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## {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }}'s LWVCV Newsletter      September 2023



## LWVCV Turns Out for State Redistricting Hearing in Hickory

More than 130 people showed up for the public hearing of the NC General Assembly Committee on Redistricting and Elections at the Appalachian State University in Hickory on September 26th. There was over 2 hours of public comment, with well-spoken citizens taking their two minutes to share their opinions on the redistricting process and its results with the six state legislators at the hearing.

LWVCV President Tiffany Canaday gave prepared remarks on behalf of the League, the text of which can be found [here](#). Three other LWVCV members also gave their personal comments as individuals, and at least 5 other LWVCV members were in attendance.

Several points came up regularly in the public remarks:

- There was insufficient notice ahead of these meetings.
- Three (3) meetings across the entire state is insufficient for effective public comment on any changes in voting districts. Several speakers drove 90 minutes or more to attend the meeting in Hickory.
- The meeting times - 4:00 PM on a weekday - make it difficult for many NC citizens to participate.
- Not having the proposed maps publicly available makes constructive input difficult. Hearings & public input need to occur after proposed maps are available.
- Regardless of what may be legally possible, NC citizens of all political persuasions do not support partisan gerrymandering.

Many comments supported the results from the court master-drawn congressional maps.

- Citizens are skeptical that all these comments will make a difference in what our legislators do with drawing new districts while encouraging them to listen.

More photos from the event are on the League website [here](#).

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## It's VOTE411 Magnet Season!

**Thanks to all the folks helping support VOTE411** this municipal election cycle. We know that not everyone can vote in these elections but our goal is to cover EVERY election cycle for voters. We've invited over 50 candidates in Burke and Catawba Counties to participate in VOTE411. We have volunteers doing so much work:

- Following up with candidates to encourage them to respond;
- Distributing Voter Information packets to all library branches in Burke and Catawba Counties;
- Organizing and placing VOTE411 yard signs in election municipalities;
- Talking to community folks at all our events to encourage voters to use VOTE411 to get the election information they need.

We have one more opportunity to help promote VOTE411. **If you live in one of the municipalities holding an election this fall (see the graphic below), pull out your VOTE411 car magnet and drive it around!** Feel free to point your magnet out to folks and talk about all the great nonpartisan information available to voters. **Candidate information will be available by October 20th**, so check it out!

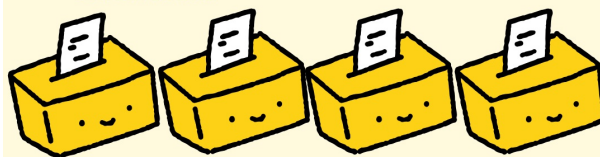
*Don't have a VOTE411 magnet of your own?*

*Can't find your magnet from last year?*

**Send a message to the League [here](#)!**

**Municipalities with local elections covered by VOTE411 this season are:**

- **Newton**
- **Hickory**
- **Long View**
- **Connelly Springs**
- **Brookford**
- **Glen Alpine**
- **Maiden**
- **Morganton**
- **Conover**
- **Rhodhiss**
- **Claremont**
- **Drexel**
- **Catawba**



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## Help Keep LWVCV Keepin' On

The Member-Guest Ice Cream Sunday, rained out in August, was to be a combination social event and fundraiser for the League. Since cool weather is not the ideal time for ice cream, the organizers are

working on a revamped social event for League members and guests in the coming months.

While the event did not pan out, the League is still reliant on donations to fund the programs and projects that support our fellow voters. Please consider making an additional [donation](#) to support LWVCV.

[Donate to the League here](#)



## Notes from the President

by  
Tiffany Canaday

**Hi everyone!**

**Happy Fall!** I hope you all are well and enjoying the cooler weather.

The League is gearing up for the 2023 municipal election season with voter registration drives, VOTE411 signs and information, and distributing trustworthy, reliable election information through social media and other venues.

**Please encourage everyone you encounter to vote!** And please be sure to inform them that a picture ID will be required to vote starting with this election. More information about the ID requirement is available [here](#) on the League website.

**As you all are aware** from the article above, the NC General Assembly held a redistricting public hearing on September 26—one of only three such hearings in the entire State! I hope you were able to attend and/or comment. There is also a section which was included in the recently passed State budget which allows non-disclosure of any document, supporting document, drafting request, or information request made or received by that legislator while a legislator. The League anticipates this section will be challenged legally.

**Please take a moment to personally recommit** to the League's mission of empowering voters and to the League's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion among its members in both principle and practice.

