

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

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

NEW WAYS TO VOTE IN 2022

There are many new ways to vote in the primary and the general election this year. You can vote early, vote by mail, vote absentee, or go to the polls. Just open the links below to find out how.

1. **Early Voting:** Beginning in 2022, Delaware voters can vote ten days prior to Election Day. Launch the link to find early voting sites and dates. [Early voting sites and dates](#).
2. **Absentee Voting:** Delaware voters can vote absentee if they are sick or disabled, in the military, a college student, on vacation, incarcerated, or at work, including providing constant care at home for a child, spouse, or parent. Launch the link to find out how you can request an absentee ballot. [Absentee voting](#). You can also go to [ivote Delaware](#) to request an absentee ballot and check the status of your absentee ballot.
3. **Vote by Mail:** You can also vote by mail by requesting a ballot. Go to [vote by mail](#) for the instructions. You can also go to [ivote Delaware](#) to request a vote by mail ballot and check the status of your ballot.
4. **Vote at the polls:** Go to [ivote Delaware](#) and enter your address to find your polling place.
5. **Drop boxes:** Go to [Delaware drop boxes](#) for locations.



Here is LWV member Jill Itzkowitz at the signing of SB320 Vote by Mail and HB25 Same Day Registration.

The League was proud to be a key supporter of this legislation.



VOTE411 is in full swing preparing for the September 13 Delaware primary. There are currently 49 candidates participating in the primary with 3 competitive state senate districts and 11 competitive state representative districts. Check <https://www.vote411.org/> after August 8 to find the primary candidates running in your district.

VOTE411 still needs volunteers to help with the general election in November. Please consider helping to contact candidates. It is fun and rewarding. If interested, please contact Jill Itzkowitz at jillitzkowitz@gmail.com.

2022 LWVUS Convention Report

The June 2022 LWV Convention was a huge success. I have asked each LWV Delegate to write a brief synopsis either of their experience as an attendee or impression of a workshop in which they participated. Along with my own, enjoy the shared perspectives of Marjorie Green, Tiffany Lydon, and Patti Christopher within this report. It is my hope that you will find each insightful and be encouraged to attend next year's event.

President's Message - Gwendolyn Miller



Over the past nine months, the LWV Structure Taskforce, a diverse group of local, state, and national leaders, explored the challenges and solutions to assist the League in more effectively pursuing its mission of building a renewed, larger, more unified, and effective organization. I was part of this taskforce.

As a result of these gatherings, the LWV Structure Taskforce, through consensus, set forth [The League Structure Transformation Plan](#), a set of proposals addressing the League's organizational capacity. This plan recommends more formal affiliation and membership agreements, and two organizational structure proposals: (1) a modernized membership experience, and (2) an investment in building state League power.

We presented these initiatives as motions at the 2022 Convention, and four bylaws amendments passed. Two were related to the [Structure Transformation Plan](#) and will be implemented over the coming months and years. Explore the plan's outline and details here:

1. [Part 1: Formalize League and Membership Rights & Responsibilities](#)
2. [Part 2: Upgrade Our Membership Mechanics](#)
3. [Part 3: Invest in State Leagues](#)
 - [Focus 1: Increase state League capacity](#)
 - [Focus 2: Simplify our federated structure](#)

This initiative was one of the most contentious motions on the Convention floor despite it having begun months before. Once announced, a campaign was launched to inform and educate League members about the history and purpose of the [Transformation Road Map](#) and how the Structure Transformation Plan was created to fulfill its purpose.

Our immediate agenda was to speak to League members who wished to assist in championing our mission. We engaged members in a 30-minute telephone conversation to help promote the initiative. Numerous forums and extended office hours were then held to review and explain the initiative to League members across the county. All email responses were personal, addressed any confusion present within the League network, and ensured that League members received up-to-date information.

Despite these efforts, a small group of League members opposing the plan emailed League members with mis- and disinformation, especially those who did not read about or understand the [Structure Transformation Plan](#) or the history of its origin: the [Transformation Road Map](#). This behavior, which confused several members, occurred before the convention and continued throughout.

LWVUS Structure Task Force underestimated the intensity and behavior of those who opposed the plan, which heightened once the motion passed. A small group of opposing delegates interrupted the proceedings on numerous occasions insisting we address each of their objections: re-count the votes for the motion; call for a revote on the motion; refute the results of the motion; and finally, challenge the Parliamentarian on each ruling regarding the motion. These delegates continued to challenge the voting results throughout the day, insisting the results were unacceptable. Still, we reached out to the opposition post-convention with an olive branch, asking them to consider becoming part of the Structure Transformation Plan moving forward.

