



Dear Local League Leaders,

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey echoes the League of Women Voters of the United States' statement regarding the murder of George Floyd. It read, in part:

"The League of Women Voters grieves the murders of George Floyd and the countless other Black lives that have been tragically taken at the hands of rogue law enforcement officers who are rarely held fully accountable for their actions.

We also mourn those who have lost their lives or been harmed, mentally or physically, as a result of America's pervasive culture of anti-blackness. The systems of oppression that have perpetuated the myth of white supremacy in our country must be dismantled if we are ever to become the nation we pledge to be—*indivisible, with liberty and justice for all*.

As an organization whose mission is to empower voters and defend democracy, we stand in solidarity with all Black communities. The League shall do so not only by speaking out against racism in all forms, but by doing the work required of us to be anti-racist. We are committed to listening to and amplifying Black voices, and educating ourselves and our children on the historic and ongoing systemic racism that plagues this country.

The League acknowledges, painfully, that America is a nation founded on racism. Therefore, all who live in this country must contribute to and participate in organizations actively working to achieve full liberation and inclusive freedom. We must all advocate for anti-racist policies at every level of government."

Please read the [full statement here](#) as well as this powerful post, "[Standing in Solidarity with the Black Community](#)," from LWWUS CEO Virginia Kase.

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey must work to be a better partner and ally. We have formed a Social Justice committee to mobilize our membership and use our organizational power to advocate for policy changes that aim to dismantle systemic racism. We are looking for members to join that committee immediately. Please contact Jesse Burns at jburns@lwnj.org if you are willing to serve.

We are also calling a special meeting of our leadership to ensure every New Jersey chapter is empowered to call out racism and influence public policy in every corner of this state.

And we are standing with our partners in calling for a full and transparent investigation into the police shooting of Maurice Gordon, an unarmed black man killed in Burlington County two days before the murder of George Floyd.

The League of Women Voters is committed to combating voter suppression and fighting for an inclusive and participatory democracy, but without racial and economic justice our democracy will continue to fail too many. Black Lives Matter.

Sincerely,

League of Women Voters of New Jersey Board of Directors

Jesse Burns, Executive Director