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**JANUARY 6, 2021(!)**

# Rep the League!

*Congressional Interview Program  
Introductory Webinar*



Presented by the LWVUS Legislative Team

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# Agenda

Join us for an advocacy  
adventure!

- Housekeeping, community norms
- Introducing the presenters
- Congressional Interview Program: a brief history
- The Comeback Story: Rep the League!
  - Goals for the program
  - General timeline
- Your mission: the League assignment
  - Outreach and completion goals
  - Reporting back
- Lobbying & Rep Outreach refresher
- Questions

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# Housekeeping Items

- Everyone enters the webinar muted
- Use the questions box to ask questions throughout the presentation
- If you want to ask your question at the end of the presentation raise your hand a panelist will call on you
- Make sure you identify yourself (Name, League, State & pronouns) when asking questions
- A short follow up email will be sent with materials highlighted in the webinar

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# 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



Use active and reflective listening

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# Presenting...

## the LWVUS Legislative Team!



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# Congressional Interview Program: a brief history

*Dylan Vargas, Legislative Coordinator*

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# A Look Back: The 111th Congress Interview Program

- **Similar Purpose:** To help you develop a working relationship with your representatives on Capitol Hill. It will also be helpful for the LWVUS to be able to gauge support for some important issues in the upcoming 111th Congress
- **Same Roles:** State Leagues will take responsibility for meeting with their Senators, while Local Leagues are responsible for meeting with members of the House of Representatives.
- **Shorter Deadline:** The deadline for submitting the reply form from the congressional meeting is February 1.
- **Different Settings:** In a Pre-Covid Era meetings were preferred to be held in person

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# A Look Back: The 111th Congress Interview Program Cont..

## Interview Questions:

1. What should the federal government do to ensure that every American has health coverage?
2. Do you support legislation to set a declining cap on greenhouse gas emissions, based on the best-available science, in order to combat global climate change?
3. What will you do to help reduce the level of partisanship at the federal level that has blocked progress on a number of important national issues in recent years?





Photo by [Arseny Togulev](#) on [Unsplash](#)

*Maddie Schumacher, Legislative Specialist*

# The Comeback Story: Rep the League!

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# Why are we resurrecting the Congressional Interview Program?

1. To empower state and local Leagues to meet and build relationships with their congressional delegation
2. To set the tone for this Congress and clarifying League priorities.
3. To learn about legislators' priorities and how our Leagues can bolster them



# Timeline





# Your mission: the League assignment

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# Programmatic Goals

- State leagues collectively reach out to 80 senators
- State leagues collectively interview and report back on 40 senators
- Local leagues reach out to 1 U.S. representative per local league
- 288 local leagues complete interviews and report back on their U.S. Rep

GOAL

GOAL



GOAL

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# Programmatic Goals

State leagues should try to schedule meetings with both of their senators ->

State leagues should try to interview at least one of their senators

Local leagues should try to schedule a meeting with and interview their U.S. Rep

GOAL

GOAL



GOAL



## Congressional Interview Project- Fall/Winter 2020

### Introduction

Don't forget to report back to the LWVUS shortly after your meeting via the easy reporting form. The information you gather will be valuable to our strategizing and lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C., and it is helpful to hear back as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact LWVUS Legislative Specialist Maddie Schumacher at [mschumacher@lww.org](mailto:mschumacher@lww.org) or at (202) 847-6780.

