COVID and the League: Continuing our Work in Unprecedented Times

Maintaining access to Democracy while protecting our health and safety
Housekeeping Items

• All participant lines are muted
• Use the questions box to ask questions throughout
• If you want to ask your question use raise your hand function and a panelist will call on you during Q & A
• Make sure to identify yourself (name, League & state) when asking questions
• A follow-up email will be sent with materials highlighted on the webinar
Welcome to the Webinar!

Agenda:

• Using Policies and Positions for Advocacy

• Building Community Around our Work

• Tools and Resources for Sharing this work
Presenters

Jessica Jones Capparell
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Using Policies and Positions for Advocacy

Jessica Jones Capparell
Senior Manager, Policy and Legislative Affairs
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POLL: The COVID-19 Pandemic Has Greatly Impacted How My State Does Our Advocacy Work?

• Strongly disagree
• Disagree
• Neutral
• Agree
• Strongly agree.
Federal Response to Current Environment
Advocacy and COVID-19
Our Work is Grounded in Our Positions and Policies
Fighting for a Safe Election

- Voter Education and Combatting Misinformation
- Voter Registration
- Early In-Person Voting
- Expanded Access to Absentee Mail-In Ballots
- Polling Place Adjustments
POLL: Before we get started, How comfortable do you feel about advocating for a safe 2020 election?

• I feel comfortable and know how these issues effect my state
• I feel comfortable but would like additional policy training
• I do not feel comfortable and need additional assistance
• I don't know but hope this webinar will help
Elections administrators must educate the public by publishing changes to their official websites and promoting these sites to voters.

States must undertake aggressive voter education campaigns.
Voter Registration

Accessible Online Voter Registration

Ensure that stable and secure systems are in place

Same-day voter registration

Extend voter registration deadlines and ensure that registration deadlines comply with the NVRA
Early In-Person Voting

- **Expand early voting options and hours**
- **Actively offer** Public education about early voting opportunities
- Early voting sites should follow the same procedures outlined for polling places (detailed in a few slides)
- Publish voting changes to their official websites and promote these sites to voters.
Expanded Access to Absentee Mail-In Ballots

- All states should move to a no-excuse absentee system
- Absentee mail-in ballots should include instructions on how to cast their ballots
- Postage should be paid by the election official in the appropriate state or jurisdiction.
- Allow voters to designate individuals to provide support completing and submitting ballots
- Requesting, receiving, and returning mail-in ballots should be expanded
- Deadlines for mail-in ballots to be requested and returned should be relaxed.
Polling Place Adjustments

- Jurisdictions with polling places must follow public health guidelines.
- Polling places must be adequately sanitized.
- Polling places should be reconfigured in order to adhere to “social distancing” protocols.
- Jurisdictions with early voting polling places must follow public health guidelines.
- Election administration officials must identify locations that protect all communities.
POLL: Do you feel comfortable about advocating for the policies outlined?

- I feel comfortable and know how these issues effect my state
- I feel comfortable but would like additional policy training
- I do not feel comfortable and need additional assistance
- I don't know
Building Community Around Our Work

Alma Couverthie
National Organizing Director
acouverthie@lwv.org
POLL: How many online communities are you a part of?

• 1-3
• 4-6
• More than 6
Building Community around our work

Moving forward in new and different ways

• Build Community
• Engage and organize
• Advocate
• Take care of one another
From Offline to Online

Strategy

 Equip: Equip League leaders with needed tools and guidance

 Create: Create a connected community online

 Develop: Develop our grassroots power online, organize and mobilize to actions
Key Components

**Community Calls**
- Monthly. Co-lead space

**Train together**
- Systems / Lead / Build / Mobilize

**Structure**
- Organizing Committee and League Circles
Next steps

- **Lead a League Circle or join the Organizing Committee!**
  - Details soon!
- **Register for trainings**
  - Let us know what you need and what you can share/teach
- **We need your feedback and ideas**
  - Look out for our email and questionnaire
Tools and Resources for Sharing This Work

Kayla Vix
Communications Manager
kvix@lwv.org
Resources for sharing our work

- Social media
- Member/engager communications
- Press

LWV.org/COVIDguidance
Resources for sharing our work: social media

- Keep messages positive
- Be sensitive
- Maintain regular posts
- Stay on topic: important issues only

OUR TOOLS

- Census graphics (English & Spanish)
- Election posts and graphics
Resources for sharing our work: member/engager communications

EMAIL
• Simple, easy personal asks
  • Share social posts + graphics
  • Use our census FB frame
  • Action alerts

WEBSITE
• Keep up-to-date
  • Blogs/articles
  • Notices/banners
  • Link to VOTE411
Resources for sharing our work: press

- Letter to the editor
- Op-ed
- Find guidance on lwv.org/COVIDguidance
- Keep topics local
- Relate message to news hook
- Rapid response press
  - Use our resources: interview tips, talking points
  - Connect with communications@lwv.org
LWV.org/COVIDguidance
Questions?

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