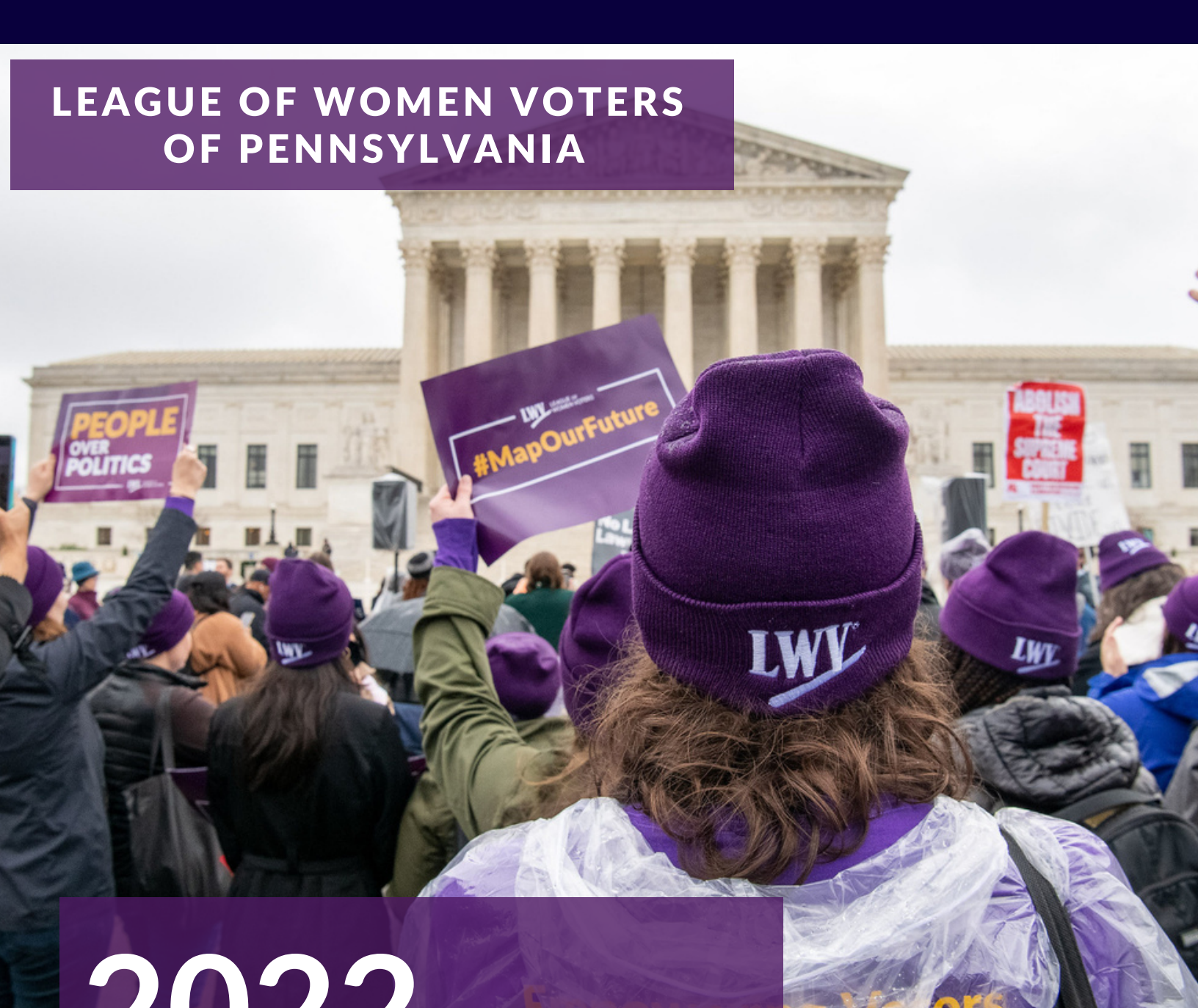


LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PENNSYLVANIA



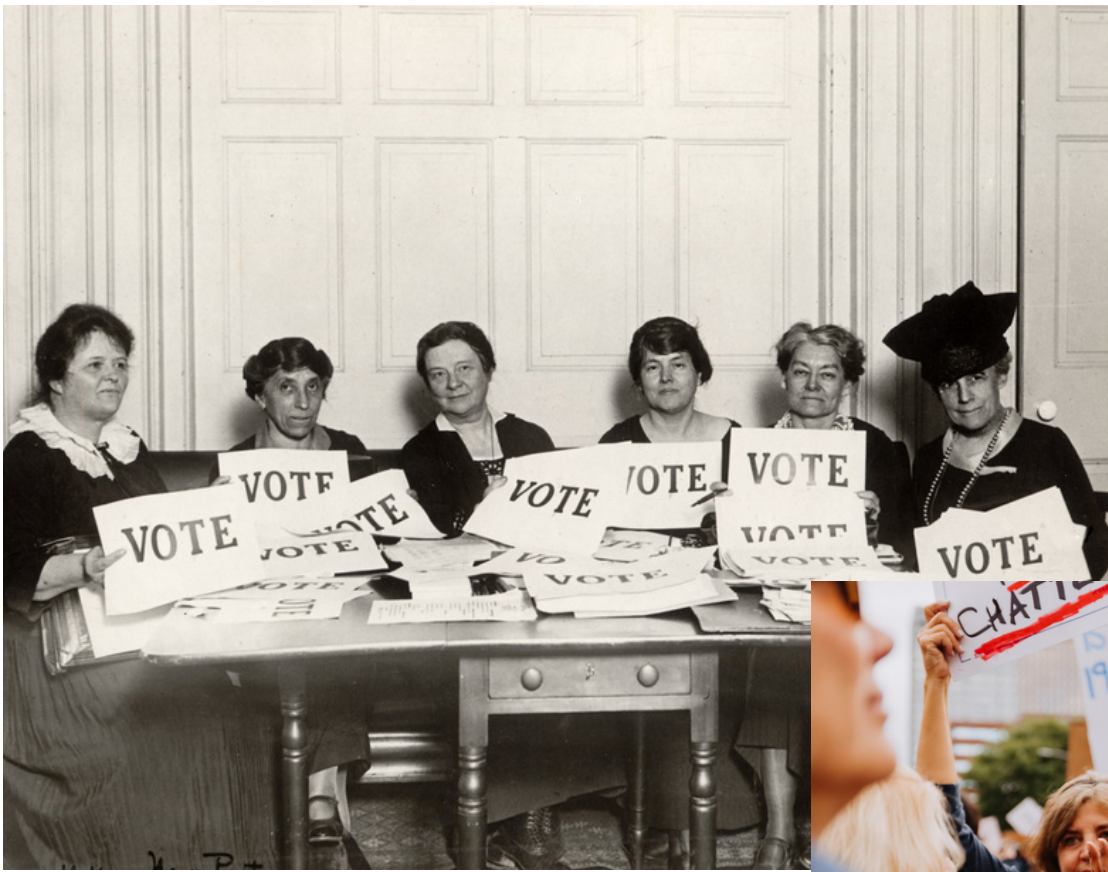
2022 IMPACT REPORT



www.palwv.org
(717) 234-1576
info@palwv.org

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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.

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.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PA 2021-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

03



Samantha Apgar
President
LWV of Philadelphia



Guerline Laurore
Vice President
LWV of Harrisburg Area



Melissa Wright
Treasurer
LWV Philadelphia



**Dr. Alison Lalond
Wyant**
Secretary
LWV of Abington
Cheltenham-Jenkintown



Jennifer Hanf
Director, Equity Initiative
LWV of Berks County



Kathy Cook
Director, Environmental
Policy
LWV of Central Delaware
County



Susan Gobreski
Director, Government
Policy
LWV of Philadelphia



Sarah Miller
Director, Social Policy
LWV of Philadelphia



Betsy Murray
Director, Development
Member at Large



Rochelle Kaplan
Director, Voter Services
LWV of Lehigh County



Carolyn Cavaness
Board Member at Large
LWV of Lower Merion
and Narberth



Dr. Terrie Griffin
Board Member Emeritus
LWV of the Greater
Pittsburgh Area

Civic Engagement BY THE NUMBERS

04

222,941



137,000



1,000



1,622,270



40,000



"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.



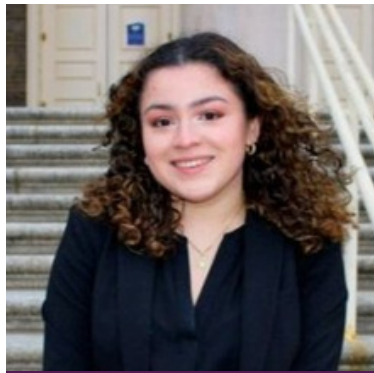
MEET OUR FELLOWS

06

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!



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR PENN STATE STUDENT CHAPTER

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!

