

# 2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP	2
ABOUT THE LEAGUE	3
FIGHTING FOR VOTING RIGHTS	4
CAMPAIGN FINANCE/MONEY IN POLITICS	6
REDISTRICTING	7
THE LEAGUE IN THE NEWS	8
FINANCIALS	10
DONOR LISTINGS	12





Dear Members and Supporters,

The past two years have presented new challenges as well as opportunities for the League of Women Voters of the United States. As our democracy has faced unexpected obstacles, the League has stood up as a trusted voice fighting to protect and defend voters nationwide.

For nearly 100 years, the League of Women Voters has championed voting rights, and today our work couldn't be more important. As this biennium ends, the League of Women Voters looks back on the successes we accomplished together.

From protecting voters' rights at the Supreme Court and standing up against big money influencing our elections, to fighting to stop partisan and racial gerrymandering—we've impacted and strengthened our democracy.

The continued impact of the League is due to the hard work of the committed League members and volunteers on the ground in states and communities across the country. Some highlights of our efforts are shared in the pages to follow.

However, despite all this work, there is still more to do.

When democracy is under attack, the League fights back. From courtrooms to Congress, we advocate for voters first. At the local, state, and federal levels, our work on voter protection and mobilization, election reform, money in politics, and redistricting is at the heart of the League's mission and our future.

We are excited to welcome in this next biennium and are pleased to present this 2016–2018 Impact Report demonstrating the League's contribution to the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®.

Thank you,

Chris Carson  
President, League of Women Voters  
of the United States

Anisa Tootla  
Interim CEO, League of Women Voters  
of the United States



The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.

### OUR MISSION

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

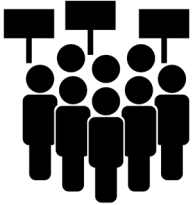
### OUR VISION

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

### OUR VALUE

We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

### LWVUS BY THE NUMBERS



More than  
400,000  
activists



Sent 138,500  
letters to  
members of  
Congress



Signed 55,559  
League petitions



## FIGHTING FOR VOTING RIGHTS

Throughout the biennium, the LWVUS and state and local Leagues across the country continued our core work to fight voter suppression opposing voter photo ID laws, advocating against barriers to the voter registration process, and preventing last-minute Election Day obstacles.

## DEFENDING THE EAC

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) works to ensure the efficacy, reliability, and trustworthiness of our nation's election systems by conducting research, collecting data, and sharing information among election officials, the public, and interested organizations. When opponents of the EAC proposed terminating the Commission, the League stepped in. The League lobbied Congress to uphold the only federal entity devoted exclusively to improving election administration on a bipartisan basis. Ultimately, Congress awarded \$380 million to the EAC under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) for the purpose of improving election security.



## DISCREDITING THE EIC

In 2017 an “Election Integrity Commission” (EIC), was charged with uncovering fraudulent activity in federal elections based on false claims of voter fraud. The EIC attempted to collect voter registration data from states around the country. In some states, releasing this information was illegal based on privacy concerns, and state Leagues took legal action where necessary to stop the sharing of this data. LWVUS rallied outside of the EIC’s first meeting with other coalition partners and delivered the names of more than 13,300 members and supporters who opposed the efforts of the Commission. The League continued to oppose the Commission until it was disbanded in January 2018 after producing no evidence of voter fraud.

## LEGAL BATTLES

## FISH V. KOBACH

The League of Women Voters of Kansas went to trial alongside the ACLU and other plaintiffs in March 2018. The case challenges a new rule that gives citizens a short window to provide documentary proof-of-citizenship if they failed to do so when first submitting their voter registration form. Of the more than 35,000 Kansans impacted, roughly 18,000 registered at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The League was instrumental in helping to prove that Kansas voting officials were violating the NVRA. **In June 2018, the court struck down Kansas' documentary proof-of-citizenship law, stating the law violates the National Voter Registration Act.**

## LWV V. NEWBY

LWVUS led an effort together with the Leagues in Alabama, Georgia, and Kansas. This case challenges the action of U.S. Election Assistance Commission Executive Director Brian Newby to allow three states to require documentary proof-of-citizenship on the federal voter registration form. **As of June 2018, the EAC was split on partisan lines and the September 2016 injunction against the burdensome registration requirements still stands.**

