

THE VOTER

A Publication of



JANUARY 2025



IN THIS ISSUE

[Important 'Save the Dates'](#)

(DON'T DELAY - REGISTER FOR THESE EVENTS NOW!)

**Jan 16, 2025 - Voter Education Panel - Early Voting

**Jan 21, 2025 - Voter Services Skills Training - Municipals and
the Expanded Felony Disenfranchisement in Alabama

**Jan 23, 2025 - Improving Maternal Outcomes in Alabama

**Jan 25, 2025 - LWV Gulf Coast Convening

**Jan 28, 2025 - Hive Legislative Preview

**Mar 9, 2025 - The LWV at Bloody Sunday 60th Anniversary in
Selma

[LWVAL NEWS and EVENTS](#)

[LWVAL Announces Call to Action Tuesdays](#)

[LWV Judiciary Study Kicks Off](#)

[2024-2026 LWVUS 'Impact on Issues' Available](#)

[LWVAL Receives Thank You from LWVDC](#)

[Note of Appreciation from Legal Defense Fund](#)

[LEAGUE NUGGETS](#)

Jenella Lymon 1st President MVSU AL Alumni Assn

Montgomery MLK Celebration

[IMPORTANT JANUARY DATES](#)

[IN CASE YOU MISSED IT](#)

Training - Alabama Legislature Engagement

[VOTER LAGNIAPPE](#)

Videos, Links, Stuff (Non Partisan of course ;-)

IMPORTANT 'SAVE THE DATES'

Voter Education Series

A Conversation: Early Voting for Alabama

Thursday January 16 at 6:30 PM via Zoom

On Thursday January 16, 2025 at 6:30 pm the League of Women Voters of Alabama Voter Education Series will focus on the urgent need for Early Voting in Alabama.

Register to receive a zoom link at <https://bit.ly/4iyJsvl>

Alabama is one of only three states that do not have early voting. The lack of early voting impacts voter turnout, according to exit polling and interviews with voters. In 2022, voter turnout was merely 37%. That puts Alabama as the fifth-lowest in the country. The national average turnout is 46%. Alabama's voter turnout was almost 10 percent below the national average.

For this panel, we are super excited to be joined by two Alabama legislators who are champions for Early Voting and have both prefiled Early Voting bills for the 2025 legislative session: Representatives Adline Clark (District 97) and Thomas E. Jackson (District 68). Also joining the panel is Sam Duff, Voting Rights Policy Strategist from ACLU of Alabama.

The Moderator for the panel will be our LWVAL Lobby Corps Director, Kim Bailey.

The League of Women Voters of Alabama has adopted Early Voting as one of our three top priorities for the 2025 legislative session. This forum will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about what early voting is, why it is needed, and how you can help us communicate with legislators to pass an Early Voting Bill in 2025.

[Click to Register for Early Voting Program](#)



League of Women Voters of Alabama

Voter Education Series



**A Conversation:
Early Voting For Alabama**

Thursday, January 16 at 6:30 PM via Zoom

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/4iyjsvl>



Representative
Adline Clarke
District 97



Representative
Thomas E Jackson
District 68



Sam Duff
Voting Rights Policy
Strategist | ACLU of
Alabama

**January 2025
Voter Services Skills Training**

2pm, Tuesday, January 21, 2025

On Tuesday 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.

This voter skills training is an important and accessible way for volunteers to learn about voting and elections laws and how to help voters overcome barriers to participate in municipal, state and federal elections.

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 Voter Services 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



Voter Education Series

Improving Maternal Outcomes in Alabama

Thursday, January 23, 2025
6:30 pm via Zoom

Topics to be Covered

- Why presumptive medicaid eligibility is critical to protecting the health of pregnant mothers and getting them prenatal health care during their first trimester could improve maternal outcomes
- What opportunities exist during the 2025 Legislative Session to address this problem

- What other solutions exist that could improve maternal outcomes in Alabama

Panelists include: Representative Marilyn Lands (District 10) and Representative Susan Dubose (District 45), co-sponsors of a 2025 bill that would Provide presumptive Eligibility. Also a panelist is Dalia Abrams, Co-Founder of Alabama's First Community Doula Program Women's Health Advocate and Doula Trainer.

