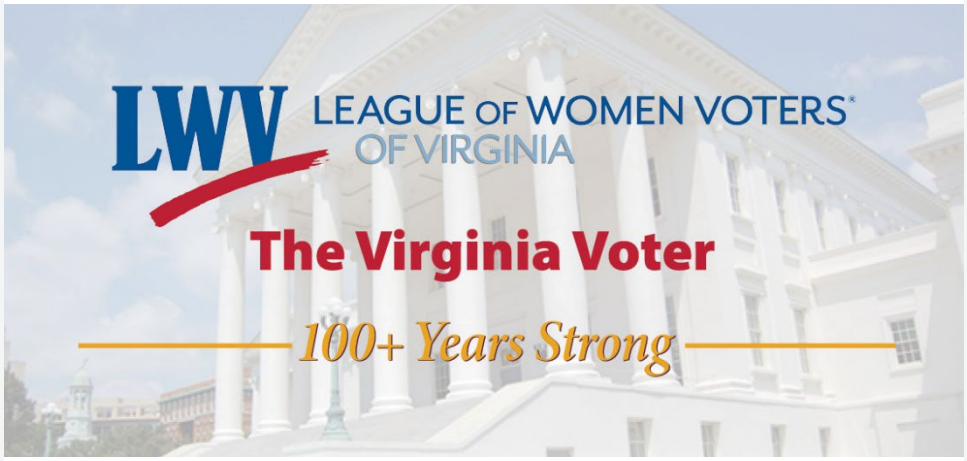


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President's Message

It is that time of year again, the leaves are turning, the weather gets cooler and the League is again being attacked for being partisan. Frankly, that is a year-round thing these days. We had one person who sent me letters at least twice a month telling me she is taking umbrage at something or other we did. She stopped when I suggested she get a thesaurus because she was beating that word to death. But I digress.

Is the League nonpartisan? YES. We do not endorse or oppose any candidate or political party. That has been the case since we were founded in 1920. (The League of Women Voters of Virginia will be 106 years old on November 10. The US League was founded eight

months before on Feb 14.) There is nothing on the horizon indicating that we will ever change that stance.

We sued the Youngkin administration for purging voters, and we threatened to sue the Spanberger administration when we felt they were dragging their feet on implementing the King vs. O'Bannon judgement. (We reached a settlement on this which resulted in the Dept. of Elections sending almost 200,000 letters to newly enfranchised returning citizens.)

However, nonpartisan does not mean silent. We came out of the woman's suffrage movement. If those women were quiet, if they did not advocate, risk torture, jail and death to fight for the women's vote, we wouldn't be here and the world would be a very different place! Our founder, Carrie Chapman Catt, gave us three directives, to register eligible voters, inform them of the ballot and advocate for issues important to our members. That is what we continue to do.

The League believes in the creation of a multicultural, multiracial Democracy in which all eligible voters have free and fair access to the polls. We also want to address climate change, provide healthcare for all and believe women should have dominion over their bodies, to name just a few issues. If that doesn't appeal to someone then they are not required to join us.

Wanting all eligible Americans to have free and fair access to the polls has never before been considered a "partisan" issue --- it has always been and should return to being an American issue.

The one thing I guarantee that we will never do is apologize for fighting for the country we want to see and fighting for all eligible

citizens to be able to vote without fear, confusion and with fairness regardless of who they are.

I hope you and yours have a peaceful Thanksgiving. I am thankful for all you do.

To all of our members who are veterans, we salute you this Veteran's Day and thank you for your sacrifices.

Joan

Youth Council and DEI Committee Food Drive on for the Holiday Season

Our Youth Council and DEI Committee are teaming up again to provide food to the five major food banks feeding Virginians for the holiday season.

Money will be distributed to the Capitol Area Food Bank, the Food Bank for SE Virginia, Feeding South West Virginia and the Blue Ridge Foodbank and Feed More which services the Richmond Area.

Let's beat the $6000 raised last time! Thanks

Donate here or with this QR Code.



Calling All Grant Writers!

Are you a grant writer? Do you have experience getting grants for nonprofits? We would like to hear from you please because we want to teach this skill to other members. Please contact Joan for more information. Thank you!

