



# The VOTER

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VOLUME 62 NUMBER 1

January 2022

## Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
<b>Program Planning</b>	Jan 19, 2022	W	7 pm	We decided to do this a bit later (we usually go in December).
<b>LWVNJ Meet and Greet</b>	Jan 26, 2021	W	5 pm	Learn more about LWVNJ's activities, priorities, and opportunities! Click <a href="#">here</a> .

Check out the Google calendar on our home page. <https://www.lwvccnj.org/>

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### Meeting Report

#### Board meeting Jan 2022

1. We will work with Temple Beth Shalom to see how we can participate in their Mitzvah Day event in honor of MLK Day.
2. We received two more voters services grants.
3. We will post some existing webinar videos on the website from our meetings, and plan to do this in the future.
4. We will try a year of Canva (a promotional materials creation site) and see if we use it enough to continue.
5. We are making a connection with "Students Learn, Students Vote". LWVUS is a member of the partnership.

**League of Women Voters of Camden County**

## Editor's Message



Dear Members and Friends,

Lots going on for everyone this month, so just a brief editor's message from yours truly.

First of all, thanks to Janet Fisher-Hughes for her donation to the LWVCC.

Secondly, please review the pages below about **program planning** on January 19. They have some background and definitions that will help make the session go better. And, of course, please join us! No party this year, since we're still in pandemic mode, but you're welcome to drink a glass of wine during the meeting. No marijuana yet -- sorry!

Did you see the activist training sessions LWVNJ is running? Intro to the legislative process, conducting lobbying meetings, understanding the state budget, grassroots organizing. Learn how to write letters to the editor. Find out about Twitterstorms! And more... <https://www.lwvnj.org/training>

In League,  
Ed Gracely, Voter Editor



## Getting there - Directions!

From your house or back yard. All meetings are virtual for the time being. Zoom!

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### Board of Commissioners Meetings

We encourage League members to observe Board of Commissioners meetings when they are convenient for you. Just show up with a LWV button to let them know we are watching! Don't make any statements -- you aren't entitled to speak for the League (or even yourself after wearing a League button). You can ask a neutral/informative question, however.

The list for the year is online in the form of a county events calendar at <https://www.camdencounty.com/events/> It has lots of entries and is a bit hard to navigate.

It is helpful to show the list as a calendar month (see pulldown menu on the right). Caucus meetings appear to be on the third Tuesday, and Commissioners meetings are the Thursday after that, which can be either the third or fourth Thursday.

The January meeting will be Thursday, Jan 20th, 2022 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. In an effort to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, until further notice, the public is encouraged to participate via the live stream at <https://www.camdencounty.com/live/>.

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization of men and women, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters of Camden County, LWVCC  
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Visit our web site: <http://lwvunj-camden.org/>

Follow us on Twitter: @LWVCCNJ

Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/LWVCCNJ/home>

*The VOTER* is published ten times a year to keep the membership and public informed of the activities of the League of Women Voters of Camden County. For subscription or membership information call (856) 438-0182.

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## Program Planning!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19 PROGRAM PLANNING FOR 2022!

Here's what we used to do! Maybe next year...



### So what is program planning?

Well, every other year, in the spring at Convention, the LWVUS decides on its program for the upcoming two years. The League supports a variety of public policy positions. These are listed in the membership directory, as well as on the web site. I suggest that you grab a copy of the directory (every member has received one at some point by email) and take a look.

At our local Program Planning meeting we discuss the list, generally briefly as an overview. LWVUS is mainly interested in our endorsement of their Making Democracy Work agenda for the next 2 years..

New positions can only be adopted after study and consensus at the national level, through one of several mechanisms. The most common mechanism is for a number of Leagues to promote the topic during program planning and for the Convention delegates to agree that a study is merited.

The Camden County League is one part of this larger process. We need input from as many of our members as possible.

Since that process is challenging to navigate, another process is being used more frequently, known as **concurrence**. Leagues present positions, or modifications to positions, based on studies done by state Leagues (rarely local Leagues). The idea is that a reputable study has been done, why not just adopt it? Our NJ study of human trafficking was adopted at a national level that way. This year we have at least two potential concurrences -- one a modification to the health care position, the other a new position on digital equity.

This year we have a team effort to run the Program Planning effort -- Janet Fisher-Hughes, Ed Gracely, and Claudia Tucker-Keto.

You'll have to provide your own food and party atmosphere!

### Some useful definitions

**Program Planning:** The process by which local Leagues give guidance to LWVUS or LWVNJ (in alternating years) on program. For LWVUS years, the LWVNJ board does too.

**Study:** A complete, often 2-year, process whereby the state or national League investigates a topic and either creates a new position or heavily modifies an old one, with extensive membership input, usually through consensus meetings.

A national committee will start the process by coming up with informative materials and a list of specific questions for Leagues to address. Leagues get these, do their own research, and hold consensus meetings to review the questions. Their collective input determines the result.

**Update:** A smaller study the purpose of which is to update an existing position without making major changes to it. An update cannot reverse an existing position. Like a full study, an update takes time and typically involves local consensus meetings.

**Concurrence:** Adoption of a new position, or making modifications to an old one, by agreement (of delegates at Convention) to an existing position at another level. Typically state level positions are used, since local studies don't carry the same weight.

**Convention:** A large gathering of LWVUS or LWVNJ delegates, in alternating years, typically in the late spring, to discuss program, bylaws, budget, and other matters than may come before it. The delegates can approve performance of a study or update and they can adopt a concurrence that takes effect immediately.

