

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE HUNTINGTON AREA

October 2025 E-Mail Bulletin



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Voting is my super power!

WV HB 3016: Changes to WV Voting Laws.....	Page 1
Be Ready and Registered.....	Page 3
Voting Is Our Superpower.....	Page 5
Keeping Artificial Intelligence Out of WV Election Campaigns WV HB 484...	Page 7
WV Ethics Commission Resists Approval of HB 2120.....	Page 7
WV HB 2014: The Data Center Dilemma.....	Page 8
A Bit More and More to Come.....	Page 10
Congratulations Wendy Thomas.....	Page 12
Membership.....	Page 13



WV HB 3016: Changes to WV Voting Laws

Nyoka Baker Chapman

Federal enforcement of the **Real ID Act**, signed into law on May 11 2005, became effective on its deadline of May 7, 2025. Following the recommendations of the 9/11

Commission, the Real ID Act established security measures for any identification used for federal purposes.

<https://transportation.wv.gov/DMV/realid/Pages/default.aspx#:~:text=Passed%20by%20Congress%20in%202005,star%E2%80%9D%20license%20or%20ID%20card.>

Federal law **18 U.S.C. § 611** Prohibits non-citizens from voting in federal elections. The statute prohibiting voting by aliens, was added by Public Law 104-208 on September 30, 1996 (**Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of**

1996). Stricter Voter ID requirements were deemed necessary by our WV legislature as a means of proving citizenship and compliance with US Law.

Effective July 11, 2025, **HB 3016** has made changes to voting requirements in WV that will now require a Photo ID to vote. Your voter registration card alone will not be enough.

For those who may not have one of the accepted photo IDs listed in the WV Secretary of State's '**Be Registered and Ready**' information listed on their website, *there is an affidavit available at a WV County Clerk's office to process a voter registration card that includes a photo ID.* A third party who has known the voter for at least 6 months and has appropriate identification can affirm the identity of the voter by the affidavit. For those *with* accepted photo ID, you will not need to have a voter registration card with your picture on it, but it does affirm your polling location and proof of voter registration which is a good thing.

The following IDs are no longer accepted for voting in West Virginia: voter registration cards without photo ID, US birth certificates, hunting or fishing licenses, SNAP, Medicaid, or TANF program IDs, bank or debit cards, utility bills or bank statements, health insurance cards, or concealed carry permits.

By now, everyone should have a '**Gold Star**' on their driver's license, which is evidence that you have provided the WV Dept of Motor Vehicles with your original vital information and that they have an official copy on record. Though some may have not opted for it in the past, it is time to revisit Real ID requirements. Though not noted on the WVSOS voter information as being a specific requirement, it could be made an issue later at the polls for those without it.

We all want to be able to enjoy the freedom to vote in a safe and secure environment with the confidence that our vote is being accurately counted. Being prepared and showing up to cast our ballot (or submitting one's ballot by mail as needed) is an obligation that fulfills our civic responsibility to actively participate in a government by the people. No matter what changes may present in the future we must be ready to Vote.

Other bills that affect West Virginia elections that have been signed into law include:

- **SB 486** amends state code to require US citizenship for all elections including state, county, municipal and special elections.
- **SB 490** bans Ranked Choice voting in WV.
- **SB 487** lowers the inactive voter time frame before being removed from the rolls from 4 to 2 years.
- **SB 50** now requires that municipal elections be held at the same time as statewide.

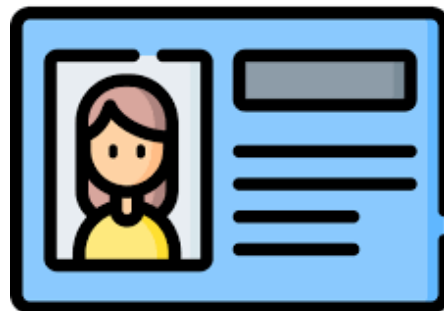
A small addition here in case you are not aware, the State of WV does have laws in place that protect voters at the polls. (**§18-2C-3 prohibiting harassment, intimidation or bullying**, see <https://code.wvlegislature.gov/18-2C-3/>). Forms for complaints are available on the WVSOS website.

