

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALABAMA

THE VOTER

OCTOBER 2018

SAVE THE DATE!

LWVAL Convention

May 18-19, 2019 in Tuscaloosa

Host Hotel: Embassy Suites

Theme: Environmental Justice



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President's Message Submitted by Barbara Caddell

I am excited about the increasing interest I sense in the political process and the way that leagues around the state are harnessing it. In addition to our proposed gubernatorial forum, we have state-wide and local participation in Vote411. Local leagues have sponsored candidate events for various elections. And then there are our voter registration and restoration efforts.... I can hardly wait to get the numbers of voters registered during our September National Voter Registration Month as well as the numbers of voters whose rights have been restored!! All this good work has made me proud to be your president!!

Attending the LWVUS Convention in Chicago this June additionally inspired me and other attendees. Please read the Convention reports for specifics.

Speaking of conventions, our LWVAL Convention 2019 will be held in Tuscaloosa on May 18-19. Please mark your calendars!!!

In keeping with the league's commitment to issue advocacy, I have made written comments on several important issues:

- The State of Alabama's Ambient Air Monitoring 2018 Network Plan – basically LWVAL asked for more monitors for monitoring more pollutants
- The rollback of EPA's Clean Power Plan – we challenged the rollback of regulations designed to address climate change
- The census question regarding citizenship status of respondents – we requested that the census not include it
- Secretary Merrill's exclusive reliance on the interstate crosscheck program to purge voters from electoral rolls – LWVAL collaborated with the Brennan Center and the NAACP to emphasize that Alabama's process violates the Voting Rights Act – as a result, Secretary Merrill's staff has re-examined this process and has assured us that they will not be currently using this program to purge voters. They promised to re-examine their purge process after the general election.
- I have attempted to meet with Senator Jones to welcome him to the Senate and to explore ways we can work together. Although the Senator's Alabama schedule did not permit him to meet with me personally, Mary Anne Wilson (Mobile League President) and I had a productive meeting with Brantley Fry (the Senator's Alabama staff director) and Al Stokes (the South Alabama staff director). We emphasized Alabama's interest in such diverse issues as voting rights/fair elections and protecting the environment. We applauded his willingness to craft bipartisan legislation and to "reach across the aisle" to address the partisanship in our public discourse. We encouraged his staff to have him hold regular town hall meetings and publicize them well.
- I know you have probably heard about our attempts to hold a gubernatorial candidate forum. Because the governor has not responded to our invitation to participate, the board has decided to pursue a lieutenant gubernatorial one. At publication time, we are optimistic that both these candidates will agree to participate. Stay tuned.....

All of the work I've described is fueled by the energy of league members all over the state. Thank you for all you do to make Alabama a better place!!!

LWVUS Convention Report Submitted by Barbara Caddell

The highlight of my summer activities was my attendance at the national league convention June 28-July 1, 2018 in Chicago. We had a lively group from Alabama: Gina and Aisling Finnegan, Laura Hill, Mikesha Harvill, Rose Johnson, Kathy Jones, Mary Anne Wilson, and me. Myra Evans joined the fun as a member of LWVUS nominating committee even though she was not a voting delegate. Besides enjoying each other's company, we made some helpful connections and learned a lot. You will see this in reports from all of us. We also saw the meeting room where the first LWVUS Convention was held and (of course) took pictures!!



Since the primary purpose of the convention is to conduct business, here are some items of business that we addressed:

- Elected new board members and officers. In addition, we were introduced to our brand new Executive Director, Virginia Kase, and Alabama's new liaison to the national board, Catherine Perry Cotten from Hattiesburg, MS.
- Adopted a budget that allowed our PMP to remain at \$32.00
- Continued emphasis on "Making Democracy Work" in our political life (voting rights, fair elections, campaign finance/money in politics, and redistricting) and "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" in League business.
- Some of our other areas of focus will be
 - Sensible gun legislation
 - Climate change/global warming (advocating for using climate science when making policy decisions and placing a price on carbon emissions to slow climate change)
 - National Popular Vote Compact
 - Right to privacy in making reproductive choices
 - Equal Rights Amendment

