



THE VOTER

A Publication of the League of Women Voters of Alabama

JUNE 2024

Hear Ye, Hear Ye.....

Upon hearing at Council 2024 about all the great things happening statewide, delegates and members spoke about the need for better member and ally communications. The state League listened and put priority on re-energizing the League's member communication tool 'The Voter'. Then... THREE league members individually volunteered to take it on, to make it happen. As a result, The Voter now has a very committed editorial team made up of Barbara Caddell (LWV Mobile), Judy Jones (LWVGB) and Carol Mosely (LWVGM).

Message from the Editors

We are excited to be a part of this effort. Our goal is to highlight the important work happening at both the state and local level. We want our members and friends to know about it so they know how to plug in if they are interested. We also want Alabama League members to feel a sense of pride in the whole of our League work in Alabama.

Please be patient as The Voter evolves. We welcome your ideas and feedback at TheVoter@LWVAL.org.

Saddle up and read on! There's a LOT happening!

Barbara Caddell, Judy Jones, Carol Mosely

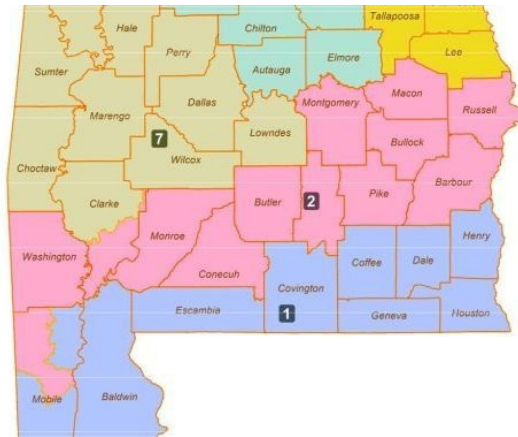
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LWVAL Launching High-Impact GOTV Project in CD-02



CD-02 - THE NEW OPPORTUNITY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN ALABAMA

The League of Women Voters of Alabama (LWVAL) has set a goal of contacting every registered Black voter in the 11 rural counties of CD2 through a postcard campaign. At nearly 27,000 voters, it is about 1/3 of the registered Black voters in the district.

After decades of racially gerrymandered voter suppression, Black voters in Alabama deserve the opportunity to choose candidates that will represent their interests, and LWVAL is passionate about doing the work to pursue justice at the ballot box.

LWVAL is grateful to our partners who are supporting this massive effort. The NAACP Alabama Conference is helping to fund the project and rally volunteers. The Religious Action Center connected us with the Center for Common Ground who is providing invaluable resources and guidance. And several of the Divine Nine Black Greek-letter organizations and other state-wide Black-led civic engagement organizations have also reached out to volunteer for the project.

It is going to take all of us to get out the vote. To make a tax-deductible donation to the LWVAL Education Fund (501c3) for this important project or to volunteer yourself or a group to help write postcards, please visit:

<https://sites.google.com/lwval.org/cd2postcards/CD2postcards>

The 2020 Census showed that Black citizens make up 27% of Alabama's population, but Black voters only held a majority or near-majority in 1 out of 7 (14%) of Alabama's Congressional voting districts. This disproportionate representation clearly devalued the impact of each Black citizen's vote and skewed the elected representation of the citizens of Alabama overall in favor of white voters.

In 2021, Black voters and civic advocacy groups in Alabama sued to force the state to accept a Congressional District map to create two districts where Black voters would have the opportunity to elect the candidates of their choice. LWVAL supported the plaintiffs by submitting an amicus brief in support of their arguments. After a two-year battle, the Supreme Court of the United States finally settled the *Allen v. Milligan* case in favor of the plaintiffs and ordered new maps.

Now there is a newly created 2nd Congressional District (CD2) in south Alabama with a Black voting age population of 48.7%.

Voter advocacy organizations face a long road over the next few months to get the vote out in CD2:

- CD2 is big. It runs across the state, from Georgia to Mississippi.
- Aside from the cities of Montgomery and Mobile, it is largely rural.
- Past racial gerrymandering that predetermined the outcome of elections resulted in voter apathy. With 8 Republicans and 11 Democrats running for House, total turnout in CD2 for the Primary Election was still only 17%.



Want to see for yourself what your elected officials are doing at the state house? Check out the [Alabama Channel](#), our “go-to” resource for anyone interested in state government. This website, brought to you by the LWVAL Education Fund, allows you to view live streamed as well as recorded meetings of the Alabama legislature and some of its committees – all at your convenience (and without taking a trip to Montgomery). Its search tool allows users to zero in on specific parts of floor debates or committee meetings using just a word or a phrase.

Special thanks to Tara Bailey (LWVTNV), Alabama Channel Director, who created and manages this website and to the six paid student interns from Alabama State University who helped expand the scope of the Alabama Channel by recording and archiving over 60 meetings originally seen only in person.

The Alabama Channel's 'Year in Review Report' for 2023-2024 can be viewed at this link: <https://bit.ly/3Kl40lJ>

Check out the Alabama Channel and explore for yourself.



Connection: Stronger Together
2024 COUNCIL - LWVAL and LWVAL Education Fund

Report by Delegate Carol Mosely

Many thanks to the Mobile League for an excellent theme and meeting. There were 35 participants in person and 20 participants via zoom. All local leagues were represented, and all state Board members were involved. Kudos to President Kathy Jones for a well-run hybrid event.



COUNCIL BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

We voted to change the LWVAL Bylaws to allow for bylaw changes at Council as well as Convention. The Bylaws Committee recommended this change because they felt that two years was too long to wait for the opportunity to make bylaw changes.