Be Registered and Ready

Per the WV Secretary of State Website

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

West Virginia voters must show an approved form of photo identification at the polls during early voting or on Election Day. All forms of ID must be valid and not expired.



This law does not apply to absentee-by-mail voters or individuals who qualify for an exception (see details below).

First-time voters who did not provide ID when registering must show an approved form of ID as listed in the First-Time Voter ID Requirements section.

The information below is a summary of voter ID laws. To view the full laws on ID requirements, please refer to W.Va. Code §3-1-34 and §3-2-10(g-i).

The following forms of ID are acceptable at the polling place:

- West Virginia driver's license or state-issued ID
- Driver's license from another state
- U.S. passport or passport card
- Employee ID with photo issued by local, state, or federal government
- Student ID with photo from a WV institution of higher education or a WV high school
- U.S. military ID with photo
- Voter registration card with photo issued by a WV county clerk or the WV Secretary of State
- An ID issued by the DMV without a photo for voters who swear and affirm that they belong to recognized religious communities that prohibit them from being photographed

Of the IDs listed above, if the voter is 65 years of age or older and the ID is expired, it is still acceptable if the document was not expired on their 65th birthday.

There are three exceptions to the voter ID requirement:

- **Signed, sworn statement by an adult who has known the voter for 6 months or more.**
 - Must have known the voter for at least six (6) months.

- Must show a valid photo ID with current name and address.
- Must sign an affidavit confirming the voter's identity.
- **A Poll Worker Knows the Voter.**
 - Must have known the voter for at least six (6) months.
 - No affidavit or ID required for poll workers.
- **Residents of State Care Facilities.**
 - Voter must be a resident of a licensed WV state care facility.
 - The care facility must be the polling place.
 - The resident's polling place must be located at the care facility.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **What if a voter cannot obtain any of the forms of ID?**
 - Registered voters can receive a free voter ID card by submitting an application in person at their county clerk's office.
- **What if a voter with no ID doesn't fall under any exemptions?**
 1. The voter will vote a provisional ballot at the polls.
 2. Before canvass, the provisional ballot signature is compared to the voter's registration signature.
 3. If the signatures match, the vote should count at canvass.

First-Time Voter ID Requirements

If you registered to vote for the first time in WV or your county and have not voted in a federal election in the state, valid first-time voter ID must be shown with your registration application or the first time you vote.

- **My first time voting will be in person:** You must show one of the forms of valid ID listed below at the polling place.
- **My first time voting will be absentee by mail:** You must send a copy of one of the forms of valid ID listed below with your ballot. Important: Be sure to place the copy of your ID in your return envelope, "Absent Voter's Ballot Envelope No. 2," outside of the secrecy envelope that contains your ballot.

Valid ID for First Time Voters: only the following documents that show your current name and address can be accepted:

- Valid Photo Identification

- Utility Bill
- Bank Statement
- Government Check
- Paycheck
- Any Other Official Government Document

If a first-time voter does not provide one of the forms of valid ID listed above when voting for the first time in West Virginia or a county, then the ballot will be made provisional. Provisional ballots are not included in the Election Day results but will be considered by the Board of Canvassers at canvass.

To view the law on first-time voting ID requirements, please refer to W. Va. Code § 3-2-10(g) and (h).

More information is available at [GoVoteWV.com](https://www.GoVoteWV.com) or by calling the WVSOS Office at 304-558-6000 or toll free: (866) 767-8683.

Questions can also be answered by the Cabell County Clerk's office at 304 526-8625 during regular business hours Mon-Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Voting Is Our Superpower!

Nyoka Baker Chapman

The Voice of “We the People” resides in the motivation to exercise our right to vote. Yet, only **55.5%** of eligible WV Voters voted in the 2024 election. In stark contrast the number of eligible voters who cast ballots in the same election in neighboring states were 71.2% in PA, 71.19% in Va, 62.1% in KY and 68.9% OH. The national average for the same year was 64.1%. As to why WV Voter turnout is so low and what can we do about it are questions that need answers.

