



League of Women Voters of Virginia  
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### **President's Message**

This month a series of civic holidays start that promote voting. These holidays include National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, Vote Early Day and Election Hero Day. On August 12 we celebrate National Poll Worker Recruitment Day.

We are facing a shortage of poll workers. The number of poll workers signed up to work the polls can determine how many polling places are open on Election Day. We have several important elections (as usual) this year and one way to ensure safe, accessible elections is to work the polls.

Anyone can sign up at the League's unique link [here](#).

Share it with your friends who want to help make our elections work.

Thanks for all you do. Stay cool, stay safe and take time for yourselves.

Joan

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### **GET YOUR LEAGUE SWAG**

Have you seen our new League swag?? Our DEI T-shirts are amazing, our "Vote" mugs are terrific. Do you need a new water bottle for summer work? We have it all, including caps and bucket hats.

Just go to our [Shop site](#).

You can still order our book "Virginia Women and the Vote" through our regular portal - which you will also see there.

Thanks to our Treasurer, Andrianne Konstas Salvette who designed these and set up our new site.



## The Voting Rights Act Turns 60 on August 6

On August 6 we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act (VRA). Signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson, the Act put an end to the most egregious voting rights violations perpetrated against Black Americans.

However, the Supreme Court has been systematically weakening the Act, and we have seen the return of racial gerrymandering and other acts of disenfranchisement. We must pass the John R Lewis Voting

Rights Advancement Act, and the League will never stop pushing for its enactment.

Rose Ann Jenny, LWV Washington County and member of our state DEI Committee gives a history of the VRA and why we must continue our work to pass the Lewis bill. It's attached [here](#).

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## EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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### Democracy At Hand Trainings

LWV US is holding a series of "Democracy at Hand Trainings" only for League members.

Our democracy is at a crossroads as the levers of power are out of balance and we are at the onset of a constitutional crisis. It's important now more than ever that League members understand the role that they play as anchors of democracy and be aware of the role that we all play, collectively, in fighting for and sustaining our democracy.

Through civic engagement and educational activations, folks will grasp a better knowledge of the tools and tactics to mobilize themselves and their communities to advocate for change. We need a functioning democracy so that our voices are heard, the issues that we care about are advanced, and the prosperity of ourselves and our communities are centered.

The Democracy in Your Hands webinar series will highlight five topics that are key to building an essential knowledge base on how to navigate in a changing political environment. How does democracy

remain front and center, how do we expand our knowledge base as trusted messengers in our democracy, and what do we do to sustain ourselves, mobilize ourselves, and activate ourselves in the name of democracy?

Aug. 20, 12:30pm ET (9:30 am PST) | **Understand the Three Branches of Government**

Sept. 17, 11am ET (8 am PST) | **Working With Local Election Officials to Anchor Change**

Oct. 22, 3:30pm ET ( 12:30 pm PST) | **Building Coalitions to Amplify Action**

[HERE](#) is registration information.

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### **August 26 4 -5 PM Celebrating Women's Equality Day - Voices in Leadership**

**Hosted by the League of Women Voters of Virginia Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee**

Women's Equality Day, observed each year on August 26, commemorates the 1920 passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits denying the right to vote based on sex. This Day was first recognized in 1971 and designated by Congress in 1973. In recognition of this milestone and the League's commitment to equity and empowering everyone to fully participate in our democracy, we will present a panel of Black women leaders engaged in public service, advocacy, and community organizing, whose work spans city government, civil rights activism, and research focused on factors that either encourage or discourage the

development of political ambition among Black women political leaders.

Panelists include:

Charise Wheeler-Jones, PhD - Adjunct Professor, Eastern University;  
Councilmember Katherine Gilmore Richardson - Councilmember At-Large and Majority Leader, Philadelphia City Council  
Georgia F. Allen - Civil Rights Activist; First Vice President and Chair of Religious Affairs, NAACP Virginia Beach; former President, NAACP Virginia Beach (2001-2012); Member, League of Women Voters, South Hampton Roads

This is a virtual event open to all. RSVP [here](#)

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### **Be an Election Protection Worker this November**

Our friends at the Virginia Civic Engagement Table (VCET) are once again looking for people to help make voting available and safe for all eligible voters this November. This is **the largest nonpartisan voter protection effort in the Commonwealth.**

You can become a voter advocate at the polling sites, work remotely on the phones fielding and categorizing calls or put up election protection signs at polling sites.

