



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.

LWVDE Acting on Public Policy Issues - Sandy Spence, Advocacy Corps Chair

LWVDE JOINS DELCOG PETITION URGING INVESTIGATION OF LLCs

LWVDE joined a press conference held Monday, August 6, where the Delaware Coalition for Open Government presented a petition urging Attorney General Matt Denn to initiate an investigation of the state's system for limited liability companies. The petition asked Denn to appoint an Independent Counsel to identify weaknesses in the Delaware Limited Liability Company Act. The other signatories on the petition also included the Civic League for New Castle County, the Delaware Press Association, Pacem in Terris, American Promise Delaware, Delaware Get Money Out, and Network Delaware.

The law facilitates the use of Delaware LLCs as "as fronts to commit crimes," according to the petition. "The time has arrived where the Attorney General, who is the chief law enforcement officer of the state of Delaware, can take some action," said DelCOG President Nick Wasileski.

The petitioners said they want an independent counsel to:

- Study the language of the Delaware Limited Liability Company Act to identify provisions that facilitate the misuse of Delaware limited liability companies as fronts to commit crimes;
- Investigate issues of fraud against the state committed by bad actors that form LLCs to commit crimes, prosecute when criminal liability is assessed, and levy monetary and other appropriate penalties;
- Make recommendations for amendments to provisions of the Act.

LWVDE has supported legislation over the past few years urging better transparency for LLCs whose beneficial owners can remain anonymous in numerous cases.

Go [here](#) to see the petition.

ADVOCACY CORPS REPORT for the 149th Session.

The Advocacy Corps addressed 216 of the bills that were introduced in the two-year 149th Session ending July 1, 2018. We supported most but opposed a few and simply monitored several. In mid-June, we issued an action alert urging members to contact their legislators on any of up to 16 priority bills we thought had a chance to be enacted this year. We had mixed results as mentioned in the following updates on our various advocacy portfolios.



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Voting and Elections - Letty Diswood, Sandy Spence, Linda Barnett, Julie Price

Although voting and elections represent a crucial and timely area in public policy and are key to what the League is all about, this topic was dismally addressed by the General Assembly this past year. Only one of the bills described below was passed, despite our advocacy efforts.

Absentee Ballots [HB 63] contained provisions to remove restrictions on absentee ballots from the Constitution, moving oversight over it to the General Assembly. This would have allowed greater flexibility in addressing absentee voting issues as the need might arise, since a law can be passed in a given Session whereas Constitutional amendments require two legislative sessions to pass. And since HB 63 itself would be amending the Constitution, it will now be at least 2021 before such a proposal could become law in Delaware.

Automatic Voter Registration [HB 79] would have established automatic voter registration via DMV when one applies for, renews, or replaces his/her driver's license. The individual would have had to 'opt out' to prevent registration information from being passed to the Department of Elections, instead of currently having to 'opt in.'

Early Primaries [HB 89] would have moved primaries to the fourth Tuesday in April, with appropriate corresponding changes to related events, such as filing for candidacy, deadlines for changing party affiliations, etc. This would give the winners of primaries much more time to reach out to voters than currently, when primaries are in September. In addition, it would be a huge help for members of the Military, whose access to voting is a struggle between the current September primaries and the November voting day. Furthermore, having only one primary in presidential election years would result in \$1 million in savings to the budget in those years.

Early Voting [HB 90] would have established in-person early voting for ten days prior to an election, including the Saturday and Sunday immediately prior to the election, with at least one in-person polling place in each county, plus the city of Wilmington. This measure is a way to significantly increase access to voting, benefiting those whose schedules don't allow them to take time off on the current specific one day when voting must take place.

Same-Day Registration for Voting [HB 400] would have provided for *Election Day registration* for the presidential primary, regular primaries, special and general elections, whereas currently the deadline is the fourth Saturday prior to the date of the election. Moreover, such same-day registration at polling places would only require that the registrant present a valid government-issued identification or other general accepted proof of identification.

School Board Elections [HB 363] was enacted. It will increase voter participation by moving the start of these elections from 10am to 7am, allowing residents to vote on the way to work or earlier in the morning. This new law is a simple way to increase voter turnout and give more residents a voice in school board elections and referendums. The Governor has signed this bill.

