

From: lwvcva lisa@leagueofwomensvotersofthecharlottesvillearea.ccsend.com
Subject: LWV CVA 2024 December eVoter
Date: December 3, 2024 at 5:23 PM
To: lisamezzo@gmail.com



December 2024 "eVoter"

Dear League Members,

As spokesperson for our League ,I speak for our Board of Directors in wishing you a happy and safe holiday. I am grateful for all the help you give to our League. We wouldn't be as strong as we are without you. Enjoy your holiday and take time to rest up and recharge. We have a whole new year with new elections and a new General Assembly. ahead!

*Sincerely,
Lisa Hilgartner
President LWV-CVA*

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE AREA

Community Dialogue with General Assembly Representatives

Come hear what our local General Assembly
Representatives have planned for the upcoming
session of the General Assembly

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Saturday, December 14, 2024 | Crozet Library 2020 Library Ave, Crozet, VA 22932 |
| 2:00-4:00pm | |



Consensus Meeting on
The Inalienable Right to Vote

The Consensus Meeting for the Inalienable Right to Vote was held on Saturday, November 16th at The Center at Belvedere. There was a lively debate for all three pieces of the Consensus issue. For Consensus responses [CLICK HERE](#)

Pre session for the General Assembly Women's
Legislative Roundtable
December 4th 9-1pm.
[Register Here](#)

Women's Legislative Roundtables 2025

Join us for the 2025 Legislative Roundtables! All will be hybrid - the zoom link will be the same for each roundtable. The in person sessions will be held at the Virginia General Assembly 7th Floor Conference Room 201 North 9th Street, Richmond. All begin at 8:30AM and end at 9:30 AM

Schedule:

- Jan 8 Voting and Elections
- Jan 15 Gun Violence/Domestic Violence
- Jan 29 -Education/Physical Health
- Feb 5 Childcare
- Feb 12 Environment/Housing
- Feb 19 – Virtual Wrap Up virtual only

[Register Here](#)

January 22nd is League Day at the General Assembly. It will be an in-person event only. More information will come out in our January eVoter.

The Vigil for Victims of the Sandy Hook Mass Murder and for Known Victims of Gun Violence will be held on the **Downtown Mall in Charlottesville**. It will take place at **noon near the Omni on December 14th** (the original date of the mass murder). We are meeting there rather than at the fountain/tree since we assume a kiddie Christmas train will be operating at the mall that day. Virginia will bring a bell, and the sign she made last year.

Transformation: a new program under the title ChapterSpot is the way LWWUS has chosen for local Leagues to pay their dues directly to LWWUS for 2025 onward for all members. It will go into effect in 2025. It will impact our League come July 2025 when our membership dues are up for renewal. It will only affect how we pay dues. No other changes in the way we operate our League are planned: just dues payment.

In our January issue more details will be made as we usher in the change in dues payment only.

Committee News

International Relations and Federal Government NEWS

NOV. 13, 2024

by Gerry Kruger

Lois Sandy once again hosted our International Relations/Federal Government Committee at Linden House on November 13, 2024. Members attending were **Chair, Anita Pilling**, Miriam Fleitman, Rice Wagner, Carol, Cutler, Diane Skalak, and Gerry Kruger. We also welcomed guests Kathleen Reed and Joan Werner, residents of Linden House. **Diane Skalak**, who is an attorney, delved deeply into the US judicial system and shared her research, which included its history as well as little known facts.

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the United States judicial system. It is comprised of one Chief Justice and eight Associate

judicial system. It is comprised of one Chief Justice and eight Associate justices, who like other federal judges, are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate, and enjoy life tenure. After the Revolutionary War, Supreme Court members were given life tenure because the founders didn't want their leader (president) to be able to change the court for political reasons.

John Marshall, the most influential of any justice who has served on the Supreme Court, was Chief Justice from 1801 until his death in 1835. He was responsible for the Supreme Court being given the power to interpret the Constitution and decide if a law was unconstitutional.

Increasing the number of Supreme Court justices has been a controversial topic over the years. There have been nine justices since 1869. Opponents argue that the number would change for partisan reasons. But another reason to add more justices would be to allow more cases to be heard. Presently the Supreme Court only hears about 10% of the cases requested.

Another topic of interest to us has to do with the lack of a code of ethics for the Supreme Court members. We feel it's important that the justices in the highest court of the land be held to certain standards of conduct. Presently no such standards exist.

