

April 2025 "eVoter"

Resilient Together: *Our Community Response to Climate Change*

Whether it's massive flooding in Asheville, raging fires in L.A., or the steady creep of sea level rise in Norfolk, the effects of climate change are evident everywhere. The Natural Resource Committee will host an online presentation, *Resilient Together: Our Community's Response to Climate Change*, to look at how Charlottesville and Albemarle are planning to both mitigate and adapt to climate change, and how we can all participate in the process.

Emily Irving, Charlottesville's Climate Program Manager in the Office of Sustainability, and Jamie Powers, interim head of Albemarle's Climate Protection Office, will describe City and County climate goals, action steps, and the progress made thus far.

An invitation to join this ZOOM meeting will go out to all members later this month. Contact us at lwv@lwv-cva.org to reserve a seat early!

Wednesday, April 30th, 6:30-7:30pm, via Zoom

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:

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

(2) Wednesday, May 7 at 1:30pm
Online
Register in advance [here!](#)

One Person One Vote: Make Every Vote Count Forum

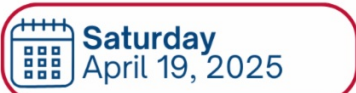
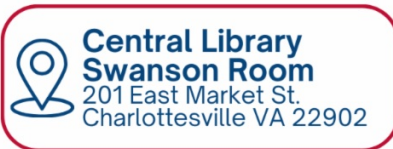
LWV CVA, Indivisible Charlottesville and Charlottesville NOW will be co-sponsoring a forum at the Tom Tom Festival on the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact



One Person, One Vote: Make Every Vote Count Forum

Shouldn't every vote count in the election of our President?

Come learn how we can help make that happen through the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact!



Learn more at [LWV.org/onepersononevote](https://www.lwv.org/onepersononevote)



Save the Dates

April 24

Eastwood Winery Get Together

The League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area invites you to come meet each other in an informal setting. Many of the committee chairs and board members will be present. If you are new to the local league or a long-time member, stop by and say hello!

We are meeting on **Thursday, April 24th from 3:00PM to 5:00PM**. If you would like to stay later there is live music for their *Thursday Night Music Series: Live Music 5-8PM*

June 13-15
League of Women Voters of Virginia Convention

Where

Fredericksburg Convention Center
2371 Carl D Silver Pkwy
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

When

Friday, June 13, 2025 6:00 PM through Sunday, June 15, 2025 12:00 PM

Cost

\$165 (This includes meals on Saturday and Sunday breakfast)
There are **4** positions available to be delegates for whom LWV-CVA will cover the costs

If you are interested in going, and for more information please contact Lisa Hilgartner at lisamezzo@gmail.com

Updates

Roll Out for Transformation

Transformation, the new way LWVUS/LWV-VA and our local LWV-CVA processes renewing memberships for 2025-2026, is taking longer than initially planned to roll out.

Each member should receive an invitation to sign on to ChapterSpot sometime this month. We ask that you keep an eye on your email Inbox and Spam folder for this.

Thank you for your patience!

Reminder: Transformation will not affect most of our members until July1.

March in Review

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

March 15, 2025

The LWV-CVA Consensus Meeting on the **LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study was held** March 15, 2025, Northside Library of JMRL, 1-3:45 pm with: Anita Pilling, Chair, LWV-CVA International Relations/Federal Government Committee presiding with Diane Skalak, Carol Cutler, Rice

Wagner also presenting.

Anita welcomed 15 members attending which made up a quorum. Carol read portions of Terms/Principles and Definitions as relevant to this Study and agreed to send results of discussion to LWVUS using the electronic Survey Form before April 15. Rice Wagner wrote major points on flip chart as the discussion progressed. Diane summarized cases and issues related to FJ (Federal Judiciary) structure and Anita went over her handout on SCOTUS Ethics, answering questions along the way. The group addressed 12 consensus questions (see LWVUS website.) Written results of the discussion are in progress with excellent participation from members. Details of our responses to LWVUS will be finalized soon and will be included under the "Programs" section of the Annual Meeting Packet which will be sent to all members.

Committee News

Voter Services Committee by Kim Harris

If you are interested in helping us register voters and share information about the league and upcoming elections, please reach out! We have already been asked to work at several events between now and the end of the summer, and I anticipate we'll get plenty more requests, given that this is a gubernatorial election year.

Gun Violence Prevention by Meg Heubeck

The Gun Violence Committee has been busy this month. Following up on our advocacy in Richmond we have been working with partners to build support in the Charlottesville area. The Charlottesville Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention (CCGVP) held an open house in Pantops for neighbors and interested parties to meet and discuss what actions are being taken and what could be done to lessen violence in our area. We will hope those parents came away with some ideas for how they can get involved. Stewart, the hostess of the event commented, "the world feels "out of joint" it soothes the soul to do something positive. Work in gun violence prevention does that, even if our successes sometimes seem small and frustratingly incomplete. Together, we ARE making a difference!