Finally, an issue related to elections is the critical one of **Funding for New Voting Equipment**. Funding of \$10 million was included in the 2019 Capital Improvement bill, and the federal government has already sent us \$3 million for voting system upgrades. We remain concerned that bids have not been released for review by the funding Committee and the public and are likely not to be ordered before January 2019. Those delays and other concerns could potentially delay things further, so that it would be possible the new systems would not be available in time for the 2020 elections. Our need for new voting systems is critical. Among other issues:



LWV of Sussex County members rallying to get out the vote are (l-r) Martha Redmond, Marge LaFond, Michele Salvaneschi, Walt Trela, Connie Jones, Suzanne Hain, Janet Ambrose, Jane Lord, Rain Tyler and Pat Makos.

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- Our voting machines are 22 years old and technology has changed dramatically in those years.
- While Elections Commissioner Elaine Manlove is confident in the accuracy of our systems and protection from any hacking attempts, the ballots are created using Windows XP, which is no longer supported by Microsoft. The Election Department is using Windows XP computers, but cannot expect that they will last forever.
- Early voting, LWVDE's top priority for 2019, cannot be done without electronic poll books that is part of the RFP.
- The absentee system is about 13 years old and while we apparently have no known issues or problems with it, it will need upgrading soon. It is included in the RFP.

The RFP (Request for Proposals) invited bids for 4 sections: voting machine, electronic poll books, election management system and absentee system. LWVDE advocated for funding for the entire system, rather than piecemeal replacement, with emphasis on the capability of providing a voter-verifiable paper backup to be used in recounts and audits of election results. Although we have been assured that whatever system is acquired, it will include voter-verifiable paper backups, it is unclear whether the entire system can be acquired with the budgeted funds.

Social Policy - Linda Barnett, Chair, Charlotte King

In perhaps the boldest step of the Legislative session, the General Assembly and Gov. John Carney made Delaware the first state in the nation to **ban child marriage (HB 337)**, one of the most significant things we accomplished this past session. Children, defined here as anyone under the age of 18, who marry have a higher likelihood of dropping out of school, having adverse health issues and being victims of abuse. Children under 18 cannot enter any legal contract, but until this bill was signed, they could be married as a child (with parental approval) without any way of escaping an abusive marriage. We have closed a dangerous loophole and enhanced protections for children through the passage of this bill, which outlaws marriage below the age of 18. It has been signed by the Governor.



Governor Carney is surrounded by supporters when signing the ERA Amendment..

Another major accomplishment in this Legislative session was passage of **HB 399 (ERA)**, the first leg of an amendment to Delaware's Constitution specifying that "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex." Since this is a Constitutional amendment, it does not require signature of the Governor but it will need to pass again in the next Legislative session.

After several attempts in prior years, the General Assembly passed a bill increasing Delaware's minimum wage. **SB 170 (Minimum Wage)** requires an increase from the current \$8.25/hr. to \$8.75/hr. on Oct. 1, 2018 and then to \$9.25/hr. on Oct. 1, 2019, but with no additional increases after that point, a compromise necessary to get the bill passed. A related compromise bill was **HB 483 (Youth Minimum Wage)**, which establishes a "training" minimum wage and a "youth" wage, both of which can be

\$0.50 less than the minimum wage rate. (Employees who are hired with the "training" minimum wage can be paid that lower rate only for the first 90 days of their employment.) It also delays the first minimum wage increase authorized in SB 170 until January 1, 2019. Both bills have been signed by the Governor.

Keeping in line with trends across the country, the General Assembly passed a bill related to sexual harassment. **HB 360 (Sexual Harassment)**, applicable to both public and private employers, is designed to help employees deal with sexual harassment, should they be faced with it. It authorizes the state Department of Labor to prepare an information sheet for employees, to be distributed physically or made available electronically. It also requires employers with more than 50 employees to provide "interactive" training on this subject to staff, plus additional training for supervisors. This bill passed but has not yet been signed.

The General Assembly also addressed the issue of gender identify during this session. **SB 65 (Gender Identify Conversion Ban)** makes it illegal to attempt to "convert" juveniles from their sexual preference or gender identity choice if it is not the gender they had at birth. This bill has been signed by the Governor.

