

League of Women Voters of Wake County Annual Report 2022–2023



Empowering Voters – Defending Democracy

From the President

To say that the past year has been challenging would be an understatement. During the 2022 midterm season in North Carolina, we witnessed a barrage of mis- and disinformation, changes in municipal elections, attempts to challenge elections, and the promise of forthcoming anti-voter legislation. However, the League of Women Voters of Wake County mobilized and worked to empower voters by providing information about candidates, election changes, polling sites, and early voting, as well as encouraging voters to make a voting plan in order to increase voter turnout. Volunteers continued to register new voters during citizenship ceremonies and at GOTV events. In addition, we monitored our local Board of Elections meetings to ensure all eligible votes were counted in Wake County.



In advancing our strategic priority of engaging youth, we held our first Voter Girl Project in partnership with Girl Scouts of NC Coastal Pines. Local troops attended a fun-filled day learning about advocacy, voting, and the work of elected officials. We hosted approximately 50 girl scouts and seven elected officials, and the girls were immersed in activities led by LWV-Wake volunteers. Scouts earned their Democracy Badge while learning they can effect change in their communities by voting, advocating, and someday, running for office.

Other accomplishments include:

- Hosting five public Timely Topics events, providing educational content on a variety of important topics affecting our community
- Sponsoring or co-sponsoring 18 candidate forums
- Collaborating with Clouds Brewing in Raleigh, through their Silver Linings Series, to host a 6-weekend GOTV/ VOTE411 campaign promoting a special “Wheat the People” brew

We hold to the League’s mission of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. As we witness moves that threaten voting rights, reproductive freedom, equality, and equity, we realize just how important that mission is to our community and our country. We invite you to read this report to learn more about our impact in Wake County and to join us in fulfilling our mission: to advocate for voting rights and defend against threats to our democracy.

Cheryl Tung, president

Voting Matters



18
CANDIDATE
FORUMS
3000+
VIEWS



6
COMMUNITY
PRESENTATIONS ON
ELECTION SECURITY
378
ATTENDEES

+20K
VOTE411.ORG
VISITS



1000+
VOTE 411
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED
BOOKMARKS
DISTRIBUTED



In the past year, we saw the spread of mis- and disinformation around voting matters. Voting rights were and are under attack. How did we respond?

- By building the Wake County information for VOTE411.org, LWV's voter information tool. Almost **78 per cent of candidates** provided information about themselves to the candidate survey, while **over 20,000 Wake voters** logged in to learn more.
- By registering citizens to vote: 27 volunteers at 128 events collected **over 2300 voter registrations**. Many were new citizens swearing the oath of citizenship at USCIS.
- By informing voters about the full election process in NC, including creating a video, **What Happens After You Vote In North Carolina?** We promoted in presentations, media, and our website.
- By **talking to voters** over seven weekends at Clouds Brewing, handing out 1000 VOTE411 bookmarks and making sure people were registered as they purchased Wheat the People beer.
- By sponsoring and co-sponsoring **18 candidate forums** for Board of Commissioners, Board of Education, Raleigh city council and mayor. **Over 3000 voters** viewed the Board of Education forums alone.

Engaging Young Voters



A highlight of the past year has been our **Youth Engagement** program. As part of ECU's Alternative Break Experience through the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, we took part in their International Women's Day event in March. Our Spin to Win game was a fun way for students to find out more about women's rights topics such as abortion, the ERA, and childcare.

Also, **ECU students visited at our office**. With them, we discussed the importance of voting/election security. Students played games and created videos about the importance of voting.

Working with NC Coastal Pines Council, we hosted the **Voter Girl Project** for local Girl Scout troops to earn their Democracy badges. The girls engaged with elected officials of both parties, from the county and municipal to the national level. They got hands-on experience at our mock polling place, both as voters and as election workers. Debating the merits of a case with Judge Allegra Collins and trying on Judge Allison Riggs' robes? Telling US Representative Deborah Ross what they thought she should be working on? Priceless experiences to get them on their way to taking part in our democracy.

And it was all thanks to our donors and volunteers.

Issues



Thinking tiny for affordable housing



Expanding Medicaid

League work includes learning about the issues and sharing that knowledge with the community.

