



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS *of* THE UNITED STATES

NATIONAL CONVENTION

JUNE 25-27, 2020

Women Power the Vote for 100 Years
54th Biennial Convention

Convention 2020 Schedule

Monday June 22 - Wednesday June 24

Caucuses will be offered in one-hour blocks from 4pm EDT to 9pm EDT.

Wednesday June 24

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Resolutions Committee Meeting



Thursday June 25 / Pre-Con

Midday

Virtual Lobby Day

6:30pm - 7:30pm

Welcome Address

Chris Carson, LWVUS President

Parliamentary and Virtual Convention Training

Barbara Rosi, Parliamentarian

7:30pm-8:40pm

Expanding the Vote Panel Presentation

Facebook livestream with Muriel Bowser, Washington, DC, Mayor; Alejandra Y. Castillo, YWCA USA CEO; Valerie B. Jarrett, When We All Vote Board Chair and The United State of Women Co-Chair; and Allison Riggs, Southern Coalition for Social Justice Interim Executive Director & Chief Counsel for Voting Rights

8:40pm - 9:00pm

Closing Remarks and Announcements

Chris Carson, LWVUS President

Friday June 26 / Convention / Plenary

3:00pm -8:00pm / *Proposed Order of Business*

Address from LWVUS President

Chris Carson, LWVUS President

Honoring Our Native Land

This schedule is subject to change. Please visit lww.org/2020Convention for updates. All times listed are in EDT.

Parliamentary Reminders
Barbara Rosi, Parliamentarian

Credentials Report

Resolutions Committee Announcement
Chris Carson, LWWUS President

Adoption of Rules
Toni Zimmer, LWWUS Secretary

Adoption of Order of Business
Toni Zimmer, LWWUS Secretary

Report of Nominating Committee and Election of 2020-2022 Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee
Sue Smith, Chair, LWWUS 2018-2020 Nominating Committee

15 minute Break

Keynote Address
Norah O'Donnell, CBS News Anchor

Presentation and Adoption of the Proposed Bylaws Amendments
Melissa Currence, Chair, LWWUS Bylaws Committee

45 minute Break

Biennium Report and Highlights

Presentation of Proposed National Program for 2020-2022
Karen Nicholson, LWWUS Vice-President

- Motions to Adopt Board-Recommended 2020-22 National Program
 - Motions to Adopt Concurrence(s)
 - Motions to Consider Not-Recommended Program Items from List
 - Vote on Motions to Consider Not-Recommended Items
 - Debate on Board-Recommended 2020-22 National Program
 - Debate on Concurrence(s)
-

Announcements and Recess
Chris Carson, LWWUS President



Convention 2020 Schedule (Continued)

Saturday June 27 / Convention / Plenary

3:00pm - 8:00pm / *Proposed Order of Business*

Call to Order

Chris Carson, LWWUS President

Credentials Report

Report of the Previous Day's Activities

Toni Zimmer, LWWUS Secretary

Address from the CEO

Virginia Kase, LWWUS CEO

Report of the Treasurer

Jessica Lowe-Minor, LWWUS Treasurer

Presentation and Adoption of the [Proposed LWWUS 2020-2022 Budget and Per Member Payment](#)

Elaine Wiant, Chair, LWWUS Budget Committee

40 minute Break

[Proposed National Program for 2020-2022](#)

Karen Nicholson, LWWUS Vice-President

- Debate and Vote on Not-Recommended Program Items Voted for Consideration
 - Vote on Concurrence(s)
 - Vote on Program
-

15 minute Break

[Report of the Resolutions Committee](#)

Convention 2020 Awards Presentation

Recognition and Thanks of the 2018-2020 LWWUS Board of Directors and Nominating Committee

Introduction of the 2020-2022 LWWUS Board of Directors and Nominating Committee

Remarks from the 2020-2022 LWWUS President

Invitation to Convention 2022 / Closing Remarks

Table of Contents

<u>1</u>	/ Convention 2020 Schedule
<u>5</u>	/ Welcome Message
<u>6</u>	/ Parliamentary Procedure
<u>7</u>	/ How to Use the Platform
<u>9</u>	/ Keynote Speaker: Norah O'Donnell
<u>10</u>	/ VOTING ITEMS:
<u>10</u>	/ Convention Rules
<u>14</u>	/ Proposed Bylaws
<u>17</u>	/ Proposed Program
<u>19</u>	/ Budgets and PMP
<u>22</u>	/ Board and Nominating Committee Slate
<u>28</u>	/ IMPACT REPORT:
<u>28</u>	/ Biennium by the Numbers
<u>29</u>	/ Increasing Capacity at All Levels
<u>30</u>	/ Raising the League's Visibility
<u>32</u>	/ "She Is Me" Digital Campaign
<u>33</u>	/ Women Power the Vote Day of Action
<u>35</u>	/ VOTE411
<u>37</u>	/ Programmatic Funding for State and Local Leagues
<u>38</u>	/ Training and Organizing
<u>39</u>	/ Making Democracy Work®



<u>40</u>	/ Protecting Voters
<u>41</u>	/ Constitutional Conventions
<u>41</u>	/ Money in Politics
<u>42</u>	/ Redistricting
<u>45</u>	/ Census
<u>46</u>	/ Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)
<u>47</u>	/ National Popular Vote
<u>48</u>	/ United Nations Observer Corps
<u>49</u>	/ Fighting Climate Change
<u>51</u>	/ Building a More Inclusive Culture

Welcome Message

Hello, Leaguers! Welcome to our 54th Biennial National Convention and our first ever national virtual convention! We're thrilled you'll be joining us for our centennial year convention, and we want to thank you for pivoting with us as we've made this difficult change from our planned meeting in Washington, DC, to the virtual space.

Despite these very different circumstances, we are certain this year's convention will be filled with commemoration, connection, and celebration. Our foremothers worked through a pandemic—the 1918 flu pandemic—to get the vote over 100 years ago, so it almost feels fitting that we honor them a century later by moving the work forward through the COVID-19 pandemic.



We know our League members can persist through anything, and we can't wait to see how you will bring your excitement and enthusiasm to our online convention space. We are so looking forward to connecting with you virtually this year.

Chris Carson, President,
LWVUS Board of Directors

Virginia Kase, CEO, LWVUS

Parliamentary Procedure

The customary LWVUS rules and procedures followed during plenary have been adapted for a virtual meeting and will be adopted at the beginning of Convention. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 11th Edition, is the parliamentary authority designated in the [LWVUS Bylaws](#).

All Convention business is accomplished by making, debating, and acting upon motions.

PMP and Convention Voting

Article IX, Section 3, of the LWVUS bylaws provides that "Each delegate representing a local or state League shall be entitled to vote only if that League has met its per member payment responsibilities. The national board may make an exception in the case of proven hardship."

To conform to this bylaw, representatives from Leagues not paid in full will not have the privilege of the floor, the right to vote, or the right to make motions. PMP will be accepted any time before the opening plenary session to enable Leagues to have delegates with full voting privilege.

How to Vote

Voting will take place using one or more of the following three methods:

- **Raising Your Hand** – This will be used when the Chair seeks unanimous consent and to vote on motions. Instructions on how to raise your hand in Zoom can be found in our [Virtual Platform Guide](#).
- **Answering a Poll Question** – This will be used to vote on motions as needed. Instructions on how to answer a poll question in Zoom can be found in our [Virtual Platform Guide](#).
- **Responding to an Email Survey** – This will be used to vote on the nominated slate if there is a contested election or in cases in which a poll result is close or otherwise deemed in need of additional verification by the Chair. All registered delegates will receive an email generated by the EventRebels registration software to the email address they used during registration. Delegates will have one hour to respond.

Additional Guidance

- All delegates received an email invitation to a training session on Thursday, June 25 at 6:30pm ET.
- Slides from our Introduction to Convention session can be [downloaded as a PDF](#).

How to Use the Platform

All of LWVUS's virtual Convention programming will be hosted on Zoom, using their webinar platform.

Upon registering for Convention, delegates will receive a confirmation email that includes steps to register for the Zoom webinars and instructions for how to access them during the Convention sessions. These sessions include:

- Thursday's delegate training at 6:30pm ET and the panel discussion on Expanding the Vote at 7:30pm ET. Please note that non-delegates will be able to watch the panel discussion on Facebook Live.
- Friday and Saturday's plenary sessions. Please note that registered observers who are members of a League will be able to watch plenary on YouTube Live.



Zoom offers a full library of support documents that can be found at <https://support.zoom.us/>. System requirements are available at <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-requirements-for-Windows-macOS-and-Linux>. Please note that a webcam or other camera device is not needed to participate as a delegate. A microphone will be needed for any delegate who wishes to present a motion or argument. Delegates will be able to vote without the use of a camera or microphone.

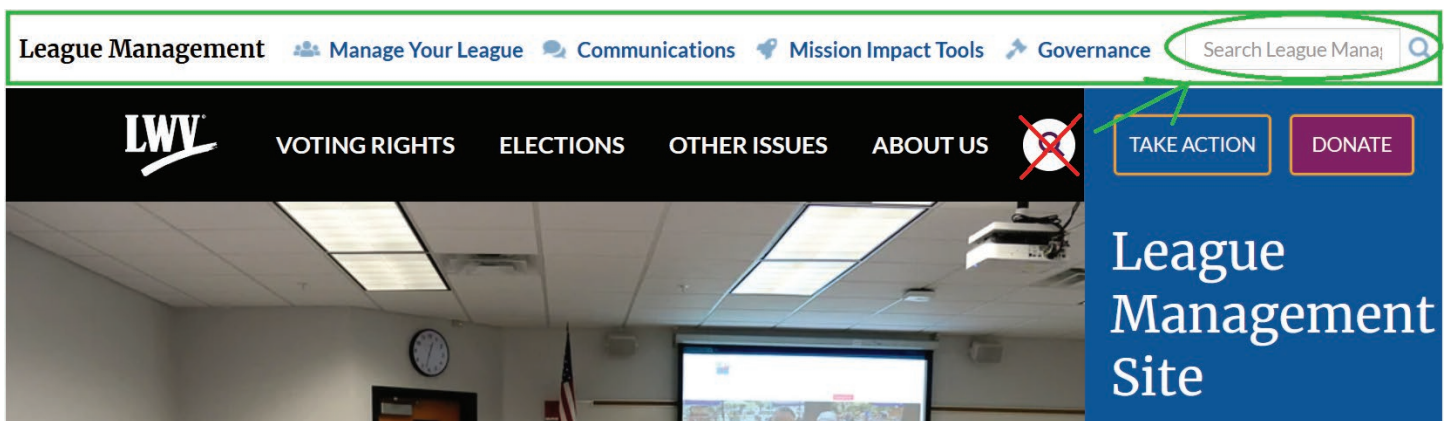
In order to make your experience as a delegate positive and productive, we offer the following guidelines and tips:

- We recommend participating in plenary from a desktop or laptop computer. **Participation via phone will not allow you to vote.** Zoom offers apps for tablets and smartphones, but please be advised that their format can be cumbersome for participating in the chat or utilizing the polling features.
- All delegates will automatically have their microphones muted and their cameras turned off. During debate, LWVUS staff will assist delegates in unmuting their microphones in order to present motions and arguments.
- Plenary presentations will consist of:
 - Live speakers with their cameras on
 - PowerPoint presentations
 - Split screens between speakers and presentations
 - Prerecorded videos with sound
- If at any time you experience difficulties seeing or hearing anything, we will provide instructions for contacting technical support.
- We will be utilizing the Q&A feature during debates around Plenary items. The Q&A feature can be accessed in the webinar controls and looks like this:



Instructions on how to frame your questions and remarks are provided in our Parliamentary Guidance.

