



The Virginia Voter

100+ Years Strong

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

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President's Message

April 20 - 26 is National Volunteer Week.

If anyone knows the power of volunteers, it is someone involved in the League of Women Voters. First as a local league president and now as state president, I have had a ring side seat to the hours of volunteer time that our members donate. Often people do not believe me when I say LWV Virginia is one hundred percent powered by volunteers. That is a testament to the dedication of members giving of their time to fight voter suppression, racist redistricting, and voter purges targeting naturalized citizens. And to everyone who spends hours in the heat and the rain registering voters, who lugs bags of materials to high school registrations, and organizes 411 and voter information sheets and candidate forums.

All of this is what keeps LWV thriving and meeting new challenges as we march into our 106th year of doing what we have always done – educate voters and defend Democracy.

And it is important to remember that activism comes in all forms. True confessions time, I have a pathological fear of being in the middle of large crowds with no way out. When I was a kid, and we had "assembly" which was when everyone gathered in the gym to hear something profound...I made darn sure I sat at the end of the row and had a clear sightline to that door. During the Women's March in 2017, I volunteered to host members from other out of state UU congregations, drive people to the Metro and then cook for everyone at the end of the day. (My hands still sweat when I recall the stories from people who said they were so packed in they were actually carried by the crowd.)

One way I now express my activism (in addition to my general work in the League) is by sending nonpartisan Get-Out-The-Vote texts through the "League in Action" app, making signs and supplying water for those who can face the great hordes without hysteria.

Don't denigrate your skills! There is no one size fits all method of activism. We all can do something. Don't let guilt stop you from expressing your gifts in diverse ways.

During this month's National Volunteers Week, please know how deeply your work is appreciated and how valuable it is, in whatever form it takes. When I sign off saying "thank you for all you do," please know it is not a platitude, it is a small symbol of my heartfelt appreciation.

Thanks for all you do.

- Joan

Not Yet a Member of the League?Join Us



If you are not yet a member of the League, this is the time to join us! Voting rights, voter protections are on the line. We are fighting every day to "educate voters and defend Democracy."

EVENTS



Come to Convention

June 13 – 15, 2025

Fredericksburg Convention Center,
2371 Carl D Silver Pkwy,
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Theme: Women Elect and Be Elected

Registration Information and Details are located [HERE](#)

HANDS ~~OFF!~~ FAIR ELECTIONS

HANDSOFF2025.COM

HANDS OFF! April 5

On April 5, national and local organizations are coming together across the country to organize for **Hands Off!**, a national mass activation in defiance of the billionaire takeover and the assault on our freedoms and our communities.

Hands Off! is an all-in moment for the pro-democracy, pro-worker movement—a demand, a warning, and a rallying cry that responds to the primary reasons for our mobilization:

Unconstitutional power grabbing is a **crisis**.

Gutting services, and racing towards **slashing Medicaid, Social Security**, are hurting our most vulnerable to enrich billionaires.

Hands Off Our Democracy!

Hands Off Our Health Care!

Hands Off Social Security!

Hands Off Our Data!

Hands Off Public Schools!

Hands Off Our Bodies!

Hands Off Our Wallets!

Hands Off Public Lands!

If you wish to safely and non-violently participate as an individual you can [find events near you](#). Events will be added as they are created.

Local league presidents have access to the downloads for signs etc. and more information on participating.

Should LWV VA Become Solely a 501 C (3) Organization? For All But Especially Convention Delegates!

April 30, 7 -8 PM

[RSVP](#)

Join us - whether you will be a delegate to the 2025 Convention or just interested in this topic. LWV Virginia: Should We Become at 501 C (3) Entity Only?

Our speaker will be Tom Carson, husband of former LWV US President, Chris Carson, who has helped many state and local leagues combine their Education and Operating Funds into one entity.

This event is open ONLY to League Members.

Review of Possible New Study and The Right to Vote Study - For All But Especially Convention Delegates!

