



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF VIRGINIA

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

Happy Birthday to Us!

Yes, the League of Women Voters of the United States turns 105 years old this month. We were founded on February 14, 1920 at a time when no one was remotely sure not only when but if the 19th amendment would pass. Passage seemed very unlikely in 1920 as the only states' legislatures yet to vote were in areas where religious and social opposition was strong.

Our founder, Carrie Chapman Catt, ever persistent, still set up the mechanism to register and educate these women on the mechanics of voting so it would be ready to go whenever we got that precious last state. In a scene that could be taken from a movie script, on a hot Tennessee summer day, a young legislator, Harry Burn, cast the deciding yes vote after hearing from his mother. Always listen to Mom, Harry! The amendment was officially ratified on August 18, 1920. On August 26, it was

officially certified by U.S. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby and that day now celebrated as Women's Equality Day.

Mom's name was Phoebe (Febb) Ensminger Burn and you can read more about her and the letter [here](#).

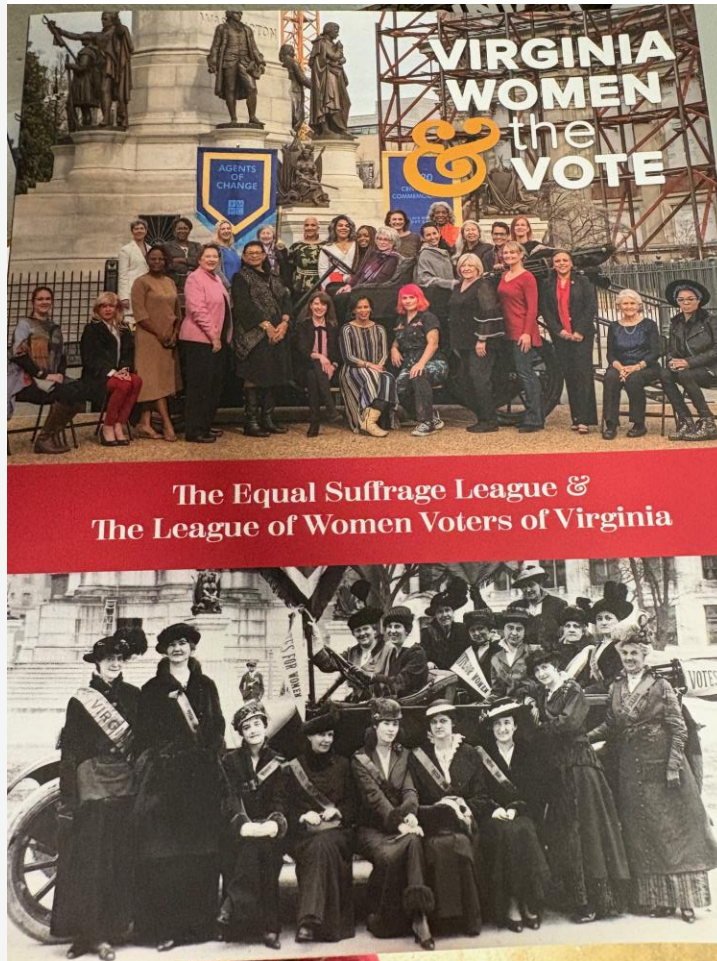
It had been a long hard battle that began at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848. I don't think myself too hyperbolic when I say the League has always faced and conquered many an uphill, treacherous battle. We were forged in fighting for rights...and we aren't done yet.

There will be a virtual pep rally to celebrate our birthday on Feb 14 at 11:00 AM Eastern – look for the link on the LWV US Facebook page [here](#).

Thanks for all you do!

- Joan

The New Updated Version of “Virginia Women and the Vote” Is available



Just in time for the League's birthday, the updated version of Bernice Colvard's original book, "Virginia Women and the Vote" is now available! This book traces the history of the League and our contribution to voting rights starting from our inception in 1920 and now running through 2020. This is a delightful book recording our many accomplishments...makes a great gift for people who love voting. \$29.95

Purchase [here](#)

Nomination Committee: Consider Lending Some Time to the State Board

The State Board doesn't run itself – we need people to join our efforts.

We still need people to help with Communications and Events.

The nominating committee is in full swing and is looking at some unique methods to share the work – including co-chairs and even teams of people.

If you think you can't help because it requires too much time – think again and contact the chair, Les Solomon [here](#). He would love to talk to you about what you can give. There is no State Board without volunteers to assist.

The entire Board is up as usual. Read more [here](#).

Thanks,

- Joan

Virginia Center for Public Policy - MLK Rally at Bell Tower for Gun Safety



On Martin Luther King Day of Action, Chris de Rosa, Joan Porte and Christine Payne attended the Virginia Center for Public Policy's call to action at the Richmond Tower.

Women's Legislative Roundtable--Catch the Ending!

