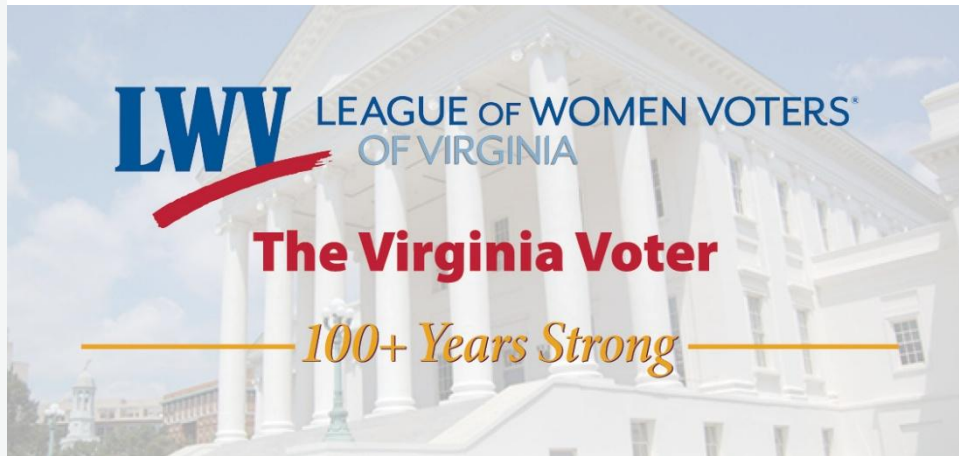




League of Women Voters of Virginia
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President's Message

It is our birthday month! The League of Women Voters of Virginia was officially formed on November 10, 1920, just nine months after the founding of the League of Women Voters of the United States. On November 10, 1920, an organizational meeting was held in the Senate chamber of the State Capitol building. Adele Goodman Clark was elected chair for the first year, and for the second year, she was called the president.

If you go to Richmond and tour the “Voices in the Garden” statues in the Virginia Women’s Monument on Capital Square (which I

recommend), you will see her statue in which she is carrying a “Votes for Women” Banner.

From the beginning we were always on the frontline of advancing voting rights for all. In the 1930’s we pushed for shorter work hours for women and a minimum wage, a teachers’ retirement fund, a probation and parole system, and appropriations for the Departments of Public Welfare, Education, Labor, and Public Health.

In the 1950’s during the “McCarthy era” when U. S. Senator Joseph McCarthy held constant hearings in Washington, D.C. branding individuals as “Communists.” local leagues in Virginia and elsewhere were accused of being “pinko” when they refused to support the state’s concept of massive resistance to desegregation and the closure of public schools.(Sounds familiar, doesn’t it?)

The information above I am taking directly from our recently updated book originally penned by the late Bernice Colvard. If you would like to learn more about our amazing history, you can find it in “Virginia Women and the Vote” available in our shop [here](#).

Have a peaceful and relaxing Thanksgiving. Remember to practice self-care.

Thanks for all you do.

Joan

Barbara Boardman, LWV VA Advocacy Chair

The LWV-VA Board, working with our issue groups, has approved our legislative agenda for the 2026 legislative session. Our priorities include the amendments to the Virginia constitution and issues related to voting and elections. We have also focused on specific issues on which we have studied positions. These are issues of special concern for our non-partisan membership including childcare, education, environment, domestic violence, Healthcare/reproductive health and housing.

Virginia Constitutional Amendments

Right to Vote Amendment

Reproductive rights

Marriage equality

Voting and Elections

Right to Vote Amendment and guardianship adjudications

“Zucker-bucks” amendment to clarify language and to limit scope

List maintenance and voter registration bills Reinstatement of membership in ERIC [the Governor can reinstate Virginia in ERIC without legislation, although bills have been introduced in the past two sessions]

Campaign Advertising – disclosure requirements for use of synthetic materials.

National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

Ranked Choice Voting

Virginia Beach Charter Change

Affordable Housing

Equitable Access: Rent stabilization

Inclusionary zoning, and Allow Accessory Dwelling Units

Right of First Refusal (ROFR) for expiring use multi-family and manufactured housing,

Increasing Permanent Supportive Housing

Increase pay or quit time from five days to 14 days, Virginia Eviction Reduction Program

Environment

1. Keep the Virginia Clean Energy Act(VCEA)unchanged.

Regulate data centers.

Incorporate environmental justice/community health in localities' Comprehensive Plans.

Study microplastics in public drinking water.

Education

Funding Equity for English Language Students, Special Education

2.Making Sure the State Pays Its Fair Share of Public-School Costs.

Revenue Raising for K-12.

