



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF VIRGINIA

The Virginia Voter

100+ Years Strong

League of Women Voters of Virginia
1011 E. Main Street
Suite 214A
Richmond, VA 23219
United States

November 2024 | Vol. 73 No. 5

President's Message



Hi!

No one knows the outcome of the election, yet, but one thing I know for sure. League members have been going full blast for this Election. On that, I have no doubt. We have sent over 200,000 get out the vote (GOTV) postcards and text banked almost one million Virginia voters. That is not to mention all of the candidate forums and voter registration events that our local leagues have sponsored. We are a force, and I am so proud to have the honor to be your President.

This month is also our birthday! We will be 104 years old on November 10. Founded just ten months after LWV US, the Virginia League has been active in protecting voting rights. The photo **above**, courtesy of the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, was taken when we were only three years old.

“In this 1923 photograph, members of the Virginia League of Women Voters pose in the Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C., with Virginia's U.S. senators.” A handwritten caption at bottom lists the people in the photograph: from left to right are Maris Leaker, Adèle Clark, Mary Elizabeth

Pidgeon, Roberta Wellford, Julia Woone, Senator Claude A. Swanson, Nora Houston, Senator Carter Glass, Dudley Heinrich, Mrs. Hope, and Josephine Houston.” 1.

I hope you all have time to relax and decompress after the election and that you have a wonderful, peaceful, and filling Thanksgiving.

Thanks for all you do and thank you to all of our League members who are veterans or are now on active duty! We salute you on this Veteran’s Day.

- Joan

HOW PROUD THEY WOULD BE US IF THEY KNEW THAT FOR THIS GENERAL ELECTION ALONE WE SENT MORE THAN 250,000 POSTCARDS ADVISING VOTERS OF WHERE AND TO VOTE AND WE TEXTED MORE THAN ONE MILLION, YES, THAT IS CORRECT, ONE MILLION VIRGINIANS WITH NONPARTISAN VOTING INFORMATION.

THIS IS JUST A SMALL LIST OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE - AS WE CONTINUE OUR WORK TO EDUCATE AND ASSIST VOTERS WITH THE SACRED DUTY OF VOTING.

The New Updated Version of “Virginia Women and the Vote” Is available

Just in time for the holidays, the updated version of Bernice Colvard’s original book, “Virginia Women and the Vote” is now available! This book traces the history of the League and our contribution to voting rights starting from our inception in 1920 and now running through 2020. This is a delightful book recording our many accomplishments...makes a great gift for people who love voting. \$29.95 Purchase [here](#)

Legislative Priorities 2025

Voting and Elections

Campaign Finance Reform

Disclosure of the sources of funding

Firm up reporting requirements

Voter Access

Right to Vote - Amendment

Safety and Accommodating Voter Needs

Election Administration and Security

Voter List Maintenance

Protections for Elections Officials

Elections Administration

Other

Ranked Choice Voting

National Popular Vote

Guardianship and Loss of Voting Rights

Child Care

Offer refundable child tax credit

Ensure that payments to providers is based on enrollment, not attendance

Reflected in new rule from HHS Office of Childcare

And advocate for rapid adoption in Virginia

Education

.1% Sales Tax by referendum school ALL localities should have the opportunity; Fund Our Crumbling Schools-"Fund Our Future"-Bipartisan support- Strategize- Bill Stanley; FOS CAMPAIGN, LTE

REVISING- THE Local Composite Index(reference JLARC study)

Const.-Amend the State Const. from"Seek to ensure" to "Ensure"(the very basic level(SOQ'S)

Standards of Quality to include minimum facility and building standards.

Direct Funding for the most decrepit school Buildings (Request funds from the 1.2 billion dollar surplus)

Environment

Data Centers

Microplastics in drinking water

Wetlands protection

Guns and Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence

Red Flag Laws

Gun Violence

Assault Weapon Ban

Secure Storage

Ghost Guns & Gun Alterations

Funding for JLARC Study on Gun Violence

Health Care Task Force

Cover All Kids

Increased income eligibility for CHIP

Continuous Medicaid Coverage for Children ages 0-6- (No need to apply annually once determined eligible)

Emergency Medicaid Expansion for undocumented immigrants who may need emergency care.

