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The two years leading into the 2016 general election season brought both tremendous challenges and new opportunities to the League of Women Voters of the United States.

The 2016 election would be the first presidential election since the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2013 Shelby County v. Holder decision gutted crucial federal protections under the Voting Rights Act, inviting covered states to pass new voter suppression laws.

At the same time, the flood of outside political spending—much of it from anonymous donors—ushered in by the Supreme Court’s 2010 Citizens United decision grew even larger and more corrupting to the integrity of our elections.

Partly in response to these very visible threats to our democracy, millions of Americans turned to the League in recognition of our reputation as the nation’s leading nonpartisan organization defending voters’ rights and expanding citizen participation in our democracy.

With the support of state and local Leagues and hundreds of thousands of committed members and supporters across the country, the League launched programs to protect the key structures of American Democracy.

We are pleased to present this 2015-2016 Impact Report highlighting the contributions to democracy made across the country.

Wybleca Wiggs Harris
Chief Executive Officer
League of Women Voters of the United States

Chris Carson
President
League of Women Voters of the United States

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.
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

Whenever Congress debates a campaign finance bill, Congress or the states propose cutbacks in voter registration and voter protection laws, or legislatures redraw legislative districts, the League of Women Voters is there, defending voters’ rights and fighting to make sure our elections reflect the voice of the people, not special interests, wealthy campaign donors or self-interested politicians.

The two years leading up to the 2016 general election season kept the League especially busy on all fronts. We organized a massive national movement to bring pressure on Congress to repair the Voting Rights Act after the landmark law was gutted by the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Shelby County v. Holder* decision in 2013.

The *Shelby* decision essentially gave a green light to states covered by the Voting Rights Act to impose draconian laws deliberately designed to make it harder for millions of Americans to register and vote, especially in communities of color, and among older voters, younger voters and people with limited income. *Shelby* was the greatest setback to voters’ rights in generations, and the League will not rest until the full power of the Voting Rights Act is restored.

The League continues to lead the fights in Congress to expand voter participation through such reforms as online voter registration for all and automatic voter registration, and to block rollbacks in the very successful National Voter Registration Act.

The League also seeks to make the Federal Election Commission a more effective body, strengthen existing law that bars ostensibly independent Super PACs from coordinating with candidates and increase disclosure requirements on outside political spending.

At the state level, the League was on both offense and defense, leading fights to expand access to the ballot in some states and against new voter suppression laws in other states. We stopped passage of onerous new voter ID laws in seven states, protected early voting and same-day registration in five states and expanded access to the ballot through online registration and same-day registration in over twelve states. State Leagues also continued their ongoing battles against racial and partisan gerrymandering.
CITIZEN ACTIVISTS—
THE REAL STRENGTH OF THE LEAGUE

The strength of the League is rooted in the commitment of thousands of grassroots members and supporters like you.

In the past year alone, thousands of League supporters took action on our most important issues:

• Contacting their Congressional Representative in support of the Stop Super PAC-Candidate Coordination Act, which would strengthen existing law requiring Super PACs to be independent of candidates.

• Pressuring their Congressional delegation to repair and modernize the Voting Rights Act after a key section of that landmark law was gutted by a 2013 U.S. Supreme Court decision.

• Writing their Senators and Representative in support of the Federal Election Administration Act, which would establish a new and more effective government agency to enforce campaign finance laws.

• Signing a petition to President Obama urging him to ensure that federal health insurance exchanges under the Affordable Care Act offer voter registration services in compliance with the National Voter Registration Act.

• Signing a letter to President Obama calling on him to end offshore oil and gas drilling off the Arctic and Atlantic coasts.

• Improving and expanding access to voter registration. Between 2015 and 2016, online voter registration laws were passed as a direct result of those efforts in Florida, Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

• Testifying before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in support of its Clean Power Plan to set first-ever carbon pollution limits on existing power plants.

• Submitting over one hundred thousand public comments to the EPA regarding its plan to protect our planet and public health by limiting carbon pollution from power plants.

• Joining hundreds of thousands in New York City for the People’s Climate March, the largest climate march in history. 162 similar events were planned in countries across the world, including the United Nations Climate Summit.

When the League speaks, Washington listens—and our most effective voice comes directly from supporters like you.
Whenever their rights are threatened by discriminatory laws or government action, voters know they can turn to the League as their advocate in court. These are a few of the legal battles we fought from 2015 into 2016:

- In Washington, D.C., the League sued the executive director of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission after he unlawfully approved a request from several states to require documentary proof-of-citizenship when voters register under the National Voter Registration Act.

- In Kansas, the League joined the ACLU and other plaintiffs in a lawsuit successfully challenging that state’s refusal to register voters who applied at the DMV without documentary proof-of-citizenship. They followed up with a lawsuit challenging that state’s attempt to cut voters from the rolls by giving them only a short window to provide proof of citizenship documentation if they failed to do so when first completing their voter registration form at either the DMV or through the mail.

- In North Carolina, the League successfully took on one of the most draconian voter suppression laws in the country, which a federal court would eventually conclude targeted voters in communities of color “with almost surgical precision.”

- In Ohio, the League challenged a 2014 law that eliminated the popular “golden week” when voter registration and early voting overlapped, and also filed an amicus brief in a different suit that successfully challenged the state’s purging of hundreds of thousands of voters from voter rolls.

- In Tennessee, the League followed up on the decision in the Ohio purging case and urged the state to alter its now-illegal purging system.

