

[View this email in your browser](#)



THE VOTER

Newsletter of the
League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham
February 2022 Edition

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK ...

I hope that all of you had a peaceful, restful holiday season and that you are safe and well.

2022 will be a busy year with the upcoming primaries and general election. Hopefully we will see improvement in COVID cases as more and more people are vaccinated. I would love to meet all of you in person at some time but as of now our meetings remain virtual. We have a great program planned for February as we will discuss gun violence in Birmingham. You will see more information regarding that program in this issue.

You have likely seen the news that the Congressional districts will have to be redrawn. In case you missed it, [here's a link to an article on al.com](#). As you may remember, several League members testified at the redistricting hearings held last year. It will be interesting to follow this news and see how Congressional districts are finally drawn.

Federal voting rights legislation has not yet been passed in DC. Hopefully there will be progress in the upcoming months. Please make sure that our Senators know your thoughts about this legislation.

In this issue, you will see articles about voter registration at high schools. There is also information regarding legislation of interest which can improve the voting rights restoration efforts. Please let us know how you would like to be involved in an of these effort. You can email me at dellis@lwvgb.org to let me know how you would like to help. Or to propose other activities.

I am so proud of the civic interest of all of our members. We all have different ways to contribute and any and all efforts are valuable.

Thanks so much for all you do!

- Dana Ellis

ALABAMA'S NEW CONGRESSIONAL MAP THROWN OUT

Federal law requires that Congressional Districts have roughly the same population. The results of decennial US censuses provide the basis upon which US House seats are apportioned by state.

As a state's population changes or shifts geographically, so does the apportionment (number and/or location) of that state's seats in the House. Following the 2020 Census, Alabama's Republican controlled Legislature approved newly drawn maps for congressional districts in a November 2021 special session called for this purpose.

On January 24, a federal panel of three judges ruled that "Black voters have less opportunity than other Alabamians to elect candidates of their choice to Congress". The panel, which includes two Trump appointees, has directed the state to produce and pass a new map within 14 days. If Alabama legislators are unable to do this, in a way that creates a second majority-Black district, the court will appoint "an eminently qualified expert" to do so.

The unanimous ruling was in response to a lawsuit filed last November on behalf of a group that included Greater Birmingham Ministries, the Alabama State Conference of the NAACP and several individuals who represented the American Civil Liberties Union.

The order delays the filing deadline for congressional primary candidates from January 28 until February 11.

A spokesperson for Alabama's Attorney General Steve Marshall's office said the ruling will be appealed. The case will be the first redistricting case considered by the Supreme Court this cycle.

Click [here](#) and [here](#) for source information.

NEXT MEETING - FEBRUARY 22 at 5:30 pm

League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham
presents



Gun Violence in Greater Birmingham: Let's Discuss Solutions

Tues., February 22, 2022, 5:30-7:00 PM CST
via Zoom
Register at bit.ly/3osCDRP



Gun violence has increased in Birmingham, as in every other American city, but addressing this challenge isn't easy. Please join us on for a discussion with **Onoyemi Williams** (Faith in Action Alabama) and **Dr. Mark Wilson** (Jefferson County Department of Health) about the root causes of gun violence in our city and hear some innovative solutions happening in our area, such as hospital-based violence interruption programs.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

LWVGB MEMBERS REALLY COME THROUGH FOR THE EDUCATION FUND!

The Ed Fund Matching Challenge was highly successful and brought in \$2,686! Although the original challenge amount was \$1,000, the Senior leader group members increased the amount that they gave to equal donations by other League members.

Our thanks go to all the LWVGB members who donated: Connie Arnwine, Mary Lynn and Jesse Bates, Ellen Buchner, Yvonne Brakefield Knowles, Nancy Ekberg, Dana Ellis, Kaydee Erdreich-Breman, June Fletcher, Judith Hand, Ida and Carl Hill, Jean and Pete Johnson, Judy Jones, Joyce Lanning, Margaret McDermott, Leslie O’Neil, Nancy Sales, Leonette Slay and Ann Smith. In addition, Mobile members Barbara Caddell and Myra Evans made donations in honor of two LWVGB members who are active at the state level.

The Board is refining plans for some projects related to the state-wide elections this year. If you have a project in mind, please contact a LWVGB Board member.

Leslie O’Neil,
LWVGB Treasurer

ALABAMA ELECTION NOTES: THE 2022 ELECTION CALENDAR

2022 is a **General Election year** which means there will be many voter and candidate related dates on the calendar throughout the year. Of primary importance to Alabama voters are registration deadlines and when absentee voting starts and ends.