Prescription Affordability Board- which passed in 2024 but not signed by the Governor

Housing

Virginia Housing Trust Fund – Increase base budget to \$150 million or the amount recommended by the VHA.

5000 Families Pilot – support whatever amount VHA wants to request

Virginia Eviction Reduction Program – support an amount proposed by the Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC)

NOTE: Bills: (Contingent upon the following:)

Assuming that the VPLC proposes a bill on Manufactured Home Rental Protections and Right of First Refusal (ROFR), support it.

Support any bill that is enabling legislation for Mandatory Affordable Dwelling Units in all localities (add localities to 15-2.2304)

Support any bill that enables localities to establish ROFR programs to preserve affordability to properties funded with federal funds whose affordability period is about to expire.

Reproductive Health

Constitutional Amendment

Access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including: IVF, contraception, abortion, pregnancy and childbirth.

Improved health outcomes for mothers and infants and decrease in maternal and infant mortality and morbidity rates, especially for Black women.

Legal protections for health care providers and patients who provide/receive abortions or other reproductive care from other states (thus, no extradition)

Prohibition on tracking or disclosing of personal reproductive health data, including menstrual cycles, by anyone other than the individual whose data is at issue.

No ascribing personhood to unborn fetuses, and embryos

Virginia Leagues in the News!

Three cheers to our Charlottesville League for posting voting signs in local buses. Watch the news segment [here](#).

The Arlington & Alexandria City League held a "Candidating" event--a kind of speed dating for getting to know the local candidates, and got great local coverage. You can read what the "[Alexandria Times](#)" had to say

Joan was interviewed by "Puentes Culturales" on WRKE and was able to share information on voting and voter protection. She emphasized that the League has an Election Protection Hotline open up to and on election day as well as during early voting. In English: 866-687-8683 En Espanol: 888-839-8682. Information is [here](#)

She was also interviewed by "Cardinal News" regarding the Georgia Election Board's hand counting of ballots and if that could happen in Virginia. Watch that [here](#).

Keep up with all of our mentions in the press especially about the lawsuit related to Executive Order 35 (more below) on our [website](#).

Governor Removes Voters from the Polls; LWV and partners Sue and Win Twice - Until a Disappointing SCOTUS Decision.....But We Will Persist.

In early October, the Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights, African Communities Together and the League of Women Voters of Virginia filed a lawsuit in federal court to challenge the state's policy of illegally and systematically removing voters from the rolls within the 90 day "Quiet Period" mandated by the *National Voter Registration Act* before a Federal election. The plaintiffs are represented by Campaign Legal Center, the Protect Democracy Project, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and The Advancement Project.

The lawsuit alleges that these systematic purges of Virginia's voter rolls violate the *National Voter Registration Act* and risk improper removal of eligible voters, particularly those who are naturalized US citizens.

The challenged policy is a result of Executive Order 35, which was signed by Governor Glenn Youngkin in August and requires state and local election officials to remove individuals from the state voter registration list if Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) records do not indicate US citizenship. However, as the complaint explains, Virginia driver's licenses are available to non-citizens and can remain valid for up to eight years, meaning people who obtained driver's licenses as non-citizens, subsequently became US citizens, and lawfully registered to vote are being unlawfully purged from the voter rolls based on outdated DMV information.

The question has arisen, why did we "only" sue on 1600 people - not the more than 6000 purged before. That is because the National Voter Registration Act does not allow systematic purges of voters 90 days before a Federal Election. Those 1600 names we received because a judge on Oct 23 required the Commonwealth to give our attorney's those names during the discovery process.

Our attorney's have found many people who are citizens and have been caught up in this unlawful purge.

On October 25, a Federal District Court Judge ruled in our favor and granted an injunction requiring that the people purged must be put back on the rolls and registrars notified that they are eligible to vote. The Commonwealth then went to the 4th

On October 27, the Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit also ruled in our favor and refused to grant the defendants a stay. They had wanted the Court of Appeals to vacate the injunction of October 25.