For more information and to sign up as a volunteer, click [here](#).

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### **Be a Part of a State Team**

We can still use some people to help with State Tasks.

We are starting a series of state committees to do tasks that will only take members a few hours - and many are "seasonal." League members are busy and often have to decide on assisting the state or local league. Hopefully, by getting enough people to do these jobs

that require a short commitment we will make it easier to give the State a hand without hurting local efforts.

The jobs now include:

1. 411 Coordinator: to help Janet Boyd enter information for races where we have no leagues.
2. Administrative Assistance: to update issue group google groups as members join or leave.
3. Dropbox Coordinator: To check before major elections if drop boxes have changed in areas where we have no leagues.
4. Events Committee: To assist with planning events such as Pre-session, WLRTs, League Day
5. Advocacy Committee: To increase our advocacy presence by going once during the General Assembly Session to Richmond and help out with local advocacy coordination.
6. DEI: Promoting and teaching Women's History and that of Marginalized Groups.
7. Graphic Novel; Creating a Civics graphic novel.

Email Joan with questions.

Please sign up [here](#).

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### **Calling All Youth!**

Fiona Morris - Youth Liaison - LWV VA Board

My name is Fiona Morris, and I am honored to serve as the Youth Council Liaison on the League of Women Voters of Virginia Board. Young voices matter more than ever now; therefore, I am asking you to please share your ideas, concerns, and vision for the future. I'll be bringing what you share directly to the Board, so please share any ideas to make a difference. Feel free to reach out to me to discuss, brainstorm and work together at [this email](#).

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## LWV US

### LWV US Partners with Cyndi Lauper Farewell Tour

LWV US proudly joined Cyndi Lauper on her Girls Just Wanna Have Fun Farewell Tour, which kicked off in July in Wantagh, NY. The one stop in Virginia was on July 24 at the Jiffy Lube Center in Bristow. Members of LWV Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Fauquier were there registering people to vote and talking about LWV!

Thank you Cyndi! She loves the League and is passionate about defending democracy!







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### August Recess Action Alert

Congress is in recess throughout August. During this time, LWVUS will be launching a new recess guide for Leagues on holding their representatives accountable for the passage of the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*. Look out for these resources [here](#).

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### 2025 Council

It was quite a whirlwind time at Council 2025, but we learned a lot and got to interact with other state reps. [Here](#) is a wrap up of Council 2025

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### Federal Judiciary Study

The New National Federal Judiciary study was adopted at 2025 Council and can be found [here](#).

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### Good Trouble

**On July 17** , the League of Women Voters participated in a "Good Trouble Lives on Day" - This is a day of action which LWV US has signed onto - in honor of the fifth anniversary of the passing of John L. Lewis. "Good Trouble" is the act of coming together to take peaceful, non-violent action to challenge injustice and create meaningful change. Good Trouble is marches, protests, service work – any action where communities come together, take a stand against wrongdoings, and speak truth to power.



Good Trouble, Richmond



Good Trouble, Williamsburg





## Good Trouble, Fairfax



## Good Trouble, Northern Shenandoah

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### LWV-VA NEWS

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#### Fighting Election Disinformation

Nancy Tate co-chair of the LWV VA Mis Dis Task Force

The LWV VA Misinformation/Disinformation (Mis-Dis) Working Group is developing materials to fight disinformation about the 2025 election. The focus is on proactively providing voters with ACCURATE information – and EXPANDING our distribution of those messages. And Your Active Engagement is important!

The information will cover:

- How and when to register to vote
- What information you need to register
- How the voting process works
- What information you need to vote
- How to be informed

LWVVA's main distribution approach will be our social media platforms. New Board member and social media coordinator Phoebe Scarborough will be posting continuously to our various Social Media platforms, tailoring the messages as needed to appeal to the different audiences each reach. It is critically important that Leagues and individual

League members follow and re-post these messages.

Our platforms are:

[Facebook:](#)

Twitter X: @LWVVA

Instagram: @lwg\_va

Bluesky: @lwgva.bsky.social

YouTube [here](#)

[LWV-VA website](#)

In addition, the Mis-Dis Working Group has developed a handout that covers the same information. The intent is for Leagues to add their own name to this template and to distribute copies at their voter registration and other activities. It will be available in the drive for voter services directors available to all Leagues.

