



DELAWARE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Delaware

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Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

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

LEAGUE DAY IN DOVER THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019

Promoting Democracy and a Clean Environment in Delaware

League Day in Dover 2019 will focus on key issues:

- Improving our election system to allow all citizen voices to be heard!
- The National Popular Vote Compact: Basing the Electoral College on the popular vote.
- Securing Clean Water and sound infrastructure.
- Clean Energy supplied through Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) and Green Power.

Spend the day with us in Dover! We'll have morning speakers and luncheon at the Duncan Center, and an afternoon of meeting legislators in Legislative Hall.



Elaine Manlove



*Andrew "Drew"
Wilson*



John Sykes



*The Hon.
Valerie Longhurst*

Registration deadline Friday, March 22, 2019. The Flyer for League Day in Dover is available [here](#) and the registration form is [here](#).

(Continued on page 2 League Day)

(Continued from page 1 **League Day**)

8:30-9:00 AM **REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS**
9:00 AM **PROGRAM**
11:30 - 12:30 PM **LUNCH WITH LEGISLATORS (BUFFET)**
12:40 PM **HEAD OVER TO LEGISLATIVE HALL**

Elaine Manlove, State Election Commissioner, Delaware, will address the issues surrounding **voting and elections**. She will address early voting, no excuse absentee voting, the **new voting system**.

Andrew “Drew” Wilson, Esq. is an associate and legislative specialist in Morris James LLP’s Health Care Industry and Government Relations Groups in Wilmington. He will address the **National Popular Vote Compact** that will ensure the candidate with the most votes wins, and what Delaware needs to do.

John Sykes, League member and former Advocacy Corps chair, has served on both the state Renewable Energy Task Force and the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council. Sykes will discuss the **Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)**, a Delaware regulation, that electricity sold by a public utility have an increasing percentage generated from renewable energy sources, with specific annual goals. Focus will be current issues with the RPS as well as Delaware’s other options to decrease our total use of fossil fuels.

The Hon. Valerie Longhurst will address the critical need for sound **infrastructure for the supply of clean drinking water**, public sewer and waste water treatment plants. Costs are estimated to be around \$100 Million. A bill based on a revision to HB 270, tabled in the last Legislative Session, will be addressed.

After the morning session at the Duncan Center, we are heading over to Legislative Hall to meet with legislators. If you are available to participate in this afternoon session, we will make the appointment(s) for you. You will not be going alone.

SPONSORS: League of Women Voters of Delaware, Inc, cosponsors National Popular Vote (NPV), Inland Bays Foundation, American Civil Liberties Foundation (ACLU), Delaware Nature Society (DNS), Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence, Delaware for Open Government (DelCOG), ERA Now Delaware.

Save the date! All welcome! No experience necessary!

LWV of Delaware Biennial Convention, Saturday, June 1, 2019

Barclay Farms Clubhouse & meeting rooms

1 Paynter's Way, Camden, DE 19934

Catered lunch and refreshments

Business of Convention

- ⇒ Meet, network and get to know some of your local league members across the state and the Advocacy Corps
- Adopt Proposed Program & Proposed New Studies
- Adopt a Budget
- Elect new Officers and Directors
- Arrangements for workshops are in progress
- Details will follow in April & May.

Spread the Word SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS ARE COMING.

In 2019, elections will be held in the Appoquinimink, Brandywine, Caesar Rodney, Cape Henlopen, Capital, Christina, Colonial, Delmar, Indian River, Lake Forest, and Seaford school districts.

Learn about the Delaware school board candidates on the League of Women Voters' www.VOTE411.org or Network Delaware's WhoRunsOurSchools.com

Vote on May 14, 2019



WDEL Radio session
3/20/19 from left to right:
Megan Hart from Network
Delaware, Allan Loudell,
Kim Wells, LWV of
Delaware.

Any citizen of voting-age and a district resident can vote at any open polling place. Find the polling place list on your school district website.

*Polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sponsored by LWV and Network Delaware.*

The League of Women Voters of Sussex County is sponsoring school board candidate forums.
Indian River School Board Candidates Forum, April 10 2019, 6-8 pm, Frankford Public Library
Cape Henlopen School Board Candidates Forum, April 23 2019, 6-8 pm, Lewes Public Library

LWV ACTING ON PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES

ADVOCACY CORPS REPORT: Sandy Spence, Chair



It's been a busy, busy time for the LWVDE Advocacy Corps (AC). First, the membership growth in the League, nationally and within Delaware, has been good for our AC! We now have 17 volunteer, registered lobbyists. (Delaware law requires those who contact legislators or testify representing an organization are required to register and report their activity. The League carefully follows that law but we urge members to contact their own legislators as individuals.)

If you are interested in supporting our work by researching issues, drafting position papers or testimony, writing letters to the editor or opinion pieces, please contact AC Chair at sandyspence325@gmail.com.

HB 1, the second leg of an amendment to our Constitution, passed after multiple hearings. We now have **Equal Rights**. The General Assembly recessed for Joint Finance Committee hearings on the Governor's budget. Our lobbyists testified in support of funding for several of our priority programs

(Continued on page 4 Advocacy Corps Report)

Continued from page 3 **Advocacy Corps Report**)

When legislators returned in early March, we moved on to several other important priorities. Unfortunately, HB 41 that would **move the primary election from September to April**, saving \$1 million in presidential years, passed the House but failed to be released from the Senate Elections Committee. We're checking to see why.

Kudos to Julie Price, who led our role on SB 22, the **National Popular Vote Interstate Compact**. She testified in both Senate and House and the bill passed in both by March 14. It is one of the four priority areas we have planned for League Day and Dover. Even though it is passed (but not yet signed by the Governor as of press time), our speaker Drew Wilson will address it at League Day. This will enable all League members to understand how this compact will work to ensure that our President is elected by the popular vote majority rather than the outcome in the "swing states."



Rep. Baumbach in discussion with Sandy Spence.

Two other voting bills, our top priority **Early Voting** (HB 38), and **Same Day Registration** (HB 39) that will be addressed at League Day both came out of the House Committee on March 13, with Elections Committee Co-Chair Jill Itzkowitz representing us at the hearing. A Constitutional amendment to **eliminate restrictions on absentee voting** (HB 73) has been introduced.

Issues in Newark and Rehoboth Beach relating to the issue of Limited Liability Companies (**LLCs**) **voting in municipal elections** got our attention. Mitch Crane agreed to review the charters of all municipalities in the state. We were surprised to learn how many of

them allow this practice, so Mitch has drafted language to require all municipalities to use the state registration system with the ability to include non-resident property owners – a practice of many beach communities. We are seeking a sponsor.

Joann Hasse learned at a recent health care symposium that the **Earned Income Tax Credit** is the key factor in addressing "Social Determinants of Health" (the focus of the symposium) for low income persons and Jack Young tells us that it is widely believed that this federal legislation is the single best support for low income persons of any government program. Although the Governor vetoed a bipartisan bill passed last year, Prime Sponsor Rep. Paul Baumbach worked with the Administration to introduce HB 80 that will make EITC recipients eligible for a refundable credit here. This helps the lowest income persons. Among other bills we are addressing:

HB37 restoring senior tax credit, a bi-partisan bill, could be supported if it were means-tested. *Agreed.*

HB32 decreases by 1% the Realty Transfer Tax (tabled in committee). *Monitor.*

HCR5 calling for constitutional convention regarding Citizens United. *Due to national position, must oppose.*

HB19 providing a school nurse in every school. *Supporting.*

HB60 provides for DelTech to have bonding authority but not with public funding. *Supporting.*

HB65 permits solar panels even if HOA opposed. *Supporting.*

SB25: Age of tobacco sales and vaping changed from 18-21. *Supporting.*

SB27: Allowing care providers to administer meds to patient. LWV *Concerned that there are no standards or regulations addressing care providers covered in this bill.*

HB54 increasing fees in DELJIS from a dollar to \$3 to people charged with crimes. LWV thinks DELJIS needs more funding; this is not the way to do it. *Oppose?*