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HB 113 [Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC)]: This “cliff-hanger” makes EITC state credits based on the federal credits refundable in Delaware. This means that if a person’s eligible state credit exceeds their income, they could get a refund from the state to make up that difference. It would target aid to some of the lowest income workers and provide work incentives. Sponsor Paul Baumbach had it drafted in a way that makes the expense revenue neutral to get it passed in the budget deficit year of 2017. Although the House passed the bill in May 2017, it was held up in the Senate Finance Committee until the wee hours of July 1, 2018. The Senate added an amendment, making the effective date a year later since it was held up so long, then passed it at 2:07 a.m. under a suspension of the rules since it had never been released from Committee. It then went back for the House for approval with the Senate amendment and passed the House 31 minutes later. It awaits the Governor’s signature.

Education - Linda Barnett, Chair

K-3 Special Education Funding [HB 12] addressed the matter of supplemental funding for basic special education for children in kindergarten through third grade, a category not receiving this additional financial support previously. The League had advocated for this for several years, and once again, the bill did not pass. However, the Appropriations bill for FY 2019 does include specific funding for basic special education in grades K-3 and instructs the Department of Education to distribute that funding proportionately to the districts based on the number of children eligible for it.

Autism Support [HB 292] is directed toward another category of students – those with autism. The measure upgrades statewide services for such students, adding staff specialists to work with them and requiring that technical assistance be provided to the districts. The bill passed but has not yet been signed by the Governor.

Senior Property Tax Credit [HB 268] has to do with generating revenue used to support education. This measure restructures the Senior Property Tax credit, long a target of those looking for ways to solve some of the state’s budget woes. The bill converts the senior property tax credit from a credit against the school taxes imposed and collected at the county level to a means-tested refundable income tax credit to be administered by the Department of Finance. For eligible seniors who do not file a personal income tax because their income falls below the threshold set by the Code, the Department will issue a rebate in the amount for which that person is eligible. The bill passed but has not yet been signed.

Reporting School Expenditures [SB 172] addresses funding in a more generic way. It requires all school districts to use a consistent format to report school expenditures, overall and per pupil. It also requires districts to offer training to the public in how to interpret these new reports. Such consistency has been “mandated” in the past but not implemented. The League will be monitoring this to ensure that this law is indeed followed. The bill passed but has not yet been signed.



LWVDE hosted 20 students from the sub-Saharan Africa for an afternoon of roundtable discussion and visit to Legislative Hall this summer.

Loan Repayment for Teachers [HB 346]. This measure will help teachers in high-risk schools repay their student loans, a way to address teacher shortages and frequent turnover in such schools. Teachers can apply to have between \$1,000 and \$2,000 of their college loan repaid each year for up to five years. The bill passed but is not yet signed.

School safety was addressed in several bills during this Legislative session. One that passed was **Safety Measures in New School Construction [HB 49]**, which requires all new school construction and major renovations to include safety features, including bulletproof glass and alarms. No specific amount is designated for this requirement, which just must be included in building design plans. The measure has been signed by the Governor.

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Safety Renovations in Schools [HB 335] authorizes \$5 million to be made available to Delaware schools to improve safety in existing structures. Each district is to receive its share, based on the number of schools in the district. This bill passed but has not yet been signed by the Governor.

Another aspect of school safety was addressed in **Suspension of Teacher Licenses [SB 234]**, which allows the state's Department of Education to suspend educators' licenses immediately if they are arrested or indicted by a grand jury for a violent felony or where there is a clear and immediate danger to student safety or welfare. Current regulations do not allow immediate action in such instances. This bill has been signed.

Addressing potential disparities in the way students are treated, **Reporting on Out-of-School Suspensions [SB 85]** requires schools to collect data and assemble annual reporting on out-of-school suspensions. It was based on the perception that students of color are given such suspensions at a higher rate than white students. If suspensions are over a designated threshold, schools must develop action plans to address such disparities, with a wide range of stakeholders involved in the preparation of these plans. The bill has been signed.

Criminal Justice - Sandy Spence, Charlotte King

Advocates for gun safety and criminal justice reform introduced a multitude of bills that kept us on our toes tracking, preparing and presenting testimony. These included bills to help convicted felons transition back into society and keeping troubled youth from getting caught in the system. Lawmakers, however, failed to address several of our top priorities, described below.



Members participated in the rally in support of the immigrant communities in Delaware and US.

We were saddened that the Delaware criminal justice reform movement is losing two major champions. Rep. J.J. Johnson and Sen. Margaret Rose Henry are among the 20% of the current General Assembly who have announced their retirements.