For a more detailed look at Convention business, see: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/convention-2018-daily-briefing>

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CADDELL CONVENTION REPORT CONT'D

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Besides organizational business, the LWVUS Convention provided numerous opportunities for learning about issues. I attended some special sessions on climate change, not only to learn about it but also to explore some strategies for dealing with it. One intriguing way to deal with climate change issues has been attempted by a group of youth from all over the country who filed a lawsuit (Juliana v US) opining that the government has failed in its duty to maintain a clean environment for its children. The LWVUS and the League of Women Voters of Oregon joined the lawsuit as amici ("friends of the court") and experts on the political processes involved and the harm done when a vulnerable population is deprived of political power. The League's position is that children are a vulnerable class of persons who are disproportionately affected by the health of the natural environment and who have no voice in the political process that promulgates environmental regulations since they cannot vote. The young attorney who addressed our group was excited to report that she and her colleagues had just successfully prevented the Trump Administration from having the case thrown out of court. Juliana represents a novel legal theory based on broad social science knowledge – much like Brown v Board of Education. The energy and enthusiasm of the young people associated with this lawsuit was inspiring. The case will be heard on October 29 in Oregon's Federal District Court.

LWVUS Convention Report Submitted by Kathy Jones

This was my first League of Women Voters Convention! I was excited to help represent the State of Alabama, meet League members from across the country, and learn about about what they are doing (and the challenges they face) to protect and preserve the voting rights of citizens. I was proud to be a part of the Alabama delegation - folks were very interested to ask me about Alabama and impressed with our State Leagues' efforts to register voters and restore voting rights for disenfranchised citizens.

After check in on Thursday July 28th, I attended a session of "Developing and Mobilizing Skills to Win in 2018" which was a great way to kick off the convention! That evening, the presentation "A Conversation on Redistricting with Nick Stephanopoulos and Ruth Greenwood was very interesting. I would like to learn more about the Efficiency Gap Theory developed by Ruth Greenwood to see if there is possible way to use it in Alabama!

The National Convention took a break from their busy schedule on Saturday June 30th and encouraged conventioners to participate in the "Families Belong Together" March in downtown Chicago. Several of the Alabama Delegation marched to express our solidarity with the immigrant families. LWV participation in this #FamiliesBelongTogether event was an important gesture to demonstrate solidarity for immigrants and to demand an end to the inhumane treatment of asylum seekers and their children. I am proud that the LWVUS supported it in such a tangible way.

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Jones LWVUS Report cont'd

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Workshops and Information Sessions I attended included:
 Getting Out The Vote Strategies
 Redistricting
 Youth Voter Registration: Learning Winning Tactics!
 Using Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Lens to Strengthen Social Impact and Collaboration
 Voting as a Right of Passage: The Case for Lowering the Voting Age.

The various presentations on youth Voter Registration and GOTV will be very useful to our Local League's efforts to register High School students as they turn 18 years of age. The presenters talked about their lessons learned and provided examples of materials they developed. Our Local league is already adapting the voter drive instructional flyers that I picked up for our use in High School and community drives.

I was excited to learn about the various projects, studies, and campaigns being supported by various Leagues across the Country (e.g., the Voter Girl Project, Pricing Carbon Emissions, Abolishing Electoral College, Truth (information credibility), Washington DC statehood, Equal Rights Amendment, etc). The vitality and success of the National League depends on the passion of the local leagues and the state leagues. It was apparent to me that the people attending the convention are very passionate and dedicated to the mission and objectives of the League!

Finally, the whole experience of attending the plenary sessions, informational presentations, learning about the National League's missions, the presentations, bylaws, listening to the pros and cons, and the voting process was fascinating and very educational! I learned a lot and got plenty of food for thought!



