



# SC Voter

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Website: [www.lwvsc.org](http://www.lwvsc.org)

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## Co-Presidents for 2015-2017 Begin Their Service



**JULIE HUSSEY**  
Co-President, LWVSC

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Co-President, LWVSC

## ETHICS REFORM & THE SENATE QUAGMIRE

By Lynn Shuler Teague, LWVSC VP, Issues and Action

As the 2015 session of the General Assembly wrapped up in June, ethics reform was once more stalled in the Senate, along with almost everything else of any importance that was brought before that body. On the face of it, the stalling of ethics reform appears to be a classic case of the legendary ability of single senators to stop bills. However, a closer examination of senate procedures is useful in understanding both the current status of ethics reform and how the South Carolina Senate works.

The Senate loves to call itself the “deliberative body,” in contrast to the House of Representatives. The history of ethics reform in 2015 in the South Carolina General Assembly does not support that distinction at all.

In the Senate, Senator Larry Martin

pre-filed S.1, a comprehensive reform bill. After behind-the-scenes negotiations (the actual dominant working method of the Senate, rather than public deliberation), the bill failed on second reading when Senator Luke Rankin, with the support of some Republicans and the entire Democratic caucus, amended the bill to include an investigation mechanism so deeply flawed that supporters of real reform rejected it and voted against their own bill rather than pass a travesty of reform.

In contrast, the House held lengthy hearings in late 2014 to develop bills and work through problems so that their bills had substantial support before the 2015 session even began. They then debated the bills again during the session in subcommittees, committees, and on the floor of the House. They actually

deliberated and amended. Then they passed those bills and sent them on to the Senate. The results were not perfect

**Ethics Reform:** *continued on page 3 –*



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# Co-President's Perspectives:

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## Taking it to The Polls and Beyond

If you really want to celebrate the League of Women Voters' 95th Birthday this year, vote on November 3rd and encourage every other eligible voter to do the same.

Asking League members to vote is preaching to the choir, but becoming comfortable asking others to vote is essential to helping us get the government we deserve.

With only 43.6% of South Carolina's eligible voters voting in the 2014 general election, we do not have a government that represents the majority of citizens, we have a government that represents the minority who vote. It is no wonder people

feel disconnected from government.

The irony of democracy is that the fewer people participate, the louder the voice of a minority becomes. Frankly, if the League was only concerned about promoting a particular view, we would only seek to increase turnout by likeminded voters, but this direction goes against the core of who we are and what we know our government could and should be.

Carrie Chapman Catt, the League of Women Voters' founder, understood the right to vote is more than being eligible for an "I Voted" sticker. The right to vote comes with responsibilities to protect that vote and enfranchise the complete diversity of our populace. We recognize the United States needs to be both a government by the people (democracy) and for the people (republic).

LWV has endured for 95 years because we do not simply champion the vote for our members but for all voters. We know the voting process must be accessible

**"Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, one another, this country and this world."**

*Sharon Salzberg \**

and accountable. Voters need balanced information on the candidates, elected officials and candidates must be held to ethical standards, and candidate financing must be open and accountable to the public.

As we contemplate the League's future, let us commit to making certain we aren't the only eligible voters participating in the political process and that every eligible voter knows we will fight for their rights to have a government which works for all the people.

**Julie Hussey and JoAnne Day**

*LWVSC Co-Presidents*

\* Quotes provided by League member Nancy Bloodgood from her Power the Vote presentation on August 31st in Charleston, SC.

**"Majority rule only works if you're also considering individual rights.**

**Because you can't have five wolves and one sheep voting on what to have for supper." Larry Flint\***

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## "Statewide" may not include Pickens County

*By Eleanor Hare, LWV Director, Web Technology*

This spring South Carolina will be holding four statewide elections: two presidential preference primaries, June primaries and runoffs. It is possible that "statewide" will not include Pickens County.

Elections are staff-intensive. Every voting machine must be checked, reprogrammed and equipped with a memory chip. Absentee ballots must be sent and received. Poll books and other information must be prepared. In-person absentee voting and phone calls create a constant beehive of activity at the county office. After the election, the Personal Electronic Ballots and memory chips from every voting machine must be received and processed. Finally, after auditing the electronic data, totals are made available to the public.

County election offices maintain a small permanent staff to operate county offices during the same hours as other county

offices, as required by state law, and use trained temporary workers and pay regular staff overtime during elections.

What happens when a county council does not appropriate sufficient funds to hire temporary workers? In Pickens County, the Board of Registration & Elections requested \$33,500 for temporary workers and overtime. The County Council appropriated \$19,500. Council appropriated almost \$20,000 less in county funds for 2015-16 than for the previous year. The Board expects to run out of money in February.

