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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.**

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## *President's Message – Tiffany Geyer Lydon*



I would like to sincerely thank League members for their tremendous (and exhausting) work in connection with the 2024 elections! Whether you worked on Vote411, candidate forums, voter education tables, or anything else, every single piece of what you did was important and valuable! The sheer number of events our State and Local Leagues held and co-sponsored all over the state is truly phenomenal! And across the nation, over 9 million people visited Vote411!!

It is important to celebrate and acknowledge our work, because it definitely makes a difference and matters a great deal. However, I realize many of us may be feeling rather despondent about the election results on the national front.

Although we may be discouraged and disheartened, please know that Leagues all over the country are feeling the same way, and everyone is prepared for the fight on the horizon. We had great election results in Delaware, and we can take genuine pride in the work we did to get out the vote and educate voters.

While it is important that our League work remains non-partisan in these challenging times, we will *never* shy away from our goals of protecting democracy and empowering voters. We will continue to fortify the guardrails of democracy and ensure that we continue to have a government by the people and for the people. We can be proud that Delaware made history by electing Sarah McBride to Congress, and we can take comfort in the fact that she and Senators Blunt-Rochester and Coons will fight like hell for us and our country. And no matter what challenges are put in front of us, we will never waver in our commitment to advocate for the League's issues and priorities.

**Finally, although administrative tasks may not be very exciting, it is important that we track and document the significant work we have done and continue to do. If you have not already logged your volunteer hours for ANY AND ALL League work you have done since July on behalf of any of the Leagues (including all meetings), please do so on our [2024-2025 In-Kind Contribution Report spreadsheet](#). If you don't currently have access to the spreadsheet or have any questions about how to enter your time, please reach out to me or Letty, and we will gladly help you out. It's a basic but extremely important process. And if you have volunteer hours from January-June 2024 that you never entered, you can still do so in the [2023- 2024 fiscal year spreadsheet](#). This information is essential for the annual surveys that we submit to LWVUS.**

Additionally, if you'd like to help out the State League, even by just dedicating an extra hour a week, we always need volunteers for various tasks. In particular, we are looking for a dedicated website administrator and someone to take the helm of candidate forums at the State League level.

As always, I can be reached at [lwvdepresident@gmail.com](mailto:lwvdepresident@gmail.com). I very much enjoy getting to know all our members across the state and will always find time to chat.



***Delaware Coalition for Open Government | Delaware Press Association  
Civic League for New Castle County***

***League of Women Voters of Delaware & LWV New Castle County***

Invite you to attend the . . .

## ***2024 Elected Officials Reception***

Ed Oliver Golf Club, 800 North Dupont Road, Wilmington, Delaware

[Get detailed directions and a map](#)

***Monday, December 9, 2024 - 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.***

Delaware’s State, County, and Municipal officials are invited  
to attend this “meet and greet” with the public.

No cover charge for elected officials or individual event sponsors/co-sponsors.  
Please identify yourselves at the registration table. For others, the cover charge is \$5.

***Open to the Public***

Hors d’oeuvres ~ Cash bar

**Presentation of Awards to Open Government Champions**

***\* [REGISTER FOR THE ELECTED OFFICIALS RECEPTION](#) \****

***Keeping government accessible . . . and accountable***

[DELCOG.org](#) • [DelawarePressAssociation.org](#) • [lwvdelaware.org](#)

The Delaware Coalition for Open Government will be presenting three awards to open government champions.

- **Government for the People Award – State Representative Paul Baumbach**
- **Distinguished Journalism Award – Sarah Mueller, *WHYY***
- **Distinguished Service Award – Amy Roe & Sarah Bucic**

# Looking Forward to 2025: The League's Advocacy Agenda

## November 2024

While many serious issues face our state, one stands out – namely, the mushrooming growth of Delaware's elderly population. For this population, a key problem is obtaining health care which is timely and high quality. Clearly, of course, access to such health care affects all sectors of our state's population – not just the elderly.

What drives this problem is the insufficiency of **health care** providers. And this insufficiency intersects with two other major issues—namely, poor performance in our **public education** system, which is deficient in quality and equity, and a lack of **affordable housing**. Exploring the roots of these three intersecting areas and seeking solutions will be at the top of our advocacy agenda in 2025.

Given this priority, however, we will not ignore other looming areas of concern, starting with **voting rights**. In this arena, our focus will be safeguarding early voting, restoring voting rights after felony incarceration, and implementing voting by mail and same day voter registration.

