



The Voter



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LWVUS Asks House Subcommittee to Reinstate Voter Protections

On Thursday, October 17, 2019, Virginia Kase, Chief Executive Officer of the League of Women Voters of the United States addressed the House Committee on House Administration, Subcommittee on Elections on the subject of voting rights and election administration.

Chairwoman Fudge, Ranking Member Davis, and Members of the Subcommittee, my name is Virginia Kase and I serve as the Chief Executive Officer at the League of Women Voters of the United States. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on ‘Voting Rights and Election Administration in America,’ an issue of paramount importance to our organization.

The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan, founded nearly 100 years ago in 1920 by women who understood the importance of securing voting rights for women. The League is active in all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia and with 764 local affiliates in every congressional district in the country.

In 1965, the Voting Rights Act outlawed racial discrimination in voting and established procedures to protect equal access to the vote for everyone. Despite a long history of support from legislators of all political parties, in 2013, the Supreme Court overturned key provisions of the VRA in the case of *Shelby County v Holder*. Since that decision, politicians across the country have passed unnecessarily restrictive legislation and adopted practices that discriminate against and disenfranchise voters of color and minorities whose first language is not English -- making it harder for them to register and much more difficult to vote.

These restrictive legislative initiatives included efforts to implement voter photo ID requirements in states like Texas, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Pennsylvania. We pushed against efforts to roll back early voting hours in Ohio and eliminate pro-voter reforms like pre-registration and same day registration in North Carolina. Essentially, the Shelby decision weakened the Voting Rights Act as a mechanism to fight discrimination by striking



Virginia Kase, Chief Executive Officer, LWVUS



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down important pre-clearance and oversight provisions.

These suppressive laws have a major impact on our elections; excessive, long lines in urban areas where minorities reside; consolidation of polling sites with little or no notice; reduction in early voting hours that limit participation; massive voter purges with no effective notice that causes registration barriers on Election Day, and inadequate numbers of machines in areas where early voting showed a clear influx in voter participation. And because these issues repeatedly show up in areas with large minority populations, in states like Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Arizona, Michigan, Ohio, and Texas, it is unlikely that this scheme was incidental or unintentional but instead expressly targeted the growing population of the New American Majority, including minorities, youth, and income-sensitive individuals.

In effect, these suppressive laws shut out millions of the New American Majority, and denied citizens the protection of their right to vote.

With these minority-targeted voting barriers road tested, the 116th Congress has a momentous opportunity to restore voting rights in this country. The opportunity to strengthen the Voting Rights Act by creating a new formula that would trigger pre-clearance of certain changes to voting laws and administrative practices is needed now more than ever. And the creation of a national notification process, that lets all voters know when changes to elections processes may occur ensures that voters are

informed prior to them showing up to the polls on Election Day.

If Congress fails to act immediately, this will be the first redistricting cycle to occur without a fully functioning Voting Rights Act and will allow states to push through unjustifiable changes to their laws that will have a direct impact for voters for a decade. Without continued oversight and safeguards in place to protect voters from all backgrounds, it is

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left to organizations like the League of Women Voters and other nonprofit voting rights groups to inform and protect voters affected by these policies and practices.

But that should not be the sole role of the League and our partners; it is the responsibility of government to create and enforce laws that prevent barriers in the democracy our forefathers designed to foster an open, transparent government powered by the people, for the people, all of the people.

It is the duty of government to protect the rights of voters and to encourage participation in our political system, not create barriers that prevent participation. As we have for nearly 100 years, the League looks forward to working across the aisle to determine the points of consensus for any and all voting rights legislation considered before Congress. And we look forward to working with elected leaders to protect and uphold their responsibility of ensuring voters have the unobstructed ability to exercise their right to vote.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on the importance of restoring the Voting Rights Act and I look forward to taking questions and continuing to work on this important issue.



Residents Confused by Fake Census Forms

Many residents have received political propaganda in the mail that looks like a census form. Here is some advice from the United States Census Bureau on how to recognize authentic Census forms and Census workers.

How to verify a mailing is from the Census Bureau

If you receive a survey or a letter in the mail from the Census Bureau, the envelope contains certain information that will help you verify its legitimacy. For example:

- 1 U.S. Department of Commerce in the return address. This is the Census Bureau's parent agency.
- 2 Jeffersonville, Indiana in the return address. Most census- and survey-related materials are mailed from, and returned to, our National Processing Center at 1201 East 10th St. in Jeffersonville, IN.

You may also receive a reminder letter from one of our regional offices or Census Bureau headquarters in the Washington, D.C. area.

Information for responding to a survey online is mailed to your address, including how to register online and/or log in. For information on whether a survey has the option to be completed online, please visit the survey's webpage.

How Can You Verify That Someone Is a Census Worker?

