

Annual Report 2019—2020

*CELEBRATING 100 YEARS SINCE OUR
FOUNDING BY SUFFRAGISTS IN 1920*



Top Photo: Exterior of NC Equal Suffrage office on Fayetteville Street in Raleigh, circa 1920
Bottom Photo: NC Equal Suffrage office, LWWNC founder Gertrude Weil far left, circa 1920

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WAKE COUNTY

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

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**“To the wrongs that need resistance, To the rights that need assistance,
To the future in the distance---Give yourselves.”**

Carrie Chapman Catt

Suffragist & Founder of the League of Women Voters

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2020 is the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters! One hundred years ago, in anticipation of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National American Suffrage Association, founded the League of Women Voters in February 1920. The suffragists knew that they would soon need to educate newly enfranchised women about the political process and register them to vote. The suffragists saw the League as a way to continue to have a nonpartisan voice in American politics.



Soon after the 19th Amendment was ratified, the Raleigh Equal Suffrage League transformed into the League of Women Voters of Wake County. At the time, both the *News & Observer* and the *Raleigh Times* newspapers reported on the League's first meeting on September 27, 1920. LWV-Wake has the distinction of being the very first local League in North Carolina, though several other Leagues across North Carolina were also soon established. One hundred years after its founding, LWV-Wake is now the largest local League in the state.

2020 was a historic year for LWV-Wake not only because it was our 100th anniversary but also because it was a very successful year for our League. Here are just a few highlights:

- LWV-Wake's membership grew by 16%.
- We sponsored 16 public events including 5 candidate forums.
- We offered our members over 50 members-only events and activities.
- Our volunteers registered over 800 voters.
- We received more media attention than ever with 42 instances of earned media.
- Traffic on our website increased by 147%.
- We published 28 articles on our new blog, *The Voter*.
- We expanded our social media reach on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.
- We initiated the process of converting to a 501c3h organization which will allow us to accept tax-deductible donations.

The year was not without its challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the cancellation of several large League events. However, our volunteers quickly pivoted to online meetings and webinars, and the work of the League continued with minimal interruption. We are well aware that in 1920 our founding suffragists had recently survived their own pandemic, yet they were persistent in their fight for voting rights.

As we move forward, we learn from the mistakes of our founders, but we also follow their example of persistence and dedication to the principles of democracy. The League was founded by suffragists a century ago, and we are their legacy.

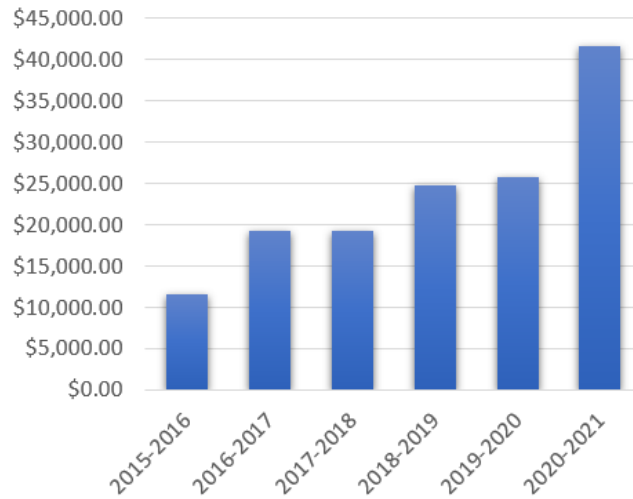
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Wynn".

Dianna Wynn, President

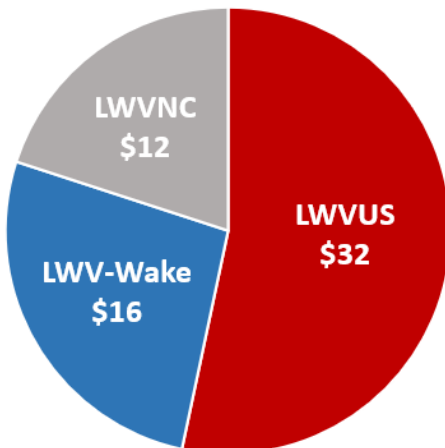
League of Women Voters of Wake County

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WAKE COUNTY YEAR AT A GLANCE

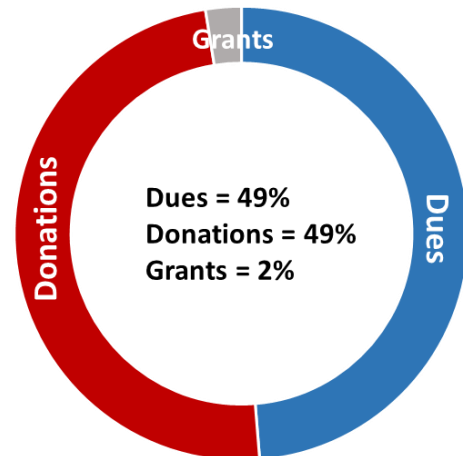
As our League grows,
so does the budget
needed to do the
work of empowering
voters and defending
democracy.