- Two Zoom functions will be utilized during votes:
 - Raising Your Hand
 - Click Raise Hand in the webinar controls (it may also be under More): 
 - Click Lower Hand when instructed: 
 - Answering a Poll
 - It will be announced that a poll is about to be shown on the screen. You will see the poll pop up with the question and a series of choices.
 - Select your choice in the time allotted.
 - Once the poll closes, additional responses cannot be added.
- Navigating the League Management Site
 - The League Management Site is a separate website from the public-facing lwv.org that is only for League members. A button to get to the LMS can be found in the footer of the lwv.org homepage.
 - All voting items will be listed on the main Convention LMS webpage at lwv.org/2020Convention.
 - Each voting item opens in a new tab, and participants can easily navigate back to the main Convention page by clicking the banner at the top of the page.
 - When using the search function on the League Management Site, do not use the magnifying glass in the black menu bar. That menu is pulled over from the main lwv.org site and will not search for items on the LMS. The white LMS menu is found above that black bar, and the search field is in the top right corner.



Keynote Speaker: **Norah O'Donnell**



[Norah O'Donnell](#) is the anchor and managing editor of the CBS Evening News, anchor of CBS News Election Specials, including primary, debate, and election nights, and a 60 Minutes contributing correspondent.

Previously, O'Donnell was co-host of CBS This Morning and a contributor to 60 Minutes. O'Donnell joined CBS This Morning in July 2012. Prior to that, she served as CBS News' chief White House correspondent. She is an Emmy Award-winning journalist with more than two decades of experience covering the world; she has covered six presidential elections and traveled around the globe to interview some of the world's most important leaders, including five U.S. presidents.

In 2018 she and her producer were awarded an Emmy in the Outstanding Investigative Report in a Newscast category for her report on sexual assaults at the United States Air Force Academy. She also won in 2009 as part of NBC News' 2008 Election Night coverage team.

O'Donnell is a 2019 New York Women in Communications Matrix Award honoree. She earned a Gracie Award and was named Best National News On-Air Talent for the year 2018 and 2016. Her reporting for CBS This Morning on sexual assault at the Air Force Academy won an honorable mention in the Edgar A. Poe Award from the White House Correspondents' Association. She received the Edward R. Murrow Award for Best Newscast of 2017 and was named Broadcaster of the Year by the New York State Broadcasters Association in 2014.

O'Donnell has covered every presidential election since 2000, including as NBC News' White House correspondent in 2004 when she covered the campaigns of then-President George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry. Prior to covering the White House, O'Donnell was NBC News congressional correspondent, reporting on the lead-up to the Iraq War.

A firm believer in empowering women, O'Donnell sits on the board of directors of the International Women's Media Foundation.

Born into a military family, O'Donnell grew up in San Antonio, Texas; Landstuhl, Germany; Seoul, South Korea and Washington, D.C. She is a graduate of Georgetown University and received a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy as well as a Master of Arts in liberal studies. She is married to Geoff Tracy, a restaurateur in Washington, DC. They have three children.

Voting Items: 2020 Convention Rules

The rules customarily used by LWVUS have been adapted to the virtual meeting format. These rules will be presented for adoption at the opening plenary. Amendments may be offered at this time and require a majority vote to adopt. The rules, as proposed or amended, require a two-thirds vote for adoption. To suspend a rule at a later time requires a two-thirds vote.

- 1.** Only accredited delegates representing local Leagues, Inter-League organizations, state Leagues and members of the LWVUS Board may vote.
- 2.** Accredited delegates shall sign into the webinar software to access all controls needed for debate and voting and maintain Internet access throughout the plenary when present; delegates must sign out upon any departure prior to adjournment.
- 3.** Each member is responsible for their connection to the Internet. The loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection preventing participation in the plenary shall not impact the consideration of an issue or outcome of an action.
- 4.** Only delegates and those authorized by the chair may address the Convention.
- 5.** Delegates must be recognized by the chair before speaking. Each speaker shall announce name, League, and state when addressing the Convention. Instructions on how to participate in the proceedings will be provided by LWVUS.
- 6.** In debate, no person shall speak more than once until all others who wish to speak have done so; no person shall speak more than twice on the same motion; debate shall be limited to one minute per speaker. The chair will announce the total time allocated to each main motion and associated discussion.
- 7.** Microphones shall remain on mute unless a member is recognized to speak. The chair may cause or direct the muting or disconnection of a member's connection if it is causing undue interference with the plenary.
- 8.** In the event of major technical disruption in the plenary that affects quorum, the chair will have the option to recess, or to fix the time to which to adjourn, for members to again login to reconvene the plenary.
- 9.** The presence of a quorum shall be established by the online list of participating voting members. The list will be copied for the minutes.

Voting Items: 2020 Convention Rules (Continued)

- 10.** A member intending to make a main motion or offer an amendment shall submit it in writing prior to the start of plenary via the method provided by LWVUS.
- 11.** The method of voting shall be announced by the chair. Voice votes shall be taken by means of the “raise hand” icon and shall be deemed a Division. In the event of electronic voting, the chair’s announcement of the result shall include the number of members voting on each side.
- 12.** Any candidate who is nominated from the floor shall give consent and be allowed to address the delegates for one minute immediately after their name is placed in nomination.
- 13.**
 - 1.** Procedure for the proposed program: The proposed LWVUS Program shall be moved for adoption by a member of the LWVUS Board. Debate and action on the Proposed Program shall take place at a time designated by the chair. During the times specified in the agenda for Program consideration and Program debate, the chair will divide the time equally among the program items that have been granted consideration.
 - 2.** Procedure for Considering Not- Recommended Program Items:
 - 1.** Any League may move for consideration of not-recommended Program items. Presentations shall be limited to one minute. No additional motions or debate are in order at this time. If a not-recommended item is moved for consideration, any delegate may request a statement from the LWVUS Board, limited to one minute, giving the reasons for not recommending the item.
 - 2.** After all not-recommended items have been moved for consideration, a vote for consideration of each shall take place in the order in which the items were moved for consideration. No additional motions or debate are in order at this time. A majority vote is required to consider a not-recommended item.
 - 3.** Debate and action on not-recommended Program items shall take place at the same plenary as debate and action on the proposed Program.
 - 3.** Procedure for Concurrence at Convention:
 - 1.** Proposals for concurrence at Convention may be moved for adoption at a time designated by the chair.
 - 2.** Proposals for concurrence are debatable but not amendable. Action on proposals for concurrence motions shall take place at the same plenary as debate and action on the proposed Program. A two-thirds vote is required to adopt the concurrence statement.

4. Procedure for Adoption of program:

1. Action on the proposed Program, concurrence proposals, and any not- recommended program items voted for consideration by the delegates and moved for adoption shall take place at a time designated by the chair. Note that action on any not-recommended Program items voted for consideration by delegates and moved for adoption shall come on a following day.
2. A majority vote is required to adopt the proposed Program, including any not-recommended items. A two-thirds vote is required to adopt a concurrence on the Convention floor.

14. Resolutions express the will of the Convention body during the time of its convening. The following criteria will be used to judge the appropriateness of proposed resolutions. The resolution:

- has complied with procedural requirements of this rule;
- is consistent with LWWUS Bylaws, principles, and positions;
- must not circumvent the program planning process;
- addresses a single, topical issue;
- is likely to have an impact on the single, topical issue;
- requires time-sensitive federal governmental action;
- is consistent with the current stated LWWUS priorities; and
- can be implemented using existing League resources.

Resolutions may be offered by any League.

A) If the resolution addresses an issue that has arisen at least four weeks before the Convention then,

- i. At least four weeks before the Convention, the League offering the resolution shall send notice of the proposed resolution and its text to all Leagues and to the Chair of the Resolutions Committee (resolutions@lww.org) using the Resolution Submission form provided on the League Management site.
- ii. The following information is required to be submitted:
 - *League name/ID and point of contact information;*
 - *the proposed resolution;*
 - *the LWWUS position on which the resolution is based;*
 - *background information on the issue;*
 - *the rationale, including the pros and cons for the resolution;*
 - *evidence that the issue is a current legislative priority;*
 - *evidence that the issue is time-sensitive and requires federal governmental action;*
 - *The League offering the resolution shall have delegate(s) participating in Convention.*

Voting Items: 2020 Convention Rules (Continued)

- B) If the resolution addresses an issue that has arisen at or within four weeks of Convention then,
- i. No later than 48 hours before the start of the first plenary session of the Convention (i.e., by Wednesday, June 24 at 3:00 pm ET), the maker of the resolution shall submit any proposed resolution along with the following to the Chair of the Resolutions Committee (resolutions@lwv.org) using the Resolution Submission form provided on the League Management site.
 - ii. The following information is required to be submitted:
 - *League name/ID and point of contact information;*
 - *the proposed resolution;*
 - *the LWVUS position on which the resolution is based;*
 - *background information on the issue;*
 - *the rationale, including the pros and cons for the resolution;*
 - *evidence that the issue is a current legislative priority;*
 - *evidence that the issue is time-sensitive and requires federal governmental action; and*
 - *evidence why the resolution is submitted within four weeks of Convention.*
 - *The League offering the resolution shall have delegates participating in the Convention.*

C) The Resolutions Committee and process

At least four weeks before the Convention, the LWVUS President shall have appointed a Resolutions Committee consisting of two members of the LWVUS Board of Directors and three registered Convention delegates, who have either served on the LWVUS Board or another League Board.

The Resolutions Committee shall meet (remotely) within 48 hours of the first plenary session of the Convention to consider whether each submitted resolution meets the criteria, timing, and process requirements. The time and method for joining the meeting will be announced with the Convention schedule. A representative of the League submitting a resolution shall have an opportunity to explain the resolution to the Resolutions Committee if the representative so requests.

The Resolutions Committee shall report its findings on all submitted resolutions and the Chair of the Resolutions Committee will announce those findings to the Convention. Any resolution reported affirmatively by the Resolutions Committee may be moved for consideration of the Convention. Adoption of a resolution requires a majority vote. During the times specified in the agenda for resolution consideration, the chair will divide the time equally among the resolutions moved for adoption.

- 15.** The minutes of the Convention shall be approved by a committee appointed by the board to review and correct the minutes.

Voting Items: 2020 Bylaws

Bylaws submissions were solicited from state and local Leagues and ILOs. None were submitted. The following proposed amendments are offered by and have the support of the LWVUS Board. Amendments require a two-thirds vote of convention delegates.

[Current LWV Bylaws can be found at lww.org/bylaws.](http://lww.org/bylaws)

Note that only specific articles and sections being amended are listed. A rationale and possible pros and cons for each amendment are provided.

The proposed changes are written using the following format:

- **Brackets []** denote words to be deleted.
- **CAPS** denote words to be added.

BYLAWS PROPOSAL #1

Article II: Purposes and [Policy] **POLICIES**

Sec. 1. Purposes. The purposes of the LWVUS are:

1. To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government.
[and]
2. To act on selected governmental issues.

Sec. 2. [Political Policy.] **POLICIES. THE POLICIES OF THE LWVUS ARE:**

1. **POLITICAL POLICY.** The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
2. **DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION POLICY.**
THE LEAGUE IS FULLY COMMITTED TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE—IN PRINCIPLE AND IN PRACTICE—WITH LWVUS' DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION POLICY.



Rationale: LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy. It is a fundamental value of the organization and belongs alongside our hallmark of nonpartisanship.

Voting Items: 2020 Bylaws (Continued)

BYLAWS PROPOSAL #2

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 2. Types of Membership.

1. *Voting Members.* Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues[.]; **(4) THOSE WHO ARE STUDENTS ARE DEFINED AS INDIVIDUALS ENROLLED EITHER AS FULL OR PART TIME WITH AN ACCREDITED INSTITUTION.**

Article XIII: FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 2. Financial Support.

