

LWVHHI-BA 2024-2025 Policy & Program Priorities

Executive Summary

The Committee Chairs and League Officers have spent a significant amount of time considering the 2024-2025 year's activities and programming plans. This is an important political cycle for local, state and national elections and that priority is evident in the program plans submitted for each of the committees in this report. We are mindful of the resource needs identified by each of our committees. Each of their requests is important and support key activities and programs. We have however, made an initial decision to reduce all budget requests by 25% since we have historically underspent the League budget. We believe that efforts must be undertaken to increase our income and we will be seeking League members to establish a fundraising committee towards that end. As we are able to increase the funding income, we can adjust the expense budget accordingly.

The Board is placing significant emphasis on increasing the membership of the League, continuing to seek new avenues to bring greater diversity to the membership. We have been successful in two grant awards from the State LWV and the national LWV in support of efforts to enhance our social media presence and a pilot project to encourage voter awareness and decrease the number of identified inactive voters residing the Hilton Head Island and the Bluffton area.

While each of the committee plans highlight a unique focus aligned with their mission; there is consensus that committees should align activities in 2024-2025 to support of our most critical mission, supporting voter awareness and voter registration. Committee chairs and their members continue to work collaboratively with each other; with other Leagues, (particularly in support of public forums and other events designed to strengthen connections) and with high priority organizations and community groups. Additionally, committees continue to include programmatic efforts in support of diversity and expand outreach to underserved communities.

Our membership efforts this year have been extremely positive and we have gained a number of new board members and committee leaders. Additionally, retention of our current members is extremely high. We are also committed to identifying and growing new leadership and board directors as we grow the League of HHI-BA. Our collective work will begin in August, 2024 with an orientation and planning meeting for new board and committee chairs and co-chairs.

The Program plans for the chapter during 2024-2025 will also include several Board of Education candidate forums, local and state candidate forums, an Elected official meeting, "Serving all Communities" in collaboration with League partners WOVEN, MLK and the NAACP and a public forum with elected officials of Hilton Head Island Candidate forums.

In addition to these public forums, training sessions are being offered to support voter awareness and voter registration for League members. In addition to public forums and meeting with elected officials we will consider holding an environmental equity forum with a particular focus on the Gullah Geechee community on Hilton Head Island and the surrounding area. We will continue to hold new and prospective member social events and other gatherings including our annual holiday social.

We believe these programs will help continue strengthening connections with African-American and Hispanic organizations and communities; especially the Lowcountry Immigration Coalition, Campbell Chapel AME Church in Bluffton, the Hilton Head Island MLK Justice Committee; LINKS, Inc., the NAACP and LowCountry Gullah.

~ Dahlia Handman and Kay Roshnow, Co-Presidents



Communications & Publicity

Chairperson: Sandy Stern

Members: Judy Dunning (Webmaster), Maureen Korzik (Eblast Coordinator), Lindsay Culbertson (Newsletter Editor), Peyton Dobbs (Social Media Intern)

Assumptions/Contingencies:

1. The Communications Committee encourages our members to voluntarily perfect their computer skills and to continue in their respective roles in the upcoming year.
2. It is expected that the League will have a strong presence on social media in this election year to promote voter registration and GOTV efforts.

Program Goals:

1. Publicize events, legislative and educational forums, voting news, legislative CTA's via website updates, email blasts, posts to social media, newsletters, LTE's, magazine & newspaper articles, and virtual & in-person meetings.
2. Collaborate with various Chairs (D.E.I., Voting Services, Membership, Education, etc.) to promote outreach to local organizations, businesses, schools, non-profits, clubs, etc.
3. Implement strategies of LWVUS D.E.I. policies and integrate in all forms of communication.
4. Reach out to the Latino community via translations for social media and Spanish publications.
5. Recruit and train tech-savvy members to assist with social media postings on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok, to engage a larger and more diverse demographic audience.
6. Seek assistance from LWVSC staff who are knowledgeable regarding outreach strategies.

2024-2025 Program Objectives:

1. Recruit and train tech-savvy members to increase presence on social media in order to reach a more diverse audience.
2. Recruit and train Spanish-speaking members to help with translations of communications re: registration & voting regulations, program flyers, VOTE 411 candidate responses, and social media posts to increase participation of Latino community.
3. Increase members' knowledge of legislative actions, participation in program activities, contacts with elected officials, and volunteering to attend town, county and school board meetings.
4. Explore LWVSC's Outreach Circle and how to use QR code for League in Action on mobile devices.

2024-2025 Strategies/Activities:

1. Check wording, visuals and logos on all communications to ensure accuracy.
2. Be cognizant of spreading any disinformation or misinformation in any forms of communication.
3. Make sure press releases and media coverage of League events/activities conforms to standards and are reviewed by league leadership.
4. Encourage young Latino students in high school and college to join the League (free of-charge) to help network with Latin community at-large.
5. Reach out to new members to encourage them to join the Communications Team.
6. Take more photos at most League events to highlight membership diversity then post on social media sites and share on our website.