We educated ourselves and others. Our committees hosted speakers about food waste and plastic pollution, gun violence and Alzheimer's, affordable housing and how to communicate with legislators on matters of women's rights. We hosted Timely Topics events open to the public on these subjects: Wake Tech's Place in the Community; Understanding America's Racial Divide; Local Environmental Issues; Ranked Choice Voting; Book Selection and Banning.

We prepared information in many forms: social media tips on reducing waste in our landfills and a month of Women's History posts; handouts to explain the nitty gritty of Medicaid expansion; lists of organizations supporting reproductive rights; legislative summaries to keep us aware of the goings-on at the General Assembly. Our Education committee hosted Zoom candidate sessions for all eight school board candidates.

And we took action. Our Healthcare committee worked with a coalition in advocating for Medicaid expansion at the General Assembly. Our Affordable Housing committee delivered to the Cary Town Council a statement in favor of Laurel Street affordable housing development. The Women's Rights committee advocated for the ERA and marched for reproductive freedom. Three of our Environment committee members were among the top ten litter pickers in the CLEANWAKE Wake County Litterati Challenge.

Engaging Our Members



The work of democracy takes money, time, and people. We are grateful that our members support our work with membership dollars. **We're also very grateful that almost 30 per cent of our members volunteer in that work.** We spend time learning about elections and the issues our country faces, and we spread the knowledge through meetings with experts; articles and social media posts; and videos to explain basics of how our government works. We register voters and we encourage voting.

As we embrace the work of democracy, we embrace the fun of **going out together**. Field trips ranged from hiking Swift Creek Nature Preserve to visiting the grave of civil rights activist Anna Julia Cooper, from the Pauli Murray exhibit at the NC Museum of History to the Sonoco Recycling Facility. Not to mention gatherings at fun places to eat and drink together!

Connect with us!



Development & Fundraising

↑ 7%
DONATIONS



↑ 300%
GRANTS



\$10,125
**RAISED AT
WOMEN'S
EQUALITY
DAY**



\$4115
**GIVING
TUESDAY &
END OF YEAR**

During 2022, we created a new five-year strategic plan, with new strategic priorities. In addition, the Board of Directors participated in a guided organizational assessment with Executive Service Corps of the Triangle. As a 501(c)(3) organization, we continue to provide transparency about our organization's programs, finances, and governance. We have

- Continued our membership in NC Center for Nonprofits in order to take advantage of resources and services available to nonprofit organizations
- Maintained a Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar/Candid and favorable ratings on Charity Navigator
- Improved our financial management by increasing the detail of financial reporting, including grant-tracking and functional expense reporting, with assistance from a professional nonprofit CPA firm

Our work cannot succeed without the support of our generous grantors and donors. Grants enabled us to engage young voters and soon-to-be voters: we hosted events with local **Girl Scout troops** and **ECU students**. Your generosity supported building the local election data for **VOTE411**, a source for reliable nonpartisan voting information. It helped us continue our **voter registration** and **Get Out the Vote** efforts: over 2100 new voters registered, many of them brand new citizens. We are grateful for grants from:

- LWV Education Fund
- LWV North Carolina
- SOLVE (Southern Leadership for Voter Engagement)
- NC Community Foundation
- Executive Service Corps of the Triangle (ARPA)

Many donation dollars came from this year's **Women's Equality Day** event, held at Dix Chapel and honoring local women elected officials. For the first time, Girl Scouts from a local troop read the Governor's Proclamation and helped with the event. The event raised \$10,125 via the generous contributions of 54 sponsors and attendees. Our thanks to you all!