Continued on page 5 Advocacy Corps Report)

HB46, HA1. HB46 establishes an Attorney Fund for owners of manufactured homes to access in actions against owners of their lots. *Supporting.* HA1 from Rep. Briggs King essentially undercuts HB46 *Opposing amendment.*

HB63 Requiring safe firearms storage. *Supporting*

Criminal Justice Reform. Legislative Leaders recently announced a package of bills that represent a major reform of our criminal justice system. Although the bills had not been introduced by press time, most are consistent with League positions and we expect to support most, if not all, of them. The announcement includes:



Charlotte King testifying at Senate Committee

- Expanding the ability of the Board of Parole to offer conditional release for inmates
- Creating a new commission focusing on sentencing guidelines
- Enabling judges to issue sentences concurrently rather than consecutively to prevent “stacking”
- Eliminating most aggravating factors for drug crimes, which disproportionately impact individuals living in cities
- Generally lessening penalties for drug offenses
- Offering tax credits to employers who hire ex-convicts
- Broadening the circumstances under which an adult can obtain an expungement sealing his or her criminal history
- Mandating courts consider an individual’s financial situation before assessing fines and fees
- Limiting what the court can impose financial penalties for
- Forbidding the suspension of a driver’s license due to the failure to pay fines and fees
- Preventing youth younger than 12 from being prosecuted except for rape and murder
- Ordering charges to be based on when the offense occurred, not when charges were handed down, meaning more individuals will be tried as juveniles for crimes committed as minors
- Making underage possession or use of marijuana a civil violation rather than a criminal offense
- Establishing underage possession or use of alcohol as a civil violation

Other issues that concern us include:

Property tax reassessment. The state is expecting a substantial excess in revenue over the proposed Governor’s budget. We have suggested that some of these funds be used to support counties’ reassessment. However, the Legislature rarely addresses county funding except based on requests from the counties. We have been advised that county representatives meeting recently suggested that they need to be contacted individually because of differing views on this issue.

Medical Aid in Dying. We are awaiting outcomes from local League meetings on concurrence with a position taken by the LWV of Utah. President Joann Hasse has suggested that the Board could approve concurrence if each local League advised that their members support the position. A revised bill addressing concerns of the disability community is expected to be introduced soon and the AC is eager to support it, depending on outcome of the local League meetings.

Voting Machine Audits. A new bill is being developed that would amend current law to ensure and spell out procedures for auditing new Voting Machines that have been ordered. They are expected to be used in 2019 school board elections and the 2020 Presidential primary and general elections. If we have overlooked issues that concern you, please contact sandyspence325@gmail.com.

PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS



What does the League do besides register voters? How to answer that Frequently Asked Question? After some thought, I've decided the answer falls into two categories, with some overlap. The first is purely personal and the second is mostly societal. For example, when I vote, that is personal. When I enable others to exercise their right to vote, that is societal.

So what does the League "do" for the individual member.

* Most importantly in my mind, it expands one's horizons and knowledge base by presenting subjects, and sometimes viewpoints, beyond one's usual scope of interest or knowledge. Frequently it's not that one didn't think an issue was important; more likely one never thought about it at all or dismissed it as someone's problem!

* The second plus is a mix of personal and societal. Membership in the League gives one a platform to "do something" or make one's voice known on a great variety of issues. This also has several facets. One can become part of a committee which studies and follows a specific issue. One can also, just by one's membership, be supportive of League Advocacy (support or opposition) on issues on which we have developed Positions through member study and agreement. An in between version of this is feeling comfortable enough about the subject to contact one's own legislators, (national, state or local) to express an opinion.

SOCIETAL

As an organization that is now 99 years old, we have studied, come to agreement on and developed many Positions on a great variety of issues over the years so, at this point in our existence, we tend to do more Advocacy than study. That is not to say we do not study specific legislation before we commit to support or oppose it! We do, but then what?

* We attend committee hearings, we testify on legislation, we present our position statements to elected officials and we generally make our presence known. Currently we are emphasizing several bills which would make it easier for citizens to register and vote.