[D. The per member payment for a member who is a student shall be equal to one-half the per member payment amount determined at convention. A student is defined as an individual enrolled either full or part-time in an accredited institution.]

[E.] **D.** The LWVUS may authorize the payment of a designated part of each per member payment to the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

[F.] **E.** A state and local League shall be excused from making a per member payment for life members[.] **AND STUDENTS.**

Rationale: This amendment covers two articles in the bylaws. A pilot program was begun following the 2018 Convention in which PMP was waived for all student members. The result has been an increase in student members across the country. Informal feedback from state leaders has shown support for making this change permanent. The financial impact on the LWVUS budget is not significant. LWVUS wants to increase and diversify its membership and this is one tool to help achieve that goal.

BYLAWS PROPOSAL #3

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

2. [Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.]

Rationale: This is a conforming amendment. When the bylaws were previously amended to remove the citizenship requirement and lower the age requirement of voting members, this category of membership became obsolete. As an organization, we believe in universal suffrage, and therefore, we should remove this exclusionary clause. All individuals who espouse our mission or purpose should be welcomed to engage in our work.

BYLAWS PROPOSAL #4

Article VI: WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION

Sec. 3. [Disposition of Funds. Upon Dissolution, the funds of a state League shall be paid to the LWVUS and the funds of a local League shall be paid to the state League in which it is organized.] **DISSOLUTION. UPON WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION, LEAGUES SHALL FOLLOW LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LAW TO CLOSE OUT. ANY REMAINING FUNDS SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE STATE LWV, LWVUS OR LWVEF AS APPROPRIATE.** Funds held by an ILO shall be prorated among the member Leagues.

Rationale: This proposal is in response to the growing number of local and state Leagues that are organized solely or predominantly as 501(c)(3) entities. If recognition is withdrawn from such an entity, by law, its funds need to be dispersed in accordance with its tax status per IRS regulations. This provision also calls attention to that fact that there is more to do to close an affiliate than disposition of funds/assets. This is a measure to help mitigate risk to the organization by explicitly outlining good governance practices.

BYLAWS PROPOSAL #5

Article VIII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SEC. 3. DUTIES. IN EXECUTING THE DUTIES OF THEIR OFFICE, BOARD MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO CARRY OUT APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS AS WELL AS LEAGUE BYLAWS, MISSION, POLICIES, PRINCIPLES, POSITIONS, STANDARDS, AND PROCEDURES. BOARD MEMBERS WHO DO NOT SHALL BE COUNSELED. IF VIOLATIONS PERSIST, THEY MAY BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Rationale: There is no provision within the LWVUS bylaws to address conduct of Board members. In the unlikely event that it is needed, this gives authority to the Board to protect the organization's brand and reputation if necessary. This type of provision is included in the bylaws of many state Leagues (i.e., Texas, Oregon, and Minnesota) and other organizations. It is part of standard nonprofit governance best practices to mitigate risk.

Note: If this amendment is adopted, the remaining sections will be re-lettered.



Voting Items: 2020-2022 Program

Proposed Program for 2020-2022

Based on Program Planning responses, the LWVUS Board recommends retaining all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of **Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy.**

The LWVUS Board recommends a League-wide **Campaign for Making Democracy Work®: Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, and Redistricting.**

The LWVUS Board also proposes continuing work on urgent issues: **Climate Change, the Equal Rights Amendment, Health Care, Gun Safety, and Immigration.**

Finally, the LWVUS Board recommends that the **Electoral Systems Concurrence** should go to Convention floor for a vote in accordance with [Article XII, Section 2\(C\) and \(D\)](#) of the LWVUS Bylaws along with other concurrences that are properly noticed per same section of the bylaws.

The Program Adoption Process

The vote on the Proposed Program at Convention 2020 will be the culmination of months of Program Planning by state and local Leagues and Inter-League Organizations (ILOs). A proposed program was sent to Leagues along with the Program Planning Leaders Guide. A total of two hundred and seven (207) Leagues submitted recommendations to LWVUS.

In March 2020, the LWVUS Board proposed a program based on recommendations from Leagues. Based on the more than 97% of program planning responses from state and local Leagues and ILOs that supported continuing the League-wide Campaign for *Making Democracy Work®* without modification, the LWVUS Board recommends continuing the Campaign for *Making Democracy Work®*. Throughout the past biennium, Leagues at every level have worked to protect and advance voting rights and election reform as well as fight efforts in Washington, DC, and state legislatures to suppress the vote.

During 2018-2020, we:

- Launched a national redistricting campaign, People Powered Fair Maps™, in September 2019. It is the only the second campaign since our founding campaign (to enfranchise 20 million women to vote) for which we have had a national effort and all states received funds to support their statewide work.
- Launched a mass media campaign in key states in support of the For The People Act, the most sweeping democracy reform bill of modern times.

- Increased visibility for League around our advocacy and litigation portfolio, which includes voting rights, redistricting and census, money in politics, and improving elections.
- Experienced a significant increase in the improving election work, with nearly half the country engaged in litigation to expand voter access while preserving important civil rights.

Delegates to Convention will vote on the Proposed Program and on any not-recommended items submitted in accordance with the [LWVUS bylaws](#) and voted for consideration by the Convention delegates.

Not-Recommended Items for 2020-2022

Below are items/topics that were elevated by at least one League in the program planning process and were not included in the recommended program. To be moved for consideration at Convention, a not-recommended item must be moved for and granted consideration before delegates can discuss it as an amendment or substitute to the Proposed Program. Those moving consideration for concurrence at Convention must have met the requirements outlined in the LWVUS Bylaws [Article XII, Sec. 2](#). Delegates advocating a not-recommended item should refer to the proposed [Convention rules](#) for more details.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| ▪ Agriculture | ▪ Election Day | ▪ Housing |
| ▪ Arms Control | ▪ Election Security | ▪ Integrity of Elections |
| ▪ Borders/Vets | ▪ Electoral College | ▪ Juvenile Justice |
| ▪ CASEL Core Competencies | ▪ Electoral Systems/Voter Representation (study) | ▪ LWV Principles |
| ▪ Checks and Balances | ▪ Environmental Protection | ▪ LWVUS Position Review |
| ▪ Criminal Justice | ▪ Federal Public Lands | ▪ Rural Policy |
| ▪ Corporations | ▪ Federal Staffing and Funding | ▪ SARAT |
| ▪ Cyber Security | ▪ Foreign Interference in Elections | ▪ Selection of the President |
| ▪ Cyber Warfare | ▪ Fracking | ▪ Voter Representation |
| ▪ Cyber Weapons | ▪ Fueling Democracy into the Future | ▪ Voting Rights |
| ▪ DC Vote | | |
| ▪ Election Communication | | |

Voting Items: 2020-2022 Budgets

Proposed LWVUS and LWVEF Budgets for the 2020-2022 Biennium

DELEGATES' BUDGET RESPONSIBILITIES

Delegates to Convention participate in two votes related to the LWVUS budget:

1. Deciding the PMP amount for the fiscal biennium, running from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022, and
2. Adopting the LWVUS budget for the 2020-2022 biennium.

The proposed LWV Education Fund (LWVEF) budget for the biennium is also presented because the LWVUS and LWVEF budgets are interrelated. However, the Bylaws provide for its adoption by the LWVEF Board of Trustees and not Convention delegates.

[Find the Budget Summary for FY21-22 here.](#)


OVERVIEW

The 2020-2022 proposed budget was developed to support the organization's revised strategic goals/framework that build upon the success of the Transformation Roadmap. The budget reflects our continued commitment to organizational change, to our mission work (including People Powered Fair Maps™) and to support for Leagues. The budgeting process included several rounds of review by staff and the Budget Committee.

Today both LWVUS and LWVEF are financially very strong. Financial performance in the 2018-2020 biennium period outperformed what was approved at Convention 2018 more than six-fold. As compared to the Convention-approved (\$3M) budgeted operating deficit, actual performance resulted in a projected operating surplus of nearly +\$700K for LWVUS/EF combined.

Due to this strong performance and a wise investment strategy, LWVUS and EF combined reserves today exceed \$11M. This reserve amount is nearly \$5M above the required reserves. In January 2019, the board updated the reserves policy to require six months of operating expenses be held. LWVUS has reserves \$1.9M above the necessary minimum. LWVEF has reserves in excess of \$3M above the minimum.

While a balanced budget is our long-term goal, the need to invest in the organization and our mission-related work is critical at this time. With the economic uncertainty brought on by the COVID-19



pandemic and the effects the virus will have on voter access in the 2020 elections, our mission work is needed now more than ever. In addition, we need to continue to build upon the momentum of the Transformation Roadmap and the signature national redistricting effort, People Power Fair Maps. Both LWVUS and LWVEF budgets include planned drawdowns from reserves. A (\$588,879) budget deficit for LWVUS for the two-year period and a (\$2.4M) budget deficit for LWVEF.

It is appropriate to use excess reserves during periods of economic uncertainty to ensure our critical mission-related work will continue. It is also acceptable to use excess reserves to fund nonrecurring expenses that build long-term capacity. The 2020-22 biennium budget includes the redevelopment of the E.The.People (ETP) software that powers key sections of the VOTE411 website. The 2020-22 biennium includes technology advancements needed to further advance the goals outlined in the Transformation Roadmap and strategic goals.

REVENUE OVERVIEW

Individual contributions are the most significant component of revenue, and most of this comes from non-League members. Public support for our work has increased dramatically since the 2016 election. Still, with the high unemployment and market uncertainty the COVID-19 crisis brings and presidential elections in November 2020, we are expecting declines in this area of revenue.

Per Member Payments (PMP) make up our second largest revenue stream. Membership numbers have increased, and thus PMP budgeted revenues have increased since the 2016 election, but with the concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus, we are expecting a small drop in membership. The PMP rate will not increase during the 2020-2022 biennium.

One of our goals over the past biennium has been to diversify our revenue streams. Significant effort went into developing relationships with several foundations in the democracy space, which has resulted in increased support. Initial efforts have also been made to identify and cultivate potential corporate sponsors. Both **foundation and corporate support** may be subject to change in this changing landscape.

Licensing fees include revenue from VOTE411.org. **Other income** is comprised of \$2M in in-kind revenue related to a grant from Google for free advertisements for VOTE411.org and web services as well as pro bono legal services. Election Services, ETP, and Advocacy & Litigation have an in-kind expense line in their budgets that correspond with this income.

Voting Items: 2020-2022 Budgets (Continued)

OPERATING EXPENSES

The combined LWVUS and LWVEF budgets support all functions of the national organization and are aligned with our mission and consistent with the new strategic goals. The presentation of the budget is organized by function, with program areas listed individually. Staff expenses are allocated based on “actual time spent” provided by the allocation ratios for functional costs in these and all other departments.

Much of the national organizations’ work and resultant social impact at the local, state, and national levels is carried out by volunteers. However, the in-kind value of such support is not reflected in these budgets.

Development, our most significant expense, is revenue-producing and is an investment in the organization for the short and long term. Some Development costs promote and drive our mission work, though most expenses are tied to revenue generation. Development costs include staff time, consultants needed for specialized fundraising avenues, mailing list rental costs, printing, postage, and more.

Administrative Services is a centralized cost center for shared expenses such as rent, telephone, some technology licenses, staff, board, and other resources necessary for the League to operate at a national level. Many of the technological advancements needed to continue our work on the Transformation Roadmap are in this budget.

Mission Impact includes much of the core mission work of the League and is mostly housed in LWVEF; this work includes voter registration, voter mobilization, organizing, and VOTE411.

Communications includes our rapid response, social media, earned media, and digital marketing campaigns and maintenance, as well as upgrades to LWV.org.

