



February 2025 "eVoter"

Annual Program Planning Meeting

February 15th from 11am - 2pm at The Center at Belvedere

Come Join Us! And Help Us Celebrate LWV 105th Birthday!

February 14th is considered the birthday for the League of Women Voters. It started in 1920 and has been going strong ever since. This year our league birthday coincides with one of each Local League's main sessions Program Planning.

At this meeting we will review the current state program for any suggestions or changes our local league might have that could be presented at state convention. They can be found in your handbook on pages 18-23. If you have a suggestion for changes or additions/deletions to any position or action, please bring your ideas to this session. It is the only event where this can be done all year. If you have an idea for a new study, this is the place to bring it to our attention.

Members will be asked to comment LWVMD study on Initiatives and Referendums to get on their General Elections ballot without going through a lengthy process in the MD General Assembly. Our ask is to look it over at Program Planning and decide if LWVVA should do a study like this to get initiatives and referendums on our General Ballot. A copy of this will be sent out soon in advance of our Program Planning meeting.

Impact on Issues 2024-2026 , LWVUS Positions and Actions book, has been published. The cheapest place we found it was on Amazon and we have been told by national to go ahead and order through them. The cost is \$6.99. **As a thank you for attending Program Planning LWV-CVA has 23 books available and one is free to each member who comes to the Program Planning Session.**

Kick Off for Our Fund Drive

Rescheduled Date

Sunday, February 2nd from 1-3

Our Annual Fund Drive Letter has been sent out to each member to ask to please help us continue our efforts to inform, educate and advocate for folks in our area by giving us the extra funds we need to accomplish this mission. Giving to the League is a great way to show your support for the positions on issues that make life for all Virginias better. Please give what you can.

We'd love to see you at the Kick Off. If you haven't made your contribution yet, bring your check!

Women's Legislative Round Tables

Continued in February

WLRT is continuing hybrid and in person each week in February.

February 5: Childcare

February 12: Environment and Housing

February 19: A wrap up of the session and the last WLRT

[Get Tickets Here!](#)

[Virginia's Legislative Information System \(LIS\)](#) is an important site for tracking legislative bills in the General Assembly. Mark it as a favorite to keep abreast of what's going on in Richmond.

February is Black History Month!

This month we honor African Americans rich history, achievements, and contributions while reaffirming our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

There are many historical milestones and events and one way we show our commitment to Diversity and Inclusion is education.

Throughout February, we will highlight significant events and figures in Black history that have shaped our nation and continue to inspire us on our Instagram and Facebook.

Historical Milestone: February 1, 1965

On February 1, 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led over 250 activists to the Dallas County Courthouse in Selma, Alabama, to register to vote. All were arrested during the peaceful demonstration and charged with parading without a permit. This event highlighted the systemic barriers to voting rights for African Americans and galvanized further action in the Civil Rights Movement. You can read more about this event on

Become informed about the African Americans who have made a difference in the US and Virginia.

Make a point to support African American organizations and businesses.

Save The Date!

March 15,2025

Consensus Meeting on Study by LWVUS on Ethics in the Federal Judicial System.

March 15 from 1-4 pm at Northside Library from 1-4 . is the review of the national study on the federal judiciary which we are supposed to receive in early February. When we do it will be sent to you. This is being led by Anita, head of the IR committee and plans are well underway for this meeting.

Help Wanted

Our Nominating Committee Needs to Hear from You!

Nominations for positions for our LWV-CVA Board are now being taken. Seats open for election are; Vice President and Treasurer.

If you are interested in any of these positions or wish to nominate someone who you know will make an excellent candidate who is agreeable to taking on the task, please contact Sue Lewis, at swlcville@gmail.com.

Openings Available at State Level

Electoral College Task Force in Full Swing

LWV Virginia has started our Electoral College Task Force to coordinate with LWVUS's One Person One Vote Campaign. This is our long term plan to abolish the Electoral College.

Learn more about One Person One Vote [here](#)

The Committee will be working on education of and advocacy for the National Popular Vote Compact and Constitutional Amendment to abolish the Electoral College. It will be working with local leagues and our partners.

The next meeting is April 28 at 11:00 AM

Register Here!

