



November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

LWVUS Advocacy Presents:

# Preparing for State Legislative Sessions 2025

# Presenter



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# Agenda

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Housekeeping

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Advocacy Planning

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Resources Overview

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LIA During the Legislative Session

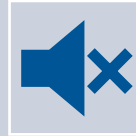
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Questions & Feedback

# 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



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

# POLL!

# Advocacy Planning

# Advocacy Planning

- State Legislature Landscape
- Post-Election advocacy considerations
- Strategy and Prep
- Outlining a Plan
- Executive and Regulatory Advocacy
- DEI & Other Advocacy Considerations
- LWVUS Advocacy + Litigation Resources



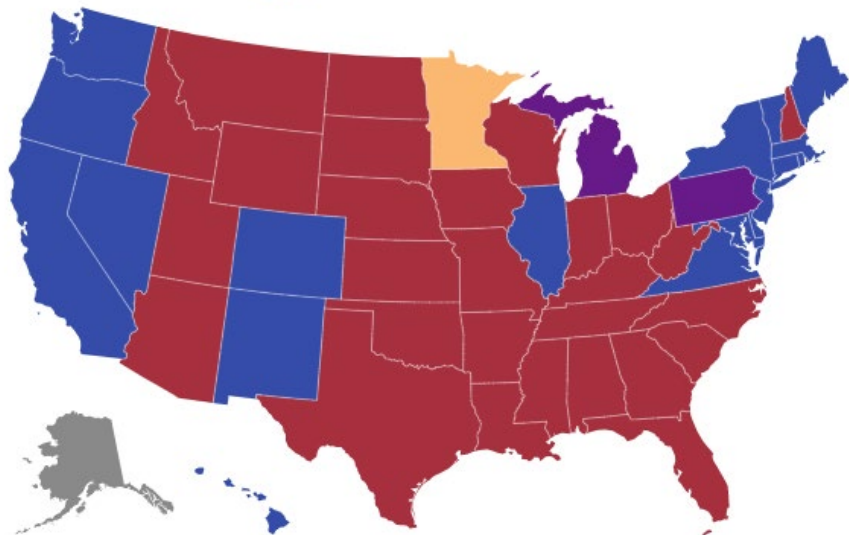


# State Legislative Landscape

# State Legislatures

## Partisan control of state legislatures after 2024 elections

Showing the distribution of **Democratic** and **Republican** control of state legislatures heading into 2025. Legislatures with split control between chambers are colored **purple**.



BALLOTEDIA

(Source: [Ballotpedia](#))

# State Legislatures

State	Party	Current or potential supermajority?
Kansas	Republican	Current
Montana	Republican	Current
Nebraska	Republican	Current
North Carolina	Republican	Current
Nevada	Democratic	Potential
Oregon	Democratic	Potential
New York	Democratic	Potential
Colorado	Democratic	Potential
Connecticut	Democratic	Potential
Delaware	Democratic	Potential
Florida	Republican	Current
Missouri	Republican	Current
Iowa	Republican	Potential
South Carolina	Republican	Potential

(Source: [Ballotpedia](#))

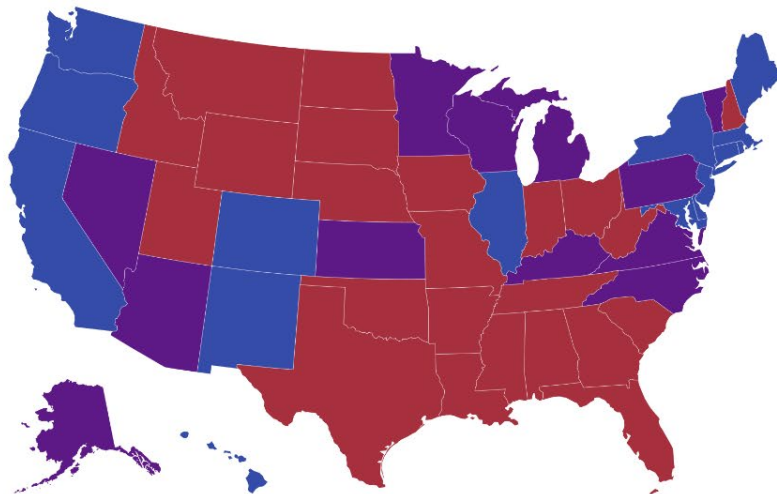
# State Legislatures

## Post-election trifectas, 2024

Showing trifectas in each state after the 2024 election.

