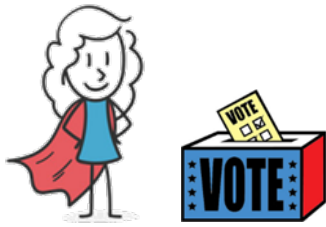


# LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE HUNTINGTON AREA

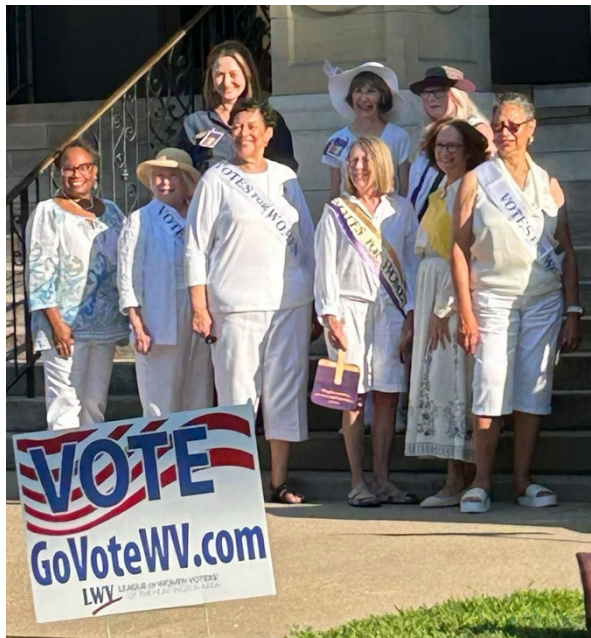
## August 2025 E-Mail Bulletin

Martha Woodward, Co-President, [woodward@marshall.edu](mailto:woodward@marshall.edu)  
Wendy Thomas, Co-President, [wxthomas@frontier.com](mailto:wxthomas@frontier.com)



## Voting is my super power!

Celebrating the 19 <sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.....	Page 1
The Power of the Preamble.....	Page 3
Those Checks and Balances.....	Page 4
When the Scale is Broken, Then What?.....	Page 5
LWV Statement on Mail-in Ballots and Voting Machines.....	Page 6
Membership Information.....	Page 7



## Celebrating the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Wendy Thomas, Co-President

During the month of August, we celebrate two important events. On August 18, 1920, the Tennessee Legislature passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment which granted women the right to vote. This vote gave the two thirds majority of states needed to pass a constitutional amendment. On August 26, 1920, the U.S. Secretary of State certified the ratification.

August 26<sup>th</sup> is now known as Women's Equality Day!



The League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area celebrated the 105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the amendment passage Monday, August 18, 2025 on the grounds of the Cabell County Courthouse. This location was chosen because it represents the seat of government for all Cabell County. It is on these grounds that in 2020 the Huntington league planted a beautiful flower garden to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the amendment passage. The garden serves as a reminder of the importance of voting

and its impact on our democracy! This was the backdrop for our 105<sup>th</sup> celebration.

The program opened with the Black Diamond Girl Scouts posting the colors and leading the crowd in the Pledge to the American Flag followed by a rousing performance of the Star-Spangled Banner by the River Magic Chorus. The Preamble to the Constitution preceded comments on the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment's impact by representatives of the Democratic and Republican



Women'Clubs, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Highlighting the celebration were dramatizations of suffrage activists Harriet Tubman, Jane Addams and Madam C.J. Walker.

Other organizations who participated in the women's suffrage movement were in attendance including the Junior League and the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Because of the fight for and passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, women's voices have been present when serious issues were discussed... Huntington/Cabell County Voices like Irene Drukker Broh, President of the Huntington Equal Suffrage Association and the 1<sup>st</sup> woman to vote in Cabell County; Lenna Lowe Yost, a leader of the WV Suffrage movement; Phyllis H. Cyrus, Honorary Huntington Mayor 1973-74; Marie Redd, 1<sup>st</sup> African American elected to the WV Senate; Jean Dean, elected mayor of Huntington and Betty Barrett who served on Huntington City Council for 12 years.

Voting is our voice and our constitutional right. Voting is our Super Power! We must use it or risk losing it!

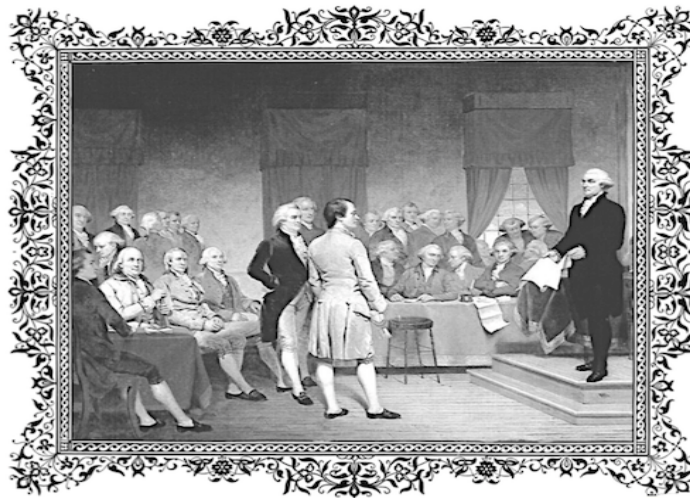


# The Power of the Preamble

Nyoka Baker Chapman

Though James Madison is often regarded as the "*Father* of the Constitution", it was a collaborative effort that resulted from days of Discussion, Debates and the creation of stacks of detailed Notes. Those Notes fell upon Pennsylvania **Delegate Gouverneur Morris**, who led the '*Committee of Style*' at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in Seventeen Eighty-Seven.

