



The Voter, April - May 2026

Calendar of Events

Sunday, April 26, 3:00 pm

We love librarians!

Screening of *The Librarians* Film

Central Clemson Library

105 Commons Way, Clemson, SC

LWVOP is a sponsor of this event. We will have a table with materials on the League, ways to get involved locally to protect libraries and freedom of speech, voter registration, and 2026 elections.

Wednesday, April 29, 4:00 pm

Ready! Set! Vote!

Prep for the polls with the SC Election Commission

Seneca Public Library

300 East South 2nd Street, Seneca, SC

Show your support for the SC Boards of Election.

They need our help this year more than ever.

Tuesday, May 19, 6 pm

LWVOP Annual Meeting

Occasions at Wedgefield

1551 18 Mile Rd.

Central, SC 29630

\$30.00

Please RSVP by Thursday, May 14, to Carolyn Bishop-McLeod
cbishopmcleod@ftc-i.net or 803-983-7838.

Click for a list of local Public Meetings

We must show our interest and determination to make a difference in the current political environment.
Please make an effort to attend some of these meetings.

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President's Message



Yes. The 2026 midterm elections are heating up. And we have plenty of election-related opportunities for you. But first, let's talk about something fun — our annual meeting.

I am very pleased to announce that the speaker for our annual meeting will be **Cassie Owens Moore**, Seneca Middle School Librarian and 2026 South Carolina School Librarian of the year. Many will remember that she was a panelist with Reba Kruse, LWVOP member and founder of CAFE, and Josh Malkin, ACLU Senior Advocacy Strategist, in our first "Freedom to Read" program in 2023.

The hospitality team has completed the planning stage and is in its implementation stage. In addition to electing officers and directors for 2026-27 and other official end-of-year business, we will have an inspirational speaker and a delicious meal from Occasions' chef.

We will meet on **Tuesday, May 19, at 6 pm, at Occasions in Central**. The cost is the same as last year, \$30. **Please RSVP to Carolyn Bishop-McLeod, cbishopmcleod@ftc-i.net, by Thursday, May 14.**

Oconee and Pickens Counties need poll workers for the Primary Elections, Tuesday, June 9. I know what you are thinking, “it will be a long and boring day”. However, this year promises to be very different. You will be front line observers of one of the most challenging elections of our lives.

Congratulations if you have already volunteered to serve as an election official. If you are able and want to be a poll worker, please call the Oconee (864-638-4196) or Pickens (864-898-5948) Voter Registration and Election office.

Like many of you, I can say with pride that I have been a Poll Manager or Clerk for every local, county, and general election since we moved to South Carolina in 2014. It will be worth every minute of your time. Also, you will be paid (a pittance) for doing so.

Support your local librarian!

Our League is co-sponsoring the screening of *The Librarian*, a documentary film that focuses on the wave of book bans occurring at schools and libraries in recent years that started in Texas. The film will be shown at the Central-Clemson library at 3 pm on Sunday, April 26. In addition to publicity that will include LWVOP, we will have a table with information about League, voter registration, and local elections.

Please check the Calendar of Events for more opportunities to further the message of the League of Women Voters.

Patricia Spurlock, President LWVOP

Local event highlights the critical role of primary elections in shaping leadership and policy

The League of Women Voters of Oconee and Pickens Counties hosted a community program on Monday, April 6, at the Clemson Central Library to highlight the importance of voting in primary elections.

The event, “Why Primaries Matter,” drew approximately 40 attendees for a discussion on how early-stage elections often determine the candidates who ultimately appear on the November ballot—and, in many cases, who will hold office.

“Most people think of November when they think about elections,” organizers noted. “But the candidates who appear on that ballot are chosen months earlier in primary elections.”

The program featured Neal Collins and Lawson Wetli, who offered complementary perspectives on voter participation and the role of primaries in the democratic process.

SC Representative Collins, District 5 in Pickens County, spoke about voter turnout trends and emphasized the impact of early elections. He noted that participation is often significantly lower in primaries than in general elections, even though those contests frequently determine the outcome in many races.

Wetli, a board member of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina focused on voter education and engagement. She emphasized that understanding how the election process works—and participating in primaries—is essential to ensuring that voters have a meaningful voice in selecting their representatives.

Organizers highlighted that when turnout in primary elections is low, a relatively small number of voters can shape decisions that affect key issues such as schools, roads, health care, and local leadership.

The event was free and open to the public. It was hosted by the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization that does not support or oppose political parties or candidates. Its mission is to empower voters and promote informed participation in government.

Copy of news release written by Janet Marsh, Communications Team.



