

From: lwvcva lisa@leagueofwomenvotersofthecharlottesvillearea.ccsend.com
Subject: LWV CVA 2025 January eVoter
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To: lisamezzo@gmail.com



January 2025 "eVoter"

Happy New Year 2025!



2025 LWV-Charlottesville Finance Drive

During the month of January, we are holding our annual 2025 Finance Drive. Your charitable donation directly supports the League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area as we promote education, advocacy and civic participation with a commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). The challenges facing our democracy have never been greater and your support is needed now more than ever.

You can make your donation in one of two ways: by sending a check in the mail or

online with PayPal.

By mail- Please mail check to:

LWV CVA 2025 Finance Drive

PO Box 2786

Charlottesville, VA 22902

Online: Go to our website's home page: www.lwv-cva.org . Click on the DONATE button at the bottom of the home page. A modest processing fee is deducted from on-line contributions.

The League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area sincerely thanks you for your consideration.

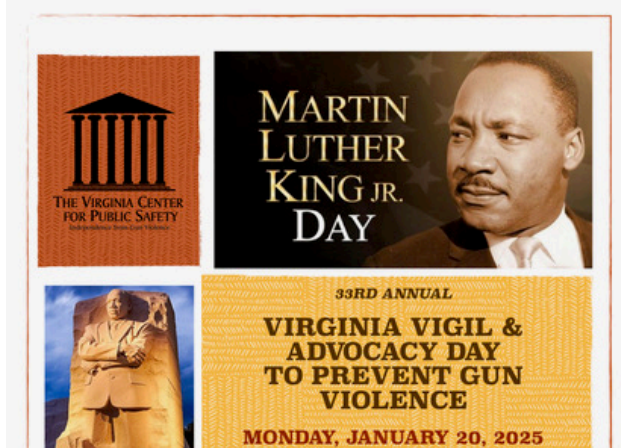
Kick Off for Our Finance Drive Sunday, January 19th from 1-3 at The Barn at Eastwood Winery 2531 Scottsville Rd.(Rte 20 S) Charlottesville 22902

Let's celebrate the new year before we roll up our sleeves and get to work. We have a gubernatorial race this year, and a Charlottesville City Council race that will use Ranked Choice Voting. Who will inform, and educate voters about this? We will .

All this takes money and we need your help! You'll receive a letter in the mail soon asking you to give to our organization.

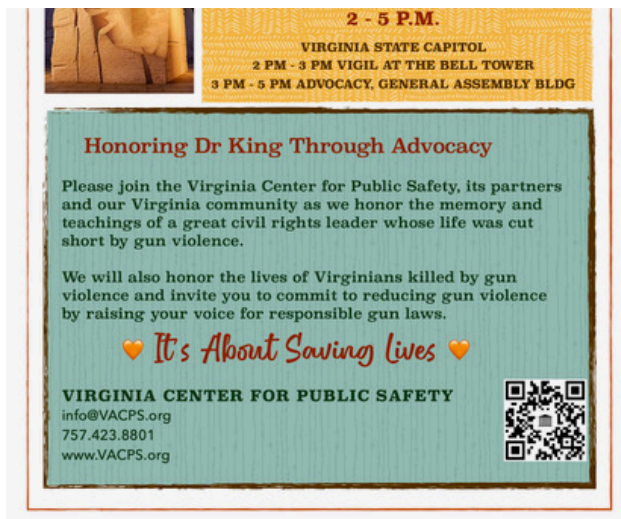
So let's get together for our launch. **Come join us.**

Snacks will be provided at the event. Although a donation is not required to attend, your check will be deeply appreciated.



MLK DAY -GVP Richmond Rally January 20, 2025

Meg Heubeck is coordinating this event for our members. There will be a bus taking you to and from the capitol for this event.



See Meg's Gun Violence Prevention Committee news below for more information.

Come Join Us for **League Day** at the General Assembly!

Date/Time: Jan 22 - 9am - 11am

Place: Omni Hotel in Richmond

Magnolia Room 100 S 12th St, Richmond

Speakers will focus on the three amendments that are being put forth: right to vote, reproductive freedom and marriage equality. There will be handouts on all of our priorities.

Then we will visit our members of the General Assembly - from 11am - on

\$35 here is RSVP link :

[Sign Up Here](#)

IF you are coming in the night before, consider attending Democracy Day - the campaign financing/clean government event. They have a full day program which is found here <https://www.vademocracyday.com/>

For those who are coming in late on the 21st there are two evening events.

4 PM: Rally at the Bell Tower

- Let's raise our voices and have a short rally at the Bell Tower on the Capital Grounds. Its bell still rings to call members of the General Assembly to session and we will sound the alarm on the need for good governance legislation as a means to ensure the integrity of government.
- 5 pm Happy Hour If you're planning to be in Richmond for Democracy Day (January 21st), consider joining us for a Democracy Happy Hour at the Tobacco Company from 5-7PM! Register in advance to guarantee your drink ticket!

Women's Legislative Roundtable Starts January 8, 8:30-9:30 am

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.

Transformation: A New Way We'll Pay Dues

LWVUS has chosen to switch the payment collection of dues to a new model. ChapterSpot a software company hired by LWVUS to oversee this undertaking, uses STRIPE, a well known agency to collect dues and disperse payments to the local Leagues. Local Leagues will no longer collect dues if payment is online. For us this means a greater share of the dues. We now only retain approximately 12% of our dues. This will increase to 20%.

The start date is February 1st but before that you will receive an email from ChapterSpot/Stripe to make sure your contact information is accurate.

Please be on the look out for it and check your spam if you do not see it in your inbox by the end of January.

