

League of Women Voters of Virginia
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United States

July 2026 Vol. 74 No. 13

President's Message

Drumroll please! Local leagues throughout our Commonwealth now have 40,000 pieces of nonpartisan election information in at least five languages! This is in addition to 10,000 cards and fliers on the Constitutional amendments that are on the ballot in November and more than 3000 stickers and 5000 pro-voting buttons!!

That deserves a collective pat on the back! This is how you get people to the polls.

We also had almost 40 people sign up for training on the Voter Activation Network provided by our friends at the Virginia Civic Engagement Table. That is a record number!

This is why I love the League – we get it done.

If you are in a local league or unit and want to get people registered and to the polls, contact your president or voter services chair! We have a lot more work to do and they can use all hands!!!!

THANKS for all you do and have a relaxing 4th of July....we all work hard enough to defend Democracy and deserve a day of rest.

Joan

Your Advocacy Worked!

Thanks to the advocacy of LWV members and our partners, the final Virginia Budget did NOT have the piece that would remove the Department of Elections ability to audit campaign finance reports. Congratulations!

In Memoriam - Pat Reilly



It is with sadness that we report the sudden passing of Pat Reilly, co-president of the LWV of Prince William Fauquier. Pat was involved in many groups, including Friends of Liberia, Solas Nua (New Irish Arts) and was a steadfast supporter of democracy and the work of the League. One of her last Facebook posts is about registering people to vote!

A service and burial were held in Middleburg on June 20th. Pat was pre-deceased by her husband.

Pat was honored on the floor of the House of Representatives by Representative Suhas Subramanyam.

[Pat Reilly Obituary](#)

[Recognition of Pat Reilly](#)

We will miss her greatly.

Nominations

Nominating Committee Looking for Members to Join the State Board!

Our nominating committee is getting into full swing and is seeking members to fill positions on the LWV Virginia Board. Every position is up on July 1, 2027 and a new slate must be presented at

Convention. President (or co-presidents), Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Voter Services, Advocacy, DEI, Program - all positions are open and the State can't run without a full board.

Please consider putting your name into contention. You can recommend someone if you have their permission.

Email nominations@lww-va.org!

The League doesn't run itself!!!!!!!!!!!!

EVENTS

Diversity is Disability - Sept 14

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF VIRGINIA | LWV-VA DEI COMMITTEE DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

SAVE THE DATE!
DIVERSITY INCLUDES DISABILITY

EMPOWERING EVERY VOTER, EVERY VOICE.

WEBINAR DATE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
7:00 PM

DISABILITY VOTING RIGHTS WEEK
SEPTEMBER 14-18

✓ A webinar focusing on how we can ensure people with a disability can exercise their right to vote and build power as a community.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

- ★ Lucy Beadnell
ARC of Northern Virginia
- ★ Nichole Davis
Independence Center

PLUS:
Members of
REV UP Virginia

REGISTER HERE ➔

EDUCATE ★ EMPOWER ★ ENGAGE | lww-va.org

Having a disability is the one minority that anyone can join. And yet, people with disabilities have faced many barriers to voting. September 14-18 is Disability Voting Rights Week.

On Monday, September 14, 7pm, the LWV-VA DEI Committee will host a webinar focusing on how we can ensure that people with a disability can exercise their right to vote and build power as a community of active, voting citizens.

Lucy Beadnell is the Chief Advocacy and Policy Officer of the ARC of Northern Virginia. Nichole Davis is the Director of the Endependence Center, the Center for Independent Living serving South Hampton Roads. They are both members of REVUP Virginia, a coalition of people and organizations that work to protect and expand voting rights for people with disabilities.

This Webinar is one of the series the LWV-VA DEI Committee is hosting on aspects of diversity and civic participation.

[RSVP](#)

Webinar: On the Three Amendments on the Ballot in November - Sept 17

On September 17 from 7P - 8:30 PM, LWV Virginia will be hosting a virtual webinar on the three amendments on the November ballot, Right to Vote, Marriage Equality and Reproductive Freedom

The first 30 minutes will be on the Reproductive Freedom amendment, the second on Right to Vote and the third on Marriage Equality.

