
February 17, 2020



**THE NEW CONGRESS: WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE
117TH CONGRESS**

Agenda

Join us for an advocacy
adventure!

- Housekeeping, community norms,
introduce presenters
- Congressional/Administration Priorities
- What congress has been up to
- What has LWVUS done
 - Sign on letters
- Future of Congress
- How to Take Action
- Questions



Housekeeping

- All trainings will be recorded to keep accurate notes to share with attendees and others after the call.
- If you are not speaking, please mute yourself to minimize sound issues.
- Make sure you identify yourself (name, League, State & pronouns) when asking questions
- **Staff will be monitoring the chat box.** If you have any questions or thoughts throughout the call, please feel free to drop them in the chat box.

Community Norms



Bring your full self and limit distractions



Use the chat box to add thoughts, experiences, and/or questions



What is learned here, leaves here



No one knows everything, together we know a lot



Don't yuck my yum



Oops, ouch, and educate



Assume best intentions

Presenting...

the LWVUS Legislative Team!



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PRIORITIES
FOR THE
117TH
CONGRESS

Maddie Schumacher,
Legislative Specialist

Photo by [Bao Chau](#) on [Unsplash](#)



BACKGROUND

117TH SESSION PRIORITIES

- COVID-19 Relief
 - Providing \$2000 in stimulus money
- Democracy Reform
 - HR1/S1 For the People Act (campaign finance and elections)
 - John Lewis Voting Rights Act
 - DC Statehood?
- Health Care
 - Expanding health insurance coverage
 - Lowering prescription drug prices
 - Building on the Affordable Care Act (introduced a bill last congress that provided subsidies to help people pay their health insurance premiums)
(Medicare for All or single payer public option is less likely to happen due to slim Democratic majorities)
- Impeachment?

BIDEN ADMIN PRIORITIES

- COVID-19 Relief
- Immigration and a path to citizenship
- Infrastructure and clean energy spending/climate response
- Expanding Obamacare
- Student debt relief
- Tax increases on corporations and the wealthy
- Racial justice and redressing inequalities
- Housing aid
- Unemployment insurance
- Broadband access
- Small business assistance

What has LWVUS Congressional advocacy involved

- Mobilized our Lobby Corp (HR 1 and Covid Relief)
- Sent targeted HR 1 letters to 10 House Representatives
- Organizing District Meetings
- Drafted HR 1 Talking
- Blog Posts (HR 1, Priorities for Biden Administration, Impeachment review)
- Action Alert Email blasts
 - HR 1: 2000 letters
 - Impeachment: 10,000 letters



LETTERS

League joins coalition urging immigration protections for Cameroonians

LWV signed on to a Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights letter urging Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Cameroonians.

LETTERS

LWV joins calls for National Office and New Deal for New Americans

The League joined letters in support of the New Deal for New Americans and National Office for New Americans Acts.

PRESS RELEASE

LWV Supports Bipartisan DREAM Act of 2021

The League of Women Voters strongly endorses this common-sense bipartisan legislation, and we stand ready to work with lawmakers to see it become law.

LETTERS

LWV issues vote recommendation to protect immigrant rights in COVID stimulus talks

