

THE VOTER

A Publication of



DECEMBER 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

[2024 in Review](#)

LWVAL President Kathy Jones

[Important 'Save the Dates'](#)

LWV Gulf Coast Convening on Climate
Crossing the Pettus Bridge in Solidarity and with Purpose

[LWVAL News and Events](#)

Training - Alabama Legislature Engagement
Constitution Learning Series - National Constitution Center
January Voter Services Skills Training
Gulf Coast Convening: Climate Affordability Resilience
In Memoriam - Henry Hank" Caddell

[LOCAL LEAGUE NUGGETS](#)

How I Got To The League by Judy Jones

[IMPORTANT DECEMBER DATES](#)

[IF YOU MISSED IT](#)

Recorded Training Videos & Programs

2024 in Review

by

LWVAL President Kathy Jones

The League of Women Voters of Alabama and the League of Women Voters of Alabama Education Fund organizations have been very busy creating good trouble in 2024. Just like in past years, the League began the year engaging with the state legislature to advocate for or against priority bills. Our flagship LWV AL Education Fund government transparency project TheAlabamaChannel.org continued another year of providing an invaluable community service by recording and archiving state legislative committee, house, and senate meetings and providing time stamped searchable transcripts. In 2024 we were honored to collaborate with Alabama State University and 6 of their student interns who went into the statehouse to record non-live-streamed committee meetings for TheAlabamaChannel.org.



We testified and advocated against the harsh and voter suppressive absentee voting assistance criminalization bill in the legislature, but unfortunately it passed quickly.

Many other egregious bills were quickly crashed through by the supermajority in the state legislature with little discussion and a deaf

ear to citizen inputs.

The LWV AL and the LWV AL Education Fund were undeterred and joined several other organizational plaintiffs to file a federal lawsuit against SB1. In late September an SB1 injunction was granted that allowed us to assist blind, disabled, or low literacy voters with their absentee ballot applications.

Our unceasing efforts to fight against voter suppression continued with our support of a lawsuit fighting the HB100 law that tripled the number of moral turpitudes to include attempting to commit a moral turpitude. In violation of the state constitution, HB100 was passed less than 6 months before the general election. The lawsuit was successful in delaying the enactment of the law until November 6.

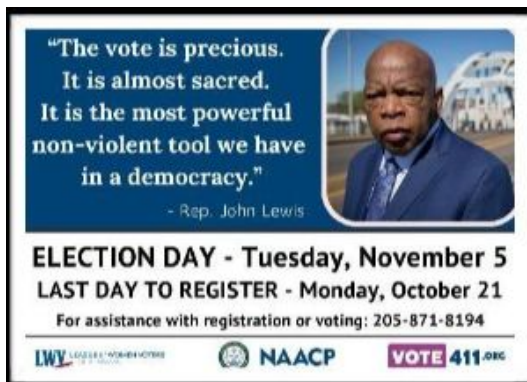
When the Secretary of State enacted a voter purge of 3200 people he baselessly claimed were noncitizens within the NVRA mandated quiet period, the LWV AL and the LWV AL Education Fund again joined as plaintiffs to push back against voter intimidation.



The judge quickly found in democracy's favor and required the SoS to restore them to the voter rolls so they could vote on November 5.

In parallel with fighting for voting rights, the LWV AL Education Fund continued its core mission of voter education and get out the vote activities. The creation of the new congressional district 2 finally

allowed Alabama's African American population to have the chance to have proportional representation.



The LWVAL Ed Fund Board of Directors voted to have a get out the vote postcard project to encourage the African Americans in CD2 to make their voices heard on November 5.

Over 37,000 handwritten nonpartisan GOTV postcards were mailed to rural voters in CD2.

Other important LWV AL Education Fund work included sending thousands of voter services flyers and cards to each local league, providing a small grant to support local GOTV efforts, publishing of the Alabama Vote411 voter information website, providing many valuable educational forums on topics that voters care about, and the 7th year of the LWVAL Ed Fund Voter Rights Restoration network providing direct services to disenfranchised voters.

The LWV AL and the LWV AL Education Fund and our members have impacted 10s of 1000s of voters over the last year alone. We are making a significant difference as we work in community with our members, our allies, and with elected leaders.

Additionally, we have a robust online presence. The table shows some metrics on how many members and voters we reached in 2024.

2024 Online Impact Metrics	Views	Reach/Email Opens/users	Followers/Subscribers
Facebook	50996	19384	2136
Youtube	1353		149
Emails		48236	2962
Vote411		88269	
Alabama Channel (website + youtube + facebook)	53388	3900	477

After the November election we have pivoted again to preparing for more good work and good trouble for 2025.