Update from Mobile & LWVUS Convention Report Submitted by Mary Anne Wilson

LWV Mobile voted at our Spring Annual Meeting to continue the Making Democracy Work campaign in our local programming. As we return to our Fall schedule of events, we will be examining such issues in our study group sessions and with our luncheon speakers. At our September luncheon, Ellen Boettcher from the Alabama Voting Rights Project discussed the history of felony disenfranchisement in Alabama, how the law now works in regard to felony disenfranchisement in the state, what she's been seeing on the ground, and opportunities to get involved in the project. Other topics planned are redistricting in October and in November a preview of the upcoming 2019 Alabama Legislative session. Our monthly study group discussed immigration history and status at the September gathering and will be delving into restoring felon voter rights in October and the census/redistricting in Alabama in November.

We also will be putting democracy into action as we head into the mid-term elections -- through Vote411.org; voter registration events, including National Voter Registration Day; engaging and registering first time voters through Vote 18, our high school voter registration program; voting rights restoration; and reporting the vote on election night in conjunction with the Baldwin County League.

On another note, it was a very special treat while in Chicago this summer for the LWV National Convention to visit to the Gold Room of the Congress Hotel where, in February 1920, the League of Women Voters was founded. Attending the national convention, along with Mobile delegates Rose Johnson and Gina Finnegan, was a wonderful way to connect with the League at all levels. This also was a special time to get to know members of the Alabama delegation from across the state. In addition to the plenary business sessions, there were numerous workshops available on a variety of topics. One of particular note was sponsored by LWV Greenwich who has developed an innovative civics program based on the work of Professor David Moss of Harvard using the case study method to examine pivotal episodes in American democracy. The primary goal of the program is to foster a recommitment to our democracy through the use of constructive debate to overcome partisan divisions. The program also advances several League goals: increasing student membership, creating a dynamic partnership with high schools, promoting cross-party dialogue and enhancing the quality of civics education.



Update from Baldwin County Submitted by Lynne Switzky

Baldwin County LWV has been setting up a Voter Registration table twice monthly at the largest food pantry in the County. We have also been working with an outreach worker from the SPLC who is assigned to assist felons to restore their voting rights. For Voter Registration Day, we are setting up voter registration displays in three libraries: Fairhope, Daphne, and the County Cooperative Library in Robertsedale. We also will spend the morning on the Bay Minette Campus of Coastal Alabama Community College registering students. Our other VR thrust has been assisting residents of assisted living facilities to update their registrations and apply for an absentee ballot if needed. We are starting to offer Vote18 in County schools, and we are participating in Vote 411.org for the first time.

We have a bus trip planned to the Legacy Museum and Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery on 9/17 to which we have invited the Mobile LWV and members of some other non-partisan groups. In November, we are planning a lecture by the director of the Weeks Bay Foundation, followed by a boat tour. We will again invite the Mobile League to take part.

Update from Birmingham Submitted by Leonette Slay

In May LWVGB sponsored a community discussion with Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin. The mayor described priorities for his term and took questions from participants, which included League members and many community members. The audience of over 60 had so many questions that time precluded answering them all. The mayor's staff took written questions and provided answers which LWVGB subsequently posted on our web site.

In August the League met at Bethel Baptist Church in north Birmingham to learn more about the years of pollution caused by nearby industrial sites and the resulting criminal trials and convictions of three Birmingham power brokers. LWVAL board member Haley Colson Lewis and Kirsten Bryant, both GASP employees, briefed League members and guests on the history of the area and the GASP research which led to the EPA's presence in the area and ultimately helped lead to indictments and trials. Meeting in one of the affected neighborhoods helped League members appreciate the proximity of industrial plants to homes, playgrounds, and day care facilities.

We have a number of voter registration events scheduled for National Voter Registration Day, including at area high schools, community colleges, and the downtown transit facility. Our annual membership social, on September 27, will be held at the downtown City Club, which offers panoramic views of downtown Birmingham. This is a great opportunity to invite everyone from young professionals to the recently retired to get acquainted with LWV and to meet our current members.

On October 8 LWVGB and the Upsilon Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha will cosponsor a judicial forum at the Gardendale Civic Center. Fourteen candidates in contested races in Jefferson County have been invited to participate.