Advocacy and Litigation includes both lobbying and non-lobbying activities to help shape public policies at the national, state, and local levels. The continued focus on protecting voters and voting rights and redistricting reform under our Campaign for *Making Democracy Work*® and the People Powered Fair Maps™ campaign continues into this next biennium.

Member Services continues a focus on sharing best practices and supporting communication of our mission work, along with member/leadership development through Council, Convention, and Shur Fellows program. This area also includes our diversity, equity, and inclusion work.

Outcome and Evaluations develops our program impact and evaluation framework, and the associated data collection and analysis. **ETP** is the expenses relate to the redevelopment and maintenance of the ETP software, which powers key functions of the VOTE411 website.

Voting Items: 2020-2022 Slate

2020-22 LWVUS Board of Directors Slate

The LWVUS Nominating Committee is pleased to present the slate of officers, directors, and nominating committee members for 2020-2022.

OFFICERS

President: Deborah Turner

She/Her | Nebraska



Deborah served on the LWVUS National Board from 2016-present. She served as vice president of LWV Iowa from 2011–2015 and President of LWV Des Moines Metropolitan from 2010–2015. Deborah is the Chair of the LWVUS DEI Committee, and is a member of the LWVUS Governance Committee. She obtained her JD from Drake University and her MD from University of Iowa. She has been a Gynecologic Oncologist for 30 years. Deborah served on the Board Regents for the State of Iowa (1999–2006), and was entered into the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame in 2013.

“I believe no child should be restrained by the circumstances of their birth. The League, through our leadership in the democracy space, can make this dream a reality.”

Vice President: Jessica Lowe-Minor

She/Her | Florida



Jessica Lowe-Minor joined the LWVUS board in 2016 and currently serves as Treasurer. She brings a decade of League experience to her role, having served as Executive Director of LWV of Florida from 2010–2014 and Secretary of LWV of Tallahassee from 2015–2016. Jessica is a Realtor and a nonprofit fundraiser, and has two young daughters.

“Leaguers are the strongest people I know. If there’s a way to empower voters and defend democracy, we will find it. Even during a pandemic.”





Secretary: Jessica Rohloff

She/Her | Minnesota



Jessica Rohloff is a community organizer, speaker, and writer based in rural Minnesota. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota; a two term Volunteer in Service to America member; a recipient of the BPW MN Young Careerist Award; a graduate of the Blandin Rural Leadership program; and is currently serving her second term on the National League of Women Voters board of directors. Jessica devotes her time to developing best practices for equity, integration, and relationship building across faith, race, gender, age, and culture with an emphasis on power building through community organizing.

"I am steadfast in my dedication to lifting the voices of the unrepresented in pursuit of human rights, self-determination and dignity for all."

Treasurer: Leah Edwards

California



Leah Edwards currently serves as President of the League of Women Voters of San Francisco and works in the investment management industry. Leah is passionate about bringing about change at the local level, which led her to start volunteering with League of Women Voters of San Francisco in 2014. She is a CFA Charterholder and received her BS in Environmental and Water Resource Economics and BA in Political Science from the University of Arizona.

"As we celebrate the past 100 years, I am excited to continue building the League of the future: a vibrant, diverse, engaged organization that empowers voters and defends democracy."

Voting Items: 2020-2022 Slate (Continued)

DIRECTORS



Onyinye Akujuo

She/Her | Texas

Onyinye Akujuo is a seasoned transportation professional, change agent, and a federal programs maven. Onyinye previously served as the Vice President of Voter Services for the LWV Atlanta-Fulton County and was instrumental for developing events for voter outreach and candidate forums. She is now an active member of the LWV of Tarrant County. Onyinye's specialties are providing mentorship, and pro-bono assistance to nonprofits seeking to increase their programmatic budgets through grants and sponsorships. Onyinye is from Queens, NY, and held management roles in NYC, Atlanta, and now in Texas.

"I am proud and grateful for being selected as a candidate to serve on this dynamic LWVUS board. Words cannot describe my excitement in joining the board in this integral centennial year where my previous experience will be able to make an impact nationally."



Liz Bander

She/Her | Washington

Liz joined the League in early 2017 and served on the LWV Seattle-King County board as technology chair from 2017-2018 and the LWVUS/EF board from 2018-present. She is a Senior Program Manager at Microsoft, and also volunteers with NCWIT, AnitaB.org, and IGNITE Worldwide for girls/women in tech.

"I believe in democracy as the foundation of a more equitable world and in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy."



Melissa Breach

She/Her | California

Melissa Breach served eight years as Executive Director for LWV California where she advanced equity initiatives and modernized operations—including launching Voter'sEdge and MyLO. She served on LWV's Transformation Steering Committee, is a founding member of Future of California Elections, and fights to end the housing crisis as COO of CAYIMBY.

"Making Democracy Work has a new immediacy. Our success requires vigilance, courage, and a shared commitment to meaningful representation in all we do."

Voting Items: 2020-2022 Slate (Continued)



Melissa Currence

She/Her | Ohio

Melissa Currence is the senior director for communications and marketing for ArtWorks Cincinnati, a nonprofit that creates apprenticeships for youth, ages 14-21, through public art. She is the co-host and producer for What Would Alice Paul Do?, a podcast created for LWV members. Melissa has served as a Ruth S. Shur Fellow and co-chaired the LWVUS Young People's Taskforce from 2012-2014. She has served as president, voter service chair, and fundraising chair of her local league. Melissa served as LWV Ohio board member from 2009-2010, launching the state's social media presence.

"As a LWV member for more than two decades, I believe in empowering voters and defending democracy. We must continue to lead the path for a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive League and nation."



Joan Hunault

She/Her | Michigan

Joan Hunault was Advocacy VP of the Michigan LWV, and Secretary of the LWV of Leelanau County. She worked 34 years in Michigan's Legislature, served 10 years on her City Council, and was the city's first woman mayor. Joan holds BA and MPA degrees. Her home overlooks beautiful Lake Michigan.

"I am committed to the League of Women Voters—to keep our Democracy open; to allow freedom for responsibility; to ensure power to the powerless."



Sania Irwin

She/Her | Illinois

Dr. Sania Irwin is member of League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn (Illinois), and spearheaded the Get Out the Vote effort for 2018 general election. She is Cofounder and President of One Community, a 501c3 charitable organization that raises awareness, acceptance, and involvement of all neighbors. An accomplished technology executive, Sania is Senior Vice President of Systems Engineering at EagleRail Container Logistics, and has served in leadership positions at Motorola/Nokia, General Motors, and Xerox.

"I am passionate about empowering diverse voices and ensuring everyone's access to the ballot – for an equitable and inclusive democracy."



Allison Riggs
North Carolina

Allison Riggs leads the voting rights program at the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, an organization she joined in 2009. Her voting rights work at SCSJ has been focused on fighting for fair redistricting plans, fighting against voter suppression, and advocating for electoral reforms that would expand access to voting. In 2018, she argued the Texas redistricting case in the U.S. Supreme Court, and in 2019, she argued the North Carolina partisan gerrymandering case in the Supreme Court. Allison works closely with grassroots organizations as they seek to advance their political and civil rights.

“Partnering with the LWVNC in its efforts to protect and expand voting rights in my home state has been an enormous honor for me, and I’m delighted to be able to serve the organization in this role.”



Lali Watt
She/Her | Illinois

Lali Watt is an accountant turned activist who has been involved with her local, county, and state Leagues for almost twenty years. A naturalized American, originally from West Bengal, India, she has lived on four continents, settling in the Chicagoland area for much of the last 30 years.

“Seeing injustice, activists seek sustainable and equitable solutions, making real the truth of ‘When you want peace, work for justice,’ thus creating a flourishing society.”

2020-22 LWVUS Nominating Committee Slate

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR



Sondra Cosgrove
She/Her | Nevada

Sondra Cosgrove lives in Las Vegas and is the President of LWV of Nevada. She has a Ph.D. in history, specializing in the U.S. West, Native American History, and Latin America. Currently, Sondra is a history professor who actively promotes civic empowerment and advocacy for civil rights.

“I am honored to be nominated to serve as the Chair of the Nominating Committee, which employs the DEI lens to keep League’s leadership strong.”



NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Judy Golberg
Washington



Judy has over 40 years of League experience that has included most aspects of the organization, including serving on the LWVUS nominating committee (2017-18); the state board, as the state president; her local board, as webmaster and as president while working full time at the local medical center (now retired). Judy has served as a Ruth Shur Fellow for the past eight years and is now a diversity, equity, and inclusion training/coach.

"The future of our organization depends on the leadership we choose. Diversity, equity, and inclusion will provide us with the strength needed to continue in our vision to make democracy work for all. One way I can continue to support the LWV is to assist in asking those leaders to serve."

Hilda Thomas
She/Her | Louisiana



Hilda Walker Thomas joined the League of Women Voters of St Tammany Parish Louisiana in 2013. Her League participation includes working on the Charter School Study for the State of Louisiana and serving on the 2019 State Convention Committee. She became a member of the LWV of Louisiana Board in 2018 and in January 2019 was elected President of League of Women Voters of Louisiana. She is a retired educator.

"I am extremely excited about the opportunity to serve on LWVUS Nominating Committee. I will work to select candidates who will continue to move forward by promoting the mission and vision of LWVUS while applying diversity, equity, and inclusion."

The Biennium by the Numbers

**Voters
impacted**



12,744,653



64,999


Total membership



*Petition
signatures*

74,198

*Appearances
in news articles*



140,000

103



*Trainings for
League leaders*



*Investments
in Leagues*

\$969,044



*Individuals
engaged through
People Powered Fair
Maps™ Campaign*

387,611



*Social media
engagements*

1,234,686



*Letters
to Congress*

262,874

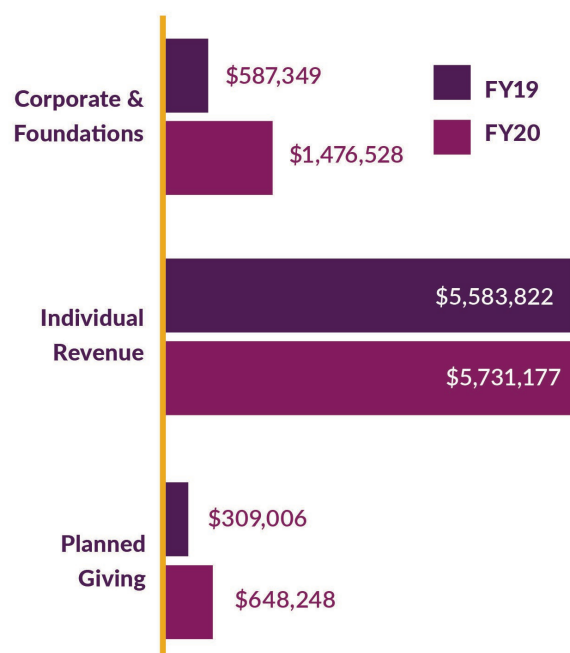
Impact Report (Continued)

Increasing Capacity at All Levels

During this biennium, we made substantial efforts to increase operational capacity at all levels. This work is a continuation of our [Transformation Roadmap](#) and lays the foundation for our [new strategic framework](#). Some of the highlights of this work include:

- We simplified the ways that Leagues interface with the National Office by implementing standards like DocuSign for facilitating grants to Leagues, online forms for making requests, and direct deposit for all transactions to improve the speed and security of financial transfers between LWVUS/LWVEF and state & local Leagues.
- We released new versions of the Roster Manager Portal, which included dozens of enhancements, like member count dashboards, member transfers, and a new support and help section.
- We forged new partnerships with companies that can provide data from state and local Leagues directly to the National Office. This will greatly reduce the time consuming and manual processes related to membership management.
- We cultivated an adaptable IT infrastructure at the National Office, which allowed for a rapid and nearly seamless transition to remote work in the face of a global pandemic. This allowed the National Office to continue to work on important advocacy, litigation, and educational efforts without significant disruption and enabled us to better support our state and local Leagues during the pandemic.
- We established an organizational membership with [BoardSource](#), a 30-year-old national nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring and supporting excellence in nonprofit governance and board and staff leadership. Membership is open to all League leaders free of charge and offers access to educational webinars, ask-an-expert services, and other resources. Since March, 81 League leaders have set up BoardSource accounts.
- To establish a culture of effective data use, we hired a Director of Evaluation and Outcomes, who is charged with improving data collection, reporting, and data use across all levels of League. We

Fundraising Growth



also launched a Data Ambassadors program, with Leagues participating from 15 states. This group works to help build our evaluation and outcomes portfolio at the League.