Another key area is **climate change / energy policy**. Here our priority is to monitor Delaware's offshore wind procurement process and to work toward upgrading the state's solar readiness mandate for buildings.

Our state's **criminal justice system** continues to need serious reform. Our priorities are police transparency and accountability, elimination of fees that disproportionately burden the poor, probation reform to facilitate re-entry into the community, and prohibition of the death penalty by constitutional amendment.

In the overall category of **governmental issues**, we will focus on an office of Independent Inspector General and establishment of a method for redistricting that is independent of legislative influence.

Delaware's precious **natural resources** require ongoing vigilance. For this, we will focus on working to provide meaningful regulatory protection to the approximately 75,000 acres of Delaware freshwater wetlands so that they can continue to absorb storm water, filter pollutants, and provide wildlife and plant habitat.

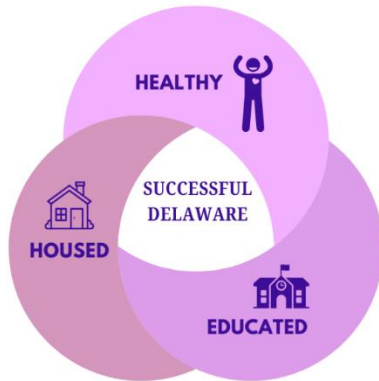
It is important to note that the priorities listed above do not exclude other significant areas which will also receive vigilant advocacy. These areas include reproductive choice, medical aid in dying, wise land use, and prevention of gun violence.

- **SAVE THE DATE- DO MORE 24 - MARCH 6-7, 2025**
- **SAVE THE DATE- LWVDE CONVENTION -- MAY 10, 2025, IN DOVER**

# The Focus for League Days 2025

## Successful Delaware: Healthy, Housed, and Educated

League Day 2025



**League Day 2025** will address Delaware’s interrelated shortages of healthcare workers, affordable housing, and quality childcare, as well as poor public education outcomes.

**Access** to affordable housing and childcare, quality education, and adequate healthcare are foundational for upward mobility and a healthy, economically stable population. When these elements are lacking, it becomes difficult for individuals and families to improve their circumstances and for the state to attract a quality workforce and improve the economic outlook for the state.

**Addressing these problems** requires a multi-pronged approach that involves investment in education, housing, and healthcare workforce development. Only by tackling all three issues simultaneously can Delaware hope to meet the needs of its residents effectively and equitably.

**In 2025, League Day will comprise three ZOOM events and one in-person event, all of which will be open to the public. Each ZOOM event will focus on a specific topic, as shown here:**

- **Thursday, February 6 – Healthcare**
- **Thursday, February 27 – Education**
- **Thursday, March 20 – Housing**

The Healthcare, Education, and Housing portfolios will invite presenters for their respective topics. Presenters will discuss the challenges we’re facing, what is being done to address them, and recommendations for additional legislative remedies.

**Our in-person event will take place in Dover on Wednesday, April 9, with a morning presentation, followed by lunch and an afternoon of lobbying.**

We plan to invite speakers to work with us in the morning to identify a strategic plan and recommend timely legislation that would address Delaware’s overlapping needs to increase our healthcare workforce, provide adequate housing and childcare, and improve public education outcomes.

**Be sure to mark your calendars for these 4 events and come help us discover solutions.**

**The LWV partnered with the Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay to organize and work on their civics badges. The event was entitled Promise of Democracy: Empowering our World Together.**

Pictured are attendees, Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay, CEO Claudia Pena Porretti, and volunteers from the League of Women Voters of Delaware. Thanks to all League members who participated. Jill Itzkowitz, LWVDE Election Chair



[Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay hold democracy event](https://www.baytobaynews.com)

[baytobaynews.com](https://www.baytobaynews.com)



Tiffany Lydon, LWVDE president, was part of presenting "Mobilizing Delaware Voters" one of the events for Peace Week Delaware. The information and interaction with audience was excellent.



National Voter Registration Day event at University of Delaware showing League members included Val Biden.