If someone visits your home to collect information for the 2020 Census, you can do the following to verify their identity:

- 1 First, check to make sure that they have a valid ID badge, with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date.
- 2 If you still have questions about their identity, you can contact your [Regional Census Center](#) to speak with a Census Bureau representative.



Speaking with One Voice

“Speaking with one voice” is one of the most important tenets of the League. The national League is responsible for determining strategies and action policies that ensure that the League’s message on national issues is consistent throughout the country. Similarly, state Leagues are responsible for a consistent state message, and local Leagues must cooperate to ensure that regional issues are addressed in a consistent matter by neighboring Leagues.

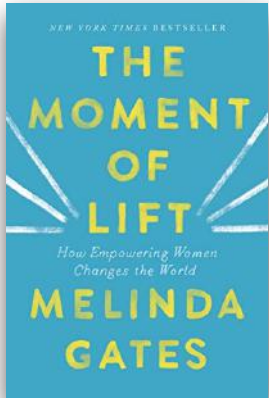
Only the president (or designee) is permitted to speak for the League in an official capacity. However, members are encouraged to take action on League topics as individuals. For example, responding to an LWVUS Action Alert, a local League president would send a message on behalf of the organization (i.e. on the League letterhead); members might contact the same official as individuals (i.e. not mentioning their affiliation with League).

Read with League

 by Penny Brown, RwL Leader (AKA EBM)

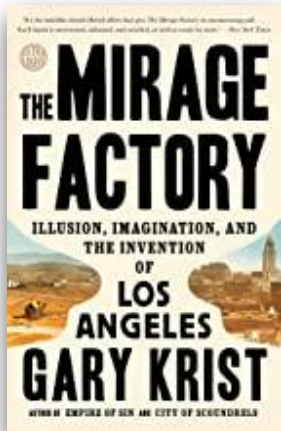
Hello Fellow Readers!

At our July party Barbara added to her Sangria and wonderful hospitality – chocolate cake and strawberries, Yum! This was our reward for completing our assigned task of choosing great titles. Here are the next two.



November 12th – Moment of Lift by Melinda Gates (Flatiron Books, Apr. 2019) 288pp. Reviewed Deborah Vagts, hosted by Kay and Mal Bruce, co-hosted by Cheryl Zimmerman. Melinda’s unforgettable narrative is backed by startling data as she presents the issues that most need our attention—from child marriage to lack of access to contraceptives to gender inequity in the workplace. And, for the first time, she writes about her personal life and the road to equality in her own marriage. Throughout, she shows how there has never been more opportunity to change the world—and ourselves.

January 14th – Holiday Potluck, book selection, and Book Exchange. Hosted by Penny?



February 11th – The Mirage Factory; Illusion, Imagination, and the Invention of Los Angeles by Gary Krist (Crown, May 2019) 416pp. Reviewed by Satya Khouri, hosted by Deborah Vagts at the Cypress Library, co-hosted by Mary Fuhrman. At the heart of Los Angeles’ meteoric rise were three flawed visionaries: William Mulholland, an immigrant ditch-digger turned self-taught engineer, who designed the massive aqueduct that would make urban life here possible. D.W. Griffith, who transformed the motion picture from a vaudeville-house novelty into a cornerstone of American culture and gave L.A. its signature industry. And Aimee Semple McPherson, a charismatic evangelist who founded a religion and cemented the city’s identity as a center for spiritual exploration. All three would pay a steep price to realize these dreams, yet when the dust settled, the mirage that was LA remained. Spanning the years from 1900 to 1930, **The Mirage Factory** is the enthralling tale of an improbable city and the people who willed it into existence by pushing the limits of human engineering and imagination.

Hey! Did you forget to renew your membership? Did you? Well, you can renew on page 8.



LWVNOC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date & Time	Place	Description
Tuesday, November 12, 2019 1:00	At the home of Kay and Mal Bruce	Read with League. Book will be "Moment of Lift" by Melinda Gates. Reviewed by Deborah Vagts. Hosted by Kay and Mal Bruce. Co-hosted by Cheryl Zimmerman.



How does impeachment work? From LWVUS

As a nonpartisan organization, the League of Women Voters offers this unbiased information to voters seeking to learn more about the impeachment process.

The Basics

Impeachment does not mean removal of an elected official from office. Impeachment is the process of bringing charges against a sitting member of the government, including the President, Vice President, and other federal "civil officers." Impeachable offenses for public officials are outlined in the Constitution as "Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors."

The process of impeachment involves three steps, though the process may end at any one of the three steps, depending on how the body in question votes:

- 1 An investigation in House committees
- 2 A vote of the House to pass articles of impeachment
- 3 A trial and vote in the Senate to convict the official

See **Impeachment** on next page

Impeachment from previous page.

In the House

Impeachment proceedings can be initiated by any member of the House. Once this process is initiated, an investigation involving all relevant committees, which is usually overseen by the House Judiciary Committee, takes place.

