

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE HUNTINGTON AREA

February 2025 Newsletter



Martha Woodward, Co-President, woodward@marshall.edu
Wendy Thomas, Co-President, wxthomas@frontier.com

Voting is my super power!

Women's History Celebrations	Page 1
Town Hall Meeting	Page 4
LWV Federal Judiciary	Page 4
LWV Condemns Trump Administration's Weaponizing of Government Against Americans	Page 5
Totalitarian or Authoritarian? What's the Difference? Words to Weigh	Page 6
The League's Oath to Democracy	Page 7
The Demise of Digital Self-Sovereignty	Page 7



Women's History Celebrations

Wendy Thomas

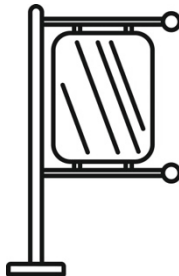
You Are Cordially Invited to...

The City of Huntington's inaugural Women History Month Celebration March 1, 2025, in the Jean Carlo Stephenson Auditorium at City Hall, 800 Fifth Ave. beginning at 1:00 pm. The LWV will assist. The ceremony is open to the public.

"The program will honor 90 women who have ties to Huntington and who have made significant contributions on a city, state or nation level" according to the press release. In addition to the program, banners of the women will be installed along 3rd and 4th avenues

and displayed into the month of April. "This coincides with the launch of a website, www.huntingtonwomenshistory.com, that includes photos and biographies of each woman featured on a street banner." The following women will be honored with banners.

1. JoAnn Odum Aldrich
2. Betty Barrett
3. Dr. Mildred Mitchell-Bateman
4. Dr. Ancella Radford-Bickley
5. Doris Elaine Blue
6. Irene Drukker Broh
7. Janet E. Bromley
8. Dr. Monica Garcia Brooks
9. Cathy Burns
10. Nancy Carter
11. Joan Chappelle
12. Dr. Betty J. Cleckley
13. Sandra Clements
14. Ruth Layne Cline
15. Courtney Proctor Cross
16. Phyllis H. Cyrus
17. Laura Darby
18. Jean Dean
19. Dr. Sarah N. Denman
20. Edna Duckworth
21. Joan C. Edwards
22. Virginia Ruth "Dagmar" Egnor
23. Roberta S. Emerson
24. Catherine Bliss Enslow
25. Josephine "Jo" Fannin
26. Charlene Linsenmeyer Farrell
27. Conchata Ferrell
28. Leah Josephine Fidler
29. Jane C. Fotos
30. Nancy Francis
31. Stella Fuller
32. Shirley Funderburk
33. Memphis Tennessee Garrison
34. Helen Gibbins
35. Verna Gibson
36. Janice Chandler Gold
37. Norma J. Gray
38. Marion "Bunche" Gray
39. Dr. Barbara Guyer
40. Melanie Perry Hall
41. Terry Deppner Hardin
42. Dorothy "Dot" Hicks
43. Linda S. Holmes
44. Revella Hughes
45. Sister M. Carola Jehle
46. Dr. Dorothy Jane "Dotty" Johnson
47. Yvonne L. Jones
48. Dr. Arminta L. Justice
49. Julia Keller
50. Donna Lawson
51. Ally Layman
52. Margaret Mary Layne
53. Maxine Loudermilk
54. Dr. Beverly Twitchell Marchant
55. "Diamond Teeth" Mary McClain
56. Lisa Ransbottom McComas
57. Sadie Dudley McGhee
58. Laurie Mercer
59. Violet Midkiff
60. Doris C. Miller
61. Karen Cartwright Nance
62. Lavinia Norman
63. Dr. Elaine Novak
64. Henriella Perry
65. Newatha Abbott Perry-Myers
66. Dr. Leslie Petteys
67. Jacqueline Proctor
68. Jan Rader
69. Phoebe Patton Randolph
70. Marie Redd
71. Sheila Redling
72. Dr. Maria del Carmen Riddel
73. Sylvia Ridgeway
74. Judy Rule
75. Carter Taylor Seaton
76. Vickie Shaffer
77. Jane Shepherd
78. Judy Southard
79. Shonda Stanton
80. Blaze Starr



81. Jean Carlo Stephenson
82. Arlene M. Stooke
83. Dr. Ruth Sullivan
84. Dr. Omayma T. Touma
85. Joan Weisberg

86. Shirley Williams
87. Kayla Williams
88. Deborah Wolfe
89. Lenna Lowe Yost
90. Regina K. “Jerry” Zitter

Former Mayor Steve Williams began work on the Women’s History Month street banner program in April 2024 after attending the Women’s History Month Banner program initiated by the Huntington Area League of Women Voters. The work has continued and has received strong support from Mayor Farrell.