May 14

[RSVP](#)

From: 6:30 to 7:30 PM - We will discuss the possible update to the LWV VA Women's Rights Position - which will be voted on at the Convention.

From 7:30 - 8:00 PM There will be an update on the new Right to Vote Study - that will be voted on at the Convention.

Patient's Rights Rally April 2

Next week, the Supreme Court will hear a case that could allow states to block Medicaid patients from accessing care at Planned Parenthood health centers. We're standing alongside Planned Parenthood and allies in front of the Supreme Court to help us fight back and uplift the voices of patients and providers. If you are in the

DC metro area, [RSVP here](#). If not, take action on League In Action to support virtually.

Thursdays—Rise for Freedom: Nationwide Mass Trainings Starts April 3

Starting April 3, the Rise for Freedom coalition will host a series of live, hybrid online training sessions designed for in-person groups nationwide, spanning 7 weeks. The goal of the training series is to bring people together, grow & strengthen their local networks, and get ready to mobilize to demand democracy in this new challenging environment. [RSVP](#) for the training series and volunteer to host a training.

New Member Orientation Training - May 29

May 29, 2025 – 7 – 8:30 PM

[RSVP](#)

Getting new members involved, interested and excited about being part of the League is critical to membership retention. Join two veteran "on-boarders", Carol Stephens (Richmond Metro) and Judy Helein (Fairfax Area) for a training session on how best to welcome new members into the "World of League."

This is open to all LWV Virginia members – whether you are a membership chair, or potential chair or are just interested in making our league more welcoming! It is a virtual event

We Need Stories of People Who Might be Harmed by the SAVE Act.

We need your help! As you know, the League is pushing back against the *Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act*, which would

require citizenship documentation to register to vote even though voters in every state are already required to affirm or verify their citizenship status when registering. The *SAVE Act* would create one more barrier to the voting process, as many eligible voters do not have easy access to the necessary documents.

We are looking for stories of League members and others who could be impacted by the *SAVE Act*. Their stories can help us show how this law would harm voters.

We want to hear from any member (or voter) who is a US Citizen and fits the following criteria:

They lack easy access to documentary proof of citizenship (no valid passport or birth certificate) OR

Married/divorced women whose documents do not reflect correct current names

Trans individuals whose documents do not reflect their current names

Older people who don't have access to citizenship documents

Lower income people who do not have and can't pay for citizenship documents

People who may have lost documents in floods or fires

They have a physical limitation that will make it challenging to travel and present documentary proof of citizenship to their local election office in person.

Someone homebound or with a physical disability

Someone in a care facility or institution (including prison for states that allow voting)

Someone in a rural area very far away from an election office

Also anyone who is:

Not yet registered to vote OR

High school students

Young voters

New Americans

Likely to (or could) move in the future.

Renters

College Students

Retirees

Low Income voters

Federal Workers

Please email Joan if you or someone you know can share their story and thanks for all you do.

Start Now to Fight 2025 Election Disinformation

The LWV VA Misinformation/Disinformation (Mis/Dis) Task Force encourages local Leagues to amplify positive messages from their election Registrars.

The 2024 election cycle highlighted the need for reliable election information to be available throughout the election cycle. In Virginia, the election cycle is underway once again. Making the public more aware of the systems in place to ensure election integrity is the best way to undermine false information.

Since the most reliable source of such information is each local election office, the Mis/Dis Information Task Force encourages local Leagues to actively share the information their local Registrars provide about how each election will be conducted, and what protections are in place to ensure the integrity of the voting process. Leagues and League members can share such information in various ways, including reposting election office information on social media. As part of this effort, Leagues are encouraged to consult with their city or country Registrar's Office on the challenges they face and the best ways to be of assistance.

Local Leagues are also encouraged to utilize the various League tools available to track and report mis/disinformation. These include VerbaAI, which works with LWV-VA to flag mis/disinformation.

The monthly LWVUS Democracy Integrity Briefings and bimonthly working group meetings are open to all League members. The briefings identify real-time mis/dis information around the country and how to respond. You can [register](#) for monthly briefings. Register for the bi-weekly working group meetings [here](#).

