

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
IN DELAWARE

Holiday PARTY

LETS EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Wed. December 11th

The Green Turtle Bar & Grille
391 N. DuPont Hwy | Dover, DE

The Fun Begins at 11:30 AM

\$27 BUFFET MEAL, Payable at the
Door to the "LWVKC"

RSVP Your Attendance by Dec. 8th
To Hamiltoncrystal3@gmail.com

WWW.LWVDELAWARE.ORG

Lots of new things to report on:

- 1) **Our VOTE411 program is in full gear for 2020** under the stellar leadership of Kim Wells. Given that it's a presidential as well as legislative election year, our needs are greater. We're applying for grants to expand the scope of this valuable program and expect to increase its impact substantially. We'll be asking for your financial help for this and other activities in a letter that will go out soon. Please support us to the extent that you're able.
- 2) We have established a new committee on "**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion**" (aka DEI) with Gwendolyn Miller as chair. Gwendolyn comes to us with an impressive professional background in the field and we are fortunate to have her expertise to guide us. You'll be hearing a lot about this effort in the coming months.
- 3) **2020 is the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters!** We will have many events going on at the local and state levels. You'll be hearing specifics about these events soon. They include a trip to Seneca Falls, where the first Women's Suffrage Convention was held in 1848 – and where the "Declaration of Sentiments" was made -- the document that was the basis for the Suffrage movement.
- 4) **2020 is the 100th birthday of the 19th Amendment** – the one that gave women in the United States the right to vote. There will be a state sponsored parade and celebration in Dover and many other events at the local level. More about this after the first of the New Year.
- 5) **2020 is a presidential election year** – always a time when the League makes extra efforts to increase voter registration and voter participation.
- 6) We will be introducing a **new website soon**, with Mary Ann Coe at the helm. Mary Ann comes to us with an extensive background in IT and previous experience as a web master. We are lucky she found us. Welcome aboard Mary Ann and thanks to retiring webmaster Jean Bauer, who served admirably for many years.



You'll be getting an increased number of emails from us requesting volunteers to assist in setting up these events and/or to participate in them. If we have a parade, will you come? If we have a Film Festival, will you come? Will you join us in Seneca Falls? Will you volunteer to register voters? We know the League is made up of those who can and do. We'll need your talents in the months to come and hope you'll respond when we ask.

Warm regards and all good wishes for a Happy Holiday season – beginning with Thanksgiving and carrying on through New Year's Day.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carol Jones".

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sue Claire Harper".

SAVE THE DATE!

League Day in Dover - Annual Legislative Day

Wednesday, March 25, 2021 at the Duncan Center, Dover DE

8:30 am registration, Program 9-12, buffet luncheon

Topic: "Funding the Needs of Our State"



VOTE411 has a new logo, and the www.vote411.org website has a new look and feel... check it out when you get a chance! We'll cover all four Delaware statewide elections on VOTE411 in 2020... Presidential primary on **April 28**, school board elections on **May 12**, state primaries on **September 15**, and general election on **November 3**.

Our 2020 VOTE411 Delaware marketing slogan is "*Be Aware. VOTE Aware.*" A preview of our first business-card sized handout is included below.

The Delaware VOTE411 team is currently seeking grants and sponsors for the 2020 election year. **For \$750, a company can be a state sponsor and have their logo displayed on the VOTE411 website** for Delaware visitors all year long. If you know of a company or organization that might like to be a state sponsor please let Kim Wells know.

There also will be lots of **opportunities to volunteer on the VOTE411 team next year in each county (New Castle, Kent, Sussex)**. You can take a large or small role in the areas of project management, research and data entry, candidate follow-up, and marketing/PR.

We'll have a conference call in early 2020 to get organized; send your name to Kim Wells, kimwells19702@gmail.com, if you'd like to sit in on the conference call and learn more.



Alternative Voting Methodologies Study

A recent social media post by RepresentUs, an American anti-corruption group based in Florence Massachusetts, makes some big claims about what Ranked-Choice Voting can do... see the graphic at right.

