



THE VOTER

October 2025

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Remarks From The LWVJA President



Dear Members and Friends,

Celina Stewart, CEO of the League of Women Voters, and Dianna Wynn, president of the League, stated: *“The foundational principles that have sustained our democracy – checks and balances, the rule of law, and free and fair elections – are under direct and sustained threat. In this extraordinary moment, we cannot proceed with business as usual. All Americans – no matter who you voted for in 2024 – need to come together, stand united, and fight back to save our democracy. We cannot afford to fail the generations to come.”* Those in power have labeled the League radical and partisan. We are neither. We are grounded in principles that defend democracy and equal rights for all. I am sure that in 1920, women suffragists were also considered radical and anti-establishment. However, over 100 years have passed, and the ability to vote has not brought equality. Those in power have demonstrated that they will stop at nothing to maintain their power.

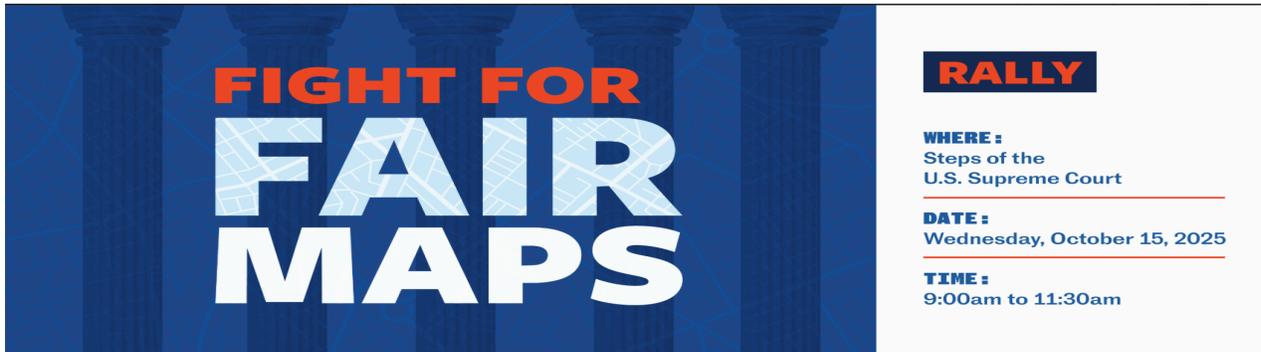
We continue to witness disturbing attacks on our democracy. The silver lining is that many rational people share this sentiment and are willing to protest and take action by volunteering to help mobilize more voters in the 2026 midterm election. The League remains the voice advocating for the protection and expansion of voting rights, ensuring everyone has a voice in our democracy. We respect and value the richness of diversity in our community and our members. We believe that every citizen deserves representation, regardless of their race, socioeconomic status, age, ability, religion, national origin, gender, or marital status. I encourage everyone, regardless of your political affiliation, to educate yourself on the issues and fight for what matters most to you. The best way to fight is to vote in record numbers during the 2026 midterm elections and ensure that those responsible for the attacks on our democracy never hold power again.

In League,

Margarett Barnes, President

League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area

Submitted By - State Issues Director Deloris Lee



RALLY

WHERE:
Steps of the
U.S. Supreme Court

DATE:
Wednesday, October 15, 2025

TIME:
9:00am to 11:30am

On October 15, 2025 at 10:00 Eastern the audio stream of oral arguments in the Louisiana v. Callais case. This link will take you to the oral arguments audio page. You should see the link for the Callais case live by 10:00 AM ET. https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/argument_audio/2025

There will be a rally on the steps of the Supreme Court building. You can watch the rally at this link:

<https://www.lwv.org/blog/livestream-fight-fair-maps>

LWVJA October Membership Meeting

Speaker Professor F. Rosenblatt

Topic: Constitutional Law & Civic Engagement



Join us for a thought-provoking morning as the League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area welcomes Professor F. Rosenblatt for a special public event exploring the First Amendment and its role in today's civic landscape. Inspired by the newly released documentary *The Librarians*—a powerful film about public institutions, freedom of expression, and civic responsibility—we'll dive into a timely conversation on Constitutional Law and the First Amendment. Professor Rosenblatt will guide us through the historical foundations, current interpretations, and modern-day challenges of these essential protections.