Margaret Pace from LWV Baldwin County will moderate this panel.

Click to Receive a Zoom Link to the Program

REGISTER for Maternal Outcomes Program

LWV League of Women Voters of Alabama
Voter Education Series

Improving Maternal Outcomes in Alabama

Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 6:30 PM via Zoom
Register Here for a Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/4itro61>

Marilyn Lands
AL State Representative
District 10

Susan Dubose
AL State Representative
District 45

Dalia Abrams
Co-Founder of Alabama's First
Community Doula Program
Women's Health Advocate
Doula Trainer



**League of Women Voters
Gulf Coast Convening:
Climate,
Affordability,
Resilience
*Coming Back Home***

On **Saturday, January 25, 2025**, from **9:00 am to 4:30 pm CT**, at Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, at the spectacular Tonsmeire Resource Center, in Fairhope, Alabama.

Weeks Bay Reserve Tonsmeire Resource Center; 11525 US Hwy 98; Fairhope, AL 36532

Wi-fi is available in the center.

This is a *free*, educational event for LWV members only, cosponsored by the LWV of Alabama in collaboration with the LWV Baldwin County, AL.

League members from Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas are invited to attend. The Alabama, Florida and Louisiana Leagues are collaborating to create a powerful convening that brings our members together, builds knowledge, and lays the foundation for the LWV to tackle the common problems that Gulf Coast communities are facing as the climate is shifting. We anticipate there will be a LWVUS representative attending who participated in a recent UN Climate Change Conference.

Schedule:

* In the morning, we a panel of experts who will connect three major areas:

1. Climate (traditional environmental concerns)
2. Affordability (insurance, utilities, fragility, vulnerability)
3. Resilience (urgency, planning, policy remedies)


* The topic for our lunch speaker is environmental justice.

* Our afternoon session will be a discussion of solutions for affordability and resilience issues that residents of the Gulf Coast endure with climate change. Participants prioritize what we can do as individuals, as well as what we can do at the local league and state league levels. We want everyone to gain solid information for resolutions, results, and actions in hand.

Preregistration is required. Since there is limited seating and we must arrange for lunch, please register to attend as soon as possible, no later than January 17. Lunch will be provided. Coffee and a water fountain are available.

NOTE: Please remember to bring your own reusable mug and water bottle.

*Interesting note: The day after the convening, January 26, is International Environmental Education Day.

Please sign up to attend as soon as possible. Lodging is available for the weekend in a dormitory on site at \$25 per person 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.

Reimbursement is available for mileage at the nonprofit rate of \$0.14/mile per car for up to 150 miles round trip. Also, if you are staying overnight, we are also able to provide \$25 per member to defray the cost of lodging. Registrants will receive a reimbursement form at the event.

Register no later than January 17, 2025 at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/5QRRRC59oxyAk2jMv9>

We re thrilled to begin this Gulf States LWV alliance work with you all.

Register for Gulf Coast Convening

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
GULF COAST CONVENING**

- ◆ CLIMATE
- ◆ AFFORDABILITY
- ◆ RESILIENCE

"COMING BACK HOME"

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@lwva.org





Tuesday, January 28, 2025
12 pm via Zoom

**Alabama
Legislative
Preview**

On January 28, 2025 at 12pm, the League of Women Voters of Alabama President Kathy Jones will be a panelist for the

Lawmakers are talking about Medicaid expansion, voter access, school funding, artificial intelligence, book bans & more. Stay informed. Advance registration required to receive a Zoom link. Register today by clicking the button below! Your link will be resent the morning of the call for easy access.

[Register for Legislative Preview](#)



Save the Date! 1/28/2025 ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW



Tuesday, January 28
NOON ZOOM
See Event for Registration Link



Elaine Burdeshaw & Elliot Spillers Alabama Appleseed



Jennifer Harris
Alabama Arise



Paula Wilson
Moms Demand Action
for Gun Sense AL



Kathy Jones
League of Women
Voters of Alabama



Marva Douglas
Action Coalition
for Transit in Alabama



Cindy Lowry
Alabama Rivers Alliance



Jessica Hayes
Read Freely Alabama

SAVE THE DATE!!!
March 9, 2025

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>



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 to receive League updates on our participation
in this important event..

