

March 2025 "eVoter"

March is Women's History Month

This month our Facebook and Instagram pages will highlight women who made great contributions, but got little or no credit for it. Please continue to follow us on Social Media and share out the message.

This month we'll highlight **Mary Stamps White** who was LWV-CVA's first president in 1946 to 1947 when she assumed the LWVVA presidency and held that from 1947-1949. The Mary Stamps White Committee for our League decides what funds can be used from the legacy fund she left to our League.

Check out this great article on the legacy of Mary Stamps White!

International Relations and Federal Government Committee Presents:

*Consensus Meeting on Study by LWWUS on Ethics in the
Federal Judicial System*

Saturday, **March 15th**, from 1-4 pm
Northside Library, Charlottesville

Please make it a point to get involved in this important work!

At the 2024 LWWUS Convention, in June, approval was given for a fast-track study of the US Federal Judiciary as an essential component of US democracy. The goal is to adopt a position at the 2025 LWWUS Council in June that outlines the values – the standards and norms – the League of Women Voters should use in evaluating proposed changes to policies, laws, and regulations about the federal judiciary. The study's purpose includes, but is not limited to, addressing concerns, and clarifying judicial accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics.

Now this study is complete. Anita Pilling, along with members of her committee, will conduct this consensus meeting. At this meeting the

background and findings of this study will be discussed and questions related to the study will be addressed. Once concluded the information gathered will be sent to our LWVVA coordinator who will in turn send them on to LWVUS.

The consensus questions and 9 policy briefs can be found [here](#)

Please check your newsletter from the newsletter for LWVVA March 1 edition for the study guide.

Note: if you are unable to attend in person on March 15th there will be a LWVVA Zoom meeting on Wednesday, March 19th from 6:30 to 8pm.

[Sign Up Here!](#)

Ranked Choice Voting is Coming to Charlottesville

Big changes are coming to the City of Charlottesville's elections! This June, for the first time ever, voters will use ranked choice voting to select candidates in the City Council primary. The League of Women Voters, in partnership with Ranked Choice Virginia, is offering several opportunities to learn more about this new method of voting.

In a ranked choice election, voters can rank all the candidates from most to least favorite: first choice, second choice, and so on. The ballots are then tallied in an instant runoff to find the top two winners with the most support from all the voters. If your favorite candidate doesn't win, you can still help pick the winner with your backup choices, ensuring that more voters get a meaningful say in choosing their representation.

The voting public is invited to join any of three educational sessions to learn how ranked choice voting works, why it is used, and how it finds roots in Charlottesville's long-running history of democracy reform. The sessions are free and will last one hour, with time for discussion.

Available times and locations are:

(1) Thursday, March 27 at 5:30pm
Carver Recreational Center's Classroom
233 4th Street, NW, Charlottesville, VA 22902

(2) Sunday, April 6 at 3:00pm
Central Library's Swanson Room
201 E. Market Street Charlottesville, VA 22902

(3) Wednesday, May 7 at 1:30pm
Online

Register in advance [here!](#)

Save the Dates

April 2025 Climate Change Update Meeting

Natural Resources Committee will get us up to speed on what the Board Of Supervisor of Albemarle and City Council of Charlottesville is doing in regard to CLIMATE CHANGE. This meeting will be held on Zoom - [more info and link to come!](#)

April 19, 2025 National Popular Vote Community Dialogue

Sunday, April 19th from 3-5pm in the Swanson Room of Charlottesville Central Library. National Popular Vote Community Dialogue will be held as a part of the Tom Tom Festival. It will be cohosted by Indivisible and Senior Statesmen of VA. Our speaker will be Jane Newell, LWVVA NPV Committee Chair who will tell us all about it.

Updates

Fund Drive

Thank you to all our members and donors who have contributed to the Fund Drive making it a big success.

As of March 1st with over 50 donations , \$4529.00 was received. This will greatly help us pay our bills and fund our Voter Services for the Governor's Race this year.

If you missed it , you can still donate at any time by sending a check marked DONATION to LWV-CVA PO Box 2786 22902 or go to lww-cva.org and donate through PayPal.

Transformation Is Coming to You Soon!

Each member will be getting an email soon from LWVUS to create a login at portal.lwv.org.

