



2020 – 22 BIENNIUM

# IMPACT REPORT



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LEFT: LWV President Dr. Deborah Ann Turner protests with activists at a No More Excuses rally for voting rights.



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ABOVE: Youth activists demand action for voting rights in front of the White House at a LWV-led No More Excuses rally.

# 2020 – 22 Biennium by the Numbers

INDICATOR	TOTAL
Voters Impacted	35.8M
Membership Growth	7%
Pro-Democracy Activities	19K
Digital Engagements	1.5M
Letters to Congress	240K+
Trainings for League Leaders	205
People Trained	10K
Partners Recruited	2,700
People Engaged through People Powered Fair Maps™	1.4M

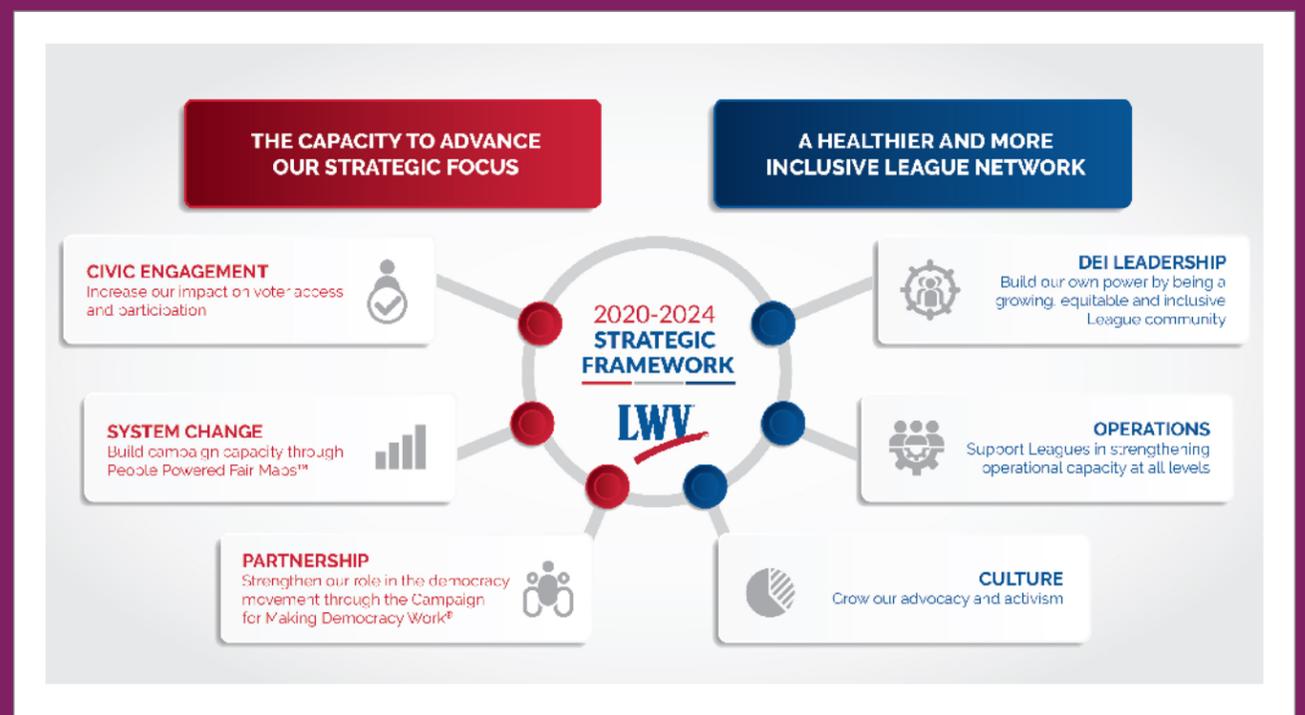
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# Introduction

The 2020 – 22 biennium kicked off the League’s second century of empowering voters and defending democracy. The League used this milestone to reflect on the organization’s journey and how to build its power in 2020 and beyond. With the **Transformation Roadmap** as our guide, along with further input from League leaders, we developed a new strategic framework for 2020 – 2024.

The framework provides a path to further refine, strengthen, and amplify the work Leagues are doing at all levels, all across the country.

This Biennium Impact Report presents the work of our organization over the 2020 – 22 biennium through this Strategic Framework. Together, Leagues at the local, state, and national level have advanced our mission of empowering voters and defending democracy through six key strategic goals.



# 3



## Advancing Our Strategic Focus

### Women Power Democracy and the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®

Since the 2020 election, our nation has seen new barriers to voting and continued attacks on our democracy that require a renewed organizational investment within our Campaign for Making Democracy Work® program. This new investment is Women Power Democracy (WPD).