Senator Doug Jones' Town Hall in Birmingham Submitted by Leonette Slay

At least eight LWVGB members attended Senator Doug Jones' town hall on August 13th at Parker High School in Birmingham. This followed a similar town hall Jones held in Hoover on July 28th.

Over 100 attended the Birmingham town hall, which opened with a welcome by state Rep Jundalynn Givan (D-BHM). Senator Jones emphasized his priorities: health care—saving medical facilities in rural areas and the expansion of Medicaid in AL; broadband access in rural areas which will help telemedicine for underserved areas; mitigation of tariffs (AL is third in the nation in auto production, behind MI and SC). In Jones' words, "The president's ill-conceived actions on tariffs will really hurt Alabamians." Jones also said much more bipartisan work is being done than is being reflected in the media. Of the 90 bills he has cosponsored so far, 80 are bipartisan.

Jones said he is looking carefully at Judge Kavanaugh's record and will determine whether or not to support his nomination to the Supreme Court after reviewing all of Kavanaugh's previous opinions and analyzing the confirmation hearings. He is aware of ads being run tying his vote to his reelection and said no matter how he votes, "many people will be mad at me". He said politicization of judicial selections is a troubling development and reminded the audience that Justice Scalia, "the judge that Democrats loved to hate", was confirmed by the Senate 98-0.

On a local Birmingham issue, Jones indicated he had just sent a letter to the EPA recommending that certain neighborhoods in north Birmingham be placed on the EPA Superfund list. This drew a rebuke from state Rep. Mary Moore, who thought she and her constituents should have been informed before the letter was sent.

Jones then accepted questions from attendees. Questions dealt with the Affordable Care Act, confirmation of Kavanaugh (both pro and con), the status of SNAP (the Farm Bill is in conference but the House version stripping SNAP benefits will not pass). One questioner asked if the U.S. is on the verge of WW III. Jones said no, but "Russian interference is getting close to putting U.S. democracy in peril" and reminded the audience that President Putin is a former Soviet KGB (intelligence) officer. Jones also fielded a question on immigration. He told attendees that immigration is a major problem and that Congress had crafted a bipartisan solution but it was unsatisfactory for the president. The local union president for U.S. Postal Service workers asked about efforts to privatize the postal service (Jones is against this). The union president also urged Jones to look into efforts to allow USPS to engage in baking services. According to the questioner, this would reduce the need for payday lending and USPS is already set up to perform certain banking services.

Overall, I was impressed by the variety of questions and the level of knowledge of the questioners, as well as the candid answers of Senator Jones. He indicated that other town halls would follow in other Alabama cities.

National Lobby Corps Interviewing Alabama Members of Congress Submitted by Barbara Caddell

The National Lobby Corps approached the LWVAL in late July informing us that they were sending Ms. Jacqueline Coolidge to talk to Senator Doug Jones about questions he could ask of Supreme Court nominees. Ms. Coolidge asked for information about Alabama in general and the Senator's views in particular so she could craft her approach. I appreciated the "heads up" and offered some advice, reminding her of the Senator's past support for pro-choice views and the tenuousness of his current position vis-à-vis Alabama's political climate. I also asked if she could discuss voting rights issues with him.

Ms. Coolidge reported that she met with the Senator's staffer, Stephen Davis, on August 1st. (Because they are not usually constituents of the legislators they visit, Lobby Corps members usually meet with the staff rather than the legislator.) Mr. Davis was impressed with the quality of the LWV's proposed questions but would not commit the senator to a position on the nominee, stating that the senator was in the process of evaluating the nominee's written opinions, etc., before making a decision. Subsequently, the disturbing accusations of sexual misconduct against the nominee have thrown the whole nomination into disarray.

Because Ms. Coolidge was sent only to discuss the process of selecting the Supreme Court nominee, she only mentioned Alabama's concerns with voting rights and voter suppression, etc., in passing. Instead, she encouraged me to contact Senator Jones to schedule a separate appointment for this purpose. On September 5, Mary Anne Wilson (President of the LWV Mobile) and I had a productive meeting (described in the President's Report) with Senator Jones' State Director (Brantley Fry) and Regional Director (Al Stokes) to discuss these concerns.

