

May 2025 "eVoter"



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Unite and Rise 8.5

As you are aware, LWV US has declared that we are in a Constitutional Crisis, and is launching a new campaign initiative on May 1st called Unite and Rise 8.5

LWV US Press Statement on this new initiative:

"Unite and Rise 8.5 will engage and mobilize 8.5 million voters between now and November 2026 to protect and preserve our democratic institutions. The foundational principles that have sustained our democracy — checks and balances, the rule of law, free and fair elections — are under direct and sustained threat. In this extraordinary moment, we cannot proceed with business as usual. All Americans — no matter who you voted for in 2024 —

need to come together, stand united, and fight back to save our democracy. We cannot afford to fail the generations to come.”

About Unite and Rise 8.5: Starting May 1st, the League will aim to mobilize 8.5 million voters using the power of voter engagement as a cornerstone of our democracy. Unite and Rise 8.5 will showcase the many ways voters can drive change, including through advocacy, mobilization, civic education, and engagement. The initiative is part of LWV's [Women Defend Democracy](#) campaign.

Visit the LWV US website and look through this initiative, the Women Defend Democracy campaign, AND the One Person One Vote Campaign (lww.org/opov).

What We're Doing and Ways YOU Can Get Involved

There's so much going on right now, and we want to encourage you to jump in and participate in any fashion you desire!

Want to Help From Home?

We realize that not everyone can participate in person, BUT there are still ways you can get involved! There are some things you can do from your living room, with your phone, tablet, or computer. You don't need to go through the Voter Services Committee for these, but we would love to know if you choose to do any of this.

- 1. LWV League in Action APP for your phone** - this tool will allow you to send letters to our representatives, text bank during voting season, and more. The app will alert you to new actions as well, making it easy to see when volunteers are needed.
- 2. 5 Calls App** - This app is a little different from our League in Action app. You can pick an issue (like the SAVE Act), tell it where you live, and it will give you the phone numbers to call your Representative and Senators. It will also provide a complete script of what to say.

Want to Help From Home or As A Group?

Our Voter Services Committee chair has found a non-partisan effort writing postcards that would be great to support! [Center for Common Ground](#) works on voter mobilization in communities of color. If there's interest in doing this as a group activity at the library one weekend, please reach out to kwharris555@gmail.com

Want to Get Involved in Tabling at Events?

There are lots of opportunities in the coming months to participate in tabling at local events!

You can look at our scheduling spreadsheet and what you might be able to help with, we will continue to add events as they crop up:

*(**If you have trouble accessing or editing the spreadsheet, please reach out to our Voter Services Committee Chair:*

kwharris555@gmail.com)

LWV Events Scheduling 2025

MAY DAY NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

May 1st is a national day of action. Across the country people are coming together to demand justice, equity, and dignity for all workers.

Members of our league will join together with members of Indivisible to Stand Up for Democracy as part of our Unite and Rise Up 8.5. Please join us on **May 1st from 5:00-6:30pm** in front of the **Albemarle County Office Building on McIntyre Rd.** to make your voice heard! We will be making signs at 4:30pm.

Wear a League button and League T-Shirt if you have one!

She Is Safe, Inc. Presents: She Sings®: A Soaring Musical

A Benefit at The Paramount

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY: We've been afforded the opportunity to purchase discounted tickets for an upcoming performance at the Paramount Theater on Thursday, 15 May at 7:30 pm. She Sings: A Soaring Musical is a one-woman show about a woman's powerful journey of surviving domestic abuse and using her voice to help others. Proceeds will benefit [Shelter for Help in Emergency](#) and [She Is Safe](#)—two nonprofits supporting survivors of abuse.

You can purchase 2 tickets for the price of 1 (*Buy One, Get One offer*) by using the code SAFE at checkout. Let's see how many folks we can get there - this is an issue that is very important to the league!

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

Save the Dates

May 3

50th Annual Batesville Day Festival and Parade

LWV CVA will be participating in the Batesville Day Festival parade and staffing a table after!

The Batesville Day Festival is Batesville's annual celebration of our vibrant community, with lots of fun events and entertainment. Sign up to help table (*through the LWV Events Scheduling spreadsheet above*), participate in the parade or just come out to enjoy the day!

Read more about the events, entertainments and sponsors [here](#)

May 31

Annual Business Meeting for LWV-CVA

Where

The Center at Belvedere
540 Belvedere Blvd
Charlottesville, VA 22901

When

Saturday, May 31, 2025 11:00AM - 2:00PM

You should receive your Annual Packet around May 9th to your email. Please be aware that it is coming electronically this year and keep an eye out for it!

