

**Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**  
**We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.**

## Advocacy Spotlight on:

*Prepared by Linda Barnett, Chairperson, Advocacy Corps, LWVDE, and corps members*

### ➤ Elections and Voting:

The LWVDE elections and voting committee met in early June with the Delaware Election Commissioner, Anthony Albence, to review voting changes for 2022. Listed below are some of the highlights.

- Early voting will be implemented for 2022 with 5 polling sites in NCC, 4 in Kent, 5 in Sussex, and 1 at the Wilmington Shipyard shops. They will be open 10 days prior to the election, from 7am - 7pm during the week and from 11am - 7pm on the weekends. A list of locations will be available in mid-July.
- The electronic absentee process will be made simpler this year
- Although we may not have *no-excuse* absentee ballots this year, the Election Commissioner reaffirmed that the request and submission of an absentee ballot is self-affirming. The Department of Elections does not validate or review your reason for an absentee ballot. If you have health issues, are disabled or on vacation, have dependent care responsibilities, or are a student, you can request an absentee ballot.
- There is a new Department of Elections website to find out more about your personal election information: <https://gis.elections.delaware.gov/>

### ➤ Climate Change:

Our state – like the rest of the nation...and the rest of the world cannot afford to wait another year before we take bold action to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Delaware can take some important steps to put our state on a path towards net-zero emissions by 2050.

We can't let this legislative session go by without the passage of a bill to make this happen – namely, SB 305 – The Delaware Climate Change Solutions Act.

We need a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and a strong net-zero goal by 2050. We need all state agencies at the table to make sure we will be able to meet these goals, and we need the climate action plan to be updated every 5 years. To put it very clearly, we need bold action!

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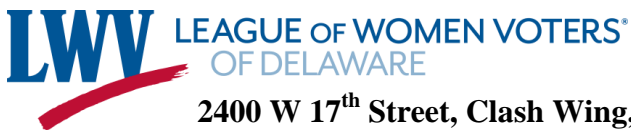
Time is running out on both this legislative session and our ability to address this crisis. The opposition to renewable energy and climate science will attack whatever comes next. We need to let our legislators know that Delaware wants—no, **needs**—climate action to be a priority in 2022 and the passage of SB 305.

**The bill has, we are pleased to report, passed the Senate and must now be addressed in the House. It can be done before June 30<sup>th</sup> – but we must all take an active role in making that a reality. Contact your member of the House of Representatives to urge him/her to support SB 305 today!**

## Gun Violence:

The League is on record supporting a package of *gun safety* bills. Below is a letter that we recently sent.

Your action to reinforce the League’s position is critical. Contact both your Senator and your member of the House to urge action on the bills listed.



2400 W 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level, Wilmington, DE 19806  
[lwvde@comcast.net](mailto:lwvde@comcast.net) <https://my.lwv.org/delaware>

June 13, 2022

Members of the Senate and House of Representatives  
Legislative Hall  
Dover Delaware

Dear Senators and Representatives.

The League of Women Voters of Delaware, Inc. fully supports the Governor and the Senate and House Majority Leadership in their commitment to advance multiple gun safety bills before the General Assembly adjourns on June 30.

The League supports, along with other common sense gun safety legislation, the gun safety package, which includes:

- Banning the sale of assault weapons (HB 450);
- Raising the age from 18 to 21 to purchase most firearms (HB 451);
- Limiting high-capacity magazines (SB 6);
- Strengthening background checks by reinstating the Firearm Transaction Approval Program (FTAP) (HB 423);
- Holding gun manufacturers and dealers liable for reckless or negligent actions that lead to gun violence (to be introduced); and,
- Banning the use of devices that convert handguns into fully automatic weapons (to be introduced).

These bills echo the League’s concern for the health and safety of all Delawareans.

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The League agrees wholeheartedly with the Governor that “We have an obligation to do everything we can to prevent tragedies like we’ve seen across the country from happening here in Delaware.” We also agree with the Governor that: “This is a historic, meaningful package of legislation... .”

Gun homicide in Delaware is 24% higher than the national rate. See Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, WONDER, Underlying Cause of Death. Age-adjusted rate of gun deaths, 2019–2020.

As a brief review of our recent history shows, mass shootings involving a person under twenty-one using an assault-type weapon have devastated communities across the nation and needlessly killed innocent individuals, many of whom are children in our schools. Young adults make up a disproportionate number of shooters in gun homicides, as we have seen in the mass shooting events in Buffalo and Uvalde.