This event is open to all --not just League members. But all are required to sign up to receive the link.

[RSVP](#)

Save the Date - Textbanking Voters of Color Sept 23, 6:30 PM

Calling All Librarians, or Library Friendly Leaguers For the American Library Association Convention - Oct 2026

As we have for the past two years, we are being asked to exhibit at the Virginia Library Association Annual Conference which will be held **Oct 18 - 20, 2026 at the Norfolk Hilton Hotel, Norfolk.**

We happen to have several librarians in the South Hampton Roads League but this is a long, busy conference so we need more people to take shifts staffing the table.

You don't have to be a librarian, of course, but want to have the joy of interacting with these really smart, tough people who join is in our desire to protect free speech and the freedom of thought. If you are in the area and can take a shift please contact Joan.

Thanks

Voter Registration Training

The Department of Elections has several teacher-led trainings available this summer. All League members who do voter registration need to take this training. (Check with your local league to see if they need voter registration forms offered when you complete the class.) These are better than the on-line course because you can ask questions of the teacher. RSVP [here](#) for the class of your choice. You will find classes under Section B

Wednesday, July 1, 2026 at 7 PM:

Saturday, July 11, 2026 at 10 AM:

Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 2 PM:

Saturday, September 12, 2026 at 10 AM:

Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at 11 AM:

A Significant Win For Student Voter Registration

Our friends at the Advancement Project on behalf of the NAACP have won a significant legal case regarding student voting.

The consent decree mandates the following:

Virginia students who live on campus will not have their registration applications rejected for providing an address that does not include a dorm name, dorm room number, campus mailing address, or campus mailbox number, when that information is not needed to place students in a precinct.

Virginia officials must provide guidance and training to local registrars on this requirement and on how to handle student voter registration applications.

Officials must amend Virginia's voter registration application to make clear what address information is needed for people living in student dormitories and other group housing.

Virginia officials must engage in rulemaking efforts to codify the new registration requirements in the Virginia Administrative Code.

LWV US NEWS

LWV CEO Celina Stewart Named Northeastern Law's Brown Forum for Women in the Law Practitioner-in-Residence

Celina Stewart, a nationally recognized voting rights attorney and champion of American democracy, has been named by Northeastern Law's Judith Olans Brown Forum for Women in the Law (WIL) as its Practitioner-in-Residence for 2026–2027. Stewart will visit the law school on November 17–19, 2026. While in residence at Northeastern, Stewart will share her expertise and insights as one of the country's leading voices on voting rights, election law and the defense of democratic institutions. Her visit will include class lectures, meetings with groups such as the Women's Law Caucus and office hours to build personal connections with students, graduates, staff and faculty.

Stewart is the chief executive officer of the League of Women Voters of the United States, the iconic century-old organization dedicated to empowering voters and defending democracy. Appointed CEO just three months before the 2024 presidential election, she guided the League through one of the most consequential election cycles in modern history, reaching more than 30 million voters and investing over \$1 million in nonpartisan election education in her first year of leadership. She oversees the League's operations, resources and strategy across a national network of more than 750 affiliates.

The 19th annual Brown Forum for Women in the Law Conference will take place on May 14, 2027.

The National Convention

From June 25-28 in Columbus, Ohio, Leaguers from across the country met to discuss, discern, and plan how we can meet the

moment we're in. It was purposeful, enlightening, and a lot of fun.
More information - videos etc. coming soon.,





