



THE WEST VIRGINIA VOTER

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PRESIDENTS' REPORT

By Julie Archer and Effie Kallas, Co-Presidents

Spring is here and another election is just around the corner. However, we are entering this election cycle without federal protections in place to protect and safeguard the freedom to vote for all Americans. The failure of Congress to enact these needed protections, despite months of advocacy and in the wake of continued attacks, lead LWV-WV to turn its focus to the WV Legislature. The right to vote and equal access to the ballot are pillars of our democracy and guiding principles for the League. That is why one of our three priorities for the session focused on removing barriers to and making voting more accessible for West Virginians based on lessons learned from the 2020 elections.

In 2020, every eligible voter was granted access to an absentee ballot. This option, made available in response to the pandemic, was embraced by voters, leading to the second highest turnout in state history. Unfortunately, none of the bills that would have permitted universal absentee voting were even considered by their respective committees, which means we in West Virginia are going back to pre-pandemic voting options that are unnecessarily restrictive. See Judy Ball's article on page 3 for more on the "good, bad, [and] ugly" election bills that passed and didn't pass this session.

Our other priority areas for the session were social justice and environmental protection. Our focus on social justice includes protecting human, civil and constitutional rights; and ensuring equality of opportunity in and access to education, health care, employment and housing. Our environmental priorities focus on protecting the planet and the health and safety of all West Virginians. This includes ensuring access to clean drinking water and advocating for a just transition for workers in fossil fuel industries as we seek to address the climate crisis.

In keeping with our goal of educating voters, LWV-WV hosted a virtual forum on bills related to elections and social justice in order to inform and move League members to take action. We're grateful to our presenters, Judy K. Ball, Elections Chair of LWV-WV, and Kimberly Crockett, a LWV Jefferson County member and Social Action Chair for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Eastern Panhandle Alumnae Chapter; and for the interest and engagement League members brought to the event. (If you missed it, a recording and related resources can be found on our website.)

You'll find more updates on these issues throughout the newsletter. However, considering all the attacks on often discriminated

against and marginalized communities, and the attempts to further undermine public education and restrict access to health care (specifically abortion care and evidence-based treatments for substance use disorders), the session may be most notable for what didn't pass. Precious time was wasted sowing division and hate instead of addressing the problems facing our state in meaningful ways.

As the session was coming to a close, the LWVUS joined Black Voters Matter and other civil rights organizations in commemorating the anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the Selma to Montgomery marches of 1965 — a reminder of the importance of continuing the fight for an inclusive democracy and the right of everyone to live with autonomy, dignity, and equality.

To that end, LWV-WV remains active working to influence public policy and affect positive change in a number of areas, both on its own and in coalition. This includes our ongoing participation in the WV Health Care for All campaign, and the WV Climate Alliance. In October, the Alliance hosted a Halloween Rally for Climate Action in downtown Charleston. The rally's messaging was directed at Sen. Joe Manchin, urging him to stand behind climate legislation and funding proposed by the Biden Administration.

At the climate rally, LWV-WV had a booth where we collected "Hopes, Prayers and Wishes" for our climate future to add to a climate time capsule to be opened in 2050. This project took place under the direction of our Natural Resources Chair, Nyoka Baker Chapman. See article on page 6. On April 20th, the capsule will be transferred to the Marshall University James E. Morrow Library for archiving. The occasion will be marked with a ceremony at 3 PM that day, as part of the University's Earth Week activities. In the meantime, additional contributions to the time capsule can be submitted to nyokab@gmail.com. League members are welcome and encouraged to join us for the ceremony.

After the election, we look forward to gathering with League members virtually for our Council on May 21st. More details will be forthcoming so please watch your email for the announcement.

In League,

Julie Archer & Effie Kallas
Co-Presidents

2022 Primary Election: Voter Tips

By Judy K. Ball

Our 2022 elections come with big changes. Redistricting produced new boundaries for 17 State Senate, 100 single-member House of Delegates, and 2 Congressional districts. Counties have redrawn magisterial districts and precincts and are matching voters to all the changes.

