

Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

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

The LWV of New Castle County invites you to our Hot Topic:

OFFSHORE WIND POTENTIAL FOR DELAWARE

Zoom Presentation and Discussion

**Presenter: Willett Kempton, UD Professor, College of Earth,
Ocean, and Environment**

Monday, July 27 from 11:30-1 on Zoom



Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern states' power generation is a major contributor to CO2 emissions and air pollution. Offshore wind power has always been a large clean energy resource in this region.

What is new is that it has, in the past 3 years, achieved cost-competitiveness with other power sources and ability to scale up quickly.

This talk will describe the resource, technology, current cost, policy environment, and opportunity for Delaware.

Register to allow for access to Zoom.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/91251201201>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Tues July 14 at 2 pm - mock school board election "candidate forum," to be live-streamed on the Delaware PTA Facebook page

Mon July 20 7-8 pm - mock "election results watch party," with interactive games culminating in a victory speech by the winning candidate's "campaign." To be live streamed on the @vote411de Facebook page, and watch for Zoom link coming later our website and social media.

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County invites you to its monthly

TED X Talk Discussion

“How We Can Make Racism A Solvable Problem and Improve Policing”

Presenter, Justice scientist, Dr. Philip Atiba Goff

Saturday. July 18 at 1:00.

The format is to watch the TED X Talk and then discuss the Ideas Worth Sharing.

Join us for an engaging discussion from your location on your computer, iPad, or cell phone via Zoom.

Go to the link on next page at end of this notice to pre-register.

As we are seeing play out in the news, ‘policing’ has many dimensions. Current events are highlighting the challenges to providing public safety including racial biasing, police training, mental health, and others. Justice scientist, Dr. Philip Atiba Goff defines racism as a behavior rather than a feeling. In his TED Talk, ***“How We Can Make Racism A Solvable Problem and Improve Policing”***, Dr. Goff uses this shift in the racism definition, from feelings to behavior, to create a means of measuring incidents of racial bias in policing. As he describes in the TED Talk, this transforms racial bias in policing from an impossible problem to a solvable one. Through his work at the Center for Policing Equity, an organization that helps police departments diagnose and track racial gaps in policing, he lays out a data-driven approach to eliminate them.



A self-proclaimed “justice nerd”, Dr. Phillip Atiba Goff works with police departments in their mission of public safety to be more equitable and less deadly. Dr. Goff has devoted himself to the science of understanding how people think and talk about racism. Through this study he is working to prevent racist behavior, particularly in policing.

This presentation is a part of TED’s Audacious Project. This ambitious project is a TED’s initiative to inspire and fund global change. Join us for this TED Talk discussion on Saturday, July 18, 2020 at 1:00 to view the presentation and learn more about how you can get involved with the project.

This discussion will be held through ZOOM.

Simply pre-register by going to:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsfu6qqzloGdWyNrXNk2f3qYL_bOaB53HO

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Contact Kay Palmer if you have any questions – kaypalmer@42llc.com.

NOTE: Zoom is a free to you to join into this video presentation. If this is your first time using Zoom you may want to go to the Zoom app a little before the 1:00 start of the discussion to download the application. Zoom will allow us to see each other (if you are interested, have a web camera in your computer, and select the video option) for the discussion. Kay will be able to share her computer screen so that you will be able to see the TED Talk video.

LWVDE Launches School Board Mock Election Race on VOTE411

{Share with friends and family and work through the exercise with your kids and grandchildren.} and family}



The League of Women Voters of Delaware VOTE411 team has launched the first ever Pea Patch Island school board election! In this mock election, fictitious characters will campaign for school board, and voters will learn more about elections, how to use VOTE411, and how to use their critical thinking skills when assessing candidates' responses.

Visit go.lwvncc.org/votepeapatch to play along, and share with the new/upcoming voters in your life!

During the mock election, "campaign managers" will promote their candidates, speak on their behalf at an online candidate forum, and prepare to make a victory speech if their movie-hero candidate should win. The election runs through Monday, July 20, 2020, and a virtual election results watch party with interactive games is planned for the last hour when those final votes are rolling in, from 7 to 8 pm on July 20.

Suggested age range for this activity is middle school and up. Parents are encouraged to work through the exercise with their middle and high schoolers as a fun introduction to informed voting and civic engagement.