2024-2025 Plans to work with other Committees:

1. The Communication Team members will collaborate with other committee Chairs to coordinate messages sent out to members and the public, during monthly meetings, and by attending committee meetings via Zoom or in-person.
2. Team members will stay informed as to the other committee programs and will assist in communicating their needs.

2024-2025 Proposed Itemized Budget Request:

2024 – 2025 Budget Worksheet with Funding Request – include estimated funding where plans/activities/requirements are to be defined.

Cost Category	Estimated Expenditure and allocation
Upgrade additional storage in the <i>Lighthouse</i> account for 100GB for additional documents and photos	\$20/year
Moved to the website budget category	
Promotional advertising in local print media and printed material	\$700
ALLOCATION	\$525

Voter Services

Chairperson(s): Diana Heitman and Barbara Lippard

Assumptions / Contingencies:

Ability to get accurate numbers of voter registration for on-line registrations, Access to local schools, USCB and TCLC; School Administration/Teachers; the availability of volunteers to staff events and initiatives.

Program Goals:

1. Register as many new voters as possible, with a focus on high school seniors, students, non- college youth citizens and eligible citizens in underserved communities.
2. Maintain and strengthen strong partnerships with the MLK Committee for Justice through collaboration in WOVEN, develop strong partnerships with other African American and Hispanic social action and youth groups such as NAACP, LINKS, church groups, the Coalition against Hate, and other non-partisan, non-profit organizations.
3. Work collaboratively with the Education committees to support their efforts monitoring legislative activity related to education in S.C., demonstrating support for teachers and other school related staff, observing BC Board of Education meetings.
4. Work collaboratively with the ERA and Healthcare Committee to support their efforts in educating voters in SC on healthcare needs and legislation, contributing to the successful passage of Medicaid expansions well as passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.
5. Increase the number of registered voters in Beaufort County who carry through and vote.

2024 – 2025 Program Objectives:

1. Youth voter registration across local high schools, USCB and TCLC.
2. Reestablish a stronger education component when possible at youth voter registration events.
3. Hire a student intern to create social media messaging that can be shared with personal followers, particularly young potential voters in the community.
4. Increase the Voter Services committee to ensure an adequate number of volunteers for events/activities planned.
5. Post candidates for primary elections in VOTE411.
6. Maintain voter registration and education events throughout HHI and Bluffton, particularly those with organizations with which we collaborate.

2024– 2025 Strategies / Activities:

1. Continue to encourage trust building and strong communication between the League and registration venues through the assignment of vote services members “liaisons” to those venues and the expanded use of SignUpGenius to help prospective volunteers.
2. Outreach to local school with in-person visits to principals or counselors to set up plans for registration/education events in the spring and fall of 2024.
3. Support potential candidate forums for the state and local general elections November 5, 2024. And other elections as needed.
4. Expand student activities and community projects to involve more young people in our community.
5. Make presentations to community organizations, non-profit and church communities, and others with a focus on underserved communities.

2023-2024 Plans to work with other committees:

1. Coordination with Education, ERA and Healthcare Committees as listed under program goals.

2023 – 2024 Proposed Itemized Budget Request: \$2500

- VOTE411 annual fee of \$400 listed as a separate budget line item.

2023 – 2024 Budget Worksheet with Funding Request – include estimates where plans/activities/requirements are to be defined.

Cost Category	Estimated Expenditure \$
Delete row	
Flyers/cards/Guide to Elected Officials	\$ 500
Voter Communication Bulletins	\$ 500
Tables, Drapes, signs, logo materials	\$1200
Delete row	Moved to Grant Activity
ALLOCATION	\$1650

Education

Co-Chairperson(s): Linda Gustafson and JoAnne Gatti-Petito

Assumptions / Contingencies:

1. The most important assumption would be the availability of adequate resources including volunteers.

2023 – 2024 Program Objective

1. Plan and host an informational candidates' forum for the four open BCSD Board of Education positions.
2. Support the Voter Services Committee as part of the 2024 election cycle.
3. Continued attendance and reporting on the observations of the BCSD Board of Education meetings.
4. Develop relationships with Mary Cordray, the Beaufort County Representative on the State Board of Education.
5. Monitor legislative activity related to education in the South Carolina State Legislature.
6. Participate in the BCSD Committee Foundation for Educational Excellence.
7. Develop and implement a 2025 Teacher Appreciation event.

2023 – 2024 Strategies / Activities:

1. Plan a forum for School Board candidates
2. Work with Janelle Rivers to monitor education bills proposed in the State Legislature and develop "Calls to Action" for members.
3. Continue to monitor School Board Meetings.
4. Print and distribute Teacher Appreciation signs for May 2024 Teacher Appreciation Week.
5. Work with BCSD personnel on Teacher Appreciation events for 2025 (TBD).
6. Meet with Mary Cordray to understand the role of the SC Board of Education and its influence on Beaufort County public and private schools.