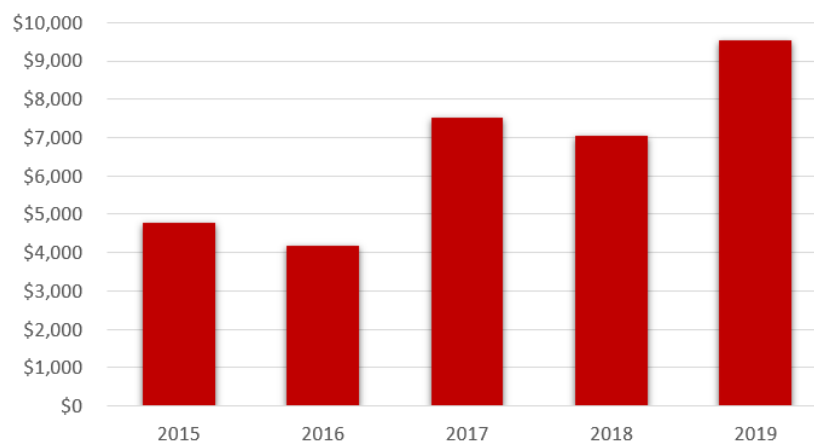
Membership Dues Are Split 3 Ways



LWV-Wake Income Sources



Women's Equality Day Fundraiser

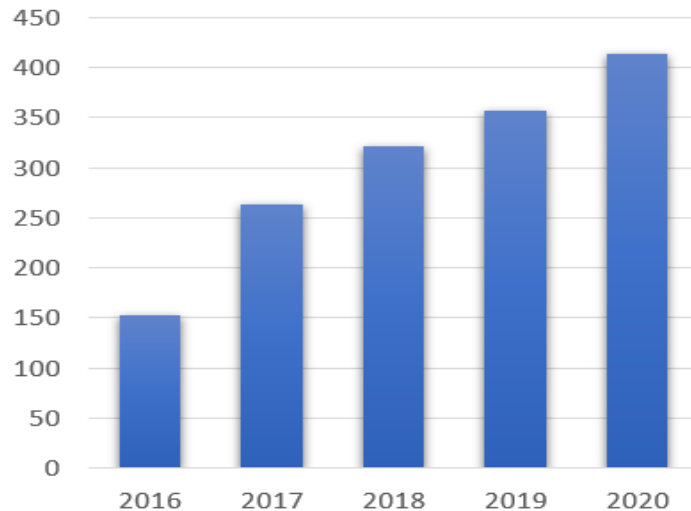


LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WAKE COUNTY

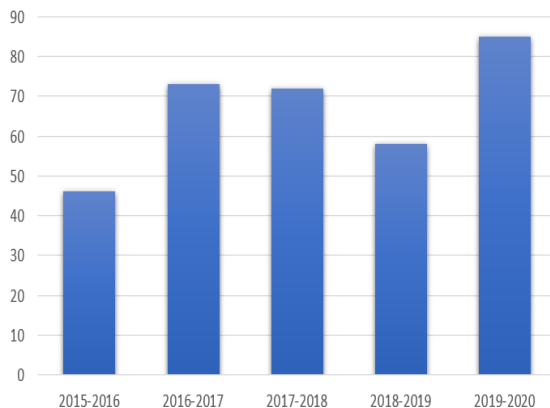
YEAR AT A GLANCE

Membership has grown by 171% in five years.

Growing Membership



Timely Topics Audiences

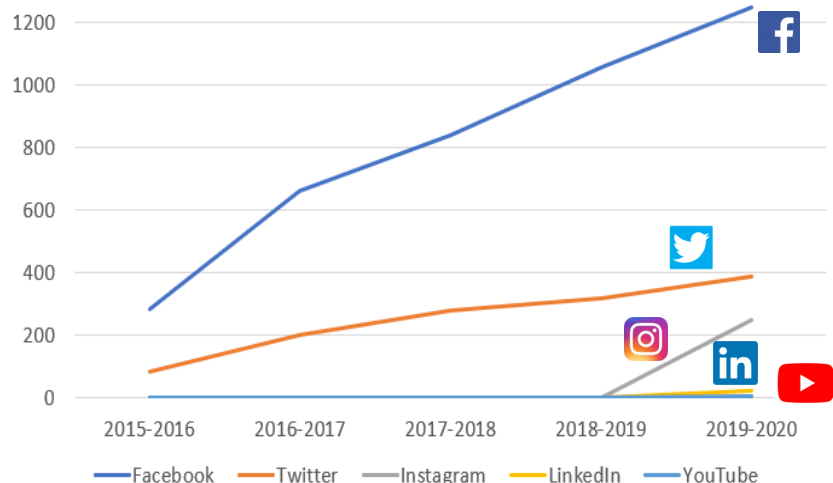


- Timely Topics audiences average 85 people per event. Had COVID-19 not necessitated cancellations, we were on track to serve larger audiences.
- 45% of members also volunteer for the League.
- 50% of members engage with the League in some manner, e.g. volunteer, attend events, join a committee, participate in a workshop, etc.

Expanding Social Media Reach

LWV-Wake now has a presence on several major social media platforms:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- YouTube



SUMMARY OF LEAGUE 2019-2020 EVENTS

LEAGUE-SPONSORED EVENTS FOR THE PUBLIC

1. Raleigh City Council Districts A-E Candidate Forum
2. Raleigh City Council Mayor and At-Large Candidate Forum
3. Cary Mayor and Town Council Candidate Forum
4. Fuquay-Varina Mayor and Town Commissioners Candidate Forum
5. Johnston County Board of Education Candidate Forum
6. Timely Topics: Immigration in Our Time
7. Timely Topics: The Face of Poverty in North Carolina
8. Timely Topics: Making Sure that Everyone Is Counted in the 2020 Census
9. Timely Topics: The Political Climate for Public Education
10. Women's Equality Day Reception
11. Expanding Medicaid: What's at Stake & What Can We Do (webinar)
12. Chief Justice Cheri Beasley: A Woman of Her Times (cosponsor)
13. Raleigh Women's March 2020 (cosponsor)
14. She Changed the World 19th Amendment Commemoration (cosponsor)
15. Missing Murdered Indigenous People's Rally (cosponsor)
16. 2020 Presidential Primary Debate Watch Party (cosponsor)

MEMBERS-ONLY LEAGUE EVENTS

- League 101 Workshops
- League 102 Workshops
- New Member Potlucks
- Observer Corp Training
- VOTE411 Postcarding Parties
- Fair Maps Postcarding Party
- Redistricting Reboot Party
- Voting & COVID-19: Empowering Voters & Promoting Voting in November (webinar)
- Depolarizing Within Workshop
- 2019-2020 Year in Review (webinar)
- Ruth Bader Ginsburg Watch Party
- Tour of Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant
- Tour of Randleigh Dairy Heritage Museum
- Tour of The Women's Center
- Tour of Walnut Creek Wetland Center
- Tour of the Smith Creek Wastewater Plant
- Tour of The Village at Washington Terrace
- Tour of Oak City Cares
- ERA Advocacy Skills Workshop
- The Basics of Effective Presentations Workshop
- Writing Letters to the Editor Workshop
- 501c3 Conversion Informational Webinar
- League Lit—Raleigh Book Discussions
- League Lit—Western Wake Book Discussions
- Rooftop Bar Happy Hour Social
- Annual LWV-Wake Summer Social
- Law & Justice Exhibition & Documentary
- Cocktail Class at The Bittery
- Viewing of the Kahlo/Rivera exhibit at NCMA
- Annual LWV-Wake Holiday Party
- New Member Meetup
- Mediterranean Cooking Class
- Johnston County Members' Meetup

EMPOWERING VOTERS

The Voter Services Committee fulfills one of the core missions of the League—empowering voters. The committee organizes candidate forums, manages the VOTE411 election guide for Wake County, registers voters, encourages voter turnout, monitors election-related issues, and advocates for better election processes.