[https://ballotpedia.org/Voter turnout in West Virginia#:~:text=The%20overall%20turnout%20rate%20of,this%le%20to%2020page%20you%20will%20find](https://ballotpedia.org/Voter_turnout_in_West_Virginia#:~:text=The%20overall%20turnout%20rate%20of,this%le%20to%2020page%20you%20will%20find)



The LWV of the Huntington Area is honored that **Delegates Sean Hornbuckle and Patrick Lucas** will be joining us for an in-person discussion on why more West Virginians aren't exercising their Superpower. **Join us for a conversation on “What’s Scary about Voting?” at the Woodlands on Monday, October 27th, at 6 pm.**

What's Scary About Voting?

A Conversation With WV Legislators

Sean Hornbuckle
Delegate, Cabell 25th District



Patrick Lucas
Delegate, Cabell 24th District



MONDAY
OCT 27
at 6 PM



Sorting Out
the VOTE!

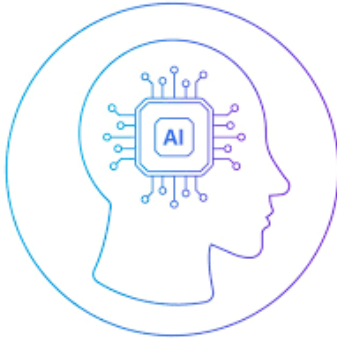
The WOODLANDS
1 Bradley Foster Dr.
Huntington WV 25701



Sponsored by:
The League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

Keeping Artificial Intelligence Out of WV Election Campaigns, WV HB 484

Nyoka Baker Chapman



By this time every American should be aware of the power of AI to manipulate images, voices and events into misinformation that can be used as fuel for political campaign weaponization against one's opponents. The rhetoric is already confusing enough but AI can take it to another level. Is the use of artificial intelligence free speech or is it a tool that seems destined to undermine our trust in what is real? Keeping AI out of our candidate campaigns

and advertising would seem to go a long way to preserve election integrity and this bill deserves to come back for another vote in the next session.

https://www.wvlegislature.gov/bill_status/bills_text.cfm?billdoc=sb484%20intr.htm&yr=2025&sesstype=RS&i=484

<https://www.eac.gov/AI#:~:text=State%20and%20local%20election%20officials,AI%20to%20ols%20can%20currently%20provide>

WV Ethics Commission Resists Approval of HB 2120

Nyoka Baker Chapman



That stricter rules for lobbyists would require additional unfunded and burdensome administration by the WV Ethics Commission appears to be the reason for the Veto of HB 2120. One can only imagine what a pain some lobbyists could be to legislators who are just trying to do their job for the people and are being sidetracked by high powered influencers. The capability of lobbyists to impact the votes of our legislators is certainly not a transparent one and this bill would have gone a long way to make lobbyists more visible and accountable. Here is the bill passed by the legislature and the governor's Veto letter.

https://www.wvlegislature.gov/bill_status/bills_text.cfm?billdoc=hb2120%20intr.htm&yr=2025&sesstype=RS&i=2120

https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/rs/veto_messages/HB



WV HB 2014: The Data Center Delima

Nyoka Baker Chapman

There are the very small data centers that serve purposes for community users and then there are the 'behemoth' ones, beasts whose internal organs are fiery servers that require so much energy that they must have onsite power plants and access to millions of

gallons of water daily mixed with chemical coolants that must be treated before being released back into the environment. Community opponents to the multiple hazards posed by such data centers are now fighting losing battles across the United States, including West Virginia.

<https://news.wttw.com/2025/08/20/mega-data-centers-could-drain-water-supplies-great-lakes-region-if-protections-aren-t>

<https://elpasomatters.org/2025/09/19/project-jupiter-data-center-santa-teresa-approved-donaanacommissioners/#:~:text=The%20data%20center%20in%20Santa%20Teresa%2C%20New,with%20Do%C3%B1a%20Ana%20County.%20Here's%20what's%20next.>

<https://www.govtech.com/artificial-intelligence/acknowledging-opposition-west-virginia-oks-data-center>

With WV looking for new sources of revenue, WV HB 2014 has paved the way for large scale data centers in WV. Though some sections of the bill read as expected, others are troubling. In particular, a section actually exempts data centers from the 'Freedom of Information Act.' Beyond the toxic emissions posed by any standalone power plant fueled by coal or gas there is the issue of water, and it is doubtful that WV has enough clean water left to spare for home use much less to power such facilities. The Coolant liquids used to control server temperatures, (which may appear in the composition of a data center's wastewater) may fall into the category of being a trade secret and now protected by WV Law.

