



## The Voter, January-February 2026

### Calendar of Events

**Thursday, Jan. 22, 6:00 pm**

Oconee County Delegation Meeting  
Westminster Depot  
129 E. Main St.  
Westminster, SC

**Saturday, January 31, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

Local and National Program Planning  
Clemson United Methodist Church  
300 Frontage Rd., Clemson

Local and National programming 2026-27

Introducing a new initiative: "Upstate Votes 2026" (see below for details)

**Tuesday, Feb. 17, 4:00**

**Monthly meeting**

Location TBD

Topic: How to reach younger voters, 18-25 years of age

Format: Panel of youth leaders from local universities  
and technical colleges

**Click for a list of local Public Meetings**

We must show our interest and determination to make a difference in the current political environment. Please make an effort to attend some of these meetings.

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## President's Message

We are pleased to announce that LWVOP has received an LWCSC Empowerment Grant to support our 2026 voter education and engagement program. You will learn more about this new initiative at our January 31 meeting. The two hour, Saturday meeting will allow more of our members who are unable to attend a weekday meeting to join us. More time to get to know your fellow members. More time to discuss League objectives and volunteer opportunities. The Board will provide beverages and breakfast goodies.

The annual Oconee County Delegation meeting will be held on Thursday, January 22, 6:00 p.m. at the Westminster Depot. The Oconee delegation includes State Senator Thomas Alexander, Delegates Bill Whitmire, and Adam Duncan. I will represent LWVOP and speak in support of League positions. If you would like to speak at the meeting regarding your personal position on an issue, please contact Brittany Martin at 864-638-4237.

The second session of the 2025-2026 South Carolina Legislature has convened and promises to keep our lobbyists very busy at the State House. Many of the bills are carried over from the 2025 session; some are perennial favorites that will be debated in committees, on the floor, and in the media. Attempts will be made to further regulate access to abortion medication while others will continue to push for a complete ban on abortion from conception.

Two bills that would close partisan primaries by party affiliation have been introduced and hearings are scheduled for this week. H.330 would mandate closed primaries and H.3643 would require voters who want to participate in a partisan primary to register their party affiliation. Others proposed bills would further define how independent and unaffiliated voters would participate in primaries.

Additional information on these and other bills of interest to the League will be included in the weekly Action Alerts and other League publications.

Prepare for a very full year of election and legislative activities, many of them will be suitable for members who prefer a short time commitment. Join us on Saturday, January 31 to learn more.

Best Regards,  
Pat Spurlock, President LWVOP

## Upstate Votes

### LWVOP Members — You're Invited!

LWVOP is launching Upstate Votes: our 2026 Voter Engagement Program, and we invite members to participate in a planning meeting to learn more and get involved.

Upstate Votes focuses on increasing informed, nonpartisan voter participation in the 2026 primary and general elections, with special emphasis on first-time voters and underrepresented communities in Oconee and Pickens Counties.

#### **At this member-only meeting, we will:**

- Share the goals and timeline for the 2026 voter engagement program
- Highlight outreach efforts around primary elections and voter education
- Describe volunteer opportunities that fit a variety of interests and schedules
- Invite member ideas, questions, and participation

#### **Meeting Details**

Saturday, January 31, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Clemson United Methodist Church

Whether you enjoy community outreach, planning, communications, or behind-the-scenes support, there is a role for every interested member.

We hope you'll join us as we begin this important work together.

In League,  
Sharon Burns · Carol Asalon · Carolyn Bishop-McLeod  
Upstate Votes 2026 Team Members

## Join the Observer Corps

Sue Blount is one of our most dedicated observers. If she is not at the Oconee County Council meeting, she is watching the livestream on her laptop. Here Sue describes her attendance at an Oconee County School Board meeting.

"My husband and I attended the November 10 meeting of the OCSB. This is our favorite meeting to attend. Before each meeting a group of students presents an extra activity, they are part of and any awards or honors they receive. Then two schools get to brag about what is happening in their schools.

OCSB got great grades on the state report card. However, because Oconee County is a "wealthy" county (?!?) the state may reduce funding. A wealthy county is defined as having too large ratio of teachers to students. If the funding is reduced, OCSB may have to ask for a mill levy increase of 0.1 to 13.7 with a goal of 3.2.

This is an engaging board that welcomes new attendees and treats the regulars as friends. During the meeting the members exchange information in an open and conversational manner. If anyone would like to attend with me, please let me know. The Observer Corps needs you."

If you're interested in helping with the Observer Corps, reach out to [Sue Blount](#).

## Membership Renewals

Wondering how you will know if it's time to renew your membership? You will receive an email notice from LWVUS shortly before your membership expires (one year from your last dues payment). To renew, go to [LWVOP.org](#), click on JOIN/RENEW, and pay by credit card. If you have difficulty, contact [Janet Marsh](#) or [Ruth Reed](#). —Ruth Reed

## Board Members

- [Pat Spurlock](#), President
- [Linda Gorry](#), Vice President
- [Margie Barnes](#), Treasurer
- [Carolyn Bishop-McLeod](#), Secretary
- [Carol Asalon](#), Webmaster
- [Janet Marsh](#), Membership Chair
- [Ruth Reed](#), Communications Chair
- [Kathy Bargeron](#), Board member
- [Sue Blount](#), Board member
- [Jane McLamarrah](#), Board member
- [Christine Prado](#), Board member
- [Janie Shipley](#), Board member
- [Cherie Walker](#), Board member
- Shelia Crawford, NAACP
- Sharon Morgenroth Burns, Observer Corps

- Meredith Burr, VOTE411

## Want to Submit to the Voter?

We are always looking for great content to share with our members. If you have something you wish to share, including the great work being done by League members, let us know! We need the content submitted by the 21st of each month for inclusion. You can email your submissions to [Pat](#) or [Christine](#).

[Learn More](#)



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