

Empowering Voters.  
Protecting Democracy.

Newsletter for September 2024

## REACHING LWVCM

**Voicemail:** 704-556-4600

**Email:** [communications@goleaguego.org](mailto:communications@goleaguego.org)

**Website:** [www.goleaguego.org](http://www.goleaguego.org)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/lwvcm>

**Twitter and Instagram:** @lwvcm

**League in Action:** YBP438

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/league-of-women-voters-of-charlotte-mecklenburg/>

**TikTok:** @user4970170161761

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Sara Baysinger, LWVCM Office  
1900 Queens Road, Suite A  
Charlotte, NC 28207

## 2024 General Election Season Is Here!

This month, more than 100 members of the League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg have signed on to the Voter Services Team. These vital volunteers have been working hard across the county at farmer's markets, libraries, college campuses, festivals, and more to register voters and provide resources and information.

In addition to the daily opportunities for members to get out into the community to volunteer at voter registration tables, the League will participate in a big push on National Voter Registration Day, September 17. Plans are set for at least a half a dozen sites around the county that day.

Members wishing to join the many efforts may contact Voter Services Chair Linda Traum at [voterservice@goleaguego.org](mailto:voterservice@goleaguego.org).

League members were also encouraged to recruit poll workers for the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections last month. That effort continues as there is still a need to staff the 33 sites chosen for Early Voting from October 17 thru November 2 and 243 polling locations on Election Day. If you are interested in serving as a poll worker, please fill out an [application here](#).

### VOTE411 Set to Go Live in September

The VOTE411 nonpartisan voter guide will "go live" later this month. At that time, all members of the League are asked to reach out to any candidates who have not filled out the candidate questionnaires and encourage that they do so. All candidates have been invited to participate. Voters deserve to hear where candidates stand on the issues that effect their lives. Click the above video to learn more about VOTE411. Still have questions? Write to: [VOTE411.lwvcm@gmail.com](mailto:VOTE411.lwvcm@gmail.com)



Above: LWVCM Co-President Linda Traum and Secretary Cate Stadelman register voters at the Pride Festival.

Below: Annette Gorelick works with the Greater Charlotte Apartment Association to register voters in Belmont during the Apartment Blitz.



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Find updates for League action and activities at [goleaguego.org](http://goleaguego.org)