Liquid cooling for data centers may contain biocides to prevent microbial growth, scale inhibitors to prevent mineral buildup, corrosion inhibitors to protect components, propylene and ethylene glycols and other chemicals depending on the mixtures used. Lubricants are also prevalent in many server coolants which abound in PFAS. The most PFAS found in the datacenter industry is found in the two-phase immersion cooling. HB 2014 does not address the treatment of wastewater and liabilities for contamination. The specifics of a data center's methods of operation may be considered confidential and be another redacted factor in their applications.

<https://submer.com/blog/pfas-contamination-a-call-to-action-for-the-datacenter-industry/#pfas-in-the-datacenter-industry>

<https://ketos.co/conventional-vs-ai-data-center-cooling-options-and-how-much-wastewater-is-being-generated>

[What's the big deal about data centers? Here's what West Virginians need to know. - West Virginia Highlands Conservancy](#)

<https://www.wboy.com/news/tucker/tucker-united-fighting-construction-of-power-plant-and-data-center/>
<https://submer.com/blog/pfas-contamination-a-call-to-action-for-the-datacenter-industry/#pfas-in-the-datacenter-industry>
<https://alliancechemical.com/blogs/articles/ai-gpu-cooling-revolution-deionized-water-ethylene-glycol-propylene-glycol-the-ultimate-liquid-cooling-guide>

HB 2014 establishes the Certified Microgrid Program that addresses the independent energy production often needed by a large-scale data center. This is to be administered by the WV Division of Economic Development. The bill deserves to be read in its entirety to understand the planned taxation and special rules for tax distribution from data centers given to the WV Department of Revenue; the involvement assigned to the WV Public Service Commission and the guidelines given to the Division of Economic Development who is the primary project driver.

Per HB 2014 nothing will stand in the way of data centers going anywhere they contract to be situated. There are deep concerns regarding the bill's lack of oversight of obvious environmental hazards. The denial of transparency about toxic air and water exposures to those living in proximity to a high impact data center was not a relevant issue in the bill. Another matter that was not addressed was the maintenance and interference of industrial traffic going to and from the facilities.

A Data Center's exemption from the Freedom of Information Act is cited in the text of the bill.

https://www.wvlegislature.gov/bill_status/bills_text.cfm?billdoc=hb2014%20intr.htm&yr=2025&sesstype=RS&i=2014

(e) *Recordkeeping.* - Any information provided by a data center pursuant to this section that is identified by the data center as confidential business information shall be exempt from the Freedom of Information Act. The Secretary shall take reasonable and appropriate steps to protect this information. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Secretary shall maintain a complete list of all certified high impact data centers and all relevant information that can be made available to the Governor and Legislature, removing specifically identifying information to ensure confidentiality of any such information as identified by any high impact data center.

ARTICLE 2. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

§5B-2-21b. Authority to assist certified microgrid district projects and certified high impact data center projects; legislative findings.

Section C of Code §5B-2-21b denies counties and municipalities from any authority to control the dominance of a high impact data center on their neighbors.

(c) This section prohibits:

- (1) Counties and municipalities, whether by ordinance, resolution, administrative act, or otherwise, from enacting, adopting, implementing, or enforcing ordinances, regulations, or rules which limit, in any way, the creation of, and acquisition, construction, equipping, development, expansion, and operation of any certified microgrid district or certified high impact data center project; and
- (2) Counties and municipalities from imposing or enforcing local laws and ordinances concerning the creation or regulation of any certified microgrid district or certified high impact data center therein.

Item 7 clarifies that WV offers the least restrictive regulatory environment in the Nation, with the second paragraph noting that the reasons to build exceed local borders, including environmental concerns (see paragraph 2) energy consumption and regional economic growth.

