

League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area



LEAGUE LINES

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JANUARY 2020 CALENDAR



Thursday, January 16, Public Policy Luncheon, Program Planning. Help decide local and national priorities for the upcoming League year. See next column. →

Saturday, January 25, LWV/SC LEAD Day. Legislative Education and Advocacy Day. 9:00 am - 3 pm. Lunch and beverages provided. Location: St. Peter's Catholic Church, Columbia, \$25.00 registration fee covers lunch and information. First time attendees and new LWV/CA members are eligible for registration fee to be paid by Columbia Area League. Let Anne Maletic know if you are interested in League paying your fee: annmaletic@gmail.com Registration: see page 5...

Sunday, February 9, Impact of the LWV/CA on Columbia. Historic Columbia Foundation hosts a symposium 2-3:30; follow-up activities until 5. Robert Mills House panel discussion and audience Q & A. Panelists: Keller Baron, Pam Craig and Candy Waites. The Columbia League will celebrate the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters at this event with cake and coffee.. We will also demarcate our centennial with "A Day of Action"—a postcard campaign urging South Carolina representatives to work toward fair districting. We will register voters. **There will NOT be a Public Policy Luncheon in February.**

Sunday, March 8, "City of Women" Awards. Second round, from Historic Columbia Foundation and WREN.



PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON



Thursday, January 16, Public Policy Luncheon, Program Planning. Help decide local and national priorities for the upcoming League year. 11:45-1:30, Lourie Center, Maxcy Gregg Park, Columbia. To reserve a lunch, contact Susan James (sc.susanbjames@gmail.com) before Tuesday, January 14, or bring your own.

During January and February, local and state Leagues will conduct program planning and make program recommendations in general membership meetings. "Program" is the League's term for the governmental issues chosen by members at the local, state and national levels for study and action. Program is the heart of League action.

For more information: *Leaders Guide to LWV/US Program Planning 2018-2020*

https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/program_planning_leaders_guide_2018-2020.final_1_0_2.pdf



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Laura R. Woliver



“2020 VISION: CENTENNIAL YEAR ASPIRATIONS AND PLANS”

An important fundraising appeal last month from state League Co-Presidents Holley Ulbrich and Christe McCoy-Lawrence succinctly stated League policy priorities and our mandate to make democracy work. They wrote,

. . . However, we know that successful policy-making . . . is being hampered by the presence of gerrymandered, hyper-partisan districts. After districts have been drawn to favor an incumbent or a particular political party, there is little incentive for legislators to listen to voters or compromise with their fellow legislators, because they have their next election sewn up!

Malapportionment affects League foundational policy priorities such as support for public education, environmental protections, health care access, reproductive rights, voter registration, secure election procedures, etc. These are only achieved if League members and their allies *over perform* in their efforts and activism. The malapportionment in South Carolina is so severe that often, despite the best, tenacious efforts of the League, progress seems improbable. However, “Yet, she persisted.”

The League developed from generations of foremothers who persisted against daunting odds, *ad hominin* attacks, and decades of disappointments. To quote Nelson Mandela on such activism, “It always seems impossible until it’s done.”

In 2020, the League celebrates two centennials: in February for the League, and in August for women’s suffrage.

#1: On February 14, we define the centennial of the formation of the League of Women Voters. For underpaid, overworked, unrepresented, relatively powerless women to persist for one hundred years as a nationwide voluntary organization, staying alive and thriving against all odds, is simply incredible. The larger culture and public might not notice, but **we** will pause and celebrate this milestone.

On February 9, we will celebrate the centennial of the League with a forum at the Robert Mills House of the Historic Columbia Foundation. We scheduled our event for a Sunday afternoon from 2 - 5. First, there will be a panel discussion on the impact of the Columbia League. Panelists will include Keller Barron, Pam Craig, and Candy Waites. Second, after being inspired and spurred on by the panelists and Q and A from the audience, we will have cake (centennial birthday cake!), coffee, and activism. The attendees will be invited to fill out postcards asking our state elected representatives to support an impartial redistricting commission.

The U.S. Census will be conducted in 2020, and thereafter the state legislatures will use the data to redraw political districts. The League has identified fair districting for 2021 as an overarching priority. Our public policy priorities depend on fair districting. If citizens feel their numbers in the population are

translated into nonpartisan proportional representation in the State General Assembly and the U.S. House of Representative, voter turnout might increase – and cynicism might decrease.

Also, save this date: March 19th for an evening forum at the Richland County Main Library on Assembly Street, on the importance of the 2020 Census and issues of redistricting. The event is organized by the League with many co-sponsors.