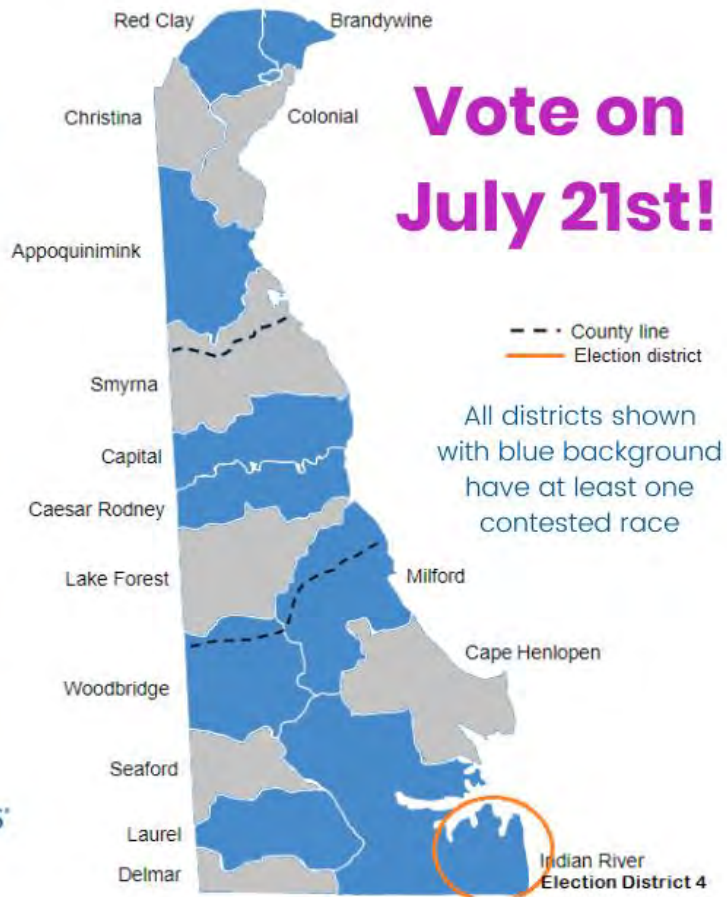
League to which this content belongs:

[New Castle County](#)

Map of Delaware School races on next page.

Delaware Districts with School Board Elections in 2020

(reflects status as of June 3)



PRESIDENT'S REPORT AT THE ANNUAL MEETING _____

by *Marj Johnson*



2019-2020 started out with great plans and enthusiasm as we planned to celebrate the League's 100th birthday in Feb. and the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment in Aug. There was so much energy and collaboration going on with various groups, with movies, a women's orchestra concert, a student competition, discussions, parade and even a trip to Seneca Falls where the League started.

Of course, much of that in-person activity came to a halt with the Covid 19 crisis we are currently in. But be assured, your board and members have been hard at work learning more technology than we ever thought we'd know, talking with legislators and working on legislative bills even while the legislature is out of session, educating the public about issues and voting dates, and still registering people to vote and helping them obtain absentee ballots. The timing and the rules seem to change day to day, so constant vigilance is needed to be able to serve the public accurately.

I would like to bring you up to date on what happened this year: **LWVNCC now has 204 members** and we are grateful for all of you.

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As part of the **League's National Day of Action in February**, we sent valentines to all the NCC legislators and NCC Council Members. The only anniversary event we were able to get in was the **birthday party at Deerfield Wines** in Feb. right near the actual League birthday. It was a casual, fun event and drew some local NCC Council Members, I might add, because of the valentines we sent!



Thanks to Kim Wells and Jill Itzkowitz, we had a rather robust **study of alternative voting methods** that perhaps many of you attended and participated in. Since the next phase is getting outside input, that project is also on hold. Jill Itzkowitz has also been chairing the state committee on **election reform** and as you may know, we have gotten bills passed for early voting starting in 2022, auditing requirements for the new voting machines, and the first leg of a constitutional amendment for no excuse absentee voting. They are currently working on HB175 for vote by mail. During this unique time, we have been pushing for no-excuse absentee ballots for the elections this year to cut down on exposure to the virus and to keep people safe while exercising their civic duty, and we currently have this option for all elections this year.

Our **Land Use Committee** chaired by Peggy Schultz and Jane Dilley, a dauntless duo, has also been busy, We demonstrated on site and spoke at the planning committee meeting opposing the raising of the landfill on the Route 9 corridor, and we voted to support the state purchase of the former Hercules Property to preserve the land. The Land Use Committee, chaired by Peggy Schultz and Jane Dilley recently held a zoom meeting for the membership with a lawyer to address the current NCC land use plans, and they are studying a request that came from the League in New Mexico about transfer of federal lands to the states that will come up at Convention. Peggy has also been interviewed on the Comprehensive Development Plan for NCC.

Thanks to Alan Evantash and Patti Christopher, we obtained a \$700 grant from LWVUS for a **student engagement project**. The goal was to register voters in all the high schools in the county and to hold events at the libraries. Some of the grant money was used for supplies, but some was used to purchase an enhanced version of Sign Up Genius which made it much easier to schedule events and volunteers on a scale this size. In all, they were in 9 high schools and 9 libraries, empowering and educating future voters. This too, came to a halt when the schools and libraries closed.