The work within WPD is not new to our Leagues but streamlines our efforts to tackle systemic challenges to voting rights through advocacy, litigation, and organizing in four areas: **Democracy Truth Project, Expand the Franchise, Democracy Defense Fund, and People Powered Fair Maps™.**

These League-led programs will build more trust in our elections, grow our electorate with equity, create fairness for voter access, and ensure community districting truly reflects our population. We believe that this explicit focus will help the League deliver on our overall mission of a more representative and perfect democracy.



### Civic Engagement: Increase our impact on voter access

#### GET OUT THE VOTE CAMPAIGNS

With a focus on reaching low-propensity voters and targeting women, LGBTQIA+, low-income, Black, and Spanish-speaking Americans, the 2020 – 22 biennium saw the League’s largest-ever get-out-the-vote (GOTV) campaign. The campaign utilized mail, text messages, phone calls, email, digital ads, radio ads, billboards, door hangers, social media, and a video series to connect voters to accurate election information.

Even through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, state and local Leagues reached tens of thousands of voters, including young voters and new citizens, through contactless drive-through registration, virtual school events, curbside voting rallies, and more.

**12,000,000+**

Over 12 million contacts with voters

**Our results indicate that voters who received a touchpoint from the League were more likely to vote.**

# VOTE 411

## VOTE411

This biennium, more than 6.5 million users visited [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org). And for the first time, VOTE411 was available in English and Spanish, thanks to a partnership with the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Education Fund. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the LWV Education Fund (LWVEF) worked tirelessly to ensure that all the information on VOTE411 was updated as soon as states made election changes.



**6,500,000+**

Number of users



**224,782**

Number of voters registered



**516,041**

Number of voters that checked their registration



**5,500,000+**

Number of voters who viewed their ballot



**3,155**

Number of voters that requested a mail ballot



**420,577**

Number of Spanish page views



**41,512**

Number of races



**80,234**

Number of candidates listed



**999**

Number of debates listed\*

\*Total number of debates was severely affected by COVID-19 this biennium.



## VOTE411 CONTENT UPDATES

LWVEF added multiple new features to the VOTE411.org website in both English and Spanish, including:

**1**

### Check your Voter Registration

<https://www.vote411.org/check-registration>

**2**

### Absentee Ballot Request Tool

<https://absentee.vote411.org/vote/VoterInformation.htm>

**3**

### Nationwide Voting Rules Quick View

<https://www.vote411.org/voting-rules>

LEFT: VOTE411.org in Spanish.

## VOTE411 PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

In 2020, LWV worked actively with more than 100 national partner organizations and coalitions in order to reach new audiences of voters and stakeholders.

Partner organizations included: Historically Black Colleges and Universities Alumni Alliance, National Partnership for New Americans, Vot-ER, We Can Vote, National Voter Registration Day, Vote Early Day, Power the Polls, National Association of Broadcasters, ProPublica, and Audacy.

During the biennium, LWV secured an unprecedented number of corporate partners with a series of tailored, customizable partnership opportunities including corporate employee education, the VOTE411 White Label tool, targeted GOTV partnerships, and high-impact digital voter engagement campaigns.

## VOTE411 SPONSORS

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema

Alliance Bernstein

Cabot Creamery

The Flight Attendants Association

PayPal

Seventh Generation

Sweetgreen

Target

Warby Parker

World Market



LEFT: A League member directs voters to VOTE411.org using a QR code.

## VOTE411 MAKES AN IMPRESSION

**MEDIA MENTIONS**  
4,375

**KEY COVERAGE**  
New York Times, NBC News, and CNBC

**IMPRESSIONS**  
More than 6 million impressions across all social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram)

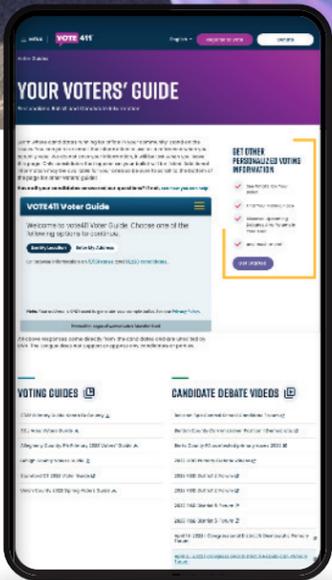
29 million impressions earned across campaigns on social media, billboards, and radio

**AWARDS**  
PR Daily's Nonprofit Communications Awards, including Nonprofit Communications Campaign of the Year



## VOTE411 VOTER GUIDE TOOL REDESIGN

Beginning in early 2021, LWVEF redesigned the technology used to create voter guides on the VOTE411.org website to modernize the technology, provide a more scalable and secure infrastructure, provide new functionality, and lay the groundwork to power the voter experience for years to come.



