



June 2025 "eVoter"

New Board Members Appointed

Nominations for the LWV-CVA Board of Directors for the 2025-2026 Year were approved by LWV-CVA members at the Annual Business Meeting held on May 31st, 2025 at The Center at Belvedere. As officers of LWV-CVA **Stephanie Lowenhaupt** replaces Katie Angioletti for **Vice President 2026-2027**. **Gwedette Crummie** succeeds Susan Mark as **Treasurer 2025-2027**. For Elected Directors **Kim Harris** continues the role of **Voter Services Chair**, **Miriam Fleitman** continues in her role as **Director at Large 2025-2026**, and a newer member, **Kristin Breen** succeeds Gwedette Crummie in her role as **Director At Large 2025-2027**. **Frances Schutz** becomes our new **Mary Stamps White Chair** through June 2027.

Katie Angioletti and Susan Mark have given a great deal of time and service to our league in the last 2 years serving as officers and we are grateful for all the hard work they did. They will be missed.

Thanks to the diligence of our **Nominating Committee, Sue Lewis and Carolyn Fitzpatrick**, we have a very capable board whose members are willing and able to make this coming year the best it can be.

Save the Dates
Upcoming Events

June 13-15
LWV-VA Convention

Fredericksburg Convention Center

Nine of our members, seven of whom will be delegate voting members, will be attending the state convention this year. State conventions are held every other year give state leagues the opportunity to vote on new or revised program positions, revise By Laws if necessary, and present

new positions that warrant further study.

It's also a great opportunity for League members to meet members from other Leagues to make connections and share ideas!

June 14 and 24 **Monticello Presents: Civic Season**

Monticello will host its Civic Season, a nationwide initiative, to engage individuals in a deeper understanding of constitutional democracy, historical preservation, and civic responsibility between Juneteenth and Independence Day. LWV-CVA has been invited to have a table in their Information Center on June 14 and June 24th. Drop by if you can!

June 21 **5th Annual African American Heritage Festival**

We, again, are partnering with NAACP of Louisa for their Annual African American Heritage Festival, celebrating Juneteenth! It is being held at Moss-Nuckols Elementary School from 10am-4pm. LWV-CVA will have a table to help individuals get registered to vote and provide information.

July 12 **Healthy Streets, Healthy People**

This free, family friendly event taking place at Washington Park will focus on safety and environmental health in the Charlottesville area. LWV-CVA will have a tent to register voters, educate about voting and provide information on gun violence prevention. Stop by and learn how to make Charlottesville a healthier place to live!

Date TBD **LWV-CVA Social Gathering**

LWV-CVA will be hosting another social this summer! Watch for the email and announcement in an upcoming EVoter!

Updates

It's Time, Again, to Renew Your Membership *The Way You Pay Has Been Transformed*

- LWV US now sets League dues rate of \$75.00
- A sliding scale that starts at no lower than \$20 for membership will be accepted as membership payment this year.
- Students and Household Members (one per household) dues

payment is \$20 or more.

- *LIFE members will continue to receive free membership. All other members are considered paying members.*

Since February 2025, LWVUS has taken on the responsibility of handling new membership and membership renewal. For those member who have joined since the beginning of February 2025, your membership renewal will be one year from the month you joined.

For those who joined prior to February 2025, your renewal date starts July 1st and ends on June 30th of the following year. You must now go online and renew through [LWV Member Portal](#) and renewal dates remain the same (July 1, 2025 through June 30,2026).

On May 1st many of us received an email from Membership informing us of our renewal time. If you did not receive it, please check your junk or spam folders on your email account.

The Membership site is known as ChapterSpot .Press the **Join /Renew** button for tablet or smartphone or click on the link for computer users. Fill out the information requested.

Please use the same email address you already have with the League. If you want to change your email, you can edit your information once you've logged in, but using another email duplicates the entries.

You will then be prompted to go to STRIPE to complete the payment of your dues. LWVUS has recommended \$75 as the dues rate but any dues payment of \$20 or higher is accepted.

As always, if you have questions or need some assistance renewing your membership please email Carolyn Fitzpatrick, Membership Chair at cupojo_carolyn@icloud.com

18 new members have joined our local league in the last 4 months! Please keep your handbook up to date by listing our new members each month from the information in the EVoter.

May in Review



May Day National Day of Action

May 1, 2025

May 1st was a national day of action. LWV-CVA members join people across the country people in coming together to demand justice, equity, and dignity for all workers.

Batesville Day Festival

May 3, 2025



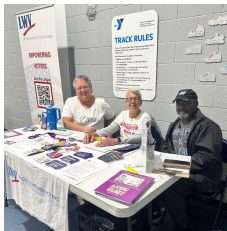
Lisa Hilgartner and Carolyn Fitzpatrick were at the 50 th Annual Batesville Parade and Field Event. They were there to give interested parade goers information on voter registration and who's on the ballot for the June 17th Democratic Primary.



