

League of Women Voters of Sussex County

League 101



LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SUSSEX COUNTY, DE

League 101 Objectives

To help you:

- learn about the League and how it operates
- feel more connected to the League
- become more active in the League

League Basics Overview

1 – League History

2 – League Mission & Values

3 – League Advocacy & Actions

4 – League Structure

5 – LWVSCDE Goals

League History

Foremost advocate of voting rights in U.S. history



February 14, 1920: National League founded, in Washington, D.C.
Carrie Chapman Catt, Founder.



1920: Delaware League founded.
Mabel Lloyd Ridgely, Founder.

LWV Sussex County

1957: LWV of Laurel established

1976: Reincorporated as LWV of Sussex County, DE

2017: Membership exceeds 100

2022: Sussex County Council adopts LWVSCDE-developed County District plan





100 YEARS OF EMPOWERING VOTERS AND DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

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WOMEN VOTERS®

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League of Women Voters

MISSION

EMPOWERING VOTERS.
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

VISION

A DEMOCRACY BY THE PEOPLE,
FOR THE PEOPLE—ALL THE
PEOPLE.

VALUE

WE BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF
PEOPLE TO CREATE A MORE
PERFECT DEMOCRACY.

League Mission

**Empowering
Voters**



**Defending
Democracy**



League Values

Nonpartisanship



**Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion**



LWV Nonpartisan Policy

At **national, state, and local** levels we **DO NOT** support or oppose

- political parties
- public office holders
- candidates for elective office



Nonpartisan — NOT Neutral

- We are **NOT** neutral on issues.
- We encourage informed and active participation of citizens in government.
- We attempt to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

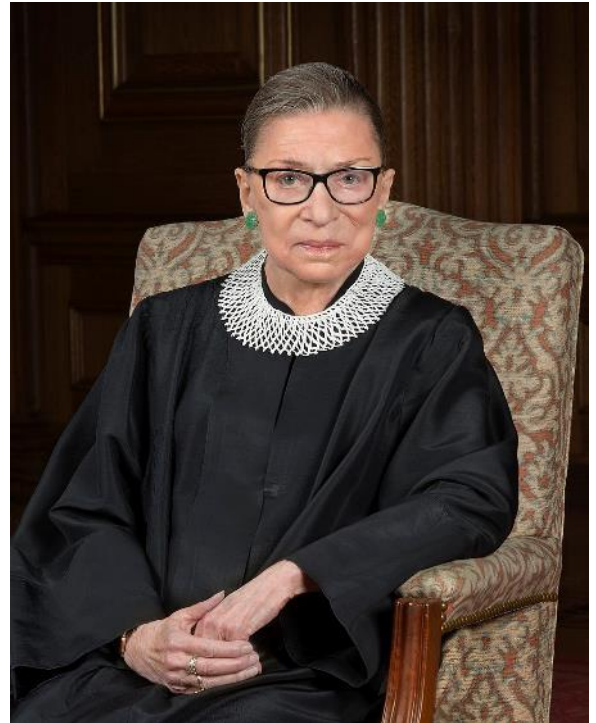
Issues for Nonpartisan Advocacy

- Voting Rights
- Election Security
- Public Education
- Healthcare
- Redistricting Reform
- Government Transparency
- Environment
- Women's Rights
- ... and more

Issues are not partisan.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

“Fight for the things that you care about. But do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”



League Values



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The League of Women Voters is fully committed to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in principle and in practice.

- **Diversity:** Differences within a given setting
- **Equity:** Equal access to the same opportunities
- **Inclusion:** Valuing, leveraging, and welcoming people with different identities

“Diversity is being asked to the party.
Inclusion is being asked to dance.”

– Verna Myers

Applying the “DEI Lens”

A set of questions to find out how our organization and its work are perceived by the variety of communities and perspectives in Sussex County.

- What barriers might prevent Sussex LWV from being equitable or inclusive to everyone?
- Who is involved in the process?
- Who will be impacted?
- What are the intended and unintended outcomes?
- Does this align with our vision for an equitable and inclusive organization?
- What changes could be made to make this more equitable?

Shirley Chisholm

"We must reject not only the stereotypes that others hold of us, but also the stereotypes that we hold of ourselves."