According to the Secretary of State:

If your polling place location must be changed due to legislative redistricting, you will receive a letter from your county clerk prior to the election.

You can find your unofficial district information by looking up your address on the Interactive Map of Voting Precincts at GoVoteWV.com. Your official district information will appear on this website prior to the election following the completion of statewide redistricting updates.

Some counties have not yet completed this work (as of 4/8/2022).

Tips to Make Sure Your Vote Counts

Check your registration status.

Deadline to register or make updates is **April 19, 2022**, for the Primary Election. If you're not registered, you can't vote. Check your voter registration status online at GoVoteWV.com.

Vote Early – by Absentee Ballot or In-Person.

1. Apply for an absentee ballot, if you're eligible.

Deadline to apply is **May 4, 2022**, but don't wait—request your ballot now.

The rules to qualify for an absentee ballot have changed since 2020. Absentee ballots are not available for every voter. See Absentee Voting Information at GoVoteWV.com for eligibility details (read carefully) and to get an application.

2. Use Early In-Person Voting.

Begins April 27 and ends May 7, including two Saturdays, no Sundays.

Each County offers at least one Early Voting site; 16 counties have multiple sites. County clerks publish locations for Early Voting sites.

Why use Early In-Person Voting?

- Relatively few voters will qualify for absentee ballots in 2022.
- Reduced likelihood of lines/waits, compared with Election Day.
- Flexibility.
- Your precinct assignment doesn't matter for Early Voting. **VERY IMPORTANT**

Voting In-Person on Election Day, May 10.

If you wait until Election Day to vote, it is important to go to the correct precinct. But your precinct may have changed since you voted last.

What happens if you go to the wrong precinct? WV law states:

*... if the voter is casting a ballot in the incorrect precinct, the ballot cast **may not be counted** for that election...*

The law also says poll workers can try to find the correct precinct to direct the voter. Unfortunately, that may discourage voters, or they may simply run out of time.

Protect Your Vote

The 2022 Primary is the first election to reflect the many changes from redistricting.

The League wants your vote to count, and we encourage every voter to take advantage of Early Voting options. Notification delays or a simple habit of recalling a familiar (but now incorrect) polling place could lead a voter to an incorrect precinct on Election Day. That is not a factor with Early Voting.

Vote early. Make sure your vote counts.

2022 West Virginia Legislative Session Elections and Voting

by Judy K. Ball

The League followed all bills on elections and redistricting during the 2022 session of the West Virginia Legislature, which ended March 12 at midnight.

Bills Related to Elections/Voting

Legislators introduced nearly 60 bills related to elections. We reviewed and classified each of them by their potential – Good, Bad, Ugly:

| Grade | # in Senate | # in House | Total | Passed or Signed (as of 3/14/2022) |
|-------|-------------|------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| Good | 12 | 23 | 35 | 5 |
| Bad | 2 | 14 | 16 | 5 |
| Ugly | 1 | 6 | 7 | 0 |

Four bills — SB 200, SB 240, HB 2928, HB 4468 — would have permitted universal absentee voting modeled after the successful 2020 elections. Only HB 4468 had been modified for timely implementation for 2022 elections. None of these bills was considered by their respective committees, however.

“Good” bills that made it across the finish line:

While classified as “Good”, none of these bills was designed to make voting easier or more accessible, a League priority.

SB 191 allows poll workers to work full and half days.

SB 253 designates the Secretary of State as liaison to the U.S. Census Bureau for redistricting; requires county commissions to submit information to SOS on precinct updates; specifies other responsibilities of county commissions and SOS relating to maps, accompanying technical files, business hours, and availability of information for public inspection. One purpose of this bill was to fix problems encountered in the 2021 redistricting due to some counties’ failure to report to the Census Bureau.

HB 4097 prohibits nonpublic funding sources for election administration and related expenses without written approval by the State Election Commission.

HB 4353 addresses alignment of local and county elections with statewide primary/general election dates, also elections to renew/increase levies. This has the potential to increase voter turnout and save taxpayer money devoted to special elections.

HB 4450 removes the \$0.50 fee charged and deposited in the Combined Voter Registration and Driver’s Licensing Fund for each driver’s license issued by the DMV.

