LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PENNSYLVANIA

2022 IMPACT REPORT

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OUR STORY

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania (LWVPA) is a statewide, nonpartisan organization. Our state office oversees a grassroots network of 31 local Leagues across Pennsylvania.

For over 100 years, the League has served as a trusted, responsive voice that holds the government accountable to its citizens.

LWVPA encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters has evolved from a mighty political experiment designed to help 20 million newly enfranchised women vote in 1920, to a nationally recognized organization that is a mighty force in shaping public policy and promoting informed civic participation.
Greetings from President Samantha Apgar

From myself and all of us at the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, I’d like to congratulate our members and supporters on a fantastic year of advocacy, education, and voter engagement. 2022 was an active period of election cycles, collaboration, and get out the vote efforts. Through all of this, our work as a trusted, nonpartisan voice in Pennsylvania politics was more critical than ever.

My highlights from 2022 include:

Creating a sustainable future for the League: In 2022, LWVPA finalized our strategic plan for the next three years. With this plan, we will become stronger through increased local League engagement, renewed commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and impactful policy advocacy.

Legal action to protect voting rights: The League took numerous legal actions to protect PA elections and voting rights this year. Early in 2022, we filed an amicus brief in support of new legislative maps, which were upheld by the PA Supreme Court in March. These maps were the culmination of a decade of redistricting reform. Since the summer, we’ve worked to intervene in a case to oppose a proposed series of constitutional amendments which would take away the rights of Pennsylvanians, including the right to abortion healthcare. During the General Election season, we filed an amicus brief in Ball v. Chapman, a case concerning the rights of voters with undated mail-in ballots. Finally, we joined all 50 Leagues around the country in submitting an amicus brief in Moore v. Harper, a threat to our national democratic values and institutions.

Launch of Fix Harrisburg campaign: In April, Fair Districts PA (FDPA) announced its Fix Harrisburg Campaign. The campaign champions rules reform in Harrisburg which ensures good bills with broad bipartisan support get a vote. We look forward to seeing their progress in the coming year!

We have come so far in 2022. I look forward to another year of positive impact and continued service across the state.
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Samantha Apgar</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>LWV of Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guerline Laurore</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>LWV of Harrisburg Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Wright</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>LWV Philadelphia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Alison Lalond Wyant</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>LWV of Abington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Hanf</td>
<td>Director, Equity Initiative</td>
<td>LWV of Berks County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathy Cook</td>
<td>Director, Environmental Policy</td>
<td>LWV of Central Delaware County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Gobreski</td>
<td>Director, Government Policy</td>
<td>LWV of Philadelphia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Miller</td>
<td>Director, Social Policy</td>
<td>LWV of Philadelphia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betsy Murray</td>
<td>Director, Development Member at Large</td>
<td>LWV of Lehigh County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rochelle Kaplan</td>
<td>Director, Voter Services</td>
<td>LWV of Lehigh County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carolyn Cavaness</td>
<td>Board Member at Large</td>
<td>LWV of Lower Merion and Narberth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Terrie Griffin</td>
<td>Board Member Emeritus</td>
<td>LWV of the Greater Pittsburgh Area</td>
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Civic Engagement
BY THE NUMBERS

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<tr>
<th>Visits to Vote411.org</th>
<th>Postcards mailed</th>
<th>Poll workers recruited</th>
<th>Social media impressions</th>
<th>Youth voters texted</th>
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<tr>
<td>222,941</td>
<td>137,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,622,270</td>
<td>40,000</td>
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"Every year in Pennsylvania, politics and elections become more polarized. At a time when fact-based nonpartisan information is most needed, LWVPA has continued to serve as the civic engagement organization that Pennsylvania needs."

-Meghan Pierce, Executive Director of LWVPA

Reaching PA voters where they are:

- 5 virtual voter education workshops
- 25+ candidate forums
- 2 get out the vote (GOTV) text banks
- 3 AM radio stories
- 1 Reddit "Ask Me Anything"
- 20 poll worker info sessions
- 20+ statewide voter services meetings
Our government policy advocacy focused on democracy defense and election protection in 2022. This year, we:

- Opposed bills like PA HB 1800 and PA SB106, which put up barriers to free and fair elections.
- Fought for voting rights and access, championing no-excuse mail-in voting and opposing the disenfranchisement of voters who use mail-in and absentee ballots.
- Prioritized the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact and the abolishment of the electoral college for a more democratic voting process.
- Advocated for open primaries to allow more voters to make their voices heard.
- Participated in a historic redistricting effort and pushed for a fair process and representative maps.