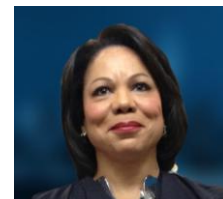
Yet we have seen the impact that gun safety legislation can have. For example, between 1994 and 2004, when the federal prohibition on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines was in effect, mass shootings were significantly down. It is estimated that an Assault Weapon Ban (AWB) would have prevented 314 of 448 mass shooting deaths. See Charles DiMaggio et al., “Changes in US Mass Shooting Deaths Associated With the 1994-2004 Federal Assault Weapon Ban: Analysis of Open-Source Data,” The Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery 86, no. 1 (2019): 11–19, <https://doi.org/10.1097/TA.0000000000002060>. (Study defines a mass shooting as an incident in which four or more people, not including the shooter, are killed with a firearm).

We urge the Senate and House to make gun safety legislation a priority in the remaining days of the 151st session of the General Assembly.

Respectfully yours.



Gwendolyn Miller  
President



Cc: The Honorable John Carney, Governor

## LWV of Delaware Hosted 20 Women from Across Sub-Saharan Africa

On June 6, Gwendolyn Miller, Sue Claire Harper, and Letty Diswood welcomed students and staff to Legislative Hall in the House Hearing Room. The Department of States’ Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders on Women’s Leadership was hosted once again at the University of Delaware in 2022.

The program brings together 20 women from across Sub-Saharan Africa to provide a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture and institutions through leadership training and civic engagement. Our program provided a brief history of the LWV, the Advocacy Corps, Vote411, and a fascinating Q and A time. After that, students spent time in the House and Senate chambers taking pictures and time for socializing.



## Naturalization Proceedings – March – June 2022

At the US District Court for the District of Delaware, the Naturalization Ceremonies began once again on March 3, 2022, with the final one for the first half of 2022 held on Thursday, June 2, 2022. Over this period of four months, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services provided certificates of citizenship to 144 new citizens. These groups represented a total of 78 countries. This country's representation included countries such as Brazil, India, Pakistan, the UK, Mexico, Togo, and many others with a number of these countries repeatedly represented throughout 2022. This last event allowed a limited number of family members and well-wishers to be present.

This event will begin again on September 17, 2022. If you are interested in experiencing an inspiring hour and helping with distributing valuable information, please feel free to contact me.

Lorraine Botticelli, [lsbotticelli@gmail.com](mailto:lsbotticelli@gmail.com).



**Vote411** successfully went live on April 11 with school board information. We have received much praise and positive feedback from the candidates, the media, LWVDE membership, the Department of Elections, First State Educate, and other members of the community. We were cited in several Delaware news sources, including Delaware State News, DelawareOnline, Delaware Live, and WDEL. The candidate response rate was 71%, with Sussex County having a remarkable response rate of 88%.

During the month of June, the Vote411 team will be developing questions for the 2022 primary and General Election. We will be contacting primary candidates from July 13 – September 13, and general election candidates from September 14 to November 8.

Please consider helping out. If interested, contact Jill Itzkowitz at [jillitzkowitz@gmail.com](mailto:jillitzkowitz@gmail.com)

### “Election Protection” Field Program Comes to Delaware

**Protect the Vote**  
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As part of the Delaware Voting Rights Coalition, Common Cause Delaware is organizing the first-ever Election Protection field program in the First State: a poll monitoring program that will recruit, train, and place volunteers at polling places around the state, as well as enable roving and online monitors.

The program is part of a national, nonpartisan voter assistance effort coordinated by a [coalition of over 100 sponsoring organizations](#), including the League of Women Voters that began in 2000 after the *Bush v. Gore* conflict. Common Cause has run Election Protection field programs around the country for 18 years, and this year is bringing it to Delaware.

Working outside of polling places, the Election Protection poll monitors will be non-partisan (as opposed to party and candidate challengers inside the polling places). Election Protection volunteers will work independently from, but in cooperation with, the Department of Elections to advance the shared goal of safe, smooth elections.

The Election Protection poll monitor program will work in conjunction with Delaware’s 1-866-OUR-VOTE English language hotline, run by the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, which will provide First State voters with assistance over dedicated phone lines during the primary and general elections. There will also be non-English hotlines running in

- Spanish (888-VE-Y-VOTA/888-839-8682)
- Arabic (844-YALLA-US/844-925-5287) and
- Asian languages (888-API-VOTE/888-274-8683).

