

# LWV of South Hampton Roads

Membership Orientation



2024 - South Hampton Roads

# **Welcome to the LWV of South Hampton Roads!**

*Membership Orientation - What you will learn:*

**\* Our Mission**

**\* General Overview**

**\* What We Do & Our Vision**

**\* Intro to Your Local League**

**\* Our Programs & How to Get Involved**

# What is the League of Women Voters?

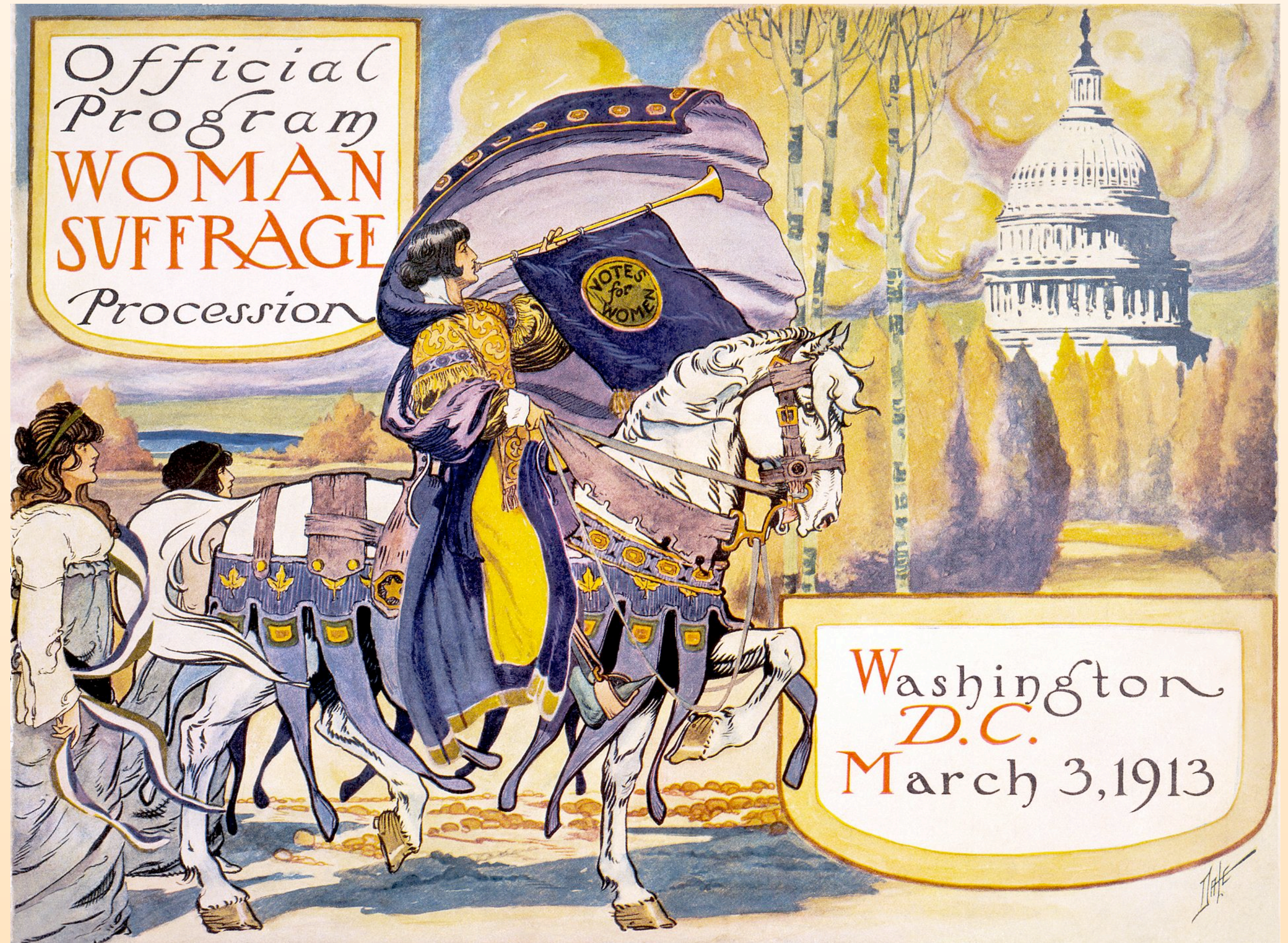
The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a nonpartisan, grassroots nonprofit dedicated to empowering everyone to fully participate in our democracy. With active Leagues in all 50 states and more than 750 Leagues across the country, we protect every American's freedom to vote by engaging in:

- \* advocacy,
- \* education,
- \* litigation, and
- \* organizing



# Our Past

Founded in 1920, the League was a merger of the National Council of Women Voters and the National American Women's Suffrage Association. Referred to as a "mighty political experiment," it aimed to help newly enfranchised women exercise their right to vote.



# What is LWVSHR?

\* When you join your local LWV, you also become a member of the STATE and NATIONAL LWV.

\* Like the national and state levels, The League of Women Voters of South Hampton Roads (LWVSHR) is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active citizen participation in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues through education and advocacy.

# Our Mission:

# EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

The League of Women Voters is a **nonpartisan, grassroots** organization working to **protect and expand voting rights** and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through **advocacy, education,** and **litigation**, at the local, state, and national levels.