Among the bills that we focused on in the waning days of the legislature were:

“Red Flag” Bills [House Substitute 1 for HB 222 and HB 302]. These two bills were supported by the NRA since they focused on the “person rather than the gun.” If a family member or law enforcement can provide a “preponderance of evidence” that a person is a danger to him/herself, HB 222 allows law enforcement to seek a one-year lethal violence protection order to have their rights to owning, possessing, controlling, purchasing or receiving firearms removed temporarily. Passed by both House and Senate, the Governor signed it almost immediately, on June 27. The earlier “red flag” bill (**HB 302**) was signed

by the Governor on April 30. HB 302 creates procedures for making sure firearms are not in the hands of individuals with a mental health diagnosis as dangerous while protecting due process and not creating a barrier to care for those suffering from mental illness.

Safe Storage of Firearms [HB 366]. This bill would have revised the crime of "unlawfully permitting a child access to a firearm" by requiring safe storage of firearms. If the firearm were to be used in the commission of a crime, it would have been considered a higher-level offense. An NRA lobbyist told us that would be comparable to blaming a car owner if it were stolen and involved in an accident causing injury or death. Although the bill passed the House with no votes to spare, it failed to be released from Senate Judicial Committee where the majority of members are NRA supporters.

Assault Weapons Ban [SB 163]. This high priority bill **died** when the Senate failed to pass a suspension of rules, *needed to consider it since the Judicial Committee failed to release it for a floor vote*. All Republicans except Cloutier who was in the hospital and Hocker, who didn't show up until after the vote, plus Democrats Ennis and Bushweller, voted NO.

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Bail Reform [SB 221 and SB 222]. In order to reform bail (pre-trial detention) in Delaware, a constitutional amendment and enacting legislation must be passed. These bills would have made sure that:

- Cash bail becomes a last resort.
- Detainee's rights are restored through access to legal representation and immediate hearings.
- This process restores constitutional rights by requiring that the state has the burden of proof to show that an individual detained has to be held on an actual risk-- **not on ability to pay.**
- Restores transparency and procedural fairness to the pre-trial justice system.
- Re-assures public safety by making sure who is detained--- and who is not--- more predictable.
- May reduce false guilty pleas.

Although **SB 204**, the first step in bail reform, was enacted early in 2018, further action was needed to complete this first step. On a partisan basis, the Senate defeated SB 221, a constitutional amendment that requires a 2/3rd vote. SB 222 was dependent on passage of SB 221, so it did not come to the floor. Since constitutional amendments must pass in two consecutive General Assemblies, with an election in between, these now cannot go into effect until at least 2021.

Bump Stocks [HB 300]. Bump stocks accelerate the rate of fire of a semiautomatic rifle, making the rifle function more like an automatic weapon. They were used by the shooter in the Las Vegas mass shooting and there was strong support to pass this legislation that banned them in Delaware. Nevertheless, this bill bounced back and forth between the House and Senate from March until mid-June as each house added one amendment after another (totaling nine). It finally passed the House with the final Senate amendment and was signed by the Governor the same day, June 14. It makes it a crime to sell, transfer, buy, receive or possess a trigger crank or bump-fire device.

Free ID Cards for Ex-prisoners [SB 171]. Ex-prisoners face many hurdles as they re-enter the community, including difficulty obtaining identification documents. This is just one of the hurdles they face in the search for housing and employment. This Act requires the Department of Correction to provide individuals who are being released with a Delaware Personal Credential Card that entitles them to receive one free certified copy of the individual's birth certificate and one identification card or driver's license if otherwise eligible to receive those documents. Fortunately, this bill was not controversial but was delayed in the House for almost two months after being released from Committee. It finally passed on a unanimous vote on June 30.

Health Care - Joann Hasse, Chair

Since ensuring access to health care is a core League principle, **Primary Care [SB 227]** is particularly significant and one which *Voter* readers might want to download and read themselves. You can find it at <http://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail?LegislationId=26743>. It attempts to address the diminishing number of medical professionals offering primary care in Delaware by requiring that insurance companies reimburse them, for the next three years, at a rate no lower than the rates paid by Medicare. This sounds a little better than it really is because the state cannot regulate self-insured entities which are the majority of those offering insurance coverage to employees. It does cover individual, group and state employee plans. Currently Delaware's commercial insurers are reimbursing provision of chronic and primary care at rates well below the national average –a great reversal of the historic trend. To address the long term primary care situation, SB 227 also creates a Primary Care Reform Collaborative under the Health Care Commission. The bill has not yet been signed by the Governor.

