

# LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE HUNTINGTON AREA

**April 2024 E-mail Bulletin**

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Voting is my super power!



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## Tis the End of the WV Legislative Session 2024

Nyoka Baker Chapman



Our members along with others made enough noise to help keep several bad bills from passing but that doesn't mean that they won't be back in a late summer ad hoc session when the governor makes his discretionary call. Sneaky bills will no doubt be back.

There is no need to reinvent the wheel, so here is an exacting report on the 2024 legislative session as reported by the WV Citizens Action Group at <https://wvcag.org/> Thank you to our colleagues at the WVCAG for their permission to add their excellent wrap up in our newsletter!

## Capital Eye: Vol. 17 No. 8

*A short list of the worst to fail includes the Women's Bill of Wrongs; the Lock Up the Librarians/book banning bill; as well as the timbering in state parks, anti-carbon offset agreements, anti-air monitoring and welfare for Diversified Energy bills.*

- [Bad Bills: Dead or Alive? \(Mostly Dead, Thankfully!\)](#)
- [Dead Election Bills More Notable Than Ones That Passed](#)
- [Climate Eye 2024 Session Wrap Up](#)
- [Health Care for All 2024 Legislative Wrap Up](#)

Be on the lookout for more legislative updates in the WV Voter.

# Primary Election Dates and Deadlines

Nyoka Baker Chapman

[GoVoteWV](#)



**January 1 - May 8, 2024 - Absentee Application Period** - Eligible Absentee Voters can send an absentee ballot application to their County Clerk in person, by mail, or electronically.

**January 1 - May 8, 2024 - Absentee Application Period** - Military or Overseas Voters may request an absentee ballot.

**January 8 - January 27, 2024 - Candidate Filing Period**

**March 26, 2024 - Write-in Deadline**

**March 29, 2024** - County Clerks begin mailing absentee ballots to voters from whom they received applications.

**April 23, 2024 - Voter Registration Deadline**

**May 1 - May 11, 2024 - Early Voting in Person** - Voter may vote an early ballot at the county courthouse, an annex or a designated community voting location during normal business hours. Early voting must be conducted between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on the last 2 Saturdays before the Primary Election.

**May 7 - Noon, May 14, 2024- Emergency Absentee Voting**

Registered voters and other qualified voters in the county are authorized to vote an emergency absentee ballot in the following circumstances may be eligible to receive an emergency absentee ballot in the following circumstances:

- Voter is in the hospital on Election Day;
- Voter is a replacement poll worker appointed after the period for Early Voting;
- Voter is in a licensed health care facilities within an adjacent county or within 35 miles of the county seat (county policy required;)
- Voter is in nursing home within the county if he or she has resided there for a period of less than 30 days (county policy required); or
- Voter becomes confined, on or after the seventh day preceding an election, to a specific location within the county because of illness, injury, physical disability, or immobility due to advance age or other medical reason(county policy required).

**May 8, 2024 - Deadline for Absentee Ballot Applications**

**May 11, 2024 - Deadline for Early Voting in Person**

**May 13, 2024 - Deadline for Hand-Deliver Absentee Ballot to the Clerk's Office**

**May 14, 2024 - ELECTION DAY**

**May 14, 2024 - Absentee Ballots Received Electronically from Eligible Voters Accepted** - Absentee ballots submitted electronically by eligible military and overseas voters and eligible voters with physical disabilities are accepted by close of polls.

**May 15, 2024 - Absentee Ballots without Postmark Accepted**

**May 20, 2024 - Absentee Ballots Postmarked by Election Day Accepted**



## WV Health

Betty Barrett and Jan Gossett

This year's session was challenging for West Virginia's health needs.

Positive outcomes include:

HB 4933 increased adult Medicaid recipient's dental benefits from \$1000 annually to \$2000. This will enable individuals to obtain dentures in addition to routine dental care.

HB 4874 passed, regarding infant and maternal mortality information. West Virginia babies and mothers are at high risk for poor outcomes during and after birth.

SB 443 will require pricing transparency from pharmacies who contract with PEIA.

A bill requiring SNAP recipients to obtain employment failed.

All bills further restricting reproductive and gender affirming care failed.

Concerns:

HB 5105 passed the Senate and House. This bill would loosen the state's strong school vaccine laws. Governor Justice has received multiple calls from physicians and educators asking for this bill to be vetoed.

The State's current budget failed to fill the \$114 million dollar gap in Medicaid funding.

The budget also decreased the funds to care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

There will be a special session in May to address the current budget. Hopefully there will be additional funding for these important health related needs for West Virginians.



## Put On Your Snorkel!

Nyoka Baker Chapman

You can go for a deep dive at [WV SOS - Elections - Candidate - Online Data Services](#) to see the field and take away your own impressions of the candidates. When you click on a candidate's name you will find links to their website or sometimes a Facebook page. One party has a competitive field with multiple candidates for an office while one

party is lucky to have *a* candidate. The last redistricting in WV divided incorporated municipalities and added rural voters in disproportionate numbers giving one party a distinctive edge, bringing the illusion that one party had become almost extinct, which is not really the case, they just become disenfranchised.