—[Shirley Chisholm](#), 1924-2005
first African-American woman
elected to Congress



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League Advocacy & Actions

Two Related Roles

Voter Service/Civic Education

The League provides unbiased nonpartisan information about elections, the voting process, and issues.

Advocacy/Action:

After study, the League takes positions to advocate for or against policies in the public interest.

League Advocacy & Actions

VOTER REGISTRATION

PRIMARY PROGRAMS

YOUNG VOTERS
High schools, vocational schools, and community college students

NEWLY NATURALIZED CITIZENS

VOTE411.ORG USERS

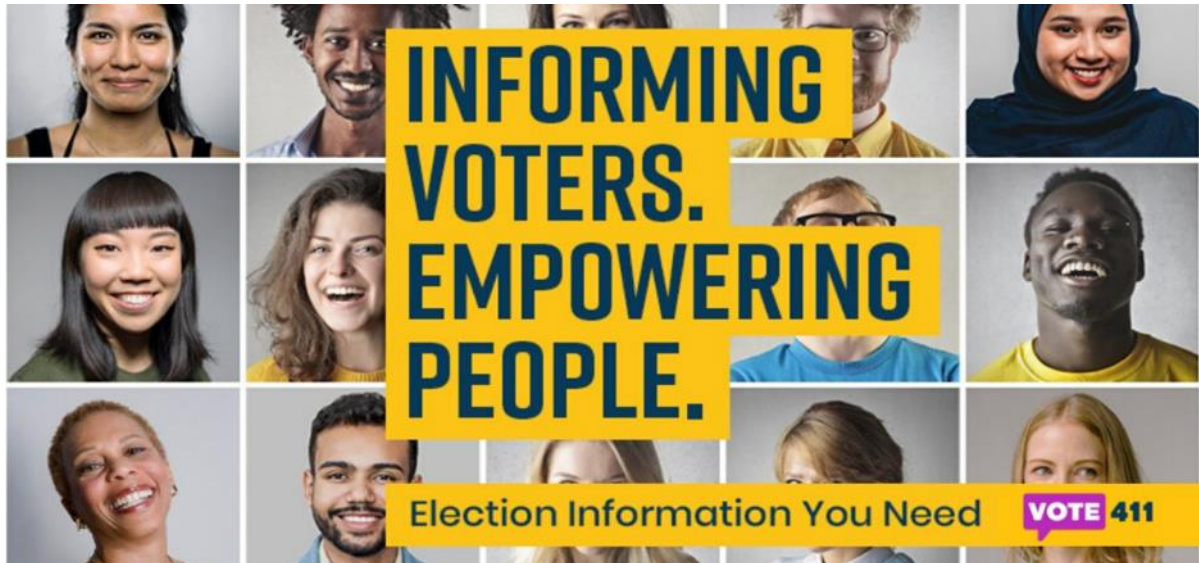
A woman wearing a white t-shirt with 'VOTE 411' and 'GET THE WORD OUT ON THE 11' printed on it is talking to a young girl. The woman is looking at something in her hands, possibly a registration form or a phone.

- Registers Voters
 - Educates and Informs Voters
 - Sponsors candidate forums
 - Supports Get out the Vote (GOTV) efforts
 - Fights for Fair Redistricting
- ... and much more

League Advocacy & Actions

Election Information

www.vote411.org



League Advocacy & Actions



Fights for Fair Redistricting



Educates Voters



Fights Voter Suppression



Fights for the Environment



Works for Immigration Reform

LWV Impact on Issues

- Defines LWV public policy positions
- Any League may propose a policy positions for adoption by the LWWUS.
- *League 102* presentation describes how LWWUS positions are developed.

www.lwv.org/impact-issues



Oprah Winfrey

“Do your part.
VOTE! Wherever
you live. Use your
Vote as your
voice.”

– [Instagram post](#), 2018



By Maryland GovPics - Public Swearing In, CC BY 2.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=128037465>

Focuses on Advocacy

- Voting and Elections
- Delaware Government
- New Citizens Ceremonies
- Annual Delaware League Days

Advocacy Corps

- Election and Voting
- Land Use/Transportation
- Environment
- Social Policy Issues

Coordinates with:

- LWV New Castle County
- LWV Kent County
- **LWV Sussex County**

<https://my.lwv.org/delaware>



Voter Registration

SUSSEX COUNTY, **VOTE 411**
Is your candidate on your team?

