

LWW

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Stand up, Speak out!

Tools for the Citizen Advocate



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE CHARLESTON AREA

Founded in 1920 stemming from the Women's Suffrage Movement shortly before passage of the 19th Amendment

Non-Partisan – Does not support or oppose candidates or political parties

Committed to Citizen Advocacy as essential to the democratic process.

The League's Commitment to Citizen Advocacy

ADVOCACY 101

*When citizens advocate,
democracy wins.*



*Constituent-Based Communications
to Effect Change within
the Legislative Process*



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of SOUTH CAROLINA

<https://my.lwv.org/south-carolina/charleston-area/action-alerts/become-more-engaged>

Making Democracy Work

Supporting Citizens' Right to Vote

Advancing Citizen Education to support informed voting

Promoting Citizens' Ability to Advocate & Advance their Views

Citizen's Right to Vote

Only white men and landowners were permitted to vote at the time of the Founding Fathers.

The **15th Amendment** granted the right to vote to black men.

The **19th Amendment** granted women the right to vote.

The **26th Amendment** changed the age limit for voting from 21 to 18.

Who Can Vote in South Carolina?

Must be 18 years old by Election Day.

Must be a U.S. Citizen

Must be a resident of South Carolina.

Must register to vote 30 days before Election Day.

Must provide a photo ID, such as a valid SC driver's license, a photo ID from the DMV, a photo ID from the Board of Elections, a valid U.S. passport, or a current federal military photo ID.

3 Levels of Government

FEDERAL: 1 representative and 2 senators in Congress

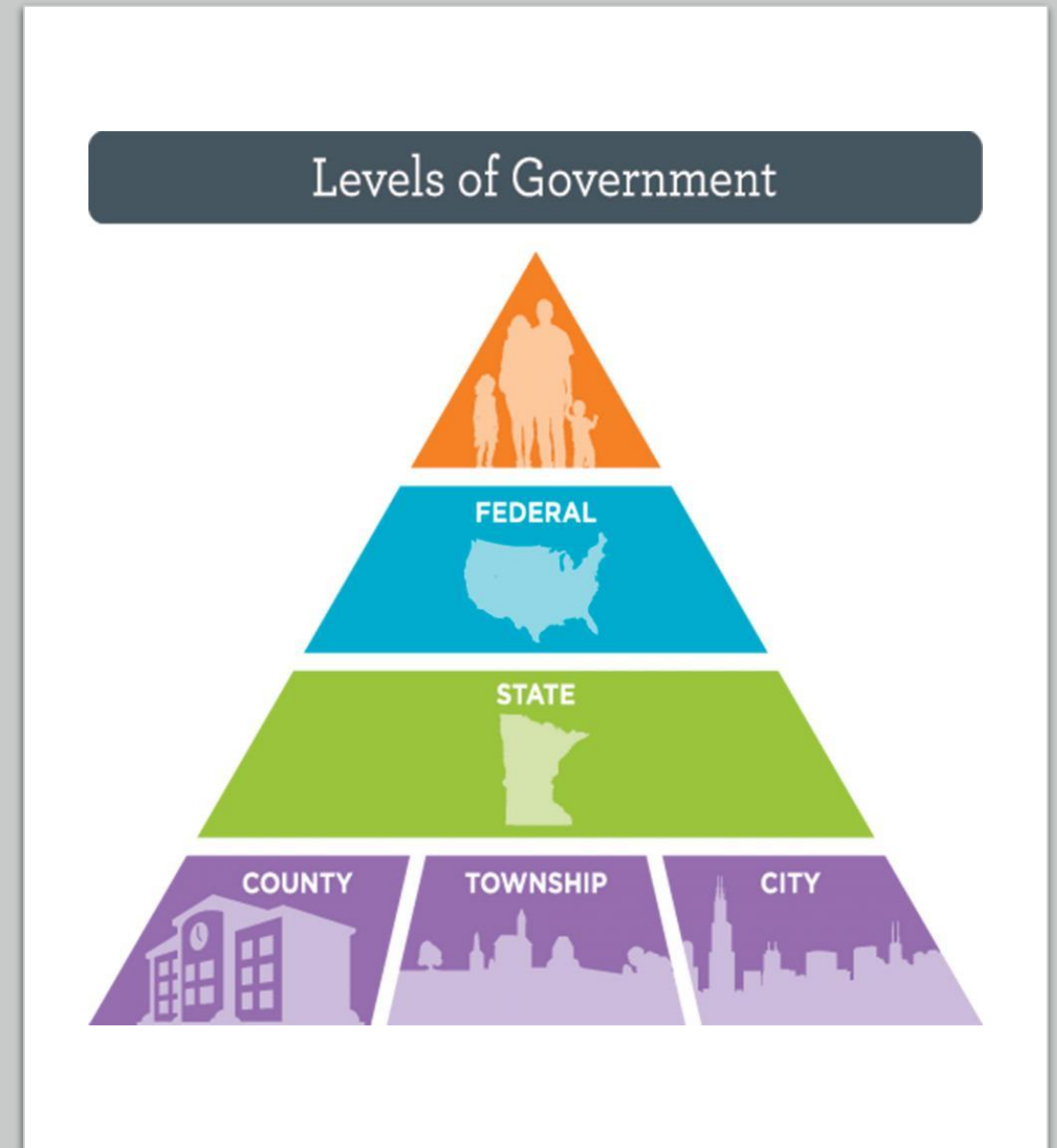
Find your Federal Representative at house.gov