Another bill addressing the cost of healthcare is **Prescription Cost Transparency [HB 425]**, which outlaws the practice by some insurers (under pressure from the Drug Industry) of prohibiting pharmacists from informing consumers when there are lower-cost equivalents for prescriptions they have been given. This bill has passed but has not yet been signed.

Insurance Coverage for Contraceptives [SB 151] addresses another kind of consumer protection – this one to ensure that insurance companies cover contraceptives. With potential threats to such coverage, Delaware lawmakers are taking
(Reports continued on page 7 Advocacy - Health Care)

(Reports continued from page 6 Advocacy - Health Care)

preventive action. The bill does continue the exception to allow facilities to deny such coverage when religious principles are involved. The bill passed and has been signed by the Governor.

A bill that the League opposed, and which did not get out of Committee, was **Reproductive Rights [SB 205]**, which allowed pregnancy termination at the point when the fetus feels “pain.” This measure was seen as a way to circumvent the right to privacy and the ability of women to be in control of their own bodies. Our opposition was based on our Reproductive Rights position, not our Health Care position

Overdose Care [HB 440] addresses another issue targeting a specific population, and this one the League does support. It seeks to ameliorate the Opioid crisis by establishing an Overdose System of Care to improve the treatment provided to persons who overdose on Opioids and other addictive drugs. As part of this effort, a series of crisis stabilization centers are to be established specifically targeting this population. The bill passed but has not yet been signed by the Governor.

Ban on Lead Paint on Outdoor Structures [HB 456] was strongly supported by the League, along with other advocacy groups. When League member and Nurse Sarah Bucic learned that the dust that invaded her home from the pre-repaint sanding of a nearby water tower was contained lead, she worried about the effect on her young daughter. She partnered with environmental activist Amy Roe and the two planned and executed a successful campaign that led to the June 27 enactment of the first law in the U.S. to ban the use of lead paint on outdoor structures. As of 1/1/20, **HB 456** prohibits the use of lead paints on structures such as bridges, water towers, playground equipment, highways, parking lots, and utility towers and poles because the “use, maintenance and removal of paints containing lead on outdoor structures creates lead exposure pathways that are hazardous to workers, contaminate the environment, and expose children and adults who live, work, and play in proximity to these structures.”

An amendment removed a provision that would have required the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to develop regulations governing the removal of lead paint from outdoor structures, but that Department has already held a hearing, on July 12, to require permits to meet specified procedures for removing lead-containing coatings from water towers. Most speakers at the hearing urged the Department to include all outdoor structures.

Other Important Issues

Among other bills that were on our top priority list for the waning days of the Session.

Budget Smoothing [HB 460]. As outlined by three of its key authors at League Day in Dover in May, this bill was a constitutional amendment required to implement key provisions of the report of a special committee assigned to reduce the typical ups and downs of annual revenue estimates. The bill was blocked by leadership in the House after numerous legislators complained they had insufficient time to understand its details. Unfortunately, the bill was not ready for introduction until June 12, just 10 “legislative days” before the end of the Session, although its provisions were made public a week after our May 9 League Day.

***In response, Governor Carney signed Executive Order 21 on July 1, to implement the budget smoothing ideas through the Governor’s recommended budget process and make changes to how the Delaware Economic & Financial Advisory Council (DEFAC) produces its revenue estimates. The effort to truly implement the budget smoothing recommendations, however, is now pushed back a minimum of 3 years since constitutional amendments must be enacted in two legislative sessions with an election in between.

A report in the News Journal commented that the Executive Order “sets the stage for the General Assembly to endure a level of public ‘budget shaming’ if it spends beyond the fiscal restraints proposed by the governor.”

SB 183 relates to Limited Liability Companies (LLCs). We were particularly supporting Section 8 that, upon motion by the Attorney General, authorizes the Court of Chancery to cancel the certificate of formation of any domestic limited liability company for abuse or misuse of its limited liability company powers, privileges or existence. Although LLCs are a legitimate corporate form, some are involved in illegal activities. Although the Senate had passed it, we were waiting for action in the House when we sent our Alert. Finally, it was passed unanimously at 8:53 pm on June 30.