LWV-Wake Proposed Budget

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

INCOME	PROPOSED AMOUNT
ARPA Grant	\$13,000.00
Bank Interest	\$30.00
Donations	\$12,000.00
Dues	\$17,000.00
LWV Product Sales	\$100.00
Self-Funding (Social Events)	\$1,000.00
Timely Topics Income	\$1,650.00
WED Income	\$10,000.00
2022 New Citizens Grant	\$509.42
2022 LWVNC Local Redistricting Grant	\$1,000.00
2023 New Citizens Grant- Voter Registration	\$1,500.00
2022 SOLVE Southern Movement Grant	\$4,232.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$62,021.42
EXPENSES	PROPOSED AMOUNT
<i>Operations / Management</i>	
Accounting	\$2,000.00
Communications – Consultant/Advocacy	\$13,000.00
Insurance	\$1,424.00
LWV Product Expense	\$200.00
Office Supplies	\$100.00
Technology	\$1,576.51
Processing Fees	\$550.00
Taxes and Licenses	\$100.00
PMP National (LWVUS dues)	\$9,280.00
PMP State (LWVNC dues)	\$3,480.00
Property Tax	\$15.00
Rent	\$10,254.00
Self-Funding (Social Events)	\$1,000.00
LWVUS-LWVNC Convention/Council	\$1,750.00
<i>Programs</i>	
Special Projects	\$5,532.00
Youth Engagement	\$2,265.00
Timely Topics	\$1,650.00
Voter Services	\$2,134.42
<i>Fundraising</i>	
WED Expenses	\$5,875
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$62,185.93
NET INCOME	-\$164.51

Thank You to Our Donors

Your generosity makes our work possible.

Anonymous	Sherry Essig & Warren	Jackie King	Rebecca Poling, <i>Thanks to all</i>
Anonymous, <i>in honor of</i>	Raybould	Dawn Kirkpatrick	<i>members for their work</i>
<i>Regina O'Gorman McDuff</i>	Karen Ferguson	Jenny Kotora-Lynch	<i>defending democracy.</i>
Mary Anderson	Fidelity Charitable Trust	Linda Lahre	Politica NC
Sarah Ash	Susan G. Fisher	Catherine Lambe Naomi	Virginia Price
Catherine Atchison	Marion Flint	Lambert	Dorothy Raynes
Carol Atwood, <i>in memory of</i>	Catherine Freeman	Debbie LaRoche	Kimberly M. Rehberg
<i>her mother Polly Williams</i>	Vicki and Tom Gerig	Susan Legatowicz	Terri Ring
Elizabeth Axtell	Erica D. Grantmyre	Angelique Legette	Retta Riordan & Jack Clark, <i>in</i>
Susan Balfour	Jeri Gray, <i>in memory of Polly</i>	Mary Lelik & James P. Henry	<i>loving memory of her mother</i>
Kenille Baumgardner	<i>Williams</i>	Marian Lewin	<i>Gloria Riordan</i>
Connie Harriet Beasley &	Annette Green	Tess Lineback	Anne Robotti
Ralph Hope, <i>in memory of</i>	Lucy Haagen	Lorraine Ljunggren	Theresa Rosenberg
<i>Polly Williams</i>	Beth Hahn	Louise Lockwood-Zorowski	Jennifer Rudolph
Julie Bell	Jennifer Haigwood	Tim and Landen Longest	Michael Rulison
Sandra Birkhead	Shannon Halbur	Judee Lonnee	Judy Schneider
Peggy Birkemeier	Robin M Hammond	Meredith and Clyde Lundy	Mary Jane K. Selgrade
Candace and Ron Blackley	Eileen Hancox	LWV of Humboldt County,	Heather Scott
Kimberly Blatchford	Karen Harman	CA	Marcee Silver
Brittany Bryan	Donna Heffring	Sherry MacQueen	Diane Simmonds
Pat Butler	Susan Hertz	Emily Malpass	Mary Jane Slipsky, <i>in memory</i>
Nadine Carozzi	Judy Hoffman	Mary McMillan	<i>of Polly Williams</i>
Annette Cass, <i>in honor of</i>	Kristen Howard	Bonnie Medinger	Steven H. Smith
<i>Cheryl Tung</i>	Tracy Hurley	Jason Miller	Anita Stejskal
Beth S. Chamblin	Sandy Hutchinson	Marlyn Miller	Marilyn Stevens
Clouds Brewing	Sandy Irving	Marie Moylan	Sue Stevens
Madge Cohen and Brad	Dana Jennings	Bobbi Mullins & Richard	Gayle Stone
Hessel	Paula & Mike Jennings	Ellson	Deborah Swain, <i>in memory of</i>
Lisa Colby	Carissa Johnson	Betsy & Jim Munroe	<i>Polly Williams</i>
G. Dale Cousins	Karen Juntilla	Heidi Nuttle	Roberta Sweeney
Dina Deaton and David	Claudia Kadis	Michael and Amy O'Donnell	Karen Taber
Collier	Sam Kalat, <i>in memory of Sheila</i>	Elaine Okal, <i>in memory of</i>	Mary Thompson, <i>in</i>
Phyllis Demko	<i>Denn</i>	<i>Sheila Denn</i>	<i>recognition of voting rights</i>
Heather Dennis	Kathie Kalmowitz	Mr. & Mrs. Oliva	Cheryl R Tung
Patricia Dixon	Christine Kelly	Maryanne Olsen	Eve Vitaglione
Eileen Duffy	Jane Kendall & Ran Coble	Sally & Jack Pinnix	Laurel Voelker
Karen J. Brock Dyser	Rhonda Keyes	Kate Pipkin	Marlene Wilson
Lynn Edmonds	Holly Knox, <i>in memory of Polly</i>		Dianna Wynn and Brian
Mary Ellin Eisele	<i>Williams</i>		Holland

