

## HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

The level of your involvement in the League is dependent on your time, inclination, and interests. Some members support League activities with their dues alone. Some members attend social events and educational forums. Busy professionals, parents, or caregivers often volunteer for limited time projects, for example, analyzing budgets, speaking on a topic in which they have expertise, acting as moderators of candidate forums, writing letters to the editor or to elected officials in their areas of expertise, or volunteering to register voters at a specific event. Some members with more time to devote to the LWV organize major projects or elect to assume board positions or committee chairmanships.

The LWV is unique in that it offers opportunities for involvement at the local, state, and national levels of government.

League members give their time to the League because of the personal satisfaction they derive from contributing to the mission of the League—Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.—and because they know that the League can be effective only if these tasks are accomplished. At the same time, they have the opportunity to network, socialize, and make new friends with similar priorities and values.

Here are some of the ways you can participate in the League:

**Attend League Unit Meetings and LWVPGH Meetings** (currently virtual): Participate in discussions on League studies, hear speakers on local issues, and plan League activities. Learn about current issues that concern voters through League-sponsored informational events. Bring along friends and colleagues. Nearly all League meetings, activities, and events have a social side as members work together toward a common goal.

### **Help with League Program:**

- **Join a Study Committee:** Do independent study and research using materials supplied by the state or national League. Discuss your findings at unit meetings.
- **Help with Program Planning:** Be part of a committee that plans the year-long schedule of meetings that focus on designated League issues each year.

### **Help with League Action:**

- **Monitor an issue of League concern,** such as criminal justice, education, election integrity, environment, and gerrymandering. Read League material on the subject and follow current events closely. Attend action meetings and share your ideas and information.
- **Observe governmental agencies:** Attend meetings of local city councils and school boards, election boards, or other government agencies. Report on their activities in the *Voter* and at action meetings.
- **Interview state and federal elected officials:** Once a year local Leagues are requested to interview specific officials on League issues. Questions and background material are provided.

**Help with Special Events:** As part of a committee, help plan events, including booking a location—or arranging an online platform, developing a budget, organizing invitations, food, speakers, reservations, etc.

**Help with League Management:** We can always use volunteers to serve on the board of directors, to help implement our diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, to help fundraise, and to serve on the budget and finance committees.

**Help with Voter Service:** Join one of our active subcommittees—some taking volunteers for as little as a few hours per year—such as: candidate forums, food pantry outreach, naturalization ceremonies, poll worker recruitment, religious group outreach, rides to the polls, senior housing outreach, [vote411.org/](http://vote411.org/) voter guides, and many voter registration activities.

**Help with Communications:** We welcome volunteers with experience in graphics, writing and editing publications, social media promotion and education, and website design and maintenance.

**Help with our Civic Education Efforts:** Our numerous initiatives include a blue/red listening project, a college and university outreach effort, a public access TV outreach project, and an extensive school and community civic education program.

**Join in Our Discussions:** Take part in the nonfiction book club, read the topical blog posts on our website, and interact with LWVPGH on social media—Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube. Stay updated with other members' League activities and share your own through our weekly email blast, our monthly *Voter* newsletter, and [lwvpgh.org](http://lwvpgh.org).

**Help Financially:** Add a few dollars to your annual dues to help support the League. Since LWVPGH is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization, your dues and donations are tax-deductible and are eligible for your employer's matching fund programs. Help with League fundraising activities. League activities are funded from annual dues, although our local League is only able to retain about \$8.00 of each member's dues each year, and from contributions from members and people and organizations in the community.

**Help Recruit New Members:** You can help the League in a way that no one else can: by inviting your friends to attend League events and by providing them with information about becoming members. We can also use help on the Membership Committee with other recruitment and retention activities, such as calling to welcome new members, helping to manage our database, and planning recruitment events.