You can still catch the the 2025 Legislative Roundtables! All will be hybrid - the zoom link will be the same for each roundtable. The in-person sessions

will be held at the Virginia General Assembly 7th Floor Conference Room, 201 North 9th Street, Richmond. All begin at 8:30AM and end at 9:30 AM.

Schedule:

Feb 5 - Childcare

Feb 12 - Environment/Housing

Feb 19 – Virtual Wrap Up (virtual only)

[RSVP here](#)

SAVE THE DATE: the LWV VA Convention will be held from June 13 -15 in Fredericksburg, VA.

League Day 2025!

Despite record cold in Richmond, almost all of the 71 people who signed up for League Day showed! Yes, we had a few dead batteries and some people down with colds but we lost no more than the average number of people who can't attend these events at the last minute. You guys are amazing!!!!!! We persist no matter the conditions and we let them hear us at the General Assembly



At breakfast with our 71 participants



We heard from our President, who said that "if you plan enough events you know that on event day, you will wake up around 4:30 AM and stare at the ceiling for 2 hours ruminating about all of the possible disasters that could befall your group...you know, normal things like, what if a pack of wildebeests escapes from the local zoo and tramples everyone?"

I must admit and I apologize to all - that for one fleeting moment I thought, what if everyone says it is too blasted cold out and stays home. Sorry - but it was fleeting - and then said - nope, not our gang. Of course, you didn't disappoint. As soon as the door opened, in came folks that traveled that morning from Winchester, Fairfax, Norfolk, Lynchburg and other places which were even colder than Richmond."

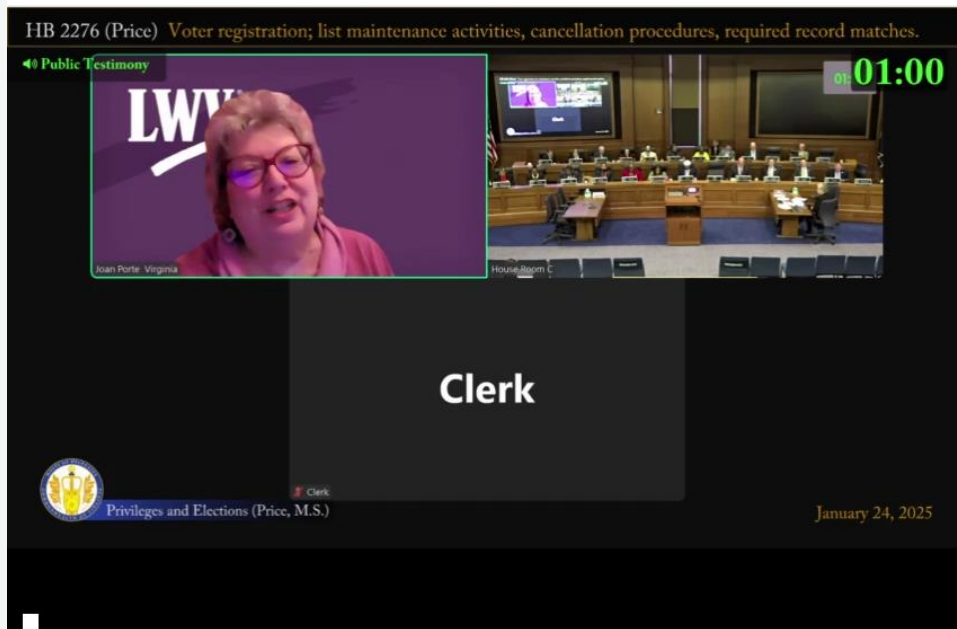


Majority leader Charniele Herring spoke of efforts to get our three Constitutional Amendments, for voting rights, reproductive rights and marriage equality enshrined in the Virginia Constitution.



Together, we made 80 visits to legislators to speak about League priorities. Here, Lisa Hilgartner, President of LWV Charlottesville and Stephanie Lowenhaupt, Co Chair of our Physical Health Task Force, visit with Del. Amy Laufer from Charlottesville.

Testifying Virtually: A Primer



The League of Women Voters of Virginia encourages League members to present testimony before the various Virginia General Assembly Committees. Whether you are testifying on your own behalf or have been asked by the President Joan Porte to testify for the League, you may find it more convenient to present your testimony virtually. Following is a primer on how that is done. You will find this is an inspiring opportunity, and Joan is always looking for Issue Group Members to help with testimony.

The first thing to bear in mind is that the process for requesting an opportunity to present oral testimony is different in the House and Senate. The House Committees and Subcommittees will include a link on each meeting agenda, which leads you to a form that must be submitted to present virtual testimony. That form needs to be completed by midnight on the day before a morning hearing, and by noon of the day for an afternoon hearing.

All the Senate Committees use the same form that can be found in the yellow box on the top of the Virginia Senate Live Session Video Stream website page. The instructions for signing up will appear in that box only 30 minutes before the start of the hearing, so you won't have much time.

After you register to testify before either a House or Senate hearing, you will receive a message from the relevant committee with instructions on how to participate, including how to indicate the bill or bills for your testimony,

turn on your video and unmute. You can expect to have not much more than 1-2 minutes to testify. If you are testifying on behalf of the League, you can find written testimony [here](#).