CANDIDATE FORUMS

LWV-Wake sponsored the following candidate forums in 2019. Approximately 850 people attended the events, and many of the forums were live-streamed on WRAL.com.

- Raleigh City Council Districts A-E Candidates (Moderated by Sean Maroney, former WNCN news anchor)
- Raleigh City Council Mayor and At-Large Candidates (Moderated by WRAL news anchor Gerald Owens)
- Cary Mayor and Town Council Candidates (Moderated by WRAL news anchor Kathryn Brown)
- Fuquay-Varina Mayor and Town Commissioners Candidates (Moderated by LWV-Wake President Dianna Wynn)
- Johnston County Board of Education Candidates (Moderated by both WRAL news anchor Gerald Owens and LWV-Wake Voter Services Director Marian Lewin)

VOTE411.ORG ELECTION GUIDE

VOTE411.org is an essential online resource for voters to learn about voting information, upcoming elections, and information on candidates. We were proud to see VOTE411 honored with a national Webby Award in 2020. Management of the site for Wake County involves a team of volunteers to update the information, develop questions for candidates, contact candidates, promote the website, and handle the software technicalities. The team's accomplishments and activities included:

- Providing candidate information on VOTE411.org for the 2020 primary elections with 36,274 people visiting the site, sometimes more than once (40,771 sessions), representing a 234% increase in the use of VOTE411.org in Wake County compared to the 2018 elections.
- Assisting LWVNC in providing candidate information on VOTE411.org in all 2019 federal and NC legislative elections.
- Providing candidate information on VOTE411.org for the 2019 elections.
- Organizing “postcarding parties” to reach out to voters and encourage them to use VOTE411.org.
- Displaying VOTE411.org yard signs at multiple polling locations.
- Launching a social media campaign promoting VOTE411.org.

REGISTERING VOTERS

Voter Services Committee volunteers helped register voters throughout the year at the following:

- US Citizenship and Immigration Services Naturalization Ceremonies for new citizens (registered 794 voters at 31 ceremonies)
- Zebulon Farmers' Market several Saturdays
- Athens Drive High School
- "She Changed the World" event at the Capitol
- Raleigh Women's March

ADVOCATING FOR BETTER ELECTION PROCESSES

The Election Protection subcommittee monitors election-related issues and advocates for better election processes. The volunteers' activities included:

- Observing the meetings of both the North Carolina and the Wake County Boards of Elections meetings.
- Presenting public comment on voting issues at board of elections hearings as well as submitting comments online.
- Advocating for secure and reliable election processes that utilize human readable, hand-marked, paper ballot voting systems.
- Garnering extensive media coverage of our advocacy related to voting systems.
- Advocating for the adoption of the Electronic Registration Information System (ERIC) for improving the accuracy of voter rolls.
- Producing an updated version of our *Employing Technology to Ensure Fair and Accurate Election Records* report.
- Hosting an education webinar for League members, *Voting & Covid-19: Empowering Voters & Promoting Voting in November*.



2019 League-sponsored candidate forums

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Affordable Housing Committee encourages local government to support affordable housing options that meet the needs of an economically diverse community in Wake County. This year the committee activities included:

- Bringing in speakers from the homeless community and from development firms.
- Attending multiple meetings of other local groups involved in the issue.
- Regularly observing and providing public comment at local government meetings.
- Contributing two articles for *The Voter* blog: *The Need for Affordable Housing in Wake County* and *The Mismatch Game: Wake County Demographics and the Housing Supply*.
- Organizing field trips for members to The Village at Washington Terrace and Oak City Cares.

CENSUS 2020

The LWV-Wake Complete Count Census Committee partnered with the US Census Bureau and Wake County's Complete Count Committee to help make sure everyone is counted in the 2020 census. The committee created and distributed census information in various outlets including the following:

- Launching a social media campaign with multiple posts each week on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- Having committee chair Vanessa Crow featured in an interview by *Raleigh Podcast*.
- Appearing in *Raleigh Magazine's* "Stand Up and Be Counted" interview of Vanessa Crow.
- Publishing a census article in the employee newsletter for the Medicaid division of the NC Department of Health and Human Services.
- Issuing calls to action and participating in a social media blitz with the NC Counts Coalition on Census Day.
- Creating a display shown for a month at the NCSU early voting site.
- Chalking census messages on neighborhood greenways.
- Distributing approximately 2500 educational materials to Western Wake Crisis Ministries, El Centro Hispano, and to the public attending an event at NCSU.
- Staffing tables at community libraries, Artspace, Craft Beer Cellar, Latino Credit Union, Weaver Street Market, and NCSU.
- Distributing flyers to apartment complexes.
- Presenting at neighborhood association meetings.

ENVIRONMENT

The Environment Committee and its Climate Change subcommittee focus on environmental issues impacting Wake County. The committee explores issues related to clean energy, public transit, open space preservation, clean water/water treatment, “flushable” wipes, and green stormwater infrastructure. The committee’s activities included:

- Observing and participating in meetings of local government committees including the Cary and Raleigh Environmental Advisory Boards, Capital Area Friends of Transit, Wake County Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee, and the Growth and Sustainability Committee (a subcommittee of Wake County Board of Commissioners).
- Meeting with City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department staff to plan an education program aimed at reducing sewage clogs, focusing on “flushable” wipes.
- Working with environmental advocates to protect land adjacent to Umstead Park from development and environmental degradation.
- Participating in a day-long Natural Connections Workshop coordinated by Wake Nature Preserves Partnership.
- Promoting public transit through community meetings and education, and organizing a presentation by representatives of GoTriangle for League members.
- Organizing field trips for members:
 - * Walnut Creek Wetland Center and the Camp Education Building.
 - * Smith Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in Wake Forest, owned by Raleigh.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

The League of Women Voters supports the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. The committee researches the issues, educates the public on the need for the amendment, and advocates for North Carolina to ratify the ERA. This year’s activities included:

- Creating a set of one-page ERA educational handouts.
- Sending members to Virginia to contribute to its successful effort to ratify the amendment.
- Developing ERA Resolution packages for Wake municipalities that have not passed a resolution in support of ratification of ERA.
- Creating and staffing a display to spread the word at each League Timely Topics event.
- Attending the ERA-NC Alliance convention in October. (Committee member David Bland was elected to the ERA-NC Alliance Board.)
- Taking significant roles in the strategic planning group for the LWFNC ERA League Action Team.
- Joining the planning committee for the 2020 Raleigh Women’s March and leading the League’s tabling at the event.
- Presenting arguments for the ERA to the Orange, Durham, and Chatham County League.
- Hosting an advocacy workshop for League members.

