



**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF VIRGINIA

## **The Virginia Voter**

*100+ Years Strong*

League of Women Voters of Virginia  
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United States

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### **President's Message**

October is crunch time for elections and for turning out the vote. I am so proud of our local leagues to whom we have shipped almost 1,000 pounds of nonpartisan voter registration and get out the vote materials. That is on top of almost 7,000 Vote411 postcards that you are pumping out plus all of the candidate forums you are hosting! Virginia is for voters and the League is making sure everyone gets to celebrate this sacred rite of Democracy.

However, there is more that we are doing and more to come.

With the help and support of LWV US, we are sending voting reminders to 200,000 young women of color who are infrequent voters.

We will have two text banking sessions, one before and one after the end of the regular voter registration time. Stay tuned – we will have dates soon.

*I do have a few more “asks” of you.* Please “like” or “follow us” on whatever social media you might use. We are on X(Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, Threads, TikTok, LinkedIn and YouTube. Then you will be able to share our information with a simple click!

Also, remind people to use their drop boxes, which they can find on our interactive website [here](#). The mail is dicey this year - if they don't want to vote early in person, encourage people to use these drop boxes.

Plus you can refer anyone with questions about voting to our “How To Be a Virginia Voter” page [here](#).

Oh yes and be sure to get out in nature and breathe in the fall air and enjoy nature’s tree paintings. Even in the busiest of times, we all need some self-care.

THANK YOU for all you do.

Joan

P.S. If you know a student studying overseas or ex-pat, remind them to vote in the November 5 election [here](#).

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### **LWV Virginia's Freedom to Read Week Videos 2024**

For the second year League members "starred" in our Freedom to Read videos for the Virginia Library Association. Thank you to all of our members who contributed and promoted the freedom to read and vote!

These have gone out on social media and our YouTube Channel!

[Video 1](#)

[Video 2](#)

[Video 3](#)

[Video 4](#)

[Video 5](#)

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**At the African American Heritage Festival, in Staunton, September 22,  
2024**



Left, LWV VA DEI Chair, Evette Barton (LWV Charlottesville) and Council Woman Alice Woods.

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**At 2024 Virginia, Sovereign Nations Tribal Council, September 19, 2024**



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Left. Joan Porte, President. League of Women Voters of Virginia, Center, Chief Anne Richardson of the Virginia Rappahannock Tribe and Vincent Reynolds, Rappahannock Tribal Council.

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**The League of Women Voters of Virginia Speaks Out on Voting Issues!**

And the "sudden problem" of non citizens [here.](#)

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**Got Questions about Voting?**



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 so they can get our nonpartisan information.

This will be solely for providing information on how to cast their ballot either in person, or via mail.

Virginians can sign up [here to](#) receive the zoom link.

Email [info@lwv-va.org](mailto:info@lwv-va.org) for more information.

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## **VPAP Civic Engagement Navigator Launches**

Chris Piper, Executive Director

Virginia Public Access Project

[Cpiper@VPAP.ORG](mailto:Cpiper@VPAP.ORG)

Teachers across Virginia now have access to new resources that help inspire students' interest in Virginia civics and enhance their data literacy skills.

The nonpartisan, nonprofit Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP) launched Civics Navigator last month. The program is designed for all educators — including public, private, homeschool, and higher education teachers, as well as parents and caregivers.

Civics Navigator offers a constantly expanding, searchable database of civics resources focused on teaching Virginia government and politics. Educators can easily find teaching tools that fit their needs, whether they are looking for a bell-ringer activity or a rich data visualization for students to analyze.

Three **unique** features make Civics Navigator a valued resource for teachers.

The Digital Resource Library has up-to-date data visualizations and interactive digital tools.

Civics Navigator email updates make it easy to use the latest information from VPAP. Subscribers receive data visualizations, discussion prompts, and context for this election season, as well as instructional guides that bring Virginia civics to life.

Training opportunities will connect educators of all types from across Virginia to learn how to effectively employ Civics Navigator in the classroom.

For more information or to subscribe to Civics Navigator, click [here](#).

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Right, LWV Arlington and Alexandria City's Chris DeRosa at the Election Protection August meeting with Robert Lester and Lakeisha Cook of the Virginia Interfaith for Public Policy.

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### **Upcoming Events - All Virtual**

#### **Should Virginia Be a Citizen Initiative State?**

November 17, 2024

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.

The LWV-MD has recently (2021) adopted a position in support of citizen initiatives, and the LWV-VA is exploring the possibility of concurring with their position. To that end, we are hosting a virtual educational session on



citizen initiatives that will feature Elaine Apter, who chaired the Maryland League's study committee. Elaine will be reviewing their study's findings regarding the advantages and disadvantages of citizen initiatives and the rationale behind the position they adopted.

Please plan to join us on Sunday, November 17th, from 2-3:30 pm. RSVP [here](#)

### **Data Centers**

November 18, 2024

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"

Join us November 18 at 7 - 8 PM

RSVP to get zoom link [here](#).

Sponsored by the Environment Issue Group

### **The Electoral College Explained**

November 24, 2024

Presented by the League of Women

Voters

of the Fairfax Area

Open to All LWV VA members

Don't understand how the Electoral College works?

Some of us think we do, but do we really?

Join us on November 24th from 3:00 to 4:00 pm virtually and soon you'll be in the know! Scan the QR code below for more information and to register or go [here](#).

Dr. Jennifer N. Victor an Associate Professor of Political Science at George Mason University's Schor School Policy and Government and she will break it down for us. She studies the U.S. Congress, legislative organization and behavior, social network methods, political parties, campaign finance, & interest groups and lobbying.



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### **Registering New Citizens Prince William/Fauquier!**

Members of the LWV Prince William/Fauquier Counties have been registering new citizens to vote. Their President, Pat Reilly was quoted in the "Fauquier Times" You can read about it [here](#).

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### **Have you Thanked a Registrar Today?**





In this super-crunch time when Leagues throughout the Commonwealth are registering as many voters as possible, let's take a minute to give thanks for the heroes of this hour--our local Registrars. Top photo: Lisa Hilgartner (left), President of the Charlottesville LWV, presents a certificate of appreciation to Lauren Eddy, Albemarle County Registrar.

Bottom photo: Lisa shares the certificate with Taylor Yowell, Registrar for City of Charlottesville.

**And speaking of Charlottesville, the Charlottesville City Council recently voted to use Ranked Choice Voting in the June 2025 Primary. Thanks to our LWV of the Charlottesville area for working to support this both in Charlottesville and Albemarle.**

Here is their letter to the [Charlottesville Council](#).

Here is the one to [Albemarle](#).

Congratulations!!!!

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**SAVE THE DATE: Pre Session is Dec 4, 2024!**

We will be hosting our annual pre-session virtually on December 4. Pre Session is a time when we bring in our partners to discuss their legislative agendas. More information to come soon.

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**HELP WANTED: Social Media**

Our social media captain, Candi Bradshaw, can use some additional hands posting to various social media sites. You don't have to be a super techie, just have some proficiency at posting.

This would require about a couple of hours a week spread out over a few days. Please let Joan know.

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**Campus Vote Project Summit. September 13, 2024**



LWV, Virginia President, Joan Porte and LWV Fredericksburg member, Unita Cheeseman at the Campus Vote Project Summit, Mary Washington University

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### **October 2024 Calendar**

October 14 - Indigenous Peoples Day

October 15 - Last day to register and vote on a regular ballot

October 16 - Same Day Voter Registration starts at early voting sites, and registrar's offices.

October 26 - Early Saturday Voting

[unsubscribe](#)