(Reports continued on page 8 Advocacy - Other Important Issues)

(Reports continued from page 7 Advocacy - Other Important Issues)

Farmland and Open Space Preservation. Following a dearth of several years in open space funding and minimal farmland preservation funding, each of these efforts was funded at the full \$10 million requested by the League and by other environmental organizations. The major contributor to this year's largess was the huge revenue surplus available this year. Since it was projected that next year is likely to see a deficit, there was a significant effort to focus excess dollars on programs that would not necessarily create an ongoing demand. It certainly also helped that the Governor included the preservation amounts in his recommended budget when it was presented in January. We like to think that the League's plea for additional active open space was helpful, in a climate where 30%-and-climbing of the state budget will go to healthcare costs. The League also presented data showing that preserving farmland that might otherwise morph into development spares taxpayer dollars. Kudos to Peggy Schultz for her consistent focus on this issue!

Advocacy Corps Actively Preparing for 150th Session of the General Assembly.

The Advocacy Corps continues to meet every month during the months up to the two-year Session that opens on January 8, 2019. We are already identifying priorities that we will address. Recognizing that voting and elections are a major focus of the League, we have already decided that our top priority will be Early Voting. A small poll on Facebook, following our decision, seemed to support that choice.

Other possibilities suggested at our latest meeting and to be considered at future meetings include:

- Passing the second leg of the Equal Rights Amendment, required for constitutional amendments;
- Achieving equitable education funding;
- Requiring local governments to include climate change and sea level rise in their comprehensive plans;
- Addressing the critical need for improved water quality;
- Improving support for manufactured home owners;
- Joining the National Popular Vote Compact;
- Enacting campaign finance recommendations of the three-year old Veasy Report: requiring donors to show their occupations and employers if donating more than \$100 and prohibiting donations by LLCs.
- Focusing on increased transparency and public access to redistricting systems acquired by the General Assembly;
- Ensuring we implement an existing law to eliminate prison-based gerrymandering by counting prisoners at their last home address rather than at the prison, as the Census Bureau reports;
- Providing financial restitution after unjust (wrongful) imprisonment;
- Shortening certain prison sentences.



Advocacy Corps members reviewing legislation and strategizing at its regular meeting first Wednesday of the month.

There are many ways any League member can support our work, including research and writing on major issues; preparing action alerts, opinion pieces, and press releases; and responding to Action Alerts we will send. We encourage you to attend an Advocacy Corps meeting in Dover on the first Wednesday morning any month this year. But attending meetings is not necessary to help us. Much of the work can be done in the comfort of your own home on your own schedule. Just contact our Chair at sandyspence325@gmail.com to explore how you can help.

Updated Lobby Handbook Now Available

Thanks to President Joann Hasse, one of the original authors, and Carling Ryan from the new Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy, our Lobby Handbook has been updated and is now available online. Click [here](#) to access the Handbook on our website. Consult it for a quick primer on the legislative process in Delaware.

DELAWARE VOTE411 GUIDE IS NOW LIVE FOR PRIMARY ELECTION

Kim Wells, State Vote411 Coordinator



Delaware's VOTE411 online voters' guide for the 2018 party primary elections launched on Monday July 16, with an online "[Virtual Launch Party](#)," newspaper stories in Kent and Sussex counties, and radio PSAs entering rotation on multiple stations. If you haven't seen it yet, check out this [WHYY website article on VOTE411](#), posted 7/30/2018.

Our VOTE411 guide for the general election will launch in early September, after the results of the September 6 primary are announced. If you're unfamiliar with VOTE411, go to www.vote411.org and try it out! Enter your home address to see a sample ballot for your location, compare the viewpoints of the candidates for those races, and even text or email yourself your candidate selections for later reference.

Keep VOTE411 Online!



Help us provide accurate & unbiased voting information. Donate Today!

Enter your address to find your polling place, build your ballot with our [online voters' guide](#) and **much more!** With our voters' guide you can see the races on your ballot, compare candidates' positions side-by-side, and print out a "ballot" indicating your preferences as a reminder and take it with you to the polls on Election Day. [Check out](#) our resources for military and overseas voters!

Enter Your Address

Enter your address for personalized voting information.

Street *

City * **TRY**

State * **ME!**

Zip *



REGISTER TO VOTE
Register yourself and encourage others to register to vote.



SEARCH BY STATE & TOPIC
Find voting information by state or by topic.

We've had lots of positive response from both the community and the candidates about VOTE411. Currently over 70% of primary candidates have entered their information into the guide, thanks to the efforts of our team members in all three counties who called, emailed, Facebook messaged and otherwise convinced the candidates to participate.