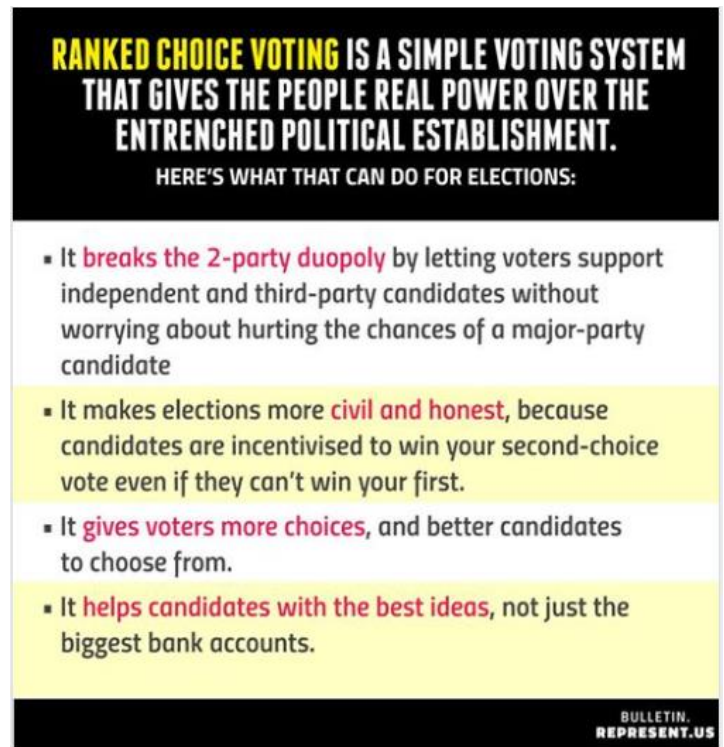
Can a simple change in the way we vote really do all that? **Plan to attend a presentation** by the LWVDE Alternative Voting Methodologies Study Team (AVS Team) in January or February 2020 to learn more about it.

Find out why New York City just voted for ranked-choice voting, and Maine has implemented it for all general elections.

Session Dates/Times

- NCC #1 – **Tues Jan 14, 6-8 pm** Route 9 Library & Innovation Center
- NCC #2 – **Sat Jan 24, 10 am-noon** Bear Library
- Kent – TBD
- Sussex – TBD

League members are encouraged to review the [proposed LWVUS Concurrence position on Electoral Systems](#) prior to the Jan/Feb AVS Team presentations.



LWVUS Launches People Powered Fair Maps™ (PPFM) Project Nationwide.



“We conclude that partisan gerrymandering claims present political questions beyond the reach of the federal courts,” the chief justice wrote in the 5-4 majority decision the *Rucho* case. The case addressed challenges to partisan gerrymandering in Maryland and North Carolina.

When LWVUS leadership heard the Supreme Court decision, they agreed on the need for LEAGUE ACTION. Their concern led to a commitment of \$500,000 for the first year of a 50-state plus DC project dubbed “People Powered Fair Maps™” (PPFM). Our national staff is seeking grants and donations to support a multi-million-dollar, multi-year project. The goal is to set the stage for a sweeping state-by-state redistricting effort that will begin in 2021 following conclusion of the 2020 Census.

The project was kicked off with a “convening” of representatives from state Leagues near Dulles Airport in October. Advocacy Chair Sandy Spence (*pictured at left*) was appointed to attend for LWVDE. She became so enthused about the project that she convinced Linda Barnett to take on her role as Advocacy Chair. Sandy will chair a new portfolio of the Advocacy Corps to address LWVDE’s role in the Census and Redistricting.

She has already announced the program at the Sussex semi-annual meeting and will meet in Kent and New Castle soon to recruit a statewide committee. An initial group will work with her on a plan for LWVDE’s work in helping ensure a complete count in Delaware’s Census in 2020. (See separate article on the Census.)

That work will set the base for intensive work on planning and implementation of redistricting our state legislature. Developing maps for revised districts based on the new Census data will start after the Census Bureau releases data to the state on March 31, 2021.

“This is an exciting opportunity for League members to learn and act to help ensure a complete Census count and to develop “people powered fair maps” for Senate and Representative Districts in Delaware,” Spence says with great enthusiasm. “We need all kinds of skills from statistical analysts, survey developers, public speakers, and Excel record keepers, traditional and social media whizzes, trainers, and those who enjoy writing letters to the editors, testimony, or any other interests you can bring to our work.”

