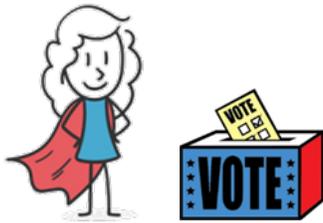


LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE HUNTINGTON AREA

June 2025 E-Mail Bulletin

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Voting is my super power!

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Annual Meeting Report

Laura Deveny

James Madison, The Federalist No. 53, “The important distinction... a Constitution [is] established by the people and unalterable by the government...”



At a time when little makes sense, something I learned at the LWVHA annual meeting does. On May 10, Michael A. Fotos of Yale University presented a talk to our local League of Women Voters titled American Constitutional Choice: A Theory.

Dr. Fotos began by defining a constitution as a collective charter that is characteristic of an underlying social order, that describes the terms and conditions of government, and that determines the qualifications of citizens. He reminded us that here in America constitutional choice is a habit. All fifty states and every club or association with bylaws has one. The Mayflower Compact in 1620 was our first.

He noted that our Constitution is stable but subject to “rupture.” Noah Milman (2025) defines a constitutional rupture as a moment “marked by mass extinction of prior forms and precedents [that] reshaped the way our Constitution works in fundamental ways, providing a new framework for normal politics in a new era.”

Dr. Fotos noted three previous ruptures in our history:

- 1783-1789 league of states → federal republic
- 1861-1868 federal republic → national union
- 1933-1946 national union → the administrative state

Each of these ruptures coincided with national crises occurring at approximately 70-year intervals:

1787 → crisis of union

1861 → crisis of secession

1933 → The Great Depression

Seventy years is the average human lifespan and the life of oral history and folk knowledge. After 70 years, the policy makers who addressed the previous rupture are gone. New leaders direct change in answer to new challenges.

William Strauss and Neil Howe (1997) have theorized about a recurring generational cycle, what they call The Fourth Turning. It recognizes three generations of American prosperity followed by a fourth of political and economic crisis.

The fourth rupture that we are witnessing today began 70 years after the settlement of 1946.

The settlement of 1946 + 70 years = 2016

Globalization → crisis of deindustrialization

2015 ‘til now: emergence of MAGA

2025: end of the administrative state?

Dr. Fotos gave us a lot to think about.



League of Women Voters Flower Garden



Janice Gossett

This is the fourth year of the Huntington Area LWV garden at the Cabell County Courthouse. The garden started in August of 2021 to commemorate the anniversary of the passing of the 19th amendment. The Cabell County commissioner's office gives permission for the league to maintain this area and is located at the fourth avenue entrance.

It is comprised of perennial and annual selections. The area has allowed the league to display signage on Women's History Events.



Enthusiastic gardeners are Nyoka Chapman, Marcia Daoust, Laura Devany and Jan Gossett.

Courthouse staff and visitors express appreciation of the site.

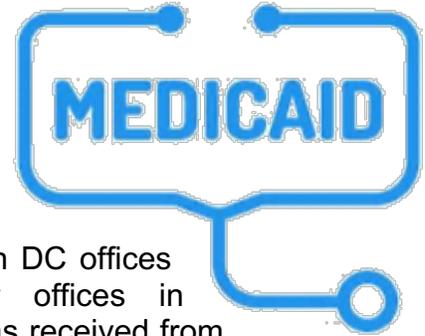
Taking Action

Nyoka Baker

The LWVHA Board of Directors unanimously approved a formal letter in support of funding for both Medicaid and SNAP to be sent to our WV senators. The letters were sent



by priority mail to their Washington DC offices and by regular mail to their offices in Charleston. A Fax confirmation was received from Senator Capito's office. Proposed changes to Medicaid eligibility requirements were addressed in the letter, as well as support for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and other nutritional assistance programs vital to WV. The LWVUS has already created alerts for advocacy for these issues and the LWVWV was notified of our intended actions before these contacts were made.



The US Senate Parliamentarian Shaves *HR 1* with the Byrd Rule

Nyoka Baker Chapman

The Byrd Rule was found to apply to certain provisions found in the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (HR 1), making them subject to removal. Portions that did not apply to budget reconciliation but were additions that were issues of policy were identified. The Byrd rule would require a 60% majority vote for those sections that do not apply to the budget alone which only requires 51%. By keeping the provisions of the bill intact, the senate would need to waive the Rule and by doing so would require 60 votes for passage. Provisions cited by the Parliamentarian of the United States Senate, Elizabeth MacDonough, were done so with the acknowledgment of Senator Majority Leader John Thune.