Event Details

Date: **Saturday, October 25th**

Time: **10:00 AM**

Location: **Willis Morris Branch Library**

4912 Old Canton Rd, Jackson, MS 39211

This event is free and open to the public. Whether you're a longtime member or a curious newcomer, we invite you to be part of this important dialogue. Learn more about Professor Rosenblatt <https://www.mc.edu/faculty/u/frosenblatt> Learn more about the film: thelibrariansfilm.com Let's come together to celebrate civic engagement and deepen our understanding of the freedoms that shape our democracy.



LWV Significant Dates for the Fiscal Year 2025 -2026

July 19, 2025	Board Meeting (In-Person)
August 26, 2025	Board Meeting
September 17, 2025	Constitution Day JSU
September 24, 2025	HCC Voter Registration and Education
October 4, 2025	Wells Fest
October 6, 2025	Mayor's Forum- MC Law School
October 7, 2025	Board meeting
October 25, 2025	Membership Meeting – Willie Morris Library
November 18, 2025	Board Meeting
December 13, 2025	Christmas/Membership Drive - Fondren Presbyterian
January 6, 2026	Board meeting
January 24, 2026	Membership Meeting
April 7, 2026	Board meeting
April 28, 2026	Board meeting (if needed)
May 30, 2026	Annual Membership Meeting
June 27, 2026	Officer/Board of Directors Transition Meeting



The LWVUS is a partner with other organizations planning the No Kings Rally. While it is not required for League members to attend, the LWVUS encourages Local Leagues to participate in activations with partners on the ground in a nonpartisan manner. **For Leagues who decide to participate in No Kings, please utilize LWVUS Protest Safety Guidance and How to Organize a Rally in 8 Steps on the LWVUS Management Site.** If representing the League and wearing LWV shirts (which we encourage) please use good judgement in creating signs that are nonpartisan.

The Jackson, Ms rally will be held Saturday, October 18, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the MS State Capitol, 400 High Street, Jackson.



Submitted By - State Issues Director Deloris Lee

HAPPENING THIS WEEKEND!!



Have recent events left you feeling powerless? Are you looking for a way to get involved? [Join the ACLU of MS for a fun and fulfilling evening as we declare our rights while enjoying tasty bites! Don't miss our annual open house.](#)

RIGHTS AND BITES

Join us on for our annual open house, Rights and Bites. Drop by and meet our staff, grab information about your rights and even make a protest sign!

Thursday, October 16, 5:30 – 8 p.m.
ACLU of Mississippi Office
101 S. Congress St.
Jackson, MS 39201

[RSVP TODAY](#)

Come meet your allies in the fight, make protest signs, and learn more about your rights in the fight for justice. Free bites and refreshments from Skenny's and Soulé Coffee and Bubble Tea will be provided! You do not have to attend the protest on Saturday to attend Rights and Bites. We hope to see you there!

Have questions? Email events@aclu-ms.org. ACLU of Mississippi

Submitted By - State Issues Director Deloris Lee

Hidden in Plain Sight

Financial Abuse and Economic Justice

Join us for an important conversation on the often-overlooked link between domestic violence and financial abuse. Learn how economic justice plays a key role in breaking cycles of abuse and empowering survivors toward financial independence.

 **17** October 16, 2025

 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

 Register here

Presented by the Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable.



HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT:
Financial Abuse and Economic Justice

This webinar will explore the often-overlooked link between domestic violence and financial abuse, and how economic justice is essential to breaking cycles of abuse. Participants will gain tools, resources, and strategies to recognize financial abuse and support survivors in reclaiming their financial independence.

SCAN ME



 October 16, 2025

 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Register at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/9h6JcS-R3Sb5toNlcB7IA>


MISSISSIPPI
COALITION AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE


MISSISSIPPI
BLACK WOMEN'S ROUNDTABLE

Submitted By - State Issues Director Deloris Lee



Click the link to view the page.

UPDATE: What to do if you're impacted by the government shutdown



If You've Been Furloughed:

Apply for Unemployment Benefits ASAP: You may be eligible if you're not working and not being paid. Note: If you later receive back pay, you may be required to repay the unemployment benefits.

Contact your Mortgage Lender, Landlord, or Creditors: Explain your situation and request flexible payment options.

Federal Student Loans: Check with your agency's HR office for official information and share this email with family and friends who may find it helpful.

If You Rely on Government Services:

Medicaid: Your coverage continues, though some administrative processes may be delayed. Community health centers remain open and available for care.

Veterans Services: VA hospitals and clinics remain open. Disability and pension payments will continue.