**Thanks for your work to defend democracy!**

**In League,**  
Tiffany

***League of Women Voters of Catawba Valley (LWVCV) is a nonpartisan grassroots organization dedicated to empowering voters and defending democracy. It works to inform and engage the community and to encourage participation by citizens in government.***

## League September: Here, There, and Everywhere

League members have been hard at work this past month, registering voters, distributing voting information, and giving presentations to local groups about the new voter ID requirements

and eligibility to vote. Here's a recap!

## Hickory NAACP Branch

Tiffany Canaday represented the League at the September 10 business meeting of the Hickory NAACP. She explained the new voter ID requirements and distributed fact sheets regarding the requirements.



## Hickory Public Libraries

League members set up voter registration & information tables at both branches of the Hickory Public Library: Patrick Beaver Library on the SALT Block on September 12 and Ridgeview Branch on September 16.

## Hickory Youth Council

Several members represented the League at a meeting of the Hickory Youth Council on September 18 in the Hickory City Council chambers. The council is comprised of local high school youth who work on projects that benefit the community. LWVCV members explained their involvement with voting and offered assistance and information through available resources, including VOTE411.



## National Voter Registration Day at L-R

For National Voter Registration Day on September 19th, the League once again teamed up with the local NAACP to run a voter registration table in the center of Lenoir-Rhyne University's student center. This year, there was exceptional support in the form of student volunteers from L-R sorority and fraternity members, who encouraged their fellow students to visit the table to check their voter registration status and, if they weren't already registered, to complete a registration form.

Thanks to this concerted effort, **15 new voters** registered on that day, and many more confirmed their registration and agreed to vote in the general election!

## Todos Somos America

LWVCV hosted a table at the annual Centro Latino "Todos Somos America" Hispanic heritage festival on Union Square in downtown Hickory on September 24. League members distributed voter registration applications, VOTE411 flyers, and information on the new voter ID requirements.



## Caldwell County NAACP

Priya Palmer and Cindy Lundy represented the League at the Caldwell County NAACP's monthly meeting on September 25. They introduced the League, its ongoing projects, and its community collaborations and discussed opportunities for the NAACP to support voter education and access to the ballot in Caldwell County.

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## Keep Spreading the News About Voter ID Requirements

As mentioned in last month's newsletter and above in this edition, **photo IDs will be required to vote in North Carolina this year.** While the change has been on the table and in the news for several years, many voters are not yet aware of what the requirement means for them.

As you talk about voting and elections this year, keep yourself up on the ID requirements by reviewing the resources available through the League and the state Board of Elections.

[This page](#) on the LWVCV website has several helpful items:

- an explainer video;
- a voter ID info sheet;
- list of list of school/college/university student and employee IDs that are accepted under the new rules;
- and links to official NC Board of Elections notices and publications.

**Share this information and the LWVCV [link](#) widely!**

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Thanks for reading our newsletter. Please forward this edition to any friends who might like to know more about the League. They or anyone may **join the LWVCV** by tapping [this link](#).

## Calendar

*More details on these events are available on the [League Calendar](#). The new version of the calendar also allows you*

*to add events to your personal calendar.*

**Free Screening: 'No Time to Fail'**

**Thursday, September 28, 2023**

**6:30 PM-8:00 PM**

The League of Women Voters of North Carolina is hosting a virtual screening of "[No Time to Fail](#)", a documentary about Rhode Island election officials during the 2020 election.

Registration is required [here](#).

**LWVCV Voting Info & Registration Table at Everything Free Event**

**Saturday, September 30, 2023**

**11:00 AM-1:00 PM**

**Ridgeview Recreation Center, 115 7th Ave SW, Hickory, NC**

**28602**

Hosted by Exodus Homes.

**Newton City Council Candidate Forum**

**Saturday, October 7, 2023**

**10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

**Community Meeting Room, Catawba County Library Main Branch**

**115 West C Street, Newton, NC 28658**

Hosted by The Newton Forum Committee.

**Mayor of Newton Candidate Forum**

**Saturday, October 14, 2023**

**10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

**Community Meeting Room, Catawba County Library Main Branch**

**115 West C Street, Newton, NC 28658**

Hosted by The Newton Forum Committee.

**LWVCV October Business Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

**10:00 AM-11:30 AM**

Meeting link and additional materials will be made available to members prior to the meeting.

**Photo credits: Betty Lohr, Julie Pepper, Kline Pepper, Sheryl Schuhose, and Lynn B. Spees.**

**Thanks to Dot Williams and Lynn B. Spees for reviewing this newsletter.**

***Any remaining errors are the editor's.***

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