

The League of Women Voters national project to end gerrymandering and create a better way of designing voting districts:

After the Supreme Court's disappointing decision in the *Rucho* case this past June—failing to take a stand for voters and establish limits around when partisan gerrymandering goes too far—the national League promised we wouldn't throw up our hands and just give up, but we'd roll up our sleeves and fight harder than ever.

And that's exactly what we're doing with the launch of the [People Powered Fair Maps™](#) campaign: a massive, nationwide campaign designed to reform redistricting strategically, state by state, once and for all.

**PEOPLE
POWERED
FAIR MAPS™**

This unprecedented effort is called “People Powered” because this campaign is designed to empower *people*—millions across this country—who've told us they feel their votes don't matter.

Comprising five key focus areas and reaching into every state and the District of Columbia, this campaign will be a game-changer for our democracy. With redistricting reform rolled out within a national strategy, not every state will take on the same work. And that's because we know **there's no “one-size-fits-all” solution**. So, we've created a plan that addresses five major areas.

Here in New Hampshire we'll be focusing on legislation to create an Independent Redistricting Commission. Last year's successful bill to do just that was one of 57 bills Governor Sununu vetoed, despite broad bi-partisan support. In 2020 we will continue to work on legislation and to win over the Governor, too.

This national League campaign is all about building and sharing power across communities. We're building a national movement to end partisan gerrymandering and ensure that redistricting plans designed in 2021 are free, fair, and accessible.

And what's more, by helping voters feel ownership of—and the ability to have a say in—what their electoral maps look like, we're ensuring they also feel empowered to hold their leaders accountable! That's the stamp of a functioning democracy.

Together, we will make lasting change—and ensure our democracy realizes its promise of one person, one vote.

To learn more about the national League’s initiative, visit this website.

<https://www.lwv.org/blog/rolling-our-sleeves-fair-maps>

To stay informed about developments in NH, read our weekly Legislative Alerts, starting up again in January, and our NH Voter articles.

We have a “**redistricting road show**” that can be presented in your community to explain redistricting in NH. League board members and others are ready with a short powerpoint (or paper maps if no projector is available). What do we need from you? Help us find an audience and a venue!

If you belong to a community group or other organization that would like to learn more about this non-partisan effort, just contact the League at LWVNewHampshire@gmail.com and we’ll talk!

Local League reports:

from **Greater Nashua**, where an important municipal election was held in Nov. 2019: The Nashua City Board of Education Candidate Forum hosted by LWVNH-Greater Nashua on October 30th, was a big success. Ten of the eleven candidates participated. Edith Frank did an outstanding job as moderator. She kept order and kept the forum moving along very well. Her experience was apparent, and the candidates knew she meant business about going overtime. Partnering with the library and newspaper gave us the support and free publicity we needed, as there were just a few League members involved in the planning. Attending were 170 people! The event was televised on the local public access channel. Our Facebook ads reached 2790 people in Nashua!

The result of that election was the 5 contested seats went to 4 new members and one incumbent. Thanks to all the members who helped out with the forum.

In addition to the forum, Greater Nashua used the League’s voter information service, VOTE411.org. Over 40 of the municipal candidates participated, posting their answers to the League’s questions. More statistics about use of the site by voters will be coming soon.

From **Southern Rockingham**, where a successful program on arsenic in drinking water led to connections to obtain test kits in November. Now they are hosting an **Education Funding 101 program** in Brentwood, on December 4, 6:30-8:00 pm, at Mary Bartlett Memorial Library, 22 Dalton Rd. Open to the public!

In NH, the largest portion of our local property taxes go to school funding because the State of NH contributes the smallest proportion of aid to public education of any of the fifty states. The result is grossly disproportionate property tax rates and struggling schools in many communities. This system hurts our economy and hinders our state’s ability to attract and keep young people.

Come listen to Attorney John Tobin explain how all this actually works and what we as citizens can do to change the funding process and help our own bottom line!

From **PeterboroPlus**, several excellent **Get Out The Vote events** already held, more planned. In our January newsletter we’ll share tips for anyone else who wants to set up a table offering non-partisan voter information in a public place. January will be an important time to do that work, get information into the hands of potential first-time voters!

Check the [Calendar page of LWVNH.org](#) for upcoming meetings and events!

Mark your calendar for Feb. 11 to vote in the First in The Nation Presidential Primary. If you will be unable to vote in person, you can get an absentee ballot application now from your town/city clerk, fill it out, and a ballot will be mailed to you.