This is a very important business meeting that you will not want to miss.

Topics on the agenda:

- Vote for a Vice President and new Treasurer
- Learn about **Transformation** and how it will affect how we renew your memberships. *Get a chance to do so at the meeting!*
- Vote of Budget and Dues

For ease in voting, paper copies of the Annual Packet's text will only be available to those who attend.

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

Cost

\$165 (This includes meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday)

If you are interested in going and would like more information, and haven't done so already, please contact Lisa Hilgartner at lisamezzo@gmail.com

Updates

Transformation Roll Out

The renewal date for most of our members is July 1, 2025

To renew your membership you'll need to go to [LWV Member Portal](#) and use our League Code **VA100**.

Need help? Come to our Annual Business Meeting at The Center on Saturday, May 31st to learn more about Transformation and how to do it.

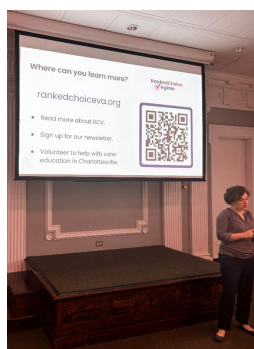
April in Review



Hands Off Rally

4/5/2025

Members of LWV-CVA participated in the Hands Off rally in Staunton



Ranked Choice Voting Information Session

4/6/2025

LWV-CVA hosted the second of three Ranked Choice Voting information sessions, educating the Charlottesville community on RCV that will be implemented in the upcoming elections!



One Person One Vote: Make Every Vote Count Forum

4/19/2025

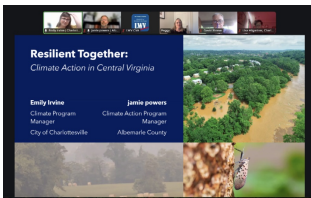
As part of the Tom Tom Festival LWV-CVA co-hosted an informational session about the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact with Indivisible Charlottesville and Charlottesville NOW.



LWV CVA Get Together

4/24/2025

Members of LWV CVA gathered together at Eastwood Winery for members to meet and get to know one another in an informal social setting!



Resilient Together: Our Community Response to Climate Change

4/30/2025

LWV CVA hosted Charlottesville's Climate Program Manager and Albemarle County's Interim Climate Action Program Manager for a discussion on efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change in our area.

Committee News

Voter Services Committee by Kim Harris

Early voting will begin May 7th and we are working on getting folks educated and ready for the primaries!

There is one final Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) educational session that will be held on 7 May via zoom at 1:30. You can register to attend [here](#). Please share this with everyone you know!

Sally Hudson will be giving the presentation and you shouldn't miss it! Additionally, Sally has asked that any league members who want to help educate voters on RCV volunteer through her organization, [Ranked Choice Virginia](#). They are looking for field educators and others who are interested in making sure all of Virginia is ready for this movement.

A HUGE shout out to Kristin Breen for helping with our Vote411 Voter Guide! The primary guide is published and we are hard at work getting the candidates to answer our questions to help voters know where they stand. Check it out at [vote411.org](#).

Are you interested in getting people registered to vote and educating them on issues facing us today? Our committee is the place for you! Voter Services already has opportunities for tabling events this summer, and we're looking at expanding our outreach as well. We meet on the second Tuesday of each

month at 5 pm via Zoom. Contact [Kim Harris](#) to be added to the Voter Services email list and join the fun! We have a great group of folks who are getting out there and making a difference!

Gun Violence Prevention by Meg Heubeck

No updates.

Natural Resources Committee by Peggy Gilges

Do you like to learn new words? How about 'biophilic'?

The Natural Resources committee recognizes the Charlottesville City Manager and its Office of Sustainability for expressing interest in this new word and all that it stands for. The City of Charlottesville took it's first steps toward becoming a biophilic city on April 21st. Albemarle County's spokeswoman Abbey Stumpf is quoted in *The Daily Progress* as stating that there are ongoing discussions about Albemarle also joining the biophilic network, forming, with Charlottesville, the first designated biophilic region in the world.

The [Biophilic Cities organization](#) was founded by Tim Beatley at the University of Virginia and is based here. So, it's probably a word Leaguers should get acquainted with.