HEALTHCARE

Newly formed this year, the Healthcare Committee addresses a variety of issues related to quality and accessible healthcare for North Carolinians. The committee's activities included:

- Prioritizing two issues for immediate focus: Medicaid expansion and the opioid crisis.
- Creating a slogan: "Healthcare is a basic human right."
- Inviting Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary of the NC Department of Health & Human Services, to speak at the April 2020 Timely Topics event (cancelled due to coronavirus precautions).
- Hosting Nicole Dozier, Director of the Health Advocacy Project at the NC Justice Center, to speak to the membership via a webinar.
- Presenting to members educational summaries of several critical healthcare issues including Alzheimer's disease, opioid addiction, Medicaid expansion, and gun violence as a healthcare issue.
- Representing LWV-Wake at a Women's Club of Raleigh presentation on the opioid crisis.
- Researching Medicaid expansion to develop talking points for education and advocacy.

REDISTRICTING

The Redistricting Committee works to end the gerrymandering of voting districts in North Carolina. Committee members engage in ongoing research, educate the community on the importance of redistricting reform for fair voting maps, and participate in advocacy. This year's activities included:

- Observing NC Superior Court hearings on *Common Cause v. Lewis* (NC legislative maps).
- Observing the Wake County Superior Court summary judgment hearing in *Harper v. Lewis* (US Congressional maps).
- Observing and providing public comment at multiple NC General Assembly redistricting committee meetings as legislators drew new voting maps throughout fall of 2019. LWV-Wake communicated directly with legislators requesting procedural changes, some of which were accommodated, including changes other organizations were not requesting.
- Hosting a Redistricting Reboot party to celebrate progress and bring new members on board.
- Attending the LWVNC leadership retreat on redistricting and other issues.
- Sharing education materials on redistricting at Timely Topics events.
- Presenting redistricting reform to one of the Wake Democratic precinct groups and to the Wake Democratic District Coordinators.
- Contributing several redistricting articles for *The Voter* blog, including a history of the court cases from 2011 to 2020 as well as articles on the present and future of redistricting reform.

OBSERVER CORPS

LWV-Wake has an Observer Corps comprised of numerous League volunteers who monitor the public meetings of various government entities. Our Observer Corps helps promote transparency in government decision making. We keep elected officials aware of the people—and we keep the people aware of what our governing bodies are doing. Members attended meetings for the following:

- *Apex Town Council*
- *Capital Area Friends of Transit*
- *Cary City Council*
- *Cary Environmental Advisory Board*
- *City of Raleigh Affordable Housing Bond Advisory Committee*
- *County-level Complete Count Committee Education and Nonprofit Subcommittees*
- *Morrisville City Council*
- *NC General Assembly—House, Senate, and various committee meetings*
- *NC General Assembly—All committees related to redistricting*
- *NC Superior Court hearings for Common Cause v Lewis and Harper v. Lewis redistricting litigation*
- *NC State Board of Elections*
- *Raleigh City Council*
- *Raleigh Citizen Advisory Councils*
- *Raleigh Environmental Advisory Board*
- *Raleigh Planning Commission & Text Change Subcommittee*
- *Wake County Board of Elections*
- *Wake County Board of Commissioners*
- *Wake County Board of Commissioners—Growth and Sustainability Committee*
- *Wake County Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee (OSAPAC)*
- *Wake County Superior Court summary judgment hearing in Harper v. Lewis redistricting litigation*
- *Western Regional Affordable Housing Action Group*



League members observing government meetings

ENGAGING THE MEMBERSHIP

FIELD TRIPS

The League offers interesting field trips for members to area historic, governmental, business, and other sites of interest that help us learn more about different aspects of the community. Some field trips are organized by the Field Trip Committee and others are organized by various other committees working on issues. This year's field trips included:

- Tour of *Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant Energy & Environmental Center* (followed by lunch at *Lucky 32*)
- Tour of *Randleigh Dairy Heritage Museum at NCSU* (followed by a *Howling Cow* ice cream snack)
- Tour of *The Women's Center* after which League members volunteered to served lunch to the women at the center
- Tour of *Walnut Creek Wetland Center* and the Camp Education Building
- Tour of the *Smith Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant* in Wake Forest followed by lunch at *Coquette*
- Tour of *The Village at Washington Terrace*, a DHIC affordable housing community
- Tour of *Oak City Cares*, an outreach center for individuals and families who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness

SOCIAL EVENTS

The Social Committee, as well as some of our other committees, hosts a variety of events for our members and guests. These events foster interpersonal connection among members, motivate volunteers, and help attract new members to the work of the League. This year's activities included:

- *Rooftop Bar* Happy Hour Social
- Annual LWV-Wake Summer Social
- *Law & Justice* NC Museum of History exhibition and documentary
- Cocktail Class at *The Bittery* followed by dinner at *Transfer Co. Food Hall*
- Viewing of the Frida Kahlo/Diego Rivera exhibit at the *NC Museum of Art* and lunch at *Iris*
- Annual LWV-Wake Holiday Party
- New Member Meetup at *Vinos Finos Tapas & Wine Bar*
- Mediterranean Cooking Class
- Redistricting Reboot Party
- Johnston County Members' Meetup

LEAGUE LIT BOOK DISCUSSIONS

League Lit book groups help further our objective of providing members another opportunity to learn about important issues and events in American culture, politics, and history. Book discussion meetings are open to any League member. The following books were discussed in 2019-2020.

