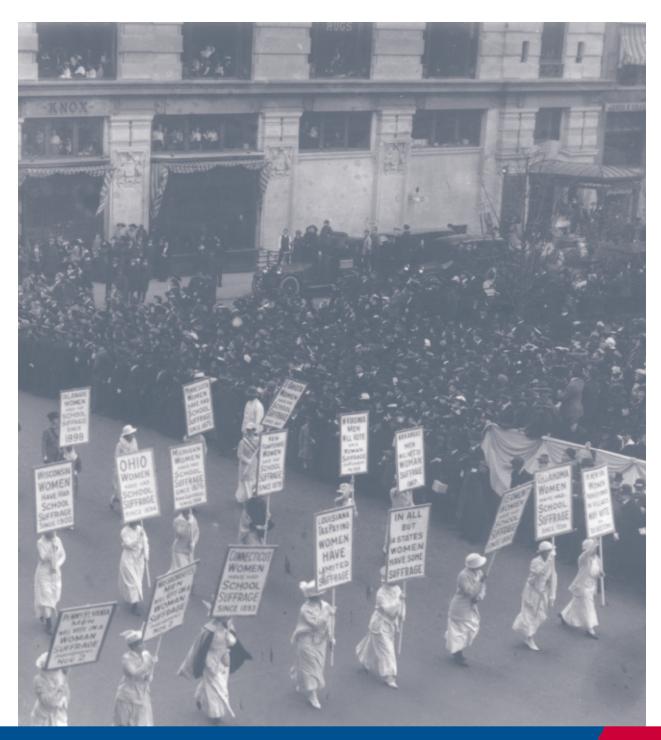




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The League began as a "mighty political experiment" designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters.



LETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year the League of Women Voters celebrates 95 years! It is an amazing milestone, and one which prompts reflection throughout an organization. Not just on the many things we have been able to accomplish since our founding in 1920, but on how

The League began as a "mighty political experiment" designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters.

From the beginning, the League has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens should play a critical role in shaping the public policies that affect them. It is something we still believe today. Throughout our history we have strived to expand civic engagement and ensure that all eligible citizens are able to exercise their right to vote.

Thinking about what must have been heady days for Carrie Chapman Catt and her sisters in arms who fought—and won—the right to vote for women, I can't help but wince at what they would think if they could see the direction in which we are headed 95 years later.

New obstacles to voting are being erected every day. Millions of eligible voters are not registered. And we are witnessing a dramatic reversal of bedrock campaign finance laws that have for decades kept decision-

making power in the hands of voters, not the highest bidder.

It is not easy to watch these changes, but it also reinforces the importance of the League of Women Voters.

I am proud to present the 2014 Impact Report, which outlines the amazing work of the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters Education Fund. From preventing more than two dozen antivoter laws in time for the midterm election to helping 1.5 million people get the voter information they need through VOTE411.org.

I hope that you enjoy seeing what we have been able to accomplish together.

In League,

Elisabeth MacNamara

President, League of Women Voters of the United States

Chair, League of Women Voters
Education Fund

WHAT WE STAND FOR

At the League of Women Voters, we believe that public policies at every level should reflect the needs and diversity of the communities that they affect. Our 95 years of experience has taught us that this is best accomplished by fostering an engaged and representative electorate that is heard by our elected officials not just during elections, but throughout the year.

The **League of Women Voters** of the United States (LWVUS) enables members and supporters to advocate at the local, state and national level on issues they believe in, from expanding voting rights to protecting the environment to getting money out of politics.

"I continue to be proud to belong to an organization which enjoys such widespread respect."

The **League of Women Voters** Education Fund (LWVEF) provides VOTE411.org, a national election website, and supports our members who help register voters, provide voters with election information, and allow voters to hear from candidates in their own words through debates and voting guides.

Norma J.D. Bruns, Edmunds, WA Together, these two arms of the League are protecting and expanding our democracy and fighting for policies that benefit our communities.



Protecting and expanding our democracy

THE LEAGUE AT A GLANCE

Who We Are

As a powerful national network that includes 800 state and local chapters across 50 states, the League of Women Voters empowers people every day to tackle the most important issues facing our communities and to improve local, state and federal government.

What We Believe

That our democracy works best when its power lies in the hands of the people.