Where do candidates stand on the issues you care about?

Find out at Vote411.

VOTE 411
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

www.vote411.org

For resources available in Spanish, visit vote411.org/es.

Election Information

www.vote411.org



Hosts Candidate Forums



Observes Government



Conducts Membership Meetings



Holds Informal Get-Togethers

League Basics Overview

1- League History

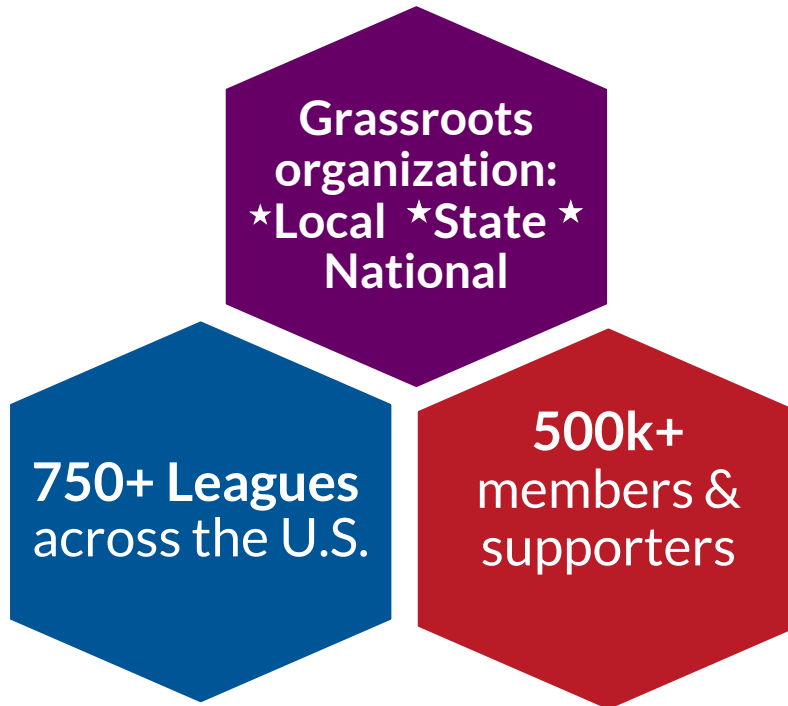
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LVW Structure



LWVSCDE Structure

Members	Committees	Leadership
Active	Board of Directors	Elected by members
Active in supporting mission	Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Voter Services▪ Observer Corps▪ Social Policy	Selected by committee members. Co-Chairing encouraged. Also serve on Board.
	Operations <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Communications & Technology▪ Membership▪ Nominating	Selected by Board and committee members. Co-Chairing encouraged. Also serve on Board.

We are an all-volunteer organization.

We generally work collaboratively rather than top-down.

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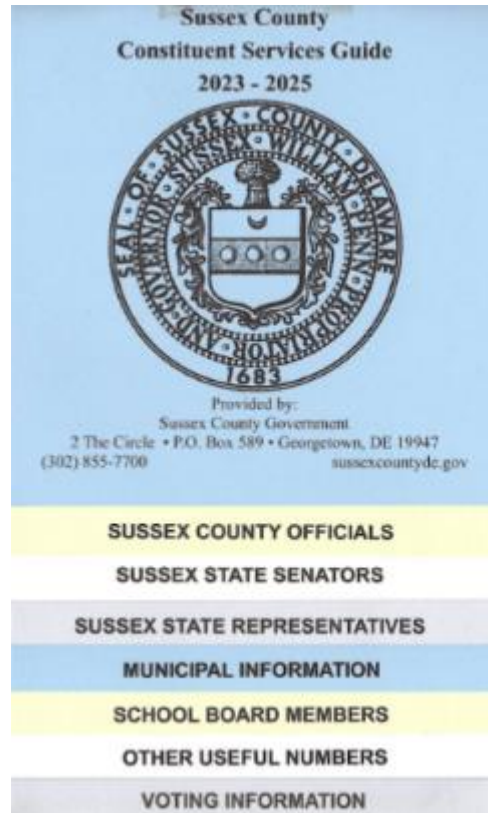
LWVSCDE Goals