"The more I learn about everything that LWV-Wake stands for and works on, the more impressed I have become. I did not anticipate the broad spectrum of issues that this group tackles. LWV-Wake does a great job of researching complex topics and educating members and the community on policy issues, including voting rights protection, nonpartisan candidate information, healthcare protection for families and low income populations, affordable housing, and environmental protection. The more I participate, the more I learn and the more I am impressed with the dedication and expertise of the members."

--Nadine Carozzi, donor



Thank You to Our Volunteers

Karen-Marie Allen	Jeanne Ford	Catherine Lambe	Maggie Scroggs
Mary Ellen Anderson	Catherine Freeman	Naomi Lambert	Mary Jane Selgrade
Linda Atack	Amanda Funderberg	Mary Lelik	Marcee Silver
Carol Atwood	Geri Goldstein	Marian Lewin	Diane Simmonds
Laurie Bader	Eleanor Goodwin	Kathleen Liebowitz	Elizabeth C. Simon Bryant
Lily Barnett	Phyllis Gould	Tess Lineback	Mary Jane Slipsky
Paula Baumann	Jeri Gray	Louise Lockwood-Zorowski	Celeste Stanley
Candace Blackley	Annette Green	Judee Lonnee	Anita Stejskal
Suzanne Botts	Leigh H. Greene	Meredith Lundy	Marilyn Stevens
Yevonne Brannon	Beth Hahn	Ali Mabel	Martha Svoboda
Linda Brinkley	Jennifer Haigwood	Sherry MacQueen	Helen Tart
Brittany Bryan	Shannon Halbur	Susanna Martin	Yolanda Taylor
Becky Burmester	Robin Hammond	Nancy Merrick	Britnie R. Thomas
Pat Butler	Nancy Hartge	Siobhan Millen	Mary Thompson
Nadine Carozzi	Jane Hayes	Stephanie Mitchell	Cheryl Tung
Johanne Christensen	Susan Hertz	Debbie Moose	Eve Vitaglione
Shirley Church	Judy Hoffman	Dean Morgan	Laurel Voelker
Jane Clayton	Nelda Holder	Penny Morgan	Cathy Warner
Helen Cleereman	Pauline Houlden	Nancy Moxley	Mike Warner
Claudia Clements	Kristen Howard	Bobbi Mullins	Jane Watson
Nancy Cochran	Tracy Hurly	Elaine Okal	Ouida Watson
Catherine Corbin	Jan Hutchins	Regina Petteway	Kaye Webb
Dale Cousins	Sandy Hutchinson	Sally Pinnix	Carmen White
Nita DeNicol	Rhonda Keyes	Rebecca Poling	Gaye Williams
Eesha Desai	Jackie King	Dorothy Raynes	Dianna Wynn
Theresa Farland	Dawn Kirkpatrick	Terri Ring	
Elizabeth Fensin	Holly Knox	Retta Riordan	
Karen Ferguson	Susan Koontz	Theresa Rosenberg	
John Fleming	Jenny Kotora-Lynch		
Marion Flint			

I volunteer with the League because political activism and advocacy have always been important to me. I've done other work with voter registration, so helping out with Voter Girl and encouraging the next generation to vote and participate in politics is an amazing thing.

--Lily Barnett, talking to Girl Scouts