A Victory in the Battle to Do Voter Registration at USCIS Ceremonies

In a huge win for the Campaign Legal Center and the League of Women Voters, a Federal Judge permanently barred the

Administration from preventing third party registrations at USCIS Naturalization ceremonies.

Find out more here.

Are States and Localities Required to Cooperate with ICE?

ICE Network Issue Group

Polls show a majority of Americans disapprove of how U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is doing its job.

In many places, residents are against their state and local officials cooperating with immigration authorities. And many local law enforcement leaders argue that cooperating with federal immigration enforcement operations undermines public safety by taking resources away from local priorities and eroding communities' trust in law enforcement.

Trump administrative officials have repeatedly argued that states and localities are legally obligated to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement efforts. They have also warned that state and local laws limiting cooperation with ICE will be met with harsh crackdowns.

By and large states and localities have the authority to decide whether and how their officials cooperate with federal immigration enforcement.

The legal questions around these decisions are explored in a Brennan Center Study, "Local Cooperation. Are States and Localities Required to Cooperate with ICE?" If you would like a copy of the full report, please contact Judy Helein.

What Can You Do to Help Immigrant Communities: A Practical Guide

Our ICE Issue Group is going strong focused on legislation that will help the immigrant community. However, several members have asked how can we directly help these people. That is why we have created This list - which is a work in progress and not comprehensive. If you have additions please let us know. This list can be a growing resource. An easy thing to do is share this with immigrant families.

In Memoriam - Diane Walker



Diane Walker, Co-President LWV Northern Shenandoah Valley– Aug. 20, 1956-Oct. 1, 2026

It is with great sadness that we share the heartbreaking news that co-founder and co-president of the LWV of Northern Shenandoah Valley, Diane Walker, passed away peacefully on Oct. 1. Diane and co-president Pat Wirth had never met but both sent inquiries to the State League about forming a league there. Fortunately, they hit it off and the league was born and has grown tremendously. Diane

suggested the name – Northern Shenandoah Valley – especially when we learned that they were going to have a large service area, stretching from Frederick County to Rockingham County and Harrisonburg.

Shortly thereafter she learned of her illness, but it never slowed her down. Attendees to the LWV 2025 convention will remember her front and center at our flag waving ceremony.

Diane was a well-known, highly respected nurse practitioner in the Winchester area for more than two decades. Her passion was caring for humanity through nursing.

She was a community-minded activist on many issues and got personally involved in fighting data center developers who wished to expand their presence in the Valley. She advocated for the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact as a way to bypass the Electoral College, which passed in Virginia, and she was concerned about both mis- and disinformation emanating from all types of media.

Diane learned to cherish democracy when working to increase patient access to care through her work in making legislative changes for nurse practitioners. She created a scholarship for nurse practitioners pursuing doctoral degrees under the auspices of the Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners during her time as President of that organization.

Diane loved nature and found joy in bicycle trips to many countries, sailing, kayaking and hiking. She loved dancing – especially the waltzes in between sets of contradances. The joy of dancing to Irish jigs and reels inspired her to learn to play a few tunes on the fiddle. In fact, on my first visit to her home, her fiddle was resting against the dining room wall waiting for her next lesson. Her final trip abroad was earlier *this* year to Ireland. Yes, she lived life to the fullest.

Diane was at peace knowing that she did the best she could with whatever wisdom she was able to embrace. She will be sorely, sorely missed by each of us.

Condolences can be sent to her beloved son, March Walker, 411 W Cecil St. Winchester, VA 22601-3705.

Legislative Priorities for 2027

Looking Ahead to the 2027 General Assembly Session, the Board has approved these legislative priorities as presented by the Issue Groups.

To join or learn more about issue groups click here,

Get Ready for the Holiday Season: Support the League

What better way to support the League than by giving holiday gifts with our branding?

Here are links to the LWV VA store and a few of our local leagues. Support the League!

Virginia

Arlington and Alexandria City

Fairfax Area

Falls Church

Make Sure Everyone Knows About the Election Protection Hotline

While voting in the midterms, voters should call the non-partisan Election Protection Hotline--866-Our-Vote- if they experience or witness voter intimidation of any kind. This includes the presence of federal or local law enforcement, aggressive electioneering, and discriminatory or hateful behavior. If someone is told they can't vote but they know they registered, (first they should demand a provisional ballot) and then call the hotline.