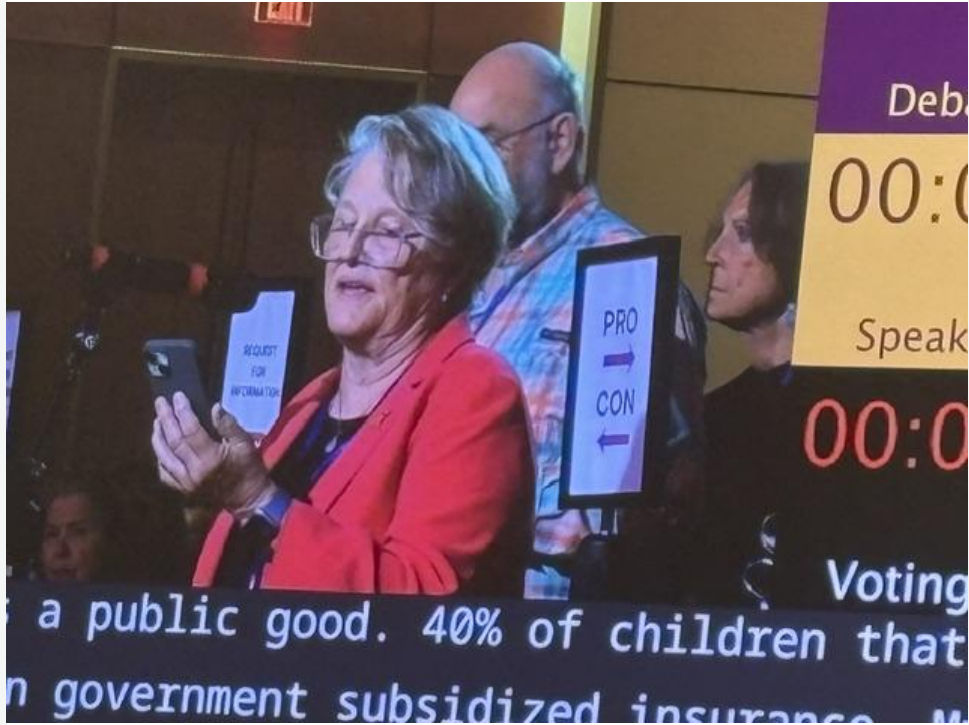
Our youth council members, Charvi Deorah and Nikki Rajan (below), got to speak at LWV Gen Z breakout Convention. Many thanks to these leaders!



And meeting with outgoing LWVUS president Dianna Wynn, below.



LWV-VA Advocacy Chair Barbara Boardman speaks to the Privatization Concurrence



LWV-VA President Joan Porte speaks about the National Popular Vote, below.



adopt national popular vote. It was signed
on April 17th by our governor, and we can
to do this. We're as she said, we're very

Some more of our gang.



LWV-VA NEWS

A Federal Judge Stops Voter Purge

The League of Women Voters of Virginia joined LWV US, LWV Louisiana and LWV Texas to stop private information being handled incorrectly and attempts to use this information to stop voting.

[Read the press release here](#)

Gun Legislation Passes



Advocacy chair, Barbara Boardman, and member Christine Payne at a ceremonial signing of several gun legislation bills.

LWV VA Board Member Appointed to Work Group

LWV VA Board Member, Jane Newell, has been appointed to Virginia State Workgroup designed to study Back End, Opt-Out Automatic Voter Registration. This was established under SB658/HB 319 to study the possibility of establishing such a system in Virginia. Congratulations Jane! We know she will do a great job representing us.

Campaign for Reproductive Freedom Amendment: Call for LWV Chapter Engagement

Virginians for Reproductive Freedom (VRF) is the statewide coalition of organizations overseeing the campaign for the reproductive freedom amendment. The League is a coalition partner, committed

to using its expertise and experience in voter education, registration, and civic engagement to inform the public about the amendment and urge passage of critical protections for reproductive healthcare in Virginia. The campaign is now into a second phase, ramping up to the November 3 election.

What can the chapters do to support this work?

Tabling: If the chapter members are out doing voter registration events, be sure to have materials about the amendment at the table and, preferably, a separate volunteer who can distribute and explain the ballot amendments for November 3. The state League is preparing materials for your use. A free approved “walkabout” handout is also available from the VRF (contact Hannah Servedio, [here](#)). These make a conversation about the amendment easy and informative. VRF is logging these public education events to monitor geographic gaps, so please tell us where you were and how it went.

Hosting a house party or chapter event: A relatively easy way to meet people where they are and answer their questions about the amendment is a house party for chapter members, neighbors or friends. It can be both educational and fun. Please contact Pat Hyer ([here](#)) or Sara Dalton ([here](#)) for helpful tips on hosting such an event in your jurisdiction. Again, please let us know where and when, and how it went. Send us a picture that we can share in this newsletter or online. (Like the one below.)