How We Work

We empower people at the local, state and national level to challenge obstacles to free, fair and accessible elections and advocate for public policies that reflect the needs of their communities.

In 2014 we...

Had nearly **800**Leagues working in all 50
states and **75%** of all Congressional districts

Held more than

debates around the country

Provided

1.5 million

people with up-to-date election information through VOTE411.org

Helped defeat

two dozen

anti-voter laws across the country

Engaged over

200,000 online activists

mime activists

VOTER PROTECTION

Our founder, Carrie Chapman Catt, once said that the vote is an emblem of equality and liberty. Ninety-five years later that sentiment remains as true as ever. Yet we face a systematic assault on voting rights that is shutting millions of people out of the electoral process and making our electorate less representative of the country as a whole.

Already marginalized communities, including young people, especially non-college youth, low income Americans, racial and ethnic minorities, new citizens, the elderly and people with disabilities are the most harshly affected by the restrictive voting laws being passed at an alarming rate at the state level.

In 2014, we saw an astonishing acceleration of anti-voter laws brought on by the Supreme Court's disastrous decision to gut key provisions of the Voting Rights Act. **Eighty-three pieces of legislation were introduced in 29 states** that

would restrict access to the voting booth. In fact, millions of voters were affected by new voting laws in the 2014 election—some that were still changing just weeks before Election Day!

In response, LWVEF directly supported more than twenty state Leagues' advocacy efforts to **defeat more than two dozen of these laws** through our eight-year Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) Project.

The League is fighting on more fronts than ever—including in legislatures, on the airwaves and in courtrooms—to beat back this anti-voter tide. At the same time, League activists are working in state capitals and in the media to advocate for modern, pro-voter reforms and expanded voter registration opportunities that bring us closer to our goal of having a government that is truly representative of our communities.

Defense

- Successful efforts to prevent passage of voter photo ID laws in AK, CO, IA, MO and MT
- Successful litigation overturning or delaying voter photo ID in PA and WI
- Successful campaigns to stop restrictive early voting changes in GA and MO

Offense

- Successful efforts to enact pro-voter reforms including early voting in FL and MD and online voter registration in IL, MN, and VA
- Successful initiatives for redistricting reform in AZ, FL, OH and NY

VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter registration is a pillar of the League's work. Recent data shows that nearly 30 percent of the eligible voter population some **59 million people**—are not currently registered to vote. If we want our public policies to truly address the needs of all of our communities, then as many people as possible need to be able to make their voices heard in our elections, at every level. The League is particularly focused on empowering groups that are traditionally underrepresented in our electorate, including young people, those in low-income communities, racial and ethnic minorities, non-college youth, and new citizens, by helping them register to vote.

Local Leagues conducted on-theground voter registration efforts across the country in 2014, ultimately helping to register more than **50,000 voters** in person and online nationwide.



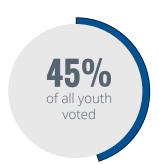
On-the-ground registration



Empowering groups

REACHING NEW VOTERS

In the 2012 election



66% of youth with some college experience voted

35% of youth with no college experience voted

62%of general population voted

New Citizens, New Voters

Although new citizens are immediately eligible to vote, there is no standardized program to register them during naturalization ceremonies.

The League is working to change that.

With longstanding ties to local elections officials and the courts, Leagues are uniquely qualified to provide on-site voter registration at naturalization ceremonies on a year-round basis.

In 2014, Leagues registered tens of thousands of new citizens to vote, included 7,000 in the state of Georgia alone.

Engaging Young Voters

In 2014, the League once again spearheaded a major program to register young people. Now in its fourth year, our **Youth Voter Registration Project** was active in more than 40 communities in 15 states. Young people comprise a major bloc of the electorate and have the potential to influence the outcome of elections—yet due to structural and cultural barriers, they vote in much lower numbers than the rest of the population.