Planning Our Future

2022-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

10

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





Photos courtesy of the PA House Democratic Caucus

HONORING WOMEN LAWMAKERS

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.

Institutional Funders:

All Voting is Local	League of Women Voters of United States
Community Foundation of New Jersey	Norman Raab Foundation
Cottage Bridge Foundation	Pennsylvania Voice
Eden Hall Foundation	Philadelphia Foundation
Environmental Defense Fund	Seattle Foundation
The Heinz Endowments	William Penn Foundation
The Impact Fund	

1920 Circle Donors:

Samantha Apgar	Joyce Losee	Jane Sprecher
Carol Aronoff	Matthew McManus	Sara Steelman
Dorothy Bedford and Rush Taggart	Catherine Mott	Edith Stevens
Marilyn Brill	Betsy Murray	Betsy Teti
Marguerite Chandler	Glenn and Ramona Nelson	Colleen Vermillion
Andrew and Barbara Cullen	Eileen Olmsted	Patricia Walkup
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Mary Felley	John Pierce Jr.	Roberta Winters
Audrey Fisher	Anne Posel	Jason Wright
Susan Gobreski	Nancy Posel	Melissa Wright
Joan Harrison	Michael and Linda Ryan	Susan Wilmerding
Molly Henderson	Lisa Sandler	Juliet Zavon
Mary Hepokoski	Robert Serfass	May Zia
Megan Hull	Anita Schmukler	
Rochelle Kaplan	Annette and Preston Shimer	
Alison LaLond Wyant	Richmond Shreve	

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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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PA

1425 CROOKED HILL ROAD
PO BOX 60890
HARRISBURG, PA 17106-0890

(717) 234-1576
INFO@PALWV.ORG

JAN-DEC 2022