Find your Senators at senate.gov

STATE: 1 representative (total 124) and 1 senator (total 46) in SC

Find your State Senator and Representative on scstatehouse.gov

LOCAL: City Council, County Council, School Board, Public Service Districts



What Do We Mean By Advocacy?

We must stay informed and actively communicate with our public officials who we pay and/or elect to make the laws, ordinances and rules for US!

When we talk about advocacy, we typically mean...

It's Not Enough to Vote: Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport!

We attend in-person meetings; Town Halls & Group Events & correspond with Lawmakers on the local, state, federal levels

We thoughtfully share our opinions in Letters to the Editor

We thoughtfully use social media –Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

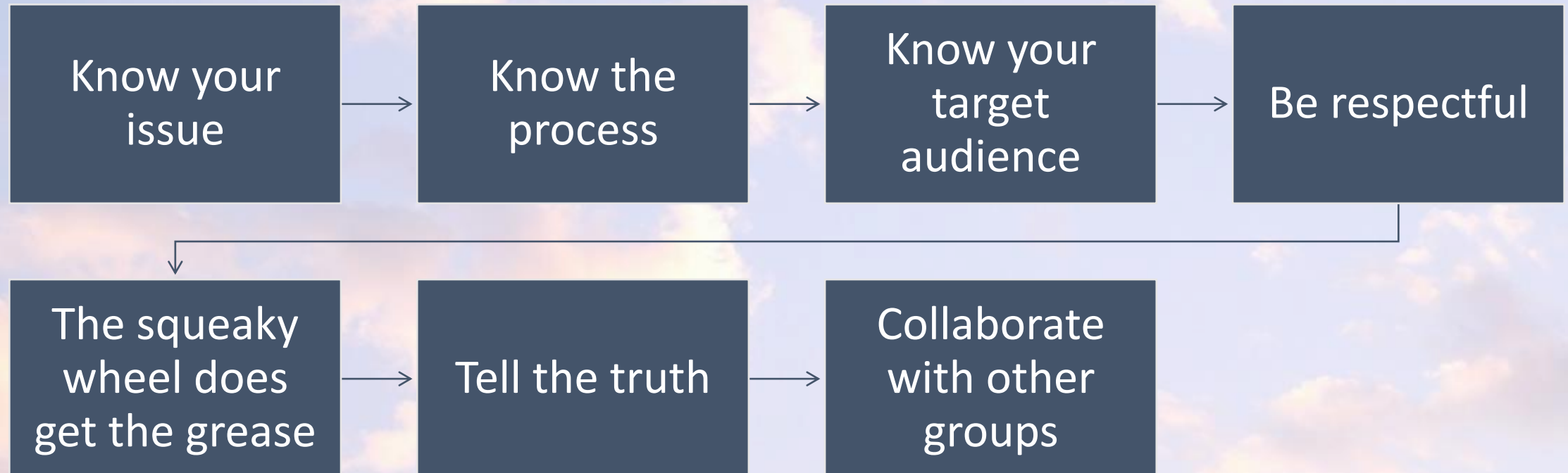
We listen and share opinions with peer groups (friends, churches, community organizations.... book clubs... teammates... whoever will listen!)