Delawareans who want to volunteer to help with Election Protection can do so at [protectthevote.net](http://protectthevote.net).

## Recent forums you may have missed

### Did you miss League Days forum?

- ✓ Here is a direct YouTube link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8yj7o0\\_HwE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8yj7o0_HwE)
- ✓ Forum on Criminal Justice Panel discussion: Article: <https://my.lwv.org/delaware/event/league-day-cost-justice-delawares-fines-fees-system>
- ✓ An Article that lists all videos from League Days: <https://my.lwv.org/delaware/article/lwvde-advocacy-corps-presents-league-days-2022>
- ✓ **The Wilmington Learning Collaborative: Prospects, Participants, Potential**  
A panel of five Delaware education leaders discussed Governor Carney's recent initiative for Delaware school districts, successful model programs in other states, the potential gains for teaching and learning, the value of innovative structures, and roles for parents and the public. [Click here to view a recording of the presentation!](#)
- ✓ Link to the front page: <https://my.lwv.org/delaware>

## Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you

*Thank you to our generous financial contributors to the League of Women Voters of Delaware for FY 2021-22. Kudos especially to all our incredible VOLUNTEERS; without them, we could not provide the following services and advocacy.*

*The IT group that sets up and manages all our Zoom forums, the website, Twitter, and Facebook, the Advocacy Corps that lobbies and educates our membership and the public on our advocacy priorities, Vote411online voters guide for school board elections and the general elections, the committee chairs and committee members that have provided the League Days forums, all board members and the Treasurer who keeps us all on track, and volunteers who conduct book discussion groups. WOW!*

*Contributions in Memory of Jackie Harris, former president of LWVDE and NCC: Joann Hasse, Susan and Gary Gooden, Carole and Bill Walsh,*

*Other contributions: Dr. Janice Zelekman, Elaine Butterfoss, Sue Claire Harper, Cynthia Kane, Lori Schulman Yadin, Barry Marrs, Rangan, Executive Director, DCRAC funder of the New Citizen Welcome folders, National Philanthropic Trust, Independent Charitable Gift Fund recommended by Nancy Kassner. LWVDE received free ad press from League members Alicia Jones and her husband, Owen Cheevers, and the fine work Kim Wells did on the ad page [LWVDE - SDARJ full-page ad May 2022 - v2.pdf](#).*

find us on 

follow us 

Twitter provides a quick digest of the nation's leading headlines, while Facebook gives us an open forum where we discuss the important issues of the day. All posts and points of view are welcome as long as our nonpartisan and inclusive policies are being respected.

To join Facebook, go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and follow the instructions. Once you join, search for the League of Women Voters of Delaware and send us a "friend request." To join Twitter, go to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and follow the instructions. Once you join, search for @lwvde and "follow" us!

An updated listing of elected officials **THEY REPRESENT YOU** that can be found at:

<https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/new-castle-county/lwvncctheyrepresentyou2020-22.pdf>

## New Castle Dedicates Historic Marker Honoring Bethlehem Steel Suffragists

The final of eight historic markers commemorating individuals and events important to the history of women's suffrage in Delaware was dedicated on May 21. Susan Mitchell of the New Castle LWV joined members of the Delaware Pomeroy Marker Committee --Anne M. Boylan, Professor of History, Emerita, University of Delaware, Judge Susan Del Pesco, Delaware Superior Court (retired), Marsha White, Esquire, Deputy Attorney General (retired) and Mayor Mike Quaranta and dignitaries for the ceremony at The Arsenal in New Castle.