League Lit—Raleigh

- *Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming*
- *Never Home Alone: From Microbes to Millipedes, Camel Crickets, and Honeybees, the Natural History of Where We Live*
- *Zucked: Waking Up to the Facebook Catastrophe*
- *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*
- *Winners Take All: The Elite Charade of Changing the World*

League Lit—Western Wake

- *The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship — Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Struggle for Social Justice*
- *Equal Means Equal: Why the Time for an Equal Rights Amendment is Now*
- *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey Into the Heart of America*
- *How Democracies Die*
- *The Empty Throne: America's Ab-dication of Global Leadership*

WORKSHOPS FOR MEMBERS

LWV-Wake occasionally offers workshops and seminar for members to help orient newer members to the League and to provide useful skills for being engaged in the political process.

- League 101 (multiple sessions)
- League 102 (multiple sessions)
- Advocacy Skills Workshop: Advocating for the Equal Rights Amendment
- The Basics of Effective Presentations
- Writing Effective Letters to the Editor

MANAGING THE ORGANIZATION

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Committee promotes LWV-Wake events, maintains the website, manages multiple social media platforms, manages a blog, and works to increase LWV-Wake's visibility in the community. Our accomplishments this year included:

- Garnering 42 instances of earned media up from 13 the previous year.
- Disseminating 26 press releases.
- Increasing traffic to the website by 147% to 6,038 unique visitors and increased pageviews by 115% to 15,900.
- Expanding our social media presence by increasing our followers on both Facebook (1248 followers) and Twitter (389 followers) as well as recently establishing a new presence on Instagram (249 followers), LinkedIn (22 followers), and YouTube (7 subscribers).
- Publishing two letters to the editor in the *News & Observer*.
- Moving from a bimonthly traditional newsletter to a weekly LWV-Wake Update newsletter emailed via Mailchimp. The "open rate" for the LWV-Wake Update is 51% — over twice the industry average for this platform.
- Establishing a LWV-Wake Speakers' Bureau with a page on the website.
- Establishing *The Voter* blog and publishing 28 articles including:
 - * Profiles of 13 members
 - * Focus on UN Conventions Series:
 - * *Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)*
 - * *Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)*
 - * *The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*
 - * *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
 - * *International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)*
 - * *Advocating for the ERA in North Carolina*
 - * *The Mismatch Game: Wake County Demographics and the Housing Supply*
 - * *The Need for Affordable Housing in Wake County*
 - * *Redistricting Committee: Recent Activities at the General Assembly*
 - * *Redistricting Committee: What's Next?*
 - * *Summary of Lawsuits Challenging NC Racial & Partisan Gerrymandering 2011-2020*
 - * *Redistricting Committee: Celebrating Successes*
 - * *The Electronic Registration Information System (ERIC)*
 - * *A Delicious Way to Make Friends in the League*
 - * *2020 Census Update: Response to COVID-19 Pandemic*

MEMBERSHIP

LWV-Wake is the largest local League in North Carolina. The Membership Committee focuses on recruiting, welcoming, and engaging members. The committee's activities and accomplishments included:

- Increasing membership by 134 new members, including 29 new student members, for a total of 414 members.
- Engaging 45% of the membership as volunteers.
- Conducting a year-end survey of new members to learn about their experience and satisfaction with the LWV-Wake. The survey had a 59% response rate.
- Staffing a membership information table at various public events, including four Timely Topics events; four candidate forums; "She Changed the World" kick-off event commemorating the 19th Amendment; and the Raleigh Women's March.
- Conducting six sessions of League 101 for 52 new members and three sessions of League 102 for 21 members.
- Hosting four potlucks for new members in League hosts' homes, with a total of 28 new members attending.
- Sponsoring a streaming watch party for 30 NCSU students for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg presentation at Meredith College.
- Profiling 13 League members for *The Voter* blog.
- Implementing a gift membership option.
- Contacting every new member via email, letter, and/or a phone call to welcome them.
- Facilitating connection among transfer members from the Johnston County LWV.
- Coordinating sale of 36 personalized member badges.
- Facilitating regional social gatherings in North Raleigh, Wake Forest, and Clayton for a total of 25 new members.
- Presenting a workshop at the LWV-NC 2019 Convention on membership recruitment and engagement strategies.
- Developing and managing a database of member information and engagement.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION (DEI)

LWV-Wake puts a priority on promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the community as well as within the League. This is a long-term commitment, and this past year's activities included:

- Adopting an explicit DEI policy for LWV-Wake.
- Convening a special Board meeting in July 2019 to discuss DEI in greater depth.
- Adding a DEI page on the website dedicated to enlightening information and resources.
- Sponsoring a "Depolarizing From Within" workshop facilitated by the Better Angels organization.

TIMELY TOPICS EVENT PLANNING

The Timely Topics Committee plans a series of “Timely Topics” lunches and dinners open to the public addressing important issues. Though bad weather and the coronavirus pandemic forced the cancellation of almost half of our Timely Topics events, the lecture series nevertheless drew more people on average than ever before to hear great speakers on important issues. The following speakers were featured.

Date	Topic	Speaker	Attendance
9/26/2019	<i>Immigration in Our Time</i>	Dr. Scott Phillips, Field Office Director, US Committee for Refugees and Immi-	83
10/17/2019	<i>The Face of Poverty in North Carolina</i>	Professor Gene Nichol, UNC School of Law	76
11/21/19	<i>Making Sure that Everyone Is Counted in the 2020 Census</i>	Durrell Johnson, Communication and Outreach Director, NC Counts Coalition	86
1/22/20	<i>The Political Climate for Public Education</i>	Cathy Quiroz Moore, Superintendent, Wake County Public School System	96

100TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING

2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters. The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920. According to the *Raleigh Times* newspaper, LWV-Wake had its first meeting on September 27, 1920. Our 100th Anniversary Committee planned an entire series of events scheduled throughout 2020. Some of those events had to be rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and others were transformed into virtual events. Celebration events and activities will continue into the next fiscal year. This past year’s celebratory events included:

- Receiving a proclamation from the Raleigh City Council declaring February 2020 League of Women Voters of Wake County Month.
- Receiving a special proclamation from the Wake County Board of Commissioners.
- Developing a recommended reading list on women’s suffrage in collaboration with the Wake County Libraries. The reading list was distributed at various locations throughout the county.
- Cosponsoring and assisting in the planning of the *She Changed the World* event, which was the governor’s kick-off event on the Capitol grounds to commemorate the 19th Amendment.
- Having a display focused on the NC suffrage movement and League history in the lobby of Apex Town Hall for Women’s History Month.