### KEY DATES for the 2024 ELECTION

**Election Day:** November 5 (6:30am-7:30pm)

**Absentee Ballots:** Ballots will begin being mailed on **September 6**

**Early Voting:** October 17 thru November 2



# Coming Events

## Coming Up in September, October, & November

- 9/3, 7pm: [LWVNC All-Members Meeting](#) (Virtual)
- 9/5, 1pm: [Election 2024: Social Media & Branding](#) (LWVUS Webinar)
- 9/6: *Absentee-by-Mail Ballots Mailing Begins*
- 9/8, 4pm: [GOTV Postcarding Event](#) (Dilworth)
- 9/10, 8pm: *"Carolina Impact: Unity in Politics" featuring Co-President Elsberry (PBS Charlotte)*
- 9/10, 9pm: [Presidential Debate](#) (ABC News)
- 9/12, 1pm: [Election 2024: Issues w Debates & Candidate Forums](#) (LWVUS Webinar)
- 9/13, 10am: Fundraising Committee Meeting
- 9/14, 10am: [2024 NC Superintendent of Public Instruction Candidate's Forum Livestream](#) (Virtual)
- 9/15: *National Hispanic Heritage Month begins/International Democracy Day*
- 9/15, 4pm: [Co-Webmaster Interest Meeting](#) (Virtual)
- 9/15, 7pm: [League 101: A Primer for New Members](#) (Virtual)
- 9/16, 5:30pm: [GOTV Postcarding Event](#) (Myers Park)
- 9/17: [National Voter Registration Day](#)/Constitution Day
- 9/19, 5pm: [Direct Voter Contact](#) (LWVUS Webinar)
- 9/26, 11:30am: [Postcards and Pulled Pork Party](#) (LWVCM Office)
- 10/1, 9pm: [Vice Presidential Debate](#) (CBS)
- 10/3, 1pm: [Preparing for Post-Election](#) (LWVUS Webinar)
- 10/7, 5:30pm: [GOTV Postcarding Event](#) (South Park)
- 10/10, 5pm: [Bystander Training & Voter Intimidation](#) (LWVUS Webinar)
- 10/10, 7pm: [The Story of Charlotte's Greenways and How Your Vote Matters](#) (Patagonia Southend)
- 10/11, 5pm: *Voter Registration Deadline (Voters may same-day register during EV.)*
- 10/17: *First Day of Early Voting (Runs thru Nov. 2 at 3pm.)*
- 10/24, 10am: [North Carolina's Native Plants](#) (LWVCM Office)
- 10/25, 7:30pm: [Makin' Cake](#) production and reception (Queens University)
- 10/29, 5pm: *Absentee Ballot Request Deadline*
- 11/2, 3pm: *Early Voting Ends*
- 11/5: *Election Day 2024!!!! (Vote at your assigned precinct from 6:30am-7:30pm.)*
- 11/5, 7:30pm: *Absentee Ballots must be received at the Board of Elections*
- 11/12, 6pm: [What's Next? Your League Membership Post Election](#)
- 11/15: *County Canvass for the 2024 General Election*

### Standing Monthly Meetings:

- Education Action Team, 1st Wednesdays at 10am (LWVCM Office)
- LWVNC Presidents Calls, 2nd Mondays at 5pm (Virtual)
- LWVCM Board Meetings, 2nd Tuesdays at 6:30pm

## League Action &amp; Happenings

**LWVCM Members Are Invited to Eat Cake**

The League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg is delighted to announce our co-sponsorship with [Makin' Cake](#), part of the "Spotlight Series" offered by Queens University at the Sarah Belk Gambrell Center for the Arts and Civic Engagement. The stage production, scheduled Friday, October 25 at 7:30 PM.

Please SAVE the DATE! Stay tuned for more details about the opportunity to purchase tickets being sold by LWVCM to this not-to-be-missed presentation about equity in our country.

**Makin' Cake**

For most of human history, baking required patience, resources...and luck. Ingredients were scarce and expensive; chemistry was fickle; and the chain of procedures required days. When our nation began experiencing abundance for the first time, most Americans couldn't afford basic cake ingredients.

*Makin' Cake* is written and performed by Dasha Kelly Hamilton, author, Wisconsin poet laureate, and creative change agent. Kelly Hamilton cuts into a cake, revealing what its history and ingredients can teach us about race, class and equity in America.

This one-night only event includes delicious conversation after the show and cake for all.

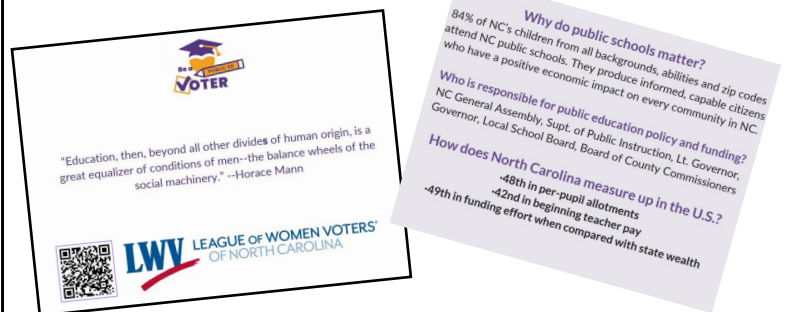


Other Queens events this fall focused on democracy include "[Voices of Democracy: Exploring the Ideal](#)" art exhibit with an opening on Sept. 15 at 3:00 PM and "[Trax on the Trail: Music on the Campaign Trail](#)" on Sept. 20 at 10:40 AM.