This year the LWV Alabama board identified three priority voting bills that we are going to lobby for: Early Voting, Absentee Ballot Affidavit Curing, and a bill which would allow a person with a disability to designate someone to pick up or turn in an absentee ballot application or absentee ballot package.



The LWV Alabama Advocacy Committee is already reviewing pre-filed bills against the LWV Impact on Issues and State positions. Our newly created LWV Alabama Lobby Corps is preparing for an intensive legislative session.

In January you will receive guidance on how you can help us advocate to get early voting and absentee voting improvements for Alabama. In the coming legislative session we are collaborating with partner organizations to support each other's advocacy. We're having Advocacy Tuesdays to organize and streamline our League advocacy with specific actions you can take to create change in Alabama.

Again the LWV Alabama Education Fund will be focused on government transparency with continued expansion and strengthening of TheAlabamaChannel.org, voter education, Vote411, and civic engagement work.

In the coming year be on the look out for volunteer opportunities and activities, relationship building with new and old friends, leadership development, voter education on issues, and community engagement. Being a member of the League of Women Voters is a fun way to make new friends while making a difference for your community!

IMPORTANT 'SAVE THE DATES'



GULF COAST CONVENING

CLIMATE AFFORDABILITY RESILIENCE



DATE: Saturday, January 25, 2025

TIME: 9:00 am to 3:30 pm CT

LOCATION: Weeks Bay National
Estuarine Research Reserve at the
Tonsmeire Resource Center 1525
US-98, Fairhope, AL 36532



Open to LWV members.

Register Today at
<https://bit.ly/4f92uWe>

Questions?

Communications@lwval.org


**LWV Gulf Coast Convening:
Climate, Affordability, and Resilience**

Saturday, January 25, 2025, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm CT,
at **Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)**, at the spectacular Tonsmeire Resource Center, in Fairhope, Alabama. Wi-fi is available in the center.

This free, educational event is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Alabama (LWVAL) in collaboration with the LWV of Baldwin County and is open to LWV *members* from Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. Sister State Leagues in Alabama, Florida, and Louisiana are collaborating to create a powerful convening that brings League members together, builds knowledge, and lays the foundation for the League to tackle the common problems that Gulf Coast communities are facing as the climate is shifting.

- The morning is a panel of experts on climate (traditional environmental issues), affordability insurance utilities, fragility, vulnerability), and resilience (urgency, planning, policy solutions).
- A lunch speaker briefly addresses specific local issues
- Our afternoon is a discussion and solutions session with just us LWV members to prioritize what we can do as individuals, as well as and what we can do as local and state leagues. We want everyone to come away with solid info and solutions and/or actions in hand.

When we adjourn at 3:30, there will be an option for guided tours.
More details to come.

Lodging is available for the weekend in a dormitory on site at \$25 for 4 to a room, limited space available. There is other inexpensive lodging nearby  more details soon for those who wish to stay overnight or for the weekend.

The deadline for registration is January 17, 2025. There is limited seating at the convening. Please sign up as soon as possible to attend. Click below to register.

[Register for Gulf Coast Convening](#)

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Crossing the Pettus Bridge in Solidarity and With Purpose

**March 9, 2025
12 pm - 5 pm**

***Join us for the 60th Anniversary
of the Sunday Bloody Sunday Bridge Crossing***

Click here for updates.

[2025 Bridge Crossing Updates](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

JOIN THE LEAGUE IN SELMA FOR THE 60TH JUBILEE

*Crossing the Pettus Bridge in
Solidarity and With Purpose*

MARCH 9, 2025 AT 12PM-5:00PM
BLOODY SUNDAY BRIDGE CROSSING
SELMA, ALABAMA

Sign up for updates: <https://bit.ly/41lP5Hk>



LWVAL NEWS and EVENTS

Are you planning to make a New Year's Resolution to engage more in your government in 2025? Well you can start early with the next two educational opportunities!

Civic Engagement Education
Alabama Legislature Engagement

6:30 pm (Central) Thursday December 12

Pre-Legislative Training

How a Bill Becomes a Law
Alabama's Legislative Process
Online Tools for Monitoring the Legislature
Preparing Your Testimony

Register to Receive a Link to the Training

REGISTER



League of Women Voters of Alabama
Civic Engagement Education - December 2024

Alabama Legislature Engagement



Pre-Legislative Session Training

How a Bill becomes a Law
Alabama's Legislative Process 101
Online Tools for Monitoring the Legislature
Preparing Your Testimony

Thursday, December 12 @ 6:30pm Central, via Zoom

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/3YTTVbK>



Want to Learn More About the Constitution?