A diverse committee of nine women was formed to select the 90 women who would be honored with banners. The committee included the following individuals: Dr. Hilary Brewster, an English professor and Director of the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program at Marshall University; former Huntington City Councilwoman Sandra Clements; Laura Deveny, an author and retired Cabell County teacher; Amanda Kolling, a senior program director with Resource Media, a national nonprofit communications consulting firm; Huntington City Councilwoman Ally Layman; Dr. Montserrat Miller, Executive Director of Marshall University’s John Deaver Drinko Academy; Huntington City Councilwoman Holly Smith Mount; Phoebe Patton Randolph, Principal and President of Edward Tucker Architects; and Wendy Thomas, a retired Cabell County teacher and Co-President of the Huntington Area League of Women Voters.

The committee selected honorees including artists, authors, educators, entrepreneurs, and community volunteers, athletes and elected officials.

More Women’s History Celebrations

Wendy Thomas



The Cabell County Public Library will have a Women’s History Month display at the main library, 455 9th St. Huntington during the month of March. Sara Ramezani, Assistant Director of Popular Services says “I plan to organize a display on the first floor, and David Owens (Assistant Director of Adult Services) will deliver a presentation on Saturday, March 15, at 2:00 p.m.”

Town Hall Meeting

Martha Woodward

Martha and Marsha contacted Mayor Farrell's office about holding a Town Hall meeting. He asked us to check back after Budget and State of the City presentations. He is now attending neighborhood association meetings asking questions and focusing on perceptions of security. We will keep members informed.



LWV Federal Judiciary Survey

Nyoka Baker Chapman

Per the LWVUS Website this survey is *"To develop a LWV position on the Federal Judiciary as an essential component of US democracy. The study's purpose includes, but is not limited to, addressing concerns and clarifying judicial accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics. The scope addresses the Supreme Court as well as the other Article III federal courts."*



The LWVHA will hold a meeting to participate in the LWVUS Federal judicial Study.
(to be announced)

There are 12 questions that will be discussed to create a consensus that will in turn be submitted via *one form* by a local league representative for review by the LWVUS. A finalized position will be developed which will be announced at LWVUS Council June 26-28, 2025.

Although the questions may seem simple, the study guide reveals they deserve serious thought.

<https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/FJS%20Consensus%20Form%20FINAL.pdf>

They are worded to prompt a multiple-choice response, which is to result by agreement of the group following a discussion of the question. The answers include the following choices:

- Strong consensus for
- Moderate consensus for
- Strong consensus against
- Moderate consensus against
- No consensus

Policy papers are available on the LWVUS League Management page which includes:

- Financial Disclosure

- Judge Shopping
- Judicial Ethics and Enforcement
- Legitimacy and the US Supreme Court
- Key Terms for the Federal Judiciary Study
- Recusal
- Representation
- Shadow Docket
- Stare Decisis and Binding Precedent
- Structural reforms for the US Supreme Court

https://www.lwv.org/league-management/advocacy-litigation/2024-2025-federal-judiciary-study-process-committee-and?utm_source=salsa&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=FJS&utm_content=02.10.25&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=29a34d66-0643-4152-a1f2-b6f4c57ac811

Further questions and concerns have arisen since this study began due to the *system lockouts* of judges appointed by the previous administration which has prompted resignations. Per a release by Courthouse News on 02/20 the legality of their firing is to be set for review by the US Supreme Court. Democracy is dependent on the courts to uphold the US Constitution, and the laws set in motion by our congress as a part of our checks and balances. Democracy's best defense is the pillar of our laws.

<https://www.courthousenews.com/supreme-court-set-to-review-presidents-power-to-fire-agency-judges/>

<https://www.krqe.com/news/new-mexico/new-mexicos-u-s-attorney-says-he-is-locked-out-of-work-devices/>

<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/remaining-biden-us-attorneys-said-to-have-devices-deactivated>

This is an important study, and we look forward to member participation. Comments may also be made which can be added to the completed submission.



LWV Condemns Trump Administration's Weaponization of Government Against Americans

Press Release / Last Updated: February 6, 2025

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WASHINGTON — Today, the League of Women Voters of the United States CEO **Celina Stewart** issued the following statement in response to actions taken by the new administration and the impact on voters.