**NC Public Education Awareness Campaign**

The LWVNC Public Education LAT is asking chapters to help voters support public education in this Fall election. For voters, this starts with being aware and informed.

Please promote the use of these resources with your chapter members and with events and organizations in your community. They can be downloaded from the [LWVNC Public Education](#) webpage.

**2024 LWVNC Public Education Resources (View/Download)**

1. The Value of Public Education in NC (Fact Sheet)
2. Elected Officials Who Impact Public Education (Fact Sheet)
3. Quick facts about NC public education (Palm Card)
4. Supporting citations for the above materials

**Why is this important?**

During the past year, the Public Education Team held listening sessions across the state. From League members we learned about the importance of the public schools to the students, families and businesses in their communities and about the dedication of teachers and staff. However, there were concerns shared by all areas: teacher shortages, insufficient funding, and eroding public support of schools.

We learned that 70% of NC residents do not have school age children and so are not connected with the schools. With North Carolina being one of the fastest growing states, many newcomers are not aware of how our public education systems operate.

**What is our goal?**

Our goal is to engage as many North Carolinians as possible so that they will make informed decisions when they vote. We all need to be reminded that Public Schools are the bedrock of North Carolina's success. The public schools educate our future workforce, strengthen our communities, and fuel our economy. Voters need to be encouraged to vote down the ballot in state and local elections.

Please share these resources widely this Fall with LWV members; at LWV community events such as candidate forums; with the general public; by reaching out to the local media; or using this information in Letters to the Editor. Share digital copies with community and business organizations. Ask them to further spread this nonpartisan information.

Our state Public Education LAT can support you in this effort. Please contact us by email: [communications@lwvnc.org](mailto:communications@lwvnc.org)



## League Action & Happenings

### Environment Team Upcoming Meetings

In September, the League will need all hands on deck to take part in voter registration. Contact Voter Service Chair [Linda Traum](#) if you are available to help.

The Environment Team has been invited to join the BKDs for a [Postcards and Pulled Pork Party](#) on September 26 at 11:30 PM. RSVP to [lkempton2020@gmail.com](mailto:lkempton2020@gmail.com). Bring postcard stamps and a friend.

Part of the Team's current goal is to learn a number of ways we can do something on an individual basis to sustain the environment. To that end, on October 24 at 10:00 AM the Environment Team will again join the BKDs to hear a talk called "[North Carolina's Native Plants](#)" about using native plants in the garden.

—E + S Team Lead, Margaret Howe-Soper

### Education Team Pushes for Teacher Pay Raises

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education passed a resolution and started a petition to demonstrate public support for adjusting the proposed state budget to include at a minimum a 5% increase for teachers—and all educational staff. The LWVCM Education Team endorses this petition.

Currently, the budget calls for a pay raise of only 3%. When considered with inflation, this ostensibly amounts to a pay cut.

Please consider signing the petition, and asking your family members, neighbors, and friends who live in North Carolina to sign as well and pass it on to their circles. Currently, there are 1,689 signatures with a goal of 10,000. [Click this link to access the petition.](#)



### NC Superintendent of Public Instruction Forum

The North Carolina Parent Teacher Association and Public Schools First NC are scheduled to host a forum with the candidates for NC Superintendent of Public Instruction Maurice (Mo) Green and Michelle Morrow on Saturday, September 14 from 10 AM-11 AM. The forum will be livestreamed and moderated by WUNC's Jeff Tiberii.

Pre-register using this [Google Form](#). Registrants will receive the livestream link the morning of the forum.