Jill Itzkowitz



- For the 2024 primary election there were 82 candidates, the largest number candidates for a primary. Vote411 had a candidate participation rate of 72% with US Congress race at 20%, statewide races at 80%, state general assembly at 77%, New Castle County races at 90%, Kent County races at 75%, Sussex County races at 77%, and city of Wilmington at 63%. From August through the primary date, 7,300 users accessed Vote411. Of these users 67% were from New Castle County, 27% from Sussex, and 6% from Kent. About 4% of the voters viewed Vote411, and in New Castle County the percentage of voters was 10%.
- For the 2024 general election there were 80 candidates in competitive races. The Vote411 candidate response rate was 68% with the federal offices at 14%, statewide at 100%, and state assembly races at 70% (NCC at 56%, Kent 66%, and Sussex at 83%). During this election, 14,000 users accessed Vote411 which was an increase of 35% from 2022.

It was difficult contacting candidates and getting their attention this year due to the considerable number of surveys and forums organized by many organizations. The 14 LWVDE volunteers did an excellent job of getting the candidates to respond by calling, texting, emailing, and posting on their Facebook and web pages. I would like to thank Karen Barker, Dini Silber, Catriona Binder-Macleod, Janice Heinsen, Alan Evantash, Marj Johnson, Kim Wells, Joyce Ford, Ann Lopez, Susan Mitchell, Letty Diswood, Connie Jones, Linda Barnett, and Susan Curtin for their efforts.

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## Help Wanted with Website and Social Media

LWVDE Needs Your Help! Are you detail-oriented, creative and computer savvy? We desperately need website maintainers and social media mavens.

LWVDE's state-level Website Administrator position is open, and assistant web admins are needed at each county League. You don't need to be a web designer or a coder to work on the website; our "MyLO" content management system (CMS) handles tricky stuff. LWV website admins use the CMS interface to keep the content current and our message to the public fresh. If interested, contact Kim Wells ([kimwells19702@gmail.com](mailto:kimwells19702@gmail.com) or 302-650-6897 cell) for a more detailed description of this volunteer opportunity.

Do you know your way around social media? We need you, too! We are seeking helpers to post League content on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube. Even if you just know one of these platforms, we'd love your help. Our online presence is a big part of LWV's public image in Delaware.

## 2024 LWVDE VOTER EDUCATION 95 EVENTS

### January - 2

- Training sessions for voter registration volunteers NCC GOTV
- Sunday Breakfast Mission (a winter place on Market St) NCC GOTV

### February - 3

- Children and Family first on Justison Street NCC GOTV
- PAL (Police Athletic League) NCC GOTV
- Del Tech - Stanton Campus - Sorority initiative. NCC GOTV

### March-5

- Helped with Wilmington Senior Highrise Board Elections - on various nights at Baynard, Hilly, Crestview and Compton Towers and Parkview NCC GOTV
- PAL NCC GOTV
- League Day
- Women Suffrage Event at NCC Court House Museum NCC GOTV
- Del Tech – Wilmington Campus NCC GOTV

### April - 7

- PAL NCC GOTV
- Central YMCA in Wilmington NCC GOTV
- Equity Summit at Chase Riverfront NCC GOTV
- Open Streets (Wilmington Neighborhood community events in different sections of town NCC GOTV
- Truitt Homestead Senior Living in Rehoboth Beach SUSSEX GOTV
- Sussex Preservation Coalition's 2nd annual Arbor Day Celebration SUSSEX GOTV
- Sussex County High Schools SUSSEX GOTV

### May - 5

- Salesianum High School NCC GOTV
- Newark School for the Deaf
- PAL NCC GOTV
- Open Streets NCC GOTV
- Wilmington Job Corps NCC GOTV
- Del Castle High School NCC GOTV

### June - 11

- Breast Cancer Coalition in Claymont NCC GOTV
- Training course for new volunteers
- PAL NCC GOTV
- Harvest for the Homeless at Salvation Army NCC GOTV
- H.E.L.P (Sunday Breakfast Mission) NCC GOTV
- Georgetown Juneteenth SUSSEX GOTV
- Bear Library NCC GOTV
- Strike for Women – downtown NCC GOTV
- Open streets Hilltop NCC GOTV
- SILVERSIDE church
- St Patrick's Senior Center/ Homeless shelter NCC GOTV

### July - 5

- PAL - Tilton Park NCC GOTV
- Millsummit Gubernatorial forum NCC GOTV
- Voter training NCC GOTV
- The Moorings in Lewes SUSSEX GOTV
- Georgetown Library SUSSEX GOTV