**What We Do:**

# Empowering Voters



# ISSUES (not political parties)

Advocacy

The League of Women of the  
United States (LWVUS)

Education

The League of Women Voters  
Education Fund (LWVEF)

# The League of Women of the United States (LWVUS)

## Advocacy

Your charitable gift to the LWVUS, a 501(c)(4) organization, is not tax-deductible.

Your gift will support our work to increase understanding of major public policy issues through education advocacy.

# The League of Women of the United States (LWVEF)

## Education

Your charitable gift to the (LWVEF), a 501(c)(3) organization, is tax-deductible (Tax ID Number: 53-0239013) to the extent permitted by law. Your gift will support our work :

- \* To provide Election Information through our election resource [VOTE411.org](https://VOTE411.org), candidate forums, and debates.
- \* Register Voters

# What is a Position?

The League of Women Voters takes action on an issue only when we have a position addressing that particular issue.

Members must study and come to consensus on an issue, in order to form a position. This thorough grassroots process ensures that our advocacy is:

- well considered by a broad range of people.
- understood by our members, and
- we have a sense of the political environment.



# LWVSHR has created positions on local issues including:

- \* Green Space
- \* Gun Violence Prevention
- \* Housing
- \* Regional Cooperation
- \* Transportation
- \* Local News
- \* Local Residential Recycling



# Topics we are currently studying include:

- \* Affordable Housing
- \* Women's Issues
- \* General Environmental Issues
- \* Accessibility



# League of Women Voters

## Empowering Voters ...

- LWV was founded on February 14th, 1920 in Chicago
- The LWV Education Fund was established in 1957
- LWV sponsored the presidential debates in the 1980's
- LWV launched Vote 411 in 2006
- The Fair Maps campaign began in 2019
- In 2024, LWV condemned the January 6th attack on the US Capitol, and called for Congressional action to “protect our rights, our election officials, and our free and fair elections.”

# What We Do: **Defending Democracy**



# Advocacy: Action Alerts on Positions

Positions create a foundation for advocacy. Once you join the LWV, you will receive emails (Action Alerts) urging you to contact your elected officials regarding our positions and legislation. At the present time Action Alerts include:

- \* Defending Equal Access to the Ballot,
- \* Protecting our Youth from Climate Change,
- \* Urging Democrats & Republicans to work together to protect Voting Rights,
- \* Urging passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, and
- \* Rooting Out Dark Money

## MONEY IN POLITICS

We work to ensure that our government serves the people, not wealthy special interests, by promoting transparency, limiting SuperPACs, and eliminating dark money.

# Litigation

The LWV stands against unfair voting districts.

The League joined eleven state lawsuits and six federal cases challenging partisan and/or racial gerrymandering. Of these cases, 2 partisan gerrymandering and 4 racial gerrymandering challenges were ultimately successful.



# Taking a Public Stand

## **LWV Statement on the Three-Year Anniversary of the January 6th Insurrection**

“The violent attempt to overturn the 2020 election results was a flagrant disregard of the core components of our democracy — the power of the vote and the peaceful transition of presidential power. This must not happen again.”

“As this presidential election cycle begins, and millions of Americans head to the polls to vote for the next president in primaries starting this month, there is more work to be done to defend our democracy. We need Congress to pass federal voting rights legislation to protect our rights, our election officials, and our free and fair elections.”

Read the full statement online at the [LWV Newsroom](#)

LWV Vision:

# A More Inclusive Democracy



# League of Women Voters: Vision

- \* Our vision includes a more inclusive democracy where all Americans, regardless of gender, sex, race, ability, or party can see themselves represented in our government.
- \* We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.
- \* To build this vision, we bring an anti-racist, social justice lens to the issues of:
  - \* Expanding Voter Access;
  - \* Fighting Voter Suppression;
  - \* Money in Politics;
  - \* Redistricting; and
  - \* Safe and Fair Elections.

# Overview

The League of Women Voters ... over 100 years of advocacy



**Your Local League: LWVSHR**



# How to Get Involved: LWV - South Hampton Roads

- \* Help Register Voters
- \* Participate in a Study
- \* Write your Representatives
- \* Join the Observer Corps
- \* Pick a topic where we have a position and help out (local, national or state level)
- \* Donate funds, time or talent
- \* Attend a LWV-SHR online meeting (like League Lite!)



# Welcome to LWV - South Hampton Roads

## Officers

- \* Chris Anderson, Co-President
- \* Josie Bergstrom, Co-President
- \* Karen Perham-Lippman, Co-President
- \* Kristy Lockhart, 1st Vice President
- \* Jeanne Hanewich, Secretary
- \* Sharon Rodier, Treasurer

## Board of Directors

- \* Susan Adams
- \* Sally Clarkson
- \* Ruth Cookson
- \* Sue Keefe
- \* Janice Taylor



# How to Get Involved: LWV - South Hampton Roads

## \* JOIN US!

All memberships are valid for one year.

\* Individual members: \$75 per year is the recommended amount, or pay what you can (\$20 minimum).

\* You can add a second member (\$150 total for both recommended, \$40 for both minimum), but they each will need to provide a unique email address.

\* Life members: In appreciation of their dedication to democracy, Life Members (members for more than 50 years) are exempt from membership dues.

For more information, please get in touch!

Phone: (757) 258-0500

P.O. Box 1010, Norfolk, VA 23501