Recently Ms Coolidge has reached out to say that she will be meeting with two of Alabama's Congressional Representatives: Representative Palmer and Representative Sewell. This discussion is scheduled for October 5 and will focus on the proposed citizenship question on the census. Since some Alabama districts stand to lose funding and/or representation if the question is included, we are pleased that Alabama legislators are receiving extra attention and information.

Analysis of Amendments on November Ballot Submitted by Hattie Kaufman

This year, there are four proposed Constitutional amendments that will appear on ballots in Alabama. The following material reflects the position of the League of Women Voters of Alabama, based on adopted League positions.

AMENDMENT 1 RELATING TO DISPLAY OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

How it Appears on the Ballot

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, providing for certain religious rights and liberties; authorizing the display of the Ten Commandments on state property and property owned or administrated by a public school or public body; and prohibiting the expenditure of public funds in defense of the constitutionality of this amendment.

Explanation

This would add language to the Constitution of Alabama that would:

- Affirm that everyone has the right to worship God in his or her own way and that no one can be compelled to attend religious worship or contribute to a religious organization.
- Allow the Ten Commandments to be displayed on property owned by the state, including public schools. This display must be "in accordance with Constitutional principles."
- Forbid spending public moneys to defend the amendment from a legal challenge.

League Position

The League of Women Voters believes in the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. The League is convinced that individual rights now protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged. (Impact on Issues, P. 31)

The Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees freedom of religion, as well as freedom from religious compulsion. This amendment would add nothing to those guarantees. What the amendment does add is an incentive to display the Ten Commandments on public property, at public expense. The drafters of this proposal recognize that this part of the amendment is on questionable constitutional grounds, and seek to protect the state from additional expenditures to defend it from challenges.

Recommendation

We recommend a vote against this amendment.

AMENDMENT 2 RELATING TO ABORTION

How it Appears on the Ballot

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended; to declare and otherwise affirm that it is the public policy of this state to recognize and support the sanctity of

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unborn life and the rights of unborn children, most importantly the right to life in all manners and measures appropriate and lawful; and to provide that the constitution of this state does not protect the right to abortion or require the funding of abortion

Explanation

Currently the Alabama Constitution does not contain any language pertaining to abortion. This amendment would make the protection of unborn life, as far as existing laws allow, part of the state's public policy. It also states that public funds cannot be required to be spent for abortions

League Position

The League of Women Voters believes public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices. (Impact on Issues, p. 35)

Currently, the right to abortion is protected by the Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*, although the states are permitted to impose certain restrictions on that right after the 20th week of gestation. This amendment would enshrine the rights of the unborn as public policy in Alabama and, should *Roe v. Wade* be weakened or reversed by the Court, would allow the state to enact further restrictions and even outlaw abortion in the state.

Recommendation

We recommend a vote against this amendment.

AMENDMENT 3 RELATING TO THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

How it Appears on the Ballot

"Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating to the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama, to specify that the congressional districts from which members are appointed continue to reflect those as constituted on January 1, 2018, to remove the State Superintendent of Education from membership, and to delete the requirement that members vacate office at the annual meeting of the board following their seventieth birthday."

Explanation

This would change the composition of the Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama. Currently, the Board is comprised of the Governor, the Superintendent of Education, three members from the Congressional District in which Tuscaloosa is located, and two members from each of the other Congressional Districts in the state. Except for the Governor and the Superintendent of Education, these Trustees cannot serve after their 70th birthdays. If, after the census, Alabama's Congressional Districts are reconfigured, the number of Trustees could change, or the districts in which they are domiciled could change. This amendment would require the Trustees to be appointed from each of the current Congressional Districts. In addition, it would remove the Superintendent of Education as an automatically appointed member of the board and delete the requirement that board members retire after the age of 70 (which would comply with an amendment enacted in 2016 prohibiting age limits for most government officials).

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League Position

There is no League position related to this amendment.