Where do we stand with voter registration changes? Lots of references in the news, and it can be confusing. Just before Thanksgiving a federal court ruled that it would not “stay” **HB1264** for the presidential primary. That means those registering in the next few months will be declaring “residency” when they register, meaning they are subject to laws that apply to NH residents, such as motor vehicle registration and drivers licenses. This will mostly affect college students and contract workers, who live here now but intend at some time in the relatively near future to leave the state. The case has yet to be scheduled for a full trial. Visit the [Voting and Elections page](#) of our website for more.

As for **SB3**, the 2017 onerous voter registration bill, League will be in court Dec. 2-5 and 9-10 hoping to get this confusing law killed. A previous court ruling “stayed” that procedure, so no worries for the presidential primary, as the judge has said he will not rule on our case before then.

Also on our [Voting and Elections webpage](#) are fliers and brochures that explain voter registration and absentee voting.

On our [Candidates Forums webpage](#) are details about the presidential primary forums as they become public.

More in early January about Get Out The Vote efforts we can all make!

Young people are voting in greater numbers than in recent memory!

Saint Anselm College Receives Silver Seal for Excellence in Student Voter Engagement

November 14, 2019 By Alexis Soucy

At the 2019 ALL IN Challenge Awards Ceremony held to recognize colleges and universities committed to increasing college student voting rates, Saint Anselm College received a silver seal for achieving a student [voting] rate between 30% and 39%.

“Saint Anselm College is proud to receive this national recognition for our voting efforts,” said [Neil Levesque](#), executive director of the [New Hampshire Institute of Politics](#) at Saint Anselm College. “Our faculty, staff, and students are committed to working together to increase civic and political engagement among citizens of all ages in the first-in-the-nation primary state.”

Student participation in elections has increased from the 2014 midterm election to the recent 2018 midterm election. According to the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), an initiative of Tufts University’s Institute for Democracy & Higher Education, voter turnout at the more than 1,000 institutions participating in the study increased by 21 points from 19% to 40%. Saint Anselm College’s data reveals an increase of 14.4 points, from 16.3% in 2014 to 30.7% in 2018.

“We are excited to honor Saint Anselm College with an ALL IN Challenge silver seal in recognition of their intentional efforts to increase democratic engagement and full voter participation,” said Jennifer Domagal-Goldman, executive director of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. “More

institutions like Saint Anselm are changing culture on campus by institutionalizing nonpartisan democratic engagement efforts that are resulting in the incredible student voter turnout rates that we've seen across the country.”

The [ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge](#) is a nonpartisan, national initiative recognizing and supporting campuses as they work to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and full student voter participation. The Challenge encourages higher education institutions to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship, and make democratic participation a core value on their campus. More than 560 campuses, enrolling more than 6.2 million students, have joined the Challenge since its launch in summer 2016.

Have you sent in your membership renewal and annual dues yet?

Letters were sent in November. We thank the many members who have not only sent their dues but also added donations to help with our advocacy work in this coming LWV centennial year.

If you have that dues letter in your “to do” pile, please dig it out.

And if you would prefer to pay with a credit card or bank account, we now have a Donorbox account on our website (*thank you, Shauna, for making this work for us*). Just go to our LWVNH.org website, look for the first item in the menu on the left ([Dues & Donations Online](#)), click there and follow the directions. We'd love to get all dues renewals by the end of December and not nag you in January!

Coming up in 2020:

*Starting after the new year—our weekly **Legislative Alerts** will be sent by email on Friday afternoons or maybe Saturday, depending on how many bills and hearings are on the NH Legislature's Calendars. We send these to members and to others who request them. League will highlight bills that reflect our priorities of election law and public education, but we will also try to list important bills of broad public interest.*

If we miss some, we apologize.

If the news of a Tuesday hearing on a bill you care about doesn't get to you until Saturday, we apologize but explain that all we can do is find the scheduled hearings in the weekly Calendars on Friday morning, and they rarely list bill hearings further out than the coming week.

League would love to have designated members following some other important bills on which we have positions: environmental policy, energy, healthcare, housing, judiciary, public safety.... Please let a board member know if you want to take on the challenge of following a particular topic and reporting back to the board!

Just a reminder that in NH all League members and League board members are doing this as volunteers—we have no paid lobbyists or staff! So your help is greatly appreciated.

Sad member news: Jennie McBean, a long-time League member who had been living at Kendal in Hanover, passed away in October.