*(Continued on pages 8-10 **Convention Report**)*

REPORT BY THE ADVOCACY CORPS ON The 2022 Session of the 151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY July 2022

What is the League's Advocacy Corps (AC)?

The AC is a group of League members who are interested in public policy and who wish to take an active role in advocating for the League's policy positions.

How does one become a member?

Membership is open to League members. Anyone interested in attending a meeting should contact the Advocacy Corps Chairperson at: advocacylwvde@gmail.com

What are the specific activities of the AC?

The AC monitors the activities of the Delaware Legislature as it conducts the state's business. We also track administrative actions conducted by state agencies.

We support or oppose legislative and administrative proposals in accordance with policy positions approved by the State Board and offer testimony in person at hearings, when possible, and electronically when necessary.

The group meets monthly, either in person in Dover or via Zoom to discuss bills, providing participants with the opportunity to express their views pro or con so that a consensus can be reached. Between meetings, members stay abreast of legislative and administrative actions using websites and through interaction with other like-minded non-profit organizations.



As members become knowledgeable about the workings of the General Assembly and develop expertise in specific areas, they may be appointed to serve as official lobbyists for the League. Only such individuals are authorized to offer testimony or interact on behalf of the League with legislators and state officials. As a lobbyist, the individual must register with the Public Integrity Commission and comply with all of its reporting requirements.

The policy positions we focus on are clustered around topic areas which are referred to as "Portfolios." See below for a review of key bills addressed during 2022; to read the full text of any of them, search on the General

Assembly's website: <https://legis.delaware.gov/>. Unless otherwise noted, the bills described were passed by the Legislature. For further information, contact the Advocacy Corps Chairperson at: advocacylwvde@gmail.com

Advocacy Spotlight on Reports by Portfolio:

Climate Change/Energy - Peggy Schultz, chairperson



This was not a good year for efforts in Delaware to take action to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Our big climate change bill (SB 305) passed the Senate but was not released from the House Energy Committee, so it died. This bill would have set greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals (relative to 2005 emissions) as follows: 2030, 50% reduction; 2050, 90% reduction. It would have also directed all state departments to set and implement climate change targets. The good news is that it is expected to reappear in the next session, hopefully with its major features intact.

SB 310, a bill to resurrect the Governor's Energy Advisory Council (GEAC), passed. Conservatives in the General Assembly supported the bill, as well as those who historically support environmental legislation. Support by conservatives gives one pause. The thought among this cohort may be that if environmental issues are reviewed by the GEAC, a body which includes a number of fossil fuel and business-as-usual folks, by the time the discussion is complete, a good deal of the value of the bill may have been lost. This was a minor victory but nowhere near as significant as **SB 305** would have been.

The League, through a coalition that we lead [POWER (People for Offshore Wind Energy Resources)], supported both a bill and a concurrent resolution on offshore wind. Neither got off the ground. Either piece of legislation would have gotten the ball rolling on an offshore wind procurement process. There is some sense of urgency for an offshore wind project since not only is climate change causing a rapid degradation in the environment, but also a federal tax credit will expire in December 2025. In order to apply for the credit, the developer must prove that s/he is well underway with the offshore wind project, with some materials purchased and some permits obtained...both requiring a finite lead time. An 800 MW offshore wind project for Delaware would provide 28% of the state's energy.

One bill that did pass (**SB 298**) offers a small bit of relief. This bill increases from 5% to 8% the cap at which electric utilities may elect to not reimburse (at retail cost) home owners for electricity provided beyond what they need for their household when their primary source of fuel is solar, wind, hydro, a fuel cell, or gas from the anaerobic digestion of organic material. From month to month, customers can get credit for excess power generated, but at end of year the slate is wiped clean and all credit is wiped out. This bill will only add a small increment of clean energy to the grid. One outcome of discussion on **SB 298** was learning of the distressing inability of the grid to respond to unexpected increases or decreases in power.

Please contact Peggy to join in the work on this issue: (schultz_peggy@yahoo.com)

Criminal Justice - Lori Yadin, chairperson



The Criminal Justice Committee had a focused legislative year, initially focusing on **HB 244, SB 149S, and SB 172**.

The LWVDE strongly supported **HB 244 and HA 1**, known as the Fines and Fees Bill. This Bill is one that begins to address the issue of the negative impact current fines and fees have, imposed by the criminal justice system on Delaware citizens, disproportionately affecting low-income communities and communities of color. The Bill has passed and is now ready for the Governor.