Financially, I am happy to report that the League is on sound footing for the moment. We were able to support the **Newark Partnership and Ready to Run**, which trains women wanting to run for office and those wanting to be candidate staff people. We were able to develop a reserve fund so that we can cover the operating expenses of the League for a year, and have just started to look at a sustainability fund to help us ensure the future of the NCC League. And now that we are incorporated, we purchased Directors and Officers Insurance for protection of your board. Many thanks go to Lorraine Botticelli and multiple people who helped her with various **successful fundraisers throughout the year**, which enabled us to do the above and fund various projects.

We have, of course, continued with our **Hot Topics, Great Discussions Group, TED Talks**, and co-sponsored with the city of Wilmington treasurer “All The Queen’s Horses”, a movie about what happened in one city with serious embezzlement. We have shifted some events to evening and weekend to accommodate working people, and had great plans to collaborate with Sierra Club, Delta Sigma Theta, and the YWCA on various events. We developed and printed rack cards with all the League information on them to have at events when we are able to gather again, and we printed LWV/NCC generic business cards for the board or for any of you should you want them to be able to hand out at various meetings you may one day again attend!

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(Continued from page 5 **President's report**)

There are 4 of us registered to go the **LWVUS Convention** the end of this week, again as a virtual gathering, and we will be reporting back on that.

You can go to the League Management Website on LWV.org to view what happened there.

I don't think I can adequately express my gratitude to the Board this year, and of course to Letty who holds us all together. You have been served by some extraordinary board members who have the ideas, come to the meetings, speak up and activate others, and in the middle of all the work we have a lot of fun. It has been a challenge moving to virtual board meetings, and virtual everything, but everyone has stepped up to get it done.



I want to especially **thank the outgoing board members**. As an ignorant tech person, I am indebted to Kim Wells for her patient guidance in the usage of so many **online tools**. We are all, as a matter of fact, indebted to her for all the work she does with our **website, twitter and facebook pages and of course on Vote 411**. I am thrilled that she will continue to do the work, even as she goes off the board. Lorraine Botticelli, in addition to the **new citizen ceremonies**, has been a driving force for our **fund raising** this year and did a fantastic job. She led us through several new but fun endeavors which helped put us on more stable financial footing.

Susan Mitchell probably knows more about the school systems and relating to young folks than any of us. As a board we felt it was important for the League to have an **outreach person for students and young adults**, and Susan stepped up to this task with enormous energy and creativity. Thankfully, she has agreed to continue the **high school project** once schools reopen. Jill Itzkowitz helped us **review our bylaws and policies and procedures** last year and has kept us abreast of all that is going on with elections. She is probably really looking forward to getting off the board because the election committee is a huge job and she will also be the state League treasurer. Catriona Binder-Macleod also served on the election committee and was a fount of knowledge about a variety of people to contact and was, in fact, everyone's go to person when we needed a letter written or an article to the paper. Patti Christopher has been chairing our **voter services** for a long time and does such a fantastic job reaching out to so many groups and hard to reach communities, so we are all glad she has agreed to rejoin the board to carry on this important work. She is also our social director extraordinaire!

Joann Hasse served on the board this year as an appointed position and was enormous help to me and to the board with her years of experience and wisdom. As you may know we also **appointed a student board member**, Shaniya Lewis, this year. She brought a lot of energy and a unique perspective that informed the rest of us, and I'm happy to see that she has agreed to stay on as an elected director. And how would we ever function without Letty--another fount of information, history and contacts and enormous organizational skills to keep us all on track.

Last, but not least, I want to give a special thank you to Katharine Olinchak who has served as our **treasurer for the last 3 years**. You can rest assured that every penny that the League has taken in has been documented and accounted for to the nth degree. She led us through the **transition to a 501c3**, no easy task. In addition to being meticulous, Katharine took to heart some guidance that was given in our last audit review and accomplished several procedural changes in the way she recorded transactions. She also started providing the board with a narrative summary each month, which seemed to make much more sense to many of us rather than just the expense and income numbers. We all owe her enormous gratitude for her financial service to the League.

Thank you also, to the new Board members who are stepping up to serve our League. They are a talented and energetic group and I look forward to working with them. Thank you to everyone for all you do for the League, and for continued perseverance in educating voters and preserving democracy. We are at a pivotal moment in our history. Let the work continue!
(The adopted budgets and financial reports are available upon request from the office.)

LWVUS CONVENTION Notes from delegates

Marj Johnson, President This was my second LWVUS Convention and I must say I liked the format, the cheaper cost and no travel, and the flexibility of being in my own home with no shoes and no long lines at the rest room! That being said, a lot of the conversation, passion, sharing of information, and, of course, the drama etc. that occurs at a convention was definitely missing.