Please reach out if you have questions: Janet Boyd, [here](#).

LWV Court Case re: Voter Purge

There was a hearing yesterday (Jan. 31) in Alexandria Federal District Court regarding our ongoing case against the Commonwealth for removal of citizens from the voting rolls..

The Commonwealth filed a standard motion to dismiss our case "Virginia Coalition of Immigrant Rights et al V Beales" which came about mostly due to Executive Order 35 and the illegal removal of naturalized citizens from the roles. As you may recall, we won in Virginia's Federal Courts last year but the Supreme Court ruled against our original case which was based on removals within the ninety day "quiet period" required by the National Voter Registration Act.

We are continuing the case now arguing on the discriminatory aspects of removing naturalized citizens using a system fraught with potential problems.

The hearing lasted about two hours. The judge gave the lawyers ten days to file more information and will rule after that on the dismissal. We expect a ruling perhaps in two to three weeks.

The League is Hiring

Bookkeeper (paid position):

As the League transitions to a new dues structure, the State Board is seeking to provide administrative support to Local Leagues and member-at-large (MAL) units. To more effectively respond to monetary matters the State Board is seeking a part-time bookkeeper. The State Board currently manages two entities, the LWV-VA Operations Fund a 501-c(4) (OP Fund) and the LWV-VA Education Fund a 501-c(3) (Ed Fund). We encourage members to consider applying for this paid and remote position.

Job Description for Bookkeeping and Data Entry:

- Maintain all records for Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, and Fixed Assets.
- Prepare monthly financial reports for both the ED and OP Funds.
- Maintain bank accounts, credit card statements and receipts.
- Prepare Donation Receipts for Ed Fund.
- Prepare all working papers for the Audit and work with the Treasurer and audit committee to assure it's done in a timely manner.
- Maintain W-9 records for subcontractors and prepare 1099s each January.
- Monthly and year end reconciliations.
- Maintain records and prepare renewals for State registrations and charitable requirements.
- Work with the Board and committee chairs on various reporting for annual fundraisers/fundraising etc.
- Other tasks as assigned.

Qualifications and Experience:

- Understanding and passion for League's mission.
- Post Secondary Degree with experience in non profit accounting/bookkeeping.
- Highly organized, intuitive and detail oriented.
- A team player with a positive attitude and professional demeanor.
- Proficiency in Google Workspace and QuickBooks.
- Experience with ChapterSpot or Salesforce preferred but not required.

TO APPLY: Send cover letter and resume to

Andrienne Konstas-Salvette [here](#).

A Thank You from LWV DC

We received this wonderful handwritten note from our friends across the river thanking us for our help with their Statehood efforts. The DC League may need much more support from us in the coming years and Virginia is pledged to stand with them. You can see the note [here](#)

Electoral College Taskforce in Full Swing!

LWV Virginia has started our Electoral College Task Force to coordinate with LWVUS's [One Person One Vote Campaign](#). This is our long term plan to abolish the Electoral College.

The Committee will be working on education of and advocacy for the National Popular Vote Compact and Constitutional Amendment to abolish the College. It will be working with local leagues and our partners. Our next meeting is April 28 at 11:00 AM. Sign up for this and other issue groups [here](#).

Are you ready for LWV Transformation? Here it comes!

Jane Newell

Strategic Transformation Director

In February 2025, the LWV is transforming the way that membership is managed. We have long realized that prospective League members are confused by state and US websites that do not let them join, and local League websites they cannot find (or in some areas just do not exist). Dues structures and methods of payment are not uniform across the LWV. Launching February 3rd, a new membership portal will be available for all new and current members and will create a more standard approach to membership across the nation. Your local and state boards have been busy preparing for this LWVUS-lead change.

What should you expect? Sometime after February 3, 2025, you will get an email from the email address: membership@lww.org. It will ask you to activate your account on the new LWV Portal, check your profile (update your data if needed), and complete the Member Survey. Please do this! When your membership expiration date approaches you will get reminders 60 days before expiration, 30 days before and on the expiration date. You will be able to renew through the portal with a credit card, or ACH bank account. Checks can also be used but will take much longer.

Hate passwords? Your unique login will be your email address. A code will be sent to that email, and you can enter the portal with the code rather than a password.

What is the League expecting from this transformation? The goal is to increase League power at all levels. In addition to making it easier to join and renew, a more standard method of membership will make it easier to conduct membership drives across the nation and in Virginia. Interested prospective members can find our Leagues through local, state, and US websites. They can join on any of these sites through the common portal while selecting their local League.

FAQs can be found [here](#).

February 2025 Calendar

Feb. 1-28: Black History Month

Feb. 2: Ground Hog Day

Feb. 7: Lunar New Year

Feb. 11: International Day of Women and Girls in Science

Feb. 14: Birthday, League of Women Voters of the United States

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