### August -17

- St Patrick's Sr./ Homeless Shelter NCC GOTV
- Millsummit Lt Gov Forum NCC GOTV
- Apt complexes downtown: Midtown, Harlan Flats, Crosby Hills, DuPont Place, Crestview NCC GOTV

- Latin American Cultural Center - back to school - we gave pencils and info NCC GOTV
- Open Streets - Little Italy NCC GOTV
- PAL - Helen Chamber Park NCC GOTV
- Lunchtime learning at the CDS (Center for Disabilities Studies) at U of D NCC GOTV
- Food Pantry at St Stephen's X 2 NCC GOTV
- Food Distribution at Bethesda UMC in Middletown NCC GOTV
- Appoquinimink Library NCC GOTV
- Literacy Delaware Voting Presentation
- Mt Olive Church training
- Lt. Governor primary forum
- NCC Executive Forum
- NCC President Forum
- IMPACT Festival, in Bridgeville, SUSSEX GOTV
- The Lodge, a senior living facility in Lewes, SUSSEX GOTV

### September 15

- Open Streets – Riverside NCC GOTV
- PAL - Kirkwood Park NCC GOTV
- Newark Community Days
- Glow Chello at the Queen Theatre
- National Voter Registration Day – U of D
- Constitution Day at Del Tech Wilmington & Stanton Campus
- St Stephen's Food Pantry X 2 NCC GOTV
- U of D Repertory Theater presentation
- James Grove Adult School X2 NCC GOTV
- Bear Library NCC GOTV
- Brandywine Counseling (Sussex GOTV)
- Associates Program U of D voter presentation
- Le Red Community Health Fair, Sussex GOTV
- Historic Lewes Farmers Market SUSSEX GOTV
- National Voter Registration Day at Del Tech, SUSSEX GOTV

### October - 24

- Hockessin Library NCC GOTV
- Veterans Food give away at Mt Olive Church NCC GOTV
- PAL -Sycamore Park NCC GOTV
- James Grove Adult School NCC GOTV
- Concord High School NCC GOTV
- Wilmington Job Corp NCC GOTV
- Latin American Cultural Center NCC GOTV
- Claymont Health Fair NCC GOTV
- Open Streets - will be 10/19 on Baynard Blvd. NCC GOTV
- I am going to New Castle elementary on 10/23 to speak with 1 -6 grade. NCC GOTV
- Girl Scouts civics badge
- Peace Week voting presentation.
- Mu Pi Sorority U of D voting presentation
- Delta Sigma Theta voting presentation
- Girl Scouts Lewes Library Sussex GOTV)
- Lt. Governor Forum
- RD 10 Forum
- Governors Forum
- District 6 Forum
- District 20 Forum
- Pathways to Success (Sussex GOTV)
- Fiesta – Hispanic Heritage Month (Sussex GOTV)
- National Coming Out Day (Sussex GOTV) /Film Young Vote

## League of Women Voters US Statement on 2024 Election Results

Press Release / Last Updated: November 6, 2024

**WASHINGTON** — The League of Women Voters of the United States president Dianna Wynn and CEO Celina Stewart released the following statement on the 2024 election results:

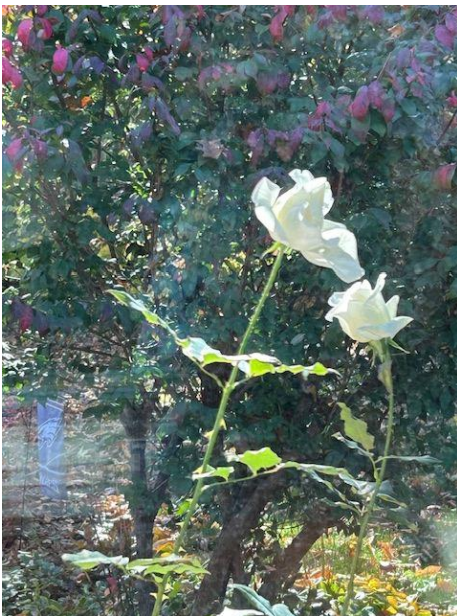
“The 2024 election underscores the dedication of poll workers, election officials, and volunteers nationwide, who ensured that every eligible vote was counted, and every voice was heard. This year’s election was marked by integrity, transparency, and high turnout. The American people have spoken.

“While we celebrate a fair and secure election, the outcome of this election has made the future for women unclear.