Field trips, book discussions, social events, and additional proclamations from municipalities are all planned for the upcoming fiscal year. The anniversary gala dinner will now take place in September 2021 due to coronavirus concerns.

LWV-WAKE BUDGET

LWV-WAKE BUDGET	Proposed	Actual	Proposed
	2019-2020	2019-2020	2020-2021
Carryover from previous year			7500
Income Categories	2019-2020	(5/1/19-2/29/20)	
Bank Interest	1	1	2
LWVNC 501c 3	1000	3600	4000
LWVNC withdrawal	1000	1500	***
Dues	16200	18795	17000
Other Contributions	3000	3806	4000
Women's Equality Day	7000	9525	9000
Total Income	28201	37227	41502
Expense Categories			
PayPal Admin Fees	500	549	600
Committee Expenses:			
Communication/PR	700	1132	4000
Membership	613	305	600
Redistricting	250	30	100
Equal Rights	200	172	100
Environment	120		100
Education	***	***	100
Ad hoc Committees	50	111	100
Timely Topics	1500	968	1100
Voter Services/Elec Tech	1000	630	1000
Observer Corps	100		0
100th Anniversary	1075	64	1000
Affordable Housing	250		100
Healthcare	***	***	100
Social	***	***	0
Development	***	***	275
Convention / Council	1000	420	***
Overhead Expenses:			
Insurance	500	500	500
Rent	6300	5990	9332
Supplies	250	1141	250
Board Expenses	275	310	4150
PMP National	8736	8704	11968
PMP State	3276	3264	3264
Taxes	6	6	10
Women's Equality Day	1500	1373	2753
Total Expenses	28201	25669	41502

(Continued Next Page)

LWV-WAKE BUDGET *(CONTINUED)*

LWV-WAKE BUDGET	Proposed	Actual	Proposed
	2019-2020	2019-2020	2020-2021
Grants			
New Citizen Grant 2019	1500	1500	
New Citizen Grant Expenditures	1500	1500	
New Citizen Grant 2020			1000
Assets	2/28/2019	2/29/2020	
Checking	33885	40824	
LWVNC 501 c 3	2017	3713	
PayPal	731	757	
Savings - Reserve fund	4425	5000	
Total Assets	41058	50294	

DEVELOPMENT & FUNDRAISING

In the past, the only annual fundraising event was planned by LWV-Wake's Women's Equality Day Committee. For over twenty years the committee has planned an annual Women's Equality reception that raised several thousand dollars and honored the women elected to office at the state, county, and local levels. This year LWV-Wake has a designated Development Director and a Development Committee. Fundraising efforts included the following.

The women's Equality Day Committee organized a successful Women's Equality Day event on August 22, 2019 that included:

- Raising \$9,525 (net \$7,858).
- Hosting 135 attendees.
- Honoring 24 elected women at the event with certificates of appreciation.
- Presenting at public government meetings or delivering to their offices certificates of appreciation to 37 elected women.
- Garnering 83 event sponsors at the Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsorship levels.
- Featuring Mary Williams-Stover, Executive Director of the NC Council for Women and Youth Involvement, as the keynote speaker.
- Featuring NC First Lady Kristin Cooper presenting the Governor's Women's Equality Day proclamation.

The Development Committee's activities and accomplishments included:

- Raising \$3,150 with the November 2019 #GivingTuesday campaign.
- Raising \$3,782 with the April 2020 #GivingTuesdayNow campaign.
- Raising \$5,790 in other donations throughout the year.
- Developing lists of potential donors and a fundraising plan.
- Beginning outreach to corporations and small businesses.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

We rely on donations to help pay for the resources required to empower voters and defend democracy. Membership dues alone do not cover our expenses. Thank you to the following people for their generous donations in 2019-2020.

Karen-Marie & Jim Allen
Mary Angelini
Jinny Batterson
Peggy Birkemeier
Ana Blackburn
Candace Blackley
Betty Bland
Suzanne Botts
Lindy Brown
Ann Campbell
Lucinda Chew
Josephine Cialone
Donna Cohen
Community United Church of Christ
Dale Cousins
Dina Deaton & David Collier
Sheila Denn
Joseph & Karen Dyser
Mary Ellin Eisele
Anne Marie Evans
Karen Ferguson
Marion Flint
Jane Fowler & Ann Stinely
Vicki & Tom Gerig
Leslie Ginnes
Jeri & Mike Gray
Stephanie Gray
Annette Green
Robin Hammond
Nancy Hartge
Donna Heffring
Susan Hertz
Brian Holland
Nelda Holder
Vanessa Holder
Jane Hortelano
Sandy Hutchinson
Dana Jennings
Paula & Mike Jennings
Claudia Kadis
Holly Knox
Jenny Kotora-Lynch & Jeff Lynch

Catherine Lambe
Naomi & Charles Lambert
Susan Legatowicz
Marian Lewin
Meredith & Clyde Lundy
Peggy Lyle
Sherry MacQueen
Margie Maddox
Mary Martorella
Linda Maxa
Susan McIntyre
Mary McMillan
Bonnie & John Medinger
Marlyn Miller
Lisa Mowat
Nancy & Robert Moxley
Marie Moylan
Patricia Moylan
Bobbi Mullins
Jo Nerhood
Sally Pinnix
Jan Ramquist
Kimberly Rehberg
Retta Riordan
Amy Rogers
Louise Romanow
Deborah Ross
Nancy Shoemaker
Diane Simmonds
Mary Jane Slipsky
Anita Stejskal
Russell Stephenson
Marilyn Stevens
Mary Thompson
Cheryl Tung
Margrith Verghese
Eve & Tom Vitaglione
Kaye Webb
Jennifer Weiss
Polly Williams
Marlene Wilson
Dianna Wynn & Brian Holland

LEAGUE LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors 2019-2020

President	<i>Dianna Wynn</i>
Secretary	<i>Sheila Denn</i>
Treasurer	<i>Mary Jane Slipsky</i>
Voter Services Director	<i>Marian Lewin</i>
Development Director	<i>Cheryl Tung</i>
Communications Director	<i>Jenny Kotora-Lynch</i>
Membership Director	<i>Dale Cousins</i>

