobbyist and VP for Issues and Action

### *Our focus has been on government accountability and transparency in regulation, on ethics in government, and on constitutionally sound protection of the public interest.*

has been very involved in efforts to reform utility regulation in South Carolina, and state League Vice President Lynn Teague intervened pro se (as an individual) in the associated PSC dockets. Our focus has been on government accountability and transparency in regulation, on ethics in government, and on constitutionally sound protection of the public interest.

If this was just about utility rates, we would have been concerned because our national policies include access to affordable housing and utilities are required for any habitable home. Realistically, though, we probably would have left the fight to others. Had it been only about who

was abandoned on 1 Aug 2017. At that point, there was far more interest in broad reform. Both House and Senate committees took up regulatory issues, guided very capably by Rep. Peter McCoy, Rep. Russell Ott, Sen. Shane Massey, and Sen. Nikki Setzler. Ultimately in 2018 the BLRA was repealed for future projects and amended to clarify the expectations of prudent utility management.

In the General Assembly we testified repeatedly that the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) should be responsible only for protecting the interest of ratepayers in a stable reliable energy source at a reasonable price. Since 2004 they also had

Want to stay up to date with the latest news and events? Looking for resources? Visit:

[lww.org](http://lww.org) ★ [twitter.com/lwv](https://twitter.com/lwv) ★ [facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters](https://facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters)

Search for your local chapter on Facebook

## Seeking an Archivist!

Do you like to organize things? Are you interested in helping preserve the League's history through its documents? Do you live in or frequently come to the Columbia area?

LWVSC is looking for an archivist to help us find, organize, and preserve our records. The archivist would be an off-board member of the LWVSC Board. If you answered yes to the above questions, please get in touch with us by replying by email to [lwvsc.cml@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsc.cml@gmail.com).

It is not required, but will be much more convenient if you live in the Columbia area or are in that area frequently. The LWVSC archives are held in the University of SC Political Collections. As materials are gathered and organized, they can be periodically deposited in those archives.

## Right! Draw the Lines for Democracy!

Representative Gary Clary has reintroduced his excellent bill to reform South Carolina's redistricting process following the 2020 census! It is H.3054! This bill creates an independent panel to draw district lines and reforms the criteria used in drawing those lines.

There is no more important issue in government today than how we will redraw the lines that define our legislative districts. We don't do this to shift districts from one party to another, but to reduce polarization and encourage voter engagement.

Also, VERY IMPORTANT, to help keep League members and others informed, we are creating a new blog that will provide useful background information, track events in South Carolina and elsewhere, and let everyone know when your help is most needed to move redistricting forward in South Carolina.

When you get an invitation to sign up for the blog, PLEASE DO! Share as widely as you can. All of us must be part of this effort, the highest priority for the League of Women Voters of South Carolina in 2019.

— Lynn Teague, LWVSC lobbyist and  
VP for Issues and Action

## Proposed Concurrence on Open Primaries to Take Place at Convention, May 4-5, 2019

**"LWVSC supports the practice of open primaries in which any registered voter may participate in the primary of either party."**

In SC, we currently have open primaries, although if you vote in the primary for a particular party, you are only eligible to participate in runoffs for that same party.

LWVSC has no position on this issue. Having a position in favor of open primaries would enable us to oppose party registration and limiting voting in a primary for candidates for that party's nomination to those registered as members of that party.

Florida currently has closed primaries. The Florida LWV did a study of open vs. closed primaries and subsequently adopted a position in favor of open primaries. LWVSC can, if the members so decide at Convention, adopt a position through concurrence with the Florida study, without having to conduct a separate study on our own.

Each local league should discuss this issue during their program planning sessions, so as to be able to take an informed position at Convention.

### Here are the main arguments offered.

Pro open primaries:

1. Turnout in primaries is higher in open primary states. (The Florida study offered extensive statistical data to support that statement).
2. Closed primaries exclude a large number of unaffiliated voters and minor party voters, who would like to have a voice in all elections, including the selection of candidates in primaries, as well as the general election.
3. In many parts of the state, the party nomination is tantamount to election because there is no opposition or only token opposition in the general election (viewpoint offered by LWVSC, not from the Florida study).
4. Changing the primary election type may confuse voters.