“Bad” bills that made it through:

The best thing about these bills is they are likely to accomplish little.

HB 4299 prohibits interference with voters’ travel to and from the polls. This appeared to be politically motivated, a solution in search of a problem.

HB 4311 creates a felony for voting more than once or voting while ineligible. While no one advocates for illegal voting, this bill imposes extraordinary penalties and suggests a political motivation.

HB 4312 adds electronic absentee ballot eligibility for first responders (defined in the bill) called for duty for an emergency outside their county of residence, which prevents participation in an election in-person or by mail-in absentee voting. This bill adds another complex absentee eligibility category to WV Code and begs the question whether eligible first responders could meet both eligibility and timing criteria. Regardless of its utility, the bill was popular and passed with virtually no opposition early in the session.

HB 4419 allows candidate and campaign committees to make contributions to affiliated state party executive committees, or any subsidiary, branch, or local unit thereof, or a caucus campaign committee with no limit. Limitless contributions make this a bad bill.

HB 4438 applies current requirements for certain voting systems to be independent and non-networked to all voting systems that seek certification in West Virginia. Unclear how this does not conflict with e-voting systems in use under WV Code.

“Ugly” bills that made it through: NONE.

Bills/Resolutions Related to Redistricting

With the 2021 Redistricting process just completed, legislation to amend the process of redistricting was relevant and timely. Yet, except for SB 253 (above), the Legislature chose not to consider any of the bills or resolutions introduced:

HB 2099 would have reduced the number of districts to 16 for the Senate and 96 for the House.

HB 2549, HJR 27, HJR 5 would have taken steps toward creating an independent redistricting commission. All were attempts to get the politics out of redistricting.

HB 4099 would have mandated a process for increased transparency and more informed public involvement in redistricting. The bill recognized that politicians are unlikely to take the politics out of redistricting.

Call to Action

This 2022 session did not accomplish much to improve voting in West Virginia, but many bills that could have done great harm failed in the legislative process. So, do we rejoice or mourn? We suggest neither. One message gleaned from our Legislature is that success next year depends on advocacy that starts earlier and is more focused and strategic. We hope you will join us.

2022 West Virginia Legislative Session Education

by Shirley Rosenbaum

Many education related bills worked their way through the Legislature. All bills have been signed by the Governor.

HJR 102 was adopted and will now be placed on the November General Election Ballot. If this resolution passes, it would require the West Virginia Department of Education to submit all rules and policies to the Legislature for its review and approval.

SB 246 requires water bottle filling stations for newly constructed public schools and schools with major renovations. For sanitary reasons, these stations shall be touchless. The Senate concurred on the House amendment, which requires County Boards to adopt a policy concerning students carrying water bottles.

SB 250 (budget bill) contains the pay raise as a line item. This bill will provide a \$2,240 per year raise for professional staff, which includes teachers, counselors, nurses, and school social workers. Service personnel will receive a \$122 per month raise.

SB 268 creates learning pods and microschoools, and excuses these students from compulsory attendance. The bill also clarifies that learning pods and microschoools are not the same as home schooling, and providing that no learning pod or microschoool is subject to any other provision of law relating to education other than the law pertaining to placement of video cameras in certain special education classrooms. There is no cap on the number of students in a learning pod or microschoool, and if the Hope Scholarship survives the legal battle, these funds could be presented to participants of learning pods and microschoools.

SB 704 allows parents, custodians, and guardians to inspect instructional materials in the classroom. It also requires any books read by students in the classroom to be listed on a class syllabus, and have the syllabus be made available to the parent, grandparent, or guardian. The bill allows for the parent, custodian, or guardian to file a complaint with the county superintendent if the classroom teacher fails to comply with this new section and then with the state superintendent if the complaint is not resolved by the county superintendent within seven days.

HB 3073 (WV Emergency Food Act) requires counties to look for innovative ways to help with students in need to access nutritious foods during the summer or when schools are not in session. HB 4065 requires the State Board of Education to implement a Hunter Safety Course program. This program may be offered during school hours or after school. This program also, must be offered at least once each Spring Semester, but may also be offered in the Fall Semester if the county decides they have enough interest. This bill is effective 90 days from Legislative passage.