We then voted on other changes to the LWVAL Bylaws. These changes were primarily editorial cleanups to make the language consistent throughout the document, and consistent with the LWVAL Education Fund bylaws. (Education Fund Bylaws are not voted on by membership; they are changed with votes from the Ed Fund Board.) Other changes adopted were related to changing the term 'Member at Large Units' to 'Leagues at Large'. A League-at-Large (previously 'Member at Large Unit') is a group of members 1) in an area where there is no local League and 2) who have decided to organize into a League at Large. The term 'member at large' is still used to describe an individual who has joined the state League but not a local League.

Our LWVAL/LWVAL-EF Treasurer Stephanie Butler reported revisions to the biennial budgets for LWVAL and LWVAL Education Fund. The biggest changes were for increased support for The Alabama Channel, and development of a new web site.

Policy Review Committee Chair Judy Jones reported on the policy changes adopted by the Joint Boards in November 2023, January 2024 and April 2024. She referred delegates to the Council booklet for the new and revised policies.

We elected new state board members - Liz Laney, Donna Reynolds, and Robin Buckelew were elected to the LWVAL Board. Jenella Lymon, Roger Ellis and Robin Buckelew were elected to the LWVAL Education Fund Board. Pam Caruso was elected as Secretary. (Officers serve on both Boards.) These folks will serve until Council 2026. Congratulations, Welcome, and many thanks to the Nominating Committee.

Delegates were reminded that Local Leagues have received information on submission of Membership Development Grants and to get their requests submitted.

Finally, a note of appreciation for Cheryl Kidd, our Parliamentarian.

TRIP TO AFRICA TOWN

The Mobile League arranged for those attending in person to take a guided tour of Africatown after the business meeting, visit the museum there, plus a few additional sites of interest in Mobile. The story of

Africatown is unique but also another horrible chapter in our horrible history of slavery. It is fascinating, disturbing, and inspiring. The story has survived to be told, and many of the African people who were kidnapped and brought to Mobile on the Clotilda survived, too. They deserve our admiration.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

LWV League of Women Voters of Alabama
Voter Education Series

“From Ground Up: Understanding Community Challenges and Community Concerns”

Thursday, June 13 at 6:30 PM via Zoom
Register Here: <https://bit.ly/4aKhesC>



				
Ranada Robinson	Kameryn Thigpen	Onoyemi Williams	T. Barnes	Dr. Adia Winfrey

The June 13, 2024 presentation by Onoyemi Williams, Ranada Robinson, Teumbay Barnes, and Kameryn Thigpen was based on their analysis of the direct surveys and the focus group discussions with nearly 1900 black women in Alabama and beyond. The event was a powerful and enlightening learning opportunity. If you missed it, you can watch it on the League's YouTube Channel at the link below.

<https://youtu.be/35t0CFgvTP0?si=80oAHdyEmlG-S2ZC>



"Unions 101 for Sweet Home Alabama"

Monday, June 10 at 6:30 PM via Zoom

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/3cZsUj6>



Adam Keller

Trustee/Politics & Legislation Committee
Chair, North Alabama Area Labor Council
Northeast AL Organizer, Alabama Arise



Jennifer Sherer

Director, Economic Policy
Institute State Worker
Power Initiative



The June 10, 2024 presentation by Adam Keller and Jennifer Sherer provided attendees with a timely and engaging presentation about the history of unions, the unexpectedly outsized role Alabama played in this history and the continual effort of businesses and government to oppose them. If you missed this program, you can watch it on the League's YouTube Channel at the link below.

<https://youtu.be/razCACsJX0U?si=Ztz8ArIck3UqrwdR>

LOOKING AHEAD

June 27-30 - LWVUS Biennial Convention in Washington DC
There are 11 Alabama delegates attending! Look for Convention Report(s) in July Voter issue.

July - Disability Pride Month

July 7 - World Chocolate Day

July 11 - World Population Day

July 15 - Voter Services/Voter Rights Restoration Training via Zoom (Information and registration link below)

July 18 - Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama Report on "How Alabama Democracy Compares" (Information and Zoom registration link below)

July 19-20 - The anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848



TURN UP FOR ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE

Thursday
June, 27



7 PM ET

LIVE

LWVUS FACEBOOK



Na'ilah Amaru
Advocacy & Policy
Strategist



Carolyn Dupont
University of Kentucky professor,
historian around Electoral College



Keesha Gaskins-Nathan
Program director, Democratic practice
- US Rockefeller Brothers Fund

League members are invited to a virtual panel discussion with democracy experts who will explain how to tackle challenges with the Electoral College.

WHAT: LWV's 'One Person One Vote' panel

WHEN: June 27, 6-7:30 pm CT

WHERE: Livestreamed on Facebook and later shared on YouTube

[RSVP for Event](#)

The Electoral College is an archaic system created to take power away from the people — historically from Black Americans, but nowadays from all people of color.

The LWV wants to help move the nation beyond the Electoral College and toward true representation.



League of Women Voters of Alabama Voter Services Education - July 2024

Voter Services Skills Training



July Training

Voter Registration (paper and online)

Voter Rights Restoration Referral Form

Monday, July 15th 2pm Central via Zoom

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



Click to Register

Register



PARCA Report: "How Alabama Democracy Compares"

Thursday, July 18 at 6:30 PM via Zoom
Register Here: <https://bit.ly/3VHzdvz>



Thomas Spencer
PARCA Senior
Research Associate



(There will be another panelist added, stay tuned!)

Click to Register

REGISTER

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