Ranked Choice Voting Information Session

May 7, 2025

LWV-CVA sponsored 3 community wide sessions on Ranked Choice Voting, May 7 represented the final session. These informational sessions gave members of the community in the City of Charlottesville an opportunity to learn about the new Ranked Choice Voting process coming in June.



Festival of Cultures

May 24, 2025

LWV-CVA had a table at the recent Festival of Cultures held at the local YMCA. Attending this event gave us the opportunity to share information about the upcoming primaries and candidates who will be on the ballot.



LWV CVA Annual Business Meeting

May 31, 2025

Our Annual Business Meeting was held. Lisa Hilgartner led the meeting with the theme of Transition to Change-Looking Toward the Year Ahead.

There were over 20 members in attendance, meeting the standard for a quorum required for voting to be recognized by our By Laws.

Nominees were voted into positions of leadership on our LWV-CVA Board of Directors. Our 2025-2026 Operating Fund Budget and Education Fund Budgets were presented and approved. Local Programs and Positions did not change from last year and there were no additions to them at the meeting; they were voted on and approved. Directors for International Relations and Federal Government (Anti Pilling), Voter Services (Kim Harris), Natural Resources(Peggy

Gilges), and Health (Stephanie Lowenhaupt) gave short presentations illustrating how our programs are being carried out in and by our committees.

LWV-CVA League By Laws Amended May 2025 were approved. Making DEI a separate policy in Article II. Evette Barton, LWVVA DEI Director gave a short presentation on how this is being addressed at the state level. Membership status changes to align with LWVUS in Article III were approved. Dues in Article VI changed to align with LWVUS changes as well. Although LWVUS does not require dues payments of LIFE Members, a sentence was added to our League By Laws that LIFE members are exempt from paying dues. This is to ensure LWV-CVA LIFE members do not pay dues, should LWVUS change their position in the future.

Committee News

Voter Services Committee by Kim Harris

The Voter Services Committee is humming right along, gearing up for festival and health fair season around the various counties. The theme from our local community members, based on conversations I've been having, is finding non-partisan information about candidates and issues. Luckily for them, we have that! But this is where we need YOUR HELP - staffing the tables, meeting people, and sharing information! You don't have to be an expert in anything to help out.

In May, we held our final outreach session with Ranked Choice Virginia to educate folks on ranked choice voting at the June primary in Charlottesville. We also went to the Colonnades twice to register people and give them information about the upcoming elections, and we had a table for registering/educating voters at the Festival of Cultures.

This June we will be celebrating Juneteenth by having a table at the Louisa chapter of the NAACP's Freedom Celebration's African American Heritage Festival from 10-4! We NEED VOLUNTEERS to help wo-man the table, please! This is an awesome event, so I encourage you to support it, even if you can't help at our table!

The League has been invited to host a table at the annual Albemarle County Fair, to be held at Highland between 31 July and 2 August. We have not yet accepted the invitation because I need to know how many

volunteers are interested in helping out at this event. We need 2 people per 2-hour shift for the following days/hours: Thursday, 31 July: 2-9pm; Friday, 1 August: 12-9pm; Saturday, 2 August: 8am-9pm. As you can see, these are long days, so I need to know ASAP how many people are willing to help.

Our committee is beginning conversations around how to expand our outreach into all of the areas we're responsible for. We'd love to have you join in - the more voices and ideas, the better!

Please join us for our monthly meetings - the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5pm via Zoom. Email [Kim Harris](#) for the Zoom link or to be added to our email list.

Gun Violence Prevention by Meg Heubeck

The Gun Violence Prevention Committee will be meeting on June 19th at 11am. We will review work being done in the field on Gun Violence prevention.

We will also set goals for the fall and coming League year. We would love to see each member participate in ONE activity with our committee each year!

It is important that we show up for our children, our community, and our nation in regards to keeping everyone safe.

Natural Resources Committee by Peggy Gilges

When you vote, do you pay attention to a candidate's stand on protection of natural resources? Sometimes that is far down on the list of determining issues, after others that seem more relevant or crucial at the time. The Natural Resources committee suggests that can be a mistake. Elections have a huge impact on our environment.

Think of Theodore Roosevelt, for example — without his election, our whole system of national parks might not have come into being, or come too late to save millions of acres of our spectacular natural heritage.

Closer to home, it's seldom acknowledged, but at the Virginia state level — it was a gubernatorial election that was the key to determining whether the Western Bypass was constructed through Albemarle, or whether a suite of more cost-effective measures such as Berkmar Drive and Hillsdale Drive would be built instead. The crucial factor was whether the governor was beholden to Lynchburg (which wanted the Bypass), or not. If he was, it didn't matter what engineering studies demonstrated about the negative impacts of bypass traffic and construction on our neighborhoods, schools and natural resources. The election of a candidate who was not beholden politically to Lynchburg happened almost at the last

minute, and made all the difference.

