



League of Women Voters of Virginia
1011 E. Main Street
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United States

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President's Message

It was so good to see so many of you at the Convention this year! It was a whirlwind weekend for sure - with so many great speakers and breakouts including our luncheon speaker Dr. Stephen Farnsworth of Mary Washington University, Gregory Cooke, our dinner speaker and creator of the wonderful movie "Invisible Warriors: African American Women in WWII," and Gloria Custalow of the Mattaponi. We also had great breakouts with Dr. Jatin Wrigthen of VCU, Michelle Moffit of VCET, our own Anu Sahai, and the transformation breakout led by our Jane Newell and LWV US National Board liaison to Virginia, Tracy Adkison.

We also got to work - and elected a new board, voted to consolidate LWV VA into a sole 501 C 3, approved the Right to Vote Study as a new position and started a new study to update our Women's Rights Position.

In addition, we passed three resolutions, one affirming support for Ranked Choice Voting and another affirming support for the National Popular Vote Compact. The third was condemning all political violence in America.

The best part is being with everyone "in the flesh" for a change and getting to know one another a little bit more.

We have a good deal of work ahead of us, but I know that we are up to the task!

Thanks for all you do.

Yours in good trouble,

Joan

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.



LATE NEWS: LWV US COUNCIL

State DEI Director, Evette Barton and President, Joan Porte attended LWV US Council from June 26 - 29. At the time of this going out, they

are still processing all of the information to make sure it gets out to everyone in a thoughtful way.

However, the first day there was detailed training on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and how that will inform our mobilization efforts on Unite and Rise 8.5. For instance, we cannot just show up to communities to ask them to vote at Election time if you aren't invested in other aspects of their lives.

The rest was spent on Unite and Rise - and they will have MUCH information coming soon on this. There were so many wonderful ideas on how to mobilize and invigorate people - so stay tuned!



Opening night of Council, Joan introducing our CEO, Celina Stewart while President Dianna Wynn looks on.



Our fun selfie with LWV US Board Liaison to VA, Tracy Adkison (l), Evette Barton and Joan Porte.



LWV US CEO Celina Stewart, (l), Evette Barton and Joan Porte

EVENTS

Voter Registration Training

July 1, 7 - 8 PM

And League Specific Voter Registration Training 8:00 - 8:30 PM

This is mandatory training conducted by the State Board of Elections - for anyone conducting voter registration training from July 1, 2025 - July 1, 2026.

To get the link - [RSVP](#)

Immediately after there will be a special training for LWV Virginia members on how to conduct a nonpartisan voter registration event. Since the training from The Dept of Elections is public, you will need to sign off from that training and sign onto ours.

This will begin immediately after the Dept of Elections Training
8:00 - 8:30 PM

To get the zoom link to this League only event [RSVP here.](#)

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?

Jul. 23, 11am ET (8 am PST) | **Championing Issues That Matter Most to You**

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.

New Citizen Voter Registration and High School Voter Registration Training

July Voter Registration Training Sessions: Open to All Members!

- Ann Lloyd Breeden, Director of Trainings and Policy Books

Seasoned League members will be sharing their expertise through Zoom trainings on two areas of Voter Registration crucial to reaching new voters!

New Citizen Voter Registration Training: Tuesday, July 29, 7-8:30 p.m. by Zoom

Arina van Breda (LWV of the Fairfax Area) will provide an overview of how to organize effective New Citizen Registration events in conjunction with citizenship ceremonies. Register [here](#):

High School Voter Registration: Wednesday, July 30, 7-8:30 p.m. by Zoom

Pat Fege and Alice Reilly (LWV of the Fairfax Area) will discuss creating effective High School Voter Registration events—including building relationships with schools/administrators/teachers.

Register [here](#)

Good Trouble

Save the Date: July 17 "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.

This will be similar to "hands off" but doesn't have to be just protests -- it is about bringing people together to make meaningful change.

More to come. Members contact your local league presidents for information on activities there.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Frederick Douglass' Fourth of July Speech: A Call for Justice

Sherelle Carper, Member DEI Committee, LWV Fairfax Area

Frederick Douglass delivered his powerful speech “What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?” on July 5, 1852, at an event commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Invited by the

Rochester Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society, Douglass used the occasion not to celebrate but to deliver a piercing critique of American hypocrisy in celebrating freedom while millions were still enslaved.

Douglass challenged his audience to confront the reality of slavery, rather than hide behind patriotic celebrations. He saw the Constitution as a “glorious liberty document” when interpreted rightly, and he called on Americans to demand immediate emancipation.

Read the speech [HERE](#).



Yesterday, 24 individuals gathered at the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia for a powerful pre-Juneteenth experience, hosted by the LWV-VA DEI Board in partnership with the LWV-RMA DEI Committee.

From Emancipation to the Civil Rights Movement, the guided tour sparked deep reflection and community connection. The featured exhibit, "Bodies of Labor; Hands That Built A Nation," brought Black labor history to life through stunning local artistry.



We are proud to honor this legacy as we continue the journey toward equity and justice.