In addition, we are happy to announce a new organization, Grandmothers for Gun Responsibility that we are certain will be of interest to our members. Check it out: [here!](#)

On May 2, Youth-Nex and the UVA Gun Violence Solution Project is co-sponsoring a talk on the effects of gun violence on adolescents and what can be done about it. Dan Flannery will be the speaker and all are welcome. To register and for parking: [Youth-Nex Talk: Dr. Dan Flannery.](#)

Just a reminder to listen to the [Solving Gun Violence podcast!](#) Each week another expert in the field discusses his/her/their research and how citizens can play a role in preventing gun violence.

Please join us for our monthly zoom on April 22 at 1pm to learn more about what

we are doing and how you can help. Zoom link below. Hope to see you there!!!

Natural Resources Committee by Peggy Gilges

The Natural Resource Committee will host an online presentation, *Resilient Together: Our Community's Response to Climate Change*, to look at how Charlottesville and Albemarle are planning to both mitigate and adapt to climate change, and how we can all participate in the process.

Resilient Together is a collaborative effort between the City, County and University of Virginia, with a stated vision to keep our community “strong, safe and healthy in the face of the changing climate.”

In June of 2024, Resilient Together was awarded an Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Grant by the EPA to provide subgrants to ten local non-profits serving disadvantaged members of our community. LWVCVA members need to know that as part of the new administration's desire to shut down environmental justice projects, most of the funding dedicated for this cohort, or \$460,000, was withdrawn in mid-March. It's not yet clear whether we can find funding elsewhere.

No Mow April encourages people to let their yards grow to provide nectar and habitat that bees and other pollinators need this time of year. Research has found that lawns that are mowed every two or three weeks provide significant positive effects on plant and insect habitats. It is also true that taller grass has deeper roots and needs less watering. For more information, visit [Bee City USA](#)

Healthcare Taskforce by Stephanie Lowenhaupt

During the 2025 General Assembly Session, we tracked healthcare-related bills, particularly regarding Medicaid funding. There was a shortfall in the Medicaid budget in FY 2024, which the state surplus in the 2024 budget cycle covered. Budget Amendments were introduced during the 2025 session to expand Medicaid coverage for undocumented children and certain emergency services for undocumented adults. Unfortunately, none of the amendments were included in the 2025-2026 budget.

We are also following potential Medicaid cuts on the federal level and their impact on the nearly 1.9 million people with Medicaid coverage in Virginia. The current proposed federal budget (as of mid-March) potentially will cut one-third of federal Medicaid funding across the country. The impact on Virginia would be significant:

- 72,000 rural residents would lose their coverage
- 200,000 children would lose their coverage
- 1 in 5 seniors would lose their nursing home care

Additionally, Virginia is one of nine states with a “trigger law” that would automatically end Medicaid expansion if federal funding dips below 90%. This would cause **630,000 Virginians** to lose vital coverage.

Members can take action by advocating individually with their Representatives and Senators Warner and Kaine.

International Relations and Foreign Government by Carol Cutler

An email from Anita: "With all the controversy over illegal immigrant deportations, I think we need to discuss the crux of the matter - due process. I was inspired by an article by one of my favorite journalists, Dana Milbank. It

appeared in the March 21 edition of The Washington Post. Since then I've read additional articles on the subject. I'm "burning" to discuss it with intelligent women like you all. If you can't access the article, "[*Don't know much about history? I'm here for you, Elon Musk*](#)," let me know and I'll send you a copy. Even better, find another article on the topic to expand our understanding. Thanks. I look forward to seeing you all April 9 at Linden House." Meeting is from 1-3PM.

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

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LWV CVA Calendar of Events

April 2025

Mark your Calendars

April 6th 3pm, Charlottesville Ranked Choice Voting Informational Session, Central Library's Swanson Room

April 8th 5pm, Voter Services Meeting, via Zoom
Contact kwharris555@gmail.com to join

April 9th 1pm, IR/FG Meeting, Linden House

April 19th 3pm, One Person One Vote: Make Every Vote Count Forum, Central Library's Swanson Room

April 22nd 1pm, Gun Violence Prevention Meeting, via Zoom
[Link to join](#)

April 24th 3pm, League of Women Voters Charlottesville Get Together, Eastwood Winery

April 28th 4pm, Natural Resources Meeting, Piedmont Environmental Council Office

April 30th 6:30pm, Resilient Together: Our Community Response to Climate Changes, via Zoom

Contact lwv@lwv-cva.org for link to join

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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