

THE VOTER

A Publication of



MARCH 2025



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**Message from
League of Women Voters of Alabama President
Kathy Jones**

The League of Women Voters of Alabama has been hard at work during the 2025 Alabama Legislative Session advocating for early voting and two bills which would improve the absentee voting process. Our LWV Alabama Education Fund (LWVALEF) continues to provide [TheAlabamaChannel.org](#) as an educational resource. The LWVALEF is also preparing to support dozens of municipal elections across the state, providing election,

candidate and ballot information that voters need as they cast their ballots in March and August.

In recent weeks we have been dismayed to see the actions of the Executive Branch. Alabamians depend on the federal government to protect and ensure the wellbeing of our communities and its people. The multitude of violations of the US Constitution, the indiscriminate firing of civil service employees without due process, and the lack of action by Congress is threatening the security, wellbeing, and rights of the citizens and economy of Alabama.

On February 14, League Presidents cosigned a LWV letter calling on congress to exercise its authority to stop the unprecedented, illegal Executive Branch overreach and damage to our country.

<https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/league-women-voters-us-urges-congress-act-new-letter>.

On March 4, Leagues across the country will stage community gatherings, bringing people together in reflection, action, and solidarity during the President's address. The Alabama League is sponsoring two virtual events that we strongly encourage you to attend. These 'Light For Democracy' events are a preamble for the 60th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday, happening in Selma Alabama on March 7-9, 2025. The League of Women Voters of Alabama will cross the Pettus Bridge in solidarity and purpose with all of the other activists fighting for voting and civil rights for all.

Alabama State and Local League leaders are developing plans and actions that will help us respond to the developing crisis. We will also coordinate with our allies and partners to

communicate and understand the very real impacts to rural and urban communities and individuals. On 'Take Action Tuesdays' we will share specific actions that you can take as individuals to demand our elected leaders do their job to defend the Constitution and our Democracy.

I ask you to stay engaged, do not despair, and pay close attention to what is happening in your community. Now is the time for us to work together, stay united, and act with determination knowing we are stronger together, knowledge is power, and your Vote is your voice.

IMPORTANT AND VERY SOON

6 pm Tuesday March 4

Democracy is not just a system of government—it's the power of the people. It begins with us, our voices, and our votes. At a time when democracy is under threat, we're asking you - and folks across the country - to come together to defend it.

On Tuesday, March 4th, We the People are hosting virtual and in-person community gatherings across the country, to bring people together in reflection, action, and solidarity. These events will offer a peaceful and unified space to come together for the

health of our democracy, the future of our nation, and the well-being of all its people.

Attention Alabama League Members and Friends



*Join us for TWO
important virtual
events on the
President's Address
to Congress*



Join us for a Virtual

**Light For Our
Democracy -
Alabama**

6:00 pm CT March 4, 2025

Kathy Jones, President,, League of Women Voters of Alabama, will address the Executive Branch actions and the harm to communities and people of Alabama.

Several leaders of Alabama civil and voting rights non-profit

organizations will participate to speak from their organization's perspective.

Joining the League for this event:

- Tafeni English-Self; Alabama Director, Southern Poverty Law Center
- Shannon Shelley-Trembly; Director, Alabama Disability Advocacy Program
- Robyn Hyden; Executive Director, Alabama Arise
- Allison Hamilton; Director, Alabama Immigrant Justice Coalition
- Benard Simelton; President, NAACP - Alabama State Conference

**** BRING YOUR PEN LIGHTS AND CANDLES ****

Click Below to Register for the Event

Attend Alabama's Reflection on Democracy



**Join us for a Virtual
Alabama Watch Party
Light for Our Democracy
Black Voters Matter Plaza
Washington DC**

7:30 ET Tuesday March 4, 2025

After the Alabama focused event, please join the LWV Alabama watch-party to bear witness to the Washington DC 'Light for Our

Democracy' event at the Black Voters Matter Plaza that is next to the White House.



Attend DC's Light for Our Democracy

IMPORTANT 'SAVE THE DATES'

Living our History

**Crossing the Pettus Bridge
in Solidarity and With Purpose**

**Sunday, March 9, 2025
10 am - 5 pm**

"The farther backward you can look,

the farther forward you are likely to see.”

Winston Churchill




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

Questions about Joining the Event on that day?

Email communications@lwval.org

60th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday



**Crossing in Solidarity
and With Purpose**

March 6-9, 2025



Your voice matters! Make plans now to speak up for a better Alabama for all at Arise's Legislative Day.

9:30 am - 3 pm, Thursday March 20, 2025



LEGISLATIVE DAY

Thursday, March 20, 2025
9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Alabama State House - Room 200
11 South Union Street, Montgomery
(State House faces the rear entrance of the Capitol Building)



Your voice matters!

Make plans to attend and speak up for a better Alabama for all!

Legislative Day participants will:

- Learn crucial information about Arise's legislative priorities.
- Meet with legislators about improving the lives of everyday Alabamians.
- Participate in a news conference to help amplify our message.

Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. and the event begins at 10 a.m.
There is no cost to attend, but a \$15 donation for lunch is suggested.

Registration is required because seating is limited.

Please register online by **March 12** at alarise.org/2025legislativeday.

Click below to Register. Please register by March 12 to allow Alabama Arise to anticipate attendee needs. More details, including a list of events for the day, will be found at the registration link.

[Register for Alabama Arise Lobby Day](#)

**We envision an Alabama
where every citizen has
access to the ballot.**

**** Save the Date APRIL 1, 2025 ****

Alabama Voting Rights Coalition

2025 Lobby Day

The League of Women Voters of Alabama is proud to be one of the founding members of the Alabama Voting Rights Coalition (AVRC). Please save the date, Tuesday April 1, 2025 for the AVRC 2025 Lobby Day. This important event will be 10:30 am to 2:30 pm in Montgomery on the 1st of April. A huge crowd of all ages and walks of life is expected to lobby legislators for the Alabama Voting Rights Act (SB7/HB60); the Early Voting bills (HB59 and HB71); the disabled voter designated delivery of absentee ballot bill (HB77); and the newly filed Absentee Affidavit Envelope Curing bill (HB97).

Stay tuned for more information!

LWVAL NEWS and EVENTS

Report on the LWV Gulf Coast Convening: Climate, Affordability, and Resilience



February 1, 2025

**Tonsmeire Resource
Center**

Fairhope, Alabama

League of Women Voters members from Alabama, Florida, and Louisiana gathered at the Weeks Bay Reserve in Fairhope Alabama for the very first LWV Gulf Coast Convening. Attendees heard from an expert Panelists and Moderator including: Ms. Cindy Lowry, League member and Executive Director of the Alabama Rivers Alliance; Mr. Kyle Crider, Program and Policy Director for Alabama Interfaith Power and Light and the People's Justice Council; Ms. Donna Pilson, Executive Director of Rebuild Bay County, Florida; Ms. Cece Pless, Major Donor Advisor of Mobile Baykeeper.



The Gulf Coast Convening Panel discussed the multitude of worsening climate impacts that Gulf Coast communities are facing; the difficulties of recovering from repeated climate related disasters; the need for Resilience and Readiness to be prepared for the next disaster; and the challenge of ever-increasing costs which are making it difficult for people to afford to come back to their homes. The lunch keynote speaker, Ms. Carletta Davis, President/Executive Director of 'We Matter Community Association' shared her environmental justice perspective through stories that illustrated how these climate, resilience, and affordability impacts devastate poorer coastal communities because their health, infrastructure, and environment have been neglected.



After lunch League members brainstormed to identify five priority topics based on what we had learned from the experts and keynote. These topics were explored further in a world-cafe style small group discussions to identify State, Local, and Individual actions, as well as inter-LWV collaborations. The five priority topics discussed were:

1. Readiness
2. Filling the resource and regulatory gaps facing communities
3. Voter Education – to raise awareness about what’s going on in their communities
4. Utility rates – Public Service Commissions; water; Southern Company; In New Orleans Energy Regulated by City government.
5. Bringing more youth membership – for example, through environmental civics.



The convening was a wonderful opportunity for local leagues along the Gulf Coast in neighboring states to develop relationships and friendships that will make them stronger and even more effective as they work together on shared interests and issues. This event represents the beginning of the southern League journey to increase our advocacy on climate effects, resilience, and related issues.

The League thanks the following individuals for their dedication and hard work to make this important event a reality: Christian Green, President League of Women Voters of Louisiana; Cindy Lowry, member of the Greater Birmingham LWV and Executive Director Alabama Rivers Alliance; Cecile Scoon, Co-President League of Women Voters of Florida; Freya Sonenstein, President League of Women Voters of Baldwin County; Kathy Jones, President League of Women Voters of Alabama and League of Women Voters of Alabama Education Fund; Angela Underwood, Manager of the Weeks Bay Reserve and her entire team.

**DO NOT GET LOST IN A SEA
OF DESPAIR. DO NOT BECOME
BITTER OR HOSTILE. BE HOPEFUL,
BE OPTIMISTIC. NEVER, EVER BE
AFRAID TO MAKE SOME NOISE AND
GET IN GOOD TROUBLE, NECESSARY
TROUBLE. WE WILL FIND A WAY TO
MAKE A WAY OUT OF NO WAY.**

**~REP. JOHN LEWIS
#GOODTROUBLE**

🎵@dan_of_innsmouth

LOCAL LEAGUE NUGGETS



EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS OF ALL AGES

LearningQUEST
SINCE 2009

The LWV of Tennessee Valley is partnering with LearningQUEST to present a training session entitled **Voter Education**. Two sessions are

scheduled: Fri May 9 and Fri May 16, 2025; 1:00-2:30 pm at the Huntsville/Madison County Library Auditorium (915 Monroe St. Huntsville, AL 35801)

The Tennessee Valley League members conducting the training will be Roger Ellis, Lawanna Harvey, Robin Buckelew and Kathy Jones. Any League member in good standing may attend the sessions.