HUSTED V. A. PHILLIP RANDOLPH  
INSTITUTE

LWVUS and the League of Women Voters of Ohio submitted an amicus brief for this U.S. Supreme Court Case. The case was challenging the process that Ohio uses to “purge” voters from their voter registration lists was heard in January 2018. The amicus brief argues that the process used by Ohio is illegal, inaccurate, and unreasonable under the provisions established by Section 8 of the NVRA. **In June 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against Ohio voters by upholding the state’s purging practice for those voters who did not vote in a single election.**

## MINNESOTA VOTERS ALLIANCE V. MANSKY

LWVUS joined the League of Women Voters of Minnesota on an amicus brief in this case heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. The case is a challenge to a Minnesota statute that says that a “political badge, political button, or other political insignia may not be worn at or about the polling place on primary or election day.” The amicus brief that the League filed argues that the law is put in place to safeguard the right to vote. **In June 2018, the court rightly upheld the distinction between voting and campaigning.**



# CAMPAIGN FINANCE/MONEY IN POLITICS

Over the past two years, the League worked tirelessly to get money out of politics and to mitigate secret and unlimited spending in our elections. The League supported the bipartisan Honest Ads Act, that addressed the need for new rules to expose efforts undertaken by foreign interests to intervene in U.S. elections. The legislation promises to improve transparency of online political ads.

The League submitted comments to the FEC in favor of rulemaking efforts to move internet ad disclosures regulations forward. Those comments were cosigned by nearly 13,000 League members and supporters in November 2017.



# REDISTRICTING

Partisan and racial gerrymandering distorts and undermines representative democracy by allowing officials to select their voters rather than voters to elect their officials. The League has worked for decades to improve the redistricting process by putting the power back in the hands of voters. During this biennium we continued that effort through litigation at the state and national levels.

## GILL V. WHITFORD

LWVUS filed an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court case heard in early October 2017. The League brief argued that partisan gerrymandering violates the First Amendment and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. It also points out that traditional redistricting principles—such as compactness, contiguity, and respect for political subdivisions—have no constitutional foundation. In June 2018 the court sent the case back to the district court.

## STATE REFORM

State Leagues are also pushing for reforms across the country.

In **Ohio**, the League supported a successful ballot initiative from the state legislature that establishes an independent commission for Congressional redistricting.

Additionally, LWVUS and state Leagues have tackled litigation efforts on redistricting in **Michigan**, **North Carolina**, and **Pennsylvania** over the last biennium. These efforts work to challenge partisan and racial gerrymandering efforts by the respective state legislatures.





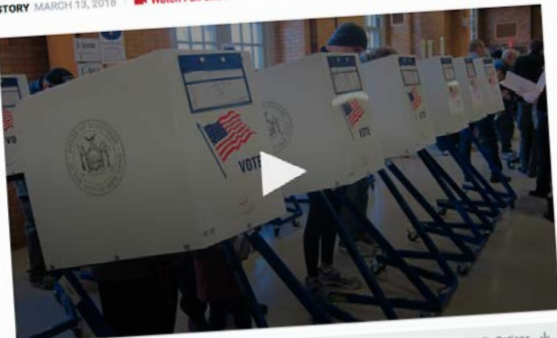
THE LEAGUE IN THE NEWS

Throughout the biennium the League was featured in tens of thousands of media reports about our election work and VOTE411. League leaders have written letters to the editor in newspapers around the country and placed op-eds in publications reaching millions of voters. We continue to be a go-to source for election information and our place in American politics.



### “Unprecedented & Shocking”: Armed Secret Service Agents Should Not Be Allowed at Polling Sites

STORY MARCH 13, 2018 Watch Full Show



Related

STORY NOV 05, 2019 Colorado Has One of the Most Restrictive Voting Laws in the Country. Here's Why.

POLITICS

### Trump's Election Integrity Commission Could Have A 'Chilling Effect' On Voting Rights

May 17, 2017 · 1:47 PM ET  
Heard on Fresh Air

34-Minute Listen

Ari Berman, author of *Give Us the Ballot*, says the new commission will keep alive the idea that voter fraud is rampant — despite the fact that “all the studies show the opposite.”