Safe and Restorative-Community Schools)

Health Care

1.Medicaid and SNAP funding Support

Continuous Medicaid funding for children 0-6 years old

Funding for DSS staff (incentives and training) and technology upgrade

Subsidy for Virginia Marketplace

Paid medical leave

Reproductive Health

VA Constitutional amendment for reproductive freedom

right to contraception

Shield laws for providers and recipients of reproductive care

4. Health insurance coverage for reproductive care

Domestic and gun violence

Permit to Purchase

Opening an Office of Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention

DemocraZy: The Podcast!!!!

The second episode of DemocraZy - our podcast by our Youth Council is OUT!! The topic is the Electoral College!!! Three cheers to Charvi, Emma and Nikki our amazing Youth Council Team

View it NOW on Spotify and YouTube [here](#).

Get Connected with our League in Action App and Thanks to All of Our Textbankers on Oct 30!

LWV Virginia used the League in Action app to text more than 120,000 Virginians who have not yet voted in this Election. Thanks all

Download League in Action to be ready for 2026.

Do you want to remind your friends to check their voter registration?

Do you want to inoculate them from mis and disinformation with

correct election information? Do you want them to join Unite and Rise? Do you want to share action alerts with them? Do you want to take part in our nonpartisan Get Out the Vote (GOTV) text banks or assist other states with their text banking? Great! LWV US has just the app. It is called League in Action, and it is easier than ever to download and use.

LWV Virginia has our own page on League in Action. There we will post action alerts and other correct election information that you can send to friends.

To get League in Action go to your app store on your phone and find and download League in Action. It will have the LWV US logo. To find the Virginia page, use this QR code on your phone or search on your phone for [this](#).



EVENTS

Go Vote!

November 1 is the last day for Early Voting. Election Day is November 4, with the polls open from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm. For more information about what's on the ballot and where to vote, go to Vote411.org

Pre-Session 2025

Join us for Pre Session 2025

December 3, 2025

A Virtual Event

9 AM – 1 PM

Pre Session is an annual event held on the first Wednesday of December where we bring together our partners to inform us of their legislative priorities for the General Assembly,

We will also hear from Advocacy Chair, Barbara Boardman, about our priorities.

This is our kickoff to the General Assembly session and is always informative!

RSVP: [Pre-Session](#)

Advocacy Training

Learn to Be An Advocate: A Virtual Event

December 8, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

How do you get the most out of a legislative visit? What is the best way to get your talking points expressed in a short period of time? Learn about these and more at our Advocacy Training.

RSVP: [Advocacy Training](#)

Save the Dates!

LWV VIRGINIA VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 6, 2026

LWV US CONVENTION, COLUMBUS, OHIO - JUNE 24- 28, 2026
COLUMBUS, OHIO

Healthcare Privatization Educational Forum

November 13 – 6 to 7 PM

At the LWV US Convention in June 2024, there was a LWV Vermont proposed update for the LWV US Privatization Position. The proposal was for LWV US to oppose the privatization of healthcare. The proposal did not pass.

LWV New York has revised the proposal presented in 2024, to be voted on at the 2026 LWV US Convention and is requesting state and local Leagues to support the following revised position.:

“The League believes that healthcare, like other programs that provide and protect basic human needs, should be considered a public good. The League favors a system where fiduciary responsibility (for such programs) is to patients and the public. Because private for-profit corporations have a fiduciary responsibility to their shareholders rather than to patients or public health, the League believes the for-profit business model for healthcare is inappropriate for the common good or to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable members of society.

In sum, the League opposes further privatization of needed healthcare. Where private entities fail to deliver programs that provide and protect basic human needs, the League supports de-privatizing them”

To learn more about the proposal, please join fellow Virginia League members on Thursday,

November 13 from 6 to 7pm via zoom for a presentation and discussion regarding the proposed concurrence to update the national Privatization position that will be introduced at the 2026 National Convention.

Presenters are Judith Esterguest of LWV-NY and Barbara Pearson, LWV-MA. The Update would add healthcare to its enumeration of "public goods" and "human needs" and makes explicit that, under certain circumstances, the League may advocate for de-privatization. To register, click [here](#)

National Popular Vote Interstate Compact Legislative Forum November 12 7 PM

It is crucial for Virginia to pass the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact legislation in 2026! Virginia is the lynchpin to getting the required number of states to meet the threshold to guarantee that the person elected as President receives the most popular votes!

More [information on NPV is here.](#)

Learn how we can achieve this with Jane Newell, Chair of the NPV Subcommittee at our virtual training meeting, November 12 at 7PM

[RSVP](#)

Get a Jump on Holiday Shopping with the League!



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 site.