Our social policy advocacy aimed to protect civil rights across Pennsylvania. We:

- Fought for reproductive justice by condemning the Dobbs decision and PA SB 106.
- Advocated for gun safety, including supporting the passage of a bipartisan background check bill.
- Supported fair funding measures for all PA schools, including the fair school funding lawsuit and the new education budget passed over the summer.
- Pushed for criminal justice reforms such as the abolition of the death penalty and the reduction of probation supervision.

Our environmental policy advocated for a cleaner, more sustainable Pennsylvania environment. We:

- Hosted our tenth annual Shale and Public Health Conference, featuring a variety of experts on topics related to shale drilling, and its public health and environmental implications.
- Successfully advocated for Pennsylvania to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.
- Created the first ever student-focused Reimagine group in collaboration with Ursinus University and the town of Collegeville.
- Worked with local Leagues and grassroots groups to envision zero-waste communities across PA.
- Established statewide focus groups for deeper work on topics like nuclear energy, environmental justice, agriculture, fracking, and more.
MEET OUR FELLOWS

Through the generosity of League supporters, LWVPA hosts a paid fellowship program to offer professional development opportunities to students with a passion for democracy. This year's cohort brought an exceptional group of students into the League's grassroots advocacy and election work.

Sophie Cohen
Franklin and Marshall College

Giselle Concepcion
Penn State University

Rachel Jordan
Villanova University

Clare Maus
Temple University

Monica Ratnaraj
University of Pennsylvania

Niki Verwoerd
University of Pennsylvania

"I was able to work with the League during a pivotal time for electoral politics in Pennsylvania, with decisive senatorial and gubernatorial races bringing national attention to the state. My work connected me to a community of people dedicated to improving our democracy through both a network of grassroots activists and cross-organizational project collaboration. I loved collaborating with the LWVPA network to ensure that all Pennsylvania voters have access to safe and secure elections."

-Monica Ratnaraj, Policy and Communications Fellow
DEMOCRACY
DEFENSE AND
LITIGATION

During a critical election season, the League threw the weight of its resources behind election protection efforts and litigation. This year we:

- Advocated for no-excuse mail voting, combatting mis- and disinformation in support of Pennsylvania's mail voting law.

- Submitted an amicus brief in collaboration with Leagues around the country in the Moore v. Harper case before the U.S. Supreme Court. The case concerns the so-called “independent state legislature theory” (ISLT), which, if adopted, would give state legislatures unchecked power over elections, undoing decades of anti-gerrymandering work in PA and around the country.

- Fought against Pennsylvania voter disenfranchisement by filing to intervene in Ball v. Chapman, an effort to invalidate undated mail-in ballots.

- Worked to protect Pennsylvania's voting and reproductive rights by petitioning to intervene in a case filed by Governor Wolf challenging a package of proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania constitution, otherwise known as SB 106.
CELEBRATING THE WORK OF FAIR DISTRICTS PA

A Victory for Fair Maps

At the beginning of the year, a decade-long effort by Fair Districts PA and the League culminated in the creation of new legislative and Congressional district maps. The Legislative Reapportionment Commission heard testimony from a myriad of citizens and organizations, including members from FDPA and the League, and drew PA House and Senate maps which are far better than those of the past. FDPA and the League, along with other PA good government groups, filed an amicus brief in support of the maps, which were upheld by the PA Supreme Court in March.

The PA Supreme Court chose Congressional maps in February after a contentious process. The Carter Plan was chosen after a different set of maps was passed by the state legislature but vetoed by Governor Wolf. The map is a good, balanced choice and an improvement from past decades. While these new maps are a success for those who’ve worked so hard, we look forward to continuing our efforts for a fair, citizen-led redistricting process in the years to come.