* We regularly observe committees and meetings of public bodies and offer comments during the Public Comment periods. Sometimes "raising questions" is more important than a statement.

* We hold candidate forums and provide information to voters via Vote411.

* We attend New Citizen ceremonies, held 8 times a year, and present each newly naturalized citizen with a packet of information including the League publications "They Represent You" and "This Way to the Voting Booth" as well as iVote and a welcome letter.

* League members act as impartial observers for the tenant council elections required in public housing.

If YOU are asked "the question", please indicate that we do all these things as volunteers! That comes as a surprise to many who assume we are paid. We may be volunteers, but we "do" LOTS!



Left: Representative Kim Williams posted on Facebook LWV'S Linda Barnett testifying in Legislative Hall, followed by this post. **"Early intervention is one of the keys to a child being successful in school.** My HB 48, which was released from committee Wednesday, would help support that intervention by providing full funding for kindergarten through 3rd grade basic special education students like we do for grades 4-12. Schools are required to provide the basic special education resources, but this bill would provide critical funding. I appreciate the advocates for coming to speak on this bill, sharing stories about why this funding is so needed for students. I believe all #Delaware children deserve the opportunity to succeed and this bill would help students get the resources they need earlier in school."

NEWS FROM OUR LOCAL LEAGUES

LWV Kent County: Jill Fuchs and Donna Reed. The Delaware State University Chapter of the Kent County LWV had a gathering at Grottos to celebrate the work done during the last campaign and to introduce the new members to League principals and practices as well as share some future activities. They are working on getting a voter machine at the College and we discussed a trip to the UN. Students will also be volunteering at the scheduled table in Legislative Hall and will have a tour as well. Thanks to Peggy Swygert, Crystal Hamilton and Amystique Church. Thanks

LWVNC recently invited Paul Baumbach, Delaware Representative 23rd District and Maria Spencer, advocate for Compassion and Choices, to discuss the Ron Silverio/Heather Block Delaware End of Life Options Act. This bill would ensure, under the strictest standards and regulations, that a terminally ill patient would have the option of ending life in a humane and dignified manner if they so choose.

Rep. Baumbach outlined the requirements, the limitations, and the strict oversight involved in making this choice and Maria Spencer outlined how her organization coordinates outreach efforts to local officials and educates communities and health professionals about end of life options. The Q & A discussion emphasized the need for public education on the intents and limits of such a law. Concerns and objections were discussed and addressed.

League members and all interested citizens are invited to attend two additional informative presentations in New Castle and Sussex counties which will be held on:

Monday, March 25, 2019 - 11:30am at Michaels Restaurant located in Newark, Delaware

Monday, April 1, from 2 to 4 PM at the Lewes Public Library.

For additional information please go to: <https://www.compassionandchoices.org/in-your-state/delaware/>

LWV of New Castle County: Marj Johnson, President.

The LWVNCC has been busy! There have been many interesting discussions and much information gained at our variety of Hot Topics, Great Decisions, and TED Talk gatherings.

Board members have been working diligently to revise our policies and procedures, and our Bylaws which will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in June. The Finance Committee, led by Richard Johnson, is also busy with the process of converting LWVNCC from a 501c4 to a 501c3. Our website has been converted by Kim Wells, to MyLo with several new benefits, so check it out. I think it is very easy to navigate, but we would also appreciate feedback from you.



LWVNCC table at **Saving Our Sisters** conference. Marj in discussion with conference attendee.

We have sent out information regarding the Utah End of Life resolution and will be looking also for feedback on that issue so that we can come to a consensus as to whether to concur or not. Please come to the Hot Topic with Rep. Paul Baumbach on 3/25 and/or watch the video of that presentation which will be sent to you in an email to give you some background for your decision. **Our next Meet and Greet will be at Catherine Rooney's Tuesday April 9, from 6-8 p.m.**

Did you miss LWVNC Hot Topic Luncheon *Plastic Pollution! Zero Waste! In Delaware and Beyond?*

Here is the link to the video on our Facebook and our webpage:

my.lwv.org/delaware/new-castle-county/article/feb-2019-hot-topic-plastic-free-delaware

(Continued on page 8 **LWV of New Castle County**)

(Continued from page 7 LWV of New Castle County)

After you press the "Play" button - the right-triangle at the center of the video - you may also need to click the speaker icon in the lower right to enable the sound. The video may start by default with the speaker muted - this is indicated by a small "x" next to the speaker icon.