LearningQUEST is a non-profit partnered with the public library (lquest.org). Program coordinator Wanda Shoultes is a member of both Tennessee Valley and Learning Quest. Any questions about these programs can be directed to her at dancingfool1248@gmail.com.



The LWVTNV was at First Stop in Huntsville on February 27, providing voter services to homeless Alabamians.



The League of Greater Tuscaloosa hosted a packed house at their Candidate Forum held February 18 at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Carol Prickett, LWVGT Membership Chair, told WVUA-23 News "This allows us to see them in person, to look them in the eye and to ask them the questions, as long as they are fair and non-partisan questions, that we can ask them what's on our minds."

Election day for the city of Tuscaloosa is Tuesday March 4. All the candidates for the city's 16 elections were invited to the forum. Ten of the sixteen races are unopposed.

[Visit Tuscaloosa Election Page](#)

IMPORTANT MARCH DATES

March - [Women's History Month](#)

March 4 - [Mardi Gras Day](#)

March 8 - [International Women's Day](#)

March 12 - [Daylight Savings Time Starts](#)

March 17 - [St Patrick's Day](#)

March 20 - [Spring Equinox](#) (Start of Spring)

March 31 - [Trans Day of Visibility](#)

March Highlights in US Women's History

(From the National Women's History Alliance)

- **March 1, 1978** – Women's History Week is first observed in Sonoma County, California
- **March 1, 1987** – Congress passes a resolution designating March as Women's History Month
- **March 2, 1903** – the Martha Washington Hotel opens in New York City, becoming the first hotel exclusively for women
- **March 3, 1913** – Women's Suffrage Parade in Washington, DC, where over 8000 women gathered to demand a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to vote
- **March 4, 1917** – Jeannette Rankin (R-MT) took her seat as the first female member of Congress
- **March 4, 1933** – Frances Perkins becomes United States Secretary of Labor, the first female member of the United States Cabinet
- **March 8** – International Women's Day, whose origins trace back to protests in the U.S. and Europe to honor and fight for the political rights for working women

- **March 8, 2014** – National Catholic Sisters Week established to raise awareness of the contributions of Catholic sisters
- **March 12, 1912** – Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls together in Savannah, Georgia, for the first-ever Girl Scout meeting
- **March 12, 1993** – Janet Reno is sworn in as the first woman U.S. Attorney General
- **March 13, 1986** – Susan Butcher won the first of 3 straight and 4 total Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Races in Alaska
- **March 17, 1910** – Camp Fire Girls is established as the first interracial, non-sectarian American organization for girls
- **March 17, 1917** – Loretta Perfectus Walsh became the first woman to join the navy and the first woman to officially join the military in a role other than a nurse
- **March 20, 1852** – Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is published and becomes the best-selling book of the 19th century
- **March 21, 1986** – Debi Thomas becomes first African American woman to win the World Figure Skating Championship
- **March 23, 1917** – Virginia Woolf establishes the Hogarth Press with her husband, Leonard Woolf
- **March 31, 1888** – The National Council of Women of the U.S. is organized by Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, Julia Ward Howe, and Sojourner Truth, among others, the oldest non-sectarian women's organization in the U.S.
- **March 31, 1776** – Abigail Adams writes to her husband John who is helping to frame the Declaration of Independence and cautions, "Remember the ladies..."



<https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/>

EJI Calendar for March

March Birthdays of Note

Theodore Seuss Geisel March 2, 1904

Albert Einstein March 14, 1879

Ruth Bader Ginsburg March 15, 1933

Aretha Franklin March 25, 1942

Fanny Farmer March 23, 1857

Gloria Steinem March 25, 1934

Sandra Day O'Connor March 26, 1930

**(Editor's Suggestion - Consider learning something new about
these individuals on their birthdates)**

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

(YOU CAN STILL WATCH IT!)

**LWVAL Voter Services Skills Training
Presented Feb 17, 2025**



League of Women Voters of Alabama
Voter Services Education - February 2025

Voter Services Skills Training



Tuscaloosa Municipal Election on March 4

Municipal Elections across Alabama - preparing to GOTV
NVRA - Voter Roll Maintenance (Alabama 2025 edition)

Tour of the brand new Vote411.org/LWVAL

Monday, February 17 @ 2pm Central, via Zoom

Register Here: bit.ly/4hdl7dB



Watch Voter Services Skills Training February 2025

The VOTER LAGNIAPPE

Interactive Timeline
Women of the world, unite!

[Click for History of Women's Activism](#)

38 Women who Changed the World
From Oprah Daily



The Obama Foundation
Happy Women's History Month



The Today Show
Recognizing the Roles of Women
Throughout American History



Do yourself a favor, hit PLAY.

PUT A WOMAN IN CHARGE
Keb' Mo' and Rosanne Cash

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

Any issues or questions email JJones@LWVAL.org

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subscribe to the LWVAL Interest Group, click the link below.**

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