A graduate of King's College and a lawyer, he was an eloquent speaker and writer in both English and French. He was a vocal opponent of slavery and an advocate for a strong central government. Morris was a man with disabilities, with his left leg being amputated



**We the People** of the United States,  
in Order to form a more perfect Union,  
establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility,  
provide for the common defence,  
promote the general Welfare,  
and secure the Blessings of Liberty  
to ourselves and our Posterity,  
do ordain and establish this Constitution  
for the United States of America.

Preamble to the United States Constitution, September 17, 1787

for more free printables, visit [www.flandersfamily.info](http://www.flandersfamily.info)

below the knee after a carriage accident and also having suffered severe burns on his right arm that took years to heal. Gouverneur Morris, born January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1752, is credited with being the '**Penman of the Constitution**', the one who defined, refined and embellished its final draft. He was the wordsmith that authored the **Preamble** to our US Constitution. The brief but powerful introduction to our Constitution begins with the first-person plural and inclusive pronoun '**WE**', immediately inferring a status of **equal rights** to the **subject, 'The People.'** .....

As we witness the blatant challenges to our constitution in 2025, we see the words of the preamble as a guiding star, a star that has been visible since the founding of our nation. The principles proclaimed are timeless and worthy. The constitutional rights of the people are our American values. The ones we have fought and died for to live free and be our authentic selves.

*\*When Wendy asked for a volunteer to read the Preamble at our recent 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment celebration at the courthouse, I raised my hand. By doing so, I was led to revisit this one, grand, run on sentence in all of its glory.*

## Those Checks and Balances

Nyoka Baker Chapman

The Challenge of our times..... 🍊🍋🍌

It was **James Madison** though who was the architect of the constitutional Checks and Balances in our Federal Government.

Federalist 51 Summary: <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/primary-sources/federalist-no-51>

*"In this Federalist Paper, James Madison explains and defends the [checks and balances](#) system in the [Constitution](#). Each [branch of government](#) is framed so that its power checks the power of the other two branches; additionally, each branch of government is dependent on the people, who are the source of legitimate authority.*

*Madison also discusses the way republican government can serve as a check on the power of factions, and the tyranny of the majority. "[I]n the federal republic of the United States... all authority in it will be derived from and dependent on the society, the society itself will be broken into so many parts, interests, and classes of citizens, that the rights of individuals, or of the minority, will be in little danger from interested combinations of the majority." All of the Constitution's checks and balances, Madison concludes, serve to preserve liberty by ensuring justice. Madison explained, "Justice is the end of government. It is the end of civil society."*

*Madison's political theory as expressed in this [Federalist Paper](#) demonstrated the influence of Montesquieu's *The Spirit of the Laws* on the Founders."*

Fortunately, there are safeguards to eliminate deviant officers who disobey the constitution, but the process is a tedious one. Article I, Sections 2 and 3 and Article II, Section 4 (Rules of Impeachment) spells out the process clearly. Tis doubtful that Madison ever imagined that a convicted felon could ever become president by influence and unfortunately ArtII.S1.C5.1, Qualifications for the Presidency, reads to exist without guardrails. This article needs work and deserves amendment.

<https://www.senate.gov/about/powers-procedures/impeachment.htm>

[https://constitution.congress.gov/browse/essay/artII-S1-C5-1/ALDE\\_00013692/](https://constitution.congress.gov/browse/essay/artII-S1-C5-1/ALDE_00013692/)



# When the Scale is Broken, Then What?

Nyoka Baker Chapman

The oath taken by an elected lawmaker to defend the constitution has always been a symbol of security for the people. Our domestic tranquility depends on it. But now, how will Democracy continue to work if our government doesn't do what the constitution says?

When fear and violence are rendered against the people without obedience to constitutional law, can there be general welfare? When Americans are illegally detained, incarcerated in privatized prisons and even sent to foreign facilities without due process, how can justice be established? Homeland Security, now growing exponentially, is denying the sovereign rights of the American people. To form a more perfect Union requires the demonstration of an ethical and moral allegiance to human rights to qualify as being a nation under God.



When one branch of government exceeds its constitutional limits, one would think that change is just one election away. Yet, appointments to provide oversight of US elections could bring another tipping of the scales. The push to retain control in US politics may well do everything it can to maintain power in perpetuity. We are seeing the afterglow of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, the Supreme Court case of 2010 that acknowledged money as the free speech of corporations; that as they enjoy a status of personhood, they have 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights. The landmark 5-4 ruling is one that many think deserves serious reconsideration as the decision compromises the balance of power for 'We the People.'