Robert Byrd

Here are some of the sections at issue for removal per an AI response:

- *Restrictions on federal judges' ability to block government policies: The parliamentarian ruled this provision runs afoul of Senate rules governing what can be included in reconciliation legislation.*
- *Mandated sale of millions of acres of federal public land: These provisions do not comply with the Byrd Rule and are not eligible to pass with a simple majority vote.*

- *Forcing the Postal Service to sell electric vehicles: A provision attempting to force the General Services Administration to sell all electric vehicles used by the Postal Service was rejected.*
- *Many proposals targeting federal workers and their unions: Provisions seeking to undermine the merit-based civil service, grant broad authority to reorganize agencies, and affect worker retirement benefits violate the Byrd Rule.*
- *Ending a long-held Farm Bill practice extending farm commodity subsidies: The parliamentarian ruled this practice could not be done through reconciliation and would therefore need 60 votes.*
- *Making changes to the Medicaid program that make it more difficult for people experiencing homelessness to find and maintain healthcare coverage: These include stricter verification and eligibility redetermination requirements.*
- *Capping funding for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB): This proposal, effectively slashing funding for the agency, was identified for removal.*
- *Eliminating the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB): This elimination plan ran into conflict with the Byrd Rule.*
- *Amending the National Environmental Policy Act: A provision allowing project sponsors to pay a fee to fast-track environmental reviews and prevent judicial reviews was ruled against.*

This article breaks it down very well: <https://time.com/7296762/big-beautiful-bill-byrd-rule/>

On June 24th, the Senate Parliamentarian *did allow* a ‘tweak’ to HR I as reported by Politico. <https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2025/06/24/congress/senate-parliamentarian-approves-tweaked-snap-cost-share-plan-00421130>

“Senate Republicans have saved their plan to push some costs of the nation’s anti-hunger program onto states, maintaining a crucial \$41 billion spending cut that will help pay for their policy mega bill.

*The Senate parliamentarian on Tuesday approved Republicans’ tweak to give states more time between finding out how much of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program they’ll need to pay for, and when they actually need to start paying.” *See link for a continuation of content.*

Funding for Nutritional Programs is a big issue for West Virginia. Cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) could amount to not only a reduction in the availability of direct assistance to needy households, but children could lose access to free or reduced-price school meals. The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) makes it possible for schools in high poverty areas to have access to free breakfast programs without requiring individual applications, which reduces administrative burdens for

schools and families. CEP cuts would increase food insecurity for one in four children living in WV. The Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement, The Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Programs, The USDA's Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) (which provides nutritious food to low-income seniors) appear to be endangered.

Examples of other food programs in WV that could be affected are the Mountaineer Food Bank, Catholic Charities West Virginia, Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Food Banks, soup kitchens and meal delivery services matter to WV children, families, veterans, seniors, the disabled and individuals at risk.

Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) could lose critical funding if this bill passes. With 28% or more of West Virginians receiving healthcare through Medicaid, the impact of that loss could be catastrophic. As to how WV would be able to find the funds to support a state's portion of the Medicaid program will need a plan. Though some changes to the Medicaid program re eligibility requirements appear to have been subject to elimination, *HR 1* has yet to be finalized.

Debate continues over the content of a 1000+ page bill that must be whittled down to an acceptable resolution before a vote can even be taken. The goal of this bill's supporters is to complete the needed work and pass a budget reconciliation by July 4th.

Tracing the Borders of Israel

Nyoka Baker Chapman

History tells us how victorious allied interests carved the middle east to divide the Ottoman Empire after WWI. Ongoing conflicts continue to stem from the mapping created with the Balfour Agreement of 1917 and later with the recognition of the State of Israel in 1948. Understanding how Palestine was altered and then divided to accommodate an independent Jewish homeland following WWII is to know the origin of today's news.



<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/education/presidential-inquiries/recognition-israel>.
<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/creation-israel>

Israel established a strong foothold and opportunities were taken to create new settlements, but conflicts arose. Lines demarcated by challenge, particularly the Six-Day War in 1967, gave Israel control over the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. Armed aggressions and consequent agreements with Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon have created new Israeli territories over a course of time, though some have yet to be acknowledged by anyone but Israel.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borders_of_Israel

On October 7, 2023 a full-scale conflict began between Israel and Hamas, a Palestinian Sunni Islamist military group. The Houthis (of Yemen), a Zaydi-Shia Islamist group (Zaydism is a branch of Shia Islam) actively joined in the war in support of Hamas during the same month. Israel's dominance over what is left of Palestine has remained a thorn in the side of the region who sees Israel as a western power that has exerted itself beyond tolerable limits in its treatment of Muslim communities who have lost social structures, mobility and independence. Israeli dominance of Palestine's territorial waters and airspace exists in the fact that Palestine does not have an influence of its own. Israel's timeline of expansion left Palestine as essentially a bordered camp whose people were not integrated to participate in coexistence, but survive in isolation.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2023/10/9/israel-hamas-war-in-maps-and-charts-live-tracker>

The rise of Islamic militias organized in the region to rebel against Israel has received funding from local states, with the primary sponsor being Iran. These militias have risen to take leadership roles in the region and their actions appear to be under Iranian guidance. (<https://www.ajc.org/news/hezbollah-hamas-and-more-irans-terror-network-around-the-globe>).