I found the caucuses very informative on a variety of subjects and was happy to see that the entire delegation voted to add abolishing the electoral college by constitutional amendment to our program (a close vote), and that the entire delegation voted to oppose land transfer from Federal lands to the states. The resolution against systemic racism also passed. Our own state president, Carol Jones, participated in the writing of this resolution, along with many other states.

We were constrained, I think, by the various time zones we had to accommodate, so it seemed to me that discussion on various motions was limited by time constraints, and I found that disconcerting.

There are recordings of some of the caucuses and of the meetings that people might access on the LWVUS website or shared by delegates that went if you are interested.

Letty Diswood, Office Manager: I have attended quite a few national conventions before in person, so this convention held by zoom was a new experience. Sitting in front of a computer for hours, watching, listening to presenters and fortunately, linking to all the files on my iPad while the discussion and voting took place, was not ideal. The national staff did a great job going virtual in a short time frame. What I missed the most was the comradeship of all those women, (and men) signs waving, caucus discussions and lobbying for or against a motion. There was not time obviously for this. I missed the networking opportunity, sipping a little wine in a local establishment, getting to meet with national board members, and delegates from all over the US from the tiniest leagues to the big leagues from California, Texas, and New York.

The caucuses were informative, and well worth zooming in, but there was not enough time to absorb the information presented and not enough time to get answers. There were technology issues for some presenters as expected, as well as, incorporating 5 time zones, with everyone, including the staff and board working from their homes. A job well done.

Patti Christopher, Voter Registration Coordinator: This is my second convention. I still find it confusing at times, but this is always due to parliamentary proceedings. As far as the first ever virtual convention, I think all in all it was quite amazing and well done considering the amount of people and that many of the National Board and speakers had to learn the whole zoom/virtual process.

It was helpful that delegates representing the local and state leagues in Delaware met prior to convention by zoom to discuss certain amendments and issues. This helped when the voting took place at convention.

As far as my own break-out sessions, I gravitated to the Voting issues. I was quite taken with Harvard Professor David Moss. He spoke about The Harvard Civics Project which is an initiative formed (1) to bring case method teaching to high schools, and (2) to use this methodology to deepen students' understanding of American democracy. Project cases are based on those outlined in Harvard Business School Professor David Moss's recent book, Democracy: A Case Study. Hence other states have picked up on this. I did order the book to see what we can implement here in Delaware. As was emphasized time and again, our students need to know our history and the importance of where it places now.

Other breakout session focused on getting the vote out. Many states use the QR code to register voters. Some leagues discussed dropping off literature in zip lock baggies to areas that are not well represented. There were interesting ideas as to what various leagues did to obtain new voters.

I was disappointed that some of the break outs sessions were at capacity and I could not participate. All in all, the convention was remarkably interesting.

Welcome New Members

Christopher J. Sinkiewicz 631-816-0270 letthissinkin@gmail.com
 Michael and Kathryn Brickner 216-702-3034 mbrickner@aclu-de.org

The LWNCC is growing again! We are now 206 members.

Thank you to all who have played a part in making this organization vital and working towards **Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy. We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.**

CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 14, 2 pm	Facebook page-	mock school board election "candidate forum," to be live streamed on the Delaware PTA Facebook page.
Saturday, July 18, 2020, 1:00 pm	ZOOM meeting	Watch TED X Talk then Discussion: “How We Can Make Racism A Solvable Problem and Improve Policing” Presenter, Justice scientist, Dr. Philip Atiba Goff. Contact Kay W. Palmer, 302.983.6946.
Monday, July 20 7-8 pm	@Vote411de Facebook page	MOCK "ELECTION RESULTS WATCH PARTY," with interactive games culminating in a victory speech by the winning candidate's "campaign." To be live streamed on the @vote411de Facebook page, and watch for Zoom link coming later our website and social media.
Monday, July 27, 2020, 11:30 am-1:00 pm	ZOOM meeting	HOT TOPIC: OFFSHORE WIND POTENTIAL FOR DELAWARE. Zoom Presentation and Discussion. Presenter: Willett Kempton, UD Professor, College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment. Sponsored by LWV of NCC.
Tuesday, August 11, 2020 6 – 8 pm	ZOOM Meeting	LWVNCC BOARD TRAINING & PLANNING
Wednesday, August 12, 2020 10 am - noon	ZOOM meeting	LWVDE ADVOCACY CORPS Meeting. Regular 2nd Wednesday meeting of the LWVDE Advocacy Corps (legislative lobby group) in Dover. For details or to attend, contact Advocacy Chair Linda Barnett
Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3-6 pm	ZOOM meeting	LWVDE BOARD MEETING. Regularly Scheduled the third Wednesday.
Monday, September 14, 2020, 6:00 – 8:30 pm	ZOOM	LWVNCC BOARD MEETING. Regular board meeting.

League of Women Votes of New Castle County
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