

“The Prince William - Fauquier Voter”



Fall 2025 Newsletter

PW County Clerk Jaqueline Smith...



Was the speaker at the Kickoff Meeting held on September 13, 2025, at Haymarket Gainesville Library. Jackie shared the numerous duties of her office, which also serves the City of Manassas, and Manassas Park. Jackie also shared the many innovations the Clerk's Office developed, such as Seals on Wheels, and a YouTube channel. The Circuit Court presides over criminal, civil, concealed handgun permits, miscellaneous, and other cases.



Connie Gilman, Co-President, opened the formal part of the meeting. She had a tough time getting the members and guests to come to attention. The food, drinks, and conversation were simply wonderful. Now plans are in the work for November Sips and Civility so members and guests have another opportunity to SOCIALIZE!



PW County Clerk Jackie Smith accepts our floral thanks for an inspiring talk at the 2025 Kickoff Meeting.



Good Trouble
Celebration, July 17
 at the Manassas Battlefield, LWV PWFA joined other Northern Virginia nonprofits and elected officials to commemorate the five-year anniversary of the passing of Congressman John Lewis. He coined "Good Trouble", the the action of coming



together to take peaceful, non-violent action to challenge injustice and create meaningful change. Good Trouble is marches, protests, service work – any action where communities come together, take a stand against wrongdoings, and speak truth to power. We were encouraged by the National League and invited by the organizers of the Manassas event to speak about the importance of voting. Co-President Pat Reilly spoke about the many ways to vote and invited attendees to our table, staffed by Catherine Ring and Lorraine Schooner.

Congratulations to Barbara Amster on her 50 years of League membership!

Barbara shares her experience in her own words:

1975, an Illinois neighbor invited me to come with her to a study group meeting, "just to have a look" at the League of Women Voters. I was home with two very young children, who were also invited to join the play group (with babysitters) in the family room. Under those circumstances, I would have gone anywhere that promised adult conversation. I wasn't at all interested in a woman's group, or discussing cooking and housekeeping,



but after all, it was just one afternoon. I left that state study on school funding with two books to read and a report to write. The meeting was electrifying, and the members so knowledgeable, I joined immediately. For the consensus meeting, I wrote a skit with the different methods of school funding portrayed as a fashion show. Adding or removing clothing dramatized the resource equalizer vs. the power equalizer, for example. Informative and fun, as the League almost always is.

During my first two years, I participated in state studies in juvenile justice, handgun control, and voter's rights, profiting from a college-level education in areas I knew little about. As our League grew, we undertook two local studies as well. Our recommendations for building and maintaining local parks were followed by the village planning committee without change, after they walked the parks with us. Then we were asked to draw up a plan to desegregate the schools in District 201 and relieve the overcrowding in some of them. We not only studied the history and social geography; we talked to the people who would be most affected and came up with recommendations that formed the plan that was eventually adopted. A town council and a school board listened to the League's advice! Local studies were the most rewarding because we could see results in our own community.

My very last study, before moving to VA almost ten years ago, was on charter schools and virtual education in Illinois. Carol Noggle was so excited at the prospect of creating a similar Virginia study, she prepared a proposal for the State League and they adopted it, choosing it even over proposed studies. We were elated: what a lesson in how flexible the League is!

Parenthetically. I have never been the president of a local LWV. For personal reasons, I truly do not want to be the head of any organization. I am much happier as an active member, although I have served several times as vice-president. In Illinois. I was the go-to moderator of candidates' forums and in Virginia, I have been heavily involved in voter registration, especially in schools and at civic events. The Black Lives Matter Vigil, held in Warrenton every Saturday, is another passion. Each League has its own individual emphasis.