[2025 Bridge Crossing League Updates](#)

For more information on all the events and programs that
will be part of the celebration weekend, click here.

LWVAL NEWS and EVENTS



The LWVAL Announces ***Call to Action*** **Tuesdays**

Alabama's 2025 legislative session begins February 4th and we already know many pre-filed bills impact the League's core issues. During the upcoming state legislative session, communicating directly with elected leaders on topics you care about is an important way to let them know your needs and demonstrate you are watching their actions.

Your vote is your power during an election. Now use your voice to make powerful, positive change, to raise awareness and influence policy decisions. Collectively raising our voices can make a huge difference.

How can we join our voices together? In addition to organizing our members across the state, the League is collaborating with allied nonpartisan groups to be even more impactful and effective this legislative session.

To avoid inundating you with too many emails, the League will have Call to Action Tuesdays. On Monday night members will receive an email with priority actions to be taken on Tuesday. In addition to League priorities, shared priorities of allied groups will be included. The Call to Action will provide the information you need to write emails, send postcards, or call legislators on Call to Action Tuesday.

Our eventual goal will be to geographically target these emails so that recipients will receive calls for actions related to their representatives and important votes, whether a bill is in committee or on the floor.

Consider adding your voice to make an impact in the 2025 legislative session. Together we can make a difference.



LWV Federal Judiciary Study

At the 2024 LWVUS Convention delegates voted overwhelmingly to conduct a national study of the federal judiciary. The Constitution of the United States divides the federal government into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. This division ensures that no individual or group will have too much power. The League has positions on the legislative and the executive branches of government, but not the judiciary.

The LWV's study purpose includes, but is not limited to, addressing

concerns and clarifying judicial accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics for the U.S. judicial branch, as established in Article III of the United States Constitution. The study scope addresses the Supreme Court as well as the other Article III federal courts.

Since the National League has not conducted a study in a decade many League members are new to the study process. Such a study has historically been a two-year process, but since events now move much more rapidly, this study will be a test to see if LWV studies can be done in just 12 months.

More information will be distributed to Local Leagues in Alabama so meetings can be scheduled between February-April 2025 to discuss materials State and National will provide.

Leonette Slay, LWVAL Board Director and a member of the Greater Birmingham league, will coordinate LWVAL participation in this important study.



**The LWVUS 2024-2026
IMPACT ON ISSUES
Is Now Available**

"Impact on Issues is designed to help League members use LWVUS public policy positions effectively at the national, state, local, and regional levels. The intention is to inspire Leagues to use national positions to act in their own communities.

Since 1920, the League of Women Voters has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that people should play a critical role in democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920 just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified giving women the right to vote.

Throughout the years, the League has continued its dual purposes of education and advocacy, engaging in studies on representative government, international relations, natural resources and social policy. Although our history of advocacy goes back to our beginnings, this version of Impact on Issues covers our advocacy efforts beginning in the 1960s.

Impact on Issues is an indispensable resource for League members. A clear understanding of LWVUS positions, how they interrelate, and how they can complement and reinforce state, local and regional Inter-League Organization (ILO) positions, strengthens the League's impact on issues at all levels of government.