The League strongly encourages anyone wanting to learn more about how our government works to take advantage of the National Constitution Center's free 25 week professional learning series.

The 90 minute sessions will be offered on the 3rd Wednesday of each month on Zoom. They can be attended as the entire series or individual sessions.

Content will include:

- Overview of the Constitution's text
- Creation of the Bill of Rights
- Landmark Supreme Court Cases
- Issues of Ongoing Debate (Voting Rights, Free Speech, Digital Privacy, etc)

The first session is Wednesday, December 18 at 5:30 central time. Participants will learn about the Bill of Rights and how they apply to modern day.

Visit the National Constitution Center at the link below to register for these sessions.

[**Register for Bill of Rights Program**](#)

January 2025
Voter Services Skills Training
2pm, Monday, January 21, 2025

On Monday January 21 at 2 pm central time, the LWVAL will offer important training for League Voter Services volunteers, allies and to the public at large.

TOPICS

Alabama 2025 Municipal Elections

We Need Early Voting in Alabama - What You Can DO!

Newly Expanded Moral Turpitudes List + Rights Restoration

Click below to register and receive a zoom link

[Register for January Training](#)



League of Women Voters of Alabama

Voter Services Education - January 2025



Voter Services Skills Training

Alabama Municipal Elections in 2025

We Need Early Voting in Alabama ... What You Can Do!

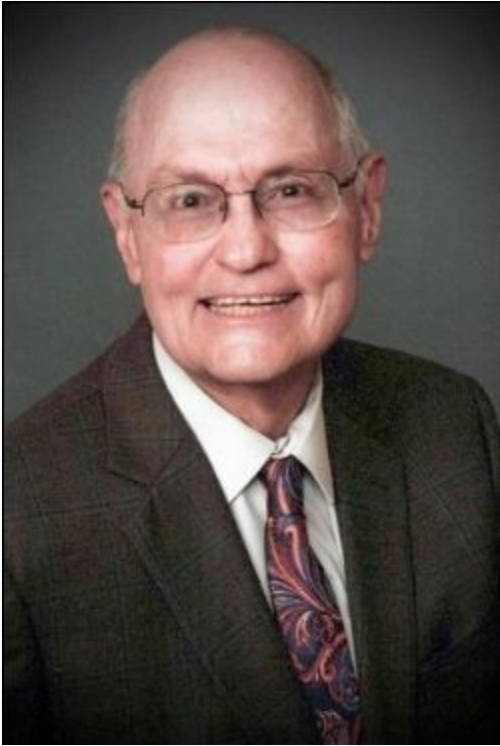
Newly Expanded Moral Turpitudes List + Rights Restoration

Tuesday, January 21 @ 2pm Central, via Zoom

Register Here: bit.ly/4eKwHeS



IN MEMORIAM



It is with great sadness the League shares the passing of Henry Harris "Hank" Caddell on November 11, 2024. Hank was well known for his philanthropy and legal prowess. He was a long-time League member, married for 49 years to Barbara Caddell, a former president of both the state and Mobile leagues. We will hold the Caddell family in our hearts as they navigate through this time.

Hank Caddell's Obituary

LEAGUE NUGGETS

Once again, no League Nugget photos this month. Last month everyone was working too hard to stop and take photos! This month everyone is busy planning our good trouble for 2025! The Voter will instead offer an entry in our 'Reflections' series - members sharing first person accounts on how they got to the League and how that relationship has worked out for them. Our current entry is written by Judy Jones, the LWVAL 2nd Vice President, and LWVGB Vice

How I Got To the League

Judy Jones

It took me until my 66th year before my path finally intersected with the League of Women Voters.

It was 2020. I watched as states around the country scrambled to figure out voting during a pandemic. Some states seemed to be trying to make it easier. Some seemed to be making it harder. I did not have faith that Alabama, with its 'excuse only' absentee voting, would do the right thing to make it easier and safer for people to vote. For the first time in my life, my 'hair was on fire' about voting and ballot access. And I didn't know what to do about it.

Then one day I was riding about and I noticed a yard sign in front of a friend's house. All my bells went off.



I immediately texted my friend and asked where she got the sign. She replied - it's the League of Women Voters. I went a-googling and found the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham and I reached out to then-president Leonette Slay. Leonette talked to me about the current state of absentee voting in Alabama. I was secretary

of my neighborhood at the time and asked Leonette if she would come to one of our meetings (being held by zoom) and explain absentee voting to our residents. She agreed and attended our meeting, which during the pandemic, was being held via zoom.