The LWVDE also strongly supported **SB 149**, known as the Law Enforcement Officer Bill Of Rights, but it met with a lot of

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Anna Quisel, LWVDE Land Use/ Transportation Chair speaking at rally for passage of SB 305 at Legislative Hall.

(Continued from page 4 Justice)

push back from police officers and was pulled for revision at the end of the first half of the 151st General Assembly. Ultimately, it went nowhere. Many organizations who originally supported the Bill, pulled their support after reading the revisions to the original Bill, feeling it had been too watered down and no longer offered the transparency and reform they and the communities they represented were looking for.

Conversely, the LWVDE did not support **SB 172** – widely seen as a Partisan Gun Bill that would have allowed the carry of a concealed weapon without a permit, often referred to as a constitutional carry law. After a very long hearing, with many representing varying positions, the Bill failed.

Following incidents of on-going gun violence in our state and nationwide, several Gun Reform Bills were introduced, and the LWVDE wrote a strong letter to support this package of Bills, which included banning the sale of assault weapons, raising the legal age to purchase most firearms from 18 to 21, strengthening background checks by reinstating the Firearm Transaction Approval Program, holding gun manufacturers and dealers liable for reckless or negligent actions that lead to gun violence, and banning the use of devices that convert handguns into fully automatic weapons. Happily, this Package did pass (**HB 450 and 451, HB 423, SB 6 and 8, and SB 302**) and the bills have been signed by Governor Carney.

After a short summer break, the Criminal Justice Committee looks forward to setting our priorities for the next Legislative Session. We are actively seeking to welcome new members to join us in our work, and invite you to consider our committee – please contact Lori, 4hoping@gmail.com if interested.

Education- Luann D'Agostino & Susan Mitchell, co-chairs



During a busy session, Education legislation focused on early learning, literacy, mental health, and teacher supports.

Early literacy was addressed head on with **SS 1 for SB 4** ensuring teacher use of evidence-backed approaches and standardizing methods and materials, while **HB 304** implements standard screenings three times a year to detect early reading deficiencies.

HB 300 and HB 301 added mental health units and/or counselors to all middle schools and mandates implementation of mental health education programs for all students in grades K-12.

Addressing an ongoing teacher shortage, **HB 430** creates a statewide program to improve recruitment, retention, and diversity of teachers in Delaware public schools. **SB 100** builds a framework to bring Delaware teacher salaries more in line with those in our surrounding states, while **HB 315 with HA 2** creates a pathway to teaching certification for substitutes.

Also of note, **SB 195 with SA 1**, referred to as The Digital Citizenship Education Act, requires the development of curricula and resources to support Media Literacy, Digital Citizenship, and Critical Thinking in K-12. These materials are to provide guidance on teaching Delaware students how to consume and use social media and other digital media sources, and address appropriate, responsible, and healthy online behavior.

[Please contact Luann or Susan if you are interested in working on these issues \(ladagostino1@gmail.com / svm.lwv.ncc@gmail.com\)](mailto:ladagostino1@gmail.com)

Elections and Voting – Jill Itzkowitz, chairperson



The 2nd session of the 151st General Assembly proved to be triumphant when it comes to voting rights. **HB 25**, same day voter registration, passed and was signed by the Governor. This bill allows voters to register up to and including Election Day. **SB 320**, vote by mail, also passed and was signed by the Governor. This bill will allow voters in Delaware to request a vote-by-mail ballot, complete the ballot at home, and then mail it back to the Department of Elections or use one of the sanctioned drop boxes.

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If you are interested in protecting voting rights, participating in voter registration events, or helping with Vote411, please contact Jill at jillitzkowitz@gmail.com. We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 11am. If you cannot make the meeting, you can still participate - just contact her.

Government/Redistricting/Finance/Taxation- Jack Young, chairperson



Redistricting: In the late spring 2021, a coalition (the Delaware Redistricting Coalition) which included the ACLU, Common Cause and over thirty other Delaware organizations began to function – with League members Kyra Hoffner and Jack Young serving as chairs. The League and its coalition partners made over fifty presentations to community groups and communities of interest.

Due to delays in the release of census data, the deadline to redistrict the State was extended to within 120 days following receipt of the federal decennial census data. **(HB 245)**. At the urging of the League and the coalition, the 2021 process included public hearings in both the Senate and House. Final maps were approved on November 202 (SB 199).