Mapping information for senate and delegate districts and precincts can be found on the SOS website at <https://www.mapwv.gov/vote/> and finding your polling place is made easy <https://apps.sos.wv.gov/Elections/Voter/FindMyPollingPlace>

Some states have laws regarding conflict of interest. <https://www.ncsl.org/ethics/voting-recusal-provisions> WV has seen its share of government officials with direct business connections that can be subject to WV laws. When corporate interests rule then the term oligarchy seems to apply. Candidates with holdings in natural resources or energy for example may give them experience in an industry but also allow them influence over laws that impact their personal business interests. WV has long suffered by seeing advantages given to industries and not hearing or seeing any references or actions regarding Justice 40 initiatives. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40/>

Case in point one WV candidate for US Senate seen behaving badly. <https://www.propublica.org/article/jim-justice-coal-empire-sued-by-federal-government-again>

If you have yet to see this gubernatorial debate you can watch it on YouTube. <https://youtu.be/TEgAcMsjk6A?si=WsAIAbGQG4JZ5s6O> I am adding a brief YouTube clip to be fair of the one candidate who is running unopposed from the other party. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yUZJY6Y1Rw>

A couple of candidates for governor have shown their true colors by their actions and when going off-script. <https://www.wboy.com/news/west-virginia/west-virginia-kentucky-lead-lawsuit-against-new-epa-air-quality-rule/> This candidate was roasted early on in 2018 for his connections to the fossil fuel industry as a lobbyist, which later in his term as attorney general put him into a pulpit position to champion coal and gas all the way to supreme court. To his followers, he has made his MAGA political affiliations clear.

<https://twitter.com/MorriseyWV/status/1649509371494162433>

This candidate for governor was found so far out in right field during the National Association of Secretaries of State Winter Conference that it made headlines. <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/misinformation/west-virginia-election-chief-mac->

[warner-backs-conspiracy-theories-rcna138479](https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/5955118-The-Mueller-Report) Would someone please send this candidate a copy of the Mueller Report?

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/5955118-The-Mueller-Report>

Perhaps this link would suffice. <https://www.acslaw.org/projects/the-presidential-investigation-education-project/other-resources/key-findings-of-the-mueller-report/>

One candidate for governor is not found in favor with the mainstream of his party. <https://www.weirtondailytimes.com/opinion/local-columns/2024/02/trump-card-played-against-capito-family/> His experience has made him very comfortable though with his old-school roots.

One candidate describes himself as a businessman and in this article [Self described "political outsider" Chris Miller wants to lead West Virginia - WV MetroNews](#) is said to already be operating 26 businesses that employ 650 people and sees hope in treating taxpayers like customers.

Several WV Congressional and US Senate candidates were those who signed on to the Freedom Caucus to not certify the 2020 election, but whether that was an act of treason or not isn't a question that anyone seems to be raising. Newsletters from some current incumbents can be found with biased political misinformation and accusations that are not supported by factual references. Enough said.

Public debates do not always remove the veneer from a candidate to see them as they really are. By reflex they will fall back to reciting what they want voters to hear, using pushbutton party rhetoric and words that stimulate a response that they think will excite their constituents. You will know when to run as far away as you can from a candidate when you aren't getting constructive and practical plans to make West Virginia a genuinely better place to live.



The League of Women Voter's annual meeting is April 20, 2024, at the Woodlands Retirement Community, 1 Bradley Foster Drive, Huntington, WV.

Lunch will be served in the cafeteria at noon. The meeting will start at 1:00 in the Hampton Room.

A count is needed by April 17. Please phone or text Martha Woodward at 304-654-1445 or email at [woodward@marshall.edu](mailto:woodward@marshall.edu).



## Calling All Members!

Nyoka Baker Chapman

You, Yes YOU! Please know that YOUR ideas and comments are valued and welcome. If you have an idea or project in mind, the members of the Board of the LWVHA and other offboard members are here to help you make it happen. We work together at the state and local level as volunteers unlike many organizations that are on a payroll. Our motivation to 'Empower Voters and Defend Democracy' is our mission, and our yearly priorities list is the roadmap of our concerns. Please know that you can submit articles to Beverly Murrell at any time for review for the newsletter. Please submit your event, project or mutual organization sponsorship proposals to Wendy Thomas or Martha Woodward to be placed on a board meeting agenda. Your continued membership and support are deeply appreciated!



*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan volunteer organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate, but is engaged in local, state, and national issues of importance to our communities. The League works to influence public policy through advocacy and education.*

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**League membership is open to all men and women aged 16 or older.**

Single membership is \$50.00. Two Memberships in the same household are a total of \$75.00. Students may join for free. Please pay by cash or a check made out to the League of Women Voters of Huntington. Dues are needed one year since your last payment.

**Mail dues to: LWVHA c/o Carolyn Bagby, 79 N Bradley Foster Dr, Huntington WV, 25701.**

**Please write “Dues” on your payment,** if paying by check.

Please include this information with your payment.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number for local League use. \_\_\_\_\_ (Optional, but increases LWVHA effectiveness.)

Amount paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: When you join the local League, you also become a member of the LWV United States and LWV WV. (We share your mailing address and email with them. ) We do not share your personal information with any other organization. Most communication from the Huntington League is by email.

MY AREAS OF GREATEST CONCERN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate if you are a student. (Students are exempt from paying dues.)**

I am a full-time student at \_\_\_\_\_ and qualify for free membership.

Student ID number: \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: Additional donations are always welcome. PLEASE write “**Donation**” on your check, if making a donation.

Thanks!