Learn more about other issue groups and sign up [here!](#)

DEI-LWV-VA Committee is up and running and is looking for more members! If you are passionate about keeping DEI as the lens through which our leagues operate, then this is for you!

Please contact our state DEI chair, Evette Barton, at evettebarton209@gmail.com to get on board. It will be a rewarding experience.

January Events in Richmond



Gun Violence Prevention Committee

Members led by Meg Heubeck went to Richmond on MLK Day, January 20th, a bitterly cold day, to rally near the Capitol and to visit members of the staff of local representatives in the General Assembly to raise awareness and concern for gun safety laws that save lives.



League Day at the General Assembly

January 22, 2024

Each year the LWV in Virginia is recognized in a session of the General Assembly as a 'Thank You' to the League for our work for the betterment of all Virginians. Kim and Sam Harris, Meg Heubeck, Stephanie Lowenhaupt, Gwedette Crummie, and Lisa Hilgartner attended League Day January 22.

Committee News

Voter Services by Kim Harris

Voter Services is partnering with Ranked Choice Virginia to help educate Charlottesville voters on the new ranked choice voting ballots they'll be seeing in this year's primaries. The goal is to host 3 events before early voting starts in May; 2 in person and 1 via zoom. Details on specific dates and locations will be coming soon - stay tuned!

Gun Violence Prevention by Meg Heubeck

The committee participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Rally for Gun Violence Prevention on Monday, January 20. It was a brisk afternoon but the sun was shining and we were able to reach legislators quite easily as the event was not as heavily attended as in the past. We focused on meeting Republican representatives to explain our positions on Gun Legislation.

Gwedette Crummie and Meg Heubeck met with Jarrett Harlow of Delegate Eileen Cambell's office to discuss legislation as a part of the League's Advocacy Day. Bills we have been following are conveniently found at <https://www.vcdl-lis.org>. They are listed by importance and include an update on committee results. It is highly recommended that members look at those bills and contact their General Assembly representatives.

Our next meeting will be on February 18th at 1pm via Zoom. We are trying a new time and day to attract more participation. Please join us to discuss the actions of the General Assembly, the national debate on gun responsibility, and strategies for preventing gun violence. If you prefer an in-person meeting, come to 2400 Old Ivy Rd!

[Zoom link for 2/18 GVPC LWVA Monthly Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 929 6392 8340
228540

Natural Resources by Peggy Gilges

The Natural Resources Committee is following Albemarle County's work on several pending decisions that will have significant long-term impacts on our environment and quality of life.

Work on AC44, the updated Comprehensive Plan that will guide county policies until 2044, continues. The Board of Supervisors (BOS) recently held a work session on the Draft Environmental Stewardship Chapter and is now turning their attention to the Parks and Recreation Draft Chapter.

The County's Planning Commission has reviewed a proposed Solar Ordinance, which would streamline and set requirements for the development of both ground-mounted and rooftop and parking lot solar facilities in Albemarle. The proposal, prepared by staff

with support from a consultant, has a requirement making the development of solar panel installations of up to 21 acres of panels in the Rural Area (RA) by-right. A site of 21 acres of panels could be a site of about 40 acres in total, due to the building of necessary internal roads, buffers, and transmission infrastructure potentially doubling the area of land required. The Planning Commission (PC) disagreed with that requirement. Currently any solar installation in the RA that is larger than an accessory size of one-half acre of panels must receive a special use permit, meaning that it is reviewed by the PC and BOS, with both holding a public hearing. The PC felt strongly that because we do not yet have a Rural Area Plan (called for in the AC44 Rural Land Use Chapter), we cannot allow solar facilities to be built just anywhere in the RA. The PC feels that any solar installation in the RA larger than one-half acre of panels should, for now, be reviewed on a case-by-case basis via a special use permit. Another concern of the PC was that the proposed ordinance did not require decommissioning plans to be submitted for by-right solar facilities. Commission members rightly were concerned that any solar facility that was inoperable or not maintained could be left as unsightly and polluting industrial debris across the Rural Area if the ordinance was not revised.