They should also call if they have any questions about voting.

The Election Protection Hotline is administered by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and, alongside the suite of in-language Election Protection Hotlines offering assistance in Spanish, Asian languages, and Arabic, is staffed by trained nonpartisan volunteers. For any voting questions or problems, call 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) to defend your right to vote.

This is also a great card if someone has a question about voting. Take a picture of it so you have it on your phone in case you need it.

Let's do this!



Oppose Unconstitutional Census Rule Change

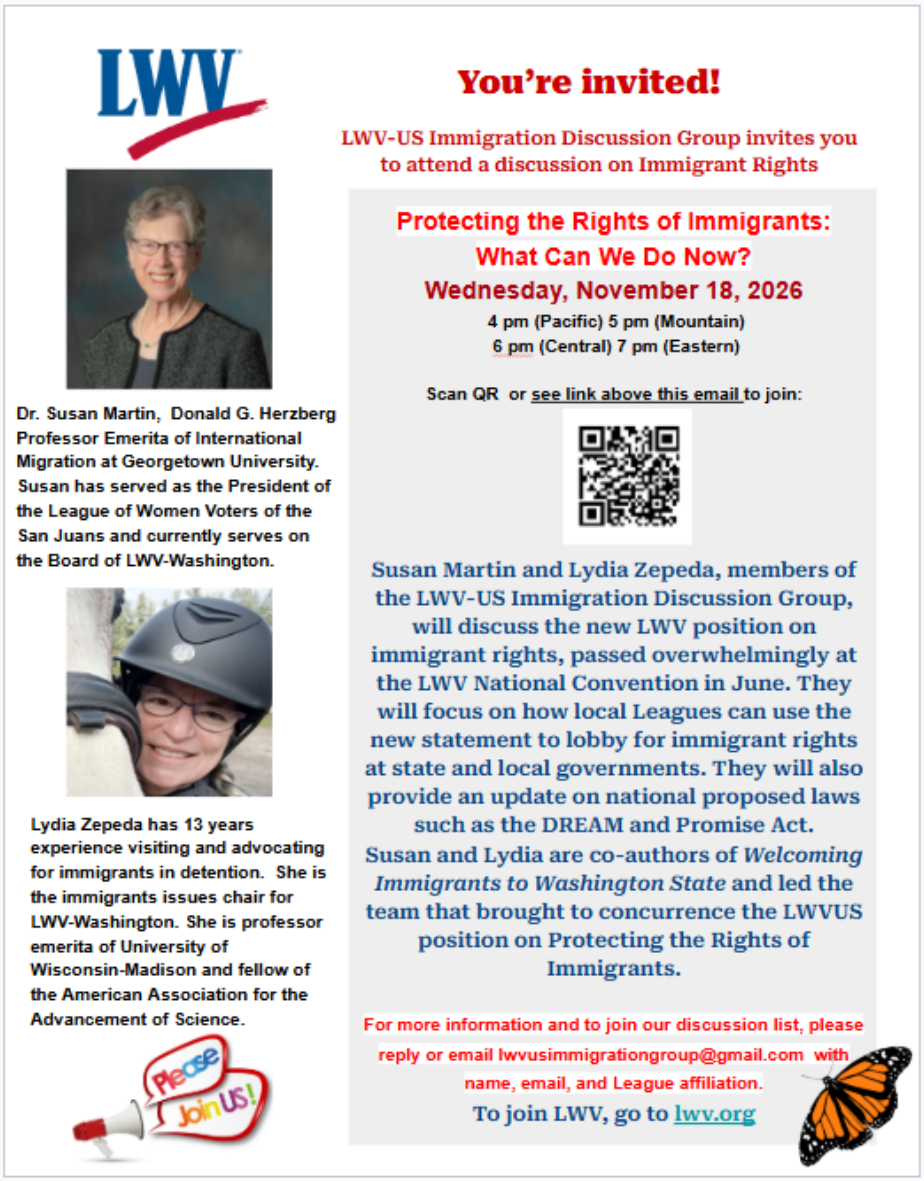
In September, the Census Bureau announced sweeping changes to the rules. Under these changes, the census would only count U.S. citizens and those who hold Green Cards. Public comment is open

until **November 2**. Use the materials found here to send in your comments.