#2. The second centennial for the League and the nation is the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. The League, libraries, museums, theatres, colleges, and universities are planning several events throughout 2020 to celebrate the largest single expansion of voting rights in the history of the United States: women’s suffrage.

League friends know that the 19th Amendment was not implemented fairly. People of color and poor people (and the intersections of gender, race, social class, and sexual diversities that people live within) remained disenfranchised, especially in the southeastern United States. As many scholars, speakers, and celebrants of the suffrage centennial will explain, people persisted and intertwined civil rights movements worked diligently to achieve universal voting rights.

SATURDAY AUGUST 22, 2020 The League is planning a march and rally to celebrate the centennial of the 19th Amendment, as well as the legislation and court decisions thereafter guaranteeing voting rights for all. The march and rally will take place on Saturday morning in downtown Columbia. Marchers will gather at the corner of Sumter and Taylor Streets. We plan to step off at 10:30, and we will march, strut and sashay down Sumter Street to the state capitol. We will have a short rally and exuberant celebration on the capitol steps. Marchers are encouraged to wear Suffrage costumes, but they are not required.

The vote so many people fought long and hard for is the bedrock of citizenship. The vote, however, can be diluted and trifled with through malapportionment. The next campaign, then, for the League is fair districting for the future. The League does this because of deep faith in democracy and more than one hundred years of tireless activism to “Make Democracy Work.” Laura R. Woliver

“SUFFRAGE FASHION TIPS” Helena M. Hubbard, League/Columbia Area intern

NOTE TO READERS: Many people might want to wear suffrage attire at the march and rally, although this is not required. Below is a summary by the League intern from the Women’s and Gender Studies Program at the University of South Carolina on suffrage outfit basics. Thanks, Helena Hubbard and Laura R. Woliver



There are two common outfits. One includes a high-waisted A-line skirt that covers the ankles in either a dark color or white; a collared or high-collared blouse with long sleeves that is slightly pulled up to puff out above the skirt; and a hat, usually with a broad brim pinned up. The second outfit consists of a similar, light-colored skirt but with a matching, button-up jacket. The bottom of the jacket is curved towards the center and extends down the sides far enough to cover the hips. Some have low pockets on the front. Underneath the jacket, a collared shirt will be visible around the neck, sometimes with a small bow or ruffle.

The most iconic part of a suffragist's outfit is the sash. The shoulder that it is worn on doesn't necessarily matter, but it is usually draped over the right shoulder. They vary in design, but generally will have one white stripe bordered by a colored one on either side or are simply solid-colored. The sash reads: "VOTES FOR WOMEN."



Both outfits involve hats and white, pointed shoes with heels only an inch or so high. Suffragists sometimes decorated their ensembles with flowers or feathers. White was the predominate choice for these outfits. Helena Hubbard

The above images are courtesy of [CR Fashion Book](#).

LEAD PROGRAM AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

more at <http://lwwsc.org>.

The program will include

- **John Ruoff** on “War Stories from the Redistricting Front”
- **Laura Woliver** on “Disturbing the Peace in S.C.: Women’s Suffrage and Human Equality”
- **Roundtable** networking on "Making Democracy Work in This Election Year: Challenges and Opportunities”
- **Updates** on Redistricting, Legislative Advocacy, DEI, Centennial, Gender and Racial Equity (including the ERA), Education, Natural Resources

LEAD REGISTRATION OPTIONS:

1. Online: Complete the online registration form [here](#) and then make your payment via PayPal [here](#).
2. By mail: print the registration form found [here](#), then complete and mail it with your payment and lunch preference by January 20 to Nancy Williams (LWV/SC Treasurer) at 3 Hummingbird Court, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926. Checks should be made out to “LWV/SC.”
3. (Not preferred!) You may wait and pay at the door, but we cannot guarantee your choice for lunch unless we have paid confirmation of attendance by January 20.

****PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN WATER BOTTLE to cut down on plastic waste****

PROGRESS ON THE ERA IN SOUTH CAROLINA!

Anita T. Baker

Members of the League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area joined members of other Leagues around the state and representatives of other women's rights groups at a press conference on the first floor of the South Carolina State House State House December 11 at 11am. The press conference was held to announce that Senator Tom Davis (R, Beaufort) will co-sponsor a joint resolution to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution as introduced in January by Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter (D, Orangeburg).

Representative Cobb-Hunter introduced H 3391: "A JOINT RESOLUTION TO RATIFY A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PROVIDING THAT EQUALITY OF RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW MUST NOT BE DENIED OR ABRIDGED ON ACCOUNT OF SEX."