This proactive tracking effort is in addition to other LWVUS resources found on the national website under the [Democracy Truth Project](#).

Working closely with local Registrars and proactively fighting mis and dis information are not only important but build on the voter education work that Leagues already provide.

If you are interested in joining the Mis/Dis Task Force [go to](#).

- *This was written by our Youth Council member Charvi Deorah.*

When daytime is done,
Will they come
knocking at my door to take me in because
the sun still in my skin doesn't look
like it came from behind these mountains or
Will they come
screeching with a torch or pitchforks because
my heaven shines not gold but blue and He carries
an ornate flute or
Will they come
bearing a knife to excise my tongue because
it does not roll the same way in each place
it's been or
Will they come
pounding windows so shards draw blood because
I wave a flag that paints dawn's early light
seven hues or
Will they come
press my shoulders to the wall until we're one because
the meadow was once mine but now the doe's head hangs
over my bed or
Will they come
snap my wooden fingers; leave splinters in my throat because
in the storm without a face they do not bend to scarlet
wind or
Will night never come
and half the globe never sleep so we each see
the afternoon sun in the same lime line
and
Will day never break
always keep whole so the void is quelled and
the arctic stays green through winter
Or
Will we wait

for Arizona to fill with beaten rock
and bridge the golden land to the middle sea?
But the ocean will have already filled the sand.

LWV US Responds to Anti-Voter Federal Executive Order

The League of Women Voters of the United States, [responded](#) to President Trump's Executive Order on Voting.

And participated in a [letter](#) with voting partners to the Election Assistance Commission

Download Cards to Protect Immigrants

You can [download](#) cards for immigrants in many languages.

These cards have information in the second language and English for them to present if they are being wrongfully threatened by ICE.

Happy Earth Day!



Just a quick reminder-- the League's Environmental Justice position can be found on page [page 17](#).

History: Voting Rights and the League

[This](#) is a fascinating law review article about the history of voter registration and the League's centrality to that effort.

The League at the UN!

LWV Virginia First VP, Anu Sahai, spent last week in New York with the LWV United Nations Group. Her [report is here](#).

LWV VA At Impact Conference



The League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA) was honored to be a partnership sponsor at this year's IMPACT Conference, held February 27–March 1 in Richmond, VA! This volunteer-run, non-profit conference is focused on the civic engagement of college students in community service, service-learning, community-based research, advocacy and other forms of social action. This year, the conference was held at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia on February 27-March 01, 2025.

Our table, staffed by members of our DEI Committee and members of LWV Richmond Metro, featured voter registration resources, *Vote411* information, and ways to get involved.

We appreciate our incredible volunteers who helped make this event a success!

Evette Barton

Susan Roberts

Alice Tousignant

Anna Mason

Marilyn Breslow

Ann Way
Fran Eckenrode
Carol Stevens

LWV Charlottesville Working for Ranked Choice Voting!



RANKED CHOICE VOTING IS COMING TO CHARLOTTESVILLE!

This June, City of Charlottesville voters will use ranked choice voting to select candidates in the City Council primary for the first time.

Voters are invited to join any of three educational sessions to learn how ranked choice voting works, why it is used, and how it finds roots in Charlottesville's long-running history of democracy reform.

(1) THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH

5:30-6:30PM
CARVER RECREATIONAL CENTER'S CLASSROOM
233 4TH STREET, NW, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22902

(2) SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH

3:00-4:00PM
CENTRAL LIBRARY'S SWANSON ROOM
201 E. MARKET STREET CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22902

(3) WEDNESDAY, MAY 7TH

1:30-2:30PM
VIRTUAL
REGISTER IN ADVANCE AT THE LINK ON OUR WEBSITE



April 2025 Calendar

- 7: World Health Day
- 15: Tax Day
- 20-26: National Volunteer Week
- 22: Earth Day

[unsubscribe](#)