Welcome to our newest members:

Al Alborn - alalborn@icloud.com
Fran Croson - francescroson@yahoo.com
Mindy Diepenback - mindy-diepenback@yahoo.com
Steven Ma - steven-the-ma@yahoo.com
Kara Klaas - kmklaas@hotmail.com
Sheila McConnell - smcconnell9901@comcast.net
April Padilla - monet72ayp@aol.com
Denise Walker - denise.walker4403@gmail.com

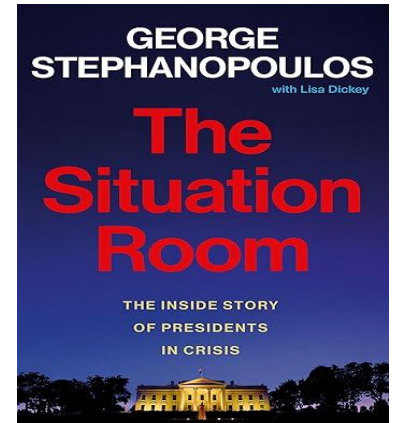


LWV PWFA is joining four Fauquier non-profit partners to celebrate Banned Book Week at the John Barton Payne building, Warrenton from noon until 7 pm on Oct. 11. The League is sponsoring the showing of the film "Banned

Together", starting at 4 pm. The film tells the story of four teenage girls who objected to the school board about the removal of 97 books from the school library. They would take their case to Congress and meet several authors of books that were challenged.

BOOK DISCUSSION!

October 25th, Saturday 11:30, **Central Library**, [8601 Mathis Ave, Manassas, VA 20110](#). **The Situation Room: The Inside Story of Presidents in Crisis**, by George Stephanopoulos. An amazing book sharing the insight in the Situation Room at the White House, when it was formed, how various presidents used or did not use it, and the men and women, who gathered information shared with Presidents and their cabinets and advisors. This is a great read even if you can't attend the discussion!



LWVUS is joining [No Kings 2](#) as a national partner on Saturday, October 18. **LWVUS has decided to become an official partner** for this day of mobilization to stand in solidarity with partners and stand up against hate and authoritarianism. The League has consistently and boldly spoken up in the face of rising authoritarianism. This is an opportunity to put words into action and show up in defense of democracy and as an effective ally. **We encourage Leagues to lean in locally** and participate in activations with partners on the ground in a nonpartisan manner. We understand that we cannot control how other partners show up, and participating in any event comes with some risk. For Leagues who decide to mobilize for No Kings, please utilize our [protest safety guidance](#) and [“How to Organize a Rally in 8 Steps”](#) resource on the League Management Site. **If representing the League or wearing LWV shirts (which we encourage), please use good judgment when creating signs and participating in nonpartisan chants. The national staff will have additional guidance in the weeks ahead.**



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author

[Adult Detention Center \(PW Jail\) Resource Fair, 11/5/2025](#)

Please note the correct date for this event at the Adult Detention Center-- November **5th** - the day after Election Day. (Will we have recovered??)

It is scheduled to start at **9:00 AM and continue to 2:00 PM** with a lunch break. The lunch (quite bountiful and healthy) is prepared by inmates who are in a special program that helps prepare them for jobs in food preparation.

This is the event that is actually AT the jail for those who are nearing the day for release from incarceration. The inmates are scheduled by small groups to come to the large room where community groups each have a table and chairs (provided by the ADC). The room is usually filled with the community groups so each one has a small "territory" (usually room for **just 2, maybe 3, chairs**).

Our League has been participating in this annual event for well over 5 years.

Sgt. McDonald needs to know, in advance, the names of those who will attend. That will expedite going through security. Small groups of the volunteers, accompanied by a jail officer, are taken via elevator and locked hallways to the event room.

Set up starts at least 30 minutes prior to 9:00 AM.

Carol Noggle



VOTER SERVICES, Laura Feld-Mushaw

It has been a busy September for Voter Services. Carol Proven, Cynthia Chambliss, and I met about every 2 weeks in the summer to work out details and contacts to enable the League to do Voter Registration at the new 55 plus Communities in Prince William County.

During **Voter Registration Week**, members were busy at various sites to encourage voter registration and to educate citizens about the importance of their vote.