Recommendation

We make no recommendation about this amendment.

**AMENDMENT 4
RELATING TO SPECIAL ELECTIONS**

How it Appears on the Ballot

"Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to provide that, if a vacancy in either the House of Representatives or the Senate occurs on or after October 1 of the third year of a quadrennium, the seat would remain vacant until a successor is elected at the next succeeding general election."

Explanation

Currently, when state legislators are unable to serve out their entire terms, the governor is required to hold a special election to fill these empty positions. This amendment would allow such positions to remain unfilled if the vacancy occurs on or after October 1 of the third year of a 4-year term, leaving a vacancy for as much as 14 months. This would save the state government the expense of holding a special election and possibly a run-off. On the other hand, it could also mean that the constituents of the vacant office would not be represented in the legislature.

League Position

Support for adequate representation of voters is a central tenant of League of Women Voters. This amendment would cause constituents in the affected district to be deprived of their voice for a significant period of time.

Recommendation

We recommend a vote against this amendment.

The Fight for Woman Suffrage in the United States

Submitted by Hattie Kaufman

Each year, August 26 is celebrated as Women's Equality Day, commemorating the certification and inclusion of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

While qualifications for voting in each state are set by state law, over the years certain overriding federal requirements have been established by the Constitution. The 15th Amendment provides that neither race nor previous condition of servitude can be used to disqualify one from voting. The 19th Amendment provides that the right to vote cannot be based on one's gender. The 26th Amendment provides that as long as one is at least 18, he or she cannot be denied the vote based on age.

The movement for women's suffrage grew out of the run-up to the Civil War and its aftermath. Women were heavily involved in the abolition movement, and many were also interested in women's rights. Especially onerous were the laws of coverture, which gave husbands control over their wives' finances, children, and property.

As they developed experience in organizing for change in the fight against slavery, both male and female activists gathered in Seneca Falls, NY in 1848 to discuss procuring rights for women. Among those involved in the Seneca Falls meeting were Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Frederick Douglass. Attendees discussed women's access to education, job opportunities, power to control their own money and property, and greater recognition within the church. Of course, the issue of suffrage was discussed, but it was considered extremely controversial and did not receive the same unanimous support afforded to the other issues. Finally, after a speech by Frederick Douglass urging support for suffrage, the issue was accepted for inclusion by the assembly.

A Declaration of Sentiments was approved by attendees, modeled on the Declaration of Independence. It laid out grievances and recited how women were ill-treated, and it stated:

"Now, in view of this entire disfranchisement of one-half the people of this country, their social and religious degradation--in view of the unjust laws above mentioned, and because women do feel themselves aggrieved, oppressed, and fraudulently deprived of their most sacred rights, we insist that they have immediate admission to all the rights and privileges which belong to them as citizens of the United States."

The Seneca Falls meeting was followed up with annual meetings throughout the 1850s. In the 1860s and 1870s women traveled the country speaking on the lecture circuit. As a major source of entertainment, these lectures were well attended, so ideas were widely disseminated. Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Anna Dickinson lectured frequently. Victoria Woodhull, who was another popular speaker, even ran for President in 1872.

After the Civil War ended, the 15th Amendment was proposed,

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

Arguments about the ratification of this Amendment caused a split in the movement. One group, The National Women's Suffrage Association, led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, opposed the Amendment because it only enfranchised black men; it did not include women's right to vote as well. The motto of this group was:

"Justice, not Favors—men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less. " Not

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Woman Suffrage cont'd

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only did they want a Constitutional amendment giving women the vote, but they also advocated for women's rights to education, divorce, and other measures of equality. The group was led only by women, and was considered more radical, focusing its activities on the national stage.

The American Woman Suffrage Association, led by Lucy Stone, Henry Blackwell, Julia Ward Howe, and Sojourner Truth, came out of the Abolitionist movement and strongly favored the 15th Amendment. The organization focused only on woman suffrage, not on other issues, and preferred to work to get the vote by going on a state-by-state basis. Led by both men and women, it was considered a more moderate organization. Successes with their state campaign came first in the west. The Territory of Wyoming granted women the vote in 1869, and continued it when it became a state in 1890. Colorado followed in 1872; then came Utah and Idaho (1896), Washington (1910), and California (1911).