“All politics is local”

- Strengthen and promote the League as a **nonpartisan** organization
- Develop and engage our membership, ever mindful of our **commitment to DEI**.
- Deepen our understanding of issues that matter to **Sussex County citizens** and advocate for them
- Educate **Sussex voters** on upcoming elections and use of VOTE411
- Educate **Sussex candidates** and parties on the value of VOTE411 questionnaires and neutral, nonpartisan forums
- Engage in vigorous **Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts**

Sussex County Government

- Directory of Sussex County Government “need to know” information
- Originally published by LWVSCDE
- Updated every 2 years following the Nov. Elections
- Available at County Administrator’s Office, Libraries, LWVSCDE Events



Sussex County Council

- Establishes policies for the health, safety, and welfare of county residents
- Enacts plans for county growth, development, and employment
- Adopts annual budget for county government operations



State and County Legislative Election Cycles and Terms

Position	Election Cycle	Term of Office
Governor	4 years	2 term limit
Senator	4 years	No term limit
Representative	2 years	No term limit
County Council*	4 years	No term limit

*Some terms are staggered, meaning that not all county council positions are up for election at the same time.

How You Can Make a Difference in Sussex County

- **Vote:** Primary, General and School Board Elections
- **Run** for office
- **Serve** on State/County Boards
- **Volunteer** for & donate money to local candidates
- **Email/Write** about issues to Governor, Senate & House Representatives, County Council
- **Make public comments** at legislative hearings, County Council, Planning & Zoning, and School Board meetings

How You Can Make a Difference in Sussex County

- [Join](#) the League of Women Voters of Sussex County, Delaware, and be an active member!
- Explore and support other local advocacy groups such as:
 - [First State Community Action Agency \(FSCAA\)](#)
 - [Delaware Voting Rights Coalition \(DVRC\)](#)
 - [Delaware Coalition for Open Government \(DELCOG\)](#)
 - [Sussex 2030](#)
 - [Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice \(SDARJ\)](#)
 - [Sussex Preservation Coalition \(SPC\)](#)

John Lewis

“The right to vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool or instrument in a democratic society. We must use it.”



http://www.house.gov/johnlewis/images/john_lewis_official_biopic.jpg

LWVSCDE: Get Involved

- **Get to know other members**
At monthly lunches or happy hours.
- **Attend a Board meeting**
Members are always welcome.
- **Bring your skills and interests**
Or try something new.
- **Ask the [Membership Committee](#)**
About volunteer opportunities.

LWVSCDE: Get Involved!



Learn More

League of Women Voters of Sussex County, Delaware

The screenshot shows the homepage for the League of Women Voters of Sussex County, Delaware. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a search field, a 'Log In' button, and a 'Sign Up' button. Below the navigation bar, the LWV logo and name are displayed, along with the tagline 'Empowering Voters. Extending Democracy.' and buttons for 'JOIN' and 'RENEW'. A main banner features a photo of two people and the text 'Sign In at January "League, Libraries, and Learning" Event'. Below this, the location 'Sussex County, Delaware' is specified. A sidebar on the left contains a 'LWVSC Homepage' section with links for 'ABOUT LWV', 'LWVSC COMMITTEES', 'EVENTS', 'VOTER INFORMATION', 'ADVERTISING', and 'ACTION ALERTS'. At the bottom, there is a 'DONATE' button and a 'Sign Up' button with the text 'Want to get involved but don't know how? Click on the SignUp button below to see volunteer opportunities that fit your interests!'.

League of Women Voters of Delaware

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The screenshot shows the VOTE411 website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a search field, a 'Log In' button, and a 'Sign Up' button. Below the navigation bar, the text 'ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED' is displayed. Below this, there are three buttons: 'Register to Vote', 'Verify Voter Registration', and 'Find What's on Your Ballot'.

Thomas Jefferson

“We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.”



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Inside_the_Jefferson_Memorial_in_DC.jpg

Acknowledgements

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League of Women Voters

**EMPOWERING
VOTERS.
DEFENDING
DEMOCRACY.**

