



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Arlington, Virginia – September 8, 2022 -

League of Women Voters Registers More Than 2,300 New Citizens in Northern Virginia

A cooperative effort by multiple local Leagues in the Northern Virginia area is underway to register new citizens at naturalization ceremonies

Following a two-year break due to COVID-19, the United States Citizenship, and Immigration Services (USCIS) once again welcomed League of Women Voters (LWV) in-person participation at Northern Virginia's naturalization ceremonies. Since April, more than 160 local League volunteers have spent close to 600 hours registering over 2,300 new citizens.

Many of the new citizens have prepared for years to meet the stringent requirements to take the oath of citizenship, in which they commit to supporting and defending the Constitution and, when required by law, bearing arms, doing noncombatant service, and performing work of

national importance under civilian direction. Before being allowed to take the oath, applicants for naturalization must have demonstrated an ability to read, write and speak basic English, good moral character and a knowledge and understanding of U.S. history and government, among other requirements.

In the words of one newly minted citizen, "I have worked and waited for this day for so long. And now I can vote as an American. What an honor!" Another remarked, "In my old country, we could not vote – we had no voice. Now I have a voice and I want to use it. This is a great country – the best country!"

Members from the Leagues of Fairfax Area, Arlington-Alexandria City, Falls Church City, Prince William-Fauquier Area, and Loudoun County all participated in the voter registration effort. As the nation's largest and longest-standing grassroots voter registration organization, The League of Women Voters has been registering people to vote on a non-partisan basis since 1920.

The League of Women Voters of Arlington and Alexandria City will once again do voter registrations in local high schools and will be at several community events before the November election.

If any member of a homeowners or condominium association or apartment complex wants to host a voter registration/education event, please contact the League at: lwvarlingtonva@gmail.com by October 10.

The League of Women of Arlington and Alexandria is committed to producing positive change in our communities. Other areas of focus for the LWV-Arlington/Alexandria are voter registration, affordable housing, accessible transportation and environmental quality,

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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