Throughout the 1880s it became apparent that the conflict between the two groups was counter-productive, and they merged in 1890. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony led the new group, with Carrie Chapman Catt succeeding them.

Efforts continued, and The Women's Parade down Pennsylvania Ave in Washington DC took place in 1913, led by Alice Paul and Lucy Burns. Over 5000 women marched for their right to vote. Riots broke out along the route and over 100 of the marchers had to be treated for injuries.

Alice Paul had watched the activities of the English suffragists and wanted to spearhead more militant efforts, such as those she learned from them. The organization, however, wanted to pursue more traditional efforts, like petitioning and lobbying, so Paul broke away and founded the National Women's Party. Throughout 1917 they picketed the Wilson White House. Many were arrested for obstructing traffic and were fined and sent to the workhouse, where they went on hunger strikes and were force-fed through tubes.

The National Women's Party got a lot of publicity and support for their activities, especially when their violent treatment by the police became known. That, combined with the National American Women Suffrage Association's support of the war effort in WWI garnered a great deal of public support for the cause. Indeed, Woodrow Wilson had been opposed to women suffrage, but in Sept 1918 bowing to popular sentiment; he addressed the Senate in favor of it.

The Amendment was passed by the Congress in 1919. It then gained the necessary $\frac{3}{4}$ vote from the states for ratification on August 18, 1920, when Tennessee voted in favor. It was certified on August 26, 1920 and became part of the Constitution. Alabama did not ratify until 1953, after rejecting it in 1901. Mississippi was the last to ratify, in 1945.

The 19th Amendment reads:

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

Once suffrage was granted, The National American Woman Suffrage Association became the League of Women Voters, recognizing the new status of its members.

Proposal for Membership Development Grant Submitted by Kristen De La Fuente

LWV of Alabama grant program proposes to grow local league and member-at-large unit membership

During the February 25, 2018, board meeting of the LWVAL, a motion was made by LWVAL Treasurer Kristen De La Fuente as follows: I make a motion to establish the LWVAL Grant Program for Local Leagues and Member-At-Large Units subject to board approval of program details and costs.

The motion was carried based on the following proposal. We are now ready to move forward on the proposal! Take a look at what was presented and reach out if you are willing to serve on the committee (see last paragraph for more info).

LWVAL Membership Development Grant (De La Fuente 2/25/18; edited 4/7/18 & 9/20/18)

Objective: To establish a Membership Development Grant to provide small amounts of funding to Local Leagues (LL) and Member-At-Large (MAL) Units in order to increase membership in the LWVAL by increasing the visibility and outreach of LLs and MALs.

Rationale: The grant money would help LLs and MAL units to grow their memberships. The presumption is that as membership increases more grant money would be available in each subsequent year.

Issue: Aside from donations or MAL Unit Dues (established by each MAL), little to no income is generated by MALs. In the first year of formation, the LWVAL provided seed money to the new MAL units (\$50 each plus a rate for each member; Shoals area received \$140 and TNV received \$137.50). MAL unit members pay \$40 in dues to the LWVAL (\$32 goes to the LWVUS) and \$0 goes to the MAL Unit. [Members of LLs submit \$10 per individual and \$5 per additional/student member.]

LLs with fewer than 30 members also may struggle to fund projects/endeavors to attract and retain members as well.

LLs with more than 30 members may not need grants to increase membership, per se, but grants might make a larger-scale project more feasible.

Projected Outcome: The LWVAL Membership Development Grant could assist with the following: (1) Increase LWVAL membership; (2) Improve the profile of the LLs, MALs, and LWVAL; (3) Improve outreach in local communities.