## LITIGATION

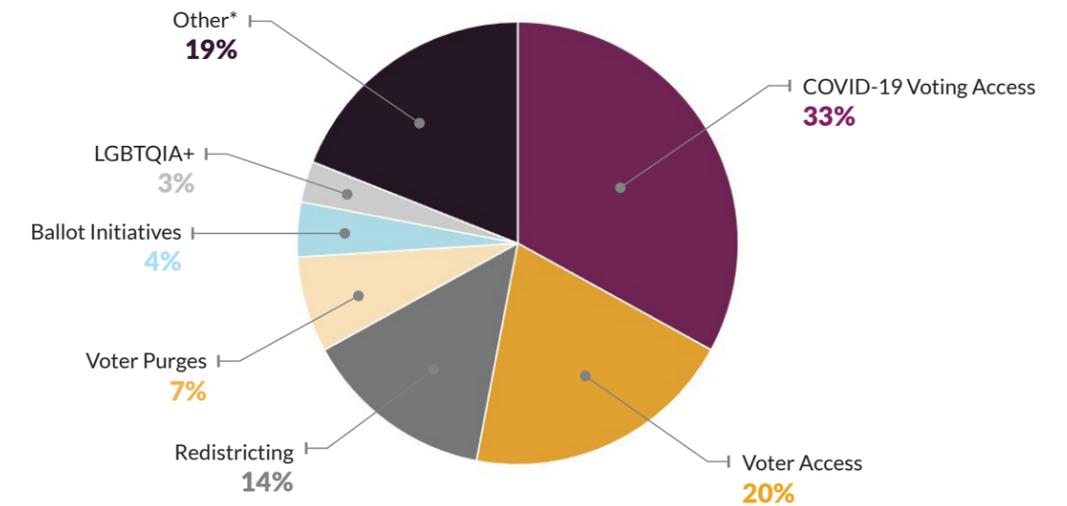
In the past two years, the League engaged in litigation on a variety of issues within the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®, including voting access during COVID-19, the 2020 Census, redistricting, money in politics, and excessive voter purges. The special complications raised by the pandemic spurred a large increase in litigation activity this biennium.

In 2020, COVID-19 presented additional barriers and complications for voters in both the primaries and the general election. LWV filed 70 lawsuits in more than half the states to ensure adequate ballot notice and cure procedures, access to drop boxes, and greater access to voting by mail.

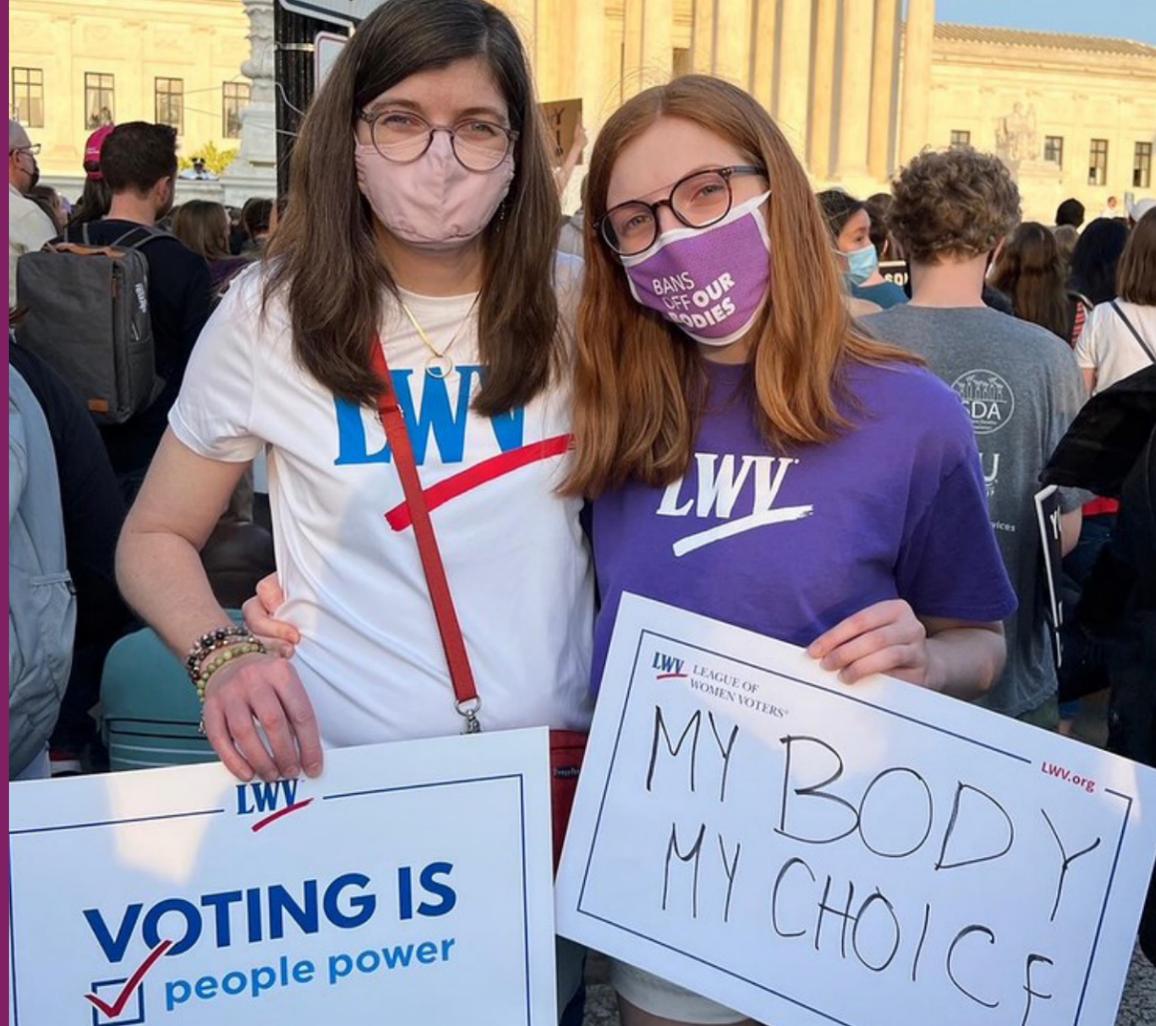
COVID-19 also presented complications for the 2020 Census. LWV joined lawsuits to block rushed deadlines and ensure an accurate count.