Con open primaries:

1. Political parties see open primaries as losing control.
2. Only party members should have a voice in selecting their party's candidates.
3. Voters from the other party may crossover to select the weakest candidate (argument from SC, not raised in Florida).

*Join Us!*

## LEAGUE EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY DAY

January 19, 2019

SCEA Building in Columbia

Cost: \$25 per person

Recap on Midterm Elections

Legislative Update—Lynn Teague, LWVSC Lobbyist

Networking Roundtables on Issues

Non-partisanship; local advocacy; observer corps; presidents' roundtable, planning for LWV Centennial in 2020: How can we celebrate 100 years of women voting???

Recruiting? Fund-raising? Voter empowerment?

Panel

Professor John Holder, Winthrop –Voter Turnout 2018; Professor Duncan Buell, USC – Election Security; Barbara Zia – Recap of VOTE411

# LEGISLATIVE ISSUES: EDUCATION

Increasing teacher salaries likely will be the foremost education issue in the 2019 legislative session. With a \$177 million state revenue surplus, coupled with a \$70 million windfall from the Mega Millions Powerball lottery, educators are pushing for a 5 percent pay increase, dissatisfied with the 1 percent hike appropriated by the General Assembly for the current fiscal year.

However, teachers will not be the only group clamoring for a piece of the surplus pie. State employees, disgruntled that they received no pay increase, contend they should receive the same increase as teachers to make up for the state's low salary averages. Additionally, some legislators have urged that portions of the revenue surplus should be used to shore up the state's underfunded pension system.

S.C. Superintendent Molly Spearman and teacher groups are lobbying for the 5 percent pay increase, arguing that South Carolina's average educator salary of \$50,050 is below the Southeastern average of \$50,119. Although teachers received a 1 percent pay raise in the 2018-2019 state budget, it was half of what was requested. The last time South Carolina's educators received a pay boost was in the 2016-2017 budget, when the General Assembly appropriated a 2 percent increase.

The question of teacher pay arose from the findings of a legislative Task Force on Teacher Recruitment and Retention which

met during the summer of 2017. Made up of legislators, state school board members, district superintendents, education college deans, and education association representatives, the group examined the growing shortage of public school teachers in the state.

South Carolina's shrinking teacher corps was attributed to teacher retirement and a 30 percent drop in the number of college students choosing education as a profession. Unable to fill the vacancies, the task force report pointed to low salaries as the primary reason for the shortage.

The December 2017 task force report listed a number of recommendations,

***The report noted that the average entry wage of a South Carolina public school teacher was \$14.20 per hour, much below other jobs that require a bachelor's degree.***

but first on the list was making teacher salaries more competitive, including stipends for teachers who work in high poverty districts and raising the salary cap for retiring educators to encourage them to remain in the classroom. The report noted that the average entry wage of a South Carolina public school teacher was \$14.20 per hour, much below other jobs that require a bachelor's degree. Also recommended were more generous teacher

loans and loan forgiveness programs to attract young people into the profession.

Because legislative attention was preoccupied by the controversy over the bankruptcy of the SCANA nuclear power plants, little attention was given to the task force recommendations, other than the 1 percent salary hike.

Also of note is the continued reduction in the state's per pupil appropriation which is the main source of state funding to public school districts. During the 2018 session, \$60 was added to the \$2,425 per student funding; however, even with that increase, the per student funding is \$600 below what is required by the state's current education funding formula.

Currently, there is no movement to undertake a full examination of the state's much-amended 1977 Education Funding Act, although a recent report issued by the S.C. Chamber of Commerce included some recommended revisions that would benefit school funding.

*Sally Huguley  
State Issues – Education, LWVSC  
Board*



## Show your love for redistricting in bumper sticker form!

This conversation-starting bumper sticker was designed by the Clemson League member and graphic designer Christine Prado to help raise awareness of the redistricting issue.

We are accepting orders, minimum of ten bumper stickers, at \$2 each, postage paid.

**Send your orders with a check made out the LWVSC to:**

**Holley Ulbrich**

**2 Birch Place**

**Clemson SC 29631**

*Questions?*

*Call 864-654-6828*

# TEAMWORK: WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER!

**T**eams work together. Teams discuss issues and projects and decide who will do what, when and where to make a project a success.