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/citizens-united-explained#:~:text=The%20Supreme%20Court's%202010%20ruling,since%20the%20late%2019th%20century>

<https://www.propublica.org/article/heather-honey-dhs-election-security>

It is feasible that legislators themselves are not aware of the consequences of their own actions and have suffered from the lobby of their own party to the point that they can only duplicate their colleagues' rhetoric and agenda. This involves all of the issues that are falling upon us in the middle of this pivotal decade from the pushing of data driven industries to the acceptance and promotion of decisions that appear to encourage environmental apocalypse and economic collapse.

Reasoning and debate over public issues require real time face to face with the people. When legislators refuse to take the time to listen in town hall meetings, it is time for that representative to find another vocation. Voters need to be adequately armed with

not only facts but possible solutions for the problems that politicians have created. Contributions of good legislation and finding sponsors is an example positive actions that can be taken. Taking every available opportunity to defend Democracy is important. Yes, it will take the 99% perspiration and responding with intelligent actions, not emotional ones. Coming up with something better is really just going back to what we had, honoring the US Constitution and the Rule of Law.

## LWV Statement on Mail-in Ballots and Voting Machines

**WASHINGTON** — The League of Women Voters CEO, **Celina Stewart, Esq.**, issued the following statement in response to President Trump's vow to eliminate mail-in ballots and voting machines:



“Free, fair, and accessible elections are the cornerstone of a healthy democracy. President Trump’s call to eliminate vote-by-mail is a direct attack on Americans’ freedom to vote.

“Vote-by-mail is secure, accurate, and trusted by millions of voters — including older adults, military members, rural communities, tribal communities, voters of color, and voters with disabilities. Vote-by-mail has proven to expand voter participation in recent elections.

“President Trump has no constitutional authority to take this action. Under our US Constitution, the states have the power to run elections, and only Congress can step in to regulate those elections when needed. This move is yet another overreach by an unpopular president who seeks to silence the public to hold onto power.

“President Trump’s attacks on voting machines are similarly misleading and dangerous. Voting systems in the US already meet strict standards for security, accuracy, transparency, and accessibility, with paper ballots or audit trails to verify results. Scrapping machines in favor of hand counting would undermine election integrity and efficiency, not strengthen it. The League of Women Voters stands firmly for secure, modern systems that protect every vote and uphold public trust in our democracy.

“The President should get his facts straight: he does not have the authority to regulate elections, states have strong measures to ensure voting equipment is secure, and many countries successfully utilize vote-by-mail.

“The League of Women Voters will not stand by while politicians spread lies to limit democratic participation. We will be looking at the forthcoming Executive Order very

closely and will use every tool in our toolbox to push back on these threats to our free, fair, and accessible elections.

“We will fight to protect vote-by-mail and every method that makes casting a ballot accessible. Our democracy is strong when every eligible voter can make their voice heard, whether at a polling place or through a mail-in ballot.”

## Membership Information



Marcia Daoust

The League of Women Voters always welcomes new members.

If you are already a member, please keep your membership with the League of Women Voters up to date. You need to 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 some computer glitches with the new program and you may not have received such an email. (Lately, the renewal process has been going a little smoother.)

If you experience any trouble renewing, or if you just prefer using checks, you are welcome to do so. Please make checks payable to the LWV OF THE UNITED STATES and mail it, with the completed information form to me.

Marcia Daoust  
Membership LWVHA  
15 Elwood Ave.  
Huntington, WV. 25705

I will then mail your check to LWVUS and enter the information you provide into the LWVUS digital database.

If your renewal is past due, we will send you a letter with the proper forms.

Thank you for your patience!





## MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

### CONTACT INFORMATION

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State Zip Code

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Understanding the demographics of LWV's membership base helps us progress in our value of being a fully inclusive organization. **Please fill out as much of the following info as you are comfortable with:**

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_ Race/Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Year: \_\_\_\_\_

### DUES AMOUNT

Please select the dues amount you wish to pay. **The recommended rate is \$75.00**, but you may choose an amount below that, down to a minimum of \$20.00. Higher dues payments help to allow some members to pay below the recommended amount but do not grant additional benefits. *Attach a check payable to the League of Women Voters of the United States.*

☐ \$75.00/year ☐ \$150.00/year ☐ \$250.00/year ☐ \$500.00/year

☐ Choose your own amount (minimum \$20.00): \_\_\_\_\_

The amount you choose to pay in dues will be split between your local, state, and national League. Would you like to make an additional donation exclusively to your local League?

☐ Yes ☐ No Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

*If yes, please attach a separate check payable to your local League.*

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Select volunteer opportunities of interest:

☐ Voter Education ☐ Communications ☐ Advocacy ☐ Operations

Do you prefer in person, virtual, or hybrid meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your availability (e.g., weekdays, weekends, evenings)? \_\_\_\_\_

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

# 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?

---