- We have made substantial efforts in diversifying our funding streams. For example, in 2019 we had the most successful Giving Tuesday campaign since the League started participating in Giving Tuesday, raising over \$52,000! Additionally, Giving Tuesday Now for COVID-19 response raised more than \$18,000 for our work supporting elections during the pandemic.
- We have made substantial efforts in advancing our donor relations, including reorganizing our databases for more effective outreach.

Raising the League's Visibility

As the League's visibility continues to rise, we strengthen our position as a trusted entity, and greater visibility means more opportunities for additional partnerships at all levels of League. Our dynamic CEO raises the organization's profile through her media interviews and speaking engagements and, through our increased visibility on litigation at the state level, LWVUS has strengthened our partnership with state Leagues in elevating their media visibility.

LWVUS has worked directly with state Leagues to support their media relations by drafting press releases, building press lists, and providing messaging strategy around rapid response situations. LWVUS

Across the national LWV social media accounts for this biennium, we saw growth of **144% in impressions and a **346%** increase in engagements.**

The New York Times



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



TIME

The Washington Post

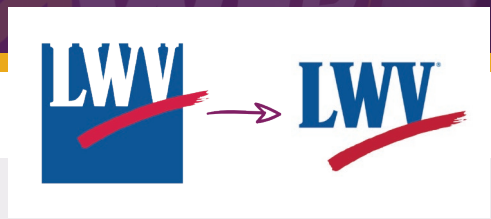


VOGUE



Ms.
MAGAZINE

UNIVISION
COMMUNICATIONS INC



Designed branded collateral for League use

Modernized LWV logo family

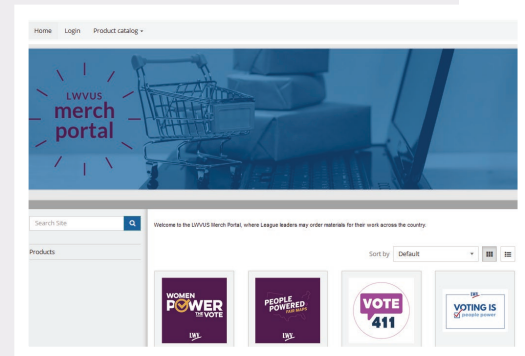
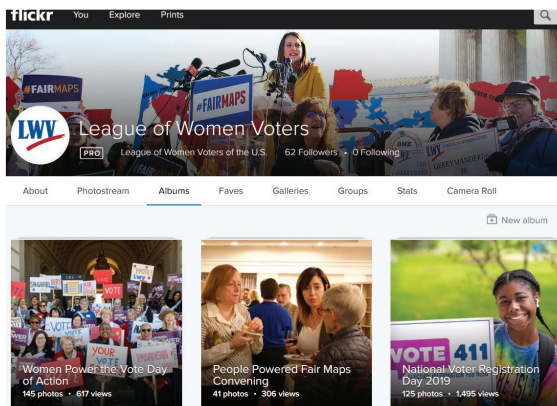
Provided customized logos to all state and local Leagues



Brand refresh

Launched merchandise portal for print orders

Conducted photo shoots at LWV events and published Flickr site to encourage League usage



has built communications capacity for local and state Leagues with regular webinar workshops, talking points, press release and letter templates, communications toolkits, sample social media content, a merchandise portal, and other messaging guidance available on the [League Management Website](#).

The national office has invested heavily in both our native social media strategy and implementation, as well as our digital advertising strategy. Over the course of the biennium, LWVUS expanded its digital footprint to include additional social platforms, such as a [VOTE411 Instagram account](#) and a [LWVEF Twitter account](#).

Additionally, LWVUS undertook a nationwide brand refresh to help establish a unified look of the organization and to create a trusted visual face that will establish brand recall with our supporters (and those we hope will soon become supporters).

“She Is Me” Digital Campaign

As part of raising the League’s visibility in our 100th year, LWVUS launched a digital campaign to celebrate League work through the personal stories of our powerful members. The main purpose of the campaign was to generate awareness of the League of Women Voters among new audiences, focusing on cultivating the next generation of LWV supporters. The campaign is comprised of a microsite—lww.org/sheisme, paid social media advertisements, an email series for new engagers, [a promotional video](#), and [tools and templates](#) for local and state Leagues to participate with their own member stories. She Is Me was unveiled at Council in July of 2019 and launched on August 15, with a plan to continue through the end of 2020, unveiling new member stories each month.

Our paid advertisements have generated:

- **8.8 million** impressions
- **296,000** clicks
- **181,000** views on lww.org/sheisme
- **4,780** new email sign-ups

Other League and public engagement have generated:

- **207** member pictures/stories shared on social media by state & local Leagues
- Over **1,000** uses of #ShelsMeLWV
- Over **10,000** views of She Is Me video





Women Power the Vote Day of Action

The February 14th, 2020, Day of Action was a moment in which Leagues all over the country joined in one voice to commemorate our historic achievements while demonstrating our power to empower voters and defend democracy. Leagues in all 50 states and DC hosted more than 350 events celebrating 'Women Power the Vote' in the days surrounding our organization's 100th birthday. Field activities include rallies, petitions, lobbying, education events (voting rights, census), delivering valentines, letter writing, activities around redistricting and People Powered Fair Maps™, and proclamations.

Leagues reached more than **110,000** people through Day of Action activities.

The national staff created an extensive [Day of Action toolkit](#) with resources, graphics, templates, historical resources, and more for Leagues to build their own custom events whether in-person or on social media.

LWV.org
[#WomenPowerTheVote](https://twitter.com/WomenPowerTheVote)

Dear Women of America,

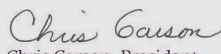
Today the League of Women Voters of the United States celebrates 100 years of **empowering voters** and **defending democracy**.


As we celebrate this historic milestone and commemorate this year's centennial of the 19th Amendment, we do so humbly, knowing that not all women were able to exercise their Constitutional right to vote in 1920, and still today far too many are left behind.



That is why we ask you to join us to stand together in our power to ensure that every voter's voice is heard at the ballot box in 2020. **Let's show the world what democracy looks like.**

February 14 is our Day of Action, and more than 350 events are taking place around our country to build the next generation of diverse women leaders and voting rights activists. We invite all people, regardless of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, or race, to **join us as we build a stronger, more inclusive democracy**.

With hope and gratitude,


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


Virginia Kase, CEO

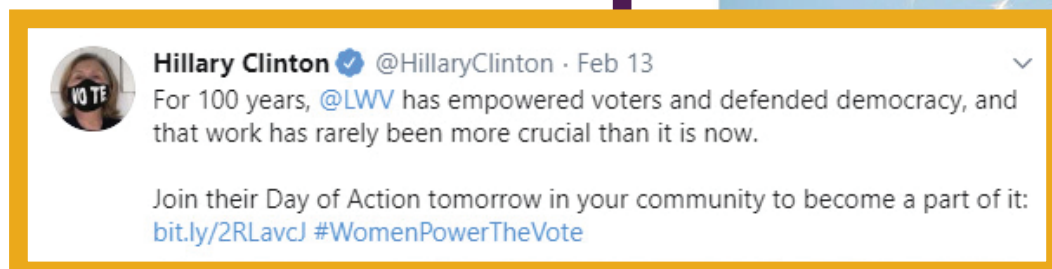



Impact Report (Continued)

The national staff also provided a [partnership toolkit](#) with social media graphics and messages, asking trusted partners and media to promote the Day of Action and share the hashtag #WomenPowerTheVote.

Our extensive outreach resulted in nearly 1 million impressions and 15,000 engagements (clicks, likes, shares, etc.) across social media.

In addition to the digital engagement, the LWVUS placed an ad in the main section of the Washington Post. The ad was a [letter to the women of America](#) that reached the 474,000 daily readers of the Washington Post. LWV also published [an op-ed in Ms. Magazine](#) and [posted an essay celebrating our centennial](#) in Electionline (project of Democracy Fund). As part of the Day of Action, LWV also launched a new interactive [100-year historical timeline on LWV.org](#) and unveiled a [She Is Me historical video](#).



Impact Report (Continued)



Throughout the biennium, VOTE411 helped nearly **6.8 million voters** find the information they needed.

Through unprecedented data capabilities provided by LWVEF and a larger-than-ever number of state and local Leagues participating in the VOTE411 voter guide program, VOTE411 ultimately provided information about nearly **29,000 races** across the country, including information about over **53,000 candidates** in the last biennium.

VOTE411

Since 2006, the League of Women Voters Education Fund has operated VOTE411.org, which provides registration deadlines and tools, absentee and early voting information, polling place locations, voting hours, and more. Late last year, the League of Women Voters launched the newly redesigned VOTE411 with expectations to serve approximately 6 million voters in 2020.

The newly redesigned VOTE411.org website included updated technology, a better user interface, and new content, including a [First Time Voter Checklist](#). Through the redesign process, LWVEF worked with state and local Leagues around the country, as well as voters themselves, to ensure we provide the information voters and Leagues need.

With months to go before the much-anticipated November 2020 general election, we are already seeing unprecedented levels of interest from Americans seeking out the information they need to vote.

On March 3, 2020 alone (Super Tuesday), more than **125,000** users visited VOTE411.

By May, more than **1 million** users have already turned to VOTE411 in 2020!

Candidates at every level of government participated in more than **1,200** League-sponsored forums and debates this biennium.



Tracking changes to the election process across nearly every state due to COVID-19 has become a priority in 2020. From postponed elections, to changes to rules around mail-in and in-person voting options, to polling place changes, VOTE411 provides voters with updated information on a daily basis. We created a [specific Coronavirus page](#), with information in both English and Spanish, that outlines any changes voters will face as well as posted state-specific alerts at the top of all state pages. These alerts will continue to be updated through the 2020 General Election and beyond, as needed.

LWVEF partnered with National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) in late 2019 to pilot a program to translate state-level voting information on VOTE411 into Spanish. The initial pilot focused on six states (CO, FL, MI, NC, NY, and TX) before their Presidential Primaries in early 2020.

Providing extensive content in Spanish has long been our vision for VOTE411, and we are proud of the investments we're making to make the site more accessible. Finally, high-impact partnerships developed to support VOTE411, plus our recently announced [2020 Webby People's Voice award for Best Government and Civil Innovation Website](#), will help this information reach more voters.