LWVUS has given us some tips on making teamwork successful. Using the following tips can help us to focus on reaching our goals.

## These tips include:

1. Keep the purpose, goals, and approach relevant and meaningful.
2. Build commitment and confidence.
3. Strengthen the mix and level of skills; be sure you have all the skills you need on your team.
4. Manage relationships with outsiders, including removing obstacles; communicate effectively about what your team is doing and why!
5. Create opportunities for all team members to contribute.
6. Do real work — in roughly equivalent amounts, team leader included.

It is important to build bonds between members of a team. Bonds may come naturally or can be facilitated through team building exercises.

Getting a team off to a good start includes finding the right people, setting clear goals, and developing ground rules.

*Joyce Franklin, LWVSC Vice President for Member Services*

## Meetings go better when the chair —

1. Leads
2. Directs traffic
3. Keeps the group on the agenda
4. Keeps an eye on the clock
5. Weaves the discussion together
6. Senses the time to sum up and declare consensus or vote

## Meetings go better when participants —

1. Ask themselves “Am I saying this because it will advance the agenda? Or is it just for me?” Just for me? Don’t say it.
2. Everyone takes the responsibility of drawing others into the conversation.
3. Participants strive for clarity.
4. Participants soothe ruffled feelings.
5. Participants use motions to focus the discussion.

**Good meeting skills lead to good discussion, good decisions and good action!**

*— Linda Powers Bilanchone,  
Communications Chair*

## Working Together with Others

**M**any of South Carolina’s local League chapters aimed to accomplish two important League missions at the same time in the 2018 election season — engaging and empowering voters while also taking steps forward towards greater diversity, equity and inclusion.

One approach that worked for a number of Leagues was to work with other organizations that have existing connections to communities of color.

For instance, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority is a historically African-American sorority with a dedication to public service, especially to the African-American community. League chapters in the Columbia area, Georgetown County and Greenville County all partnered with Delta Sorors in election-related efforts

like voter registration and getting out the vote. The NAACP was another close partner this past fall, with League chapters in Spartanburg, Sumter and Greenville Counties working alongside local NAACP chapters. In Greenville, the League also connected with the local Hispanic Alliance to engage and inform Hispanic voters. The Spartanburg League often works with the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

Partnering with other organizations is a helpful way to strengthen the League’s effectiveness in Making Democracy Work. And, it strengthens the League — it builds personal and community-based connections and relationships that can lead to even greater diversity and meaningful inclusion.

*— Lawson Wetli  
President, Greenville League*

 Lynn S. Teague  
@LynnSTeague

Follow

The League of Women Voters wants a voting system based on hand marked paper ballots — not your grandmother’s paper ballots, but modern, efficient, and secure systems used successfully by about 2/3 of US voters.

8:50 PM - 17 Dec 2018

### So you’re not sure about Twitter?

LWVSC Lobbyist, Lynn Teague, posted about paper ballots. Within two days, it had been retweeted 113 times, liked 313 times and had reached over 13,340 people!

*You go, Lynn!*

## SC VOTER

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Established in 1951, the League of Women Voters of South Carolina is a nonpartisan, political organization that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen of voting age, male or female, may become a League member. All members receive the National Voter, the SC Voter, and a newsletter from their local League.

Co-Presidents: Christe McCoy Lawrence  
Holley Ulbrich

Editors: Linda Powers and  
Holley Ulbrich

Published by: *The League of Women  
Voters of SC*  
PO Box 8453  
Columbia, SC 29202  
Phone/Fax:  
(803) 251-2726  
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## YOU CAN HELP MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK! GIVE TO THE LEAGUE!

### CONTRIBUTION FORM

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Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (opt) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I wish my contribution to remain anonymous.

I wish my contribution to be tax deductible where allowed by law. My check is made out to the "League of Women Voters Education Fund" which is a 501(c)(3) organization.

I wish to support the League's action priorities. My check is made out to the "League of Women Voters" and is not tax-deductible.

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution can be mailed to LWVSC, P.O. Box 8453, Columbia, SC 29202 or a donation can be made on line at [www.lwvsc.org](http://www.lwvsc.org). You can donate with a one time or recurring gift. Every little bit helps support advocacy efforts at the SC Statehouse and grassroots efforts in our local communities.

*Thank you for your support!*