Here's another — the expensive but far-sighted plan for our local city-county water supply system was determined by the composition of the Charlottesville city council and the Albemarle County board of supervisors; each had elections during the hotly debated plan, decided by split votes in each of the governing bodies. Without the passage of that plan, we might be drinking from the James River despite upstream sewage disposal, instead of reservoirs filled by our clean mountain streams.

We on the Natural Resources committee can be proud that several of our long-term members were successfully elected candidates, and made some of these important decisions. But the lesson for the day: Voters, pay attention to a candidate's stand on protection of our essential natural resources, from dark skies to river amphibians, from water quality to scenic and historic resources, farmland and forest protection, and more! Elections this year are especially consequential for our environment.

The NRC's next meeting will be held on Monday, June 23rd and will likely be a hybrid zoom and in person meeting. Contact [Peggy Gilges](#) for details.

International Relations and Foreign Government by Gerry Kruger
The International Relations Federal Government committee met on May 8, 2025 at one o'clock at Linden House with Lois Sandy serving as hostess. Anita Pilling directed our discussion of the Save Act. Other attendees included: Kathy Sudduth, Rosalie Simari, Miriam Fleitman and our newest member, Candace Coxman.

Under the Save Act states are prohibited from accepting and processing an application to register to vote in a federal election unless the applicant provides documentary proof of citizenship. They must show either a passport or birth certificate. Military or tribal IDs and Real ID'S are not accepted.

Kansas, Arizona, Georgia, and Texas have experimented with SAVE-like documentary proof of citizenship and found it an expensive disaster. This process makes it impossible to mail in a registration application and eliminates voter registration drives. The SAVE Act requires that each state take steps to ensure that US citizens are registered to vote and establish a program to identify individuals who are not US citizens. They would have to retroactively audit existing vote rolls and remove non-citizens from official lists. The house version of the bill does not provide funding for any of the requirements. They must be financed by counties and states. The act allows for private action against an official who registers an applicant without proper proof of US citizenship (vigilantism.) There are also criminal penalties for this. We believe this act perpetuates a lie—voter fraud is a myth.

Married women, elderly registrants, young voters, Hispanic voters, lower income, voters and active duty military personnel, and their families are most affected by the SAVE Act. Active duty military personnel move every two or three years on average. They would continually have to conduct in person transactions to register in new locations.

American election infrastructure is chronically underfunded. The SAVE Act makes it worse. Election officials and poll workers would have to be retrained for new technologies and procedures. The already stressed county and state budgets would have to include buying new equipment. They would also have to re-register thousands of confused eligible voters. The Senate appropriations bill contains \$75 million. \$400 million would be more realistic.

A better alternative would be the John R Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. It originally passed in the house but stalled in the Senate and was re-introduced in March, 2025. It prevents last minute polling place changes, polling place closures that result in long lines, and voter roll purges. It also establishes new criteria for determining which states and localities are required to seek federal approval before making changes to voting laws. Either the Department of Justice or the US District Court of DC must approve.

It modernizes the formula for identifying areas with a history of discrimination that are subject to federal approval and expands federal government authority to send observers to polling places and other locations during election periods. It aims to prevent dilution of minority votes by ensuring that voting rules do not place undue burdens on them. It also would require states to provide evidence that voter fraud is actually occurring before enacting laws or practices aimed that supposedly prevent it. Finally, it includes provisions to protect voting rights of Native Americans.

The voting rights act would only be re-introduced if there wouldn't be a stigma our confederate states could claim.

Join us on June 12 at 1:00 pm at Linden House as we continue to discuss issues important to voting rights. Please note that our meetings now take place on the second Thursday of each month. There will no IR/FG meeting in July.

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

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LWV CVA Calendar of Events

June 2025

Mark your Calendars

June 10 5pm, Voter Services Meeting, via Zoom

Contact kwharris555@gmail.com to join

June 12 1pm, IR/FG Meeting, Linden House

June 12 3pm, Board of Directors Meeting, Fallen Tree Vineyard,
4593 Clark Rd Crozet VA 22932

June 14 12pm, Monticello Presents: Civic Season, Monticello
Information Center

June 19 11am, Gun Violence Prevention Meeting, via Zoom

[Link to Join](#)

June 21 10am, Louisa African American Heritage Festival, Moss-
Nuckols Elementary School

June 23, Natural Resources Meeting, Hybrid (Zoom and in person)

Contact peggygilges@me.com for details

June 24 12pm, Monticello Presents: Civic Season, Monticello
Information Center

League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area

President: Lisa Hilgartner

eVoter Editor: Jessica Harris

Visit our website: lww-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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