



February 2024 "eVoter"

More Voices More Choices

Community Dialogue on Ranked Choice Voting

Sunday, February 18, 2024 from 2-4pm

Central Library, Swanson Room

201 E. Market Street, Charlottesville

The nonpartisan group, OneVirginia2021, that led to the reformation of Virginia's redistricting laws, has become UpVoteVirginia. The new group focuses on voter participation and advocating for a more independent redistricting commission and other voting issues. Currently, the main topic is ranked choice voting.

The concept behind ranked choice voting allows voters to rank which candidates they like best instead of casting a ballot for a single person. It is believed that this is a way to reduce negative campaigning and incentivize candidates to appeal to a broad cross-section of voters instead of the most fervent partisans. It also encourages "non-traditional candidates" to run for office.

Ranked choice voting is already on the books for local elections in Virginia, but has only been implemented in Arlington County so far (successfully!). Delegate Sally Hudson has sponsored ranked choice voting legislation and has also formed a group to promote it, Ranked Choice Virginia. The Republican Party of Virginia implemented ranked choice voting under its own rules for the party's 2021 convention. Former governor George Allen touted the GOP's successful use of ranked choice voting. "It brought unity," Allen said of the GOP's nominating method. "There was respect for the process." Last year, Virginia's State Board of Elections approved regulations laying out the finer details including ballot layouts, counting procedures and educational materials.

Our speaker for the Community Dialog will be Liz White, a founding member of OneVirginia2021, and now Executive Director of UpVoteVirginia. Liz works to make it easier for Virginians to vote, promotes government transparency and ethics, and advocates for a more independent redistricting commission. Her passion is ranked choice voting. She is highly informed on the subject and very enthusiastic! She holds a BA from the College of William and Mary and her background is in the arts. She lives in Chesterfield with her husband and two children.

For more information or questions contact [Susan Roberts at susanrofva@aol.com](mailto:susanrofva@aol.com)

Women's Legislative Round Table (WLRT) Feb. 7th League Day Lobbying

League of Women Voters of Virginia's League Day
February 7th ,2024
Omni Richmond Hotel

IN PERSON ONLY. 9-10:30 From **10:45** on our members can visit members of the GA and/or their staff.
For more information go to www.lwv-va.org/events

105th Birthday of the League of Women Voters and
League of Women Voters of Virginia
February 14,1920- February 14, 2024

How will you celebrate this day?



Committee News

IR/FG News by Gerry Kruger

On January 24 the International Relations/Federal Government Committee met at Northside Library for Anita Pilling's presentation on antisemitism. Attending were Anita, Carol Cutler, Kathy Sudduth, Rosalie Simari, Rice Wagner, Bobbie Williams, Kevin Yates, Susan Roberts, Lois Sandy, Gerry Kruger, Jean Minehart, and Bobbie Sweeney, who is interested in joining

our League.

Before the program began, Carol Cutler said she would like our League to adopt a position that we can support. She plans to present it at our Program Planning meeting in February.

Anita told the story of the persecution that Jews have suffered throughout history in graphic detail. Their ill treatment goes back to the Middle Ages in Europe with “Christ-killer” accusations. As a result, Crusaders killed Jews as they left for the Holy Land.

In the 18th century, Moises Mendelssohn, a Jewish German, did much to help the Jewish cause. He developed new ideas and values specifically for Jews:

1. The end of ghettos and assimilation
 2. A secular state neutral to all religions
 3. Debate on the place of Jews in society based on nationalism, not theology
 4. Hebrew as an appealing language of literature, history, and philosophy
- As a result, Jews began acquiring citizenship in Western Europe.

Still, stereotypes remained. An example of this was the Dreyfus Affair (1894 to 1906). Dreyfus, a French artillery officer of Jewish descent was convicted of treason for giving military secrets to the German embassy in Paris and sentenced to life imprisonment. An investigation revealed that another man was guilty. This led to an intense judicial and political scandal, which divided French society, and the government re-opened the case. In 1899, a second Dreyfus trial resulted in a 10-year sentence in a penal colony under harsh conditions. Dreyfus was finally pardoned and released in 1906 and served in World War I.

In the late 19th century openly antisemitic parties arose in Germany and Austria. They said Jews could not be assimilated since they were a different race, polluting white European purity. Eugenics was used as justification for antisemitism as well as anti-Black racism. Now we have white nationalists spreading the false notion that there is a global effort to replace white European people with non-white foreign populations. Antisemitism serves as a connective tissue between hate groups that are otherwise unconnected.

In January 2024, a bi-partisan bill that encourages schools to teach digital literacy and history related to the Holocaust, World War II, and antisemitism was introduced in the House of Representatives. We need to teach students this history in age-appropriate ways and also teach how to identify and reject misinformation.

Finally, anti-Zionism isn't the same as antisemitism. Anti-Zionism was a creation of Jews, and not their enemies. Many Jews believed they were a religious community, not a nation. Jewish Americans, not American Jews.

The committee thanks Anita Pilling for yet another engaging report.

The next IR/FG meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 28 from 1 to 3 PM. Join us for enlightening information and discussion.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 28th - 1 to 3pm at Northside Library. For more information about the IR/FG committee, contact Rice Wagner, email: ricew123@icloud.com.

Health Care Task Force Update

The Health Care Task Force is busy tracking bills filed in the State House and Senate related to health care access and equity. As bills progress through the process, we will be advocating as applicable. In addition, the task force has been reviewing the LWV Vermont proposal to oppose further privatization of health care services. If you are interested in joining us, please let us know (slowenhaupt@gmail.com).

Welcome New Members

LWV-CVA welcomes:

Santosh Benton

1124 Meriwether Street, Charlottesville, VA 22902 ,
Toshpenny@gmail.com, 434-409-4794

and

Mary Larkin Buchanan, Eleanor Buchanan, Kate Voelmie, Taylor Florin, Emily See, Sadie Bruton, Tori Huynn, Thatcher Healey, and Jonas Thompson : student members of the League of Women Voters Club at Western Albemarle High school.

LWV CVA Calendar of Events for February 2024

Mark your Calendars!

League of Women Voters of Virginia League Day -

Wednesday, February 7th - 9AM to 10:30 AM

February 14th- 105th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters

LWV CVA February Community Dialogue : Ranked Choice Voting -
Central Library , Swanson Room , East Market Street Charlottesville

Contact Susan Roberts susanrofva@aol.com for more information

LWV CVA Board of Directors Meeting - February 21st from 3 to 5 at CNE. [Link will be sent out by mid February](#) contact Meg Heubeck for more information - email: mfh2n@virginia.edu

Natural Resources Committee Meeting for February
Contact Linda Goodling linniecg740@gmail.com

Health Care Committee Meeting for February

International Relations/Federal Govt. - Meeting - Northside Library on Wednesday February 28th , 1 to 3pm

Questions: contact Rice Wagner 386-527-5392 at rice123@icloud.com

League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area
President: Meg Heubeck
eVoter Editors: Lisa Hilgartner
Visit our website: lwv-cva.org



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We are committed to applying the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of our operations and activities. We support governmental policies that apply these principles in addressing the social, environmental and economic problems in our communities.

League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area | PO Box 2786, Charlottesville, VA 22902

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