(l-r) Carolyn Bishop McLeod, Lawson Wetli and Neal Collings

Legislative Update

“Request” that the SC Election Commission turn over their voter rolls to the US Department of Justice.

As of April 8, the South Carolina Election Commission has not turned over the SC voter rolls to the Department of Justice. The requirements in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the DOJ are violations of SC state law according to attorneys at the State Election Commission and the Attorney General’s Office. The attorneys are supposedly talking to the DOJ. It isn’t over, but so far so good.

The **SC House of Representatives and Senate, as well as the US Congress and House**, return this weekend from Spring break, aka District Work Period.

As of April 10, the Legislative Calendars - lists of legislation to be considered on the floor and in Committee, have not been finalized. Please go to [LWVSC Action Alerts](#) for the latest on South Carolina and US Congress bills of interest.

Lynn Teague, VP Issues & Action

Notes from the Observer Corps

Oconee County Planning Board, March 3, 2026

- The last hour of this meeting was informative about Data Centers. These are points I took away as I understood them.
- Will the data centers be considered the same as high level businesses or something else? It will employ 25 to 30 people.
- Will a tax break be given as an incentive?
- Neither Duke nor Blue Ridge could supply enough energy to run a data center. Not enough water is available for cooling.
- DC could generate its own power with turbines but would need a natural gas line. There are six sizes of data centers. The proposed center would likely be the largest. However, once it is built, it can be upgraded. (Bait and Switch?)
- The developers will need about 7,500 square feet for building and several acres for their generators.
- Will the county be notified ahead of any land purchase in the zone free area?
- Data centers discharge large amounts of heat.
- Noise will depend on abatement. There will be a large amount of noise when generators are tested. (The speaker kept referring to the noise as humming.)
- A DC that self generates power will not supply locally. The number of megawatts needed will determine the size of DC.
- Cooling the DC with water will be noisy whenever the tanks are being filled.

Because of all the information and questions, the Planning Commission will dedicate the May meeting to this matter alone.

Sue Blount

Pickens County Election Commission Board meeting

On April 7, 2026, I represented the LWVOP as an observer for the board meeting of the Pickens County Election Commission. This meeting covered the previous two months. At the beginning of the meeting, board chair, Cary Kaye, began by inviting guests (myself and 2 others) to offer comments. The board was asked if they shared election rolls with the feds and the reply was that a paper list is printed right after registration closes before the election (or primary), that they have 80,000 voters in the county and that list has been shared with the feds. The contents of that list other than voter names were not mentioned.

Following this public session, Dr. Amy Sams offered her report that was very detailed and comprehensive. This included discussions of early voting for the primaries on legal holidays (Juneteenth and Veteran's Day), polling places, training for poll clerks and managers, a new card deck for handling unusual circumstances that have occurred at the polls, use of Facebook to inform voters, and mention of Natural Disaster cards and training available through the US Election Commission. Dr. Sams concluded with the statement that 18 candidates filed through this Pickens County office and each received a packet of information for guidelines to run their campaigns.

Ken Marsh



New Member Taimi Olsen

Taimi Olsen moved with her husband Tom Beeson 9 years ago to work at Clemson University as an educational developer, running the University's office of teaching. She has two grown Tennessee sons in their twenties, one who works out in Oregon as a Forester and another who is moving to Charlotte to work in IT. When not working, Taimi is outside hiking and gardening--even reading outside is best. She attends the local meditation group and is a member of the Society of Friends (she and Tom had a Quaker service with Charlotte Friends Meeting when they were married). Taimi has always been an advocate for environmental actions and women's rights and is very interested in supporting voter registration. She recently found out her mom was a League of Women Voter member when she was a new mom in Richfield N.C.

Membership Renewals

Wondering how you will know if it's time to renew your membership? You will receive an email notice from LWVUS shortly before your membership expires (one year from your last dues payment). To renew, go to LWVOP.org, click on JOIN/RENEW, and pay by credit card. If you have difficulty, contact [Janet Marsh](#) or [Ruth Reed](#). —*Ruth Reed*

Board Members

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- [Linda Gorry](#), Vice President
- [Margie Barnes](#), Treasurer
- [Carolyn Bishop-McLeod](#), Secretary
- [Carol Asalon](#), Webmaster
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- [Cherie Walker](#), Board member
- Shelia Crawford, NAACP
- Sharon Morgenroth Burns, Observer Corps
- Meredith Burr, VOTE411

Want to Submit to the Voter?

We are always looking for great content to share with our members. If you have something you wish to share, including the great work being done by League members, let us know! We need the content submitted by the 21st of each month for inclusion. You can email your submissions to [Pat](#) or [Christine](#).

[Learn More](#)