A Campaign to Fix Harrisburg

In April, FDPA and the League announced our Fix Harrisburg Campaign, aimed at rules reform in Harrisburg. Procedural rules in the state legislature dictate who puts bills on the schedule on the floor and in committees, who chooses committee members, when discussion can occur, and other important aspects of our legislative process. The current rules give majority party leaders total control over which bills get a vote. Fix Harrisburg demands rules reform which ensures good bills with broad bipartisan support are given their due. This reform will allow legislators from across the state to play a meaningful role in the legislative process. Click here to take action and get involved. We look forward to seeing the campaign's progress in the coming year!
The League of Women Voters of Penn State was created in collaboration with the League of Women Voters of Centre County to provide the services and impact of the League to college students and the Penn State community. Chapter President and League fellow Giselle Concepcion works with her colleagues at the university to educate and engage young voters. They also help students network with similar organizations and build connections with state political and advocacy groups. We're proud of the work of these passionate young voting advocates!
In 2022, LWVPA began a strategic planning process to guide our organization for the next three years. Through the planning process, we determined six broad strategic goals. These goals will guide the League as we work towards achieving a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

**Strengthen Our Organizational Identity**

Strengthen LWVPA’s organizational identity, brand and visibility, both internally and externally.

**Increase Local League Impact & Engagement**

Continue building the capacity of our local League network by providing technical support, financial support, communications support, and more.

**Support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Ensure existing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) practices are sustainably supported and work to integrate these efforts into all aspects of LWVPA’s mission, programs, and internal processes.

**Measure & Communicate Impact**

Ensure that consistent and ongoing program evaluation practices are embedded throughout the organization, enabling LWVPA to accurately and clearly communicate its impact.

**Enhance Policy Advocacy**

Position LWVPA as a key force for policy advocacy work on critical statewide issues in the Commonwealth.

**Build a Sustainable Board**

Critically evaluate the LWVPA Board’s structure, responsibilities and recruitment processes.
In 2022, the League continued to work towards a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of our work:

- Monthly equity webinars were open to the public and covered topics such as accessibility in voting, LGBTQIA+ history, LWVPA equity resources, microaggressions, and the next generation of the League.

- Our DEI Learning Modules were created to augment other DEI programming available through the LWVUS, LWVPA, and local Leagues. They are a basic guide to DEI, the LWV DEI policy and how it works in the League.

- Our "Building Equity is Local" grant program allowed local Leagues to undertake grassroots DEI-based projects in their communities.

- League leaders participated in DEI Trainings facilitated by the PA Association of Nonprofit Organizations to better understand the work ahead and our responsibility to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all who participate in the League.

LWV Indiana County and LWV Radnor Township undertook exciting and unique DEI projects this year
On June 7th, the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania held an event in Harrisburg to celebrate the achievements of women lawmakers throughout the Commonwealth. In 2022, there were more women in Pennsylvania’s Legislature than ever before, comprising about 30% of the legislature.

The event honored Senator Kim Ward, the Senate Majority Leader, and Representative Joanna McClinton, the House Minority Leader. For the first time in Pennsylvania’s history, there was a woman majority leader in the Senate and a woman minority leader in the House of Representatives. During the event, all leaders stressed the need to have more women in office to uplift issues that affect women and families across the Commonwealth.

Thank you to our allies Dorothy Bedford and Rush Taggart for their support of this event!
The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania is a people powered, donor supported organization. Our work would not be possible without the generosity of our institutional and individual supporters. We thank these donors for their commitment to empowering voters and defending democracy this year.

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Environmental Defense Fund
The Heinz Endowments
The Impact Fund

League of Women Voters of United States
Norman Raab Foundation
Pennsylvania Voice
Philadelphia Foundation
Seattle Foundation
William Penn Foundation

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Juliet Zavon
May Zia

For more information on joining the 1920 Circle, visit palwv.org/1920-circle
We’ve made great progress towards empowering voters and defending democracy in 2022. In 2023, critical issues that Pennsylvanians care about have the potential to be advanced in Harrisburg. The work of nonpartisan groups like the League will be more critical than ever. Your support for LWVPA helps inform, engage, and empower Pennsylvanians to have their voices heard at the ballot box and to advocate for the issues that matter.

Help advance our mission in 2023 by becoming a member of the League, making a donation, or taking action on an issue you care about.

LWVPA STAFF

Meg Pierce
Executive Director

Rae Neubaum
Office Administrator

Sam Anthony
Membership and Operations Associate

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