### NC Trusted Elections Tour Stops Off in Charlotte

As part of a 28 event tour spanning the state from Murphy in the west to Manteo in the east, the [North Carolina Network for Fair, Safe, and Secure Elections](#) came to Charlotte on August 27 to engage voters at Queens University. More than 100 attendees heard from tour hosts Former Mayor of Charlotte Jennifer Roberts and Former North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Robert Orr. Charlotte journalist Dedrick Russell served as moderator of a panel discussion sparked by audience questions. The panelists were Mecklenburg County Board of Elections Director Michael Dickerson, Board members John Gresham (D) and Liz McDowell (R), attorney Zach Deason, and cybersecurity expert Torry Crass.

LWVCM Co-President Linda Traum and Vice President Debora Arnold (right) were on hand to register voters and answer questions. Several students received guidance about Absentee by Mail voting.



A recording of the event was made. [View and share using this link.](#) For information on the remaining stops on the tour, [visit the tour site here.](#)

### NC Trusted Election Tour

The LWVNC is a partner in this [North Carolina Network for Fair, Safe, and Secure Elections](#) effort. Voters across the state will have the opportunity to learn more about election security and voting access. With recent changes in voting laws and rules, voters need reliable information from a trusted source, and we at the LWV are supporting nonpartisan voter education like never before!







Veterans for  
All Voters

## NC TRUSTED ELECTIONS TOUR

- August 19 - Hendersonville
- August 20 - Weaverville
- August 21 - Boone
- August 22 - Morganton
- August 26 - Shelby
- August 27 - Charlotte
- August 28 - Salisbury
- August 29 - Statesville
- September 4 - Mt. Airy
- September 5 - Asheboro
- September 9 - Pinehurst
- September 10 - Burlington
- September 11 - Raleigh
- September 12 - Durham

- September 16 - Rocky Mount
- September 17 - Roanoke Rapids
- September 18 - Elizabeth City
- September 19 - Manteo
- September 23 - Oxford
- September 24 - Greenville
- September 25 - Jacksonville
- September 26 - Clinton
- September 30 - Lumberton
- October 1 - Southport
- October 8 - Cullowhee
- October 9 - Murphy
- October 15 - Virtual

**FREE REGISTRATION >>>**  
Learn More: [www.NCTrustedElections.org](http://www.NCTrustedElections.org)



## LWVCM Presidents' Perspective



With summer fading into fall, our newly elected LWVCM Board met for the first time in August and is enthusiastically taking the lead on our top priority: the Get Out the Vote (GOTV) effort. We encourage everyone to zoom into the **ALL MEMBERS CALL** on September 3 at 7 p.m. for vital election information and tools supporting our grassroots work. You may [register here](#).

Women's votes (especially younger women's) could well determine the outcome of November's election and thus, the direction of our country, state and county. U.S. Census Bureau statistics reveal women's voting registrations surpass that of men's by [as high as 10% points](#) in recent years. Women's votes wield immense power in our elections, giving them the opportunity to determine issues directly impacting their welfare. Accordingly, we should do all we can, whenever we can, to assure their voices are heard!

Linda and her volunteers registered and updated registrations for an impressive number of citizens in our booth at Charlotte PRIDE and distributed information to hundreds. Plans are underway to mark [National Voter Registration Day](#) on September 17 with a League presence at least six area libraries. Women's Equality Day was celebrated with [a video on the history of women's suffrage](#) narrated by Suzanne who will also represent LWVCM as a panelist on the September "Seeking Unity" program to air on WTVI-PB. Participants will explore strategies to counter political polarization and disunity.