The way to fight false information is with accurate information, and to do so before the disinformation starts to spread (prebunking). The source of accurate information is the [Virginia Department of Elections](#) and, of course, our own [Vote411.org](#).

It's important for Leagues to work closely with their registrars to amplify the above information and other topics those officials provide. In addition, local Leagues are also encouraged to utilize the various national and state 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 Working Group briefings held on the second Tuesday of each month from 3:30 - 4:15 PM. Join using [this link](#). Reports from the briefings can be found [here](#).

## **National Popular Vote Interstate Compact**

What is NPV?

Jane Newell - LWV VA Board

The **National Popular Vote Interstate Compact** would guarantee that the President and Vice President of the United State were elected by direct popular vote. In other words, the candidate with the most popular votes would win. Since 2010 the LWV of the United States has supported NPV as a means to achieve direct popular vote.

The interstate compact bill generally called "NPV" would ensure that the state would put its electors' votes toward the candidate that received the most votes nationwide. Five times in our history, the winner of the popular vote did NOT become President. The Electoral College method is unique in the world and was born of compromise at the 1787 Constitutional Convention. That compromise allowed the southern states to gain representation in Congress and in the Electoral College by counting the enslaved as three-fifths of a person. The Electoral College continues to this day, to make some votes count more than others in a presidential election.

What can we do? The LWV of Virginia will be advocating for the passage of the NPV bill in the Virginia General Assembly in the 2026 Session. Virginia has considered this legislation since 2009, but it has not yet passed both houses. The interstate compact would become effective once states with totaling 270 electoral votes, the

number needed to elect, have passed the legislation. At the time of this writing 209 electors from 18 states are onboard. They would welcome Virginia's 13 electors.

How can you help? Visit the LWV of Virginia [web page](#) and sign up (1) to stay informed, and/or (2) to join our task force. If you know of other organizations that would be interested in partnering with us, please propose them through the webpage as well. You can learn more about NPV from resources identified on this site.

Most of all please share this information and your support with your friends, neighbors and communities.

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## **LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS**

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### **Another Beautiful Naturalization Ceremony Celebrating Independence Day**



LWV CVA hosted a table in the Community Partners Tent at Monticello's annual Independence Day Celebration and Naturalization Ceremony again.

Lisa Hilgartner and Kim Harris (pictured) represented our League chapter at Friday's Naturalization Ceremony. Monticello expected almost 3,000 people for the event, and they showed up!

We shared information on our latest initiatives - the national One Person, One Vote Campaign and our local Civic Circles, non-partisan sites for election information, ways to debunk misinformation, and encouraged folks to check their registration status and VOTE! By the end of the day, we'd run out of many of our brochures and handouts - and that's a great thing!

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LWV-Loudoun at the July 4 parade.

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### **Capital Area Food Bank Vote Fliers**

Thanks to the hard work of former Voter Registration Chair of the LWV of the Fairfax Area, Arina Van Breda, the Virginia League will have three flyers placed in the food bags for all served by the Capital Area Food Bank. All will be in English and Spanish.

The message which went out in July was general about why voting matters, your vote is your voice, and a list of issues of importance.

The August flyer will have information on "what's on your ballot" this year and the third in time for early voting which starts on Sept 19, will have more specifics - early voting dates/locations, serving as a Quick Reference Guide.

The Capital Area Food Bank serves Arlington, Fairfax and Prince William Counties, along with the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park.

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### **Are You Eligible to Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution?**

QCDs are excluded from taxable income. If you have an IRA, and are 70.5 years old or older, you can make a QCD to your favorite charity like the League of Women Voters of Virginia!

If you are 73 years old or older, your QCD can qualify for all or part of your Required Minimum Distribution for the year.

Contact your broker or advisor. The money must come directly to the IRA to us.

More information is on our donate page  
<https://my.lwv.org/virginia/donate>

Thank you!

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### **August 2025 Calendar**

Aug 6- 60th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act

Aug 9 – International Day of Indigenous People

Aug 12 – National Poll Worker Recruitment Day

Aug 26 Women's (In) Equality Day - the Day of the passing of the 19th amendment

[unsubscribe](#)

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