“Given the disturbing rhetoric made during this election season, we are deeply concerned about challenges we may face, particularly regarding the issues that disproportionately affect women, from health care and reproductive rights to economic security and equal representation.

“We are thankful to Leagues across the country for their tremendous work supporting the election infrastructure and supporting voters, as well as every election worker and democracy defender who guaranteed our fair and free voting process. We are thankful for the work they have done so far this cycle and the counting, curing, and certifying work that will take place in the weeks ahead.

“The League is dedicated to our mission of defending democracy. As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advocate for policies that uplift women and ensure equitable representation in all levels of government.”



***THANK YOU to all the volunteers who planned candidate forums at the state and local level. Kudos to volunteers who provided election information and registered voters throughout the state and VOTE411.org our online voters’ guide coordinator Jill Itzkowitz. Thanks to our volunteer lobbyists and the Advocacy Corps chair Linda Barnett who spent hours monitoring and advocating for legislation.***

***We also want to thank the state board members and committee chairs, and webmaster and social media volunteers Mary Ann Coe and Kim Wells for their time and talents including the volunteers who distribute the welcome folders monthly to new citizens at the naturalization ceremonies in Wilmington, especially Lorraine Botticelli, who coordinates volunteers. We cannot survive as a volunteer organization without your support. We depend on you for the organization to thrive.***

***Financial contributors since the last newsletter (Sumer edition): Dr. Janet P. Kramer, Glen Strohm.***



**What's Your Legacy?**  
**Remember the League of Women Voters...**

1. In your will
2. As an account beneficiary
3. Using required minimum\* distributions from your IRA



LWVDE is a 501(c)(3) organization, so all donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Remembering the League is an easy way to make a difference and preserve democracy for those who come after us. Legacy donations may be sent to:

LWV of Delaware  
 PO Box 7224  
 Wilmington, DE 19803

**Calendar**

Tuesday, November 19, 2024 11 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.	ZOOM forum	<b>EVERY VOTE COUNTS</b> (statewide) Special forum arranged by the Election Committee, contact Jill Itzkowitz, Committee Chair <a href="mailto:jillitzkowitz@gmail.com">jillitzkowitz@gmail.com</a> <b>Register:</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkd-2gpzlpGNfRY70FgdbwIToqlGZl5kSH">https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkd-2gpzlpGNfRY70FgdbwIToqlGZl5kSH</a>
Thursday, November 21, 2024 10-11:30 a.m.	ZOOM meeting	<b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE</b> Contact Chris Asay <a href="mailto:chrisasay@aol.com">chrisasay@aol.com</a>
Friday, November 22, 2024 10 – 11:30 a.m.	ZOOM meeting	<b>HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE</b> Contact Judy Butler: <a href="mailto:judyandhays@gmail.com">judyandhays@gmail.com</a>
Wednesday, December 4, 2024 9 -11:00 a.m.	ZOOM meeting	<b>LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING.</b> (statewide & NCC) Contact Anna Quisel at <a href="mailto:annaquisel@gmail.com">annaquisel@gmail.com</a> to attend & confirm time.
Wednesday, December 4, 2024 6 – 8 p.m. (note date change. No meeting in November)	ZOOM meeting	<b>LWVDE BOARD MEETING</b> – Contact Tiffany Lydon, President <a href="mailto:lwvdepresident@gmail.com">lwvdepresident@gmail.com</a> . (Note date change only for this month.)
Thursday, December 5, 2024 11:30 am	Clayton Hall UD	<b>NATURALIZATION CEREMONY FOR NEW CITIZENS.</b>
Friday, December 6, 2024 3 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.	ZOOM meeting	<b>CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE MEETING.</b> (statewide) Contact Peggy Schultz, Co-chair at <a href="mailto:schultz_peggy@yahoo.com">schultz_peggy@yahoo.com</a> to attend and to confirm time.
Monday, December 9, 2024 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.	In person	<b>RECEPTION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS</b> at the Ed Oliver Golf Club, 800 North Dupont Road. Wilmington, Delaware. <b>REGISTER FOR THE ELECTED OFFICIALS' RECEPTION</b> details in this VOTER.
Wednesday, December 11, 2024 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	ZOOM meeting	<b>LWVDE ADVOCACY CORPS</b> (legislative lobby group) Meets the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. For details or to attend, contact Advocacy Chair Linda Barnett <a href="mailto:advocacylwvde@gmail.com">advocacylwvde@gmail.com</a>



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