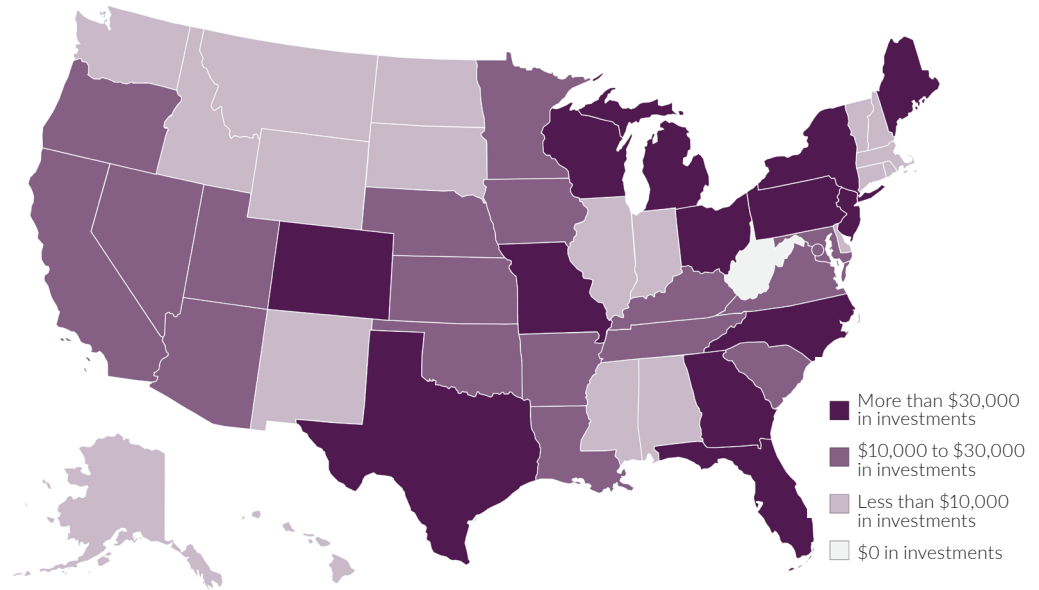


Impact Report (Continued)

Programmatic Funding for State and Local Leagues

LWVUS/EF board and staff prioritized financial support for state and local Leagues, via pass-through grant funding in priority programmatic areas, at notably increased levels in the 2018–2020 biennium.

All told, grant funding was offered to Leagues in every single state plus DC, with a total of nearly \$1 million invested throughout the country.



Grants were offered on a variety of topics and programs, as well as on both the 501(c)(3) and, for the first time, the 501(c)(4) sides of the organization. Major pass-through grant fund programs this biennium included [People Powered Fair Maps™](#) as well as multiple grant programs supporting voter protection work, League capacity building, voter registration among underrepresented communities (chiefly, new citizens and first-time youth voters), and more.

Beyond the critical financial resources provided through these pass-through grant programs, LWVUS/EF provides intensive hands-on support and training to participating Leagues, ensures alignment and data tracking across the organization, and facilitates the sharing of best practices and lessons learned among all levels of the organization. We are actively working to plan continued high levels of pass-through grant funding to Leagues in the next biennium and are applying lessons learned, particularly around data tracking and program evaluation, to ensure these programs remain successful for all involved.

Through grant programs, Leagues registered and educated more than **200,000** first-time voters, hosted nearly **600** educational events and forums, and reached **90,000** individuals in person and over **600,000** online.

Training and Organizing

As the national office has focused our efforts on supporting state and local Leagues in their work to build community-based power, we have made intentional strides to build staff expertise, modernize our approach, and better support Leagues through a wide range of new training and engagement options. During the biennium, LWVUS/EF was proud to establish a national Organizing team within the Mission Impact department.



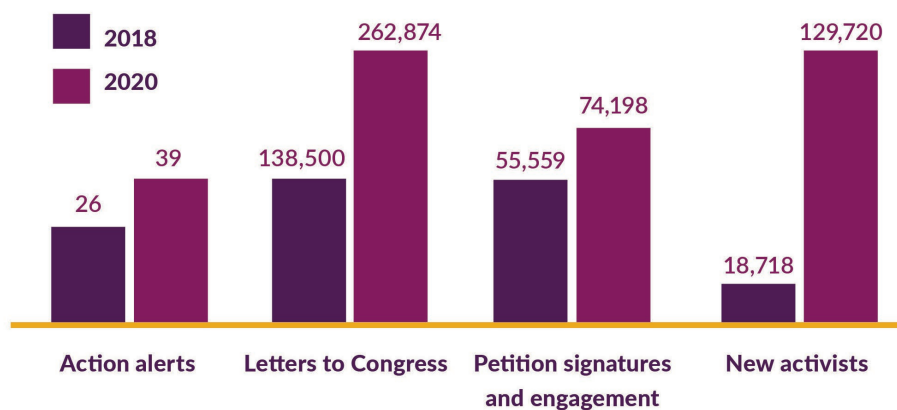
We now have a highly experienced National Organizing Director, an Organizing Manager, and two Organizers on staff. Together with other staff members, the Organizing team has transformed the national office's approach to state and local League support.

Key work included our historic 100th Anniversary Day of Action, which required a series of community calls to help prepare and coordinate activity, and over 800 individual calls to state and local League Leaders by the entire National team.

The organizing team expanded capacity to provide individualized support to states focusing on ballot initiatives through People Powered Fair Maps™.

In the coming months, the Organizing team will continue to support efforts surrounding COVID-19. Monthly community calls, launched in May 2020, are a space to share updates, resources, and ideas about how we continue to engage and organize during this crisis. [Interactive bi-weekly online trainings](#), launched in April of 2020, are designed to build League capacity in four primary areas: leveraging digital tools, leading in the online space, building community online, and mobilizing to action.

All LWV members are invited to our organizing trainings. So far, 1,400 members from 44 states and DC have joined these sessions.



Making Democracy Work®

The mission and work of the League of Women Voters has never been as important as in the past biennium. The Campaign for *Making Democracy Work*® has succeeded in improving voters' rights while fighting back challenges to those very rights throughout the county.

From 2018–2020, League advocacy and litigation highlights included:

- Mass media campaign for the [For The People Act](#)
- Increased advocacy and litigation portfolio, which includes [voting rights, redistricting and census, money in politics, and improving elections](#)
- Increased improving elections work, with nearly [half the country engaged in litigation](#) to expand voter access
- Introduction of [People Powered Fair Maps™](#) campaign
- Advocacy campaigns for the For the People Act, the Voting Rights Act and Voting Rights Advancement Act, election security, the census, redistricting, and more

Advocacy campaigns were carried out by Leagues at every level: LWWUS board, staff and volunteer Lobby Corps, state and local League leaders, and League members in the fifty states and DC.

At the same time, LWWUS and state Leagues defended democracy through litigation. In nearly half of states, the League of Women Voters has engaged in the legal process to protect voting rights, improve elections, and achieve fair redistricting. In cases ranging from prolonged matters to emergency hearings, the League of Women Voters has engaged as plaintiff or amici in litigation efforts covering redistricting, voter ID, voter registration, the Pence-Kobach 'Election Integrity' Commission, climate change, immigration, LGBTQ+ rights, voter access, and voter purges.

Impact Report (Continued)

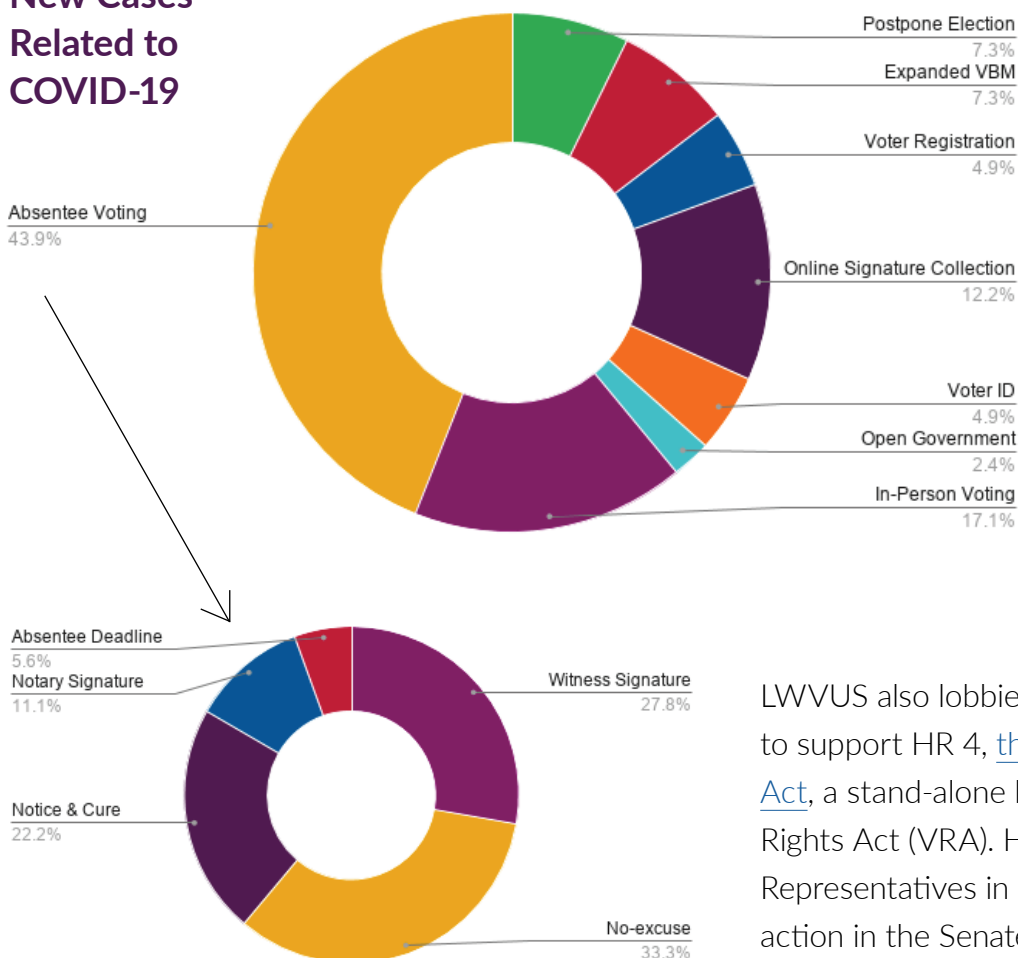
Protecting Voters

The League of Women Voters continues our core work to expand voting rights and fight voter suppression in the 2018–2020 biennium by advocating for proactive reforms such as permanent and portable statewide voter registration, expanded early voting, vote-by-mail, online voter registration, improved polling place management, and adherence to existing pro-voter laws. Additionally, Leagues continue to oppose voter photo ID laws, advocate against barriers to the voter registration process, work to prevent last-minute Election Day obstacles, and help millions of voters get the information and required documentation they need to vote.

In the 116th Congress, LWVUS mounted a major lobbying campaign in support of HR 1, [the For the People Act](#). The legislation addresses many of the pillars of the Campaign for *Making Democracy Work*® including key provisions to break down barriers that prevent Americans from registering to vote. LWVUS worked

closely with Congressional sponsors and coalition allies to help shape the bill's language, while LWV engagers and LWVUS Lobby Corps contacted their Representatives and Senators in support of the legislation, and state Leagues testified in district hearings. The For the People Act passed the House of Representatives in March 2019 and awaits action in the Senate.

New Cases Related to COVID-19



LWVUS also lobbied the US House and Senate to support HR 4, [the Voting Rights Advancement Act](#), a stand-alone bill to restore the Voting Rights Act (VRA). HR 4 passed the House of Representatives in December 2019 and awaits action in the Senate.

Impact Report (Continued)

In October 2019, [LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase](#) testified before the House Administration Committee's Subcommittee on Elections on voting rights and election administration. Leagues across the country also weighed in on the importance of full restoration of the VRA during the Subcommittee's field hearings in [North Dakota](#), [Florida](#), Ohio, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

As Congress considers stimulus packages to deal with the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, the LWVUS continues to urge the House and Senate to allocate \$4 Billion dollars for elections, including funding for voter education, voter registration, early in-person voting, expanded access to absentee mail-in ballots, and polling place adjustments.