Monday, Sept. 15 was the **Westminster VR** event and program featuring Keith Scarborough from the Election Board. He has served for 18 years. While he presented to a smaller crowd of interested voters, WM was recoding it so that they could broadcast on their in-house system. We helped people file for Absentee mail ballots and check registrations. Thank to Judy Hingle for organizing and to Brenda Carswell, Pat Reilly and Barb Greiling for staffing it.

Tuesday Sept. 16, Carol Noggle set up at the **Bull Run Library**. She had multiple sample ballots because that Library is located on the boundaries of several House districts. She reported passing out Top Tens, answering questions, and reminding people that there was an upcoming election.

Pat Reilly and Trish Freed set up at **GMU Prince William Campus**. They registered a NEW CITIZEN who had not been able to do it at her Naturalization Ceremony!!! They also answered questions, handed out Top Tens and Vote Like A Girl Buttons, and helped answer various questions.

Wednesday, Sept. 17. Barb Greiling and Brenda Jackson Sewall set up at **Chinn Park Library**. Brenda Carswell and Lucia Anderson were at **Montclair Library**, and Laura Feld-Mushaw was at **Central Library**.

We all provided education, answered questions, reminded people about Early Voting, passing out Top Tens, and explained pwcvotes.org online services. Many people were helped to check their registration.

At Central, I did have the opportunity to help a young voter check if his recent move was in the system since he checked the voter registration box when getting his license updated. We observed that the two systems are not exactly in sync. He chose to re-register online, rather than call the Election Office to ask what happened.

Wednesday night was the **HD Candidate forum** at Jennie Dean ES hosted by the Coalition. Carol Noggle, Cynthia, Pat Reilly and I were all involved in the event. While all candidates had been invited and many had indicated early on they would participate, only Michelle Maldonado, incumbent from HD 20, was there. She had the opportunity to answer a multitude of questions and to share the current policy and upcoming proposals. We did learn that her opponent had to drop from the race due to DOGE cut and moving out of area for another job.

Thursday Sept. 18. Carol Proven, Mindy Diepenbrock and April Padilla, (two new members). set up at **Manassas City Library**. They handed out Top Tens, answered questions, etc. They helped a woman check her registration only to find that she was NOT on the voter rolls even though she had voted last year. Carol P was able to check the Virginia databases. They then helped her get registered again. The voter planned to let her friends and family know that they should check now in case they were also disappeared from voter rolls.

Friday Sept. 19, Jane Touchet, Denise Walker, and Laura set up at **Potomac Library**. It was a voter education event. The highlight was making contact with the teacher of the Literacy group. Potomac has a nice Community room and there were at least 40 students with volunteers for their conversation class. The Teacher asked for materials to share and also our contact info as she would like to have LWV as a guest speaker for the civics voting class. She also mentioned she was helping some of her students who had recently become citizens but could not register at the event.

Friday, Cynthia Chambliss visited **Marywood Assisted Living** in Manassas to help with applications for mail in ballots, etc..

Saturday Sept. 20, Lorraine Schooner, Kathleen Montgomery, and Fran Croson set up the table at **Haymarket Gainesville Library**. They explained online registration, and applications for mail ballots, passed out top Tens, shared sample ballots, helped people check to see if they were registered and their voting precinct.

Monday Sept. 22 Judy Hingle and Judy Anderson assisted **Westminster** residents with Voter Registration, checking registration, and applications for mail in ballots

Tuesday, Sept. 23 - Carol Noggle and Donna Anstee did mail in ballot applications at the **Wellington**.

Wednesday Sept. 24 Voter Registration was held at **Warrenton Public Library**. Barbara Amster and April Padilla gave out information and helped voters with mail-in ballots.

Thursday, Sept. 25, Mindy Diepenbrock and April Padilla went to **Bull Run Library** to do Voter Registration with students who regularly study there.