HB 4074 referred to as “Megan’s Law”, establishes training requirements for certain county employees and volunteers regarding students’ self-harm behaviors and eating disorders. This law will also require middle school and high school students to receive information regarding self-harm and eating disorders at least once per academic school year. This bill is effective 90 days from passage.

HB 4571 modifies the foundation allowance in the school funding formula to account for transportation by electric powered buses.

WV SB 4 Lifts the Ban on Construction of Nuclear Power Plants

By Nyoka Baker Chapman

Passage of SB 4 repealed WV codes §16-27A-1 and §16-27A-2 that relate to the ban on the construction of nuclear power facilities in WV.

It would seem that without concise and specific conclusions of research, **the repeal** of said codes was not justified. The appointment of a balanced committee to study and report the costs, efficiency, benefits, harms and the environmental implications of accidents, targets of terrorism or the disposal of waste materials and the end of facility life problems associated with the retirement of nuclear generators would seem to have been more appropriate at this time.

Further, SB 4 failed to cite other codes related to §16-27A-1 and §16-27A-2. Without a resolution with respect to **WV code §16-27-2** Storage or disposal of radioactive waste material within the state prohibited; exceptions <https://code.wvlegislature.gov/16-27-2/> and §16-27-1. Definitions. <https://code.wvlegislature.gov/16-27-1/> there would appear to be no means to lift the ban on the construction of any nuclear facilities without a full and comprehensive perspective of what advanced nuclear SMRs, or other nuclear sites and nuclear usage would entail in their reality. The storage or disposal of radioactive waste material within our state is prohibited.

Without conclusive knowledge of where such waste materials would be deposited, housed or safely transported, the lifting of the existing ban can be argued as illogical if not reckless.

Continued on page 5

WV SB 4 *Cont. from page 4*

This Stanford Study does not bode well for addressing nuclear waste from SMRs and exemplifies the type of details that should have been considered in a report of findings prior to the submission of legislation. <https://fsi.stanford.edu/events/critical-analysis-nuclear-waste-management-consequences-small-modular-reactors>

Other reports such as this one from the US Energy Information Administration also express critical issues. <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/nuclear/nuclear-power-and-the-environment.php>

Small Modular Reactors appear to be deemed as being safer versions of the nuclear power plants of old, being more compact with a longer life span. Yet, what happens at the end of its life when an SMR is no longer viable? <https://armscontrolcenter.org/nuclear-waste-issues-in-the-united-states/>

With greener, more sustainable energy sources available for energy production, it is difficult to understand any merits behind lifting the ban. Our sun is already producing 384.6 septillion watts (that is 1 + 24 zeros following) of power every second for free. Investing in nuclear fusion processes to create energy when it is already there for the taking is not a safe choice to meet reduced greenhouse emission goals.

2022 West Virginia Legislative Session - Health Care by Betty Barrett

As usual, there were some good bills that passed, some that failed, some bad bills that passed and others that failed. One that is not direct health care, but can have a major impact on children's health. All of these have been signed by the Governor, except for the big reorganization of the huge Department of Health and Human Resources. Explanation later.

HB 3073, the Emergency School Food Act, just passed at the last minute, a bipartisan bill to survey county resources for food when schools are closed, and devise solutions for hungry children.

Other bills that passed (thanks to Caity Coyne of the Charleston Gazette-Mail):

HB 4373, to exclude fentanyl test strips from the definition of drug paraphernalia, is meant to help people who use drugs determine if deadly fentanyl is present in drugs.

SB 419, to establish a 3-year pilot project to evaluate some residential post-substance abuse treatment programs.

HB 4631, which establishes a bone marrow and peripheral brain stem donation awareness program.

HB 2817, to create a donated drug repository program, so that leftover prescription and over-the-counter drugs may be used in certain settings.

SB 518, which will allow nurses licensed in other states to practice in West Virginia.