LWV US

LWV US Board Nominations Open

The LWVUS Nominating Committee is now accepting applications for the following positions:

LWVUS Board of Directors Read the [position description](#) and [apply here](#)

LWVUS Officers Read the [position description](#) and [apply here](#)

LWVUS Nominating Committee Read the [position description](#) and [apply here](#)

LWVUS Nominating Committee Chair Read the [position description](#) and [apply here](#)

LWVUS Challenges "National Data Banks"

Class Action Lawsuit Challenges Trump-Vance Administration's Unlawful "National Data Banks" That Consolidate Sensitive Personal Information Across Federal Agencies

Washington, DC — The League of Women Voters, League of Women Voters of Virginia, League of Women Voters of Louisiana, and Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC), along with five individual plaintiffs, filed a class action lawsuit today challenging the Trump-Vance administration's unlawful creation of massive government databases consolidating sensitive and legally protected personal information on millions of people in America to unlawfully open investigations and purge voter rolls.

The coalition is represented by Democracy Forward, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), and Fair Elections Center. The lawsuit, filed in the US District Court for the District of Columbia, details how the so-called "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE), the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Social Security Administration (SSA), and other agencies have secretly merged personal data from across the federal government

into centralized “Interagency Databases” in direct violation of the Privacy Act of 1974 and the US Constitution.

The complaint alleges that the administration has unlawfully:

Transformed the DHS’s Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system into a national citizenship database pooling SSA data known to be unreliable, now being used by some states to purge voter rolls and open criminal investigations.

Built a US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) “Data Lake” that combines records from the IRS, SSA, US Department of Health and Human Services, US Department of Labor, and state voter registration databases — containing Social Security numbers, tax information, medical records, biometric data, and children’s case files.

"Virginians have a right to privacy in their data and protection from unlawful investigations and purges," said **Joan Porte, president of the League of Women Voters of Virginia**. "The League is disturbed by this unlawful collection of our data, and we are proud to push back on behalf of our members because every Virginian deserves the assurance that their right to privacy and right to vote will be protected."

"The consolidation and unlawful use of Louisianans' sensitive data without our knowledge is alarming and terrifying," said **M. Christian Green, president of the League of Women Voters of Louisiana**. "The League is proud to join this fight and stand up for Louisianans' right to privacy and right to vote."

“The federal government's secretive and unlawful collection and consolidation of Americans' personal data is a clear example of the

constitutional crisis we are living through," said **Celina Stewart, CEO of the League of Women Voters**. "Our federal government is abusing its power to access American's personal information, and several states are using that private data to harm voters and our individual right to privacy. The League is proud to be heading to court to protect voters, our members, and historically disenfranchised communities from illegal government abuse."

"This country was founded on the principle that government has no business arbitrarily intruding in our private affairs," said **John Davisson, Director of Litigation for the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)**. "Yet this administration is trampling on our privacy at the grandest scale, illegally hoarding our sensitive personal information and threatening our most cherished rights. The law is clear: no national data bank. Together we'll put a stop to this in court."

"News reports have repeatedly identified ways in which this administration is mishandling sensitive information and putting Americans' data privacy at risk. And now, yet again, this administration is playing fast and loose with our personal information – building exactly the kind of 'Big Brother' databases Congress has repeatedly outlawed more than 50 years ago," said **Skye Perryman, President and CEO of Democracy Forward**. "Pooling sensitive personal records from across the government not only violates the law, it threatens Americans' privacy, voting rights, and civil liberties. We're in court to stop it."

"The government's creation of massive, secret databases of Americans' personal information, in violation of the law, poses serious privacy and data-security risks and threatens to disenfranchise eligible voters," said **Noah Bookbinder, President and CEO of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington**. "States are already reportedly using these databases to open

criminal investigations and to purge state voter rolls based on citizenship information that the government itself has admitted is unreliable. This illegal overreach is unacceptable, and we are proud to represent these plaintiffs as they take action to stop it.”

“The administration’s unlawful consolidation of sensitive data poses an unprecedented threat to naturalized voters’ right to participate in our democracy,” said **Jon Sherman, Litigation Director of Fair Elections Center**. “Relying on outdated and incomplete data to assess voters’ citizenship status in the present day is completely illogical. This is precisely why Congress enacted safeguards on the use of such information without public notice and input.”

The administration’s unlawful data consolidation threatens to disenfranchise eligible voters and subject Americans to unwarranted investigations, and creates unprecedented security risks by placing sensitive, personal information in a single target-rich system. The lawsuit asks the court to block the administration’s efforts to operate these systems and to order the deletion of unlawfully collected data.

The case is *League of Women Voters v. US Department of Homeland Security*, and the team at Democracy Forward in this case includes Aman George, Mark Samburg, Hanna Hickman, Sophie Gelber, and Robin Thurston.