Leagues around the country set up registration opportunities in high-school classrooms and cafeterias, at spring fairs at community colleges, and at vocational and technical schools. The goal was to register as many young people as possible and provide them with the tools they needed to cast a ballot on Election Day. **All told, League volunteers helped more than 9,200 high school and community college students register this year—adding to the tens of thousands registered since the program's inception.**



National Voter Registration Day

On September 23, as a lead nationwide organizer of **National Voter Registration Day (NVRD)**, hundreds of volunteer League teams reminded Americans that every election is important and that voter registration deadlines were rapidly approaching. **Nearly 400 Leagues in 48 states participated, making us the largest on-the-ground registration group on the day for the third year running!**

Around the country, Leagues used creative and entertaining means to draw attention to the importance of registering to vote. In North Carolina, there was a bluegrass concert; in Miami, a huge community college event featuring the League and its partners as well as TV star Wilmer Valderrama.

League members, armed with clipboards and registration forms, hit subway stations, bus stops, grocery stores, schools and baseball games, and contributed to the more than **150,000 new voters registered** nationwide that day.



ABOUT:

Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund in 2006, VOTE411.org is a "onestop-shop" for election related information. Tens of millions of voters have used data provided by VOTE411.org to get the information they need to successfully cast a vote.

FEATURES:

- Up-to-date information on polling locations, registration and voting deadlines in every state
- · Detailed information on tens of thousands of candidates
- A voter registration tool

IN 2014:

- 1.5 million people used the site to get election-related information. 500,000 Election Day alone.
- · Provided detailed candidate information on tens of thousands of federal, state and local candidates, covering every single community in America
- · Offered an early voting polling place finder for the first time ever

"The League of Women Voters' VOTE411 tool has been integral to the success of Voto Latino's recent voter registration and get out the vote campaigns. We have always strived to make registering to vote and voting simple and seamless and it is tools like VOTE411, and partners like LWV, that move us closer to that goal."

- President and CEO of Voto Latino, Maria Teresa Kumar.

Celebrity shoutouts for VOTE411.org include

- Justin Timberlake, musician
- · Alyssa Milano, actress
- Mia Farrow, actress
- · Rosario Dawson, actress
- Donna Brazile, political analyst
 Scott Foley, actor
- Taye Diggs, model/actor
- · Wes Craven, director/filmmaker
- · Connie Britton, actress
- Steve Forbes, publishing exec
- Melissa Francis, FOX reporter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

ADVOCACY

In 1920, the activists who fought to secure the right to vote for women founded the League of Women Voters to help new voters engage with their government. We proudly and passionately continue this tradition, playing an important role in shaping the public policies at the national, state and local levels that affect all Americans

What is Redistricting?

Redistricting is the process of updating election districts to reflect changes in population revealed through the U.S. Census. Unfortunately, the current system in many states allows incumbent legislators to redraw district lines for political ends.

Removing Partisan Politics from Congressional Mapping

The League of Women Voters is a leading advocate for transparent and accountable redistricting processes and an end to the partisan practices that serve incumbent politicians and special interests at the expense of everyday people.

Victories by state Leagues in California and Arizona establishing citizen-led redistricting commissions demonstrate how states can move from an opaque and partisan process toward one that is transparent, inclusive and fair.

The League's national office provides guidance to state Leagues as they advocate for new redistricting systems. In 2014, the national office provided support for Leagues in Florida, New York and Texas that were actively pushing redistricting reforms. It also provided support for Ohio, Illinois, North Carolina, Washington and other states preparing for reform campaigns in future years.

In 2014, the League of Women Voters of the United States joined an amicus brief with other concerned organizations in a critical case that went before the Supreme Court in 2015 concerning the constitutionality of Arizona's voter-initiated redistricting process.

"We can have redistricting processes that allow the voters to choose their representatives rather than the politicians choosing the voters."

-League President Elisabeth MacNamara on victory in Florida.

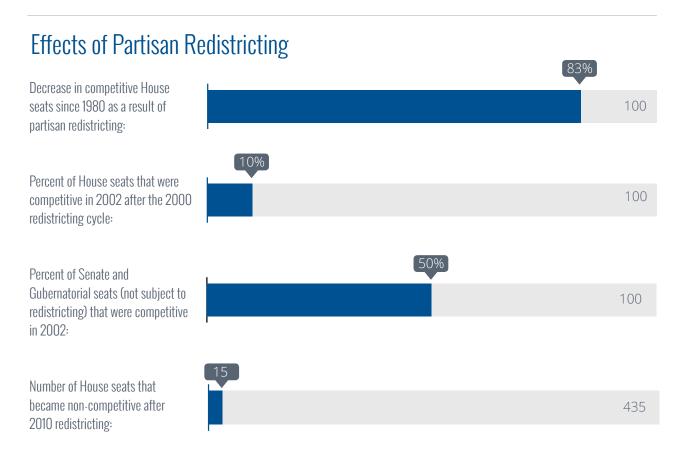
The League of Women Voters of Florida scored a huge victory for voters, winning a case to have the Congressional district maps drawn in 2012 thrown out on the grounds that they discriminated against certain voters and violated the state's Fair Districts Amendment Act. The League was the lead plaintiff in the case and a driving force behind the passage of the Fair Districts Amendment Act.