Senator Tom Davis speaks at the Press Conference regarding the joint resolution to ratify the ERA in SC

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was first introduced to the United States Congress in 1923. This followed the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which granted women the right to vote. After this victory was won by the women suffragist movement, women continued to mobilize to further their cause for equality as evidenced by the introduction of the ERA by Alice Paul, Leader of the National Women's Party.

After the ERA was introduced, it faced a challenge from the nation's industrialists who had sought protective labor laws that treated women differently than men. The ERA lost its momentum in these early years, as some feared progress made to protect women in the workplace would be lost.

When the second wave of the Women's Movement began in the 1970s and 1980s, women activists centered their hopes for reform on the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Throughout the years, Congress required deadlines for state ratifications to take place. One deadline for ratification was 1979. Many activist groups, including the League of Women Voters, appealed to Congress to end the deadline requirement. In July 1979, the National Organization of Women planned a March of 100,000 supporters in Washington DC. Congress then granted an extension to June 30, 1982.



Yolanda Anderson,
Commissioner, Richland
School District One, and
SC Representative Gilda
Cobb-Hunter



Brandi Parrish Ellison
& Chloe Holowczenko with WREN

On June 30, 1982, the ERA was approved by 35 of 38 states. Every year since, the Amendment has been introduced on the floor of the United States House of Representatives and activists have been working at the state level to prepare for a full ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution.



Currently, there are several states debating ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. The Joint Resolution introduced by Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter and co-sponsored by Senator Tom Davis will be considered in the next session of the South Carolina General Assembly. Members of the General Assembly will be asked to join the effort to the send the ratification vote to the United States Congress in 2020.

Lauren Caudle, SC Human Affairs Commission
& Keller Barron, LWV/CA

**DREHER HIGH '71
GRADUATE CHARMAINE
CLOWNEY** recently registered
36 Dreher High School students to
vote.



**CALLING ALL QUALIFIED
WOMEN, SOUTH CAROLINA
NEEDS YOU.**

For most of our history, the absence of women from positions of power and influence hasn't been newsworthy; it was normal. Currently in South Carolina, just 16.5 percent of the seats in the S.C. General Assembly are held by women, even though women constitute 51.5 percent of our state's population.

Not all women are prepared to run for elective office – nor do they choose to. But there is a tremendous opportunity to make an impact on our state by serving on state boards and commissions.

More than 200 boards and commissions, encompassing 6,000-plus seats, wield considerable power in The Palmetto State. At the moment, however, nearly 1,100 of these positions are either vacant or are occupied by a placeholder whose term has expired. These boards make critical decisions affecting education, health and human services, finance, and the environment. But, like our legislature, most of these boards lack female representation.

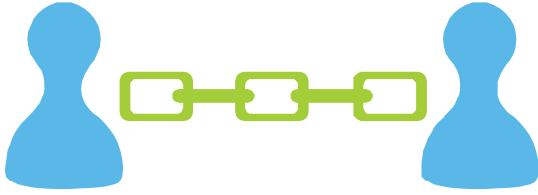
It is time to change that, and we need your help to make it happen.

Women are prepared to serve. Indeed, we have been serving our families and our communities for generations. The current state of our democracy demands that each of us comes forward and makes a more public commitment to the future of our state, our nation, our children, and our children's children.

Your contribution of time and talent can help move our state forward – socially, economically, educationally, and environmentally. We all have a lot to lose if we don't step up.

Learn about more opportunities to make a difference at <https://scwomenlead.net/gap-about/>.

Barbara Rackes, President, SC Women in Leadership (SC WIL)



QUICK LINKS

Websites:

National: www.lwv.org/

State: <http://lwvsc.org/>

Columbia: www.lwvcolumbiasc.org

Facebook: To see our Facebook Page:

1. Go to YOUR Facebook page and begin typing "**League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area**" in the search box until a list pops up.
2. Click on the name **League of Women Voters of Columbia, SC** with the familiar blue LWV Logo on the left.

That's it!

Twitter:

1. Go to YOUR Twitter account and search for the League of Women Voters Columbia Area and connect.

Facebook and Twitter email address:
[@LWVColumbiaSC](https://twitter.com/LWVColumbiaSC)

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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL

1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 PM City Hall
1737 Main Street Columbia, SC 29201

Check website www.columbiasc.net

LEXINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 4:30 PM
2nd Floor County Administration Building
212 South Lake Drive Lexington, SC 29072

For confirmation of meeting dates,
call 785-8103 or check website
www.lex-co.com

RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 PM
2nd Floor County Administration Building
2020 Hampton Street Columbia, SC 29202.

For more information, contact the Clerk of
Council Office @ (803) 576-2060 or check
website www.richlandonline.com