For inspiration, here is Sara’s gathering of friends and neighbors on June 24 to talk about the amendment. They were grateful to learn about the actual ballot language and details about the amendment.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LEAGUE PRESIDENT OR UNIT LEADER IF YOU WANT TO TAKE ON A PROJECT.

The end of summer begins the serious campaigning: phone banks, canvassing, trying to reach students and early voters, among other strategies. We hope that LWV chapters will stay engaged right to the end. Reproductive freedom has been a League priority for a long time. It would be wonderful to see all three amendments passed in November! Something worth working for.

Pat Hyer and Sara Dalton, League representatives to the statewide coalition, Virginians for Reproductive Freedom.



LWV-VA DEI Committee Honors Moton Legacy With Powerful Juneteenth Visit

Evette Barton, LWVVA DEI Chair

Farmville, VA — On Saturday, June 13, twenty-five League members and friends from the League of Women Voters of Virginia and the Richmond Metro League chapter traveled to the Robert Russa Moton Museum. This Juneteenth-week educational tour connected past and present in profound ways. Housed in the former R.R. Moton High School—a National Historic Landmark—the museum invites visitors to experience the birthplace of America's student-led Civil Rights movement and the 1951 walkout that helped spark *Brown v. Board of Education*.

The group was guided by Canien, a Farmville native whose family members participated in the historic walkout led by Barbara Johns.

His personal connection brought depth and immediacy to the tour, reminding visitors that this history is not distant—it is lived, remembered, and still unfolding in the lives of families across Prince Edward County.

Both Juneteenth and the Moton Museum remind us of the resilience of Black Americans in the face of oppression and stand as powerful testaments to the long struggle for freedom and equality. As members moved through the galleries, the emotional weight of the exhibits was unmistakable. The visit offered a firsthand look at the courage of young people who reshaped the nation's civil rights landscape. After the tour, we shared our personal histories, stories, and reflections about past and current school segregation. We discussed how we were enriched through our ever-widening circle of diverse friendships, and how the League can continue to inspire, encourage, and support youth-led movements.

Several members shared their personal reflections on the powerful experience:

The Moton Museum experience was profoundly touching and reassured me of the young people who will correct course and save our nation from its worst instincts. - Val

Every time I visit an African American historical site, I learn how much I didn't learn in school or from my family and friends growing up. The Robert Russa Moton Museum was no exception. I did not know that a month before Barbara Johns led her strike, there was a terribly preventable accident when an unsafe, poorly maintained school bus that Black school children were on stopped working in the middle of a railroad track, was struck by the train killing five Black children. I cry every time I think about it... This accident was the direct result of the separate but supposedly equal policies of Jim Crow. And this tragedy was one of the motivating factors behind the parents of the Moton students supporting the strike.

I also learned that after severe overcrowding pleas from Blacks came the creation of shacks being placed on the school grounds... What was

so amazing to me was that despite their miserable surroundings, every student was dressed in their Sunday best bending over their work and learning. What resilience, courage, and motivation these students had! I would encourage everyone to visit this museum to learn the truth and get motivated to participate in racial justice solutions. — Alice Tousignant

The sense of togetherness we experienced on this trip stood in stark contrast to the divisions of school segregation, offering hope that progress in recognizing the value of every person can continue despite today's challenging political climate. — Fran Eckenrode

Fast-forward to today, and it feels like we're watching the clock roll backward. What Barbara Johns and her classmates stood up against in 1951 is showing up again in new forms. The promise of equal education is still unfinished business. — Anonymous Participant

The Moton Museum visit served not only as a historical lesson but as a call to action. Standing in the very place where teenagers sparked a national movement, members were reminded that young people have always been catalysts for change. The League emphasizes its commitment to uplifting youth voices, supporting civic education, and ensuring that the next generation has the tools and encouragement to lead. As the League continues its work across Virginia, the legacy of the Moton students underscores the importance of advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in every corner of civic life.



LOCAL LEAGUES

Shall We Brag? Yes, Indeed We Shall.