The Board wrote a letter to the Pickens County Council, explaining the need. Marci Andino, the Executive Director of the State Elections Commission, wrote to the Council urging that they provide adequate funding to fully support upcoming elections. The LWV of the Clemson Area has expressed its concern to the Council.

The Council has not responded to the concerns expressed, other than to say that the state is responsible for funding elections. (State money can be used only for poll workers, rovers and ballot printing costs. Counties are responsible for all other expenditures.)

We would encourage other local Leagues to check out the situation in their counties. Are other county elections offices receiving sufficient funding? If not, how can we ensure that elections will run smoothly and citizens will be able to cast their votes?

Nothing is more important to the League than protecting the right to vote that our forebears fought to gain for 72 years of the women's suffrage movement. Here is a chance to honor our history and protect the future of our democracy. Visit the Clemson LWV web site for further details.

## Ethics Reform:

*continued from page 1 -*

by any means, but they represented a very substantial improvement on our current ethics vacuum and deserved our support

Nevertheless, we still don't have ethics reform. Where are the ethics reform bills now? All of the active ethics reform bills are stalled in the Senate. The Senate insisted that they needed one big reform bill to consider rather than the series of smaller bills developed in the House, so the House combined their bills into H.3722. In the Judiciary Committee, the Senate replaced the text of that bill with the text of S.1 without the Rankin amendment, and sent it forward to the floor. However, Senator Kent Williams filed an objection (in the arcane language of the Senate Rules, "Senator Williams desires to be present"). Therefore this bill has not been debated or voted upon.

Senator Larry Martin then introduced some of the smaller House bills. If the objection of the opposing coalition was only to independent investigation, then this represented an opportunity for the Senate to address important issues like disclosure of private income sources by public officials. However, Senator Lee Bright filed a minority report on H.3189 as it left the Judiciary Committee. This

bill would have required disclosure of donors to organizations that conduct electioneering, advocating for or against particular candidates. In addition, Senator John Matthews objected to H.3186, the very important economic disclosure bill, as well as to H.3188, which eliminated leadership PACs. Senator Matthews even objected to H.3200, a bill that would have made a presumably uncontroversial clarification allowing university and college faculty to share in intellectual property rights



for their work. Also, Senator John Scott objected to H.3193, which clarifies how contributions are attributed to runoff elections. They all "desire to be present" (even when they are in fact present in the Senate) and they are all preventing consideration of the bills.

We must recognize that the responsibility for stopping ethics reform in 2015 is much broader than the individuals whose names are listed as objecting on the Senate calendar.

These delaying tactics are not just individual actions but rather represent the coalitions of which these senators are a part. Further, objections can be overcome and special order granted to bring a bill to the floor either by a two-thirds vote of the Senate or by working through the Rules Committee.

Where can ethics reform go in 2016? Objections are sometimes withdrawn. If objections are a procedural ploy to keep bills off the schedule in order to bring up some other bill sooner (for example, the 20-week abortion ban or roads funding, both of which were in play in 2015), then once that issue is resolved, objections are sometimes removed. Objections are also removed when senators privately agree to amendments or to trade-offs. (It is legal to exchange removing an objection on a bill for some other legislative benefit unless a judicial position is under consideration.) However, if

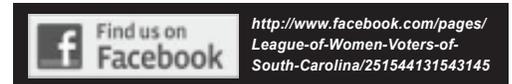
the objectors really don't want any kind of ethics reform in any shape or form, then they will cling to their objections.

If objections are not withdrawn by the senators who placed them, then there is still the possibility of getting a special order through a two-thirds vote of senators present or through a Rules Committee slot. We will know during the 2016 session whether two-thirds of the South Carolina Senate truly opposes all aspects of ethics reform. Stay tuned.

# IMPORTANT LEAGUE DATES:

League Education and Advocacy Day (LEAD) is scheduled for **Saturday, January 30, 2016**. Although we have tried to focus LEAD (formerly LLD) on local league involvement we want this year's LEAD to be even more local league and member development focused. Though January seems far away, it really is not for planning a statewide event. If local leagues have any suggestions for topics or focus please let us know now as planning is underway.