“In the first 17 days of the Trump administration, we’ve witnessed nothing short of the weaponization of government against Americans. The callousness of the most recent actions, including the terrorizing of the immigrant community, shows a blatant disregard for the well-being of the American people. We’ve seen the weakening of the Department of Justice’s civil rights work, continued attacks on people of color and the LGBTQIA+ community, and the elimination and freezing of humanitarian aid to other countries. These efforts are dangerous for our country, compromising our international ally relationships and putting many Americans’ livelihoods at stake.

“As an organization committed to empowering voters and defending democracy, the League is outraged by the current administration’s actions against the American people. We are equally concerned about the inaction of our elected officials in Congress to exercise their constitutional authority and put a stop to this attack on democratic institutions, Americans, and the rule of law.

“Over the past few weeks, we’ve witnessed a number of alarming actions from the executive branch met with little response from our elected officials in Congress. All members of Congress have a responsibility to serve the people they represent and swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. Congress is undermining the system of checks and balances upon which this country was founded by not responding to the executive branch’s violation of the law and encroachment on its authority. We call on Congress to act now to stop the infringement on its legislative authority and respond to the ongoing assault on our democracy on behalf of the American people.

“For over a century, the League has remained steadfast in our commitment to the American people and our democracy. President Trump’s latest actions put both in deep jeopardy. We call on our elected officials to stand up to tyranny, protect our democracy, and honor their oath to the American people.”

Totalitarian or Authoritarian? What’s the Difference? Words to Weigh....

Nyoka Baker Chapman

“The **totalitarian** government uses ideology to control most aspects of human life, such as the political economy of the country, the system of education, the arts, the sciences, and the private-life morality of the citizens.^[4] In the exercise of socio-political power, the



difference between a totalitarian regime of government and an authoritarian regime of government is one of degree; whereas totalitarianism features a charismatic dictator and a fixed worldview, **authoritarianism** only features a dictator who holds power for the sake of holding power, and is supported, either jointly or individually, by a military junta and by the **socio-economic elites** who are the ruling class of the country.^[5]"

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Totalitarianism#:~:text=In%20the%20exercise%20of%20socio,po wer%20for%20the%20sake%20of>

The League's Oath to Democracy

"We do solemnly swear that we will empower voters and defend our democracy.

"That we will faithfully execute our civic responsibility as nonpartisan advocates.

"We do this fearlessly, reflectively, and collectively.
We act from a place of hope and collective power.



"We affirm that we will work to provide democracy education and election administration support, restore and defend voting rights protections, abolish the Electoral College, protect democracy organizations, and fight for reproductive freedoms. We will not be deterred from these tasks.

"So join us to protect life, liberty, freedom, and justice."

The Demise of Digital Self-Sovereignty



Nyoka Baker Chapman

Our Democracy represents human beings, not pieces of lifeless data to be filtered and scrubbed. Yet, we now see that in the eyes of the current executive overreach that one's worth is no more than just that, a soulless piece of a puzzle. The self-sovereignty of the digital

footprint that leads to one's identification, health and finances is an assumed privacy that can no longer be taken for granted. Sensitive government databases, once thought to be secure, are now the subject of surgery under the scalpel of AI. What qualifies as authorization to conduct operations to feed our government data into new programs is not fully understood by the public, but the dangers of doing so are definitely being acknowledged.

CPO Magazine (Chief Privacy Officer Magazine which provides news, insights and resources for data protection, privacy and cyber security leaders) calls what is happening to government information a “**blitzkrieg**.” <https://www.cpomagazine.com/data-privacy/doges-blitzkrieg-through-national-government-raising-privacy-concerns-over-access-to-federal-data/>

MIT Technology Review calls the work of DOGE a “**wrecking ball**.” <https://www.technologyreview.com/2025/02/07/1111283/elon-musk-doge-and-the-evil-housekeeper-problem-government-technology/>

An article from **CIO.com** (an information hub on cyber security, AI and business applications) describes how “**chaos**” is at issue when attempting to apply AI in government due to the limitations of AI’s ability to perform tasks that require human judgement. <https://www.cio.com/article/3828445/musks-plan-to-replace-government-workers-with-ai-could-create-chaos.html?amp=1>

Reasonable standards of review would entail a transparent plan with the approval of Congress to determine the best practices to apply when calculating government efficiency. The damage now being done independently by a lawless executive branch power grab may end up being permanent. Without debate, untested and unproven, the strategies we are witnessing are something that our Democracy has never seen before. Those in solidarity with the actions being taken by the current administration should be providing WV citizens with answers, not touting the approach of a pending ‘golden age’ that will be the result of a total disregard for our entire system of government.