**Recommended item:** When enough Leagues push for a program item, like a study or concurrence, and the national board finds it reasonable, they may "recommend" it at Convention. This guarantees that it will be discussed and voted on, and eases its path to approval.

**Not-recommended item:** If there is not enough evidence of interest, or the national board thinks a proposal is unreasonable, they will decline to recommend it. Then the item is listed at Convention, but it must be proposed and supported there to be even voted on. So it has a much harder path to success.

# December Meeting report

On Dec 13, 2021, on Zoom (as usual these days!) our speaker, Mishon Montgomery, Director of Programs for She Should Run, addressed the LWVCC and interested others.

Her organization is dedicated to increasing the number of women running for office. Like our own Running & Winning program (which she was very interested in) She Should Run works early in the pipeline, encouraging women to consider running. It not work with individuals who are actually running, to provide them with support or assistance -- there are many organizations to which such individuals can be referred for help.

Data shows that women are less likely to see themselves in public office and are less likely to be asked to run. She Should Run tries to prod them along the path toward running. Never even thought of it? Please consider. Considered but not sure you want to? Go for it!

The goal is 250K by 2030 -- that is, 250,000 women in office (achieving parity with men). It's a tall order -- at the present rate of increase in female office holders it will be centuries before parity! Currently only 30% of the 500,000 office holders in this country are women (about 150,000).

There are numerous barriers to women running for office. (1) Perceived lack of qualifications. But you don't need a degree to run for office, just interest. Interestingly, even for job applications, men are more likely to apply even though they don't meet 100% of the stated requirements -- women tend to look for a position for which they are 100% qualified. (2) Double standards, sexism and so on. Qualifications are more likely to be challenged (3) Women are less likely to be recruited.

In addition to wanting parity for its own sake, women approach policy in a different manner from men, and bring unique perspectives. They are especially likely to have a "gender lens" for items that affect women.

Once women run, they are elected at the same rate as men. Even the losers are a role model to other women!

Bottom line: Ask a woman to run! (After our speaker left, I asked everyone on the call to run. No takers -- but maybe one of them would change her mind. Wouldn't Anita or Jodi make a great Governor?)

Ed



# CAMDEN COUNTY LOCAL LEAGUE MEET & GREET

**JAN 26TH  
5:00PM-6:00PM**

All LWV Camden County chapter members and friends are invited to join a special Meet & Greet to learn more about LWVNJ priorities, available resources, & ways to get involved with the League's efforts.

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Get to know LWVNJ Community Organizers  
Melissa Marks and Assatta Mann

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Get updates on member opportunities including:

**The Advocacy Training Program**

The Lobby Corps

**Get Out The Vote**

Slack & OutreachCircle

**LWVNJ Committees**

& More!

**Join on Zoom**  
**[bit.ly/camdenmeetandgreet](https://bit.ly/camdenmeetandgreet)**

## Contacts for Volunteering

**Voter Registration/Education:** Anita Hahn -- [hahna98@yahoo.com](mailto:hahna98@yahoo.com)

**Government/Advocacy:** Jane Scarpellino -- [jlscarpellino@yahoo.com](mailto:jlscarpellino@yahoo.com)

**Moderating/timekeeping:** Ed Gracely -- [Edgracely@verizon.net](mailto:Edgracely@verizon.net)

**Running & Winning High School Girls Leadership Pgm:**

Janet Fisher-Hughes [Fishyhugs@msn.com](mailto:Fishyhugs@msn.com)

**Social Media/Communication:** Kristin Burke -- [kristinbburke@gmail.com](mailto:kristinbburke@gmail.com)

**Fundraising and Other Outreach:** Kristin Burke -- [kristinbburke@gmail.com](mailto:kristinbburke@gmail.com)

**Vote411 (entering information about candidates):**

Janet Fisher-Hughes -- [Fishyhugs@msn.com](mailto:Fishyhugs@msn.com)



# LWVCC MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES, I am Interested in:

- *Learning about government and the political process.*
- *Becoming involved in the political process in nonpartisan ways.*
- *Meeting and working with other citizens who care about good government.*

***I Want to Join the League of Women Voters of Camden County!***

Send this form with your check to: LWVCC, PO Box 245, Voorhees, NJ 08043

Or join online. Visit: <https://www.lwvccnj.org/join-the-league.html>

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ (our primary mode of communication)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Cell / Home / Work (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (circle type)

Phone 2 Cell / Home / Work (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (circle type)

**Please check activities that might interest you:**

- Voter registration IN PERSON (such as tabling events)
- Voter education ELECTRONIC (for example Vote411.org website)
- Voter education SPEAKING (such as invited talks to local groups or schools)
- Social media, marketing, and/or public relations
- Planning events/ activities
- Advocacy/working with elected officials on League priorities
- Fund raising
- Moderating/Time keeping (Training is provided)
- Writing short articles or summaries for the website or the monthly newsletter
- Running & Winning (our program for high school girls)

**And circle how active you would like to be:**

Membership only    A few times a year    About once a month    More active

**First time new annual membership** is only \$25! \$25 for each new household member.

**Student membership** is \$10!

**Under 35 membership** is \$35 (after the first year, which is only \$25)

**Regular renewal membership** is \$60 annually (plus \$30 for each additional household membership).

Number of members in the household: \_\_\_\_\_

Total dues: \_\_\_\_\_

Extra gift: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!