(7) West Virginia is strategically positioned as the best location in the United States to place data centers due to: (A) its close proximity to Washington, D.C., and the federal government; (B) its close proximity to the majority of the Nation's population; (C) its low tax rates; (D) it having the **least restrictive regulatory environment in the Nation**; (E) its supply of abundant energy and natural resources to power the data centers; and (F) its skilled and loyal workforce that has some of the lowest turnover rates in the Nation.

As such, the state has a significant interest in encouraging the development and expansion of data centers, which can serve as drivers of broader economic growth. **The Legislature finds that these externalities transcend local borders, including environmental concerns, energy consumption, and regional economic growth.** It is in the best interest of the state to induce and assist in development of these projects, in order to advance the public purposes of relieving unemployment by preserving and creating jobs, and preserving and creating new and greater sources of revenues for the support of public services provided by the state and local government. Additionally, the provisions in this section align with the Legislature's goal of fostering a competitive, forward-thinking economy that benefits all residents.

It is the intent of the Legislature to occupy the whole field of the creation and regulation of certified microgrid districts and certified high impact data centers. The stated purpose of this section is to promote uniform and consistent application of the act within the state.

HB 2014 failed to regulate the distance of data centers from occupied dwellings, not unlike the lack of adequate regulation in the fracking industry. With communities losing authority to control the immediate hazards from data centers, WV has opened the door to give potential builders unregulated opportunities. Living without clean air and water comes as nothing new for many WV residents. Throwing money on health solutions to cure the physical problems caused by living in a contaminated environment would seem to defeat any economic reasons to give data centers free rein without designating them within safer boundaries away from citizen exposure.

A Bit More and More to Come....

Nyoka Baker Chapman

The "Ridgeline Project" is a data center in the early stages of development located **less than a mile from the towns of Davis and Tomas WV**. Despite intense opposition from local residents, the WV Dept of Environmental Protection approved necessary permits allowing construction to advance. The proximity of the project to these towns were not taken into consideration as being relevant, though clearly onsite power facilities would be responsible for the same type of greenhouse gas pollution as any other coal or gas-powered plant. The development of the Tucker County project has even more explaining to do when it comes to the oversight of water use. Per available information the facility plans to drill wells into onsite underground aquifers.

As cited: <https://www.govtech.com/artificial-intelligence/acknowledging-opposition-west-virginia-oks-data-center>

...But the proposed facility comes close to the 100-ton annual threshold with the potential to emit 99.35 tons per year of nitrogen oxides, which can harm the human respiratory system and contribute to acid rain.

The proposed facility also would have the potential to annually emit up to:

- 71.54 tons of fine particulate matter, known as PM2.5, which can pierce the lungs and lead to asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death
- 58.89 tons of sulfur dioxide, which can blow hundreds of miles away and reduce lung function
- 56.36 tons of carbon monoxide, which can cause nausea, fatigue and other flu-like symptoms at very low levels
- 44.21 tons of ozone, which can reduce lung function through long-term exposure

In its response to public comments, the DEP noted its Division of Air Quality doesn't require minor sources to implement a greenhouse gas control strategy without a state or federal statutory basis.

<https://westvirginiawatch.com/2025/05/28/it-will-destroy-this-place-tucker-county-residents-fight-for-future-against-proposed-datacenter/#:~:text=Fundamental%20Data%2C%20through%20its%20representative,that%20adhere%20with%20federal%20regulations.>

Though the possible impacts on adjacent areas like Blackwater Falls, the Dolly Sods Wilderness and a 17,000 plus acre section of the Monongahela National Forest were acknowledged by the DEP, their response was that that the purpose of the facility was a “synthetic minor” designation, that the applicant is restricted to stay below major-source thresholds (100 tons).

Fundamental Data's planned Tucker County facility would be powered by gas-fueled turbines equipped with heat recovery steam generators, but the turbines may need to use diesel as a backup fuel source during gas pipeline failures. Three diesel storage tanks holding 10 million gallons each will be held onsite as needed for alternate usage. [https://power.mhi.com/products/boilers/lineup/hrsg#:~:text=A%20heat%20recovery%20steam%20generator%20\(HRSG\)%20is,a%20gas%20turbine%20to%20an%20extreme%20degree.](https://power.mhi.com/products/boilers/lineup/hrsg#:~:text=A%20heat%20recovery%20steam%20generator%20(HRSG)%20is,a%20gas%20turbine%20to%20an%20extreme%20degree.)