LWV also joined amicus briefs supporting common-sense money in politics regulations and intervened in cases to prevent irresponsible voter purges.

### FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022



\*Money in Politics, Census, Climate Change, Reproductive Justice, Immigration, Equal Rights Amendment, Education, Judiciary, DC Statehood, Health Care, USPS, Sexual Harassment, Gun Violence, Title VII/Gender Discrimination



ABOVE: League members rally for reproductive rights at the US Supreme Court.

## CASE HIGHLIGHTS

*Brnovich v. Democratic National Convention* was a key voting rights case for the League that challenged Arizona’s law allowing provisional ballots cast in the wrong precinct to be thrown out, as well as the state’s prohibited ballot collection activities. In July of 2021, the **US Supreme Court rejected** this challenge and held that neither of the Arizona laws were racially discriminatory.

*New York v. Trump* challenged the administration’s attempt to exclude undocumented immigrants from the state population totals in the 2020 Census. The Leagues of Texas, Florida, and California filed an amicus brief arguing why this would have a detrimental impact on the count in their states. The court agreed and directed the administration to count all residents.

*Urban League v. Ross* challenged the Trump administration’s attempt to implement a census “rush plan,” which planned to reduce the Census Bureau’s data-collection period from eight months to four months. The lower court granted two additional weeks of census counting, but an appeal to the Supreme Court ended the census count early on October 15, 2020. A March 2022 report from the US Census Bureau showed an undercount of 18.8 million as a result.

In *Americans for Prosperity v. Bonta*, a challenge was brought against a California law requiring nonprofits to disclose their major donors in a state revenue form. The League of Women Voters of California joined an amicus brief in the case in support of greater transparency in political spending. In July of 2021, the **US Supreme Court ruled** that the laws did violate the First Amendment and could no longer require this transparency.

The League filed amicus briefs in lawsuits fighting attacks on reproductive health care. Importantly, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* challenged Mississippi’s 15-week abortion ban in the first direct challenge to abortion access since *Roe v. Wade*. A draft opinion of the case was leaked to media on May 1 which, as written, showed the court’s plan to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. The League joined reproductive rights partners in rapid response as the country awaits the published opinion.

The League has long supported measures to prevent gun violence and to protect the security of polling locations. The Leagues of New York, Florida, and the United States **filed an amicus brief** in support of a New York law that prohibits the carrying of firearms in public places being used as voting locations to intimidate voters. The US Supreme Court’s ruling is forthcoming.

In response to the wave of anti-voter legislation passed in states following the 2020 Election, the League joined two important challenges: *Harriet Tubman Freedom Fighters Corp. v. Lee* in Florida and *NAACP of Georgia v. Raffensperger* in Georgia. Both states’ new anti-voter laws limited voting by mail, criminalized giving food and water to voters in line, and limited drop box availability. In *Harriet Tubman*, the District Court in Florida **struck down key provisions** of the anti-voter bill, but the decision was recently overturned by an appeals court and is awaiting further litigation. A decision is still pending in the Georgia case. The League also filed cases against anti-voter laws in Kansas, Arkansas, and Iowa.