This will allow you to check the information the League has for your address, phone, and email, plus other information that is optional. When you get that email please take the time to check it. If you have any problems with it ,please email them to lwv@lwv-cva.org

February in Review

Annual Program Planning Meeting

February 15, 2025

We reviewed the state and local positions. Our outcomes were sent to LWVVA to present at our State Convention in June. There were no changes in our local positions and actions.

We reviewed a MD State Study on Initiatives and Referendums and decided not to pursue it as did many other VA local leagues i

Committee News

Voter Services Committee by Kim Harris

Partnering with Sally Hudson in Ranked Choice Voting. See dates above.

International Relations and Foreign Government

The committee is hosting the consensus meeting on Ethics in the Federal Judiciary on March 15th at Northside Library from 1-4 pm.

Natural Resources Committee by Peggy Gilges

The NRC continues to follow the evolution of Albemarle County's new comprehensive plan, AC44. Last year, the LWVCA submitted comments encouraging the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to maintain the County's existing growth area boundary and protect more of the rural area through conservation, because the benefits are many.

While the Albemarle BOS had previously declared their intention to prevent sprawl by limiting suburban residential and commercial growth to the existing designated growth areas (Development Areas), AC44 discussions have been continuing, and new edits to the AC44 draft keep cropping up. At a work session held on February 19, the BOS considered [several new proposals to expand growth](#). Among these are: a proposal to swap land from the development areas with land in the Rural Area, a proposal to allow transfer of development rights ("TDRs") from parcels that include important natural resources in the Rural Area to parcels proximate the Development Areas in the Rural Area, a proposal to allow restaurants at farm wineries and farm breweries in the Rural Area, and two proposals for studying infilling development at I-64 interchange areas on US 250 west of the Yancey Mills interchange near Crozet and US 250 east of the Shadwell interchange. We are concerned that these proposals will encourage sprawl and new development in the Rural Area of the County that we have long protected.

The BOS has also thus far failed to commit to reviving its mothballed

conservation program, the Acquisition of Conservation Easements (“ACE”) program. Under the ACE program, the development rights of land that meets specific criteria for preservation (such as forest blocks, biodiversity and habitat value, riparian and wetland ecosystems, agricultural soils) may be purchased from landowners by the County. The ACE program makes it possible for lower-income rural landowners whose land is most at risk of sale for development to conserve their land. In general, counties benefit from conservation easements because they ensure land is protected and will continue to serve residents through a myriad of vital ecosystem services such as climate change resilience, carbon dioxide sequestration, promoting water quality and quantity, food production capability and biodiversity protection. In addition, conservation easements provide economic and fiscal benefits to County residents by supporting the local economy through tourism of protected historic and scenic sites, increasing the amount of school funding received from the state through the Local Composite Index, and not adding to the growing cost of community services (sewer/water, fire/rescue, roads) that are required for commercial and residential areas. In Albemarle’s case, conservation easements also reduce the amount of payment made annually to Charlottesville through the longstanding revenue sharing agreement.

The NRC urges its members to stand up for our natural resources both to protect our wellbeing and quality of life now, and also as a matter of our responsibility to future generations. As AC44 continues to develop, League members in Albemarle are encouraged to closely watch any changes to the County’s established growth boundary policies and to voice support for Albemarle’s ACE program and the Albemarle County Easement Authority (ACEA). Given the pressures of climate change, population growth and economic development in Albemarle and surrounding counties, policies to prevent sprawl and protect natural resources are more important than ever. League members can learn more about phase three of AC44 at the County’s [Engage Albemarle website](#).

Good news! Albemarle County is drafting a zoning ordinance to address the impacts of data centers. Review the staff report [here](#).

In Memoriam

Hank Schutz

Frances Schutz's husband, Hank, passed away on Sunday, February 23rd. Frances is a long time active member of our League and once a President of the Fluvanna League before they became part of our League in 2012. Burial service will be private and there will be a Memorial Service for him on April 19th.

Claude Sandy

Lois Sandy's husband, Claude passed away on Monday, February 24th. Lois has been an active member for many years.

Update Your LWV-CVA Handbook **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

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LWV CVA Calendar of Events **March 2025**

Mark your Calendars

March 11th 5pm, Voter Services meeting, via Zoom
Contact kwharris555@gmail.com to join

March 15th 1 pm-4pm, at Northside Library- IR/FE will host
Consensus Meeting on our National Position on Ethics in the

Federal Judiciary.

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

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

**March 27th 5:30-7pm, Members and Residents of Charlottesville
Ranked Choice Voting**, Carver Recreation Center

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.

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