Appellate courts consist of the US Circuit Courts of Appeals and the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals. The US District Courts are the federal judiciary's trial courts. When a District Court decides a case, litigants may appeal the decision to either the US Circuit Court of Appeals or the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, depending upon the content of the case.

There are some federal courts and boards outside the judicial branch. These consist of the US Tax Court, the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and the US court of appeals for the Armed Forces. Also the Administrative Agency Offices and Boards, the IRS Appeals Office, the Board of Veterans Appeals, and the US Courts of Military Review are federal courts. Decisions of each of the boards can be appealed to one of the appellate courts and even to the Supreme Court.

Two judicial terms that Diane discussed were “**rule by law**” and “**rule of law.**” China's judicial system practices **rule by law**. This means the president or leader can decide whether to enforce a law or not. “**Rule by law**” means all men are equal under the law and must be treated as such. A democracy demands that we practice “**rule of law.**”

Diane also compared state and federal court systems. If there is no federal law pertaining to a particular case, it goes to the state court.

Our committee recommends reading David Toscano's book, *Fighting Political Gridlock*, and would like to invite Toscano to speak at a Sunday seminar.

We decided to cancel our December meeting since this is such a busy time. Our next meeting will take place on January 8 from 10:30 am to noon at Linden House. Our discussion topic will be “The Constitution: Is It Working in Our Current Crises?” Feel free to join us

...to join us.

Health Care Task Force

by Stephanie Lowenhaupt

The Health Care Task Force is collaborating with Healthcare for all Virginians, chaired by the Commonwealth Institute, to identify legislative priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session pertaining to health care access and equity. Once the applicable healthcare bills are filed by our delegates and senators for the upcoming session, we will begin education and advocacy.

We are also following the Constitutional Amendment HJ1- Fundamental Right to Reproductive Freedom. It was passed by the Privileges and Election Committee on November 13, 2024.

The Amendment will be voted on by the General Assembly in the 2025 Session. Then voted on again in the 2026 session. Presuming it passes both sessions, the Constitutional Amendment will appear on the November 2026 Ballot. for Virginia Citizens to vote.

Gun Violence Prevention

by Meg Heubeck

Please support the Gun Violence Prevention Committee on January 20! We will be travelling with our local Charlottesville Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention friends to a MLK, Jr. Day rally at the Virginia Capital! Please SAVE THE DATE and plan to make this important trip. More details to follow.

Here is another other event that you can participate in to support Gun Violence Prevention:

Virginia Vigil & Advocacy Day to Prevent Gun Violence-[Get tickets here.](#)

Meg Heubeck: 540-220-4126

Natural Resources

by Linda Goodling and Peggy Gilges

The Natural Resources Committee has been enjoying the beautiful November foliage and we hope you have been, too!

We urge you to “leave your leaves” on site if possible due to the many environmental benefits of this practice, such as enriching the soil and supporting birds, bugs and other wild critters. If this isn’t possible, mulching the leaves with your mower or composting the leaves are other good choices. In Charlottesville, fall leaves that are removed by the City are sent to Panorama Farms on Earlysville Road for composting.

In any case, try to keep your leaves from going to the landfill. Organic waste— leaves, yard trimmings, and food waste --make up about 34% of the municipal solid waste stream in the U.S., and organic waste that is landfilled releases methane into Earth’s atmosphere. In fact, landfills are the third largest source of human-caused methane emissions in the U.S., and methane is a greenhouse gas 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide over the first 20 years.

Have you visited Albemarle County’s [Environmental Stewardship Hub](#) It’s

a nice resource where you will find more information about composting and other positive things you can do for our environment.

The Natural Resources Committee is a small one. Please join us! Contact Linda Goodling for more information.

In Memoriam

Shelah Scott

Shelah, a long time member of the our local League, passed away October 25th, 2024.

Carol Hogg

Carol was president of our local league from 2002-2004, and a long time member of our league passed away on Nov. 30,2024. She is survived by her husband David, who continues to be a member in long standing in our League.

Update your LWV-CVA Handbook WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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LWV CVA Calendar of Events for December 2024

Mark your Calendars!

Dec. 4th - Women's Legislative Round Table via online. hybrid session 9-12:30

December 14th Meet our General Assembly Reps at Crozet Library from 2-4pm

President: Lisa Hilgartner
eVoter Editors: Lisa Hilgartner and Shirley Payne
Visit our website: lww-cva.org



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. We are committed to applying the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of our operations and activities. We support governmental policies that apply these principles in addressing the social, environmental and economic problems in our communities.

League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area | PO Box 2786 | Charlottesville, VA
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