EVENTS

LWV US Immigrant Rights Event

Link to Join



2026 disAbility Rights and Resources Virtual Summit

The disAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV) is excited to announce our virtual disAbility Rights and Resources Summit on November 19, 2026, from 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm. This free, statewide event is open to the public who want to learn more about the available resources and

services that dLCV and our partnering organizations offer to members of the disability community.

November 19, 2026, 12 noon to 5:00 pm

Find out more here.

Pre-Session December 2, 2026, 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM.

It is time for Pre Session. This is where we learn about not only the legislative priorities of the League but those of our partners. It is a virtual event and is recorded.

This is the kickoff event to the 2027 General Assembly which begins on January 13, 2027.

As soon as Pre-session ends we will have a preview of League Day which is Jan 27. This will be a primer especially for new people on what the purpose is and some of the mechanics.

It will be the same zoom link as Pre-Session.

Sign up here.

First Call for League Day, January 27, 2027

League Day, our day of advocacy in Richmond, will be held on Jan 27 with a reception the night before, January 26.

League Day will be held at the Richmond Hilton Downtown which is only four blocks from the General Assembly Building.

As it was last year, League Day is free and we encourage members to come out in force.

The reception will be 6 - 8PM on the 26th and League Day will start at 8:30 AM on the 27th.

RSVP for League Day.

You can book a room at the Hilton. The rate is $180 excluding taxes. Rooms must be booked by Jan. 6.

Book your room at the Hilton using this LINK.

2027 General Assembly Calendar

2026 Dates

July 20, 2026, Start of Prefiling, when General Assembly Members can file their bills.

Nov. 16, 2026, Last day for committees to act on legislation continued from the 2026 Regular Session - by midnight.

Nov. 30, 2026, Any legislator or agency looking to pre-file a bill or joint resolution must have their draft request submitted to the Division of Legislative Services (DLS) by 5:00 p.m.

Dec. 31, 2026, All DLS drafts of pre-filed legislation available for review by midnight.

2027 Dates

Jan. 6, 2027, All requests for drafts, redrafts, and corrections of legislation creating or continuing a study to DLS by 5:00 p.m.; All requests for redrafts and corrections for legislation to be pre-filed to DLS by 5:00 p.m.

Jan.12, 2027, All drafts of legislation to be pre-filed available by noon.

Jan.13, 2027, Pre-filing ends at 10 a.m.

January 13, 2027.The General Assembly begins a “short session.” A short session occurs in odd numbered years and is normally 30 – 45 days.

Feb 16, 2027 (Proposed), Crossover date – when bills passed in one house must “crossover” and be passed by the other. The actual date will be set by the General Assembly in a resolution on January 13.

Feb. 27, 2027 (Proposed), 2027 Session ends. The actual date will be set by the General Assembly in a resolution on January 13.

Apr. 7, 2027 (Proposed), On the 6th Wednesday after the close of the session the Reconvene Session begins. The session is to consider bills and items in the appropriation bills that the Governor has returned with recommendations. The session can last three days or up to seven days if approved by the General Assembly.

There might be a budget session to review amendments to the biennial budget adopted in 2026.