To volunteer, just email sandyspence325@gmail.com. Please put PPFM in the subject line.

The Countdown to the 2020 Census has begun!



Leading up to, on, and after Census Day (April 1, 2020), LWVDE plans to work in coalition with multiple partners to help get everyone counted. We’ll do this as part of our work on the LWVUS People Powered Fair Maps™ (PPFM) project. Interested? Contact sandyspence325@gmail.com. Include PPFM in the subject line.

Each of us is an important source of information about the 2020 Census. It is up to us to ensure that our friends and family know the facts and are not deterred from participating in the 2020 Census. Here are some facts:

- The Constitution requires counting all *persons* – not just all *citizens*. The citizenship question will *not* be on the 2020 Census form and individual data won’t be linked to any of these records.

In fact, the Census Bureau is not allowed to release individual data or personal responses to anyone, for any purpose—including to other government agencies or law enforcement. This means filling out your census form

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is still safe and secure. The Brennan Center for Justice has an excellent report on confidentiality at <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/federal-laws-protect-census-confidentiality>.

- Among its many purposes, the Census is used in redistricting Congressional, state and local legislative bodies, including school boards.
- According to Sen. Tom Carper at a recent news conference, “Delaware is closing in on a million people. And we are very close to a magic number that would enable us to have not just one U.S. representative, but two.”
- A correct census could not only allow for more representation in Congress, but also bring more funding into the state.
- Census data is used in distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually. Delaware gets approximately \$2,000 per citizen. In 2010, approximately 5,000 Delawareans did not fill out the census form -- roughly \$10 million of federal funding that did not come into the state.
- Responding to the Census will help ensure that our state and local governments get our fair share of federal funds for programs like Medicaid, SNAP, Head Start, unemployment benefits, Section 8 housing vouchers, programs for seniors and veterans with disabilities, and school lunch programs.
- It also helps ensure that our communities have enough money to build roads, hospitals, and schools.



LWFV members leadership training for People Powered Fair Maps Campaign.

Accurate, comprehensive data is also used by private industry for such purposes as helping determine where companies bring new jobs.

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting thousands of people across the country to assist with the 2020 Census count. Interested? Go to <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html>.

Planning for February 14, 2020, National Day of Action

Part of the People Powered Fair Maps™ campaign is a collective National Day of Action by Leagues all over the country on February 14, 2020, the 100th Birthday of the League of Women Voters. LWFVUS will provide direction and message support for Leagues to fold into other League birthday celebrations.

Examples of some ways the state and local Leagues can consider, either digital or in-person, include but are not limited to:

- Sharing social media content
- Organizing a rally or protest
- Delivering petitions
- Convening educational events on voting rights, redistricting or the Census
- Hosting a letter writing party to state representatives about fair maps
- Writing op-eds or letters to editor in local papers
- Hosting a voter registration drive
- Tabling at community events or on college campuses
- Promote “Wear White Day”

We are working on a possible statewide event but can’t publicize it until we can confirm details. We will alert League members if it works out. Meanwhile, Local Leagues can consider ways you would like to celebrate with the thousands of League members across the country.

If you want to take an individual action, please let us know so we can count it as part of Delaware’s participation. Send info to sandyspence325@gmail.com. Please put PPFM in the subject line.

OPTIONS FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPING AND HELP FUND THE LWVDE

LWVDE Merchandise (hoodies, t-shirts, mugs and totes) is available at cafepress.com/decauseshop. Click the "LWV" logo within the DE Cause Shop to reach our page. Here is a sampling:



If you shop on Amazon.com, consider going to Amazon Smile instead (smile.amazon.com), and designating "League of Women Voters of Delaware Inc" as your charity of choice.



As many of you know for those who register for an Amazon Smile Account, Amazon will donate 0.05% of eligible Amazon Smile purchases to the charity of your choice. As many of you may not know, LWVDE (<http://lwvdelaware.org/>) is eligible to receive these donations. You merely need to go to Amazon Smile and list League of Women Voters of Delaware Inc. as your designated charity. In order to sign-up for LWVDE to receive Amazon Smile donations follow these steps:

1. Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
2. Go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to Change your Charity.