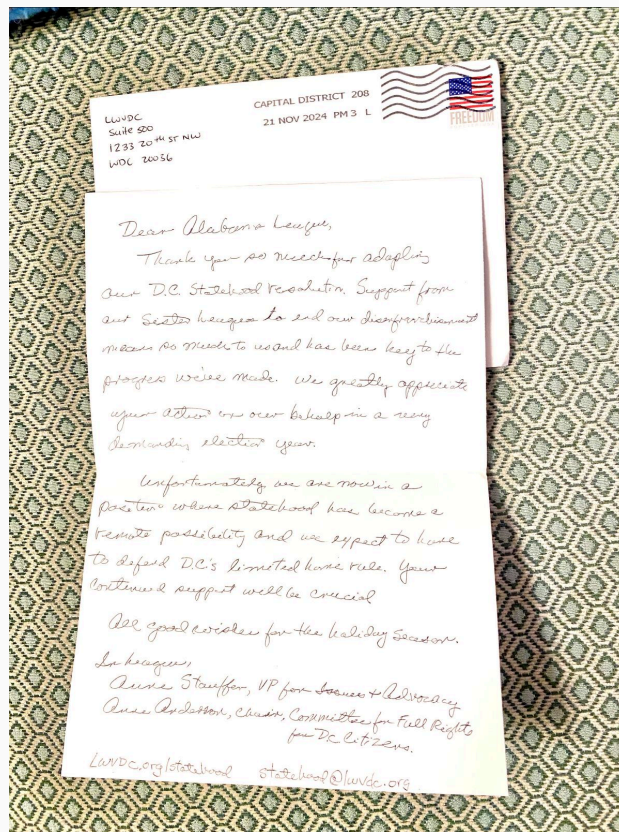
In applying LWVUS positions to national, state, local, and regional issues, each appropriate League board - depending on the level of action - is responsible for determining whether member understanding and agreement exists and whether the action makes sense in terms of timing, need and effectiveness.

The newest edition of the publication, 2024-2026, is available online or for purchase on Amazon (\$6.99) by clicking the appropriate link below.

LWVUS Impact on Issues (Online)

Buy Impact on Issues on Amazon

LWVAL Receives a Thank-You from LWVDC



The LWVAL recently received a thank you letter from the League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia. The LWVDC expressed appreciation to the Alabama League for adopting their Statehood Resolution. LWVDC leadership stated they felt statehood has now become a remote possibility and they anticipate having to defend DC's limited home rule. They stated that the LWVAL's continued support will be crucial. The letter was signed by Anne Stauffer, Vice President for Issues and Advocacy and Anne Anderson, Chair, Committee for Full Rights for DC Citizens.

LWVAL President Kathy Jones says "we will continue to support the DC League and District of Columbia residents on their path to statehood in any way we can."

Click below for more information on the LWVDC's efforts to gain statehood.

[LWVDC - Statehood](#)



LDF Expresses Gratitude to LWVAL for Election Day Support

The LWVAL received a thank-you note from Ally Fosbury, Programs Associate for Black Voters on the Rise at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc. Ms. Fosbury expressed appreciation for the LWVAL's "fantastic" support of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in Alabama through its activities as poll monitors on election day November 5. Ms. Fosbury said the LDF looks "forward to continuing this work together in the future".

LOCAL LEAGUE NUGGETS

The Mississippi Valley State University held its Alumni Chartering Ceremony on December 20, 2024. Jenella Lymon, LWV Alabama Education Fund Director and **member of the LWV Tennessee Valley,**

was named the first president of the newly chartered MVSU Alabama Alumni Association.



Montgomery, AL
Join the Friends of the Theatre for the 11th Annual

MLK Community Celebration

January 17, 2025 - 10:00 am & 7 pm

The Davis Theatre

Special Guests

LWV Montgomery Member Ms. Dorothy Moore

Dr. Marlena Smalls

The Hallelujah Singers

Call (334) 301-5732 for Tickets

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE THEATRE FOR THE 11TH ANNUAL

MLK

COMMUNITY

Celebration

January 17, 2025
10:00 am & 7:00 pm
The Davis Theatre
For Tickets: (334) 301-5732

Special Guests:
Ms. Dorothy Moore
&
Dr. Marlena Smalls &
The Hallelujah Singers

Logos: TROY UNIVERSITY, WSFA 12, Montgomery Chamber, MONTGOMERY CITY COUNCIL

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." - Martin Luther King Jr.