(Pictured) Dr. Boylan with Ms. Mitchell



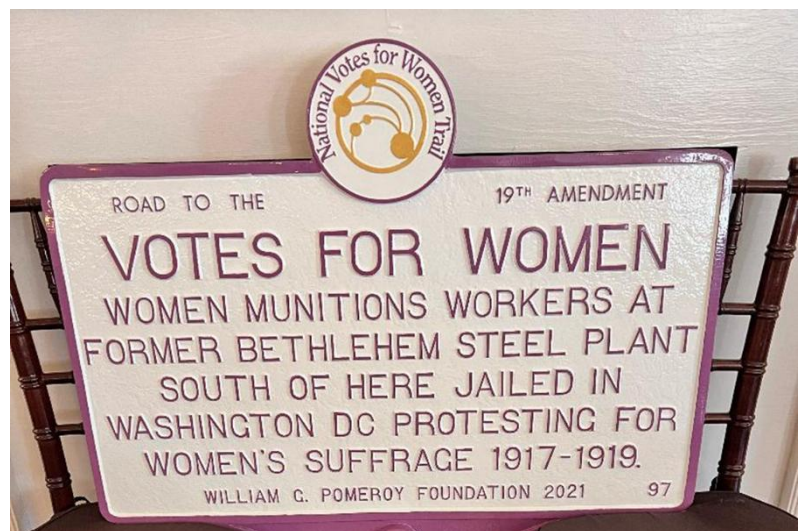
The marker honors women workers at the Bethlehem Steel Loading Plant who, during the First World War, suffered arrest and/or jail terms for picketing the White House in support of women's right to vote. Among them were Florence Bayard Hilles, a member of a well-connected Delaware political family, New Castle resident Catherine Thornton Boyle, and Wilmington resident Annie Melvin Arniel, who was arrested eight times and served a total of 103 days in jails and workhouses.

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation is a private grant-making foundation established in 2005. The Foundation is committed to supporting the celebration and preservation of community history Visit:

[www.wpgfoundation.org](http://www.wpgfoundation.org).

The National Collaborative for Women's History Sites is a non-profit organization established to support and promote the preservation and interpretation of sites and locales that bear witness to women's participation in American history. Visit:

[www.ncwhs.org](http://www.ncwhs.org).



## CALENDAR

### LWVDE COMMITTEE SCHEDULES AND STATE BOARD MEETINGS

#### *Advocacy Corps and its Subcommittees:*

- **LWVDE Advocacy Corps Meeting** – 2nd Weds at 9:30 am. Chair Linda Barnett ([advocacylwvde@gmail.com](mailto:advocacylwvde@gmail.com))
  - **Climate Change and Energy Portfolio Committee** – First Fridays at 3pm. Chair Peggy Schultz ([schultz\\_peggy@yahoo.com](mailto:schultz_peggy@yahoo.com))
  - **Criminal Justice Portfolio Team** – Fourth Wednesdays at 10 am. Chair Lori Yadin ([4hoping@gmail.com](mailto:4hoping@gmail.com))
  - **Education Portfolio Team** – mini-meets alternate Fridays 10am. Chair Kathleen Baker ([kmbdoremi@aol.com](mailto:kmbdoremi@aol.com))
  - **Elections & Voting Portfolio Committee** – First Tuesdays at 11 am. Chair Jill Itzkowitz ([jillitzkowitz@gmail.com](mailto:jillitzkowitz@gmail.com))
  - **Government, Finance, Taxation Portfolio Team** – meeting as needed. Chair Jack Young ([young@sandlerreiff.com](mailto:young@sandlerreiff.com))
  - **Health Care Portfolio Team** – meeting as needed. Chair Joann Hasse ([advocacylwvde@gmail.com](mailto:advocacylwvde@gmail.com))
  - **Land Use/Transportation Portfolio Committee** – First Tuesdays at 9am. Peggy Schultz and Jane Dilley ([schultz\\_peggy@yahoo.com](mailto:schultz_peggy@yahoo.com))
  - **Money in Politics Portfolio Team** – meeting as needed. Chair Chris Asay ([Chrisasay@aol.com](mailto:Chrisasay@aol.com))
  - **Natural Resources Portfolio Team** – meeting as needed. Chair Charlie Garlow ([charliegarlow350@gmail.com](mailto:charliegarlow350@gmail.com))
  - **Reproductive Choice Portfolio Team** – meeting as needed. Chair Linda Barnett ([advocacylwvde@gmail.com](mailto:advocacylwvde@gmail.com))
  - **Social Policy Portfolio Team** – meeting as needed. Chair Linda Barnett ([advocacylwvde@gmail.com](mailto:advocacylwvde@gmail.com))
- **LWVDE Board meeting schedule for 2022** Contact Gwendolyn Miller, president [grybm@outlook.com](mailto:grybm@outlook.com) or call the LWVDE office at 302-571-8948. It meets the fourth Wednesday unless otherwise indicated. Time 5 – 7 pm with check-in starting at 4:45 p.m.
- More info here: [my.lwv.org/delaware/calendar](https://my.lwv.org/delaware/calendar)



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