Social Security: Benefits continue. New applications or replacement card requests may take longer than usual.

The NAACP will continue to monitor developments and share verified updates as they become available. In moments like these, our collective strength matters most.



LWVJA Officers and Directors 2025 - 2026

President	Margarett Barnes
Vice President Program/Administration	Megan Tidwell
Vice President for Voter Services	Willie Jones
Secretary	Gene Everitt
Treasurer	Elaine Talbott
Director, Get-Out-The-Vote	Savina Schoenhofer
Director, The Voter	Joy Parikh
Director, Membership	Martha Phillips
Director, Community Engagement	Jermany Gray
National Items	Felicia Brookins
State Items	Deloris Lee
Director At Large, Social Media	Jan Watson

Nominating Committee: 1-year term 2025- 2026

Jo Lynn Bridges, chair

Felicia Brookins

Brooke Wyatt Roebuck

Ready to Join or Renew Your Membership?

Is it time to renew your League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area membership for the current year? Maybe it is overdue and has lapsed. We have a new system for joining or renewing memberships, which LWVUS manages. Like all new systems, there are some kinks and glitches to work out.

We include the QR Code below to streamline the scanning process on your mobile device or a link for desktop and laptop users. It is essential to be sure that you renew at the local, state, and national levels. Renewals at the State and National levels do not include your local League.



<https://portal.lwv.org/membership?state=MS&league=0012E0001usOKbQAM>

The recommended dues are \$75 annually. If that is heavy lift for anyone, you can renew or join for as little as \$20. In the menu of options, select "choose an amount". The reason for the sliding scale is to remove the economic barrier to membership. Those who choose to contribute more than \$75 help to balance that out, but it is not treated as a donation to your local League. The next page will give you the option of donating to your local League.

The member portal's financials are administered by Stripe, which charges a substantial amount in swipe fees. A more straightforward and effective way to donate to our local League is by using the donation button on our website,

https://www.paypal.com/donate?token=7wjj_5grhezSMUzqeWQNqLSVdSy5rO0V1qFIX-1GcDZGcdHNccUAE4mNvEAGlvrV8YrJurmVTCJbginu.

Alternatively, you can contribute by writing a check to our local League to avoid the PayPal fees. If you still write checks instead of using debit or credit cards online for dues, I can accommodate that, too. **Please make the check payable to LWVUS, not our local League.** National processes all dues payments. I will fill out the necessary online form and forward your check to their office for processing. You can give me the check or mail it to:

LWVJA, PO Box 68214, Jackson, MS 39286.

Note: It may take as long as a month to clear your account. This is a lot of information to process, I know. Your treasurer has been on a steep learning curve since November of last year, when the rollout started. If you have any questions, please get in touch with me. Elaine Talbott -elainemental@gmail.com
-6019420401

Mayoral Forum Addressed Safety, Infrastructure, and Economic Growth

On October 6, 2025, the League of Women Voters and WJTV co-sponsored “*Creating A Vision for Tomorrow- Mayoral Forum*”, at Mississippi College School of Law. Mayors provided updates on topics such as infrastructure development, public safety, public health, and economic development. The Forum was moderated by Byron Brown, news anchor from WJTV, and Willie Jones, Jackson businesswoman.



Pictured from left to right, Co-Moderator, Byron Brown, WJTV; Jackson Mayor John Horhn; Byram Mayor Richard White; Mississippi College School of Law Dean Anderson; President, LWVJA, Margaret Barnes; Canton Mayor Tim Taylor; Vicksburg Mayor Willis Thompson; and Co-Moderator, Willie Jones.

Below is a link to the film clip from the forum. You can also find it on YouTube and on the LWVJA Webpage.

[MS Mayoral Forum October2025](#)

MORE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MAYORAL FORUM



GET OUT THE VOTE (GOTV) TEAM AT WELLSFEST



Thank you to the volunteers who helped with the LWVJA table at Wellsfest on Oct. 4, 2025: Margaret Barnes, Carol Andersen, Savina Schoenhofer, Sharon Shruggs, Jo Lynn Bridges and Gene Everitt. It was a beautiful day in all respects. We spoke with lots of passers-by and recruited 5 new prospective LWVJA members! Four new voters registered, and three voters updated their registrations. We connected with the house mother at the Methodist Children's Home in Jackson who invited us to come for a visit to registered children who would be 18 by the next election and to provide civic instruction; we will be following up on that and want to hear from any LWVJA members who would like to be part of that effort.