Last but not least, on January 22nd the BOS passed a resolution directing staff to develop an initial ordinance to address data centers. Proposed data centers would need a special use permit. A more developed ordinance would follow that could put in place performance standards to mitigate emissions, water use, and other negative impacts. Stay tuned!

Due to Program Planning and the Kick Off for the LWV Fund Drive at Eastwood Winery in February, the Community Dialogue by Natural Resources Committee has been postponed.

The next meeting of the Natural Resources Committee will take place on Monday, Feb. 24, 4-5pm at the offices of the Piedmont Environmental Council, 410 East Water Street.

Healthcare Task Force by Stephanie Lowenhaupt

Stephanie and Mimi Bender are tracking health care bills related to access and equity. We are following Medicaid funding proposals in the next budget cycle that include increased funding for children who qualify for Medicaid, Emergency Medicaid coverage for immigrants and cancer care. In addition, we are following a bill that would create a Prescription Affordability Board. On the federal level we are following closely any potential cuts to Medicaid funding that would trickle down and impact state coverage.

We can advocate individually to our Congressional Representatives about the importance of maintaining funding at the federal level.

DEI by Evette Barton

My name is Evette Barton, and I am the DEI Director. I am seeking members to join the DEI Committee for the State League. This role involves participating in discussions and helping to develop and implement the DEI lens as defined by LWVUS. If you are interested in being a committee member, please contact me at evettebarton209@gmail.com.

The Black History Month information above is an example of the work we will be doing.

International Relations and Foreign Government News by Gerry Kruger

On January 15, Anita Pilling, Kevin Yates, Lois Sandy, Kathy Sudduth, Carol Cutler, Rice Wagner, and Lisa Hilgartner met at Linden House courtesy of Lois Sandy. Fred Boli and Nick Hundley attended as guests and added much to our discussion.

The discussion focused on using state courts over federal courts when litigating civil rights, voting rights, and criminal justice issues. We learned how some state Supreme Courts are ruling on these issues and saw the need to learn more about our Virginia Supreme Court. Since most southern state constitutions contained civil rights violations in the past, we may have become conditioned to looking to federal courts to redress grievances. 49 states now have stronger protections for voting rights than the US Constitution.

In Virginia, amending our state constitution is more complicated than the procedures followed by most states, which have a simple referendum. In our state an amendment must go through two assembly sessions before it is submitted to the voters. This takes at least two years, usually a bit longer.

State courts, because of their smaller jurisdictions, can craft remedies that reflect the states' unique values and history. They view themselves as problem solvers. They address contemporary concerns such as climate change.

Nevertheless, there are barriers to litigation in state courts. Voters have been removed from state rolls. Some states are electing partisan Supreme Courts. Extreme sentences, such as life without parole and death sentences, are being served. Some judges who have ruled in favor of rights have been threatened and attacked politically with impeachment. Tactics such as voter suppression and gerrymandering have undermined popular will.

The Supreme Court has issued rulings that supported voter suppression and gerrymandering. State constitutions offer a counterweight to these trends.

For February we will be at Program Planning on February 15th from 11am-2pm at The Center.

Our next meeting will be a Consensus Meeting conducted by our IR/FG leaders on the LWVUS Federal Judiciary study. It will be held on March 15th at Northside Library from 1-4pm and focus on judiciary accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics. Another issue that the National League has studied is getting rid of the Electoral College and using the national popular vote to determine election winners. We hope to have a good turnout at Northside Library for this important meeting.

Update Your LWV-CVA Handbook

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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LWV CVA Calendar of Events

February 2025

Mark your Calendars

February 11th 6pm, Voter Services meeting, via Zoom
Contact kwharris555@gmail.com to join

February 15th 11am-2pm, Program Planning, The Center at Belvedere

February 18th at 1pm, Gun Violence Prevention meeting, via Zoom
or in person at 2400 Old Ivy Road

February 24th 3-4pm, Gun Violence Prevention meeting, via Zoom
Contact Meg Heubeck at mfheubeck@virginia.edu to join

February 24th 4-5pm, Natural Resources meeting, Piedmont
Environmental Council Office

League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area
President: Lisa Hilgartner
eVoter Editor: Jessica Harris
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
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