#JUNETEENTH #LWV #BLACKHISTORY #EQUITYINACTION

LWV Convention in Fredericksburg











We held our convention in Fredericksburg this year, which accomplished much. (See the President's Message for details.) The first day was Flag Day. Frankly, some of us are a little annoyed that there are certain people who claim that we progressives don't love our country. Therefore, we felt the need to have our own Flag Day ceremony at the start of the Convention. (The singing was spontaneous.) Check [this](#) out.

Among other things, we approved the updating of our Women's Rights Position. The current version was adopted in 1979 and more than needs updating, especially in this precarious time for women's rights. We would love to have representatives from all local leagues. If interested, please contact Program Chair, Alice Tousignant at [this email](#).

LWV-VA Resolutions

The League voted to accept three issue resolutions at Convention. Resolutions enhance our stand on issues on which we already have positions. They were to support the National Popular Vote and

Ranked Choice Voting and also to denounce the rise of political violence.

[Ranked Choice Voting](#)

[National Popular Vote](#)

[Political Violence](#)

Join a State Committee!

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.

To sign up use [this link](#)

New Board

The New Board was Elected at Convention and will begin work on July 1.

We will have two Youth Council members on our Board!!

Officers

President	Joan Porte (LWVAAC)
First Vice President	Anu Sahai (LWVFA)
2nd Vice President	Erni Bridges (LWVFA)
Treasurer	Andrianne Konstas-Salvette (LWVFA)
Secretary	Kathleen Montgomery (LWVPWF)

Directors

Janet Boyd (LWVAAC)
Barbara Boardman (LWVFA)
Alice Tousignant (LWVRMA)
Donelda (Donnie) Carson (LWVSHR)
Evette Barton (LWVCA)
Frances (Fran) Eckenrode (LWVRMA)
Phoebe Scarborough (LWVAAC)
Fiona Morris (LWVWA)

Jane Newell (LWVRMA)

Nominating Committee Members:

Priscilla Godfrey (LWVLC) - Chair

Susan Bivins (LWVWA)

Margaret Heubeck (LWVCA)

LWV VA SPEAKING OUT

Letter to VA Department of Education

LWV Virginia sent a letter to the Virginia Dept. of Education to encourage them to include in the recently established School Performance and Support Framework (SPSF), a metric for measuring social studies. Included in that accountability system are growth and mastery measures for Standards of Learning (SOL) and Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) test scores in reading, writing, mathematics and science only.

This action follows one by Senator Schuyler Van Valkenburg, himself a teacher, and other civic leaders.

Any members who wish to write - as a personal citizen to the State Department of Education to encourage them to do the same can email BOE@doe.virginia.gov

You can read the letter [here](#).

LWV-VA Speaks Out About Medicaid Cuts

Congress is currently considering a budget package that would slash Medicaid funding, putting millions of American's health care coverage at risk.

Medicaid is the single largest source of health coverage in the country. Nearly 72 million Americans, including children, pregnant people, seniors, families with limited income, and people with disabilities, rely on Medicaid for essential care including doctor visits, hospitalizations, long-term care, maternity care, mental health care, and rural clinic services.

We must protect Medicaid for the millions who rely on it. Tell Congress not to endanger the health of our country.

Contact your Member of Congress with this [link](#).

Our letter on this topic was published in the Richmond Times Dispatch. You can read it [here](#). (Note: It is on the bottom left of the page.)

How We Prepare for the Next Election

Joan was interviewed by **Mother Jones** on this topic. You can read the interview [here](#).

LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS

LWV - Loudoun County



Nothing stops the LWV of Loudoun County from registering voters -
- not rain or sun!

Pictured here LWV member Priscilla Godfrey, prepared for anything!

And in Roanoke



The LWV Roanoke Unit registered voters at Fund Day event sponsored by Shiloh Baptist Church Men's Ministry and the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke VA.

Donate to the League of Women Voters of Virginia

There has never been a better time to [DONATE TO LWV VIRGINIA!](#)

LWV US UPDATES

North Carolina Voters

The League of Women Voters of North Carolina is seeking to intervene in a federal lawsuit that wrongly challenges the eligibility of more than 200,000 voters by claiming their registration records are incomplete. Read more about it [here](#).

LWVUS [submitted comments](#) to the Election Assistance Commission's (EAC) Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC) for their virtual meeting on July 02, 2025.

MORE LWV US STATEMENTS AND BLOGS

[An Open Letter from Civil Rights Groups to the American People](#)

[Grassroots Activism: How You Can Take Action- LWVUS Blog](#)

[ACLU Protestor's Rights Guide](#)

[How to Support the Immigrant Community](#)

On June 27, in [Trump v. CASA](#), the US Supreme Court held that federal district courts cannot issue nationwide injunctions. Read [Celina's bluesky post](#).

On June 27, in Mahmoud v. Taylor, the US Supreme Court ruled in favor of a group of Maryland parents who [challenged their school district's decision](#) to deny them the ability to opt their elementary-aged children out of instruction featuring storybooks that address gender identity and sexual orientation. [Read Celina's bluesky post](#).

July 2025 Calendar

Disability Pride Month

[LWV US Blog](#)

July 4 - Independence Day

July 17 - Good Trouble Day

July 26 - National Disability Independence Day

July 30 - National Day Against Human Trafficking

[unsubscribe](#)