What keeps us from Advocating?



- Process is too complicated
- Hard to learn about issues
- Not sure *how* to take action
- Distrust or dislike of the political system
- Peer groups don't do it
- Feeling like you can't make a difference

Steps to Effective Advocacy



Methods of Effective Advocacy



Meeting In
Person



Appearances at
Meetings



Letters to Public
Officials



Telephone Calls



Letters to the
Editor



Emails



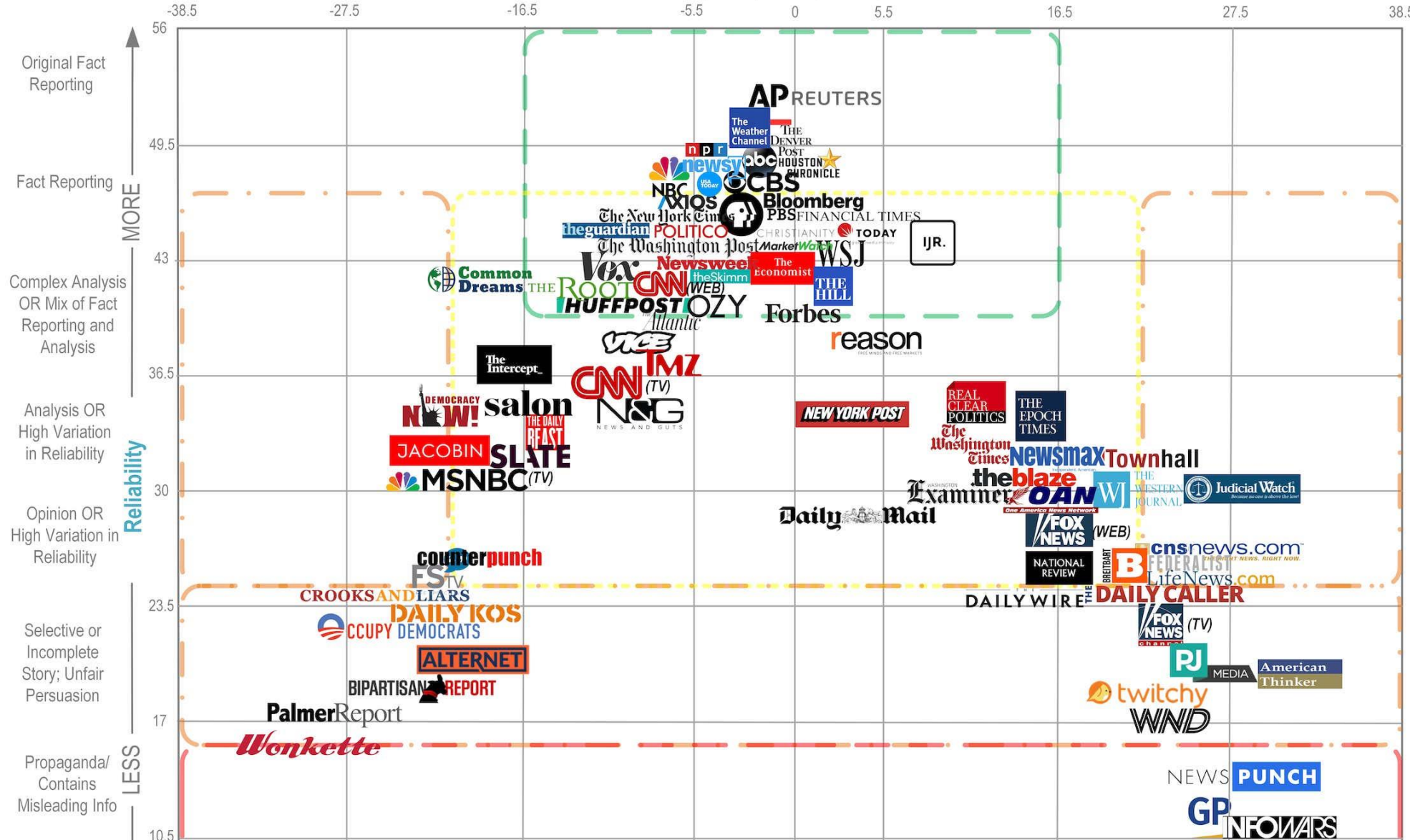
Social Media

Check Your Sources!