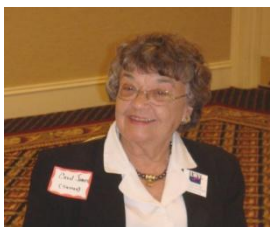
There will be another round of candidate calling to be done in late August and early September, prior to the launch of the VOTE411 general election guide on or around Sept 7. Please contact Pat Makos in Sussex county, Anne Parker-Dockins in Kent, or Kim Wells in NCC if you'd like to help with that.

But the biggest effort left is making sure that the voting public knows about VOTE411. There is still lots of work to be done in the advertising arena! We can definitely use more hands to put up posters, write letters to the editor, network with other community organizations, etc.

A huge thank you to Gloria and William Cooke for their financial contribution, which will allow us to reach more people, and to state League for funding the poster printing. We still have more ideas than funds to pursue them... high on the list is playing a VOTE411 ad during the preview time at more movie theaters... so if you have contacts at companies or other organizations that might want to sponsor the VOTE411 guide or make a targeted Ed Fund donation, please let Kim know!

Thanks for helping spread the word about this great voter education tool. We want Delawareans to vote, and **vote smart!**

REPORT FROM THE CIVICS COMMITTEE - Carol Jones, Chair



The LWVDE video series, "We're the WE in We the People" is back in production. We received an additional grant from Delaware Humanities and have resumed our taping sessions. We've already done two more and have dates set to tape the balance of the series -- 10 segments in all. Seven of the segments deal with the Constitution of the United States; three deal with the Delaware Constitution and the duties of the State administration, legislature, judicial and counties. We'll be posting them all on our website and U-Tube. We also have interest from both campuses of Del Tech, from some community leaders and, of course, the League will be sponsoring forums to view the tapes and hold follow-up discussions. After taping, we still have to go through a process of editing, adding titles, etc. etc. The process takes a little time so stay tuned for information on when they'll be available.

FYI we now have pocket size copies of the Constitution along with the Declaration of Independence available for general distribution. We will distribute a number of them at our forums but they're available to all three local Leagues for distribution at Voter Registration events and other events they may be sponsoring. Please contact Carol Jones at sundiallee@aol.com if you need copies.

President's Musings on Convention - Joann Hasse

I attended my first LWVUS Convention in 1962, having been a member for all of 1 ½ years. (I was the only one on my local Board in WV who could manage the child care arrangements; thank you, grandparents!) It was an overwhelming experience; I truly barely thought of my two boys until the last day. I've been to several Conventions since--when I was state president 1988-93, in 1998 and again this year. It still is an overwhelming experience!! You are in the company of hundreds and hundreds of interesting, INTERESTED and INFORMED women and men and all are eager to discuss and share their opinions on many subjects. Attending reinforced my long held beliefs that our greatest strengths are that we are a multi-issue organization and that the League is committed to the idea that citizens have the RIGHT to be involved in their government. I like to think that the women who founded the League would be happy with what we have become.

As usual, we had many interesting speakers but one whom everyone particularly enjoyed was our banquet speaker, Elaine Weiss, whose new book tells the story of the fight to ratify the 19th amendment. She was a great speaker and "The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote" makes it clear it was a "fight" fought in many ways. I am anxious to read it and hope that Delaware libraries will feature it as the 100th anniversary of the amendment's passage approaches. If her writing is as entertaining as her speech, it will be a good read as well as a look at history.

My one disappointment at Convention was the unwillingness of the "powers that be" to allow open discussion of the Value statement adopted by the national Board a few months ago. As I wrote in my post LWVDE Council report, the statement "The League believes in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy." created some heated discussion at Council as some attendees felt it doesn't fit with our renewed commitment to work on Equity, Inclusion and Diversity. I was expecting there would be lively debate about this at LWVUS Convention but it didn't happen.

The dates for the next Convention—a time to celebrate 100 years of a great idea!—are June 25-28, 2020. It will be held in Washington, DC (as are Conventions every 4 years) so I hope many LWVDE members can attend, even if only for a day. It is an experience!!! !!! Because of space issues a full report by Marjorie Johnson can be found at:

<http://www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org/notices.html>



LWVDE HOSTS AFRICAN STUDENTS

Part of UD Study of the U.S. Institutes-Women's Leadership (SUSIWL)

On July 13, LWV members hosted 20 students from sub-Saharan Africa for an afternoon of roundtable discussions, and visiting Delaware's House and Senate chambers. As pictured below, you can see how much fun they had taking selfies and pretending to lead the imaginary legislative session.