Board of Directors 2020-2021

President	<i>Dianna Wynn</i>
Vice President	<i>Sheila Denn</i>
Secretary	<i>Laurel Voelker</i>
Treasurer	<i>Elaine Okal</i>
Voter Services Director	<i>Marian Lewin</i>
Development Director	<i>Cheryl Tung</i>
Communications Director	<i>Jenny Kotora-Lynch</i>
Membership Director	<i>Dale Cousins</i>
At-Large (Timely Topics)	<i>Diane Pyun</i>

LWV-WAKE PAST PRESIDENTS 1920—2020

1920-1921	<i>Elsie Riddick</i>	1978-1979	<i>Ann Mackie</i>
1921-1923	<i>Cornelia Jerman</i>	1979-1980	<i>Bonnie Medinger</i>
1923-1925	<i>Frances Doak</i>	1980-1982	<i>Sheila Nader</i>
1925-1927	<i>Etta Cross Crozier</i>	1982-1984	<i>Joan Baron</i>
1927	<i>May Smillie Handy</i>	1984-1986	<i>Patricia Watts</i>
1927-1928	<i>Nell Battle Lewis</i>	1986-1988	<i>Lucinda Chew</i>
1928	<i>May Smillie Handy</i>	1988-1990	<i>Elizabeth McCrodden</i>
1928-1929	<i>Nell Battle Lewis</i>	1990-1991	<i>Karen Ferguson</i>
1929-1934	<i>Kate Maude Herring Highsmith</i>	1991-1992	<i>Claire Pratt</i>
1948-1950	<i>Mary Anderson</i>	1992-1993	<i>Susan Stone</i>
1950-1951	<i>Helen Lehew</i>	1993-1994	<i>Eve Vitaglione</i>
1951-1953	<i>Mattie Erma Parker</i>	1994-1995	<i>Ricki Grantmyre</i>
1953-1955	<i>Adele Covington</i>	1995-1997	<i>Beth McAllister</i>
1955-1957	<i>Mildred Reynolds</i>	1997-1999	<i>Betty Ellerbee</i>
1957-1960	<i>Inez Ray</i>	1999-2000	<i>Mary Jane Slipsky</i>
1960-1961	<i>Virginia Sherril & Inez Ray</i>	2000-2001	<i>Management Team</i>
1961-1963	<i>JoAnn Kistler</i>	2001-2002	<i>Karen Ross</i>
1963-1965	<i>Ruth Cook</i>	2002-2004	<i>Victoria Gerig</i>
1965-1967	<i>Sylvia Ruby</i>	2004-2006	<i>Annemarie Evans</i>
1967-1969	<i>Margot Maddock</i>	2006-2008	<i>Diana Haskell</i>
1969-1971	<i>Betty Doak</i>	2008-2009	<i>Joan Robertson</i>
1971-1973	<i>Jane Hamner</i>	2009-2011	<i>Lisa Mowat</i>
1973-1975	<i>Betty Ann Knudsen</i>	2011-2013	<i>Mary Martorella</i>
1975-1976	<i>Cynthia Wertz</i>	2013-2014	<i>Victoria Gerig</i>
1976-1977	<i>Sylvia Arnold</i>	2014-2019	<i>Marian Lewin</i>
1977-1978	<i>Patricia Pierce</i>	2019-present	<i>Dianna Wynn</i>

LWV-WAKE COMMITTEES

Most of the League's work is accomplished by volunteers serving on various committees. The following are the committee chairs/co-chairs for 2019-2020 as well as the co-chairs for the upcoming year.

Committee	2019-2020 Chairs	2020-2021 Chairs
100th Anniversary	<i>Dianna Wynn, Teresa Watts, Phyllis Demko</i>	<i>Dianna Wynn, Teresa Watts</i>
Affordable Housing	<i>Pat Butler</i>	<i>Robin Hammond, Suzanne Botts</i>
Budget	<i>Mary Jane Slipsky</i>	<i>Elaine Okal</i>
Bylaws	<i>Mary Thompson</i>	<i>Sheila Denn</i>
Citizens' Advocacy Program	<i>Cheryl Tung</i>	<i>Cheryl Tung</i>
Communications	<i>Dianna Wynn, Jenny Kotora-Lynch</i>	<i>Dianna Wynn, Jenny Kotora-Lynch</i>
Social Media	<i>Quinci Duncan, Vanessa Crow, Bobbi Mullins, Brittany Bryan</i>	<i>Bobbi Mullins, Brittney Bryan</i>
Complete Count Census	<i>Vanessa Crow</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Development	<i>Cheryl Tung</i>	<i>Cheryl Tung</i>
Education Roundtable	<i>Sheila Denn, Karen Ferguson</i>	<i>Sheila Denn, Karen Ferguson</i>
Election Protection	<i>Marian Lewin</i>	<i>Marian Lewin</i>
Environment	<i>Jackie Giordano, Eve Vitaglione</i>	<i>Jackie Giordano, Eve Vitaglione</i>
Equal Rights Amendment	<i>Elaine Okal, Sheila Denn</i>	<i>Elaine Okal, Sheila Denn</i>
Field Trips	<i>Pat Butler, Susan McIntyre</i>	<i>Pat Butler</i>
Girl Scout Outreach	<i>Laurel Voelker</i>	<i>Laurel Voelker</i>
Healthcare	<i>Retta Riordan</i>	<i>Retta Riordan</i>
League Lit Book Groups	<i>Jan Ramquist, Terri Ring</i>	<i>Jan Ramquist, Terri Ring</i>
Membership	<i>Karen Ferguson, Dale Cousins</i>	<i>Dale Cousins, Judee Lonnee</i>
Nominating	<i>Jackie Giordano, Naomi Lambert</i>	<i>Jackie Giordano, Naomi Lambert</i>
Observer Corps	<i>Paula Jennings, Jan Ramquist, Marlene Wilson</i>	<i>TBD</i>
Redistricting	<i>Sheila Denn, Dianna Wynn, Mike Jennings, Laurel Voelker, Cheryl Tung, Phyllis Demko</i>	<i>Laurel Voelker, Sheila Denn, Mike Jennings, Cheryl Tung, Dianna Wynn</i>
Social	<i>Cheryl Tung, Suzanne Botts</i>	<i>Suzanne Botts, Pat Butler</i>
Timely Topics	<i>Marlene Wilson, Phyllis Demko</i>	<i>Cheryl Keeton, Diane Pyun</i>
Voter Registration	<i>Siobhan Millen</i>	<i>Siobhan Millen, Marian Lewin</i>
Voter Services	<i>Marian Lewin</i>	<i>Marian Lewin</i>
Women's Equality Day	<i>Teresa Watts, Candace Blackley</i>	<i>Teresa Watts, Candace Blackley</i>

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

The League of Women Voters of Wake County is an all-volunteer organization. Our work would not be possible without the dedication of members who devote countless hours to the hard work of grassroots nonpartisan political education and advocacy. We are fortunate to have members willing to contribute their knowledge, skills, and passion to the League's mission. Thank you to our many volunteers.