During the biennium, the League of Women Voters continued our defense of the National Voter Registration Act. In April 2020, a federal appeals court panel upheld a lower court decision [in favor of the LWV of Kansas](#), who had argued that Kansas voters do not need to provide citizenship when registering to vote. The court agreed and found that the citizenship proof requirement violates the US Constitution's Equal Protection Clause and the National Voter Registration Act.


In total, LWV has filed or joined 75 cases this biennium to challenge voter suppression laws and practices.

Constitutional Conventions

The League has worked closely with national partners to fight efforts in states across the country to convene a Constitutional Convention. LWVUS and Leagues in states calling for Article V conventions have worked together to publish op-eds, testify in state legislatures, lobby legislators, and hold public events around the dangers of a "Con-Con." The League continues to be vigilant in guarding against Constitutional Convention resolutions in other states.

Money in Politics

Since the *Citizens United* and *McCutcheon* Supreme Court decisions, the League has been working hard to raise awareness about the influence of money in politics. The League has supported federal legislation on campaign finance, submitted public comments to the FEC, and built relationships with partner organizations and on Capitol Hill. The League continues to support transparency through increased disclosure and public financing, as well as the prohibition of under-the-table coordination between super PACs and candidates.



The League also supports the creation of a new and more effective enforcement entity to replace the dysfunctional Federal Election Commission (FEC).

- Endorsed the [Anti-Corruption and Public Integrity Act](#), which imposes a lifetime lobbying ban on Members of Congress, cabinet members, the President, and the Vice President
- Submitted a letter in support of **HR 1043**, which prohibits House members from serving on the boards of corporations
- Advocated for HR 1, the **For the People Act**, which establishes disclosure and public financing systems for Congressional candidates
- Continued to support the **Honest Ads act**, which updates the definition of “electioneering communications” and requires social media to monitor political ads for foreign influence
- Submitted a letter to the House Appropriations Committee, urging them to **remove special interest friendly riders** from the Fiscal Year 2020 budget
- Sent **three action alerts** regarding the FEC’s rule-making around online advertisements
- Collected **8,601 signatures** to send to the FEC

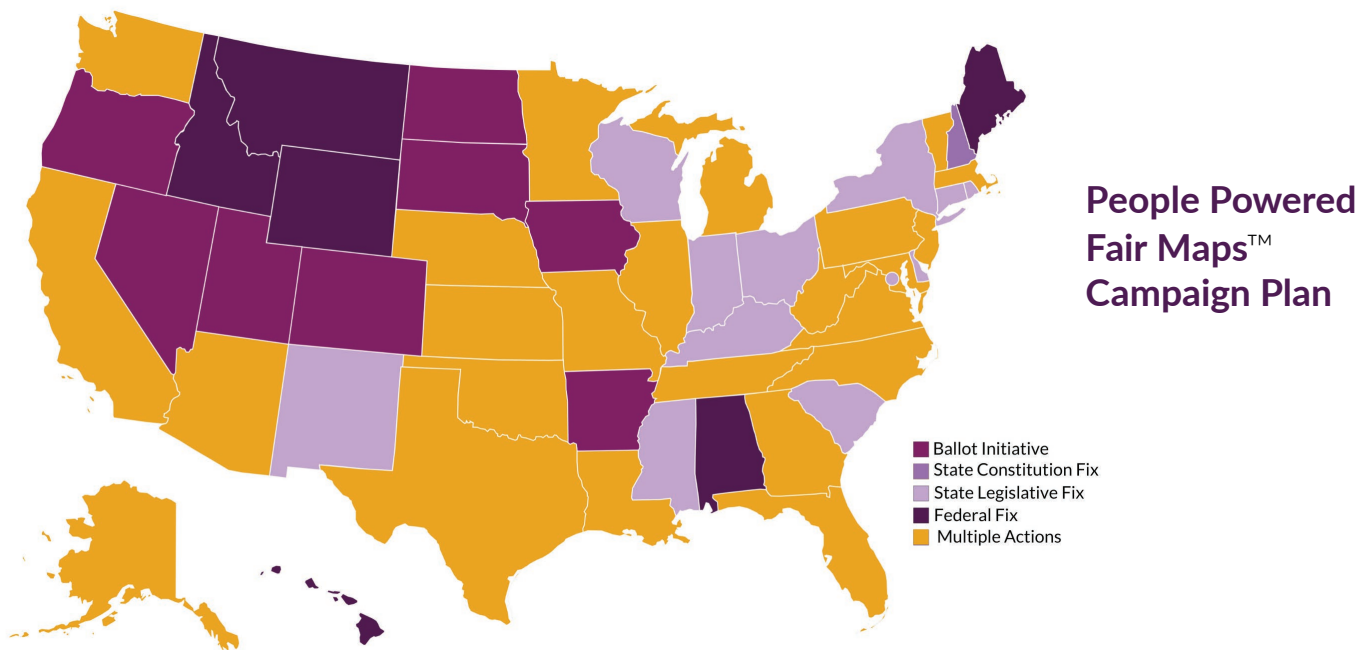
Redistricting

In 2018, Convention delegates reconfirmed redistricting as a key piece of the Campaign for *Making Democracy Work*®. Throughout the biennium, LWVUS and state Leagues have continued to fight partisan and racial gerrymanders by leveraging tools like advocacy and litigation to reform state redistricting processes.

Litigation efforts have been extensive, with cases in Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, and Nevada reaching the highest levels. In the summer of 2018, the US Supreme Court [issued a disappointing decision](#) in *Gill v. Whitford*, a partisan gerrymandering case that challenged Wisconsin’s state legislative maps. The court ruled that the individual plaintiffs did not have standing to challenge a statewide map, and the case was remanded back to the district court level. In August 2018, [the League won a judgement](#) overturning the North Carolina maps, which set up a new showdown at the US Supreme Court the following summer.

Advocacy efforts during the biennium focused on reform, building grassroots support, and transparency and participation in the redistricting process. In July of 2018, LWVUS initiated a grant that invested \$120,000 in twelve state Leagues for the purpose of building support for redistricting reform and

Impact Report (Continued)

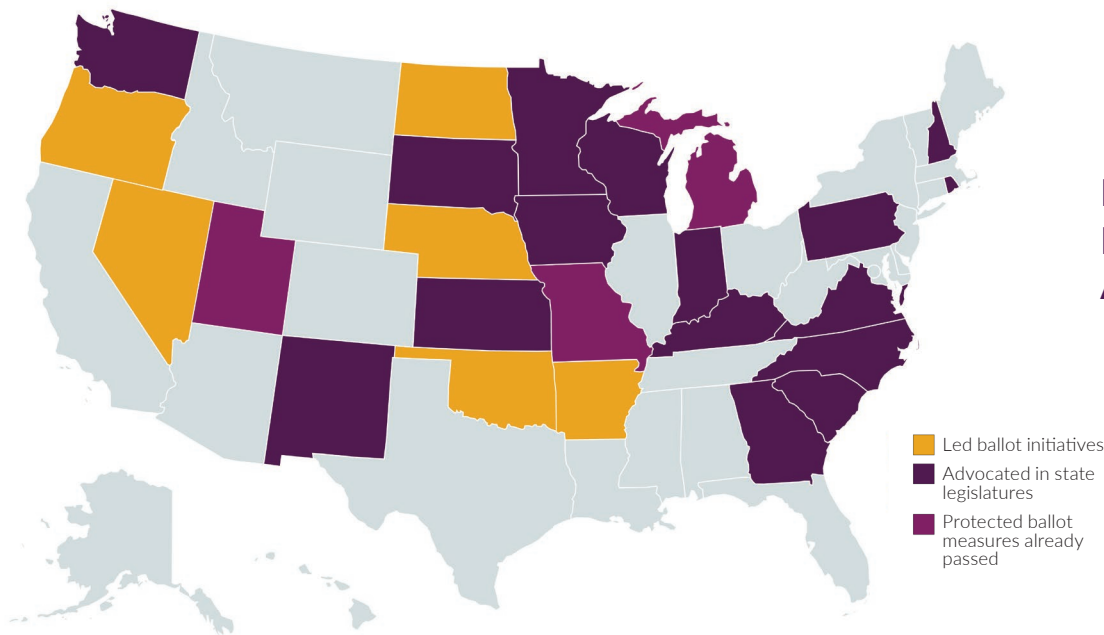


educating voters about the need for redistricting reform in their states. In Missouri, Colorado, Utah, and Michigan, Leagues used the funding to lead coalition efforts around ballot initiatives that would establish independent redistricting processes. The League was a key partner in these efforts, and ultimately every initiative was supported by a majority of voters, [achieving victory in every state](#).

In March 2019, the Supreme Court heard arguments in the combined cases of *Rucho v. LWV North Carolina* and *Rucho v. Common Cause*, which were also combined with a partisan gerrymandering case from Maryland, *Lamone v. Benisek*. Together, [the cases presented the court](#) with a menu of options for establishing a standard it could use to determine partisan gerrymanders in future cases. On the day of the arguments, LWVUS and Common Cause cohosted a rally outside of the Supreme Court, where advocates, members of Congress, and elected officials called for an end to gerrymandering.

On June 27, 2019, the Supreme Court [declined to set a standard](#) to rein in partisan gerrymandering. The League was disappointed, saying in a statement, “the court missed a crucial opportunity to strengthen our republic.” This decision also overturned key victories that the League had won to redraw partisan gerrymandering maps in Ohio and Michigan.

Following the disappointing decision in the *Rucho* case, LWVUS launched the People Powered Fair Maps™ campaign, a multi-million-dollar, multi-year, nationwide campaign aimed at creating fair, transparent, people-powered redistricting processes to eliminate partisan and racial gerrymandering in every state and DC.



People Powered Fair Maps™ Year 1 Actions

The People Powered Fair Maps™ campaign work looks different in each state, but the program is comprised of five major focus areas: ballot initiatives or referendums, protecting state constitutional provisions, state legislative reforms and defense of existing processes, federal advocacy for the restoration of the Voting Rights Act, and civic education and engagement. Each state was asked to engage in at least one of the five focus areas through advocacy, education, organizing and mobilization, partnerships, litigation, and/or protective or defensive actions.



At the federal level, Leagues continue to support the passage of the Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA), legislation that would restore the Voting Rights Act. The passage of the VRAA will ensure that states will not have to endure a redistricting cycle without the

full protections of the Voting Rights Act in place. The VRAA passed the US House in December 2019 but is still awaiting a committee hearing and vote in the Senate.



No matter the focus of their redistricting efforts, every state League's work is built on the foundation of civic engagement and education. State and local League leaders continue to be thought leaders and subject matter experts in redistricting while building strong relationships with community members. Leagues will engage residents in their immediate and adjacent communities and in coalition with community partners.

Measurable results for year one of the People Powered Fair Maps™ campaign exceeded expectations. These early successes will help to keep the campaign strong over the coming year.

Census

In August 2018, the League sent [a letter to the Department of Commerce](#) urging them to remove the citizenship question from the 2020 Census form. The League asserted that the question would jeopardize the accuracy of the Census in all communities, an outcome that the nation will have to live with for the following ten years.

[The League joined](#) lawsuits challenging the citizenship question in New York and Maryland. In June 2019, [the US Supreme Court ruled](#) in *Department of Commerce v. New York* to block the inclusion of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census. Days later, the Trump Administration announced the 2020 Census forms would be printed without a citizenship question.

Impact Report (Continued)

In March 2019, LWVUS submitted substantive comments to the US Census Bureau on the [2020 Address Canvassing operation](#). Later that year, the League joined the Census Project and other national and state organizations [calling for full funding of the 2020 Census](#) in the FY20 appropriations bills.