## LITIGATION MEDIA VISIBILITY

### MEDIA MENTIONS

More than 21,000 media mentions from online and print newspapers, magazines, television, and radio

Over 100 litigation-related press releases

21 litigation blog pieces

### NEWS OUTLETS

WashPo, NYT, Reuters, USA Today, Bloomberg, HuffPo, POLITICO, NBC News, NPR, the Hill, CNN, WSJ, BuzzFeed News



ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT: Congresswoman Nikema Williams, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, LWV CEO Virginia Kase Solomón, LWV President Dr. Deborah Ann Turner, Congresswoman Lauren Underwood, and Congresswoman Terri Sewell participated in a panel event hosted by LWV.

## FEDERAL VOTING RIGHTS LEGISLATION

As part of the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®, the League continued focusing on the protection and enforcement of voting rights in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, which included the *For the People Act* (FTP), the *Freedom to Vote Act* (FTVA), and the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act* (JLVRAA).

If passed, the FTVA (previously, the FTP) and the JLVRAA would set minimum uniform standards on how federal redistricting, voting, and elections are conducted across the country. The bills would hold states and bad actors accountable for attempts to restrict voting and would prevent voter suppression efforts. Collectively, these two pieces of legislation would bring us closer to a democracy that is representative of all Americans.

LWVUS staff, grassroots membership, and LWVUS Lobby Corps contacted their representatives and senators in support of this legislation. LWVUS convened a **congressional panel** in June 2021 to discuss the future of democracy with a focus on federal legislation. Later in the summer and fall, LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Turner and CEO Virginia Kase Solomón, joined by Leagues from across the country, participated in actions at the White House and on Capitol Hill to demand passage of the legislation through the No More Excuses: Voting Rights Now arc of escalation rallies (see more on page 15).

### FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

**120,000+**

Number of social media users reached through marketing campaigns

### MEMBERS OF CONGRESS PANEL EVENT

**9,500**

Number of social media impressions

**2,600**

Number of views

Alongside national voting and civil rights partners, LWVUS supported hundreds of Leagues in leading and joining distributed actions around the country in support of federal voting rights legislation, resulting in hundreds of actions and thousands of voters engaged.

The FTPA passed the House of Representatives but did not achieve the 60-vote threshold to move forward on all three votes in the Senate. The FTVA was introduced in the Senate in September 2021 and was twice blocked by Republican senators who refused to vote in favor of cloture. This version of the legislation was only introduced in the Senate and did not receive a vote in the House.

In January 2022, Senate leadership finally managed to overcome a filibuster vote and get a voting rights bill to the floor of the US Senate for debate. The ***Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act*** combined the provisions of the *Freedom to Vote Act* and the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*. LWVUS continued to mobilize members and supporters to contact their senators during the 48 hours of debate. Unfortunately, the **Senate failed to advance** the bill past debate.

## MEMBERS OF CONGRESS PANEL EVENT

On October 20, 2021, the League of Women Voters **hosted a panel discussion on the state of democracy** with Congresswomen Terri Sewell (AL-7), Jackie Speier (CA-14), Lauren Underwood (IL-14), and Nikema Williams (GA-5). Invitations were extended to Congresswomen from all parties.

Moderated by LWV CEO Virginia Kase Solomón and welcomed by LWV Board President Dr. Deborah Turner, the panel **discussed the challenges facing our democracy in connection with LWV's Women Power Democracy programmatic focus.**

# PEOPLE POWERED FAIR MAPS™

## System Change: Building campaign capacity

### PEOPLE POWERED FAIR MAPS™

The League's People Powered Fair Maps™ (PPFM) initiative, launched in September of 2019, unites the Leagues of all 50 states and the District of Columbia for a coordinated national effort to end gerrymandering and create district maps that are more reflective of communities.

LWV built in-state capacity for community-led civic engagement, drew alternative maps for submission to redistricting authorities, developed resources and tools, provided technical assistance, and supported the development of advocacy plans.

Following the release of census data in August 2021, Leagues jumped into action to help communities participate in the redistricting process.

In April of 2021, the League held a national People Powered Day of Action to increase public awareness and engagement around the redistricting process. Over 300 Leagues hosted events across 45 states and Washington, DC.

The League's work led to the implementation of new bi-partisan redistricting commissions in Virginia and fairer maps in a dozen states in the 2021 redistricting cycle. The number of fair maps wins is still growing as we continue our fight in the courts.



ABOVE: League members rally for fair maps in front of the US Supreme Court.