- In Wisconsin, the League continued its years-long battle against the state’s burdensome new voter ID law that blocked thousands of voters from casting ballots.

- In Florida, the League rushed to court and forced an extension of the voter registration deadline to accommodate voters impacted by the pre-election hurricane. The League also joined the successful effort to block the purging system in Florida that came too close to an election.

The legal process is often long and difficult, but the League will stand in court to defend voters’ rights through every step of the process.
Thank you!

The League’s success is made possible by the tens of thousands of supporters and partners who contribute to our programs and help us realize our mission every day. We are grateful for all they do and wish we had space to list each and every one. Below, it is our privilege to recognize the individuals, foundations and corporations who donated $1,000 or more during the fiscal year July 1, 2015 – June 20, 2016.

Champions ($10,000+)

Mr. K. Reed Gleason

Visionaries ($5,000+)

Ms. Marianne Gabel & Mr. Donald Lateiner

Ms. Sue Henry

Ms. Gretchen Garth

Ms. Susan Morrison

Mr. & Ms. Harlan Durand

David Rigsby

Douglas Smith

Ms. Caryl Beal

Ms. Barbara Stampfl

Ms. Suzanne Oparil

Abassadors ($2,500+)

Anonymous (1)

Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Buechner

Ms. Kathy Lenzmeier

Ms. Nancy Hamilton

Ms. Lynne Pickard

Ms. Trude Roselle

Mrs. Dore Leiger

Ms. Giovanna Deveny

Barbara Ryder & Johnathan Ryder

Ms. Shirley Woolaway

Ms. Marilyn Hills

Karen Townsend

Mr. & Ms. Eugene Grant

Lucy B. Stroock

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Grant

Mrs. Patricia Johnson

Ms. Gonzalee Ford

Ms. Dolores Furtado & Ms. Janis McMillen

Rita Turner

Ms. Julie Craemer

Miriam Flamm

Christopher & Thomas Carson

Mr. Stephen Gray

Mr. & Ms. Gary Kerr

Hannah Henderson

Kenneth Diamondstone

Dominique Alfandre

Ms. Marilyn Thompson

Ms. Arlene Klinger

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2016

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<tr>
<th>Unrestricted Activities</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue and Support Grants and Contributions</td>
<td>$2,805,636</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per-member Payments</td>
<td>1,276,899</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council and Convention</td>
<td>304,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing List Rental Income</td>
<td>202,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication Sales and Other Income</td>
<td>3,582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>6,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue and Support</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,599,910</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>809,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election Services</td>
<td>5,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member Services</td>
<td>472,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>331,987</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council and Convention</td>
<td>294,333</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,913,946</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>Supporting Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fund Raising</td>
<td>1,938,778</td>
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<tr>
<td>General and Administrative</td>
<td>728,869</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Supporting Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,667,447</strong></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Total Expense</strong></th>
<th><strong>4,581,393</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Unrestricted Net Assets from Operations</td>
<td>18,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Realized and Unrealized Loss on Investments</td>
<td>(37,859)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
<td>(19,342)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>(19,342)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets, July 1, 2015</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,178,752</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets, June 30, 2016</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,159,410</strong></td>
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STEWARDS ($1,000)

ANONYMOUS (1)
JUDITH KAUTZ
CAROLE MEAGHER
CHRISTINE BESHAR
MR. & MS. WILLIAM BRINKER
JUDY JODD
MARGARET BARNETT
MS. INGEBOHR UHLIR
RUTH HAMMET
THOMAS FIRLE & MS. JOAN CUDHEA
MS. HENRIETTA SAUNDERS & MR. RICHARD DAY
MR. ROBERT MARLAY & MS. NANCY TATE
MS. JUDY BETZ
MR. ANDY PROSSER & MS. ROYCEANN MATHER
KAY BRIGGS
MS. SUSAN OWICKI
MR. & MS. VINCENT MARTIN
DR. REBECCA SAGER
MS. SHANNON FOSTER
DINAH LARSEN
VIRGINIA MILLER
MS. LONA JUPITER
MS. GAYE HILL
FREDERICKA SHAPIRO
MS. ELIZABETH COSPER
MS. SUSAN WEISTROP
MR. & MS. TOM PRINCE
MS. BONNIE FRANKLIN
MS. MIRIAM DESSUREAU
ROSALIE TAUBMAN

MRS. NANCY TREICHLER
MS. AMY FOWLER
MR. JAMES GIBBONS
MR. & MS. PETER JAKES
MS. SANDRA CUNNINGHAM
NORMA YOUNG
MR. & CRAIG LINDSAY
MARSHA O’BANNON
MR. DONALD BERGER
MS. LISA POLISAR
DR. MARTHA ANN SAUNDERS
GINGER CHINN

GIFTS OF BEQUEST

ESTATE OF MRS. ELIZABETH AND
MR. JOHN W. DROEGE
ESTATE OF MARY PELTON
ESTATE OF JAMES REILLY
ESTATE OF OSCAR DOBKEN

COMPANIES

VORNOAD CHARLES E. SMITH
REAL ESTATE SERVICES
INFOGROUP
CLEAR HARBOR ASSET MANAGEMENT, LLC
GOLDSTEIN & GREENLAW LLP
INTEGRATED DIRECT MARKETING, LLC

FOUNDATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

THE GORLITZ FOUNDATION

If we have made an error in recognizing your support we extend our sincere apologies. Please notify our Development office at 202-263-1336 or development@lwv.org.