It always struck us odd that we ask the local presidents to “brag” about their leagues – tell us something that other leagues may find useful – at Council and Convention. However, we never have a full contingent of members at either! SO, we are changing things up and including their comments in the newsletter. Keep in mind this is a short sampling of what they are doing but we hope that this inspires other leagues to get some ideas. Thanks to all of the Leagues and units that participated.

Arlington and Alexandria City

LWVAAC continued to strengthen its role as a nonpartisan civic resource in Arlington and Alexandria through voter education, voter registration, candidate engagement, and community partnerships. This year we expanded youth voter registration efforts, increased outreach to new citizens and justice-impacted communities and continued to support Ranked Choice Voting education and advocacy across the region. We also strengthened our communications infrastructure, increased our social media presence, and saw strong community engagement through Vote411 and public events. Together, these efforts helped expand access to civic information and participation throughout our communities.

Central Virginia

Our newest unit is expanding their membership and holding programs to increase awareness. They also put up a billboard saying, “Vote or do you prefer to give your power to others?”

Charlottesville Area

This year has been one of growth, service, and impact. We have worked to fulfill the League’s mission of empowering voters and strengthening our communities through voter education events, listening tables with candidates and constituents, modeling and practicing civil engagement with others who may not agree on political views through Civic Circles. We expanded our VOTE 411 program and tailored the questions to address the issues pertinent to each of the 17 offices open for election ranging from sheriff to mayor to supervisors. Our outreach efforts in all our 6 counties have

helped residents better understand the issues that affect their lives and encourage meaningful civic participation.

Our local league made the effort to partner with other non-profit political groups such as NOW, Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention, NAACP chapters in several counties, Piedmont Environmental Council, Move to Health Equity, and Indivisible when our missions aligned and joining together not only made sense but made our commitments stronger.

What makes these accomplishments especially meaningful is that they were achieved by volunteers—people who generously contributed their time, talents, and energy because they believe in the League’s mission.

Fairfax Area

The LWV-Fairfax Area registered a total of 3493 voters in the last year, with high school students as our top demographic (2534). College student voter registration was another strong category, garnering 147 new registrations. LWV-FA’s Arina Van Breda was awarded the George Mason University Jack Wood Award for Strengthening Students’ Voter Engagement. In this busy year we also hosted candidate forums; participated in new citizen, high school, college and returning citizen events; and published/distributed 5000 copies of What’s On YOUR Ballot and Fairfax Facts.

Falls Church

LWV Falls Church has awarded our second [Community Impact Award](#), honoring innovation, leadership, and sustained service by an individual whose contributions to the City of Falls Church may tend to go unrecognized. The award emphasizes measurable results and a positive influence on the City and has served to make the League’s work more visible throughout the community.

In addition, our local League hosted a successful [Defending Democracy Film Festival and Fundraiser](#) this year, featuring films about the role of Rosie the Riveters during World War II and the 2017 Women’s March and a discussion on how to stay engaged in our present challenging times. This event raised more than \$1,000 for the

work of the League and cemented partnerships between our organization and more than a dozen local businesses that generously donated raffle prizes. We anticipate making this an annual event.

Fredericksburg Area

On May 2, they organized a full day and very successful Rappahannock Arts Festival. A full-day community art festival featured live music, local makers, and space to connect.

Greater Roanoke Valley

It has been a year since the Greater Roanoke Valley unit was formed and what a busy year! The unit participated in 8 voter registration events through December 2025 and registered 19 voters. Since January we have participated in 5 events (22 new voters registered) with an additional 8 scheduled as we go into summer and fall. We have almost doubled in size and are continuing to grow in membership. Recently we identified leaders in the areas of communication, membership, event planning and formed a state convention committee for the 2027 convention here in Roanoke

Loudoun County

Loudoun League restarted its educational series with help from the Loudoun County Public Library, after the program ended during COVID six years ago.

Montgomery County

We've raised over \$3,000 to support four Virginia Tech Democracy Fellows this upcoming year.

Northern Shenandoah Valley

Thinking about our country's 250th celebration, our NO KINGS rally invited Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and George Mason to give the crowd insight about what they wrote and had to say about kings in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. No! No! No! It was the most successful rally ever held in Winchester with over 700 peaceful protesters joining us!

