

The League Update

MARCH 24, 2022



Our Nation

Happy Spring, League Leaders!

Tuesday marked the 50th anniversary of the passing of the Equal Rights Amendment. Although we have made considerable progress in those fifty years, women and nonbinary folks continue to face systematic discrimination at disproportionate rates. We now stand at the threshold of ensuring equal protection under the law and equitable opportunities for all, but there is still work to be done. We have the required 38 states needed to ratify the amendment, so **now is the time** to move forward with certification. Please share our <u>action alert</u> calling on the US House to pass HR891 and add the ERA to the Constitution.

Additionally, confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson began this week. If confirmed, Jackson would be the first Black woman to sit on the Court. As these historic hearings progress, we continue to call on our leaders in the US Senate to ensure a fair and bipartisan confirmation process. We demand that the focus of this confirmation be on the content of her record, her ability to be impartial, and an assessment of her commitment to justice and equity.

Our League

Two years ago this month, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. Our lives — and the way we vote — completely changed. Mail-in and early voting were not only successful counters to pandemic restrictions but made voting accessible for all. We must not turn back. We must continue to fight to protect accessible voting practices. Learn more on my latest blog, 'What COVID-19 Taught Us About Making Voting Accessible'.

Our 2022 Convention is just around the corner, and we are excited about seeing League members both in person and virtually this June. Register today at lww.org/convention. Also, take pride in the work you have done and nominate your League for a Convention award. Submit nominations and learn more about the award categories here.

As we wrap up Women's History Month, take a personal moment to reflect on where we have come from and where we are going. Remember that every day, not just in March, there are opportunities for us to learn about, celebrate, and uplift the strides made by women. Your ongoing dedication to empowering voters not only honors the work of so many trailblazers and advocates but continues to push the needle forward in our fight to defend democracy. You are the unsung champions of this work and I **THANK YOU** for all that you do!

Finally, with COVID restrictions being lifted, I encourage you all to stay safe and exercise caution to continue to protect you, yours, and the most vulnerable among us.

In League,

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WEBINARS & VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Upcoming

- March 29, 5pm ET | March LWV Community Call
 A monthly virtual space where Leagues build a cross-learning and relationship-building
 League environment. This month will focus on Leagues' redistricting work.
- March 31, 3pm ET | <u>Legislative Office Hours</u>
 A regular space for LWVUS advocacy staff to support your legislative work. If you have specific positions or bills to discuss, please email <u>advocacy@lwv.org</u>.

Recordings

- Thank Election Heroes Movement Call
- Reproductive rights cases/legislation/advocacy

ACTION

Action Alert: Tell Your Representatives That You Want Equality to Be Part of the Constitution

Support April 12 Thank Election Heroes Day of Action

Americans across race, place, and party believe in the freedom to decide for ourselves who represents us. In the face of a pandemic, Americans turned out in record numbers to cast their ballots and make their voices heard. Join us on April 12 for Thank Election Heroes Day of Action! Alongside partners from Public Citizen, Leadership Conference, and APIA Vote, we will show our support for local election workers and honor them for their dedication to ensuring our elections run smoothly. Learn more during the April 3 Movement Call, 8pm ET.

RESOURCES

- Blog: What COVID-19 Taught Us About Making Voting Accessible
- Blog: <u>Legal Trends to Watch in 2022</u>
- Blog: Climate Change Threats to Food and Water
- Organizing Resources to Build League Power: This page houses organizing trainings and recordings.

 <u>Presidents of the League of Women Voters of the United States</u>: A comprehensive list of former LWVUS presidents.

Alternate LWV Logo Versions

We've added alternate versions of our general League of Women Voters logos! The alternate logos package now includes progress pride flag logos, white and black logos, and more. Download the alt logos package from the <u>League Management Site</u>.

This Spring, Continue to Grow a Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive League

The hustle and bustle of spring bring with it lots of League activity. Here are some resources to support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in your League's planning and activities. Find more DEI resources on the <u>League Management site</u>.

- <u>Planning Diverse</u>, <u>Equitable</u>, and <u>Inclusive League Events</u>
- DEI and League Work
- What to Ask When Examining Your Work Through a DEI Lens
- What Does the DEI Policy Mean for Your League?

Growing our organization's diversity, equity, and inclusion increases our power and ensures that anyone who subscribes to our principles and policies has a place in the League.

Program Planning

Program planning forms have now been submitted and Leagues may want to review the program planning process as we head to convention. If you have questions, send those to program@lwv.org. Recordings of program planning webinars: Program Planning 101 and Program Planning 102. Leagues that want to promote program related items, including concurrences and studies, can send materials to cdavis@lwv.org and CC progplan@lwv.org. View the concurrences here. You do not need to join the group to view the documents, but if you wish to participate in any discussion, you can join the group here.

LWV BUSINESS

Register for LWVUS 2022 Convention

Registration and hotel reservations for the 2022 Convention are now open. Convention will take place June 23 – June 27 in Denver, CO, and online. Find more info and register at www.org/convention.

2022 Pre-Convention Training

<u>Black Voters Matter</u> will be joining us to provide training on how to lean into conflict. More details will be available soon. This session will be made available to in-person and virtual attendees. Black Voters Matter's goal is to increase power in marginalized, predominantly Black communities.

Effective voting allows a community to determine its own destiny. We agree with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he said, "Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love." Read more about the session <u>here</u>.

Determining Your Convention Delegate Count

All Leagues are invited to bring delegates to Convention. Delegates are charged with debating and voting on the business items brought to plenary. Every local League is entitled to at least one delegate, and every state League is entitled to at least three delegates. When a League's membership reaches 50 voting members, the League shall be entitled to one additional delegate. More information can be viewed here.

LETTERS & MEMOS

- Memo: <u>LWV urges US House to cosponsor H.Res. 891, affirming the Equal Rights</u>
 Amendment as part of the <u>US Constitution</u>
- Testimony: LWVTX submits testimony for the record to Subcommittee on Elections

Leagues in the News

- Margaret "Peg" Rosenfeld, a former LWV of Ohio member and passionate advocate for voting rights, passed away on March 11. Learn more about her life and activism here:
 Ohio voter advocate dies at 90, uses obit to get out vote.
- LWV of Arkansas successfully challenged voting restrictions! Read more here: <u>Arkansas</u> judge finds 4 new voting laws unconstitutional.
- Despite barriers brought on by the pandemic, LWV of Penn State remains dedicated to increasing voter education amongst college students. Read the piece: <u>Penn State's</u> <u>League of Women Voters strives to show how 'women can rock elections'</u>.

League of Women Voters

1233 20th Street NW, Suite 500 Washington, DC 20036