

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE HUNTINGTON AREA

February E-Mail Bulletin



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Voting is my super power!

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West Virginia Says No to the DOJ

Nyoka Baker Chapman



WV Secretary of State Kris Warner has made it clear that he will not be releasing our state's voter information as requested to the US Department of Justice. His full announcement can be read on the WV SOS Website. <https://sos.wv.gov/news/Pages/02-11-26-A.aspx> A link is also provided to the letter written by WV SOS general counsel of February 11th to the Election Division of the US Department of Justice that clarifies the denial, citing sections of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002, The National Voter Registration Act of 1993, Title III of the Civil Rights Act of 1960 and the Privacy Act of 1974.

The DOJ's initial request for voter information was made in September 2025 but was refused. A second demand was received on February 4th. WV SOS Kris Warner was quoted as saying "Just not gonna happen, mainly because West Virginia law says we're not going to share personal information." <https://wvpublic.org/story/government/voter-information-for-doj-not-gonna-happen-says-warner/>

WV has yet to be added to this list which is tracking DOJ legal actions being taken against states who have failed to cooperate. <https://statedemocracy.law.wisc.edu/tracker-doj-lawsuits-states-voter-data/> So far, legal complaints have already been dismissed in the states of California,

Georgia, Oregon and Michigan. The LWVC, represented by the ACLU, was a Petitioner in the California Case of *United States v. Weber* regarding that state's noncompliance with the DOJ. <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/federal-court-dismisses-doj-lawsuit-seeking-california-voter-data>

So why are states receiving these requests when the administration of election operations is presumed to be constitutionally designated to the states? Getting information voluntarily without litigation is noted in a report from Stateline.org. Reference is made that voters could be removed from a voter roll if flagged by the federal government as ineligible. The article notes that the DOJ is sharing available information with the Department of Homeland Security in an attempt to identify non-citizens. The current administration is connecting the dots per changes made to the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE tool) and the product of the DOJ inquiries would be a resource for that system. <https://stateline.org/2025/08/15/trump-wants-states-to-feed-voter-info-into-powerful-citizenship-data-program/> <https://stateline.org/2025/12/18/trumps-doj-offers-states-confidential-deal-to-wipe-voters-flagged-by-feds-as-ineligible/>

Now, in light of current events, Article 1 Section 4 is definitely worth reading again, as well as the 14th Amendment. <https://constitutioncenter.org/theconstitution/articles/article-i/clauses/750#elections-clause-morley-tolson>. The SAVE Act that is headed to the Senate was amended in the house before passage and will attempt to override current laws that have shielded states from DOJ directives and compel states to release voter rolls directly to the DHS. The Brennan Center for Justice summarized the amendment with an update to an article of February 9th. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/new-save-act-bills-would-still-block-millions-americans-voting>

'..... The bill has since been amended in the House to replace that requirement with a directive that states regularly submit their voter rolls to the Department of Homeland Security, as well as a restrictive photo ID requirement for voting.'

The SAVE Act, also known as the SAVE America Act, wants to make laws to solve problems that don't exist, and due to the previously noted dismissals is it even legal? Any provisions that further embed citizenship verification issues into state voting operations have the potential to compromise law abiding citizens who have already complied with all voter registration requirements. No American should be made afraid to vote or to register to vote because of an implied ethnicity in the spelling of their name.

We know that Democracy is the glue that holds our Republic together and that free and fair elections are the foundation of sustaining our fundamental rights. If Congress decides to fulfill the goals of an administration bent on changing the framework of our government as we have known it, then we are no longer the people but a piece of desirable or undesirable data, that by one way or another, can just be erased.

<https://www.ncsl.org/state-legislatures-news/details/9-things-to-know-about-the-proposed-save-act> [https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/homeland-securitys-save-program-exacerbates-risks-voters#:~:text=DHS's%20U.S.%20Citizenship%20and%20Immigration,of%20American%20citizens%20from%20voting.\)](https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/homeland-securitys-save-program-exacerbates-risks-voters#:~:text=DHS's%20U.S.%20Citizenship%20and%20Immigration,of%20American%20citizens%20from%20voting.)

***New Date *** March 14th ***

A Half Century of Service

A Conversation with Betty Barrett



January 31, 2:00 pm at The Woodlands
1 Bradley Foster Drive, Huntington

Brought to you by the WV League of Women Voters and
Huntington NOW chapter
A story of leadership

This focused interview explores:

- Women-led advocacy
- Coalition Building

This conversation reflects on the power of women's
leadership, public service, and community-driven
change.

All are welcome!





Finance Letter

Betty Barrett

All the political notices we have been receiving remind us the midterm election is coming. That means that Leagues all over the country are gearing up to provide good information to voters on becoming informed voters. And that costs a little money.

We are asking our community to help us by sending a contribution during our Finance Drive. Letters are going out right now. If you are a member and want to help, you may send a check to our treasurer, Carolyn Bagby, 79 North Bradley Road, Huntington, WV 25701.

If you would like to make it tax-deductible, send it to LWV Education Fund, PO Box 96837, Washington, DC 20090. We will also welcome your help as a member of the Voters Service Committee. We have some interesting plans for this spring.