Suggestions to the Board:

- 1) Set aside a certain amount of General Fund income based on membership dues subject to board approval. Suggested rates would be \$2 for each LWVAL member. Total amounts would be calculated based on the LWVAL membership numbers reported to LWVUS on January 31st of each year. A new line item expense would be created for this grant. The amount deter-

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Proposal cont'd

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- mined on January 31st would go into effect on June 1st of the same year for the duration of the fiscal year.
- 2) Establish a committee of at least 3 LWVAL members from various leagues/units who would review the grants plus the LWVAL Treasurer who would serve as the chair of the committee (four members total).
 - 3) Establish a timeframe and/or deadline for soliciting grants. A preferred deadline to submit grants could be June 30th. If funds are still available, a second submission deadline could be implemented on September 30th. The June 30th deadline would be called "round one" and the September 30th deadline would be called "round two."
 - 4) Establish number of grant submissions eligible from each LL/MAL Unit. The preference is to limit this number to one grant submission per LL or MAL unit in round one. Depending on availability of funds, the round two submission would be open to all LL/MAL units regardless of whether a grant was submitted in round one.
 - 5) Establish guidelines for eligibility such as demonstrable need and accountability; include added incentive for soliciting donations by offering LWVAL matching funds.
 - 6) Require a one-page grant outlining
 - a) project/activities,
 - b) requested amount,
 - c) time frame to accomplish activities,
 - d) deliverables/goals (e.g., increase membership by 25%, register 200 voters, host 3 program meetings, invite an out-of-town speaker, etc.).
 - 7) Require receipts for all purchases plus a brief report for accountability.
 - 8) Develop a separate possibility to offer funds as a loan if the need for a grant is not demonstrated (e.g., if a LL or MAL Unit wanted to do some work but was waiting for a grant from National to be disbursed, a loan could be issued and repaid upon receipt of the grant funds).
 - 9) Determine the best use of remaining funds, if any, after the grants have been awarded (e.g., if funds are not spent, should the remaining amount be carried over to the next year of grant funding, or should it be kept in the general fund?).
 - 10) This grant program is subject to an annual review and renewal by the board.

If you are willing to serve as one of the three committee members, contact Kristen De La Fuente directly (kdlf101@gmail.com) to volunteer. Committee members would be involved in the creation of this program and would provide valuable suggestions on the set up and execution of this program. Committee members would also make the final decisions about awarding grants and the funds associated with the selections. The time commitment for this program would involve two conference calls (one hour each) to work out program details, 1-2 hours to read proposals and communicate via email your input plus one conference call to finalize the awards. I hope you see the value in this program as much as I do, and I look forward to working with you (whoever you are!).

Thank you! Kristen

In Memoriam



Louvenia Graham, President of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery, passed away on July 16, 2018. Her death came as a surprise to family and friends.

Louvenia joined the LWVM in 2007 and quickly became one of its leaders. In addition to multiple terms as president, she served as secretary, vice president and treasurer. Voter registration/education was her primary interest both as a leaguer and as an active member of the NAACP and Phi Beta Sorority. She especially enjoyed working with younger voters and potential voters.

She received her bachelor's degree at Alabama State University and her masters from Auburn University Montgomery. Retired from the Montgomery Public School System, Louvenia had taught biology and English at a magnet middle school so, her ex-students lived throughout the area. Whether working at league sponsored candidate forums or voter registration drives ex-students always seemed to be present and greeted her with heartfelt warmth and respect.

At her funeral Louvenia's minister emphasized her commitment to the young and her willingness to volunteer for church-related tasks with special emphasis on her leading the church's student tutorial program. He also noted her sense of humor and sarcastic wit which all present at the funeral knew well.

She will be missed.

Anne Permaloff, Secretary
League of Women Voters of Montgomery



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ABOUT THE LEAGUE

The League of Women Voters is a citizens' organization that has fought since 1920 to improve our government and engage all citizens in the decisions that impact their lives. We operate at national, state, and local levels through more than 800 state and local Leagues, in all 50 states as well as DC, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong.

League of Women Voters Mission Statement

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.

League of Women Voters Education Fund Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters Education Fund works to encourage the active and informed participation of citizens in government to increase understanding of major public policy issues.