Women’s Legislative Roundtables (WLRTs) and League Day Schedule

WLRTs are virtual. League Day is in person only in Richmond,

Jan 13 Voting and Elections

Jan 20 ICE

Jan 27 League Day Theme: Defending Democracy

Feb 3 Reproductive Rights and Housing

Feb 10 Health and Gun Violence

Feb 17 Education and Environment

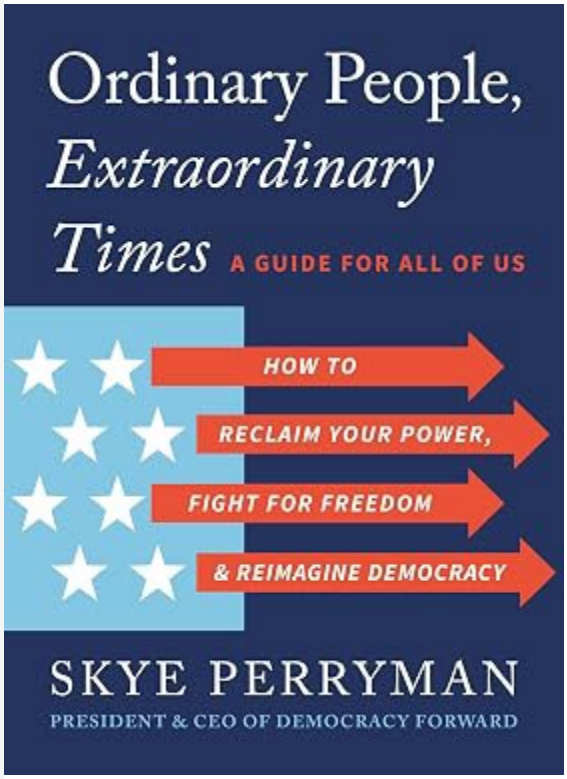
Feb 24 Wrap Up

LWV US NEWS

Voting Rights Groups Say Texas Failed to Process Voter Registrations - Shout Out to LWV Texas

Read the article here

New Resource for Activists



The League of Women Voters of US is excited for the release of Skye Perryman's new book, Ordinary People, Extraordinary Times. This is a manual for everyone on how we can move forward from this political movement and should be on everyone's reading list!

Order your copy here or at your favorite bookstore.

LWV VA NEWS

LWV Virginia a Part of Department of Elections Advisory Council

LWV VA President, Joan Porte, has been asked to sit on an Advisory Council to the Department of Elections (ELECT). This group consisting of other voting rights champions will meet periodically with Commissioner of Elections, Steven Koski, and staff to discuss issues they have seen and get updates on changes at ELECT. The first meeting was October 14.

LWV Virginia at the Virginia Library Association Convention



From left Meghan Edwards, copresident Josie Bergstrom and Starr Pierre, members of the LWV South Hampton Roads, whose hard work enabled the League to attend this convention.

LWV VA and Partners Send Letter to Virginia Correctional Facilities

LWV Virginia along with partners, ACLU Virginia, Virginia Civic Engagement Table, Nolef Turns sent a letter penned by the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law that was sent to Virginia incarceration facilities to remind them of changes in the law.

Read it here.