#### PPFM IMPACT

**250,000+**

Number of pass-through grants to 38 state Leagues



**4,951**

Number of educational events and trainings



**1,400,000+**

Number of individuals engaged



**4,500+**

Number of meetings with key stakeholders



**3,000+**

Number of partner organizations across the country



**15,910**

Number of media mentions



**5,100,000**

Number of users reached with digital ads



Key membership in the Coalition Hub for Advancing Redistricting and Grassroots Engagement (CHARGE)

## Partnership: Strengthen our role in the democracy movement

### “NO MORE EXCUSES” IMPACT

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

Hundreds of new email and social media followers

#### MEDIA COVERAGE

Hundreds of national news headlines, six cable news TV interviews featuring LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase Solomón

**466,000**

Number of livestream views

### “NO MORE EXCUSES” WHITE HOUSE ACTIONS

On August 24, 2021, LWVUS co-partnered with People for the American Way (PFAW) to hold a voting rights rally in front of the White House, followed by an act of civil disobedience. LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Turner flew to DC to be part of the group risking arrest, and League members from Arizona and the DC area participated in the rally.

Following the event, the LWVUS team, in partnership with PFAW and Declaration for American Democracy, built out a series of civil disobedience actions at the White House calling on the administration to compel the Senate to pass voting rights legislation. The series, called “No More Excuses: Voting Rights NOW!,” totaled five direct actions through the late summer and fall of 2021, each centering impacted groups and shedding light on the intersectionality of critical issues and voting rights.

What started as an August protest led by two groups grew into a coalition of over 50 partners, hundreds of arrests, multiple celebrity appearances, and dozens of League leaders and board members traveling to Washington.

The League-led protests at the White House received so much media attention that White House press secretary Jen Psaki was asked every week about the administration’s intention to advance voting rights, keeping the issue front and center in the briefing room. A few weeks after the actions, President Biden directed the Senate to end the filibuster in order to pass federal voting rights.

RIGHT: LWV CEO Virginia Kase Solomón is arrested in an act of civil disobedience at a No More Excuses rally in front of the White House.





ABOVE: Panelists (listed below) and LWV CEO Virginia Kase Solomón at the Women Power Democracy panel.



5,600

Number of views on Facebook and YouTube

## WOMEN POWER DEMOCRACY PANEL

In honor of Women's History Month in March of 2022, LWVUS produced a live hour-long Women Power Democracy panel discussion featuring powerful women leaders in the voting rights space. Moderated by CEO Virginia Kase Solomón, panelists Amanda Brown Lierman of Supermajority, LaTosha Brown of Black Voters Matter, and Sindy Benavides of LULAC discussed the intersection of gender and race in the voting rights movement, ways to tackle disinformation, and how to build community power.

# 4

## Building a Healthier, More Inclusive League Network

### Structure Taskforce

While this report highlights the impressive work in all areas of the strategic framework, one goal, *support Leagues in strengthening operational capacity at all levels*, was prioritized this 2020 – 22 biennium. A taskforce, comprised of local, state, and national leaders from across the country, was created to examine the capacity and structure of the organization. Building on the data collected through the Transformation Roadmap assessment, the taskforce solicited input from state leaders at National Council in 2021, examined the journeys of other nonprofits, and sought stakeholder and expert input to create a suite of recommendations that will come to delegates at this Convention.

Using a racial equity lens and keeping the mission strongly in focus, the taskforce proposes a set of solutions, called the [Structure Transformation Plan](#). These long-term solutions will help to remedy the perennial problems of operational capacity expressed by Leagues by both increasing the number of individuals engaged while also implementing systems changes to allow for greater focus on mission impact.



ABOVE: League members at an event for women members of Congress hosted by the League on Capitol Hill.

## DEI Leadership: Build our own power by being a growing, equitable, and inclusive League community

This biennium the League deepened our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within our organization.

Through a partnership with the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance's Leadersosity program, more than 225 League leaders participated in courses that tested their own understanding of privilege and intentionally focused DEI on all organizational operations. Nearly 70% of participants surveyed indicated that the program increased their understanding of diversity, equity and inclusion. LWV also hosted regular webinars on topics ranging from utilizing a DEI lens and collecting demographic data to intersectionality and gender identity. As part of National Council 2021, LWV partnered with Everyday Democracy to present a two-part session for state League leaders that explored racial equity, systemic racism, and microaggressions.

Under the leadership of the DEI committee, LWV prioritized implementation of the League's DEI policy into the bylaws of all Leagues. The committee also addressed specific challenges in individual Leagues by providing specialized technical support.

In January 2022, the League relaunched the LWV.org website with many enhancements, including improvements to visual access across the site. These include upgrades to the site's navigation and other elements to increase accessibility for people using assistive technologies like screen readers.

This biennium, LWVUS reviewed a number of public policy positions in *Impact on Issues* with a DEI lens to make the language more inclusive and reflective of current norms. Additionally, LWVUS updated key policies, such as human resources and procurement, to better reflect our DEI values. This same DEI lens was applied to the Structure Transformation Plan and LWVUS nominations process.