Did you miss the Hot Topic Luncheon on Smart Justice? Here is the link to the video on our Facebook and our webpage: www.facebook.com/lwvde/videos/1029539980586432 and on our web page: www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org/notices.html, then click the January Hot Topic link.

Thank you to Louise Rolleri and Kim Wells.

LWV of Sussex County - Martha Redmond, President LWVSCDE

The Sussex County League has been busy preparing for local school board elections. We submitted a letter to the editor urging citizens to consider running for school board. In conjunction with the other leagues we have developed questions to ask Sussex County School board candidates. We are holding a candidates' forum for the Cape Henlopen and Indian River school districts. Our members are busy spreading the word about the VOTE411.org website as well as the candidate forums.



We held a well attended panel discussion on the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. Saul Anuzis, Senator Bryan Townsend and Senator Anthony DeCollo presented the information and answered questions from the attendees. The legislation was passed by the Senate and is now on to the house.

On April 1st at the Lewes Library we are presenting a program on the End Of Life Options Act. All our members have received the study materials which the Utah League of Women Voters has assembled

to achieve a position on this issue. At our April 1st event we will discuss this issue and vote to decide concurrence with the Utah Leagues' position.

We are developing programs and events to celebrate the anniversary of the 19th Amendment. At our semi annual meeting Stacie Burton from the Turning Point Suffragists Memorial gave a talk to our league about the history of the suffragists and the memorial. For our annual meeting in May we are having Mike Dixon from DE Humanities speak to our league about the battle for the ballot with particular attention paid to Delaware Suffragists.

Our Observer Corp will be giving a report to the Sussex County Council on their observations and recommendations from their previous year of observing County Council. They have observed the majority of County Council meetings. They also observe Planning and Zoning as well as local school boards.

We look forward to planning our 2019-2021 program and transitioning to a new board.

In the News: In case you missed it in the news, on February 11 longtime League member Delaware Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long was named co-chair of the Democratic Lt. Governor's Association. Bethany is a Nursing professor at the University of Delaware and she has also served in the General Assembly in both the House and the Senate.



NEWS FROM LWVUS

The LWVUS Board approved the following legislative priorities for 2019.

- **Campaign for Making Democracy Work® (MDW), with special emphasis on protecting voting rights.**
- **Watchdog: Respond strategically on issues with LWV positions when needed, but focus on the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®.**

New legislation from Congress, HR 1, the For the People Act, will modernize our election system, reform redistricting, and restore the Voting Rights Act.

The extraordinary and comprehensive reforms in HR1 are good for all Americans and deserve bipartisan support. That's why we need YOU to contact your Representative and express your support for this legislation.

Help us build momentum to move this bold legislation forward. Contact your Representative today!

In addition to emailing your Representative below, please call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and tell your Representative to Vote Yes on HR1 this week!

THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE , Inc.:

<i>Patricia Galu</i>	<i>Joyce Johnson</i>	<i>Michaele Salvaneschi</i>
<i>Harriet Ainbinder</i>	<i>Marjorie Johnson</i>	<i>Polly Sierer</i>
<i>Susan Brynteson</i>	<i>Carol Jones</i>	<i>Sheila A. Smith</i>
<i>Judy Butler</i>	<i>Vicky Kleinman</i>	<i>Les Stillson</i>
<i>Doris H. Crowley</i>	<i>Meta Little</i>	<i>Christine Stillson</i>
<i>Alice Davis</i>	<i>Joan March</i>	<i>Susan Strohm</i>
<i>Mary Pat Elmlinger</i>	<i>Barry Marrs</i>	<i>Peggy Swygert</i>
<i>Nancy Frederick</i>	<i>Sally Milbury-Steen</i>	<i>Zynobia Tatum</i>
<i>Kristin Froehlich</i>	<i>Sharon C. Morgan</i>	<i>Pat Todd</i>
<i>Jessie Green</i>	<i>Lois Myoda</i>	<i>Chad Tolman</i>
<i>Jackie Harris</i>	<i>Eugenia Nichols</i>	<i>Walt Trella</i>
<i>Frances I. Hart</i>	<i>Holly Niederriter</i>	<i>Carole & Bill Walsh</i>
<i>Joann Hasse</i>	<i>Katharine Olinchak</i>	<i>Fran Wetmore</i>
<i>Janice Heinszen</i>	<i>Patricia Petchel</i>	<i>Jack Young</i>
<i>Joyce Johnson</i>	<i>Bonnie Rae</i>	
	<i>Anne Riley</i>	