For Iran, terrorism is their specialty. With covert damage being done by their proxies, they have managed to shield their state from direct responsibility for war crimes. As you recall, the recent signal gate was all about a pending US attack on the *Houthis*. Iran, a Shia Islam nation, has backed Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen and Hamas in Palestine among others. These militias have become a moving force in the middle east. (<https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF12549>).

Current events to deter Iran's nuclear capabilities may draw weapons of mass destruction into their possession from their allies who have plenty of them. Iran's ability to generate terrorist attacks through their global operatives may be very difficult to contain. Cells supported by Iran, guided by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) and their own Quds Force (a special external operations unit that manages their proxies abroad) are capable of carrying out the commands of their Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, wherever they are directed.

Per PBS Frontline:

"According to Iran's Constitution, the Supreme Leader is responsible for the delineation and supervision of "the general policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran," which means that he sets the tone and direction of Iran's domestic and foreign policies. The Supreme Leader also is commander-in-chief of the armed forces and controls the Islamic

Republic's intelligence and security operations; he alone can declare war or peace. He has the power to appoint and dismiss the leaders of the judiciary, the state radio and television networks, and the supreme commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps."

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/tehran/inside/govt.html#:~:text=According%20to%20Iran's%20Constitution%2C%20the,the%20Islamic%20Revolutionary%20Guard%20Corps.>

We know that in the United States war is to be determined by congress and not from the executive branch. Whether certain strikes are considered an act of war, or not, is in the eyes of the one attacked and how they respond. At the time of writing this article there is a ceasefire in place between Israel and Iran. One wonders if the ceasefire will impact directives to Iranian affiliated forces as well, we shall see.

Join or Renew Your Membership



MEMBERSHIP MADNESS

Marcia Daoust

Welcome to the modern world!

As you may remember from previous articles, the national LWW Convention voted to consolidate all dues collection at the national, LWWUS level. This would enable joining and renewing dues to be available digitally through the website: LWW.org.

With so much happening in Washington that impacts issues important to the League, this is an important time for League members to band together and stand up for democracy. We have a vibrant LWW in the Huntington Area and we need you, very much! Please keep your membership with the League of Women Voters up to date.

You can renew as you always have in the past, by check. The local League will then mail your check to LWWUS and our Membership Chair, Marcia Daoust, will enter the information you provide into the LWWUS digital database.

If you are a current member, please renew your membership within twelve months of paying dues in 2024. The amount is up to you. Minimum dues are \$20, with the national League of Women Voters suggesting \$75/year. (In 2024, Huntington League dues were \$50.) The local, state and national Leagues split the dues, as they always have in the past.

If you want to pay digitally through the website, [LWV.org](https://www.lwv.org), click on the “Member Log In” link at the top of the main screen. When the new system is working properly, you should receive a renewal reminder by email, two months prior to your 2024 payment. Unfortunately, there have been transition pains. For some, the renewal process has been smooth, but other Huntington members have yet to receive their reminders. A couple members who tried to pay through the [LWV.org](https://www.lwv.org) website found it to be very frustrating. Please call Marcia at 304-840-9657 and share your assessment of the digital process (good or bad)

If you decide to pay your dues by check, please **make checks payable to the LWV of the United States** and mail it, with the completed information to our treasurer Carolyn Bagby.

Carolyn Bagby
79 N. Bradley Foster Dr.
Huntington, WV 25701

Thank you!

LWV MEMBERSHIP FORM

The LWVUS requests the following.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing address:

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Please fill out as much as you are comfortable doing:

Gender: _____ Pronouns _____ Race/Ethnicity _____

Birth Year _____

Choose the dues amount you wish to pay. Minimum is \$20, with \$75 being what LWVUS recommends. ***Make checks payable to the LWV of the United States.***

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

What issues interest you the most and are you interested in volunteering with the League?

Do you prefer meetings that are in-person, virtual or hybrid? _____

Days or times you are available to participate? _____

Do you have any accessibility needs for attending meetings/events?