Protecting Voters and Voting Rights

In the landmark case of Shelby County v. Holder, the U.S. Supreme Court eviscerated a key enforcement mechanism in the historic Voting Rights Act (VRA), which required jurisdictions with a long history of discrimination to pre-clear voting changes with the federal government. The League and its allies worked throughout 2014 in pressing Congress to repair and restore the effectiveness of the VRA. With newspaper advertising and local

grassroots action in key congressional districts, the League brought a special voice to the debate. Unfortunately, partisans in Congress refused to move the legislation so we must continue the fight for crucial voting rights legislation in 2015.

The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), commonly known as "Motor Voter," streamlined a confusing array of state laws and opened up the voter registration process for citizens and voter registration groups. The League helped pass Motor Voter in 1993 and has successfully defended the law from several attacks since. In addition to monitoring compliance, the League has joined with allies to bring suit against states that are failing to provide the required voter registration opportunities, especially for people most often left out of our electoral process. The League's grassroots presence in communities around the country puts the League on the frontlines of ensuring NVRA implementation.



Benefits of the Voting Rights Act:

- Requires state to provide voter registration opportunities when they seek government social services such as getting a driver's license or signing up for Medicaid
- Helps prevent states from cutting back voter registration opportunities.
- Requires the option of mail-in registration that is integral to citizen-led voter registration drives.

Victory for Voters:

In November, the League of Women Voters of the U.S. and our allies won our case in Kobach v. the Election Administration Commission (EAC) after a unanimous three-judge panel ruled that the federal EAC was correct to deny requests from Kansas and Arizona to change the national voter registration application to require documentary proof of citizenship. This application of the NVRA is a huge victory for voters and sets a precedent for effective EAC action.

Getting Money Out of Our Elections

It has been five years since the U.S. Supreme Court's disastrous *Citizens United* decision opened the floodgates for unnamed special interests to pour hundreds of millions of dollars of dark money into our elections, effectively drowning out the voices of many ordinary citizens.

In April 2014, the Supreme Court doubled down on its assault on voters with its ruling in *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*, which sharply raised limits on the total amount individual donors can contribute to national political parties and federal candidates.

It didn't take long to see the effects of this decision. The 2014 midterm election was the most expensive midterm election in U.S. history. Outside groups spent nearly

The League fights to reduce the influence of money in elections



\$700 million on the election and a mere **42 donors** accounted for a full one-third of all of the money donated to SuperPACs.

This type of unfettered spending gives wealthy special interests unique influence over our lawmakers, who are expected to return the favor of all of these donations with special access and favorable legislation once they are in office.

The League has been fighting to reduce the influence of money in elections at the state and federal levels. We support the DISCLOSE Act, which would ensure that voters know the identity of donors who finance federal elections. Members of our Lobby Corps delivered letters in support of the legislation during visits to the Senate and the League joined with other groups in urging Senators to pass the legislation. Unfortunately, despite these efforts and having 51 cosponsors, the bill never made it to a vote.

The League spoke out strongly against the 2014 Omnibus spending bill which allows big-dollar donors to pump even more money into our election system. Language in the bill—supported by Democrats and Republicans—massively increased the allowable spending limit to political parties. These huge contributions can be solicited by federal officeholders, potentially providing access and influence to the highest bidder.

Defending the Environment

You have set a very serious agenda with our democratic values being tested by selfish individuals. Keep up the fine efforts." Climate change is the greatest threat facing our generation. League members have been at the forefront of this issue for decades and, in 2014, we continued to push for policies and regulations to address the greatest threats to our environment.