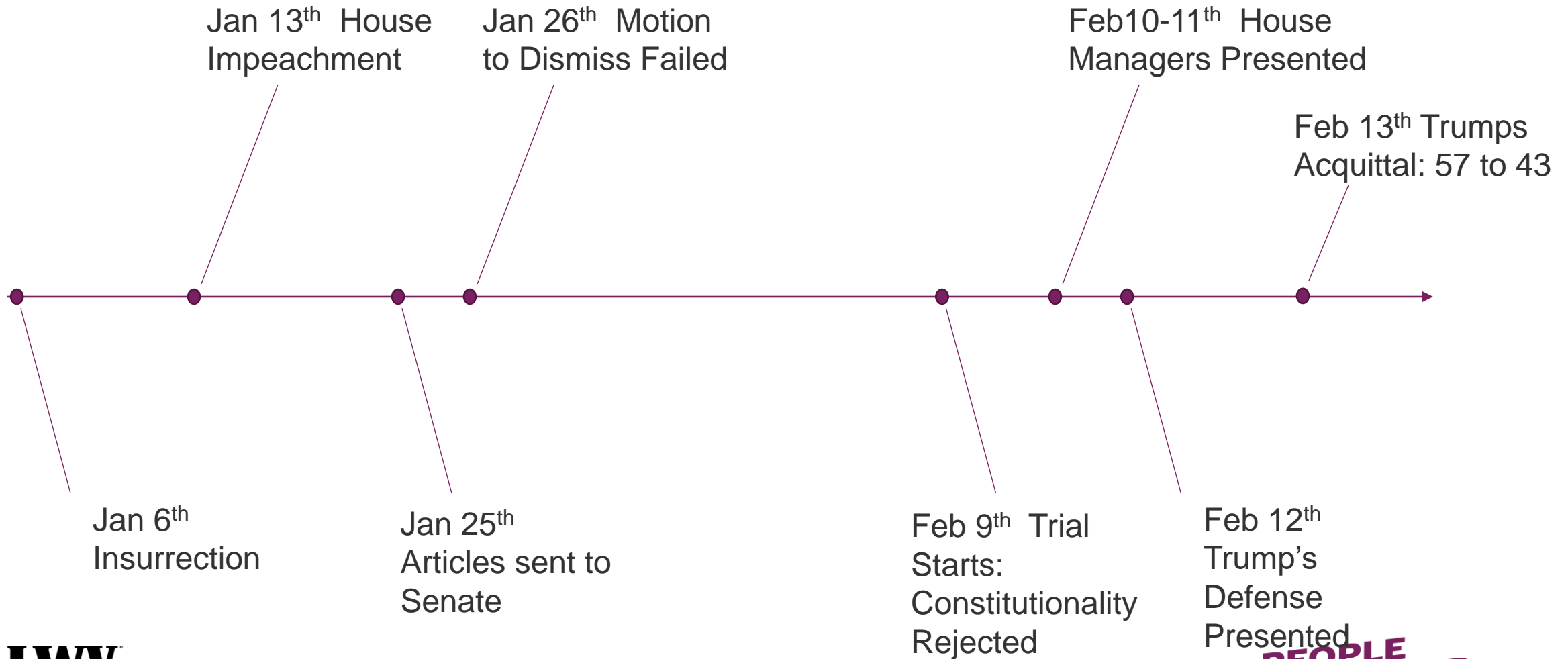
the League issued a rare vote recommendation last week urging them to protect immigrant/mixed-status family access to stimulus checks/vaccines and oppose Youth Amendment and others.

LETTERS

The League endorses the Dream Act

LWV sent a letter to Dream Act sponsor Senator Durbin offering our support and endorsement of [the Dream Act](#), re-introduced last week

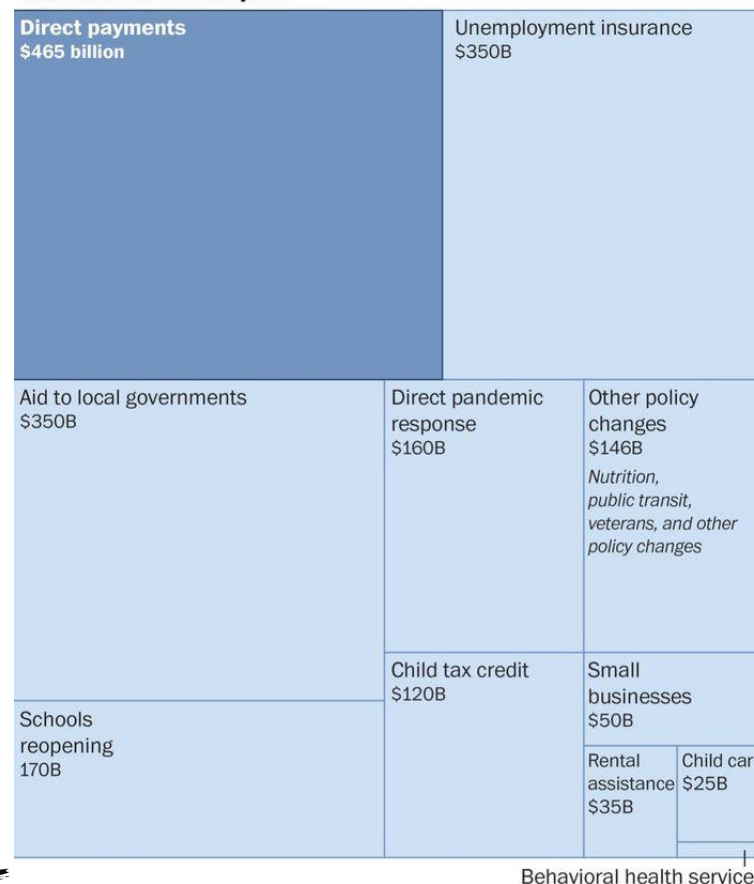
What has Congress been up to? Impeachment