Primary Election Dates and Deadlines

<https://sos.wv.gov/elections/pages/govotewv.aspx>

January 1 - May 6, 2026 - Absentee Application Period - Eligible Absentee Voters can send an absentee ballot application to their County Clerk in person, by mail, or electronically.

January 1 - May 6, 2026 - Absentee Application Period - Military or Overseas Voters may request an absentee ballot.

January 12 - January 31, 2026 - Candidate Filing Period

March 24, 2026 - Write-in Candidate Filing Deadline

March 27, 2026 - County Clerks begin mailing absentee ballots to voters from whom they received applications

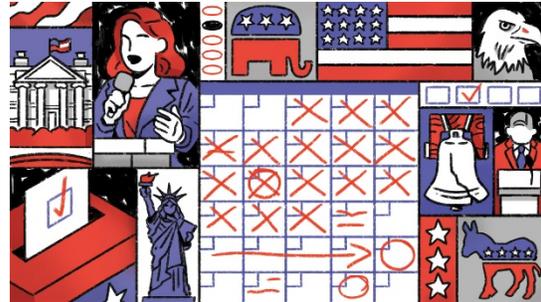
April 21, 2026 - Voter Registration Deadline

April 29 - May 9, 2026 - Early Voting in Person - Voter may vote an early ballot at the county courthouse, an annex or a designated community voting location during normal business hours. Early voting must be conducted between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on the last 2 Saturdays before the Primary Election.

May 5 - Noon, May 12, 2026- Emergency Absentee Voting

Registered voters and other qualified voters in the county may be eligible to receive an emergency absentee ballot in the following circumstances:

- Voter is in the hospital on Election Day;



- Voter is a replacement poll worker appointed after the period for Early Voting;
- Voter is in a licensed health care facility within an adjacent county or within 35 miles of the county seat (county policy required);
- Voter is in a nursing home within the county if he or she has resided there for a period of less than 30 days (county policy required); or
- Voter becomes confined, on or after the seventh day preceding an election, to a specific location within the county because of illness, injury, physical disability, or immobility due to advanced age or other medical reasons (county policy required).

May 6, 2026 - Deadline for Absentee Ballot Applications

May 9, 2026 - Deadline for Early Voting in Person

May 11, 2026 - Deadline for Hand-Deliver Absentee Ballot to the Clerk's Office

May 12, 2026 - ELECTION DAY

May 12, 2026 - Absentee Ballots Received Electronically from Eligible Voters Accepted - Absentee ballots submitted electronically by eligible military and overseas voters and eligible voters with physical disabilities are accepted by close of polls.

May 13, 2026 - Absentee Ballots without Postmark Accepted

May 18, 2026 - Absentee Ballots Postmarked by Election Day Accepted

Electronic Voting Using Democracy Live

The process is explained in a YouTube Video available on the WV Secretary of State Website. See *Electronic & Online Voting Using the Democracy Live Platform

<https://sos.wv.gov/elections/Pages/ElectronicVoting.aspx>

If you have questions, you may call: 304.558.6000
or toll free 866.767.8683; email: Elections@wvsos.gov



LWVWV 2nd Vice President Julie Archer
with
LWVHA Co-President Wendy Thomas

Policy Day at the State Capitol Making Some Noise!

LWVWV Members
L-R Seated: Voter Services Chair Autumn Summers, Co-President Judy Ball; standing LWVHA Co-President Wendy Thomas, Morgantown-Monongalia LWV member Ron Allen, Treasurer Teresa Koon



Membership Mania

Marcia Daoust

The LWV of the Huntington Area now has 47 members, according to the LWVUS official roster.

We hope you can be active and respond to the many League calls for action, including those from the LWV WV, called

“Make Some Noise!” That is one way we can impact the future of our community and country. Many times, these requests are time critical, because of the way the Legislative branches work.

We also need you to volunteer to serve on various local League committees. Please let us know if you're interested! Many of these responsibilities are short-term.

Please remember that dues are required within one year after you last paid them. You may contact Marcia, our Membership Chair, if you are unsure whether you need to renew them, anywhere between \$20-\$75.

Contact info: Gmardaoust@gmail.com or 304-840-9657.





MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

CONTACT INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____
Street Address City State Zip Code

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Understanding the demographics of LWV's membership base helps us progress in our value of being a fully inclusive organization. **Please fill out as much of the following info as you are comfortable with:**

Gender: _____ Pronouns: _____ Race/Ethnicity: _____ Birth Year: _____

DUES AMOUNT

Please select the dues amount you wish to pay. **The recommended rate is \$75.00**, but you may choose an amount below that, down to a minimum of \$20.00. Higher dues payments help to allow some members to pay below the recommended amount but do not grant additional benefits. *Attach a check payable to the League of Women Voters of the United States.*

\$75.00/year \$150.00/year \$250.00/year \$500.00/year

Choose your own amount (minimum \$20.00): _____

The amount you choose to pay in dues will be split between your local, state, and national League. Would you like to make an additional donation exclusively to your local League?

Yes No Amount: _____

If yes, please attach a separate check payable to your local League.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Select volunteer opportunities of interest:

Voter Education Communications Advocacy Operations

Do you prefer in person, virtual, or hybrid meetings? _____

What is your availability (e.g., weekdays, weekends, evenings)? _____

Do you have any accessibility needs for attending meetings/events? _____