Businesses/Organizations which supported League Day in Dover: *League of Women Voters of Delaware, Inc, National Popular Vote, Inland Bays Foundation, American Civil Liberties Foundation Delaware Nature Society Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence, Delaware for Open Government, ERA Now Delaware.*

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEER *lobbyists, vote411.org committee members, election committee members voter registration teams statewide, local and state board members, land use and transportation, climate change and coastal zone advocates, and new citizen ceremony volunteers. You know that the League depends on you and recognizes your hard work and the in-kind financial contributions you make during the course of your volunteerism.*

CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 27, 2019 11am-3pm	Legislative Hall 411 Legislative Ave Dover, DE 19901	Table Event at Legislative Hall. The Advocacy Corps will have a table in the second floor lobby of Legislative Hall where we will provide information about our 2019 legislative priorities.
Thursday, March 28, 2019 8:30am-2:30pm	The Outlook at Duncan Center 500 W. Loockerman St Dover, DE 19904	LEAGUE DAY IN DOVER 2019. Morning program, lunch with legislators, and then afternoon at Legislative Hall. Two focus areas: <i>Voting & Elections</i> (Early Voting, National Popular Vote), and <i>Environment</i> (Clean Water, Renewable Energy) Save the date!
Tuesday, April 2, 2019 11am-1pm	Lemon Leaf Café 2 North Main St Smyrna, DE 19977	ELECTIONS COMMITTEE meeting. Regular 1st Tuesday meeting of the LWV state advocacy sub-committee covering voting and elections in Delaware. If you are interested in voting/elections legislation and lobbying, contact Letty Diswood for details.
Wednesday, April 10, 2019 9:30-noon	Tatnall Building, 3rd Floor Conf Rm 150 Martin Luther King Blvd. Dover, DE 19901	LWVDE Advocacy Corps. For details or to attend this meeting, please contact the committee chair, Sandy Spence at sandyspence325@gmail.com
Wednesday, May 8, 2019 9:30 - noon	Tatnall Building, 3rd Floor Conf Rm 150 Martin Luther King Blvd. Dover, DE 19901	LWVDE Advocacy Corps. For details or to attend this meeting, please contact the committee chair, Sandy Spence at sandyspence325@gmail.com
Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 7 a.m. until 8 pm	At any polling place in your school district.	School Board Elections. Any citizen age 18 or older who lives in the school district may vote. It is not necessary to be registered for other elections in Delaware, but you must show identification documenting your address in the school district, such as a drivers' license, other registration card, recent utility bill, etc.
Saturday, June 1, 2019	Barclay Farms Clubhouse 1 Paynter's Way, Camden, DE 19934	CONVENTION 2019. Biennial convention of the League of Women Voters of Delaware. Catered lunch and refreshments Business of Convention: *Meet, network and get to know some of your local league members across the state and the Advocacy Corps *Adopt Proposed Program & Proposed New Studies *Adopt a Budget *Accept a Slate of Nominees *Arrangements for speaker and workshops are in progress
Wednesday, June 12, 2019 9:30 a.m. - noon	Tatnall Building, 3rd Floor Conf Rm 150 Martin Luther King Blvd. Dover, DE 19901	LWVDE Advocacy Corps.. For details or to attend this meeting, please contact the committee chair, Sandy Spence AT sandyspence325@gmail.com

League of Women Voters of Delaware

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