These dates are shown in the table below for each of the elections:

IMPORTANT ALABAMA VOTER DATES			
Election>>	Primary May 24	Runoff Jun 21	General Nov 8
Can Request Absentee Ballot	March 30	June 7	Sept 14
Voter Registration Deadline	May 9	June 6	Oct 24
Can Apply for Absentee by Mail	May 17	June 14	Nov 1
Can Apply for Absentee in Person	May 19	June 16	Nov 3
Deadline for Hand-Delivery of Absentee Ballots	May 23	June 20	Nov 7
Deadline for Absentee Ballots Received by Mail	Noon May 24	Noon June 21	Noon Nov 8
Deadline for Voters to Provide info for Provisional Ballots Cast	5 pm May 27	5 pm June 24	5 pm Nov 14

There are other dates on the 2022 Election Calendar that apply more to candidates.

January 28 was the deadline for candidates to declare their candidacy in their party’s primary. A January 24 federal panel ruling threw out Alabama’s congressional map and extended the qualification for only Congressional candidates until February 11. The date remained January 28 for

other candidates.

March 3 is the deadline for county party chairpersons to certify primary candidates to the probate judge.

March 11 the Secretary of State must certify the names of opposed candidates for federal or state offices.

Alabama's Primary Election will be May 24, 2022. The Primary Run-off, if needed, will be **June 21, 2022.**

The General Election will be November 8, 2022.

Click [here](#) and [here](#) for source information.

VOTER SERVICES

Voter Services is happy to be partnering with AKA sorority in the Birmingham City Schools to register high school students to vote. We have also reached out to Miles College about sponsoring a voter drive. We plan on contacting other area high schools to plan for events in the next several weeks.

Please email Jan Colson at janocolso@gmail.com or Julie Reese at pitviper.reese@gmail.com if you would like to help in any of these efforts.

ADVOCACY TEAM

The Advocacy Team is made up of representatives from each Local League and is tasked with following legislation of interest to our members and informing us about ways we can advocate for or against these bills. June Fletcher serves as the LWVGB rep to this committee.

Some updates from their recent meetings:

Voting Rights Restoration- SB 6 and HB 53 are 2 important bills which would substantially improve the voting rights of citizens with prior convictions. It will be important to let your representatives know that you support these bills.

Driver's license suspension – the current practice of suspending driver's licenses when someone is unable to pay traffic fines and fees creates a major hardship for those in poverty. SB 117 and HB 117 are bills which will reform this practice. [This article in Alabama Daily News provides an](#)

[excellent discussion of the issue.](#) Please contact your representatives to let them know that you are in favor of this reform.

Please be on the lookout for emails from the **Advocacy Team** as the legislative session progresses.

Your voice will make a difference!

LWV Samford University Awarded Recognition on Campus



We have exciting news from the League of Women Voters of Samford University, a unit of the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham! The group has been awarded provisional status as a student organization at Samford. This is a major step forward. LWVSU President Natalie Tidwell says that this will give access to recruiting opportunities on campus not previously possible. The SGA Senate will review LWVSU at the end of the semester and at that time will hopefully recognize LWVSU as a standing organization.

President Tidwell and Vice President Jada Hunter said, "We are so grateful for the support that LWVGB has provided to us on this adventure! The general enthusiasm displayed over the formation of this group at member meetings and the volunteering of individual members' time, resources and effort has provided indispensable assistance and inspiration in this endeavor. We are eager to get the ball rolling on our campus involvement and establishment and to partner with, represent, and partake in the wonderful work of LWV and LWVGB within this campus and the surrounding community. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being unwavering and dedicated in your support of LWVSU."

Congratulations to LWVSU! LWVGB is very proud to have this group of outstanding Samford

students as part of our organization. We can't wait to see the great things you'll do to promote citizen participation in our democracy.

Pictured above: Natalie Tidwell, Dr. Buckner, Jada Hunter

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

The Environmental Protection Agency is working with our partners at [Greater Birmingham Alliance to Stop Pollution](#) (GASP) to host a pilot air permit advocacy training in Birmingham this spring. Please contact us if you are interested in this training and we will share more details as they develop!

DON'T FORGET: PAY LEAGUE DUES!

If you were a member of the LWVGB before July 1, 2020, and have not yet renewed, you can do so now! If you aren't sure if your dues are up to date, contact Leslie O'Neil at ldoneil@bellsouth.net or (205) 968-9863.

[Click here to renew today!](#)

Your membership and support are vital to our LWVGB services and programs! A big thanks to all who have already renewed!

REMEMBER: dues assistance is available!

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW](#)

Follow LWVGB on
[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).



Copyright © 2022 League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