Richmond Metro

For the November '25 election, LWV Richmond Metro Area significantly expanded its voter education and outreach efforts through an innovative partnership with Radio One and a broader "Get Out the Vote" campaign. In addition to traditional voter engagement activities, LWV-RMA promoted Vote411 through radio advertising, the *Richmond Free Press*, and advertisements displayed on the backs of six Richmond city buses.

The Radio One campaign delivered strong results, generating 47,154 streaming impressions, 8,372 mobile app impressions with a 0.79% click-through rate, and reaching 26,070 social media users. These efforts increased visibility for Vote411 and helped connect voters with trusted, nonpartisan election information.

This campaign reflects a new direction in LWV-RMA's voter engagement strategy—leveraging digital media, radio, social platforms, print advertising, and public transit to reach voters where they are and encourage informed participation in the democratic process.

South Hampton Roads

League of Women Voters of South Hampton Roads were at #prideinthepeake in Chesapeake, VA, reminding attendees that voting for the August 4 primaries starts Friday 6/19 and that they can check their registration and ballot on [vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org).

Staunton, Augusta County and Waynesboro

Is working hard establishing a presence at Mary Washington University and they sponsored a successful Juneteenth program at Fisherville Library

Washington County

In Washington County our voter registration has reached over 2400 people so far in 2026. The Immigration Committee has distributed over a thousand red cards to Hispanic groceries and restaurants, and we met with our County Sheriff about the Department's procedures in relation to immigrants. By speaking to the town council over

several months, we got a canvassing ordinance changed to omit restrictions on political canvassing.

Williamsburg Area

Our industrious members in Newport News started a branch unit of Williamsburg to reach Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson and parts of York County. Historically there were leagues in Newport News and Hampton, so this is a great step to reaching those people plus the three colleges and numerous high schools.

Our social media program posts daily on six platforms (Facebook, BlueSky, Instagram, Mastodon, etc.) and as of June we have more than 11,000 followers. One post had more than 26,000 likes. This shows that social media is an effective method of communication not to be wasted.

In June 2026 we again awarded three scholarships for \$1,500 each, to high school seniors who will pursue studies in civics, government, politics, law or a related field. We're linking the good name of the LWV to future potential.

Central Virginia - Carla Heath Award

On June 3, 2026, LWV-Central Virginia Unit members Bethanie Mickles, Esq., Muriel Mickles, Ed.D., and Molly McClenon presented the Carla Heath Award (in honor of the late Carla Heath - lifetime member of LWV) to Michael, an outstanding graduate of the Lynchburg Adult Recovery Court program.



Honors for Chris DeRosa, Arlington-Alexandria City

The League of Women Voters of the US honors certain members in leagues that receive LWV Education Fund grants for voter services. The person has to be nominated by their league. Congratulations to Chris DeRosa for being one of the first honorees.

Chris DeRosa (below left) from the League of Women Voters of Arlington & Alexandria City was honored for her outstanding work helping returning citizens to restore their right to vote. For years, Chris has helped people in Virginia who have been formerly or are serving in prison for felony crimes to get I.D.s, copies of their social security and birth certificates, and restore their right to vote. She has been a tireless advocate for changing the current law, which grants the right to restore the vote to only one person--the governor of the state. Chris brings voter registration to shelters, rehab centers, and other gathering places of underserved and frequently unregistered people. Other Leagues in Virginia have learned from Chris' example

and developed efforts of their own to reach out to these populations. We are grateful for her work.



Juneteenth Celebrations

LWV of Arlington & Alexandria celebrated Juneteenth by doing Voter Registration. LWV VA President, Joan Porte, with incoming LWV ARL/Alex Vice President, Natalie Alatrasta.



LWV Staunton, Augusta County and Waynesboro participated in the local Juneteenth celebrations (below).





July 2026 Calendar

Disability Pride Month

July 4- Independence Day

July 18 – **Nelson Mandela Day**

July 19/20- **Anniversary of 1848 Seneca Falls Convention**

July 26 – **National Disability Independence Day**

July 30 – **World Day Against Trafficking in Person**

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