Forty percent of carbon pollution comes from power plants, making them the largest single contributor of carbon pollution and a serious threat to the health of the planet and our children. In the United States alone, one in 10 children need an inhaler to deal with respiratory issues and asthma, which are exacerbated by climate change, with low-income and communities of color the hardest hit. Much of our advocacy work in 2014 focused on pushing for new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations to deal with this issue.

What we did:

- Collected more than **100,000 comments** in support of the Clean Power Plan and submitted them to the EPA.
- Submitted **20,000 comments** from members and supporters on the EPA's plan to regulate carbon emissions from new sources, a strong compliment to the Clean Power Plan's regulations on existing sources.
- Heard directly from EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy who briefed members on the Agency's plans for addressing climate change and enforcing the Clean Air Act, urging them to continue to create a dialogue in their communities on this and other environmental issues.

People's Climate March

On September 21, League members from around the country joined hundreds of thousands of people who converged on New York City for the **People's Climate March**. It was the largest climate march in history, with thousands of events staged in 162 countries around the world. The march coincided with the **United Nations Climate Summit** in New York to show massive support for strong action on climate change.

The League was proud to be a part of this historic event. And the result of the mass mobilization was clear, as world leaders from around the globe announced strong action on climate change.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

MEMBERS

One of the League's biggest strengths is our able and dedicated membership base. A few years ago, we rolled out our Membership and Leadership Development program to provide Leagues with training in targeted techniques to recruit new members, retain current members, develop leaders, and examine sustainability.

Local and state Leagues are assigned national coaches, known as Shur Fellows, who provide guidance, mentoring, and support. Each year these coaches come together for a multi-day training through our Ruth S. Shur Leadership Institute.

Read about Shur Fellow Melissa Currence share why she is part of the League

I first got involved with the League of Women Voters when I was a college student because I wanted to get more involved with my community. I've been active ever since. I stay involved because the League has grown with me. As I've gotten older, I've been able to take on new challenges and they've given me skills I wouldn't have been able to get elsewhere.

I wanted to become a Shur Fellow because I wanted to give back to the League. I've gotten a lot of good mentoring from League members and I wanted to be able to give that back.

I have a lot of proud accomplishments as a League member, but I think the best accomplishments are the little ones, like mentoring a new League member. I love connecting interested people to what the League does every day.

Our Voter Protection work is what I am most excited to be a part of. It's amazing what the League does to make sure voters' rights are protected, that Voter ID laws are challenged and that people can exercise their right to vote as easily as possible.



Shur Fellow Melissa Currence, LWV of Cincinnati Area

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

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Judicial independence International programs International Internati			
International programs		255,974	
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General and administrative 1,280,336 1,221,363 Total supporting services 3,399,043 3,827,804 Total expense 6,790,719 7,326,629 Change in unrestricted net assets 941,972 837,904 Temporarily restricted activities Grants and contributions - 603,041 Investment income - 109,994 Change in value of pooled income fund 8,041 (14,119) Net assets released from restrictions - (844,832) Change in temporarily restricted net assets 8,041 (145,916)			
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Grants and contributions - 603,041 Investment income - 109,994 Change in value of pooled income fund 8,041 (14,119) Net assets released from restrictions - (844,832) Change in temporarily restricted net assets 8,041 (145,916)	Change in unrestricted net assets	941,972	837,904
Investment income Change in value of pooled income fund Net assets released from restrictions Change in temporarily restricted net assets - 109,994 (14,119) - (844,832) (145,916)			
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Net assets released from restrictions - (844,832) Change in temporarily restricted net assets 8,041 (145,916)		- 0.041	
	Change in temporarily restricted net assets	8,041	(145,916)
Change in net assets 950,013 691,988	Change in net assets	950,013	691,988
Net assets, beginning of year 6,758,224 6,066,236	Net assets, beginning of year	6,758,224	6,066,236
Net assets, end of year \$7,708,237 \$6,758,224	Net assets, end of year	\$7,708,237	\$6,758,224

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Rooted in the movement that secured voting rights for women, the League of Women Voters is a powerful national network of nearly 800 local chapters spanning all 50 states that empower people every day to tackle the most important issues facing their communities and to improve local, state and federal government.

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) is a 501(c)(4) advocacy and membership organization dedicated to promoting political responsibility. The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) is a 501(c)(3) citizen education and research organization.

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