1. Name \*

2. Email \*

3. League ID. If you do not know your League ID [please click here to find it.](#) \*

# Reporting back



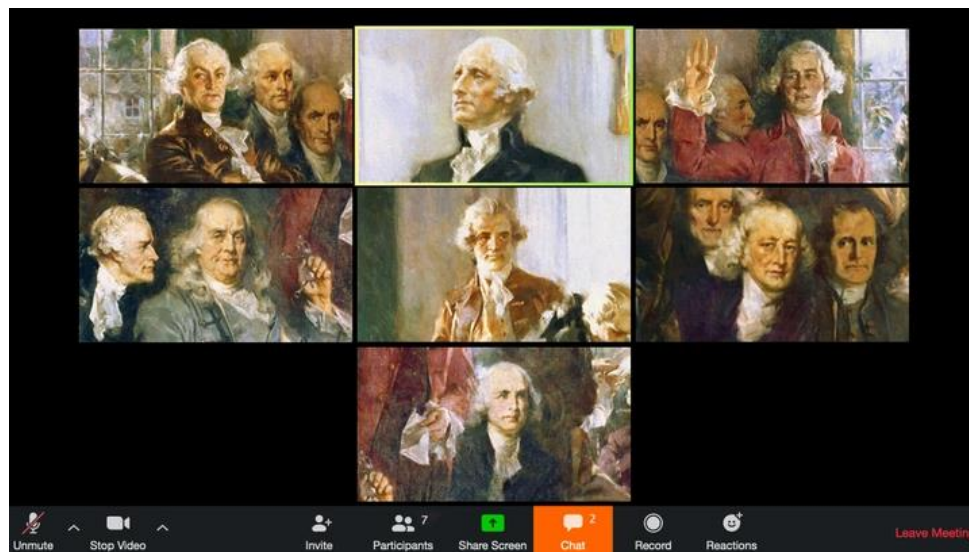
# Lobbying and Rep Outreach Refresher

*Priya Pandey, Legislative Coordinator*



# How to Lobby

1. Get in contact with your legislators (phone, email, etc.)
2. Express your support or opposition for specific legislation
3. Follow up to reinforce your League's stance



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# Lobby tips

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- Identify yourself as a League member
- Stick to the bill or topic at hand
- Take notes to share back with your League
- Follow up with a thank you email to the Legislator/staff, including resources
- Explain some of the League's history on the subject
- Listen to both what they say and what they don't say

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VOTING RIGHTS

ELECTIONS

OTHER ISSUES

ABOUT US



TAKE ACTION

DC

HOME > CONGRESSIONAL INTERVIEW GUIDE AND MATERIALS

# Congressional Interview Guide and Materials

Dear State and Local League Presidents:

The start of the 117th Congress this January provides League advocates with an extra opportunity to connect with freshman and returning lawmakers. **These meetings are essential for setting the tone for this Congress and clarifying League priorities.** State and local League presidents should make appointments to introduce themselves to new members of Congress and visit again with returning members in order to establish a dialogue on issues of importance. You are responsible for making a connection with your elected officials on behalf of the League.

**Meeting with newly elected members is especially important.** Some of the League's top priorities, including democracy reform and justice issues, could be acted upon quickly in the



## League Management site

## Lobby One-Pager



# 5 STEPS TO LOBBY YOUR STATE REPS

TOOLS AND TIPS FROM LWVUS

## PREPARE

Research the Legislator's vote history, committee assignments, party affiliation, campaign platform, and position on PPFM priorities. This information can inform your conversation and asks.



## SCHEDULE

Call the office of the Legislator and request a 30 minute meeting on behalf of your League. Alternatively, if you get the Legislator or their staffer on the line, you can hold your meeting then.



## PERSUADE

Thank them for meeting with you and for support on past issues. Provide some background on the issue at hand. Focus on its direct impact on the Legislator's constituency. Make your legislative ask.



## FOLLOW UP

Afterwards, send the Legislator a thank you note or email as well as the answers to any questions they asked, relevant issue fact sheets, and other materials on the League. Reiterate your ask.



## INVITE OTHERS

Encourage other League members and your local community to call their legislators by issuing an action alert or posting information on social media. Share this fact sheet with them!



# Questions?

*Please post in the chat or questions box in GoToWebinar, or raise your hand and we will unmute you.*

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# And the work continues!

**DEMOCRACY DEFINES AMERICA,  
AND DEMOCRACY HAS PREVAILED  
IN THE 2020 ELECTIONS.**

**LWV** LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS

**LWV**