At all levels of the organization, the League has expanded its community engagement and partnerships to include more diverse communities and partners, as demonstrated by other sections of this report.



## Operations: Support Leagues in strengthening operational capacity at all levels

### GRANTS AND PROGRAMMATIC FUNDING

Combined, LWVUS and the LWV Education Fund (LWVEF) invested over \$4.6 million in in-state programmatic support throughout the biennium. LWV invested nearly \$1.7 million in pass-through grants to state and local Leagues to support voter registration, mobilization, voting rights, and voter access. These programs helped equip hundreds of state and local Leagues to protect and empower millions of voters and grow the organization's capacity at all levels.

STATS	
Making Democracy Work® grant program	800 events reaching 35,000 individuals
Statehood campaign led by LWV of DC	36,500 petition signatures from residents of all 50 states supporting DC Statehood
GOTV grants to state Leagues	1.6 million voters reached
Pro-Democracy Grant	11 state Leagues advocated to their senators for federal voting rights legislation

In addition to the grants listed above, LWVEF launched a pilot program to empower foodbank clients to register and vote in statewide elections, as well as a new initiative to empower incarcerated and newly returned citizens to exercise their voting rights, with a focus on voter registration and legal support related to voting rights restoration.

Every pass-through grant program from LWV included hands-on training and support for Leagues. Beyond pass-through grants, LWVUS and LWVEF have made significant investments in every state, the US Virgin Islands, and DC through awards, GOTV postcards, VOTE411 marketing campaigns, PPFM campaigns, and visibility materials for in-person activities.

LEFT: A League member rallies for DC Statehood in front of the Capitol.

## DATA CULTURE

This biennium, LWV made great strides in advancing our data culture. At the core of this effort is our Data to Action Cycle, in which LWV collected timely data and developed actionable insights that informed decision across all levels of the organization.

During this biennium, LWVUS launched its first **Semi-Annual Survey** to capture information about local and state League activities and partner organizations. LWVUS also developed state-level fact sheets based on this survey data to highlight League impact.

## GOVERNANCE

LWV produced a number of resources and trainings to support the management of state and local Leagues, including:

- **A Governance Checklist** to help Leagues ensure their business is in compliance with federal and state law, as well as LWV organizational standards
- **A training series** on effective Boards from nonprofit management coach Marla Weston
- **Webinars** on best practices for bylaws and League insurance needs
- **Office hours** for governance questions

LWVUS also developed two policies that provide clarity on organization-wide expectations for LWVUS, Leagues, and members: the **League Rights and Responsibilities Policy**, and a **Member Rights and Responsibilities Policy**, which are formed from existing bylaws, policies, and legal or nonprofit best practices.

## TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

During the previous biennium, LWVUS continued to leverage technology to improve the pass-through grant process to Leagues. LWVUS used platforms including DocuSign, Salesforce, and JotForm to digitize contracts and automate grant applications, reporting, and notifications. These upgrades were especially important as LWVUS shifted to remote work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

LWVUS signed a partnership agreement with ClubExpress in early 2020 to develop a process by which PMP (Per Member Payments) and membership data would be automatically transferred to LWVUS. As a part of our partnership, LWVUS secured a discounted pricing structure for Leagues moving to ClubExpress and committed to credit card fee cost-sharing to help support local Leagues. At the launch of the data connector in February 2022, more than 20% of local Leagues were on the ClubExpress platform.

For Leagues on the MyLO platform, LWVUS is building a feed to automatically sync national blogs and press statements on their websites.



ABOVE: League members at a DC Statehood rally in front of the Capitol.

## Culture: Grow our advocacy and activism

### ORGANIZING

During the past two years, LWV has invested in organizing as a core strategy to build the necessary power to fulfill our mission.

To ensure that Leagues had all the resources to support critical voter education and get-out-the-vote (GOTV) work, LWVUS launched the Organizing to Build Power training series, which engaged League Leaders in relational organizing, power mapping, and organizing strategies for GOTV.

LWVUS also adopted OutreachCircle, a relational organizing platform that allows Leagues to reach beyond their immediate networks to connect people to important information, resources, and easy and accessible opportunities to engage.

To help develop relationships of trust and mutual support among League Leaders, LWVUS created a monthly community call, where League members, activists, and volunteers can get to know other members across the country and share tools, resources, and experiences with each other.

### OUTREACHCIRCLE NUMBERS

**106**

Number of LWV OutreachCircles

**274**

Number of Leaders

**4,903**

Number of Engagers

**10,184**

Number of Actions

## UNITED NATIONS OBSERVERS

In July 2021, a new slate of United Nations (UN) Observers was appointed after a rigorous application and interview process. Led by UN Chief Observer Dr. Connie Sobon Sensor, the team includes Paulette Austin (TX), Jane Colvin (NY), Sarah Hirsch (NY), Dr. Madeline Motta (VT), Chris Sagona (NJ), and Dr. Robin Tokmakian (OR).