SB 468, which creates the Unborn Child with Down Syndrome Protection and Education Act. This one is clearly unconstitutional under *Roe v. Wade*, since it bans abortion based on pre-natal tests that diagnose fetal anomalies.

HB 4012, which prohibits the requirement to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination. It would not prohibit asking questions about vaccination status, and would not apply in federal facilities or certain health facilities. There are exemptions for religious beliefs that prevent vaccination, and for some college programs.

HB 4020 splits and reorganizes the Department of Health and Human Resources. Although this had major support in the Legislature, the Governor rightly said it really needed more thought than had been given. In my opinion, a thorough study of this will be highly useful, and may result in a split later.

All of these passed with overwhelming support, many of them with almost all majority, but not minority, support. Other bills failed. Many will be brought up next year, and deserve approval.

Bills that didn't pass.

HB 4111 would have allowed advanced practice nurses and physicians assistants more ability to prescribe medications, excluding Schedule 1 narcotics, within specific limits. The bill passed the House unanimously, but the Senate did not act.

HB 4252 would reduce the copay cap on insulin. Strongly supported, it did not pass both houses as amended.

HB 4067 would have removed some of the Certificate of Need requirements for treatment facilities, and would have allowed an easier process to increase methadone treatment centers in the state. It would not change the CON requirement for opioid treatment centers. Despite strong support for the component bills, it failed when two related bills could not be combined in time.

HB 4004 would ban most abortions performed at 15 weeks of pregnancy. State law ends abortions at 20 weeks. A similar law from Mississippi is due to be decided soon by the Supreme Court to determine its constitutionality, which will affect laws in other states.

HB 4005 would make it illegal to transport or sell "fetal body parts", which is already banned by federal code.

HB 4320 would force employers of all kinds that require vaccination as a condition for employment to recognize natural immunity as a substitute for vaccination. It would apply to any communicable disease, not just COVID 19.

HB 4643 exempts some health services, specifically birthing centers, from Certificate of Need requirements.

HB 2184 would make it a misdemeanor and \$500 fine for possession of fentanyl or other controlled drugs, that could expose others to it. If a person suffered harm from the drug, the charge would become a felony, with potential jail time and \$2,000 fine.

There were other health related bills that space prohibits including. Further details may be found at wvlegislature.gov. Some of those approved deal with behavioral health, which badly needs attention. Another interesting one approved deals with training law enforcement in handling individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia. Another requires schools to provide handling of eating disorders and self-harm training for teachers and students.

Now we need to observe the implementation of these bills. We will have another lively legislative session next year, and already, a special session is planned.

WV v. the EPA. US Supreme Court, Oral Arguments Heard

By Nyoka Baker Chapman

WV is a lead petitioner in a case filed on 4/29/2021 in which oral arguments were heard by the US Supreme Court on 2/28/22. The decision reached in [West Virginia v. EPA](#) will affect not only WV but all states. There should be a ruling by summer in this controversial case.

In 2019 the Trump Administration repealed the Clean Power Plan of 2015, which set guidelines for states to limit CO2 emissions and created in its place the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) Rule, which changed those guidelines. The ACE Rule was consequently vacated in 2021 by the US Court of Appeals DC Circuit to allow for the current administration to formalize new regulations. The State of WV argues whether or not the EPA has the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. North American Coal Corporation and other petitioners are among those challenging the EPA's ability to enforce.

Per Scotus Blog: "*Issue: Whether, in 42 U.S.C. § 7411(d), an ancillary provision of the Clean Air Act, Congress constitutionally authorized the Environmental Protection Agency to issue significant rules — including those capable of reshaping the nation's electricity grids and unilaterally decarbonizing virtually any sector of the economy — without any limits on what the agency can require so long as it considers cost, non-air impacts and energy requirements.*"

<https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/west-virginia-v-environmental-protection-agency>
https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/20/20-1530/176915/20210429133443663_2021.04.29%20-%20West%20Virginia%20v.%20EPA%20Petition.pdf

Also of note:

WV has already divested from banking institutions and mutual funds that have developed policies regarding financing the fossil fuel industry in favor of green energy alternatives.