Of course Leonette and the topic was a great hit. Absentee voting is complicated at best - but in Covid time, it was more complicated because they changed the rules but not the form. I wrote minutes, had conversations with Leonette to confirm what I wrote was accurate. Along the way learned more and more about the League. And a few months later, I joined. Because of a sign in a friend's front yard.

BUT hear me, that 'sign' is not the reason I am in local league and state league leadership. The League got on my radar, at age 66, because of the sign. I serve in leadership because -

- I now KNOW how important the League is, the contribution they make, at holding the line in Alabama on voting rights
- I now KNOW how satisfying it is to work with a group of smart people, who are altruistically donating their time to support voting rights for all Alabamians
- I am learning, serving and having fun!

The League rocks.

PS I now own the sign. My friend loved so much that her sign got me to the League, she gifted it to me.

Submit your
Local League Nuggets
to TheVoter@LWVAL.org

(Submit before the end of the month)

IMPORTANT DECEMBER DATES

December - [National Giving Month](#)

December 1 - [World AIDS Day](#)

December 10 - [Human Rights Day](#)

December 15 - [Bill of Rights Day](#)

December 21 - [Winter Solstice](#)

December 25 - [Christmas](#)

December 25 to January 2 - [Hanukkah](#)

December 26 to January 1 - [Kwanzaa](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

(YOU CAN STILL WATCH IT!)

Voter Services Education - November

Presented Monday, November 18, 2024

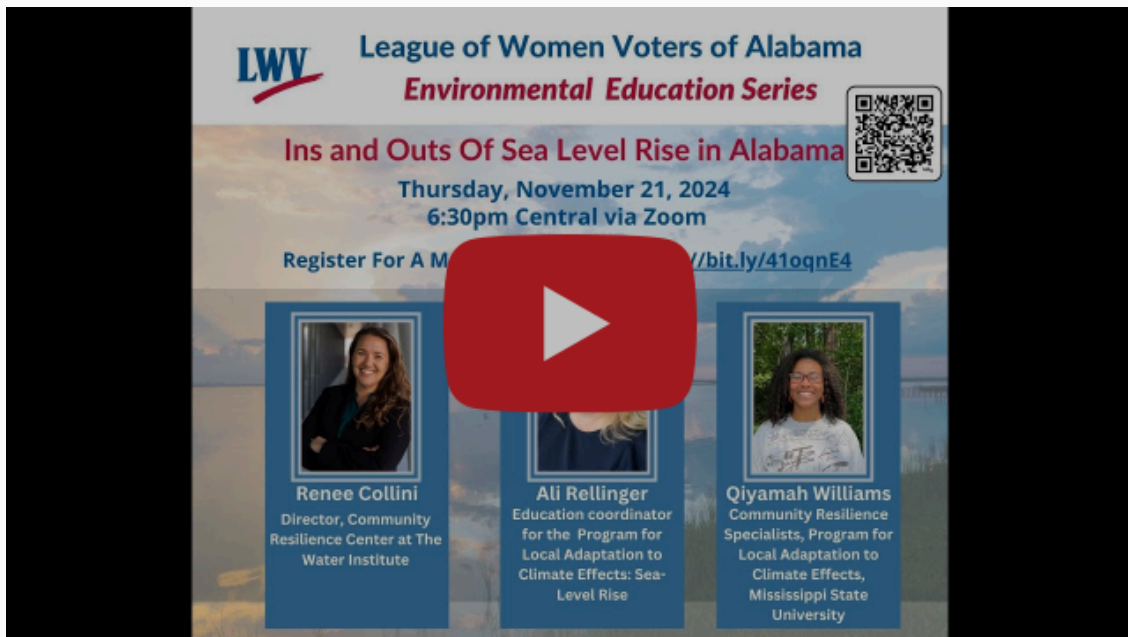
The image is a screenshot of a YouTube video player. The video content is a slide for a training session. At the top left is the LWV logo. The main title is "League of Women Voters of Alabama" followed by "Voter Services Education - November 2024". Below this is "Voter Services Skills Training" and "Post Election - Training". A QR code is in the top right. The slide lists topics: "Alabama Primary Election Canvassing and Certification Timelines", "Post Election Live Calendar", and "November 18, 2024". It states the event is on "Monday, November 18, 2024, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM, via Zoom" and provides a registration link: "Register Here: bit.ly/3N7ipcf". At the bottom, there are two photos: one of a man holding a sign that says "I did Did U? VOTE" and another of a group of people with their hands in a circle.