**Reminder -National League Consensus Deadlines - Two Studies - Make Sure You League Has a Voice**



Constitutional Amendment Study - Consensus Reports Due **December 1, 2015**

Information: <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/constitutional-amendment-study>

Money in Politics Study - Consensus Reports Due **February 1, 2016**

Information: <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review>



# LWVUS Money in Politics (MIP) Review and Update

Leagues across the nation are engaging in a review and update of the national LWV position on campaign finance to consider First Amendment-political speech issues, a study adopted by delegates to the 2014 LWVUS Convention. The LWVEF Board tasked the **Money in Politics Review and Update Committee** to conduct an update of the League's position on campaign finance and evaluate the extent to which political campaigns are protected speech under the First Amendment. The Money in Politics Committee, chaired by our own Barbara Zia, is providing members and the public with information and facilitating member study and consensus.

## The Timetable is as Follows:

- **Spring to summer 2015:** Education materials have been posted periodically on the League Management website. Leagues can use these materials for member and community meetings;
- **Fall 2015:** A study guide and consensus questions has been posted for the Money in Politics Review and Update. Leagues will hold consensus meetings to obtain member agreement on the consensus questions;
- **February 1, 2016:** Consensus reports (electronic) from Leagues due to LWVUS; and
- **April 2016 national LWV Board meeting:** Consensus reports and resulting position(s), if any, will be approved.

Our all-volunteer Committee includes eight League leaders from across the U.S. and national board members, with support from national staff. The Committee is providing ready-to-use resources and strategies to help understand the campaign finance system. These materials, which we call "Meetings-in-a-Box," are available on our webpage (<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review>) for Leagues to use for member and community events. They are intended to

engage members and the general citizenry on MIP issues nationally and in states and communities and to help prepare members to participate in the LWVUS update of its campaign finance position. Resources include a PowerPoint presentation with script, outside readings, and issue papers prepared by the MIP Committee.

Why is the League updating the position on campaign finance? Our current position dates back to the 1970s and predates Supreme Court decisions that changed campaign finance law significantly. The MIP Review and Update will address the extent to which we believe that financing political campaigns is speech protected by the First Amendment. Leagues are being asked to consider the rights of individuals and organizations to express their political views through



**The MIP Review and Update will address the extent to which we believe that financing political campaigns is speech protected by the First Amendment.**



financing political campaign activities and how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current LWV position.

The current League position takes a collective approach to financing political campaigns. It focuses on achieving political equality in areas of combating corruption and undue influence, ensuring equitable competition, and protecting the rights of citizens to know and participate. This position has enabled the League to advocate strongly for transparency in campaign finance and against big money and its

influence on elections and government.

But, the League position doesn't address the question of whether financing political activity constitutes free speech protected under the First Amendment, as the majority on the Court has held over the past four decades from *Buckley v. Valeo* in 1976 to *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* in 2010 and *McCutcheon, et al. v. FEC* in 2014. Our position doesn't balance the First Amendment interests of candidates and donors against the interest in equitable competition, preventing corruption and undue influence, and enhancing voter participation. This is the purpose of the position update.

The First Amendment has been at the center of the campaign finance debate since the 1970s. A key provision says, "*Congress shall make no law ...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press...*" The activities that the Court focused on involve free speech.

Election campaigns develop messages for publication, from speeches and debates to paid advertising in various media. Money is required to coordinate the messaging and pay for the advertising. Under the Court's approach, a system of campaign finance protects the rights of a candidate to disseminate her message as well as the rights of her donors to express their own views through her message. It also protects the rights of other political actors who may wish to make election expenditures independent of the candidates or to advocate in support or opposition to particular public policy issues.

To the Court, this campaign speech (as opposed to campaign finance) is central to American democracy and is what the First Amendment was designed to protect. Whatever else it may or may not have done, the Supreme Court's decisions in these cases galvanized the campaign finance reform movement. The task of the Money in Politics Committee is to make the issues understandable to the members of LWV and all citizens.

*--adapted from a white paper by Barbara Zia for LWVUS*

WITH *The* LEAGUE

**Charleston, Clemson and Greenville, and Hilton Head Leagues** have all had conversations about health care with state board member David Ball in the past few months, helping to frame our new state study.

**Greenville** got an early start on the year with a meeting with Representative Rita Alison, chair of the Task Force on responding to the Abbeville decision, on August 15th with 38 people in attendance, including some from the Spartanburg and Clemson Leagues.

**Columbia** kicked off its League year with an August Social and is hitting the ground running this fall with several meetings on the national study on Money in Politics.

**Charleston** kicked off the new year with a Power the Vote session on August 31st and hosted a meeting with State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman on September 16th.

**Florence** started the year with a panel on education issues.

**Sumter** met on health care issues and the Affordable Care Act.

**Spartanburg** is getting ready for a meeting on Common core.

**Darlington/Hartsville** are gearing up for a program on immigration and a reception on Women in Politics.

**Clemson** held their annual Women's Equality Day Party on August 25th. After meeting with legislators in September, they too will tackle Money in Politics.