Switch to: [Post-election](#) / [Pre-election](#)

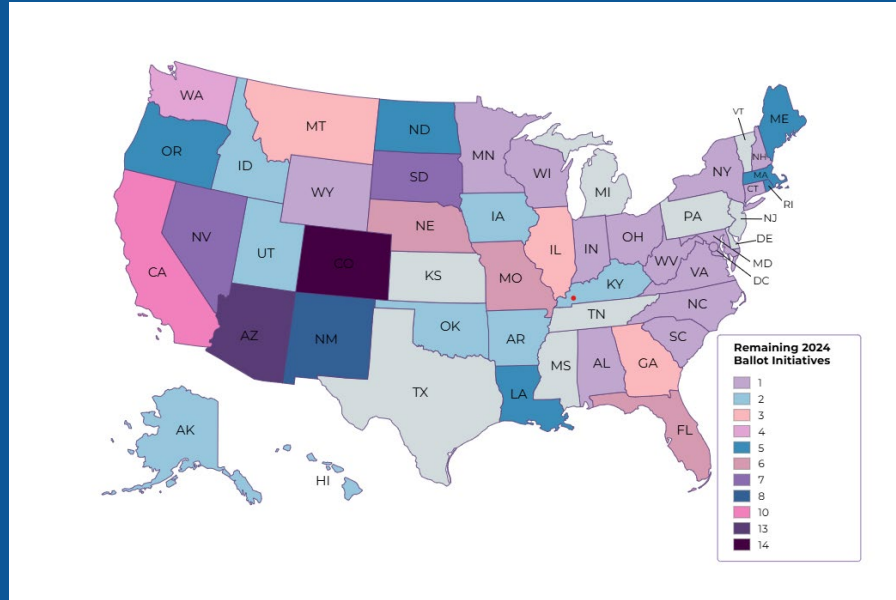
■ Democratic ■ Divided government ■ Republican



BALLOT **PEDIA**

(Source: [Ballotpedia](#))

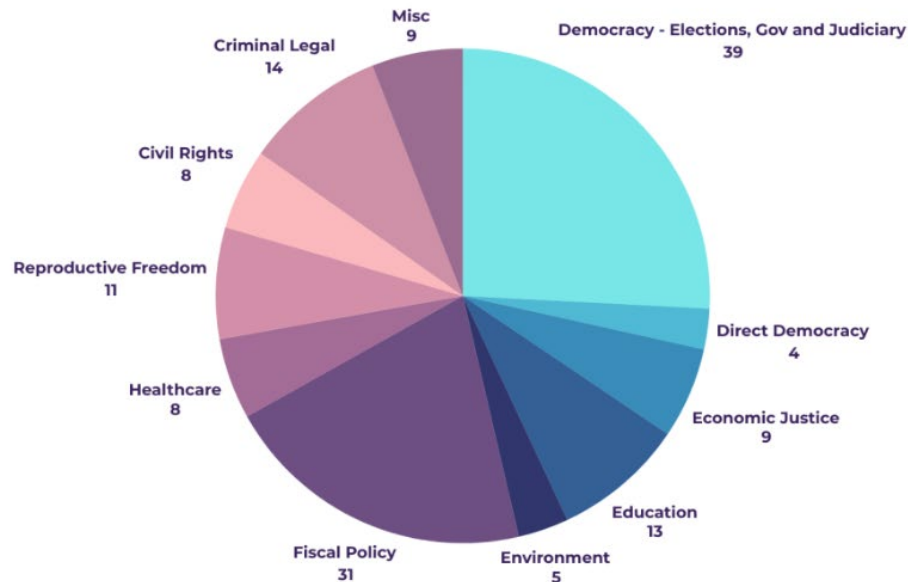
# Ballot Initiatives Overview



(Source: Ballot Initiative Strategy Center)