Thursday Sept. 25 and Friday Sept. 26. Voter Registration was conducted in each Govt class at **Osborn Park high School**. This was the first HS to invite us for this school year. Laura, Barb Greiling and Carol Proven were able to register more than 115 students in person, with many more choosing to register online.

From Virginia League President, Joan Porte

The second Unite and Rise Playbook from LWV US is out! In addition to all the things Leagues can do to mobilize people to protect our Democracy, there is something for individuals to do every day. These [Daily Democracy Actions](#) are especially good for people who are looking for things to do from home, or have limited time. Of course, there are many things for local leagues which have been sent to the Presidents, but they can't do that alone. They need all members to support this effort – so please reach out to them to lend your support. There is a role for every league member to Unite and Rise. We need to mobilize 250,000 Virginians to vote and respond. We can do this!

What is Unite and Rise 8.5?

The number 8.5 million is the estimated number of nationwide voters it would take to bring about change through nonviolent protest. This is based on the findings from the Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights, which state that engaging a threshold of 3.5% of the population has never failed to bring about change.

According to the University of Florida, approximately 245 million Americans were eligible to vote in the 2024 general election, if 3.5% of these eligible voters - 8,575,000 people - engage in nonviolent protests, we *will* bring about meaningful change.

The League defines a Constitutional Crisis as: When the executive, the legislative, or judiciary branches cannot or will not adequately protect the US Constitution, when there are explicit attempts to dismantle a functional democracy within any of the three branches, or when any level of federal government takes action to destroy democratic institutions in a manner that intentionally or purposefully jeopardizes the US Constitution. When these events occur, the constitution is deemed at the highest serious risk and warrants full-scale action to preserve and protect democratic institutions.

Unite and Rise to save our Democracy! Be part of the solution. Mobilize! Vote!



Celina Stewart, CEO of the League of Women Voters, released the following

statement in response to revised policy guidance from US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS):

"For decades, the League of Women Voters has been a trusted partner of both USCIS and federal courts to register new voters at naturalization ceremonies. This work has resulted in hundreds

of thousands of new citizens registering to vote with League volunteers across the country.

"The USCIS decision to bar nonpartisan organizations from providing voter registration services at naturalization ceremonies is an attempt to keep new citizens from accessing their full rights.

"Naturalization ceremonies are empowering, joyful celebrations of American democracy. When a volunteer meets a newly naturalized citizen with a voter registration form in hand, they provide them with the tools to fully participate in the election franchise.

"The League has always conducted this work in a proudly nonpartisan manner, with a single goal: to ensure new Americans have a voice in our democracy. Our League volunteers step in where election officials often lack capacity, making sure critical voter registration services reach those who need them most. Across the country, local election officials recognize and deeply value the partnership of their local League in voter registration, which strengthens communities and democracy.

"By shutting out the League and other civic partners, USCIS is making it harder for new citizens to register to vote, which is yet another intimidation tactic and attack on the immigrant community. Our democracy is stronger with the voices of new citizens.

"The League of Women Voters remains committed to ensuring every eligible voter can register, cast a ballot, and have their vote counted. Despite this setback, the League of

Women Voters will find ways to do this vital work and ensure new citizens can access voter registration. We call on USCIS to reverse this policy.”



**October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month:
Remember to schedule**

YOUR mammogram today!



**Board of Directors
FY 2025-2027 Organizational Chart
Officers and Directors**

To contact any of the Board of Directors, use the email: lwvpwfa@gmail.com

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		Ruthann Litchford	Shari Oley (Chair)

**Board of Directors
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Officers and Directors**

Carol Proven

Voter Registration

Newsletter Editor

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(VR)**

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Connie Gilman

Donna Anstee

Certified Members

**Adult Detention
Center**

Voter Registration

**2040 Comprehensive
Plan Study**

Carol Noggle

Laura Feld-Mushaw

Charles Grymes (Chair)

Brenda Carswell

Carol Proven

Carol Proven

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Lucia Anderson

Laura Feld-Mushaw

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