WV's relationship with BlackRock is well defined in an article published by the Institutional Investor.

[West Virginia Treasury Drops BlackRock Over Stance on Climate Risk | Institutional Investor](#)

A West Virginia Climate Time Capsule

By Nyoka Baker Chapman

The WV Climate Time Capsule began as a contributing activity by the LWVWV to a climate rally sponsored by the WV Climate Alliance in October of 2021. The contents contain contributions from multiple organizations, research on alternative energy technologies, articles that document current events that are shaping our climate future, correspondence and more. The WV Climate Time Capsule also carries prayers, hopes and wishes to our neighbors in time, that we are working now on all levels to ensure that they will inherit a sustainable future.

Curbing climate change is arguably the greatest challenge we face in the coming decades. We are facing empirical scientific and ethical problems that must be solved, against all odds, during the first half of this century. As WV is one of the top emitters of greenhouse gases in the nation, we find ourselves in a unique position to lead on a global scale to show the world how it is done. This is the responsibility of our current generations and we must pledge to invest our energies to secure this great task.

Cultivating change to create a positive climate future is and will be a multilevel effort that will involve the

practical, the political and yes, the spiritual nature of humanity itself that we will be able to work together to preserve the collective right to call this beautiful Planet our home.

The transfer of our WV Climate Time Capsule to the Marshall University James E. Morrow Library will take place on Wednesday, 04/20 at 3 pm during the Marshall University Earth Week. The simple ceremony will follow a tabling event by environmental organizations <https://www.marshall.edu/sustainability/earth-week-april-18-22-2022/>. Written contributions will be accepted until 2 pm that day for a supplemental folder, this will be a part of our event activities on that day.

The LWVWV would like to extend our gratitude to the WV Climate Alliance, the Marshall University James E. Morrow Library, the Marshall University Department of Sustainability, and the Marshall University Drinko Academy for their support of this effort. As well, to all others who have contributed to carry our WV climate history and messages of good will toward a beautiful Earth Day in 2050.

2022 Primary Election Important Dates

Voter Registration Ends:
April 19, 2022

Deadline to apply for absentee ballot: May 4, 2022

Early In-Person Voting:
April 27—May 7, 2022

Primary Election Day:
May 10, 2022

2022 West Virginia Legislative Session - Taxation

By Vicki Conner

As usual, there were many tax-related bills offered early in the Legislative session but one of the most discussed (at least here in Mon Co) was SB31 to redirect the pop tax from WVU Medicine to local law enforcement. It never got out of the Finance Committee. My personal favorite (being a nurse) was SB 447 to provide a \$5K personal income tax credit for nurses. It died in Health and Human Resources. HB 4294 would have expanded a tax credit to all first responders. It died in Finance. Perhaps the most controversial was HB4007 to begin the process of eliminating personal income tax. It also died in Finance.

Ultimately the 5 bills that passed were insubstantial.

SB450 - Updating definitions of WV Personal Income Tax Act
SB 451 - Updating definitions of WV Corporation Net Income Tax Act

SB 476 - Relating to imposition of minimum severance tax on coal

HB 2096 - Reinstating the film investment tax credit

HB 4567 - Relating to business and occupation or privilege tax - exempts sale of NEW vehicles from B&O tax, applies now to sale of used vehicles only.

The other Tax-related activity to watch will be on the ballot in November. In the 2021 session, the Legislature passed **The West Virginia Tax Exemptions for Personal Property Used for Business Activity Amendment**, which is a “legislatively

referred constitutional amendment”.

A "yes" vote supports amending the West Virginia Constitution to authorize the state legislature to exempt personal property (machinery, equipment, and inventory) used for business activity from ad valorem property taxes.

A "no" vote opposes amending the West Virginia Constitution to authorize the state legislature to exempt personal property (machinery, equipment, and inventory) used for business activity from ad valorem property taxes.

The WV Manufacturer’s Association supported it because WV is in the top 10 worst states for taxation on manufacturing. They also like the fact that the amendment would allow the Legislature at some future date to address a number of types of personal property tax, including the taxation that affects their members — but also small business inventory as well as personal vehicles.

