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THE VOTER

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

We realized this email was originally sent to the wrong distribution list. If you're receiving this email twice, please accept our apologies. If you're just receiving it for the first time, enjoy!

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK ...

Dear LWVGB Members:

As a nonpartisan organization that works tirelessly with partners across the state to encourage informed and active participation in the democratic process, I cannot deny that Alabama's voter turnout in the recent midterm election was a huge disappointment. According to [this post election analysis](#), the 38.5% turnout was the lowest in a statewide general election in more than thirty years.

Yet the [story of the election](#) across the country was the youth vote. Coming in at about 30%, voter turnout among voters 18-29 nationally was the 2nd highest in a midterm election in more than three decades. I have not seen the specific numbers for youth voter turnout in Alabama, but the national statistics are enough for us to know that focusing on our youth is a great way to increase democratic participation in Alabama. **That is why we are proud to share this Voter with you highlighting our successful efforts to get college students engaged in voting, voter registration, and voter education.**

Over a year ago, LWVGB member Ellen Buckner, began working with students at Samford University to start a LWV affiliate group on campus. According to the rules of the LWVUS, the college group could be under the wing of our local LWV Greater Birmingham chapter as an affiliate if we approved. After getting approval, the group worked through the campus protocols to become an official student group on campus. Once all those challenges were met, they hit the ground running! I know you will enjoy reading about this group's exciting activities throughout this past year and there is much more to come!

As a current LWVGB member Ellen is working with our board and members to bring this exciting idea to more campuses across our greater Birmingham area and even across the state. We are determined to not let Alabama miss out on the enthusiasm and opportunity for increasing voter turnout and together with our youth, **we can lead the way!**

[Be sure you renew your membership so you can stay up to date on all the activities of the League.](#) If money is tight this year, no worries. Thanks to some generous donors we are offering **half price membership renewals** and new memberships through January 18th! Don't miss out on this opportunity to support the League and stay involved. [Click here](#) to learn more about membership and renew today.

Happy Holidays,



Cindy Lowry
LWVGB President

P.S. Email me any time at president@lwvgb.org!

REFLECTIONS FROM A VOTER



The Samford University League of Women Voters (LWVSU) student organization has been **on fire** this fall. They started with a recruitment table at the Student Organization Fair. They have welcomed new members, both men and women, almost doubling their numbers!

On September 20, National Voter Registration Day, they held their first Voter Registration Drive with training led by Voting Aid Committee Chair Emory Bradford. Table signs were developed to aid college students in decision-making such as where to vote (Alabama or home state), and how to vote (in-person, early, absentee). [VOTE 411](#) cards were the **hot item** as it linked students with procedures in their home state and ballot/candidate information based on their decisions.



Left to right: Liz Friesen, Dr. Marissa Grayson, Jada Hunter, Dr. Ellen Buckner, Lucy Eubanks, & Grace Lyons



Jada Hunter talks with a prospective voter about “How to Vote, Where to Vote, and Why You’re Voting!”

The group engaged with others, partnering with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for voter registration and community events. The Delta Sigma Theta students and alumni have expressed interest in facilitating LWV student organizations in other area colleges!



- Nationwide candidate info
- Polling place locations
- Online voter registration tool
- ID requirements
- Absentee ballot info
- Ballot measure info
- Early voting options
- Election dates





LWVSU Members with Delta Sigma Theta Members at Voter Registration Drive. Picture includes: Dr. Buckner (LWVSU advisor) and Dr. Denise Gregory (DST Advisor).



Grace & Praise man the table in front of Post Office on Day 2 of Voter Registration.

On October 11, the LWVSU group held a “watch party” to see their own faculty and LWVSU co-advisor Dr. Marissa Grayson (Political

Science) moderate the Secretary of State virtual debate. This debate was sponsored by the LWV of Alabama and gave insight into issues and basics of a candidate forum.



Watch Party attendees & new members on campus at Harry's Coffeehouse.

The Campus Connection student leadership & events office, named the group the Student Organization of the Week, on October 14, 2022!

Student Organization of the Week

League of Women Voters

The Samford University League of Women Voters is a voting rights and education organization. We are dedicated to serving the Samford community and helping members of the community broaden their political responsibility by encouraging participation in all aspects of the voting process. We exist to help anyone at Samford involve themselves and become educated on political issues from a nonpartisan viewpoint; this means hosting voting drives and assisting in voter registration, providing resources on accessing ballots and information about content on ballots, and ensuring that anyone who wants to become an informed voter can do so without confusion or frustration. We also aim to host educational events throughout the school year such as scholarly debates, educational seminars and Q and A sessions to get to know individuals on which many are expected to vote, such as Samford SGA candidates. The League will not support or oppose any particular political candidate, party or platform, and we do not discriminate in membership based on gender or any other personal characteristic; all are welcome.

Click the image above to read the announcement!

On October 19, the LWVSU hosted and moderated the annual debate between College Democrats and College Republicans. Jada Hunter, chartering/founding officer and President of the League of Women

Voters Samford University was the driving force behind this opportunity. Jada negotiated the details including contributing to the three topics chosen (one each by College Republicans, College Democrats, and LWVSU) of: **student loan forgiveness, marijuana legalization, and voting access/election security**. The organization publicized the event with social media posts developed by Communications Director Chloe Johnson. Event logistics were planned by Lucy Eubanks, chair. The event succeeded in drawing approximately 100 students. Jada Hunter moderated the debate and led the last segment on voting. Debaters were effective and responded to multiple questions in each of the topics. See the full debate on LWVSU's Instagram page [by clicking here](#).



Social media graphic used to promote the Watch Party!



Members organizing the event were Left to Right: Praise Kelley-Williams, Lucy Eubanks, Caroline Patton, Vivian Crump, Haley Roberts, Delaney Laing, Emory Bradford, Grace Lyons, Liz Friesen, Jada Hunter, and Chloe Johnson.





The organization continues to build enthusiasm on campus, encouraging a contest among the Greek societies for the most pictures of their members voting this fall. Spring activities are being proposed to include programs, chaired by VP Praise Kelley-Williams, Suffrage Education, chaired by Delaney Laing, and possibly a state-wide initiative to begin community outreach (chaired by Mary Parker) and expansion of college organizations.

Dr. Ellen Buckner, the faculty advisor and an LWVGB board member, said:

“This organization is a fulfillment of many of my dreams. Encouraging all points of view, civil discourse, and engagement with one another, the students are strengthening citizenship among their fellow students and the university. They are leaders as individuals and are leading on campus. They inspire and drive us to new heights!” Many thanks to the LWVGB for their support and encouragement of this new organization!



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