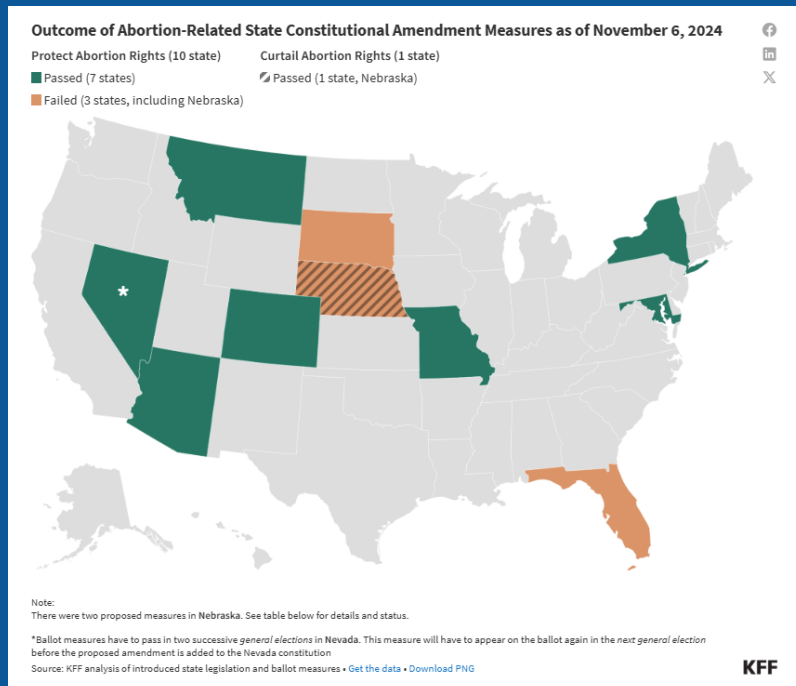
# Ballot Initiatives Overview

## Measures Qualified by Issue Area



(Source: Ballot Initiative Strategy Center)

# Reproductive Rights Ballot Measures



Source:

# Post-Election Advocacy Considerations

- Shifts in power in state legislatures
  - Anti-democracy v. Pro-democracy legislatures
- Governors & Secretary of State Races
  - Effects on executive branch policy
  - Effects on future democracy and election work
- Ballot Measure outcomes
  - Implementation
  - Challenges (e.g. litigation, legislative repeals)
- Lame duck and special sessions
  - Opportunities for passing legislation



# Strategy and Prep

- SWOT Analysis of your League and state's legislative landscape
  - What are your League's current strengths? What weaknesses do you have?
  - What opportunities exist in your legislative or executive branches?
  - What poses a threat to your work and ability to advocate?
- Pre-filed bills
  - An opportunity to get ahead of the session
- Outline your legislative and advocacy priorities
  - Keep your priorities targeted and proportional to your capacity



# Outlining Advocacy Plan

## Goal Planning

What is my goal?

- What are your organizational priorities?
- What is getting in the way of achieving them?
- Who can help me overcome those challenges?
- What does success look like?

## Action Planning

How do I get [party] to take [specific action] by [timeline]?

- What audiences am I talking to? Who is listening?
- Where + how am I relaying our message?
- Who am I mobilizing and how?

# Executive and Regulatory Advocacy



- Alternative mode of advocacy when legislative environment is especially challenging
- An area of advocacy where laws are executed and implemented
- Opportunity to comment on proposed rulemaking, influence regulation development, and advising on executive order implementation



# DEI & Other Advocacy Considerations

- Harm to Specific Groups of Voters
  - Did you consider the impact on X group?
  - Did you know the law in X state had X impact on X voters?
  - How do you plan to lessen the harm on X voters caused by this bill?
- Legislators' Justification for the Bill
  - What specific problem is the bill trying to solve? Examples of this problem?
  - How will this law fix the problem?
- Take lead from partners and affected community members
- Rally and lean on your allies





# LWVUS Resources Overview



# LWVUS Advocacy Materials + Support

## Materials

- [Legislative Trends 2024](#)
- [ERA Toolkit](#)
- [Advocacy 101 Modules](#)

## Support Services

- Legislative Office Hours
- Bill Tracking Support
- [Impact on Issues](#) position interpretation
- Advocacy strategy development support



# LWVUS Advocacy Webinars

## Webinars

- [Executive and Regulatory Advocacy Webinar](#)
- [Urgent Issues: An Overview Webinar](#)
- [Fighting Voter Suppression Bills: Going on the Record](#)



# LWVUS Litigation Resources

## Services + Guides

- [Legal Center](#)
- [Litigation Office Hours](#)
- [Guidance for Leagues Considering Litigation](#)
- [What to Expect When You're Expecting Litigation](#)

## Webinars

- [Best Practices for Litigation: Recordkeeping](#)



Webinars / April 20, 2023

# LEGISLATIVE OFFICE HOURS

The League is proud to open our virtual offices and listen to/support states legislative work. These office hours will be hosted every second and fourth Thursday of every month, from 3-4pm EST.