One of our top priorities for the coming year is fundraising with an anticipated fall launch. Funds are needed to support on-going League projects including ambitious and invigorated voter registration; GOTV; [VOTE411](#); Public Education advocacy; a candidate Meet & Greet; "[Makin' Cake](#)" stage production at Queens; Civics101 and other league expenses. In addition to our members we will be approaching local corporate sources for needed supportive funding. League members are passionate about encouraging informed and active participation in government-as we defend against voter suppression, misinformation regarding voting laws, and citizen's rights. **Let's back this commitment with our dollars!!**

Warmest regards,

Suzanne Elsberry

Linda Traum

Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters  
of Charlotte Mecklenburg

## League News

### Welcome to New League Members

#### New Members in July & August

Kristan Smith	Angela Melvin
Patricia Ewer	Dawn Valasco
Pendle Whisnant	Jennifer LaDue
Deb Park	Elizabeth Rader
Gloria Kelley	Kathleen Green
Nancy LeDonne	Cynthia Branch
Kelly Thomas	Barbara Baldwin
Lisa Bottle	Maria Owens
Barbara Birge	Debra Waddles
Buck Holland	Ken Hungate
Elisabeth Thorpe	Heather Ruckterstuhl
Ann Hebert	Suzanne Edlein
Amelia Abbott	Christine Hardy
Lily Iatridis	Charlyn Goldring
Rhesa Williams	Laura Batten
Allison Kratt	



#### It's Get Out the Vote Season!

Join fellow League members to write GOTV postcards and help raise voter turnout in Mecklenburg County. Have a little fun while you're at it, catching up with your League colleagues enjoying some tasty bits and drinks. Bring a friend—the more, the merrier! Food, drink and postcards will be provided. Please bring postcard stamps or a donation to buy the stamps.

**Sun., Sept. 8, 4-6PM (Dilworth)**

**Sun., Sept. 16, 5:30-7:30PM (Myers Park)**

**Thurs., Sept. 26, 11:30-1:30PM (LWVCM Office)**

**Mon., Oct. 7, 5:30-7:30PM (South Park)**

RSVP to [membership@goleaguego.org](mailto:membership@goleaguego.org), using our [events calendar](#), or via Evite. If you cannot make a gathering, but would like to write cards, still write to us so arrangements can be made to get you cards and sample messaging.

#### Join Our New Facebook Page!

Stay Informed, Get Involved: League of Women Voters Charlotte Mecklenburg Launches Facebook Page! The LWVCM is excited to announce our new Facebook page! This page will be your one-stop shop for staying informed and engaged with civic issues in our community. Here's what you can expect to find:

- **Voter Education Resources:** Get clear, nonpartisan information about upcoming elections, voter registration, and important deadlines.
- **League Events & Activities:** Learn about upcoming League events like candidate forums, educational workshops, and volunteer opportunities.
- **Local Issues & Advocacy:** Stay informed about key issues impacting Charlotte Mecklenburg and how the League is advocating for positive change.
- **Connect with Us:** Engage in discussions with fellow League members, ask questions, and share your thoughts on important matters.



Head over to our Facebook page at "[LWV Charlotte Mecklenburg](#)" and give us a like!

We look forward to connecting with you online and empowering you to make a difference for the League and the community we serve.



#### LWVCM Communications Team Seeks Co-Webmaster

Do you love keeping websites engaging and informative? Are you a team player who thrives in a collaborative environment? The Communications Team is seeking a passionate Co-Webmaster to join our team!

In this role, you'll be responsible for the **public-facing aspects** of our website. You'll work alongside a co-webmaster who handles the back-end, ensuring our online presence is up-to-date, informative, and engaging for our members and the public. Join the [Co-Webmaster Interest Meeting](#) on September 15 at 5pm.

#### The LWVCM Seeks Women's Issues Team Head

**Fun fact:** 59% of our newest members expressed an interest in Reproductive Rights Advocacy. A similar percentage are interested in advocating for Equal Status Under the Law. To that end, the League is seeking one or more individuals who would be interested in shepherding the Women's Issues Team that is currently without a leader. Interested? Contact Suzanne Elsberry, LWVCM Co-President at: [dessuz@bellsouth.net](mailto:dessuz@bellsouth.net)



## League Action & Happenings

### President Elsberry Speaks at MPBC SAGES Lunch

The Myers Park Baptist Church SAGES group invited Co-President Suzanne Elsberry to be the guest speaker at their August 6 luncheon. Suzanne spoke on the history of the "Suffrage Movement in America" and its ties to the League of Women Voters, touching on the League's history in North Carolina and Mecklenburg. A very lively Q&A followed. A large group of attendees, including some League members, talked about League membership, League programs, and efforts to get out the vote this November. The group was very receptive, enjoyed the talk and conversation that followed, and took some of the LWV swag provided.