LWVJA GOTV has two more activities scheduled for 2025: the Association of South Jackson Neighborhoods Community Health Fair from 9am-1pm on Saturday, Nov. 1, and the US District Court Naturalization Ceremony on Dec. 4 (details forthcoming). Please contact Savina Schoenhofer (email:savibus@gmail.com; phone/text: 601-826-3813) if you're interested in volunteering for either of these events.

Respectfully submitted,
Savina Schoenhofer
Chair, LWVJA GOTV



Member Editorial

Editorial: The Threat of Documentary Citizenship Requirements to Our Democracy

By Felicia Kelly-Brookins, National Issues Director

In recent weeks, a growing push for laws requiring documentary proof of citizenship to register and vote has emerged as a serious threat to voting rights. As this movement gains momentum in several states and legal challenges intensify, it's important to understand what's at stake—and why this issue demands our immediate attention.

At first glance, these laws may seem like commonsense protections. But in reality, they are unnecessary, discriminatory, and dangerously suppressive. There is no widespread evidence of noncitizen voting in the United States. In fact, a comprehensive study by the Brennan Center for Justice found that such incidents occur between 0.0003% and 0.0025% of all votes cast—effectively zero. These laws attempt to solve a problem that does not exist.

What they do achieve, however, is real and harmful: they disenfranchise eligible voters—particularly naturalized citizens, older adults, low-income individuals, and voters born outside hospitals or without easy access to original documents. A 2018 study in Kansas, where such a law was briefly in place, found that more than 30,000 eligible voters were prevented from registering due to documentation requirements. These were legal, eligible Americans.

This is not just a policy dispute—it's a democracy crisis in the making. The League of Women Voters has long opposed any voting requirements that place unnecessary burdens on registration, particularly those that disproportionately impact marginalized groups.

We must remain vigilant and vocal. I urge all League members to stay informed, advocate with your state legislators, and amplify the League's position: Every eligible citizen should be able to register and vote without barriers. Documentary proof of citizenship is not a safeguard—it is a barrier.

If you missed the special edition newsletter on this topic, I encourage you to review it and share it widely. The stakes are high, and your voice matters.

Together, we will protect the freedom to vote.



THE VOTERscavengerhunt: Find the Facts

Can YOU find the facts, follow the clues, and rise for democracy?

Dig through this edition of THE VOTE and uncover the details behind events, actions, and important League updates

Find These Clues in the Newsletter or Share Your Answers

1. Dollars and Sense

What is the recommended annual membership dues amount — and what's the lowest amount you can pay to join or renew your membership?

2. Hidden Threats

What type of abuse is discussed in the event “Hidden in Plain Sight,” and how is it connected to economic justice?

3. Capitol Call to Action

Where and when is the “No Kings Rally” taking place? Be sure to find the street address and city!

4. The Library Connection

Where is the Membership Meeting on October 25, 2025, being held?

5. Date Detective

Find the event happening on October 16, 2025. What time does it start and end?

6. Empowerment Through Economics

How does economic justice help survivors of abuse, according to the article?

7. Civic Voice

Who is the speaker for the October Membership Meeting, and what is their topic?

8. Mapping Justice

Where do in-person attendees meet for the “Fight for Fair Maps” rally, and what should they wear?



Answers

1. Dollars and Sense

- **Recommended dues:** \$75 annually
- **Minimum dues:** \$20

2. Hidden Threats

- **Type of abuse:** Financial abuse
- **Connection:** Economic justice plays a key role in breaking cycles of abuse and empowering survivors toward financial independence.

3. Capitol Call to Action

- **Event:** No Kings Rally
- **Date/Time:** Saturday, October 18, 2025, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- **Location:** MS State Capitol, 400 High Street, Jackson

4. The Library Connection

- **Location:** Willie Morris Library
- **Date:** October 25, 2025

5. Date Detective

- **Event Date:** October 16, 2025
- **Time:** 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

6. Empowerment Through Economics

- *Economic justice helps break cycles of abuse and supports survivors in achieving financial independence.*

7. Civic Voice

- **Speaker:** Professor F. Rosenblatt
- **Topic:** Constitutional Law & Civic Engagement

8. Mapping Justice

- **Rally:** Fight for Fair Maps
- **In-person meeting location:** Supreme Court steps facing the Methodist Church (corner of Maryland Avenue NE and First Street NE)
- **Attire:** League-branded clothing