TOPICS

Alabama Presidential Election Canvassing
and Certification Procedures and Timeline
Post Election Alabama Administrative Calendar
Looking Forward to 2025

LWVAL Environmental Education Series Ins and Outs of Sea Level Rise in Alabama

Presented November 21, 2024



This panel included presentations on the science of sea-level rise, the impacts to people and the environment, and how to take action individually and as a community. The panelists reviewed view recent changes in sea level along coastal Alabama and anticipated changes to come.

The VOTER LAGNIAPPE

Treat Yourself to a Virtual Exhibit

Alabama and the American Presidency

Offered by the
Alabama Department of Archives and History

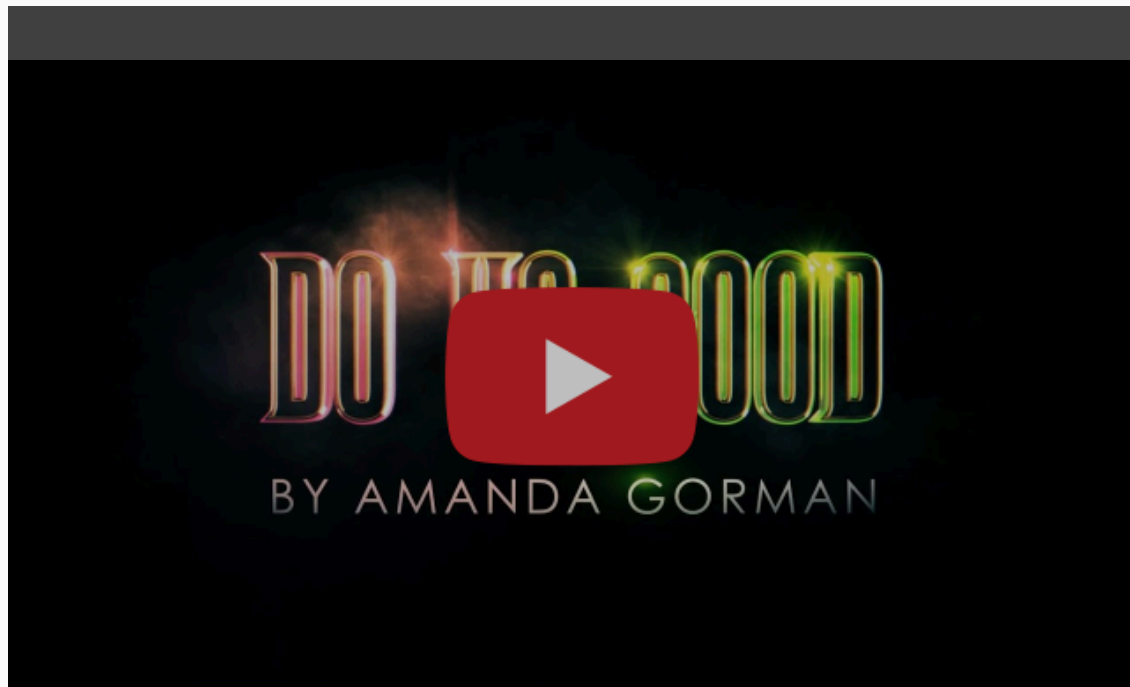
This online exhibit explores some of the historic visits to Alabama by presidents, first ladies, vice presidents and presidential candidates. The exhibit presents interesting and unexpected ways that Alabama and the presidency have intersected.

Click below to view the exhibit.

[Visit the Exhibit](#)

***"We'll dream, soar into the blue,
rise up to a new reality
because defending the good
is how we defy gravity"***

Amanda Gorman



Poet and activist Amanda Gorman was commissioned to write an original poem inspired by the global box office hit

film, *Wicked*. Gorman became the first National Youth Poet Laureate in 2017.

**Thank you for reading this issue of The Voter.
We welcome your ideas and feedback at TheVoter@LWVAL.org.**

Feel free to forward this email to a friend!

AND If you've received this email from a friend and would like to subscribe to the LWVAL Interest Group, click the link below.

[Subscribe to LWVAL Communications](#)

Click Below to Subscribe to our YouTube Channel !!

[Subscribe to the LWVAL' s YouTube Channel](#)

Click Below to Donate and Support the League's Work !!

[Click to Donate](#)

Copyright © 2024, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
League of Women Voters of Alabama
P.O. Box 12938
Huntsville, AL 35815

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