The focus was on women's empowerment and the role groups and individuals can have in promoting and influencing politics. We talked about the strategies used by the League, and what we have learned from promoting women's engagement. There were many questions and we learned much from them.

The Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders (SUSI), by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, are 5-6 week academic programs for foreign undergraduate students and scholars hosted by colleges and universities across the United States. These programs are designed to provide participants a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture, and institutions through leadership training, civic engagement, a domestic study tour, and interacting with Americans of all walks of life.

The University of Delaware hosted the SUSI-WL participants from sub-Saharan Africa. Twenty participants engaged in an academically grounded program that included community service and cultural activities throughout Newark, Delaware and in nearby metropolitan areas. In addition to the Delaware-based components, study tours include trips to Atlanta, Georgia, New York City, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C.



THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE DELAWARE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDUCATION FUND.

Businesses/Organizations to support Vote411.org online voters guide: Delmarva Power, Network for Good through Jenn Wells' Facebook fundraiser, Gloria & William Cooke, UUFN GOTV grant, All Saints' Parish Thrift Shop, recommended by Sue Claire Harper, WSFS Bank

THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE EDUCATION FUND:

Joy Jones.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEER lobbyists, vote411.org 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

Saturday, August 11, 2018	For details go to https://ivote.de.gov/	Register to Vote in the Primary Election. DEADLINE for unregistered citizens to register to vote before the Primary Election. Note: You must be registered in a participating party to vote in the primary election in September. The deadline to change party affiliation was 5/25/2018. Party changes submitted after the deadline will be held and completed after the September 6th State Primary.
Wednesday, August 15, 2018 5:30-8:00 pm	Room 3 at DSU ECHS (former Sheraton) in Dover.	League of Women Voters of Delaware state board meeting.
Wednesday, September 5, 2018, 9:30-noon	Legislative Hall 411 Legislative Avenue Dover, DE 19901	Advocacy Corps Meeting. For details or to attend, please contact the committee chair, Sandy Spence at sandyspence325@gmail.com
Thursday, September 6, 2018, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Your Representative District Polling Place. You should receive a polling place card with the location in July.	Primary Election. Only registered voters from participating parties may vote. Note: Although elections are usually held on a Tuesday, we have checked with the Board of Elections and have confirmed the primary is on a Thursday this year.
Friday, September 7, 2018, 10 am - 10 pm	online	VOTE411 Virtual Launch Party. This one is for the General Election VOTE411 Guide, after primary results are in.
Monday, September 17, 2018	Federal Building Wilmington, DE	New Citizen Naturalization Ceremony. Naturalization Proceedings for the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware. Contact Lorraine Botticelli if you'd like to help distribute welcome packets at the ceremony.
Wednesday, October 3, 2018, 9:30-noon	Legislative Hall 411 Legislative Avenue Dover, DE 19901	Advocacy Corps Meeting. For details or to attend, please contact the committee chair, Sandy Spence at sandyspence325@gmail.com
Thursday, October 4, 2018	Federal Building Wilmington, DE	New Citizen Naturalization Ceremony. Naturalization Proceedings for the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware. Contact Lorraine Botticelli if you'd like to help distribute welcome packets at the ceremony.
Saturday, October 13, 2018	For details go to https://ivote.de.gov/	Register to Vote in the General Election. DEADLINE for unregistered citizens to register to vote before the November General Election.
Tuesday, November 6, 2018, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Your Representative District polling place.	General Election. Vote for one U.S. Senator, a Representative in Congress, State Attorney General, Treasurer and Auditor, half of our State Senators and all State Representatives.
Wednesday, November 7, 2018, 9:30-noon	Legislative Hall 411 Legislative Avenue Dover, DE 19901	Advocacy Corps Meeting. For details or to attend, please contact the committee chair, Sandy Spence at sandyspence325@gmail.com
Wednesday, December 5, 2018, 9:30-noon	Legislative Hall 411 Legislative Avenue Dover, DE 19901	Advocacy Corps Meeting. For details or to attend, please contact the committee chair, Sandy Spence at sandyspence325@gmail.com

League of Women Voters of Delaware

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