Included in the census count were incarcerated persons based on their last known Delaware address, making Delaware one of the nation’s leaders in this – namely, counting incarcerated residents at their last known residence, instead of the place of incarceration. **(SB 171)**

Following the redistricting of the General Assembly, the portfolio worked with the Sussex League to successfully submit a map redistricting the five Sussex County Council seats.

In the spring 2022, work began with Professor Jonathan Justice and students at the UD Biden Center to prepare a comprehensive report supporting the creation of an independent redistricting commission for the 2030 redistricting process. The report proposed a five-person commission, citizen advisory commissions in each county and the City of Wilmington, public hearings, and an independent data center to be maintained at UD with input from DSU. Members of the General Assembly have previously suggested a redistricting commission [see, e.g., **SB 27** (2017)]. Work will begin in the upcoming session to lay the foundation for the introduction of a constitutional amendment creating such an independent redistricting commission.

EARNs: The most significant portfolio achievement in this session was support of legislation to establish a retirement program entitled “the Delaware Expanding Access for Retirement and Necessary Saving (“EARNs”) program. EARNs will serve as a vehicle through which eligible employees may, on a voluntary basis, provide for additional retirement security through a State-facilitated retirement savings program in a convenient, cost effective, and portable manner. **(HB 205)**. The program benefits entry-level and lower wage earners in beginning to build a retirement account.

Grant-in-Aid and Inspector General Bills Did Not Pass: Past sessions have included both majority and minority efforts to create a Grant-in-Aid Joint Finance Committee independent of the Joint Finance Committee. In this session, the minority-introduced bill died in committee.

DelCOG led a collation, which included the League, to provide for the creation of an independent office of Inspector General. The ultimate bill had majority and minority support by combining **HB 405 and HB 370**, for a combined total of 15 sponsors. The bill failed to make it out of committee, however, after the Speaker raised questions about the coordination of the IG’s functions with those of the Attorney General and State Auditor. An amendment (HB 405, HA-1) addressing the Speaker’s concerns came too late in the session.

To join in the work on this topic area, contact Jack: young@sandlerreiff.com

Health Care – Joann Hasse, chairperson



Considerable successful attention was directed toward access to health care this year. The measures described below passed.

The Department of Health and Social Services was instructed to take the necessary steps to expand Medicaid coverage to pregnant women from the current coverage of 60 days from the end of pregnancy to 12 months from the end of pregnancy (**HB 234**).

Insurers are now required (**via HB 303**) to cover annual behavioral health wellness exams (pre-deductible) by a qualified mental health clinician.

Telemedicine received endorsement via **HB 334**, which permits health-care providers licensed in a state other than Delaware to deliver health-care services by telehealth and telemedicine to residents of our state, as long as a health-care provider-patient relationship has already been established.

A couple of measures addressed doula services: **HB 343** requires the Medicaid Program to produce a report detailing how they would cover these services, and **HB 345** calls on the Department of Correction to make reasonable accommodations for provision of available midwifery or doula services to pregnant inmates.

HOWEVER, the General Assembly disappointed us greatly by failing to pass a Medical Aid in Dying measure. Passage of HB 140 would have allowed mentally-competent individuals to self-administer medication to end their suffering, in the face of a terminal illness.

To join in the work on this topic area, contact Joann or Linda: advocacylwvde@gmail.com

Land Use / Transportation- Anna Quisel, chairperson



Not much legislative action took place in this issue area, but there was a bit.

HB 19, with HA 2 and SAs 1 and 2, awaits the Governor's signature at this writing. This bill defines 3 classes of electric bicycles, and a path or trail administrator is allowed to limit access of certain classes of electric bicycles, if appropriate, without a time-consuming change in regulations. This bill will add an increment of support to electric bicycles, a method of transportation that greatly reduces emissions compared with the internal-combustion-engine car, and yet it adds to fitness. You can't ride an electric bicycle without expending at least some physical effort.

HS 1 for SB 187 failed. It would have required that municipalities over 30,000 in population to set up procedures to permit electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. It would have been a good step in the encouragement of EV use.

To join in the work on this topic area, contact Anna: annaquisel@gmail.com

Money in Politics – Chris Asay, chairperson



The General Assembly exhibited very little interest in addressing money in politics during 2022, even for a proposal that would have increased allowable donation amounts. Two bills were introduced, but neither got out of committee: **HB 366**, to add new requirements pertaining to campaign contributions and expenditures; and **HB 473**, to allow for increases in the campaign contribution limits, tied to increases in the Consumer Price Index.