Sadly, on October 30, the Supreme Court of the US, granted the stay of the injunction requested by the Commonwealth.

However, we will persist - nothing ends here. This is not over.

This is what you can do!

1. Remind everyone to check their registration on vote411.org and use same day registration on Nov 2 and Nov 5 if they are not on the rolls any longer.
2. Tell anyone who feels they are being denied the right to vote to call or text the nonpartisan election protection hotlines:

English – 866 Our Vote – 866 687-8683

Spanish 888-Ve Y Vota 888-839 8682

Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Bengali, Hindu and Tagalog – 888 Api Vote – 888-274-8683

Arabic – 844 Yalla Us 844 925-5287

These hotlines are staffed by nonpartisan attorney's whose only goal is to help. If someone is afraid to call or text - you can report the problem.

See the complaint [here](#).

See the LWV [press release](#) on the initial win.

See the LWV [press release on SCOTUS decision here](#).

The virtual press conference held on 10/23 can be viewed [here](#). Passcode: %8Cw&6Tj

or read Joan's [remarks at the press conference](#)

Local Leagues Respond to Voter Removal

After the Governor removed 6500 voters from the rolls, the local Leagues stepped up, sending 6500 postcards to possibly disenfranchised voters with information on how to restore their right to vote. After discover revealed 1600 more people purged during the "quiet period" where such things are forbidden by the National Voting Rights Act - we got to work again. Thank you also to Goodwin House, Falls Church and Goodwin House, Alexandria and to the Falls Church members who came to the Arlington/Alexandria "postcard palooza." Well done, Leaguers!

This is how we protect the vote!

Here's the Fairfax League at work:





And here's the Arlington & Alexandria City League:



How to Vote from Jail



LWV VA and NoLef Turns sent a letter to every sheriff in VA on the new rules for encouraging eligible incarcerated people to vote, along with a flyer outlining the process. You can read the letter [here](#).

The [flier is here](#)

Upcoming LWV Events--Check These Out!

We have several exciting events coming up! Please take a look at these educational forums and join us. All are virtual.

First is Pre-Session: This is the League of Women Voters of Virginia's yearly virtual event where we learn of the legislative priorities of the League and our partners.

December 4 9:00 – 1:00 PM

The Virginia General Assembly convenes on January 8, 2025 – Pre-Session is our unofficial kick off – and our first educational event!

RSVP [here](#).

Should Virginia Allow Citizen Initiatives on the Ballot?

November 17 - 2:00 – 3:30 PM

Virginia voters currently have no option for enacting statutes or constitutional amendments without General Assembly approval. By contrast, the citizens of 24 states, mainly in the West and Midwest, can petition to bring proposed laws and/or constitutional amendments up for popular vote. Citizen initiatives can be an effective tool when a state's General Assembly fails to enact legislation that aligns with the opinion of the majority of voters. However, the citizen initiative process also can be used in ways that are undeniably detrimental to the common good.

Elaine Apler, LWV Maryland leader of their study on citizen initiatives, will be our speaker.

Register [Here](#):

The Environmental and Cultural Impacts of Virginia Data Centers:

November 18 - 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Learn about the environmental and cultural issues caused by data center proliferation in Virginia. Speakers include:

Delegate Josh Thomas

Chief Anne Richardson, Rappahannock Tribe

Ivy Main "Virginia Mercury"

Register [here](#):

The Electoral College Explained

November 24 – 3:00 – 4:00 PM

Dr. Jennifer N. Victor, Associate Professor of Political Science at George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government, will break it down for us. She studies the U.S. Congress, legislative organization and behavior, social network methods, political parties, campaign finance, organized interest groups, and lobbying. She holds a BA in political science from University of California, San Diego (Magna Cum Laude, 1997), and an MA (1999) and PhD (2003) in political science from Washington University in St. Louis

Register [here](#):

More on the Electoral College and LWV's Moon Shot to Abolish It!