*The League is alive and well and doing good work in every corner of the state!*

## NEW MEMBERS - Where Do You Find Them?

**1 YOUR FAMILY.** Even if they say no, at least they will have a better idea of what you are doing.

**2 YOUR FRIENDS.** And, even your friends' friends. If you do not want to ask your friends, trade friends with a fellow League member and she can sell to your friends, and you to hers.

**3 CO-WORKERS.** You might want to approach people before and after working hours. Payday and the day after payday are the best. Before payday, ask people to think about joining and then close the sale on payday.

**4 OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.** Have you tried members of other organizations you belong to? How about your bowling team, political party or book club? One of the characteristics of members is that they are members of several organizations.

**5 CHURCH MEMBERS.** If you want to recruit members who are already experienced volunteers, the best place to look is the local church or synagogue.

**6** Another place to recruit is the people who have already seen your work and come to League meetings or benefits. Every time your League holds a meeting or special event, at least one person should be appointed to introduce themselves to any newcomer and ask for membership. Programs that are successful in attracting new members are looking for them in new places. The traditional member is gone. In her place, though, are a variety of new volunteers: active, retired citizens, young career people, disabled and re-entry workers. But, because members are harder to recruit, you must adapt to the members availability and interests. Even the best members have limitations of interest, secondary responsibilities and, most of all, time.

### Keep these things in mind when recruiting:

**1** People have less time to give to organizations than they did even 10 years ago.

**2** Active members want and expect substantive involvement in an organization. If you can offer this, you will be much more likely to recruit a new member.

**3** How people become aware of an organization is crucial to developing their interest in joining. An organization active in a community and vocal in its accomplishments attracts attention.

**4** A critical part of membership is the public relations strategy which acquaints the community with your programs and establishes visibility and credibility.



# Welcome To Our New LWVSC Board Members



**Jeannette Roveri**

Our new state treasurer, **Jeannette Roveri**, comes to us from the Sumter League. Jeannette is Executive Director/CEO of The Shepherd's Center of Sumter and a past president and board member of the Sumter League. Jeannette is a registered parliamentarian and member of the National Association of Parliamentarians. She is currently President of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory board, Sumter Elks Lodge, and the Patriot Village Home Owners Association. She is also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club Advisory Committee, and the Forum.



**Sue Yearwood**

**Sue Yearwood** has been a member of the Hilton Head/Bluffton League since 2011. She held the position of co-membership chair between 2013-2015. She moved to Bluffton, S.C. in 2005, after retiring from the Bank of Montreal, Canada. She recently honored by the Heroes of the Lowcountry as the "2015 Hero", for her active community involvement. In her spare time, Sue designs jewelry.

**Sue Feutz**, the new Vice President of LWVSC for Voter Service and Citizen Education, has been a Hilton Head League member since 2009, where she has served as chair and co-chair for voter services since joining. She has targeted youth voter registration with efforts in 5 area high schools, the community college, and the campus of USCB at New River. The Hilton Head League has been active with local mayor and commission elections, providing forums for community education and debate. Sue is a retired public health nurse, who feels fortunate to have lived and worked in multiple states and in various areas of practice. She has strategically placed her family around the nation to provide travel opportunities--Florida, Texas and Hawaii and is enjoying retirement with overseas travel as well as community volunteer work with the food bank and neighborhood property owners board.



**Sue Feutz**

**We hope you will help grow the League by recruiting friends, family and colleagues. Here is what you can let them know about the LEAGUE**

*The principles that guide our organization...*

The goal of the **League of Women Voters** is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.

**The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political membership organization which:**

- **acts** after study and member agreement to achieve solutions in the public interest on key community issues at all government levels
- **builds** citizen participation in the democratic process.
- **engages** communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy.

**The League of Women Voters Education Fund is a nonpartisan public policy educational organization which:**

- **builds** citizen participation in the democratic process
- **studies** key community issues at all governmental levels in an unbiased manner
- **enables** people to seek positive solutions to public policy issues through education and conflict management.

**We believe in:**

- respect for individuals
- the value of diversity
- the empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League and in communities

**We will:**

- act with trust, integrity and professionalism
- operate in an open and effective manner to meet the needs of those we serve, both members and the public
- take the initiative in seeking diversity in membership
- acknowledge our heritage as we seek our path to the future



## NEW LWVUS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Dr. Wylecia Harris

## BRINGS EXTENSIVE EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

*from the  
American Nurses Association  
& American Heart Association*

**Washington, D.C.** – The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) announced today that Wylecia Wiggs Harris has been named as its new executive director. Dr. Harris brings to the League many years of seasoned leadership experience, a passion for organizational development and a commitment to excellence. As executive director, Dr. Harris will be building on strategies and relationships that advance some of the most foundational political principles of our nation.