<https://www.aan.com/PressRoom/Home/PressRelease/1626>

With a projected power capacity of 1,650 megawatts at the Tucker County facility, the water usage required could be between 21 to 26 million gallons a day or more. The amount of water needed can vary depending on whether there is the use of standard evaporative cooling systems or less if using a closed loop direct to chip liquid cooling which could lower the amount needed. The determined amount of water usage and the treatment of wastewater at the Ridgeline Project seems to remain a veiled issue.

<https://www.eesi.org/articles/view/data-centers-and-water-consumption>

https://datacenters.microsoft.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Azure_Modern-Datacenter-Cooling_Infographic.pdf

<https://siteselection.com/west-virginia-making-a-microgrid-out-of-a-mountain/>

Governor Morrisey signed HB 2014 into law on April 30th near the future site of the 2,000+ acre Fidelis Monarch AI Data Center in Point Pleasant.

Per his news release he stated:

"In order for West Virginia to reach its potential, we must continue to focus on economic development and utilizing our many natural resources," said Governor Morrisey. "The Power Generation and Consumption Act will make West Virginia the most attractive state in the country for data centers and help America better compete with China in the technology arms race of the future. Combined with the one-stop shop permitting bill, companies will now be able to quickly build, expand, and increase job creation right here in West Virginia."

<https://fidelisinfra.com/project/monarch-compute-campus/>

<https://governor.wv.gov/article/governor-patrick-morrisey-signs-power-generation-and-consumption-and-one-stop-shop#:~:text=Point%20Pleasant%2C%20W.Va.,and%20opportunities%20for%20West%20Virginians.>

Many Mingo County residents though appear to be more fearful about their environment and the health of their families than any promised prosperity. They are now finding themselves in the data center ring of fire as local meetings failed to address their concerns about the proposed power plants which appear to be part of a certified microgrid for two additional data centers. To not be informed until planning was already under way was a blow to Mingo County residents.

<https://westvirginiawatch.com/2025/09/22/we-didnt-choose-this-mingo-locals-voice-frustration-worry-to-wv-dep-over-proposed-power-plants/>

<https://westvirginiawatch.com/2025/09/02/enough-devastation-mingo-logan-residents-worry-about-proposed-power-plants-data-centers-in-wv/>

Despite public opposition, HB 2014 has given prospective Data Centers everything they need for protected operations. A projected amount of revenue that might be generated for the State of WV in the years to come is unknown. What we do know is that making up for severance taxes lost from the sale of coal to international buyers may be difficult to replace.

Congratulations Wendy Thomas!

Wendy Thomas, our co-president, has been inducted into the 2025 Marshall University Black Alumni Hall of Fame.



New Members Wanted! Current Members, Please Renew Your Membership Soon!

Marcia Daoust

The amount is up to you. Minimum dues are \$20, with the national League of Women Voters suggesting \$75/year. *(In 2024, Huntington League dues were \$50.)* The local, state and national Leagues split the dues, as they always have in the past. You may join or renew digitally, through the national website, LWV.org.

If you experience any glitches with the website, or if you prefer using checks, you are welcome to do so. **Please make checks payable to the LWV OF THE UNITED STATES** and mail it, along with the information form to: Marcia Daoust, 15 Elwood Ave., Huntington, WV. 25705

The Membership Chair will then mail your check to LWVUS and enter the information you have provided into the LWVUS database.

LWV MEMBERSHIP FORM

The LWVUS requests the following information. Please fill out **only** as much as you are comfortable providing:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing address: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Gender: _____ Pronouns _____ Race/Ethnicity _____

Birth Year _____

Choose the dues amount you wish to pay. Minimum is \$20, with \$75 being what LWVUS recommends. **Make checks payable to the LWV of the United States.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: What issues interest you the most? Are you interested in volunteering with the League?

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

Days or times you are available to participate. _____

Do you have any accessibility or transportation needs? _____