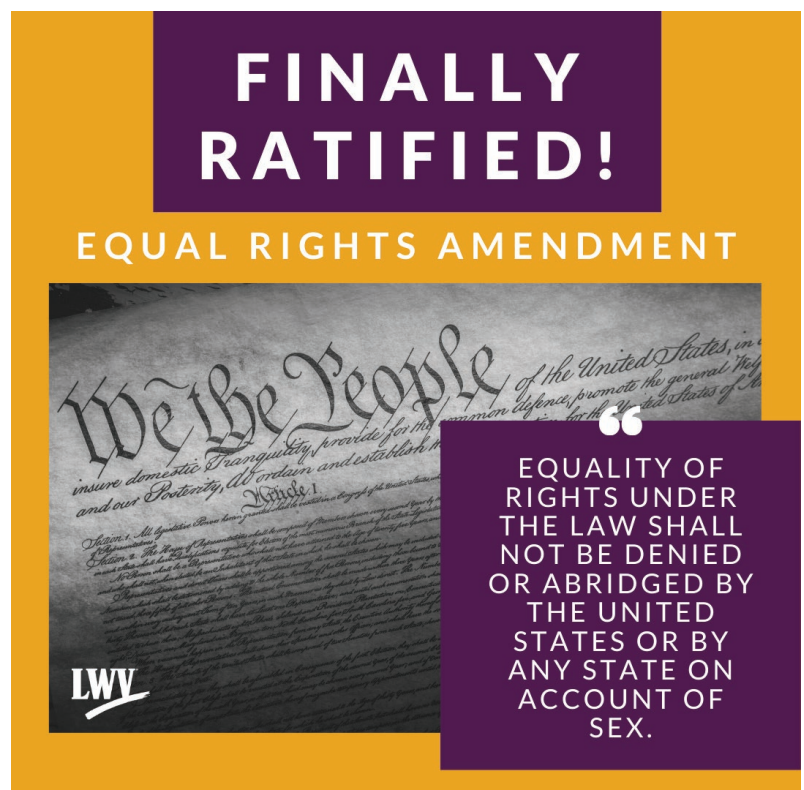


LWVUS also launched a [Census action kit](#), which outlined a three-phase grassroots census plan across the country: census education, get out the count, and watchdog reporting. In the months leading up to Census Day on April 1, 2020, Leagues around the country shared information with their communities and joined Complete Count Committees. LWVUS joined the Census Counts coalition and became an official partner of the US Census Bureau. The League also co-branded an info card with the American Library Association to reach the public with information about how to participate in the 2020 Census.

Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

In this biennium, LWVUS actively worked to reach the 38-state threshold of ratification for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) by supporting the work of state Leagues in Illinois, Nevada, and Virginia. [Virginia became the 38th state](#) to ratify the ERA in January of 2020. LWVUS also worked to remove the timeline placed on ERA ratification through special action with Congress.

Following Virginia's ratification vote, LWVUS made removal of the ERA timeline a legislative priority. LWV sent additional letters to the US House and Senate to pass legislation introduced in



Impact Report (Continued)

Congress to remove the ratification deadline and engaged the LWWUS Lobby Corps to meet with offices around the issue. As the legislation moved through the House of Representatives, LWWUS sent a memo of support to the House Judiciary Committee supporting mark-up and passage of H.J. Res. 79, which removes the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

In 2019, LWWUS also joined the ERA Coalition, which is made up of 36 organizations across the country fighting to realize the ERA. In the spring/summer of 2020, the League launched a pass-through grant campaign with Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, North Carolina, and Utah to sway Senators to support S.J. Res. 6 (companion bill of H.J. Res. 79). LWW.org also hosts an [ongoing ERA action alert](#) directed at the US Senate.

National Popular Vote

Delegates of the 2018 National Convention voted by resolution to add advocacy for the National Popular Vote (NPV) Interstate Compact to the 2018–2019 Campaign for *Making Democracy Work*®. If enacted, the NPV Interstate Compact would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes across all 50 states and DC.

The LWWUS NPV Task Force was established in May 2019 to evaluate state League support for the NPV Interstate Compact. Background information on NPV was distributed to the state Leagues, along with a survey to help determine the level of interest and member awareness regarding the NPV bill and Interstate Compact. The Task Force found that there was, in fact, enough interest and support within the state Leagues to provide them with valuable educational resources to further encourage ongoing support of the NPV effort.

Since its inception, members of the Task Force have attended various NPV-related events across the country to gauge the national interest and study the strategic framework for passing the NPV Interstate Compact. Many interviews were conducted with League leaders and members who consider themselves NPV activists. The Task Force has completed its work and will officially disband at the end of Convention 2020. In January 2020, Chair Toni Zimmer directed the Task Force to prepare educational materials and conduct a Convention workshop to showcase its findings. These evergreen resources will be available for Leagues to use on the [LWWUS NPV Task Force Information and Resources](#) webpage. These resources will include a comprehensive PowerPoint Presentation, access to an NPV-specific Listserv for members, and an up-to-date NPV Blog that will include member profiles, NPV-related news, and shared member experiences.

United Nations Observer Corps

LWVUS actively continues to participate in the Campaign for *Making Democracy Work*® globally through the [United Nations Observer Corps](#). LWVUS enjoys UN Special Consultative Status through the UN's Economic and Social Council. Our UN Observer Corps leverages partnerships with UN Agencies, member states, and other affiliated non-governmental organizations.

The Corps works to promote women's leadership and participation in democratic political processes and gender equality for all women and girls. The international work also includes the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the *Impact on Issues* positions promoting climate sustainability, universal healthcare, and the prevention of human rights violations, including violence against women and girls. Through the biennium, the LWVUS UN Observers carried out the following programs, which involved Parliamentarians from around the world and influenced policy at national levels:



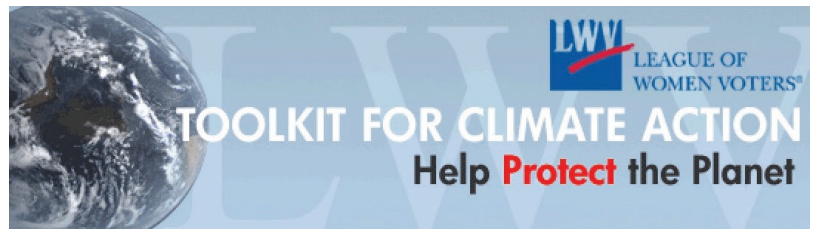
- **Critical Mass to Gender Parity—Women in Decision-Making DO Make a Difference!** CSW63 side event, organized in conjunction with Inter-Parliamentary Union, UN Women, Trinidad & Tobago, Canada, Albania and other NGOs
- **Multisectoral Solutions to Prevent Forced Labour and Trafficking of Children** Panel discussion, organized in conjunction with SRSB-VAC and Canada at the UN
- **Violence against Women Politicians** Program at the US House of Representatives, organized in conjunction with the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- **“We Have Your Back”—Ending the cycle of online violence against women and girl leaders** CSW64 side event, organized in conjunction with Inter-Parliamentary Union, UN Women, Trinidad & Tobago, Canada, Albania and other NGOs
- Influenced accomplishments of SDG5 (Gender Equality), SDG3 (Health & Well Being) and SDG13 (Climate Action) by using lessons learned at the United Nations (think globally) with Leagues (act locally)

Impact Report (Continued)

- Enabled delegations to attend COP24, COP25, CSocD, IDoG, and CSW63
- Expanded reach and reporting to state League conventions and local meetings
- State and local Leagues worked on universal healthcare; local Leagues helped Girl Scouts with badge for Voting in America; Cities for CEDAW programs started in several states due to influence of League Delegates to conferences; NJ expanded its anti-human trafficking policies and solutions
- Delegates shared their experiences with state and local media as well as state and local Leagues

Fighting Climate Change

The League continues to lobby the legislative and executive branches in support of strong environmental laws, while also supporting plaintiffs in a landmark climate change lawsuit. [The LWVUS Toolkit for Climate Action](#) provides state and local Leagues with current information and resources on environmental issues and opportunities to take action at the local and state level.



As the Trump administration rolls back environmental protections and the federal government retreats from the fight against climate change, the LWVUS has submitted comments to federal agencies in opposition to the diminishing of environmental regulations. In March 2020, the LWVUS objected to Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) proposed regulations that would remove public participation in and science-based review of large federal projects.

A year earlier, the [LWVUS and 87 organizations sent comments](#) to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) regarding proposed rulemaking for procedural changes to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CMZA). The comments oppose rulemaking efforts to weaken state consistency review, which would make it harder for states to weigh in with concerns related to oil and gas leasing, exploration, development, and production processes.

Throughout the rulemaking process in 2018 and 2019, the League objected to the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule that repealed and replaced the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan.

In September 2019, the [League joined other concerned organizations](#) to urge Senate leaders to increase funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's Nonpoint Source Management Program, the primary federal program with a nationwide reach and a mission of cleaning up waterways impaired by nonpoint source pollution.

In 2018, as the Trump administration threatened to (and ultimately did) withdraw from the Paris Agreement, the [LWVUS lobbied the House and Senate](#) in support of HR 9, the Climate Action Now Act, to keep the United States in the Paris Agreement and to reinforce our national resolve to meet America's climate action commitments.

Since LWV Convention in 2016, LWVUS has actively supported the 21 young people from across the United States who filed a landmark constitutional climate change lawsuit against the federal government in *Juliana et al v. United States*. LWVUS and LWV of Oregon filed a series of amicus briefs in the case as it made its way through the federal courts. In January 2020, the case was dismissed "reluctantly" by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. In March 2020, the LWVUS and LWVOR [filed an amicus brief](#) asking the 9th Circuit to convene a new panel of 11 circuit court judges to review the opinion.

The League has also participated in worldwide actions in support of environmental protection over the past two years. On April 22, 2020, the League of Women Voters joined other advocates around the world to [celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day](#) and the environmental laws that have protected the public health of millions of Americans for five decades. In December 2018, League delegates attended the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) in Katowice, Poland. And in September 2019, LWVUS members and staff participated in the [Global Climate Strike March](#) in Washington, DC.



Impact Report (Continued)

Building a More Inclusive Culture

The League is committed to [diversity, equity, and inclusion \(DEI\)](#) in principle and practice. During the past biennium, the DEI Committee, which is comprised of national board and local leaders, has been focused on organizational culture change that will allow Leagues to more seamlessly apply a DEI lens to our mission work. Dimensions of diversity that have been emphasized in the League context alongside racial equity include intergenerational dynamics, socioeconomic differences, gender identity, and interpersonal engagement. Survey data and anecdotal evidence suggests that the Leagues who have made more progress in integrating a DEI lens into their work are the ones who have been most successful in retaining the surge in membership since 2016.

LWVUS developed and recommend the national student PMP waiver, which has allowed Leagues greater flexibility for how they engage with and bring students into the organization. As a result of the new initiatives taken by Leagues, supported by this waiver, **student membership has experienced a growth of 243% since it was put in place.**

Building on the training provided at Convention 2018 to 1,000+ attendees, the Board created a DEI action plan with consulting firm Diversity Dimensions, which has been used as a guide for the work of the biennium. This has included several key elements:

- **Training webinars:** hosted **15** [DEI webinars](#) with nearly **2,000** views
- **Success stories:** featured **10** [League success stories](#) in the *League Update* and on the League Management Site
- **In-person training:** provided [implicit bias training](#) to the LWVUS Board, Nominating Committee, and state League leaders; provided monthly trainings for LWVUS staff
- **Online training materials:** launched a 5-module [DEI training series](#), accessed **521** times by League leaders; created an [online guide](#) for individual DEI work, organizational DEI work, and advanced learning, used by **880** users from **35** states
- **Learning platform:** initiated an [online course pilot program](#) on social equity with **50** Leagues
- **State League support:** developed DEI-focused action plans with **15** [Ruth S. Shur Fellows](#), a group of experienced League leaders selected and prepared to serve as mentors and coaches to other Leagues around the country



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