Dr. Harris comes to the League after 11 years at the American Nurses Association Enterprise serving as chief operating officer for the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and the American Nurses Foundation (ANF), and previously as chief of staff/special projects officer for the ANA. Among her most significant achievements at the ANA were the transformation of the association’s Race for Relevance, the launch of the

Leadership Institute and the reorganization of the American Nurses Foundation. With more than 25 years of diverse association experience, Dr. Harris brings strong relationship management skills and a proven track record in successfully building and establishing organizations by providing leadership and vision for staff, volunteers and members.

“I am thrilled that Wylecia will be bringing her talents and leadership acumen to the League of Women Voters,” said Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. “Her considerable skills in guiding organizations and setting a strategic vision and roadmap for the future will be incredible assets to the League. Wylecia comes to the League at this exciting and important time as we celebrate 95 years and look toward our 2020 centennial. I am confident that with Wylecia at the helm, we will reach new heights.”

“This position with the League of Women Voters means a great deal to me. It provides me with an opportunity to devote my leadership experiences to an organization whose mission closely aligns with my personal convictions. The League’s efforts to engage all voters has always been professionally inspiring to my work,” said Dr. Harris.

Dr. Harris’s many executive achievements include serving as the executive director for both the Center for American Nurses and Sister to Sister – Everyone Has a Heart Foundation, a national organization supporting women’s health issues and heart disease education. She also served for 17 years with the American Heart Association in positions at the local, regional and national levels. In these roles, Dr. Harris used technology, communication and innovative approaches as the backbone for building or rebuilding successful educational and outreach programs.

Dr. Harris is an active member of many professional organizations and boards, including the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and the advisory committee of Capella University’s School of Public Health. Dr. Harris has authored columns for national publications, including *American Nurse Today*, *ASAE Journal* and *The Nonprofit Quarterly*.

Dr. Harris holds a PhD in organizational development from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minnesota; a master of management degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois; and a bachelor’s degree from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio.

### WEBSITES TO KEEP YOU IN THE KNOW:

For everything SC General Assembly related:  
[www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov)

For everything LWV related:  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
[www.lwvsc.org](http://www.lwvsc.org)

For everything Natural Resources related:  
[www.coastalconservationleague.org](http://www.coastalconservationleague.org)



# LWV SC Voter

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## The SC Voter

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Established in 1951, the League of Women Voters of South Carolina is a nonpartisan, political organization that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen of voting age, male or female, may become a League member. All members receive the National Voter, the SC Voter, and a newsletter from their local League.

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## UNLOCKING THE LAW

A 1943 graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law, **Sarah Leverette** was the only woman in her class. Later, she became the law school's first female faculty member.

Women comprise about half of each incoming class in USC's School of Law, but Sarah Leverette hails from an era when female law students could have been considered an endangered species.

She earned a degree in English from Carolina in 1940 and graduated magna cum laude from the law school in 1943 — the only woman in the class. But Leverette found limited opportunities in the private-sector.

"I always said I knew the door was closed for women, but I didn't know it was locked," says Leverette, 95, a native of Iva, S.C.

Fortunately, career paths in education and government opened. Not long after graduating, she became the law school's



**Sarah Leverette**

first female faculty member, serving as librarian and legal writing and research instructor for 25 years. She went on to be commissioner and chair of the **S.C. Industrial Commission** (now Workers' Compensation Commission) and continues to serve the **League of Women Voters**

**and S.C. Women Lawyers Association.**

One of Leverette's law school colleagues was Beverly Lovejoy Boyer, an assistant law librarian dedicated to children's issues and how the law could help them. "Beverly spoke for those who could not speak for themselves — the children," Leverette says. "She was a most compassionate person and a vital assistant to me."

Boyer has passed away, but, thanks to a memorial gift from Leverette, her name will adorn a conference room in the future **Children's Law Center** on the corner of Gervais and Pickens.

Leverette has also established the Stephen Ernest Leverette and Allie McGee Leverette Memorial Scholarship at the School of Law in memory of her parents. "They were forward thinking and very supportive of my going to law school," she says. "They believed in education as a prerequisite for a full life and gave each of us a college education."



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Website: [www.lwvsc.org](http://www.lwvsc.org)

Join the League today!