[Read Filing Here](#)

Nonpartisan Voting Rights Organizations File Lawsuit in Indiana Challenging Unlawful Citizenship Check Laws

The League of Women Voters of Indiana, Common Cause Indiana, Hoosier Asian American Power, and Exodus Refugee Immigration,

have [filed a lawsuit](#) against the Indiana Secretary of State and the Co-Directors of the Indiana Election Division, challenging several Indiana laws that target only naturalized citizens—not people born as citizens—with unnecessary burdens and potential disenfranchisement. The lawsuit states these laws violate the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The organizations are represented by Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights, Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and Daniel Bowman and William Groth of Bowman Legal Services, LLC.

The lawsuit challenges new Indiana laws that went into effect on July 1, 2025, that use outdated and inaccurate Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) data in a flawed attempt to verify citizenship. Temporary driver’s licenses or identification cards are issued to noncitizens who are lawfully in the United States. These temporary credentials remain valid until they expire, and cost money to update, so many naturalized citizens continue using their temporary credentials for years after they become citizens and register to vote.

Due to the unreliable nature of this BMV data, naturalized citizens who are eligible to vote and still use a valid temporary credential will be required to provide proof of citizenship. This unnecessary requirement is not imposed on individuals born as citizens.

For more about this, click [here](#).

League of Women Voters Seeks to Protect California Voter Data Against Federal Overreach

The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) filed a motion in federal court to intervene in *USA v. Weber*, the US Department of Justice’s case against the California Secretary of State, to protect the data of all California voters and prevent misuse of that data, which could harm California communities.

“Californians have a right to privacy and a right to vote free from intimidation or misuse of their personal information,” said **Helen Hutchison, interim executive director of the League of Women Voters of California**. “This attempt by the federal government to access detailed voter data puts those rights at risk. We are standing up for every Californian to ensure that sensitive voter information stays protected and that our elections remain safe and secure.”

In July, the US DOJ sent a letter to California Secretary of State Shirley Weber requesting the state’s complete and unredacted voter file, including voters’ addresses, dates of birth, driver’s license numbers, and the last four digits of their Social Security numbers. Secretary Weber declined to turn over the unredacted voter files, citing state law that prohibits the sharing of voters’ sensitive data. Instead, Secretary Weber offered a redacted version of the voter file available for inspection at its offices.

“Every Californian who registers to vote does so with the expectation that their personal information will be used only to ensure their right to vote, not to expose them to the risk of abuse by the federal government,” said **Grayce Zelphin, senior attorney with the ACLU of Northern California**. “The DOJ’s lawsuit threatens California voters’ privacy, seeks to stifle democratic participation, and aims to sow distrust of elections in California and nationwide.”

In response, the DOJ filed a lawsuit in September against Secretary Weber, alleging that her failure to turn over the data violates the National Voter Registration Act, the Help America Vote Act, and Section 303 of the Civil Rights Act of 1960. The DOJ has also sued six other states in their attempt to create a national voter roll.

“Participation in a democracy should empower people, not force us to trade safety, privacy, or peace of mind to be heard,” said **Celina Stewart, CEO of the League of Women Voters of the United States**. “We stand firmly with our partners in California and across the country to stop unlawful overreach that threatens the privacy and security of voters. Safeguarding voter data is essential to safeguarding trust in our elections.”

The DOJ has repeatedly attempted to intrude upon states' authority to manage elections by demanding extensive voter information from at least 38 states. The DOJ is attempting to collect states' voter data to support the Trump administration's unlawful creation of massive government databases consolidating sensitive and legally protected personal information on millions of people.

"It is important that California voters can feel secure that their sensitive personal identifying information will be handled carefully and lawfully by the state and will not be weaponized against them by the federal government, particularly in light of the unprecedented scope and dubious justification for the federal government's demands in this case," said **Theresa J. Lee, senior staff attorney with the ACLU Voting Rights Project.**

The League of Women Voters of California is represented by the ACLU and the ACLU Foundations of Northern California and Southern California.

[Read the motion here.](#)

LWV-VA NEWS

On October 18, Leaguers all over the state turned out to defend Democracy, voting rights, due process, and the rule of law. Here are just a few of the many wonderful photos we received.











November 2025 Calendar

Native American Awareness Month

Trans Awareness Month

Nov 1 – Early In Person Voting Still Open - Check Vote411.org for your early voting site

Nov 3 – Election Heroes Day

Nov 4 – Election Day – Polls Open 6A– 7P – Check Vote411.org for your polling location. If you get in line before 7P – STAY in line.

Nov 10 – HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US – LWV Virginia is 105 years old (and still kicking)

Nov 11 – Veterans Day

Nov 13- 19 – Trans Awareness Week

Nov 16 – International Day of Tolerance

Nov 20 – Transgender Day of Remembrance

Nov 25 – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Nov 27- Thanksgiving

[unsubscribe](#)