The 8 Best Fact-Checking Sites:

- Media Bias/Fact Check News <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com>
- Snopes <https://www.snopes.com>
- Politifact <https://www.politifact.com>
- FactCheck <https://www.factcheck.org>
- TruthorFiction <https://www.truthorfiction.com>
- Lead Stories <https://leadstories.com>
- Hoax Slayer <https://www.hoax-slayer.net>
- Full Fact <https://fullfact.org>

Most Extreme Left Hyper-Partisan Left Skews Left Neutral (minimal, balanced, or centrist) Skews Right Hyper-Partisan Right Most Extreme Right



Type Key

Most Reliable

Mixed Reliability

Somewhat Unreliable

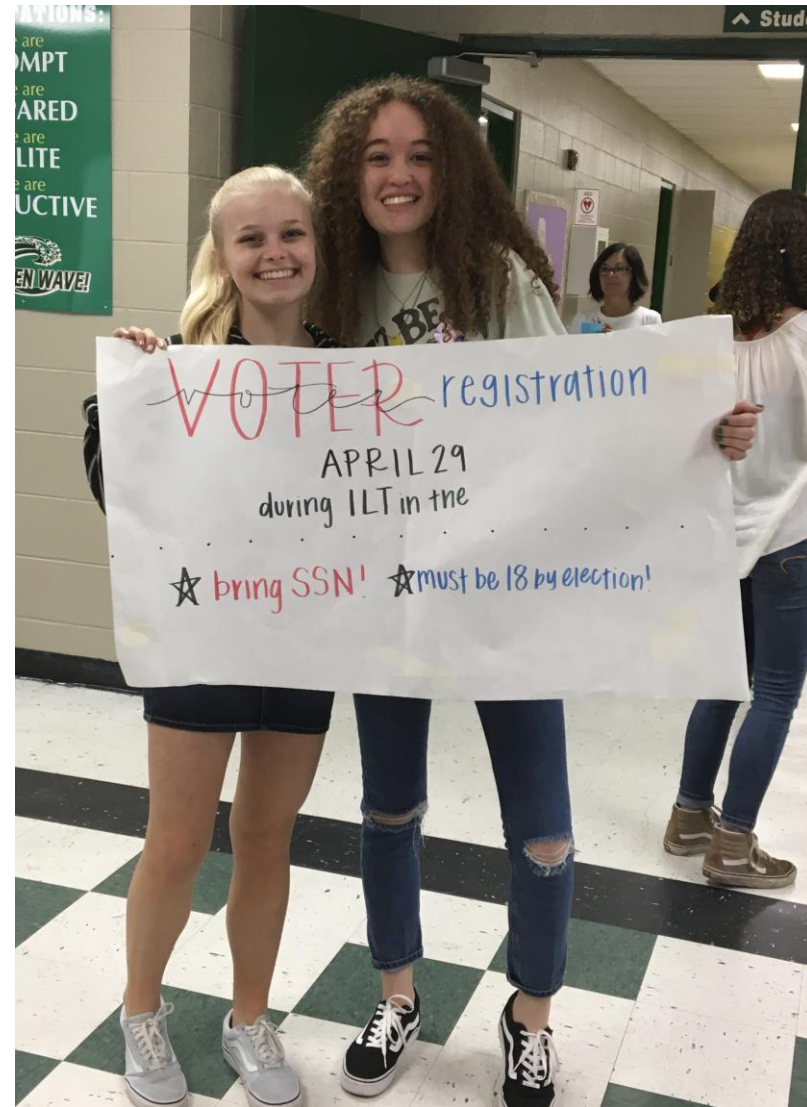
Unreliable

Articles rated on a scale of 0-64 for reliability and -42 to +42 for bias.

Overall source scores reflect weighted average of article scores and shown on truncated scale.

Some sources moved up to +/-2 units for viewability

ORGANIZE A VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE



**Contact
and follow
the League
of Women
Voters of
the
Charleston
Area**

LWVCHARLESTON.ORG

VOTE411.ORG

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

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843-566-7416

And Jan McCarthy

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