To join in the work on this topic area, contact Chris: ChrisAsay@aol.com

Natural Resources – Charlie Garlow, chairperson



The 2022 session of the Legislature was not extremely productive in terms of protecting our state's natural resources, but a few measures passed that we supported. They are **SB 22 and SB 239**, which both address the sale or installation of invasive plants, specifying that they are banned. These bills were signed in 2022.

One good bill came close to passing but died at the last minute – namely, the Styrofoam-ban bill, SB 134. It passed the Senate almost unanimously and was on the Ready List but was not taken up in time. We will try again next year. This would ban single-use Styrofoam products, such as cups and carry-out containers, which very often end up as litter.

To join in the work on this topic area, contact Charlie: charliegarlow350@gmail.com

Reproductive Choice – Joann Hasse & Linda Barnett, co-chairs

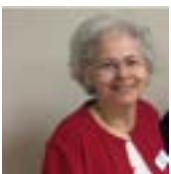
The General Assembly demonstrated great foresight and sensitivity to the right to privacy in regard to reproductive health. Two important measures were passed, as described below.

HB 320 allows physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses to prescribe medication for the termination of pregnancy.

HB 455 makes clear that physicians, physician assistants and nurses who perform, recommend, or provide reproductive health services which are lawful in this State do not engage in unprofessional conduct and cannot be disciplined for such services even if such services are illegal or considered to be the unauthorized practice of medicine or nursing in another state. It authorizes the following to terminate pregnancy before viability: (1) A physician assistant who has a collaborative agreement with an appropriately training physician; and (2) A certified nurse midwife or certified nurse practitioner who demonstrates knowledge and competency, including successful completion of training or certification approved by the Board of Nursing. The bill prohibits an insurer from increasing the premium or taking any adverse action against a health care professional or health care organization for performing or providing reproductive health care services that are lawful in this State and covers any medical professional who prescribes medication for the termination of human pregnancy to an out-of-state patient by means of telehealth.

To join in the work on this topic area, contact Joann or Linda: advocacylwvde@gmail.com

Social Policy – Linda Barnett, chairperson



Several new laws were added to the **Code** that advance the League's social policies.

SB 1 established a Family and Medical Leave program for Delaware workers, whereby employees can access up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave for the following situations: (1) To address a worker's own serious health condition; (2) To care for a family member with a serious health condition; (3) To bond and care for a new child; or (4) To address the impact of a family member's military deployment. The cost of the program is shared between workers and their employers through wage

withholding.

A consortium on racial equity was authorized to study and make recommendations to address the disparities and inequities faced by persons of color in DE. Among its tasks, as outlined in **HB 375**, are to (a) provide advice and support to state agencies regarding the state agencies' role in identifying and eliminating disparities and inequities; (b) facilitate collaborative partnerships between government agencies, nonprofit agencies, private sector agencies, and all other interested parties and organizations to eliminate racial inequities and disparities; and (c) recommend legislation and regulations to address these inequities and disparities.

HB 311 makes it unlawful to discriminate against persons with disabilities in public accommodations. This brings the DE Code into alignment with federal law.

To join in the work on this topic area, contact Linda: advocacylwvde@gmail.com.

LWV Membership and Leadership Development (MLD)



Our state league, as well as local leagues, recently discussed the importance of growing our membership and RETAINING those who join. With this in mind, after much discussion at state and local meetings, we are ready to put our words into action. Following the guidance of the [MLD Initiative](#) developed by LWVUS, Gwendolyn Miller, Jenn Wells, and Mary Ann Coe met to discuss and begin drawing up some plans to make our membership grow and thrive. Jenn Wells is delving into the various social media outlets that can be used to aid in reaching new members, especially younger, energetic women and men. Mary Ann Coe, who has had experience in developing mentorship programs for adults, is developing training sessions for both the mentor and the mentee.

Mentoring is a reciprocal learning relationship in which a mentor and mentee agree to a partnership, where they work collaboratively toward the achievement of mutually-defined goals that will develop a mentee's skills, abilities, knowledge, and/or thinking.

“Well designed and managed mentoring programs can have a dramatic impact on workplace culture, people engagement and retention. A strategic mentoring program transcends hierarchy, creating relationships and interactions to build individual and hence organizational value.”
Richardson & Richardson (2022)

Please let us know if you are interested in becoming a mentor. Mary Ann – 940-733-0588, maryanncoe@gmail.com)

If you are interested in helping with either of these two activities, please drop us an email or text. (Jenn – (302) 304-1339, jenn@brandswan.design, Mary Ann – 940-733-0588, maryanncoe@gmail.com)

Webmaster Report



Our website, (<https://my.lwv.org/delaware>), continues to receive about 1,600 hits per month. Average time spent on any given page is usually less than 1 minute (not very encouraging). We continue to strive to place pertinent, informative, and enjoyable articles and videos. If you have any information that you would like included on the site, please send it to maryanncoe@gmail.com so that it can be included for others to read, watch, or listen.