Brush up your civics quotient. Our video series on the US and Delaware Constitutions is on You Tube. Type In "League of Women Voters of Delaware You Tube" in your search box and it will take you there. It's in segments of 20 to 30 minutes so you can take it in small doses. We also have a segment on the 19th Amendment. Check it out.

Identifying the Concerns of Delaware Women

A project is just getting underway called Delaware Women's Voices. Its goal is to identify important issues that impact women's lives and to pinpoint areas of need.

This is a nationwide project, under the auspices of the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW), whose mission is to sustain, strengthen and advocate for women's commissions in their work to promote equality and justice for all women and girls and ensure they are represented and empowered in their communities.

In Delaware, the project is sponsored by the Office for Women's Advancement and Advocacy, a state agency within which the Delaware Commission for Women is housed. The goal is to have all Delaware women 18 years of age and older take a survey where their views can be recorded. **Here is the link for you to use to take the survey:**

<https://bit.ly/owaasurvey>. The findings from the project will be compiled and shared with the public and with Delaware's elected officials. In addition, Delaware's findings will be pooled with the findings from other states around the country; the outcome will be a report prepared by NACW and delivered to the President, Congress and the nation outlining what the women of the United States have identified as their concerns. The national report is expected to be published in July 2020 in time for the 100th Anniversary of the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment.



NEWS FROM ONE OF OUR LOCAL LEAGUES

The League of Women Voters of Sussex County,

- National Voter Registration Day was an enormous success. The League of Women Voters of Sussex County held a voter registration event at Del Tech, registering 60 new voters.
- The 19th Amendment Celebration Planning Committee members are hard at work organizing events to mark the 100th anniversary of the passing of the amendment that gave women the right to vote.
- **AUGUST 2020** - Parade on Rehoboth Beach Boardwalk.
- **September 2020** -Dedication of Suffrage memorial in Dover.
- **DE State 19th Amendment Celebration Committee** - Reenactment of the War of the Roses, which was the debate over the passage of the 19th Amendment in Dover.
- **October 2020** - Bus Trip to The Turning Point Suffrage Memorial Fund for Women.
- **LWVSC has had many ongoing activities** including, B.R. Breen, Observer Corps Coordinator, League of Women Voters of Sussex County presented the Sunshine Report to the Sussex County Council on September 24, 2019. The focus of her report centered on:
 1. Comprehensive Plan and Land Use
 2. Affordable Workforce Housing and the Homeless
 3. Citizen Participation, Access, and Right to Know.
- Membership has increased to – 170 members.
- Fun Lunch continues to be a hit among members. Many of our new members sign up at Fun Lunches.
- Held two public forums on school funding in Delaware.
- The most recent fun lunch included an informative presentation: *Revisiting the Women’s Suffrage Movement with ‘2020’ Hindsight.*



CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 11 am - noon	Sheridan's Irish Pub 44 W. Commerce Street, Smyrna, DE 19977	ELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING. Contact Jill Itzkowitz for details (302-650-6862) jillitzkowitz@gmail.com
Wednesday, December 11, 2019 9:30 - noon	Legislative Hall (House Majority Caucus Room) 411 Legislative Avenue Dover, DE 19901	LWVDE ADVOCACY CORPS Meeting. Regular 2nd Wednesday meeting of the LWVDE Advocacy Corps (legislative lobby group) in Dover. For details or to attend, contact Advocacy Chair Linda Barnet, luvchocdog@hotmail.com
Thursday, December 5, 2019 11:00 am	Clayton Hall, University of Delaware, Newark	NEW CITIZEN CEREMONIES LWVNCC volunteers distribute welcome packets to the new citizens.
Wednesday, December 11, 20019 11:30 am–2 pm	Green Turtle Sports Bar 391 N Dupont Hwy, Dover DE 19901	HOLIDAY PARTY All invited. Hosted by the LWVKC. Buffet. RSVP for reservation – by December 8, 2019 to hamiltoncrystal3@gmail.com or call 302-571-8948

League of Women Voter s of Delaware, Inc

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