LOCAL LEAGUES

Rights We Didn't Have When We Were Young

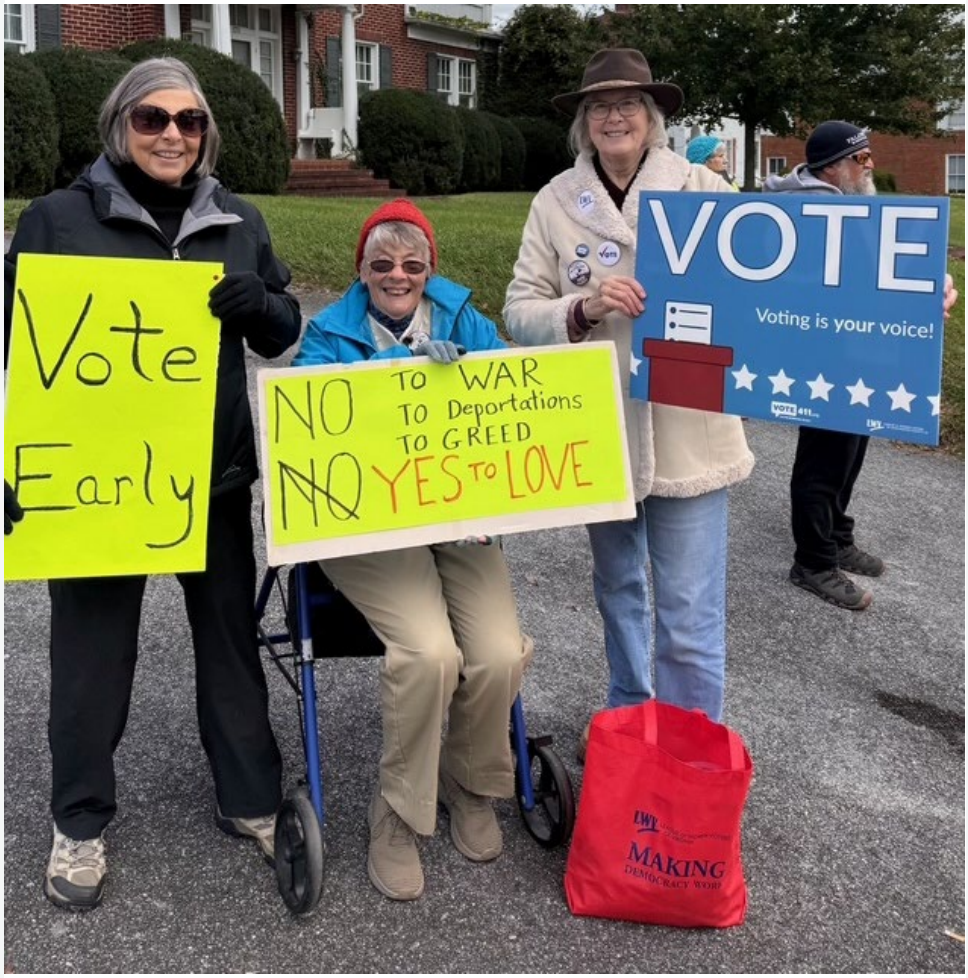
The LWV South Hampton Roads created a YouTube channel and video shorts to tell the stories of rights older members didn't have when they were young. The idea is that these stories might encourage young women to vote - to protect the rights they currently have, including job opportunities, access to credit, the right to sit wherever you like on a bus, etc. You can view them here.

LWV South Hampton Roads at No Kings

Merrie Jo Milner - with a very important message. A good book to start is "The U.S Constitution: A Comprehensive and Annotated Guide for the Modern Reader" by Melissa Murray.



Washington County No Kings



Oct 17, Abingdon No Kings Rally. From right, Dede Goldsmith, Linda Mashburn, Jane Hill

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Roanoke LWV at No Kings



Kathy Friedrich (left) and Shirley Everett of LWV Greater Roanoke Valley registering voters at the Vinton Fall Festival.

Roanoke Voter Registration



LWV Greater Roanoke Valley unit leader, Sandra Burke, at their first registration at the Villages at Lincoln public housing.

Campus Vote Project in Richmond



Our good friend Robert Lester of Virginia Interfaith for Public Policy with Anna Mason, Voter Services Chair of LWV Richmond Metro at Campus Vote Project Meeting.

Batesville Apple Butter Day + GOTV Sunday

LWV Charlottesville President Lisa Hilgartner, left and (NEW MEMBER!) Bernice Marcopulos registering voters at the Batesville Apple Butter Day. Yum!



Bingo Night!

The Arlington and Alexandria City League hosted a Bingo night at a local pub, with fun information about the three constitutional amendments on the Virginia Ballot. Nile Blass from LWVUS, which provided funding, read trivia facts between rounds, while Lynn Wilhoit and Jackie Rivas looked on.



Election Protection Superhero

Chris DeRosa, left, working Election Protection in Arlington with a member of the clergy from Church of the Covenant.



Fairfax League - Party at the Polls!

The Fairfax League organized a "party at the polls," with students from George Mason University. They hired a bus to transport students to the Fairfax County Government Center for early voting.

Thanks to the Virginia Civic Engagement Table for helping with some of the funding.





LWV Staunton, Augusta County and Waynesboro at Staunton Pride

From left, Brady Jackson, Meshawn Macklin and unit leader,Evette Barton



November 2026 Calendar

National Native American Heritage Month

Nov 3 - ELECTION DAY: Polls are open 6A - 7P

Nov 10 – LWV of Virginia Birthday – 106 years old

Nov 11 – Veteran's Day THANK YOU TO ALL LEAGUE MEMBERS WHO ARE ALSO VETERAN'S

Nov 16- International Day of Tolerance

Nov 25 – National Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women Day

Nov 26 - Thanksgiving

unsubscribe ."