COMMITTEE INVESTIGATIONS

The committee investigation is what determines if the public official in question has engaged in one of the three offenses (bribery, treason, or high crimes and misdemeanors) outlined in the Constitution. There are three House committees with investigatory powers: Foreign Affairs, Intelligence, and Oversight.

ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT

Following the investigation, the Judiciary Committee determines through a majority vote if the public official has engaged in an impeachable offense. If so, the committee then sets forth the Articles of Impeachment, which detail the specific allegations of misconduct in the form of a resolution. The committee might find that there are no grounds for impeachment during the investigation and may choose not to generate a resolution.

THE HOUSE VOTES

The House votes on the resolution created by the committee. They may vote on the resolution as a whole, or on the specific articles. A simple majority is needed to pass the resolution and move forward with the impeachment process. If a simple majority is reached in the House, they will then report back to the Senate with their findings. If a majority cannot be reached, then there is no impeachment and the process does not move forward to the Senate.

In the Senate

The House sends resolution(s) passed to the Senate. This is called the presentation of the articles of impeachment. Once received, the Senate issues a “writ of summons” to the official being impeached calling them to answer to the articles. The accused official may appear in person or through an attorney on a set date in front of the Senate. If the official does not appear, the proceedings will move forward as if they pled “not guilty.” The official can also contest and say there are no sufficient grounds for impeachment.

TRIAL PROCEDURE

The Senate sets a date for the trial. If this is an impeachment trial for the President, then the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court presides over the trial. For all other impeachment hearings involving civil officers, the hearing is conducted by a Committee Chair or the President of the Senate. During this time, a group of Senators or the full Senate takes evidence, hears testimony, conducts questioning, and cross-examines the witnesses. During the trial, House managers or their counsel and the counsel of the respondent give opening remarks and present ongoing arguments outlining the charges. Evidence is presented and witnesses are examined by both sides.

JUDGMENT AND CONVICTION

When the trial concludes, the Senate meets in a closed session to deliberate. Following deliberation, the Senate votes on conviction for the articles of impeachment in an open session with yeas and nays recorded on each article individually. A conviction on an article requires a two-thirds majority of those present. If the public

See **Impeachment** on the next page.

Impeachment from previous page.

official is convicted on at least one article of impeachment, the presiding officer announces the conviction and removal of the official from their office. The Senate can then decide if this person will be barred from public office permanently. If there is less than a two-thirds majority to convict on any of the articles of impeachment, then the accused official is acquitted and remains in office.

Where does the League stand on impeachment?

For nearly 100 years, the League of Women Voters has stood for accountability and transparency in government.

The League's carefully crafted and diligently honed positions on good government operations are approved by delegate members from Leagues all over the country. The following positions are included in the [League of Women Voters official positions](#):

- “The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that presidential power should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a dynamic balance between the executive and legislative branches. Accountability and responsibility to the people require that unnecessary secrecy between the President and Congress be eliminated.”
- “The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that structures and practices of the U.S. Congress must be characterized by openness, accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability, and effective performance.”

Overall, the League of Women Voters believes that government officials should work in cooperation across branches of government, and that they should conduct their work with transparency and accountability to the American people.

Additional Resources

[Impeachment and Removal](#), Congressional Research Service—October 29, 2015

[An Overview of the Impeachment Process](#), Congressional Research Service—April 20, 2005



LWVNOC Current Officers and Directors

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 Cheryl Zimmerman
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 Tributes Patti Chikahisa



**LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of NORTH ORANGE COUNTY
 Membership Form 2018 - 2019**

Name(s) of Member(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ E-mail _____

Individual member \$65.00 Renewal ___ New member ___ \$ _____

Additional household member \$32.50 Renewal ___ New member ___ \$ _____

Student member Free Renewal ___ New member ___ \$ _____

Additional donation to League (To cover our operating expenses, etc.):
 \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 other \$ _____

Donation to Educational Fund (Separate tax-deductible donation):
 \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 other \$ _____

Total enclosed (Make checks payable to LWVNOC.) Thank you. \$ _____

How can you serve the League? How can the League serve you?

Please complete this member survey. Circle your choices or fill in the blanks.

Our areas of emphasis this year are: **Voting Issues, Civic Engagement, Education, and Housing and Homelessness.**

I am interested in working on: _____

I would also be willing to work on special events and other League projects. Yes No

I have special skills (for example: graphic art, computers): _____

I am currently: Working ___ Retired ___ My job/profession: _____

I prefer to attend League events: During the day In the evening Weekdays Weekends

Suggestion for an activity or speaker: _____

I am not able to participate in League events but wish to support the work of the League by renewing my membership or by making a donation. Comments: _____

Please send this completed form with your check to LWVNOC, P.O. Box 3073, Fullerton, CA 92834

For Treasurer's Use Only: Check # _____ Amount \$ _____ Date: _____



League of Women Voters

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