

Upcoming Events

[Wednesday, August 19, 6 pm -LWV Board Meeting](#)

[Wednesday, September 15, 6 pm - LWV Board Meeting](#)



Letter from the President

We are now halfway through 2020 and while the majority of this year has been unfathomably difficult, we as a League have remained steadfast in our goals. I want to thank you for all for your continued support and dedication to our mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

The past few months we've worked hard on our [Arkansas Voters First redistricting reform campaign](#), registered new voters, stood up for racial justice in our communities, held our annual program online (for the first time!), and continued our lawsuit to fight for the constitutional rights and health of Arkansans during this global pandemic.

The public health crises we are facing have laid bare what we've known to be true all along: hat threats to democracy, access, and justice are always present. The pandemic has exacerbated existing injustices and inequities while presenting new challenges to navigate. We've been fighting for over 100 years against the same threats to undermine representative democracy. Now more than ever we need to double down on our goals.

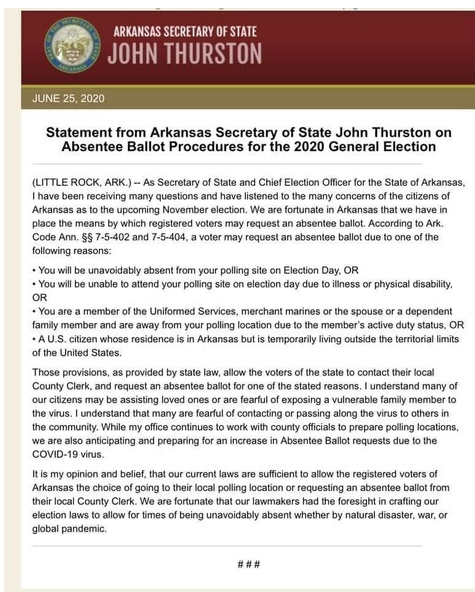
Leaguers are fighters. We don't give up. I witnessed this resilience in the lines of cars waiting to sign our ballot petition. You showed up and participated in direct democracy because you know Arkansas deserves better than the current system we have in place and you want fair maps. Volunteers wore masks and stood outside in the heat and humidity to hold signs and direct cars for hours. That is dedication. This is who we are.

Thank you for continually showing up for democracy. I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Board of Directors who work so hard every week to keep us moving forward. These women put in countless hours behind the scenes to ensure the future success of our League. Thank you to Laura Kellams, Kay Abney, Mary Alice Serafini, Chloe Roane, Glenda Patterson, Laura Winburn, Michelle Wolchok, Sarah Gheen, Rachel Pope, Sarah Thompson, and Catherine Dunlap.

In solidarity,
Bonnie Miller

Absentee Voting to be Allowed in Arkansas

Governor Asa Hutchinson announced last week that anybody in Arkansas could vote by absentee ballot in the November elections if they have a health concern related to COVID-19. You can request an absentee ballot from your [county clerk](#) before October 27. Ballots must be submitted by 7:30 pm on Election Day with a photocopy of our state ID. If you are not registered, fill out this [registration form](#) first, and return it to your [County Clerk](#).



Arkansas First Signature Success
[Arkansas First](#) and the League of Women Voters gathered over 100,000 signatures from registered Arkansas voters in support of our measure to end gerrymandering in Arkansas. These signatures more than satisfy the state's requirements to get our constitutional amendment on the ballot.

We couldn't have done it without the tireless work of our volunteers, coalition partners, and of course, supporters like you. Thank you!

Report on the Annual Meeting

Dr. Janine Perry, Professor of Political Science at the University of Arkansas, [Director of the Arkansas Poll](#), and author of [Women's Rights in the USA](#) and [Readings in Arkansas Politics and Government](#), was the keynote speaker at this year's Annual Meeting. She discussed the history of absentee balloting, its successes, and the current controversy surrounding it. She also addressed Arkansas recent decision to permit absentee voting because of the pandemic.



Members approved the budget, and the priorities of the League for 2020-21. The top priorities include: redistricting, voting rights and voter registration. Also approved were the slate of candidates for 2020-21 put forth by the nominating committee.

- President - Bonnie Millier
- Vice President - Chloe Roane
- Secretary - Michelle Wolchok
- Treasurer - Laura Winburn
- Elected Directors - Laura Kellams, Raven Cook, Kay Abney and Glenda Patterson
- Leader of the Nominating Committee 2020-21 - Sarah B Thompson

Thoughts from LWVWC's Vice President, Chloe Roane

The injustice that has been plaguing Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) is the result of systemic racism in our country, and we must each address our own biases, and blind spots. But where to start? There is a myriad of resources available, and things we can do. Let me suggest a jumping off point:

- [READ.](#)
- [Me and White Supremacy](#) by Layla Saad.
- [WATCH.](#)
- [13th](#) on Netflix.
- [SHOW UP.](#)
- To protests, to [City Council meetings](#), to [Quorum Court Meetings](#).
- [DON'T LOOK AWAY.](#)

The footage of police brutality is hard to watch, but that does not make it go away. Watch it. Feel anger. Feel sadness. Understand that it is unacceptable.

[VOTE LIKE YOUR RIGHTS DEPEND ON IT.](#)

The League of Women Voters of Washington County AR is dedicated to helping voters make informed choices. In Washington County, you get to vote for who is the Sheriff. You get to vote for who is the Prosecuting Attorney, you get to vote for Justices of the Peace. Voting is a right that has been denied to women, and BIPOC, which has taken those groups out of the process of lawmaking. Women and BIPOC need to be a part of lawmaking, from the seemingly most insignificant city ordinance, to voting for the President of the United States.

Let's dismantle systemic racism together. Without doing so we cannot become the city, county, state, or nation we pledge to be a part of- "indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

#CountMeIn



Count Me In

[Make sure you are counted in the 2020 Census.](#) Being counted will ensure that the political power, health, and safety of every community is maintained or enhanced in the upcoming decade.

Questions for the League? E-mail us at info@lwvarwc.org.
Questions for Bonnie? Email her at bonniehmiller@gmail.com

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