Block The Vote: A Journalist Discusses Voting Rights And Restrictions

Transcript

### Some States Beat Supreme Court to Punch on Eliminating Gerrymanders



John Steinbrink, a Democrat, was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1996. After the redrawing of district boundaries, he lost to a Republican opponent in 2012. Taylor Glascock for The New York Times

### Pennsylvania Lawsuit Says House Redistricting Is Partisan Gerrymander



A lawsuit filed in Pennsylvania on Thursday challenges the state's congressional-district map as an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander. Ruth Fremson/The New York Times

By Michael Wines

June 15, 2017

### March For Our Lives' Gun Control Agenda Is Clear. Now It Needs To Turn Protesters Into Voters.

By ERIN DELMORE | Apr 6, 2018 | f



When high school students took to the stage during last month's [March For Our Lives](#) in Washington, D.C., their signature chant, “vote them out,” echoed across the National Mall — and throughout some 800 sister marches around the country. It marked the sixth week of public pressure by student activists to hold lawmakers accountable for what they say are failing gun policies that leave their schools

as Fuller and Michael Wines


17

CRIME AND JUSTICE JULY 7, 2017

### These Three Lawyers Are Quietly Purging Voter Rolls Across the Country

The Trump administration could soon follow their lead.

PEMA LEVY  
Reporter  
Bio | Follow



Hans Gutknecht/Los Angeles Daily News/ZUMA

Willie Miller was born in 1948 in Noxubee County, Mississippi, an agricultural community along the state's eastern border named after a Choctaw word



# FINANCIALS

## Consolidated Statements of Activities

Year Ended June 30,	2018	2017
<b>Activities without donor restrictions</b>		
Revenue and support		
Grants and contributions	\$ 6,128,053	\$ 6,982,748
Per-member payments	1,414,075	1,263,331
In-kind contributions	732,142	904,676
Council and convention	407,915	63,372
Mailing list rental income	319,615	200,627
Publication sales and other income	266,565	219,974
Interest and dividends, net	115,201	72,745
Contributions in lieu of per-member payments	88,294	133,431
	9,471,860	9,840,904
Net assets released from restrictions	609,034	520,180
Total revenue and support	10,080,894	10,361,084
Expense		
Program services		
Election services	1,382,402	1,472,281
Communications	1,088,867	1,122,218
Advocacy	633,190	800,705
Council and convention	453,927	114,411
Member services	237,703	292,217
Total program services	3,796,089	3,801,832
Supporting services		
Fund raising	3,145,988	2,843,720
General and administrative	1,877,316	1,331,850
Total supporting services	5,023,304	4,175,570
Total expense	8,819,393	7,977,402
Change in net assets without donor restrictions from operations	1,261,501	2,383,682
Net gain on investments	249,813	243,304
Net assets transferred	-	41,219
Change in net assets without donor restrictions	1,511,314	2,668,205
<b>Activities with donor restrictions</b>		
Grants and contributions	237,498	1,033,781
Investment income	56,859	62,669
Net assets released from restrictions	(609,034)	(520,180)
Change in net assets with donor restrictions	(314,677)	576,270
Change in net assets	1,196,637	3,244,475
Net assets, beginning of year	9,069,174	5,824,699
Net assets, end of the year	\$ 10,265,811	\$ 9,069,174





DONOR LISTINGS

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 we wish we had space to list each and every one. Below, it is our privilege to recognize the individuals, foundations, and corporations that have donated \$1000 or more in 2017-2018.

\$10,000+

Anonymous  
Ms. Nancy Beeuwkes &  
Mr. Reinier Beeuwkes  
Martha Chestem\*  
Ms. Kathleen Reilly\*

\$5,000+

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Mrs. Martha Daugherty\*  
Teresa Klingenstein  
Alexei Kosut & Laura Back  
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Ms. Susan Morrison  
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Mr. Jon Rupp  
Ms. Barbara Stampfl  
Ms. Joyce Thibodeaux

\$2,500+

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Donald Royer  
Mrs. Martha Smith &  
Dr. Phillip Smith  
Ms. Barbara Stampfl  
Mr. Pete Taylor

Ms. Deborah Todd  
Ms. Susan Weistrop

\$1,000+

Anonymous (3)  
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Dominique Alfandre  
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