When "tree-hugger" has taken on too many connotations, try "natureful". One paragraph, quoting a UVA graduate student, describes the concept thus (April 17, 2025 *The Daily Progress*):

A biophilic region ... affirms the importance of both urban vegetation and conserved land and recognizes the role that green space plays in managing stormwater and air quality. Of course, there are so many benefits of green space: Riparian buffers provide critical habitat, shade from mature trees can naturally insulate homes, and just being around plants can improve mental well-being.

Biophilic means recognizing the importance of co-existing with nature when making plans for development. While local governments consider joining the biophilic network, individuals can take small steps like turning off outdoor lights at night to promote insect and bird safety, or mowing more carefully and setting a higher cutting height students suggest.

The Natural Resources committee suspects you will be hearing more of this concept. Join us for further discussion!

The next NRC meeting will be held on Monday, May 26 from 4 to 5 pm. These meetings are hybrid; join us via zoom or in person. For more information about the Natural Resources Committee, contact [Peggy Gilges](#).

Healthcare Taskforce by Stephanie Lowenhaupt

No updates.

International Relations and Foreign Government by Gerry Kruger

On Wednesday April 9, 2025, the International Relations/Federal Government Committee met at Linden House at 1:00 pm with **Lois Sandy** hosting. **Anita Pilling** led our discussion of due process, the heart of our legal system. Also

attending were Gerry Kruger, Kathy Sudduth, Carol Cutler, Rice Wagner, and Bobbie Williams.

The concept of due process goes back as far as 1215 with the signing of the Magna Carta in England. King Charles I, who imprisoned people without trials, was beheaded during the English civil war for this and other dictatorial practices. The English colonists compared King George III to the arbitrary rule of King Charles. Colonial liberty was at the whim of the king. This inspired the American Revolution. Due process is explicitly stated in the Fifth Amendment and later in the Fourteenth Amendment. It is the very foundation of constitutionalism, which means a government according to law rather to the whim of a king.

Due process guarantees presumed innocence until proven guilty; the right to be informed of a charge and grounds for it, the right to be heard and present reasons for innocence, the right to legal representation with the burden of proof on the prosecution, the right to an impartial tribunal, the right to a record being kept for review, the right to confront witnesses; protection against self-incrimination, protection against search and seizure, protection against cruel and unusual punishment, and eminent domain protection.

The Due Process Clause applies to all people within the U.S., including non-citizens. The efforts to protect due process are undermined by attacks on the judiciary. Chief Justice John Roberts has issued a statement saying, *“For more than two centuries, it has been established that impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision. The normal appellate review process exists for that purpose.”*

The Alien and Sedition Acts were passed in 1798. However, all but the Alien Enemies Act were allowed to expire or repealed. The Alien Enemies Act allowed the President to imprison or deport aliens from countries **at war** with the United States. It was used in the War of 1812, World War I, and World War II. Whether it can be used outside of a declared war has been intensely debated.

Abusing emergency powers is a slide toward authoritarianism. Congress did not originally intend unchecked presidential power, but in 1983 the Supreme Court declared legislative vetoes unconstitutional. The Article One Act of 2023 tried to fix that. It required that any national emergency declared by a President would expire after 90 days unless a majority of both houses approved it for one more year. It didn't pass.

What good are rights if the President is empowered to nullify them whenever he wants? The Constitution cannot protect us if we don't protect it. Anita asked us remember the words of Benjamin Franklin: *“Those who would give up essential Liberty to purchase a little temporary Safety deserve neither Liberty nor Safety.”*

Our committee commends **Anita** for her extraordinary presentation of due process. Join us for our next meeting scheduled for May 8 at 1:00pm at Linden House, 1250 Branchlands Drive in Charlottesville.

Update Your LWW-CVA Handbook
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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LWV CVA Calendar of Events

May 2025

Mark your Calendars

May 1 5pm, May Day National Day of Action, Albemarle County
Office Building on McIntyre Rd

May 3 10:30am, Batesville Date Festival, 6534 Plank Rd, Afton VA
Contact kwharris555@gmail.com if interested in helping with tabling
and/or participating in the parade

May 7 1:30pm, Ranked Choice Voting Information Session, via
Zoom
Register [here](#)

May 13th 5pm, Voter Services Meeting, via Zoom
Contact kwharris555@gmail.com to join

May 8th 1pm, IR/FG Meeting, Linden House

May 26th 4pm, Natural Resources Meeting, Piedmont Environmental
Council Office or via Zoom
Contact peggygilges@me.com to join

May 31st 11am, LWV-CVA Annual Business Meeting, The Center at

Belvedere

Paper copies of the Annual Packet will be available

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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