Also, remember to look at the menu bar on the left of the screen and look for an * . This indicates new information was posted in the last few weeks.

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As the Structure Transformation Plan unfolds, Leagues at all levels will be presented with engagement opportunities. It is my hope that LWVDE leaders are part of the process. For those seeking more information, I urge you to visit [the plan's webpage](#) and take this opportunity to engage in the Structure Transformation Plan.

Marjorie Green

I did not attend a workshop but was participating primarily to ensure the LWVUS's concurrence with the LWV of California's criminal justice position. It passed on a vote of 854 yay to 10 nay. I had been instrumental in undertaking the four-year study in Los Angeles, which was explored and ultimately concurred with by the LWVDE in 2022.

The position will enable the League to effectively advocate for criminal justice legislation and recommend best practices in a system that affects one in three Americans, often in a way that is unconstitutional. The LWVUS position in brief supports:

- *A criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and fosters public trust at all stages, including policing practices, pretrial procedures, sentencing, incarceration, and reentry;*
- *the elimination of systemic bias, including the disproportionate policing and incarceration of [those in] marginalized communities;*
- *policing practices that promote safety for both law enforcement officers and the communities they serve;*
- *collaboration between government and community throughout every stage of the criminal justice system;*
- *a focus on humane treatment and rehabilitation with the goal of promoting the successful reentry into communities of those who have been incarcerated; and*
- *reliance on evidence-based research in decision-making about law enforcement programs and policies (including scheduled, periodic audits of program and policy effectiveness).*

Tiffany Lydon

One of the themes I found particularly engaging from the Convention was the youth and young adult involvement in the League in various forms. There were a few programs that touched on this issue, and I learned some interesting and valuable tidbits. It's wonderful to hear that there is such power in intergenerational organizing, but not all chapters are taking advantage of it. The presenters noted that in general, organizations such as LWV are not reaching out to 18- to 24-year-olds much, despite the fact that this specific age group is very active in advocating for many of the same causes the League supports. It was mentioned repeatedly that their generation knows how to organize to create change. They also have relevant skill sets that older folks do not. Another revelation was that young voters are less likely to show up to the polls amid the confusion around recent elections concerning what is and is not permitted with regard to the actual logistics of voting at the polls. Apparently young voters are more likely to stay home if they feel they do not know what they are doing when they go to the polls.

The Maine League has its own youth organization within its chapter, and it seems to be working very well. It was mentioned that the youth are likely to use their voices and be frank about what is and is not working for voters their age. There were also some good ideas discussed about reaching young voters by using tools like QR codes to deliver information more easily in a familiar way to them. It seems to be much more impactful when younger LWV members are the ones doing voter registration at high schools and colleges. While our Delaware chapters do not seem to have very many student members, I feel this is an initiative that should be pursued in the future for our Delaware League and county chapters. In my opinion, we should encourage programs like the one Ivonne Antongiorgi was leading [[Be Their Voice!](#)] to engage young Latino/Latina voters.

Patti Christopher

Overall, my experience with this new "hybrid" convention was very good.

There were many sessions and workshops that I attended or could pop in and out of.

VOTE411 was a nice review for me; [one that can be used] to assist at my voter registration events. Equally, the

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workshops on Bylaws Webinar, Virtual Technical Support Room, and Intro to Convention were all informative. However, the workshop that inspired me was "Youth Engagement for Democracy—The Power and Strength of Intergenerational Organizing."

My volunteer base is limited to mostly sixty-year-olds. I realize that when we are at voter registration events, I attempt to engage younger people. This workshop had a panel of all ages (mostly younger people). The importance of engaging, communicating, and collaborating with ALL ages is very important for our Democracy and future.

We all have life experiences, and this workshop reinforces the need to work with [people of] all ages. I'm now trying to find ways to connect with some younger "volunteers." Even though they may not be of age to vote, it is imperative to get them involved early.

Students from (SUSI) visit Legislative Hall

On June 6, and again on July 14, 2022, LWVDE hosted twenty African Students from the Department of State's Study of U.S. Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders on Women's Leadership, an even held at Legislative Hall. Our guests hailed from Uganda, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Sierra Leone, and Kenya. Letty Diswood, Sue Claire Harper, and I shared the League's history and our important Advocacy work.

