

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

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President's Message -

Happy fall! I am pleased to announce a new service of the League of Women Voters of Virginia– Election Office Hours! Every Tuesday starting on September 17, 2024 (which is also National Voter Registration Day) through Election Day, November 5, the League will staff a zoom meeting from 10A- 11A where people can drop by and ask questions on voter registration, casting an in-person or mail-in ballot.

We will not answer questions regarding what candidate or party someone should vote for but will refer them to Vote 411 when it is populated so they can get our nonpartisan information.

We are very excited about this new service.

Virginians can sign up <u>here</u> to receive the zoom link. On Election Day, they will be able to email us <u>here</u> if questions arise after 11AM

- Joan

Protect the Vote: Volunteers Needed

Early voting starts September 20, beginning an election season when millions of Virginians will seek to make their voices heard.

Join **LWV Virginia**, the Virginia Civic Engagement Table, and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law as we recruit hundreds of nonpartisan volunteers to fight voter suppression across Virginia. Voter Advocates play a vital role in assisting marginalized communities that have historically been disenfranchised, voters with disabilities, and those who may need language assistance. By volunteering, you can make a significant impact on the accessibility and inclusivity of our elections.

Volunteer Roles include: Stationary Voter Advocate, Roving Voter Advocate, Legal Advocate, and Sign Team Member. Live virtual training sessions are provided for every role and are required for each volunteer.

For more information and to sign up click <u>here</u>.

National Voter Registration Day is Sept. 17

This is sort of the League's Super Bowl! Make sure everyone you know who is eligible to vote (and that includes anyone who is 17 but will be 18 on or before Nov, 5, 2024) is registered.

If they have a Virginia ID card or driver's license, they can use our QR code that will bring them to the Virginia Department of Elections portal.

It is also good to remind people to check their registration status even if they voted before.

They can do that at vote.virginia.gov.

Early voting starts in Virginia on September 20! Remind people where they can find voting information on our <u>website</u>



Register to Vote

Coming To Local Leagues





Campus Vote Project - Sept 13

The LWV Virginia will again have a table at the Campus Vote Project Summit. This year it will be held on Sept 13, at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg.

This summit is a great opportunity for students to discuss voting rights and the power of the youth vote. We are excited to share that there may be a few opportunities for travel stipends for current students whose session proposals are approved, so don't let travel costs deter you from participating! Students can sign up here.

Voting Rights for Returning Citizens

Governor Youngkin released Executive Order 36 entitled "Stand Tall, Stay strong – Succeed Together Re-entry Initiative."

While we were happy to see efforts made to assist returning citizens, we were struck that there was absolutely no mention of restoration of voting rights.

Attached are the <u>press release</u> we sent and a <u>joint letter</u> signed by the League and members of our Election Protection Coalition to the Governor, urging him to amend the Order and include voting rights restoration.



Ratify! The Movie - Virtual Showings

Let's build a JOYFUL RUCKUS nationwide

America has the hardest Constitution in the WORLD to update. It is time to celebrate the hard fought wins while pushing with everything we've got.

Watch RATIFIED, get inspired, and build a JOYFUL RUCKUS in your community.

There are two virtual showings - one on Sept 5 at 7P and one on Sept 8 at 4p. RSVP here.

Winners of the High School and Middle School Poster Contest!!!!



To see all of our winning posters go to our website.

LWV Youth Council

Open to League members ages 16 -21.

The goal of the Youth Council is to introduce young people to the programs and projects of the League that will benefit our youth and local communities.

Youth Council Members will be full members of the League of Women Voters involved in all aspects of our work. However, we will rely on them to message our work in a way that appeals to people of their generation.

We want to foster a spirit of imagination and want to hear from our young members on what projects appeal to them. Projects of Youth Council members may include:

- Assisting with local leagues voter registration the League closest to them or they can try to work on areas where we have no local leagues to see if we can get into those schools.
- Social media videos, graphics.
- GOTV on their campus at their schools

- Pre-registration of 16-year-olds and registration of young people.
- Conduct youth candidate forums in conjunction with their local or State League.
- Website update they will have a page on the website to share information
- Visits to legislators during Session learning the legislative process and helping with advocacy.
- Partner with youth groups that are working with our partner organizations.
- Outreach to other youth groups regarding the League
- Assist with ongoing programs for which we may need assistance on state level.

We hope to have members of the Youth Council on the State and local boards. Our students are an important part of our communities.... they are our future!

For more information and apply here and contact Erni Bridges, here.

Guardianship and Loss of Voting Rights

Virginia's arcane laws regarding voting rights makes it possible for someone to lose them if placed under even limited guardianship. Most people don't know they are being stripped of their rights.

If you know someone to whom this has happened, please contact Joan <u>here</u>.

Make the Disability Vote Count



For more information: revupvirginia@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/REVUPVirginia

LWV VA Voter Services Chair Janet Boyd and Disability Activist and LWV member, Carolyn Caywood, will be presenting information at this event. It is important for all members of the disability community to have fair access to the voting booth.

Peaceful Transfer of Power

The LWV-Pittsburgh's Civil Discourse Group sent along this useful video, as a timely reminder. You may watch it here.

Celebrate Gender Parity

2024 Gender Parity Index A weighted measure of women's representation at the national, state, and local level. D D C C D D c C D В C D A (50.0 +) = 2 states B (49.9 - 33.0) = 12 states C (32.9 - 25.0) = 10 states D (24.9 - 10.0) = 26 states F (9.9 - 0.0) = 0 states

Represent Women recently released its <u>2024 Gender Parity Index</u>. For the first time, no state received a failing grade. States like Louisiana and Indiana, historically lagging behind, made significant progress in electing women at the local and state levels. However, the overall picture of women's representation is less encouraging.

Women remain significantly underrepresented at every level, and the United States continues to lag behind most established democracies in electing women to office.

September 2024 Calendar

Sept 2 - Labor Day

Sept 9 -13 - National Disability Voting Rights Week

Sept 15- Oct 15 - Hispanic Heritage Month

Sept 17 - National Voter Registration Day

LWV VA "Office Hours' For people with questions about the election 10

Constitution Day

Sept 22 - 28 - Banned Book - Freedom to Read Week

Sept 24 LWV VA "Office Hours' For people with questions about the election 10 A

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