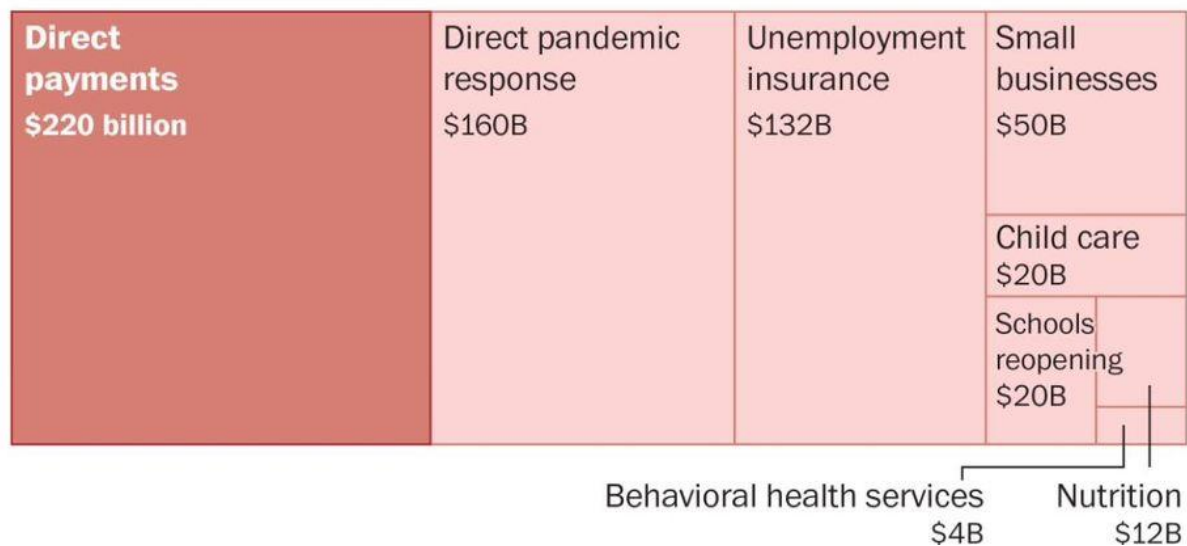
What has Congress been up to? COVID-19 Relief

The scale of coronavirus relief proposals from President Biden and a group of Senate Republicans

Biden's \$1.9 trillion plan



Republicans' \$618 billion plan



Credit: Washington post



What has Congress been up to?

Misc

- For the People Act Introduced
- Senate Confirmations:
 - Secretary of Veteran Affairs: Denis McDonough
 - Secretary of Transportation: Pete Buttigieg
 - Secretary of Homeland Security: Alejandro Mayorkas
 - Secretary of State: Antony Blinken
 - Secretary of the Treasury: Janet Yellen
 - Secretary of Defense: Lloyd Austin
 - Secretary of Education: Miguel Cardona
 - Director of National Intelligence: Avril Haines

Future of Congress and LWV Priorities

- Program Items:
 - 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**

Congressional Priorities for LWVUS

- HR1: For the People Act. A comprehensive democracy reform bill
- The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (HR 4)
- HR 51 Statehood for D.C.
- ERA
- Campaign Finance Reform
- Election Security
- Immigration Reform (DREAM Act)
- Climate Change

Future Of the 117th Session



HR1 has been introduced



**VRAA has a later
timeline**



HR 51 Timeline is unknown, but
coalitions doing this work are
looking for a speedy passage

Urgent Issues

- DREAM Act: Immigration Reform
- RECLAIM Act: Environmental Justice
- Legislative team continues to watch issues closely and respond as needed.



LWVUS Flickr Page;
2020 Day Of Action

How To Get Involved



- Engage with Action Alerts
- Federal Action Request forms
- Outreach Circle
- Relational Organizing
- Coordinate with State or Local League to draft blog posts, Oped, LTE's,

QUESTIONS?