We will not see any change as to how we do business in dues or donations until our fiscal year ends June 30th,2025

For our League the change in the manner in which we pay dues start July 2025.

December Events



LWV CVA Hosts Our Reps

On Saturday, December 14th, our League welcomed our General Assembly Representatives at Crozet Library to give us insight into what they want to see happen in the January/February General Assembly Session. We had about 25 people in attendance many of whom were members of the public.

Senator Deeds stated that this will be a short session with emphasis on health care and energy production and data center being major consumers of energy.

Del. Laufer added that the budget will be in focus with allocation of funds for school infrastructure spending, disaster relief, recycling, gun violence prevention bills.

Del. Callsen's rep, Jason Melendez, spoke for her about criminal justice reform bills, affordable housing measures, and renter protection, and to divide responsibilities of VA Workforce commission to ensure that local community colleges are teaching what needs to be taught for local economies.

All three told off 3 amendments up now: reproductive rights, marriage rights, and immediate restoration of voting rights to felons who have served their sentences.

What can we do as constituents to help our representatives? Stay engaged, 100% of the time says, Senator Deeds. Let your representatives hear from you.

Our meeting with our General Assembly elected officials was reported in the Crozet Gazette. [Click here](#) to read the article.

The Vigil for Victims of the Sandy Hook and for Known Victims of Gun Violence

was held on the Downtown Mall in Charlottesville . Members of our Gun Violence Prevention Committee met at noon near the Omni on December 14th



Committee News

International Relations and Federal Government Committee
Happy New Year to All!

On Wednesday, January 15th we'll come out of hibernation to meet again at Linden House, 1250 Branchlands, from 1-3:00 pm. Note new time. Several asked to meet in the afternoon. **The discussion will focus on the advantages and disadvantages of using state courts over federal courts when litigating civil rights, voting rights, and criminal justice issues.** The concept has been brewing among legal scholars who focus on these issues for some time now. I'll be drawing from an article that appeared this summer in The New Yorker.

In addition, the national League wants us to discuss the need for **Supreme Court ethics**. We've done this at two of our meetings already, but if you have had any new thoughts on it, please share them. I was also hoping someone could come to the meeting with information on Virginia courts' ethics. Do VA courts have a code of ethics? What about other states?

I really look forward to seeing everyone. Hope this new time works for more people. Thank you, Lois Sandy, for helping us with this lovely venue.

Anita

Gun Violence Prevention by Meg Heubeck

January is a busy month for the Gun Violence Prevention Committee! With the opening of the General Assembly for a short session, there are a lot of actions we are taking to make sure that good policy is made to prevent gun violence in Virginia. **WE NEED YOU!!!!**

Please review the following events and plan to attend at least one of these activities this month:

Martin Luther King, Jr, Day Rally- Monday, January 20 (Jump on the bus with us and attend.)

9am- Bus departs Charlottesville for RVA
2pm- Vigil at the Bell Tower, Capitol Grounds
3-5pm Lobby our representatives

LWV Advocacy Day- Wednesday, January 22nd

8:30am-3pm- interested in going, email mfheubeck@virginia.edu we can carpool!

Gun Violence Prevention Committee Meeting- Monday, January 27 3pm

[https://virginia.zoom.us/j/97589478818?](https://virginia.zoom.us/j/97589478818?pwd=rtwvvg1KYxGdAnUZafqa9vqXpy2ujhL.1)
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It would be great to see more involvement in the committee. I hope that some of you will join us during the month of January as we make an effort to make our community safer for everyone!

Virginia Vigil & Advocacy Day to Prevent Gun Violence-[Get tickets here.](#)
Meg Heubeck: 540-220-4126

From the Natural Resources Committee by Peggy Gilges

This month the Board of Supervisors will continue their work on AC44, the update of the County's Comprehensive Plan. On January 8, the Board will have a work session to discuss the section of the Comp Plan focused on Rural Area (RA) land use.

As our population grows, development continues, and climate change impacts intensify, there is greater need to proactively conserve land, forest and water resources in the County. The RA plays a vital role in helping us mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon, moderating temperatures, slowing and absorbing unprecedented rainfalls, protecting water quality and quantity, and preserving biodiversity.

The County can protect rural land from environmental degradation and fragmentation through easement programs, but both the County's Easement Authority and Acquisition of Conservation Easements (ACE) program need more financial and staffing support to do this. Whether you are a city or county resident, RA land conservation benefits you! Follow the Board of Supervisors' discussions this month, and feel free to weigh in (email: BOS @albemarle.org). Stay abreast of the AC44 progress on RA land use and the next section on Environmental Stewardship at the [County's website](#).

The Natural Resources Committee's next meeting will be held in the offices of the Piedmont Environmental Council on Monday, January 27 at 4 pm. We are organizing a 2025 community dialogue on plastic (and microplastic) pollution.

LWV CVA Calendar of Events for January 2025

Mark your Calendars!

Jan. 7th- 5 -6 pm Voter Services meeting via Zoom Contact Kim Harris at kwharris555@gmail.com

Jan. 15th -1-3 pm IR/FE meet at Linden House

Jan, 16th - 3-5 pm Board Meeting at Northside Library

January 20- MLK Day Vigil for Gun Violence Prevention and Meet with GA Reps. Contact Meg Heubeck at mfheubeck@virginia.edu

January 22 League Day Meet your GA Reps in Richmond

January 27 from 3-4 pm Gun Violence Prevention Mtg via Zoom Contact Meg Heubeck mfheubeck@virginia.edu

January 27 from 4-5pm Natural resources meet at PEC office.

League of Women Voters of the Charlottesville Area
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
22902 US

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