About her visit, Abigail, one of the participants, penned a lovely letter:

"I've been in my community spreading awareness about Women's rights to vote and be voted for using the League of Women's Voters and Sen. Kyle Gay story as a case study to inspire young Nimba women to exercise their civil rights."



It is delightful to know the impact we made on women from across the globe. Abigail also wrote:

"Know that my interaction with you and the women at the legislature is something that is going a long way with me, and I am grateful to God that I met you and was able to learn a lot from you and the women."

I was pleased to represent LWVDE and speak about its achievements and challenges. What is most rewarding is to know that despite their obstacles, we inspired them to make a difference in the lives of women within their own communities.

Thank you!

Gwendolyn Miller



CREATING SPACE IN THE LAW: LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY & WOMEN

Now, more than ever, it's so important to make sure your voice is heard. Our featured columnist this month discusses how you can engage and be heard at a local level.

DSBA Bar Journal | June 2022

Get to Know the Delaware League of Women Voters!

The League of Women Voters (the "League" or "LWV") is a non-profit, **nonpartisan, grassroots** organization that works to **protect and expand voting rights** and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. The League empowers voters and defends democracy through **advocacy, education, and litigation** at three levels—local, state, and national. As set forth in its bylaws, LWV's purpose is "to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues." LWV believes in representational government, individual liberties, and balance of powers.

Since becoming a League member, I have discovered that there are a few misconceptions about exactly who LWV is and what it does. One misconception is likely a result of the League's traditional name. Contrary to what some may think, you do not have to identify as a woman to be a member, and in fact, you do not even have to be a voter yet. The League encourages all members of society to participate in LWV activities and programs and hopefully join the League. It is incredibly important for Delaware's youth to learn about democracy and all its tenets, and as such, LWV encourages them to participate in League events and become student members. Youth involvement in many causes has been encouraging in recent years, and the League is delighted to facilitate and foster that enthusiasm with education and action.

The Delaware League of Women Voters is also proud to have initiated a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy, which states that "there shall be no barriers to full participation" in LWV "on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity." Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to LWV's current and future success in creating a more perfect democracy. **The League cannot ensure that it is fully representing Delawareans in its advocacy unless it is obtaining and listening to all views.**

Another misconception is a belief that the League's sole focus is voting rights. While voter registration and voting rights are undoubtedly a high priority, the League's overall goal is much broader – to protect democracy and ensure equitable representation in government at all levels. As such, the League provides voter services and educational programming on a wide variety of topics. LWV also influences public policy through advocacy and education, conducting extensive research and discussion before it takes a position on a topic.

The League's Advocacy Corps monitors the activities of the Delaware Legislature as it conducts the state's business and tracks administrative actions conducted by state agencies. The Advocacy Corps supports or opposes legislative and administrative proposals in accordance with policy positions approved by the LWV State Board, and offers testimony in person and electronically at hearings. As a demonstration of the breadth of the League's focus, the Advocacy Corps Portfolios currently include **Climate Change/Energy, Criminal Justice, Education, Elections and Voting, Government/Finance/Taxation, Health Care, Land Use/ Transportation, Money in Politics, Natural Resources, Redistricting, and Social Policy.**

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(Continued from page 11 Know Delaware League)

While being a League member in any state is a rewarding experience, it is especially meaningful in a small state like Delaware. We are fortunate that our advocacy on behalf of Delaware residents can have an immediate and significant impact on the state's laws and policies. We are also incredibly lucky that most Delaware state legislators are active and responsive to their constituents' views and genuinely engage with advocacy organizations like LWV. Local and state officials (and even federal representatives) are often present at League events and programs, and some are themselves members of the League. The League is also proud to partner with other non-profit organizations and coalitions, which again, in a small state like Delaware, can have a tremendous impact.

One of the most important resources the national League provides is Vote411, a user-friendly website where voters can confirm their polling location, check if an ID is required, and see what their personal ballot will look like. LWV has long been a trusted source of objective and nonpartisan election information, and since 2006, VOTE411.org has served tens of millions of voters. LWV Delaware adds local and state election information to the site. Vote411 was a valuable resource for candidate information in Delaware's recent school board elections.

LWV is proud to host informative programs on a variety of topics through the state and local chapters. Some examples of recent ones include a virtual tour and discussion of Dr. King's civil rights journey, a discussion of the proposal for an inspector general for Delaware, a presentation on offshore wind power, and a discussion of New Castle County's 2050 comprehensive plan. The Delaware LWV also sponsors **League Days**, a series on important legislative topics, which, for 2022, included online programs on education, criminal justice, and climate & energy. Recordings of many of LWV's Zoom events are available to the public on the League's website and YouTube page. The LWV also holds member discussions that cover world events, books, and TED talks.