The WV Association of Counties opposed it. In 2018, revenue from TPP taxes generated \$523.9 million. Of that revenue, 65.3% was allocated to schools, 27.2% was allocated to counties, 7.1% was allocated to municipalities, and 0.4% was allocated to municipalities. Senator Stollings said that this won’t necessarily impact the state budget but will certainly cause a problem for counties because there is no accompanying legislation to back-fill county revenue losses.

West Virginia Suffragist Memorial Committee – An Update

By Wendy D. Thomas

In 2021, the West Virginia Legislature created the Suffragist Memorial Committee to plan and construct a memorial on the Capitol Grounds honoring WV suffragists whose efforts helped secure a women’s right to vote. To date, the committee has

- developed a strategic plan for its scope of work
- secured funding through the governor and legislature for the initial work
- identified & chosen four interns to assist with research and outreach and most recently
- produced a pamphlet and powerpoint for promotional and educational purposes.

The committee is seeking input from the public on the development, design and placement of the memorial. Interested persons may contact Renate Pore, Committee Chair at renate-pore@gmail.com or Julie Palas at the WV Women’s Commission at Julie.c.palas@wv.gov. The ideas and other

pertinent information shared to help the committee reach its goal are welcomed.

A brochure for persons to share ideas can be downloaded from the WV Women’s Commission website, emailed or mailed directly to willing participants. A website for the WV Suffragist Memorial Committee is being developed for ease of access for responses. Presentations are also available for organizations who are interested in more information.

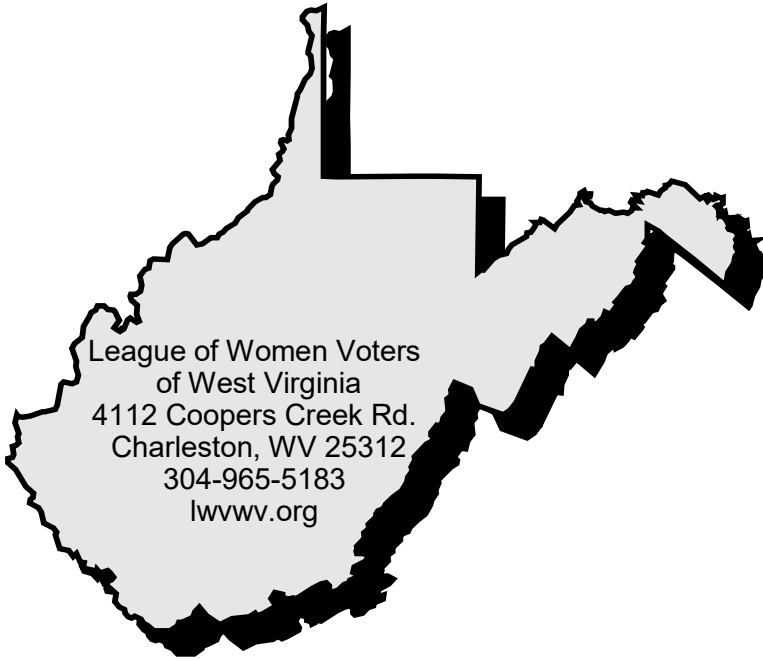
The committee is also seeking photographs or other artifacts which can be used for an exhibit about the struggle for guaranteeing a woman’s right to vote. The committee is in the process of deciding fundraising opportunities for completion of the memorial.

I am honored to represent the West Virginia League of Women Voters as one of the nine committee members.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WEST VIRGINIA
VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEEETING
MAY 21, 2022**

Non-Profit Organization
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Teresa Koon
 Editor

JOIN THE LEAGUE! The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. **If you live in Cabell, Jefferson, Monongalia, or Wood County, please contact the local League in those counties.** To join at the state level, send a check or money order payable to LWVWV to: Teresa Koon, Treasurer, LWVWV, 4112 Coopers Creek Rd., Charleston WV 25312. Dues are \$40 for individuals, \$60 for a household, and \$20 for students. Because we are a lobbying organization, membership dues are not tax-deductible.

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