The League of Women Voters

# LEGAL CENTER

Litigation empowers our fight for the issues that matter most to communities: protecting the right to vote, promoting fair and accessible elections, ending big-money corruption, and reinforcing the dignity that people across the country deserve.

## Contact our Advocacy & Litigation teams!

- [advocacy@lww.org](mailto:advocacy@lww.org)
- [litigation@lww.org](mailto:litigation@lww.org)



# League In Action During the Legislative Session



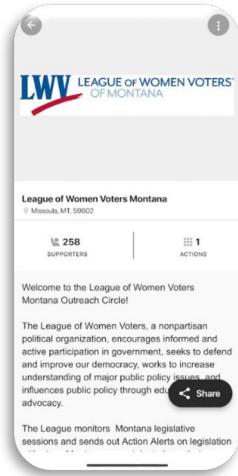
# League In Action

The official LWV digital organizing platform that enables Leagues to build a digital community regardless of LWV membership.

LIA supporters can not only take action to empower voters and defend democracy but also share and invite their network into LWV's mission.



# LWV Highlight: LWV Montana



**Goal:** To increase their impact during Montana's short and fast-paced Legislative session

Used OutreachCircle to:

- Provide updates to LWV membership
- Legislative updates with a set of actions for each supporter
- Build a Rapid Response LWV Muscle by being able to provide real-time updates on important legislation
- Added an OutreachCircle action at the end of their monthly League meeting to increase advocacy actions



# LWV Highlight: LWV Kentucky

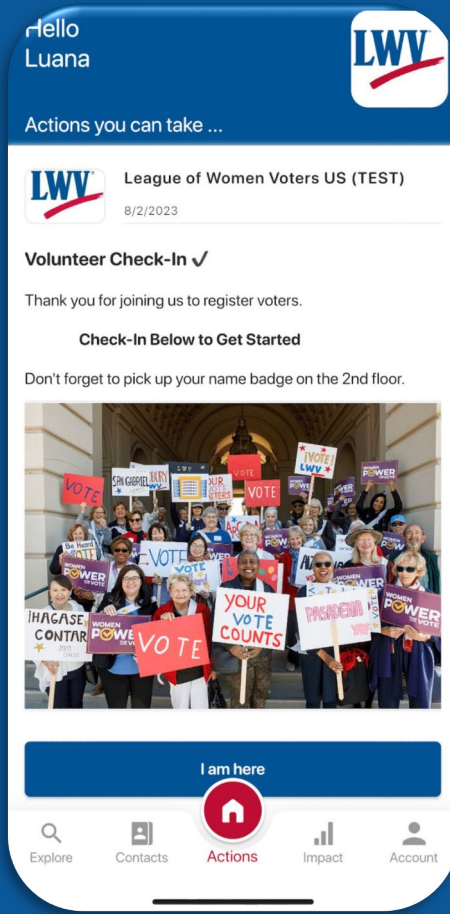
**Goal:** *To Increase Lobby Day participation to leverage the League's people power*

## Used LIA for in-person attendees by:

- Provided logistical information (parking, directions, meeting room/location, schedule, etc.)
- Attendance check-in
- Push notifications for the start of events (press conference, etc.) conferences
- Lobby Day attendees were able to submit debrief/meeting notes after they met with legislators and staff
- Provide direct feedback on Lobby Day

## Used LIA for virtual attendees by:

- Directly linked to education resources that the League has already created on the legislation they were following
- Click to call action allowing virtual attendees to call their legislators (same with email)
- Directly linked to key committee's live streams that members should tune into
- Ready to share messages to friends and family on why LWV was at the capitol



# League In Action Resources/Support

- Weekly Office Hours with LWVUS Organizing Team *(every Friday at 1 pm ET)*
- Weekly Outreach Circle Demos *(new dates starting in 2024)*
- Organizing Skill Training *(By Request)*
- LIA toolkits and graphics

Email [organizing@lwg.org](mailto:organizing@lwg.org) with any questions or for more information



# Questions