Karen-Marie Allen	Diane Corbin	Donna Heffring	Meredith Lundy	Diane Pyun
Ann Mulloy Ashmore	Bill Cotter	Nelda Holder	Alexandra Mabel	Jan Ramquist
Denise Atkinson	Dale Cousins	Brian Holland	Ira Mabel	Dorothy Raynes
Elizabeth Axtell	Vanessa Crow	Suzanne Holloman	Sherry MacQueen	Dianne Reid
Laurie Bader	Rita Cubbage	Karla Holomon	Margie Maddox	Sandy Ricci
Marcia Ballard	Dina Deaton	Rose Marie Holsing	Mary Mainwaring	Natasha Richmond
Eve Barkley	Michele Delaney	Ed Hortelano	Mary Martorella	Allison Riggs
Jane Bass	Phyllis Demko	Jane Hortelano	Linda Maxa	Terri Ring
Meredyth Bass	Sheila Denn	Pauline Houlden	Lisette McCracken	Retta Riordan
Jinny Batterson	Nancy Devereux	Sandy Hutchinson	Carie McGivern	Amy Rogers
Susan Bauer	Quinci Duncan	Cassie Irwin	Susan McIntyre	Louise Romanow
Ellen Bauman	Megan Evans	Dana Jennings	Mary McMillan	Theresa Rosenberg
Lynn Bernstein	Elizabeth Fensin	Mike Jennings	Julia McMillian	Joyce Rothchild
Sandra Birkhead	Karen Ferguson	Paula Jennings	Julia Meder	Hayden Rudd
Peggy Birkemeier	Caleb Finley	Renee Johnson	Siobhan Millen	Irene Rusnak
Candace Blackley	Chelsie Fitzwater	Claudia Kadis	Beth Millwood	Nancy Shoemaker
Betty Bland	Marion Flint	Sarah Kahn	Stephanie Mitchell	Marcee Silver
David Bland	Celia Fuller	Trudi Kappel	Debbie Moose	Diane Simmonds
Gina Boccetti	Liana Fryer	Cheryl Keeton	Nancy Moxley	Mary Jane Slipsky
Suzanne Botts	Joyce Gad	Charles Keeton	Lisa Mowat	Anita Stejskal
Susan Bowers	Vicki Gerig	Barbara Kennedy	Tricia Moylan	Marilyn Stevens
Linda Brinkley	Tom Gerig	Audra Killingsworth	Bobbi Mullins	Sue Stevens
Lindy Brown	Leslie Ginnes	Holly Knox	Mary Beth Murphy	Cheryl Thomas
Brittany Bryan	Jackie Giordano	Sue Koontz	Jo Nerhood	Mary Thompson
Nancy Burkley	Geri Goldstein	Pat Korpik	Elaine Okal	Cheryl Tung
Becky Burmester	Phyllis Gould	Melody Kosowski	Elizabeth Olbrich	Claire Vaeth
Pat Butler	Jeri Gray	Jenny Kotor-Lynch	Maryanne Olsen	Eileen Vella
Grayson Chase	Annette Green	Nancy Kuivila	Juliette Pahl	Margrith Verghese
Cindy Chew	Stephanie Gray	Catherine Lambe	Theresa Perlowski	Eve Vitaglione
Sarah Chew	Michelle Guy	Naomi Lambert	Sally Pinnix	Laurel Voelker
Jack Clark	Rosemary Hallberg	Josie Lane	Kate Pipkin	Diane Walsh
Jane Clayton	Robin Hammond	Mary Lelik	Rebecca Poling	Ouida Watson
Helen Cleereman	Marie Hargrove	Tiffany Lesnik	Joyce Pollack	Teresa Watts
Erin Cleghorn	Mary Harris	Marian Lewin	Vicki Price	Carmen White
Claudia Clements	Mina Harris	Tess Lineback	Virginia Price	Marlene Wilson
James Cofield	Nancy Hartge	Judee Lonnee	Saroj Primlani	Robin Withrow
Aylett Colston	Jane Hayes	Cathy Luck	Anne Purcell	Dianna Wynn

FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS 2017-2022

Priority Area 1: Organizational Effectiveness	
1.1	Improve leadership's coordination of LWV-Wake activities.
1.2	Increase the number of members volunteering on behalf of LWV-Wake by 30%.
1.3	Increase leadership opportunities within LWV-Wake.
1.4	Improve LWV-Wake's use of technology.
Priority Area 2: Voter Services	
2.1	Increase voter participation in county, municipal, and mid-term elections.
2.2	Increase the number of registered voters in Wake County.
2.3	Improve voters' access to information about county and municipal issues and candidates.
2.4	Promote election integrity.
Priority Area 3: Policy Advocacy	
3.1	Strengthen LWV-Wake's policy committees.
3.2	Improve LWV-Wake members' advocacy efforts in the NC General Assembly.
3.3	Encourage transparency and accountability in local and state government.
Priority Area 4: Programs/Education	
4.1	Improve the quality and variety of LWV-Wake education programs.
4.2	Increase attendance at each type of event by 15% per year.
4.3	Improve members' knowledge of League policies, procedures, and positions.
4.4	Improve public understanding of local and state government.
Priority Area 5: Membership Recruitment & Retention	
5.1	Increase membership to 400 members in the next five years.
5.2	Retain 90% of members each year.
5.3	Engage 50% of new members in LWV-Wake activities.
5.4	Cultivate greater diversity in membership.
Priority Area 6: Communications	
6.1	Develop a comprehensive communications plan.
6.2	Improve internal communications between leadership and members.
6.3	Improve external communications with the public.
Priority Area 7: Development/Fiscal Health	
7.1	Increase income from membership dues.
7.2	Increase income from fundraising activities 15% per year per capita (based on membership levels).
7.3	Ensure and improve the fiscal integrity of LWV-Wake.

The complete strategic plan report is available upon request.