For More Information

MLK Community Celebration

IMPORTANT JANUARY DATES

January - [National Clean Up Your Computer Month](#)

January 1 - [New Years Day](#)

January 17 - [Betty White's Birthday](#)

January 20 - [Martin Luther King Jr Day](#)

January 20 - [Inauguration Day](#)

January 23 - [Anniversary of 1964 Ratification of 24th Amendment banning Poll Taxes](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

(YOU CAN STILL WATCH IT!)

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**

Click below to watch this important program.

[Legislature Engagement Training](#)



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>



The VOTER LAGNIAPPE

The New York Times


The Best Movies About Politics
(According to You)

Tired of real politics?

Try the silver screen instead.

"As 2024 draws to a close, you might be tired of watching politicians act as if they are the stars of an epic film.

So, as the holidays draw near and you settle down by the proverbial fire, why not watch an actual movie about politics?

Movies skewer and satirize a political system that dearly deserves both. They can warn us of the dangers of hungering for power and lay bare the human foibles and egos at the heart of it all. And once in a while, they can give us a reason to believe in politics  higher purpose."

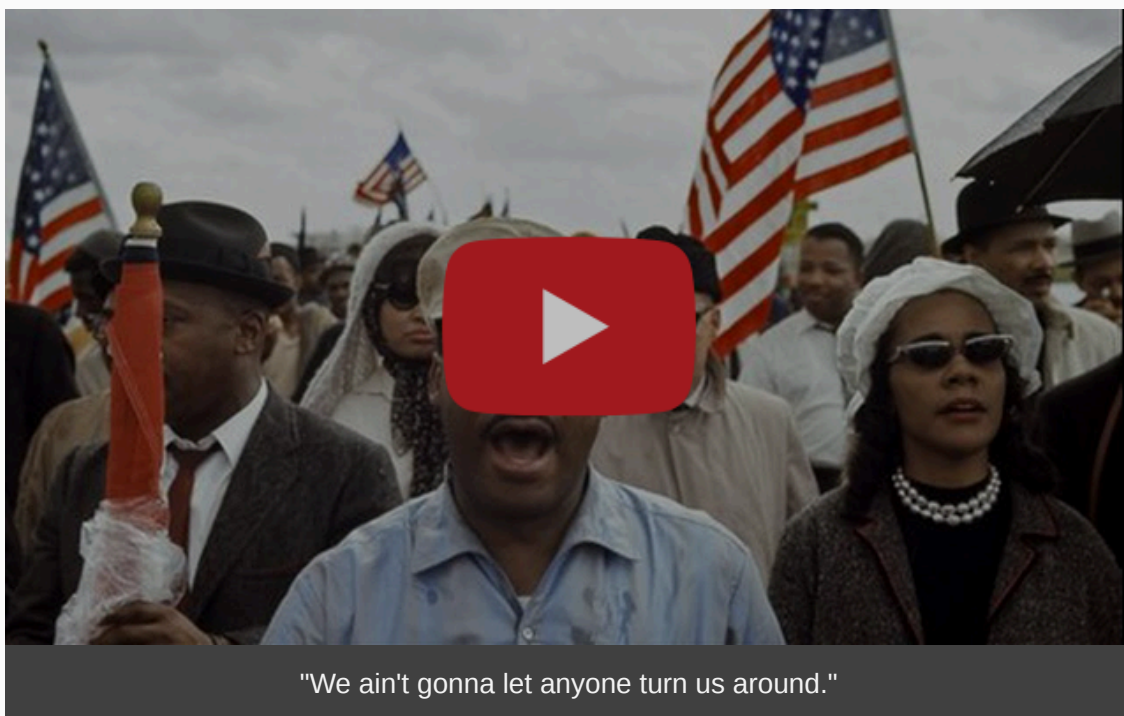
Jess Bidgood, NYTimes

[The Times - The Best Movies About Politics](#)



The LWVAL, several Local Leagues and many LWVAL individual members are also Alabama Arise members. [Click here to read the Alabama Arise December 2024 Newsletter.](#)

[Alabama Arise Newsletter](#)



Editors Comment: How can we watch these videos, feel all of 'this' - and not engage? Keep up the fight? At a minimum, join us in Selma on March 9!

**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](#).