Left to right: Gary Hudson, Nancy Hudson, LWVCM Co-President Suzanne Elsberry, Deb Steiner and Robert Steiner.

### League Members Help Honor Local Legend

It was a bittersweet morning at the WFAE Center for Civic and Community Engagement as attendees of the August 30 live broadcast of Mike Collins' "Charlotte Talks" bid farewell to Education Reporter extraordinaire Ann Doss Helms. Helms' journalism career spanned 43 years. 22 of those years were spent covering education in Charlotte, first at *The Charlotte Observer* before moving to WFAE in 2019.

LWVCM Education Team Co-chair Laura Cooper and Communications Director Sara Baysinger were on hand to fete, applaud and thank Ann for her years of dedicated service to the community. Her honest, balanced reporting will be missed.

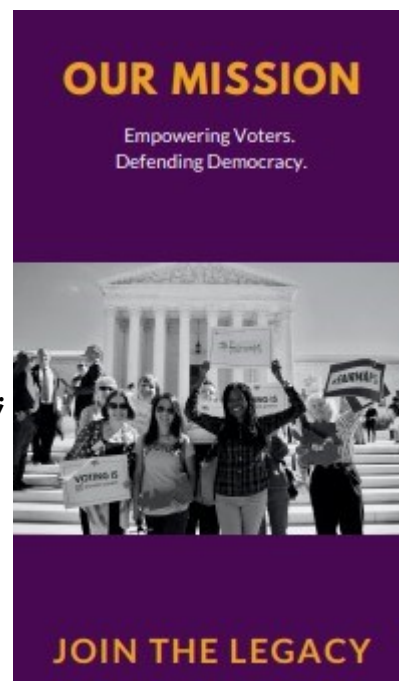


League members with Helms and Mary C. Curtis of Roll Call's "Equal Time" podcast.

### League 101: A Primer for New Members

On September 15, new members are invited to join Mary Condon, Membership Chair of the Charlotte Mecklenburg League, to hear an overview of what the League is all about. Attendees will be treated to a short history of the League; an exploration of our mission, vision, and values; and finally learn about the various volunteer opportunities that exist within our chapter.

Head to our [Events Page to register](#). A Zoom link will be provided upon registration.



### What's Next?

#### Your Membership After the Election

We're pouring blood, sweat, and tears into registering, engaging, and educating voters ahead of the 2024 Election. Once it's over, what's next?

Join and all-member social gathering for a special conversation about what's next.

**Save the Date:** November 12 from 6 PM to 8PM

### The Story of Charlotte's Greenways: How Your Vote Matters

On Thursday, October 10 at 6 PM, the community is invited to join local elected and appointed officials who will share how the Charlotte Greenway system was, and continues to be developed. This event, co-sponsored by Patagonia Southend and the League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg, aims to highlight how advocacy groups and voters have influenced positive outcomes for the Greenways—a remarkable county asset.

This event is especially for new and first-time voters, though all are welcome.

Adult beverages, snacks, information on Early Voting and a review of a sample South End ballot will round out the evening.

[Register for what promises to be an inspiring evening here.](#)



## LWVNC ALL-MEMBERS ZOOM MEETING



Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 7:00 PM (Zoom)

Join with members from across the state to hear from LWVNC leaders during this rare, all-members meeting. Attendees will be empowered to get involved in activities to support voters in the upcoming elections.

[Register today!](#)



1900 Queens Road, Suite A  
Charlotte, NC 28207

**Dated Material**  
**Forwarding Service Requested**