And of course, the League often has a presence at community events where it provides information, resources, and voter registration services. LWV recently conducted an outreach project for young Latino/Latina voters at an event at the University of Delaware, participated in the Delaware Youth Environmental Summit, and provides welcome packets with valuable resources to new citizens at naturalization ceremonies.

Although LWV expects to have more in person events in the future, many of the programs will continue to occur through Zoom. As the midterm elections approach, the League anticipates facilitating regular candidate forums.

As lawyers, we have skills and experience that align well with the League's goals and could be of great service to LWV chapters. No matter your political party or views, we all enjoy the freedoms and benefits of living in a democracy and want to protect them. As lawyers, we balance so many responsibilities and tasks, but the great thing about LWV is that is always an available resource, and if you decide to join, it is entirely up to you how active you want to be.

Delaware has three local chapters of LWV, one for each county. When you join as a member of any of these chapters, you automatically become a member of the state and national Leagues as well. For more information or to join the League, please visit <https://my.lwv.org/delaware>. In addition to the League's YouTube channel, LWV Delaware has a presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



By Tiffany Geyer Lydon. Tiffany is Senior Counsel at Ashby & Geddes and a board member of the New Castle County chapter of the League of Women Voters.

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>



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 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 and follow the instructions. Once you join, search for @lwvde and "follow" us!

Did you miss League Days forum?

- ✓ Here is a direct YouTube link: 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>

Visit the Center



19th Amendment Anniversary

August 26 | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Regular museum admission

August 26 marks the anniversary of the certification of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed the right to vote could not be denied on the basis of sex.

Commemorate this special anniversary by visiting our newest exhibit, [The 19th Amendment: How Women Won the Vote](#). Learn about the triumphs and struggles that led to the ratification of the 19th Amendment and the many women who transformed constitutional history—including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Alice Paul, and Ida B. Wells.

[BUY TICKETS](#)

This is at the National Constitution center in Philadelphia.

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 primaries and 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 since the last VOTER in Memory of Jackie Harris, former president of LWVDE and NCC: Janet and Brian Kramer, Leslie Richeson. Other contributions: Marjorie B. Green.

CALENDAR

LWVDE COMMITTEE SCHEDULES AND STATE BOARD MEETINGS

Advocacy Corps and its Subcommittees: (Only some committees are meeting in July-August)

- **LWVDE Advocacy Corps Meeting** – 2nd Weds at 9:30 am. Chair Linda Barnett (advocacylwvde@gmail.com)
 - **Climate Change and Energy Portfolio Committee** – First Fridays at 3pm. Chair Peggy Schultz (schultz_peggy@yahoo.com)
 - **Criminal Justice Portfolio Team** – Fourth Wednesdays at 10 am. Chair Lori Yadin (4hoping@gmail.com)
 - **Education Portfolio Team** – Time to be determined. Co-chairs Luann D'Agostino (ladagostino1@gmail.com) Susan V. Mitchell (Svm.lwv.ncc@gmail.com)
 - **Elections & Voting Portfolio Committee** – First Tuesdays at 11 am. Chair Jill Itzkowitz (jillitzkowitz@gmail.com)
 - **Government, Finance, Taxation Portfolio Team** – meeting as needed. Chair Jack Young (young@sandlerreiff.com)
 - **Health Care Portfolio Team** – meeting as needed. Chair Joann Hasse (advocacylwvde@gmail.com)
 - **Land Use/Transportation Portfolio Committee** – First Wednesdays at 9am. Peggy Schultz and Jane Dilley (schultz_peggy@yahoo.com)
 - **Money in Politics Portfolio Team** – meeting as needed. Chair Chris Asay (Chrisasay@aol.com)
 - **Natural Resources Portfolio Team** – meeting as needed. Chair Charlie Garlow (charliegarlow350@gmail.com)
 - **Reproductive Choice Portfolio Team** – meeting as needed. Chair Linda Barnett (advocacylwvde@gmail.com)
 - **Social Policy Portfolio Team** – meeting as needed. Chair Linda Barnett (advocacylwvde@gmail.com)
- **LWVDE Board meeting schedule for 2022** Contact Gwendolyn Miller, president 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. Next meeting September 28, 2022.
- More info here: my.lwv.org/delaware/calendar



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