In November 2021, 11 individuals traveled to Glasgow, Scotland, to attend the Conference of the Parties (COP26) annual climate meeting. Two League individuals received scholarships to attend the conference due to a generous donation.

In March 2022, the UN Observer Team invited League members to join in the virtual events of the 66th meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). LWVUS and the Global NGO Executive Committee co-sponsored the CSW conference event, "Climate Change Threats to Democratic Elections: Preparing for the Worst," which featured an expert panel on election innovations. Live events and archived briefings from the UN on topics of interest can be accessed at [media.un.org/en/webTV](https://media.un.org/en/webTV).

## EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

When President Biden failed to direct the National Archivist to certify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), the League supported legislation to remove the ratification timeline for the ERA. That bill passed in the House and has bipartisan support in the Senate. LWVUS also supports a new tactic in which the House and Senate would pass a resolution declaring the amendment ratified. LWVUS continues to urge the attorney general to rescind a 2020 memo preventing the National Archivist from accepting full ratification of the ERA.

In July of 2020, LWVUS launched a grant program in seven states for a coordinated federal advocacy campaign around the ERA. The League continues to stay active in the ERA Coalition by working to identify opportunities for engagement with senators. The League joined the ERA Coalition in an amicus brief in the case of *Virginia v. Ferriero*, which seeks to compel the National Archivist to certify the ERA.

LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Turner and CEO Virginia Kase Solomón joined rallies led by the ERA Coalition on **Women's Equality Day** and the **two-year anniversary** of the final state ratifying the ERA. Additionally, Dr. Turner recorded a short **speech on women's equality** for Leagues to share at their Women's Equality Day events around the country.



## CLIMATE

Leagues across the country engaged in the climate change fight at the state and local levels throughout the biennium, while LWVUS worked to address the issue through actions with the administration, Congress, and via litigation. The League urged Congress to exclude big polluters from COVID-19 stimulus funds and supported the Transform, Heal, and Renew by Investing in a Vibrant Economy (THRIVE) agenda for a comprehensive economic renewal plan to tackle the overlapping crises of mass unemployment, racial justice, public health, wealth inequity, and climate change. LWVUS also supported a regulatory effort to restore the enforcement of the *National Environmental Policy Act*.

In *Juliana v. United States*, the League joined an amicus brief in support of the legal challenge brought by 21 young people against the federal government over the climate crisis. The case is currently in federal court, and the Biden Administration has joined the negotiations between the parties. The League also sent a letter to Attorney General Garland urging the Justice Department to end opposition of the case.

LEFT: Activists march for climate action.



ABOVE: New citizen voter registration, Los Angeles, CA.

## HEALTH CARE

LWVUS continued its advocacy for access to quality affordable health care for all US residents through avenues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. LWVUS advocated for equitable distribution of services and delivery of care, including vaccine distribution. The League also engaged in community organizing, community education projects, public forums and debates, public resource materials, and meetings with leading policy makers and analysts on the topic of health care.

In 2020, LWVUS led an amicus brief in *Cochran v. Gresham*, which involved a challenge to work requirements as a condition for receiving Medicaid benefits. Ultimately, the case was dismissed after the US Department of Health and Human Services announced that it would revisit the approved work requirement plans. LWVUS also filed amicus briefs in important reproductive health care cases (see Litigation, page 8).

## IMMIGRATION

In late 2021, the League thanked President-elect Biden for following through on his commitment to immediately rescind the Muslim and African bans, as well as numerous other previous executive orders that harmed the immigrant community. LWVUS supported the *DREAM and Promise Act* to create a permanent path to citizenship and continued our support to keep families together at our borders and reduce the detention of immigrants as soon as possible. LWVUS advocated for immigrant families and frontline workers to receive vaccine distribution and the same access to economic support as their neighbors, regardless of their immigration status.

Additionally, the League is serving as a plaintiff in *Mississippi Immigrant Rights Alliance v. Watson*, which challenges a Mississippi law that requires naturalized citizens to provide proof of citizenship to register to vote. The League intervened in the case to prevent the enforcement of the law.



# Reflections on the 2020 – 22 Biennium

As this report illustrates, a lot can happen in two years! We were challenged to be creative, persistent, and intentional in how we organized our efforts to align with our Strategic Framework. Leadership at all levels of League made it possible for us to succeed on behalf of voters even during a pandemic, while we simultaneously grew our prominence as a leading organization on voting rights.

Our bold initiatives under the Women Power Democracy umbrella, coupled with a focus on internal organizing and collaborating with our grassroots advocates and champions, enabled us to claim victories on key issues we care about and build a foundation of strength for the next 100 years.



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