2024- 2025 Plans to work with other committees:

1. Work with Voter Services to coordinate voter registration in Beaufort County Schools.
2. Work with Communications Committee to disseminate information on Board of Education Candidate forums as well as "Calls to Action" as needed to alert members regarding education related issues both locally and in the state.
3. Work with other LWV committee as relate to the role of the Education Committee.

2024 – 2025 Budget Worksheet with Funding Request – include estimated contingency funding where plans/activities/requirements are to be defined.

Cost Category	Estimated Expenditure \$
Teacher Appreciation signs and stands	\$500
Board of Education Candidate Forum materials	\$200
ALLOCATION	525

ERA/HEALTHCARE

Chairperson(s): Barbara Hammes

Assumptions / Contingencies:

Medicaid expansion may not be brought up in the legislative session until after the 2024 election.

Program Goals: 2024-25

1. Increase voter awareness of healthcare issues in South Carolina.
2. Support a DEI focus in League activities and events.
3. Realize the passage of the 28th amendment, the Equal Rights Amendment.

2024– 2025 Program Objectives:

1. **Healthcare Issues in South Carolina:** Build on the objectives of the LWVSC Gender and Women's Rights working group by providing information to voters on specific healthcare issues in South Carolina including Medicaid expansion, Maternal and Infant Mortality rates, Women's Reproductive Healthcare, and Gender Affirming Care.
2. **Committee Collaboration:** In preparation for the 2024 Presidential elections, the DEI committee will work with Voter Services and Communications to support their objectives. The diversity, equity and inclusion lens can be applied to our partnerships with racial, cultural, and gender empowerment groups in our community in promoting voter advocacy.
3. **Equal Rights Amendment:** Continue to send the message to federal legislators and the current administration to fully enact the 28th amendment that gives constitutional recognition and protection that woman and all genders have equal rights under the law.

2024– 2025 Strategies / Activities:

Healthcare: all activities will embrace the pillars of diversity, equity and inclusion.

1. Showcase Women's Equality Day on August 26, 2024 through either a special presentation, activity or event.
 2. Explore the possibility of a Zoom information session with Voter Services, the Education Committee and the Healthcare Committee
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focusing on issues specific to each in the 2024 election.

3. Work with the Healthcare committee to develop a succession plan for the Chair of this committee.
4. Alert voters to contact their Congressional representatives when the ERA is brought up again in committee.

2024-2025 Plans to work with other committees:

This is embedded in activities addressed above.

2024 – 2025 Proposed Itemized Budget Request:

\$400 – (this is an estimate based on some of the costs that arose during 2022.)

2024 – 2025 Budget Worksheet with Funding Request – include estimated contingency funding where plans/activities/requirements are to be defined.

Cost Category	Estimated Expenditure \$
Printing	\$200
Speaker costs (honorariums, travel expenses)	\$200
ALLOCATION	\$300

Membership

Co-Chairperson: Kathy Bart

Assumptions/Contingencies:

The committee needs to recruit a new co-chairperson of the Membership committee and additional members.

Program Goals:

1. Recruit sixteen new members.
2. Achieve and maintain a 80 percent retention rate of members.
3. Develop and distribute new member packets with important League information.
4. Plan new member events quarterly.
5. Maintain current membership roster.
6. Send out renewal notices each month.
7. Follow up on nonrenewal notices with a personal phone call.
8. Train membership chair and co-chair on new platform for the roster.
9. Collaborate with various chairs in support of overall LWV goals and objectives.

2024-2025 Plans to work with other Committees:

The membership chair and co-chair will attend as many meetings in support of other committees as physically able.

2024-2025 Proposed Itemized Budget Request:

Budget Worksheet with Funding Request – include estimated funding where plans/activities/requirements are to be defined.

Cost Category	Estimated Expenditure \$
Printed materials for New Member Packets	\$250
Materials for Name tags	\$100
Rental Fees for New Member Socials	\$0
Food and paper goods for quarterly new member socials	\$600
ALLOCATION	\$710



State Issues and Advocacy

We are in search of a Chair or Co-chair for the key area. In the meantime we will be using our three Lobbyists at the State level, LWVSC, to monitor issues and will be sending Action Alerts as needed to membership.

Lobbyists:

Lynn Teague, VP

Janelle Rivers - Education

Teresa Arnold – Healthcare

No budget request at this time.



Local Issues and Advocacy

Another area we are looking for a Chair or Co-Chair

Joan Kinne-Shulman is our Observer Corp Chair and will advise of issues; HHI Town Council Reps who are LWVHHI-BA members and others will advise of any issues and we will inform membership as needed.

No budget request at this time.
