

LWVUS Advocacy Presents:

Legislative Priorities and the State of the Federal Government

Presenters



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Agenda

Housekeeping

Legislative Priorities of the 119th Congress

Congress Updates

Trump Administration 47

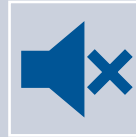
How You Can Take Action

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



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

A blurred background image of a business meeting. Several people in professional attire are gathered around a table. One person is holding a smartphone, another a tablet. There are white coffee cups on the table. The overall tone is professional and collaborative.

POLL!

Legislative Priorities

Making Democracy Work® Legislative Priorities

- Defending Voting Rights Protections
- Protecting DC Autonomy
- Improving Election Administration
- Protecting Against Dark Money In Politics
- Supporting The 2030 Census
- Protecting Democratic Institutions And The Rule Of Law



Watchlist Legislative Priorities

- Protecting reproductive freedoms, access to abortion care
- Responding strategically on issues like immigration, climate change, gun safety, Equal Rights Amendment, healthcare and attacks on DEI



Congress Updates

Appropriations Process

- Continuing Resolution was signed to avert shutdown for 6 months
- Many provisions in the CR are not ideal
 - DC budget restrictions
 - Locks DC into FY24 budget numbers which is \$1 billion less than current year
 - Prevents spending locally raised tax dollars

LWVUS Legislative Advocacy

- Issue areas:
 - Voting rights
 - Tri-caucus letter urging commitment to protect voting rights
 - *SAVE Act* opposition
 - DC autonomy
 - Letter opposing Continuing Resolution on grounds of DC budget attacks
 - Constitutional crisis: Congress' failure to act
 - Calling on Congress to Act letter; duty under Article I of the Constitution
 - Letter Urging Congress to Investigate Illegal Actions of Elon Musk and DOGE

LWVUS Legislative Advocacy

- Issue areas:
 - Immigration
 - *American Dream and Promise Act* endorsement
 - *Laken Riley Act* opposition
 - *No Bailouts for Sanctuary Cities Act* opposition
 - Reproductive rights
 - *Right to Contraception Act* endorsement

The SAVE Act

- “Safeguard American Voter Eligibility” Act
- H.R.22
- Passed as a majority priority in the House Rule package at the beginning of the 119th Congress
- Passed the House in 118th Congress



Requirements

- Documentary proof of citizenship in person to register to vote
 - EVERY time a voter re-registers/updates voter registration
- Voter roll maintenance/purges of noncitizen voters

Document Requirements

- “A form of identification issued consistent with the requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005 that indicates the applicant is a citizen of the United States”
- Valid United States passport
- Military ID card plus military record of service showing U.S. birthplace
- Government-issued photo ID showing U.S. birthplace
- Government-issued photo ID plus:
 - birth certificate (or Consular Report of Birth Abroad)
 - Naturalization Certificate or Certificate of Citizenship
 - American Indian Card

Impacts

- Undermines mail-in voter registration
 - requires in-person presentation of citizenship documentation
- Fate of online registration unclear
- Likely end of third-party voter registration



Impacted Communities

- Voters who have changed their name i.e. married women and trans people
- Military voters
- Rural voters
- Voters of color
- Voters who have lost homes/possessions, i.e. natural disasters
- Disabled voters, especially voters with mobility challenges physically getting to the election office

Next Steps

- House vote planned for week of March 31, 2025
 - Senate could take up immediately, or they may wait until midterms next year
- [Action Alert](#) to tell your members of Congress to vote No!
- You can also call your member of Congress and use these [talking points](#)

Second Trump Administration

Trump Administration

- We're still in the first 100 days
- Executive overreach
 - End birthright citizenship for all persons born in the United States
 - Pause the distribution of federal funds already by Congress
 - Dismantle USAID and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
 - Allow unelected private citizens access sensitive government systems
 - Attempt to reduce the federal workforce denying them due process

Executive Orders

- 89 Executive Orders thus far
- 36 reviewed by LWVUS for potential action
- 19 LWVUS actions taken in direct response to EOs
 - i.e. press releases, letters, toolkit development for Leagues, social media posts, blogs
- 79 community gatherings for *Light For Our Democracy*

Congressional Response

- Greenlight Executive overreach
- Failure to exercise Constitutionally granted power to check Executive powers



LWVUS Response

- Calling on Congress to Act letter
 - Congressional duty under Article I
- Women Defend Democracy® Campaign
 - new programmatic focus for the League in 2025, centering people power and moving our country towards a stronger, multi-racial democracy



How You Can Take Action

Take Action

- [Action Alerts:](#)
 - [SAVE Act](#)
 - [Calling on Congress to Act](#)
- [Recess Meeting Guide](#)
- [SAVE Act Letter to the Editor Template](#)
- [Join League in Action](#)

Feedback

We'd love to hear from you about your experience today!

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6824369/LWVUS-Post-Event-Feedback-Form>

Questions?