December 11 – 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Join us in this virtual event where we explore the League's Moon Shot Plan to abolish the antiquated Electoral College, which has roots in our racist past. This will be presented by LWV VA Board Member, Jane Newell.

Register [here](#):

The League At the Virginia Library Association Convention



Carolyn Caywood and Melinda McKenzie staffing the League Table at VLA. Our banner would not hang straight.

-Carolyn Caywood

This year, the Virginia Library Association asked us to have a table at their Convention in Norfolk. We have collaborated with them twice on "Banned

Book Week Celebrations" and appreciate the opportunity to reach out to more of their members.

Fortunately, the League of Women Voters of South Hampton Roads has three librarians as members! That's how Josie Bergstrom, Carolyn Caywood, and Melinda McKenzie got to talk with librarians from all over Virginia and send them home with LWV handouts.

We heard many compliments about other local Leagues around Virginia. Many of the librarians had already voted and proudly wore our I'm an American Watch Me Vote stickers. Our cards about Mis & Dis information and VerbaAI were popular because librarians too are trying to combat the spread of misinformation.

We also had coloring sheets for young people that stressed voting and these were a big hit. Librarians were glad to get the Election Protection cards, the Department of Elections brochure, and the cards about same day registration. College student options went to the librarians in higher education. The curbside voting change for all disabled people gave us an opening for a conversation.

We had a great time and believe we created a positive impression that you can use to build future collaborations with your local librarians.

***Local Leagues: Captain's Vote Day at Christopher Newport University
October 8, 2024***



The Wason Center is an educational research center at CNU where students work side-by-side with faculty to produce survey research and non-partisan political analysis that informs decisions by citizens and lawmakers in Virginia, and increasingly around the country.

The Wason Center Scholars organized the first annual Captains Vote Day on 10/8/24 to energize students to vote by providing a bipartisan platform for organizations to amplify their respective messages. LWV Southampton Roads (SHR) and LWV-Williamsburg Area (WA) assisted students with voter registration and provided information about early voting, mail-in ballots, deadlines, etc. LWV partner, REV UP Virginia (Register, Educate, Vote, Use your Power!) shared an adjacent table with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) and the CNU Disabled Student Union to educate students and the public about the power of the disability vote. Other participating organizations included Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., VA BLOC, The National Council of Negro Women, and the Democratic and Republican Committees. CNU President William Kelly welcomed attendees and introduced Newport News Mayor Philip Jones as well as

several state legislators who congratulated students on their civic involvement and encouraged them to vote. We had a steady flow of students who appeared excited and eager to vote in the upcoming election. LWV-SHR engaged students with a 5-question history of voting quiz and REV UP attracted students with a chance to win prizes in a spin-the-wheel game. LWV-SHR and LWV-WA enjoyed their first voter registration collaboration and look forward to teaming up for Captains Vote Day 2025!

Election Night Is Not Always Results Night. That's Okay.

- Danielle Lang, Campaign Legal Center

On Election Day, millions of Americans fulfill their civic duty to vote, and millions will have already cast their ballots before Election Day. It may take a while – from a few days to a few weeks – to count every ballot, but we need to be patient for our democracy to work for us all. While it would be nice to know the election results on election night, we probably won't have the final results. Bad actors and self-interested politicians may try to claim victory early, before all votes have been counted, and then cry foul when their lead dwindles as more votes are counted. It's normal for election results to take days or weeks to be finalized. In fact, the official results have never come out on election night. In every election, election workers keep working well past election day to canvass and certify the results. As Americans, we have a duty to ensure that every vote is counted, and that requires patience while election workers count every ballot and double check their work. Above all, we have a duty to accept the results, regardless of the outcome.

November 2024 Calendar

Nov 2 – Saturday Voting – Last Day of Voting Prior to Election Day

Nov 5 – Election Day

Nov 10 – 104th Birthday of the League of Women Voters of Virginia a

Nov 11 – Veterans Day

Nov 28 – Thanksgiving

[unsubscribe](#)
