



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NEW JERSEY
YOUNG PEOPLE'S NETWORK

The LWV NJ YPN

What is the Young People's Network?

The LWV NJ Young People's Network (YPN) is a community of young people in New Jersey who are civically engaged, interested in local and national politics, and educated on the issues for which the League has a position. To learn more about us, check out the [YPN page](#) on the LWV NJ website.

Thank you!

The YPN committee greatly appreciates the LWV NJ staff and board as well as the numerous members whose generosity has contributed to our capacity to support LWV NJ, work with local Leagues, and host and participate in events throughout the year. *Thank you so much!*



Members of the LWV NJ Young People's Network host a happy hour meet and greet

Event Spotlight: What has YPN been up to?

By Stacey Faella
Fall Forum

After a season of planning, YPN officially launched in October 2014 at the Fall Forum, which focused on millennial civic engagement. David Burstein headlined with a speech about his new organization, Run for America, which is working to recruit the next generation of political leaders. A panel of millennials spoke about their experience working with their peers to engage other millennials in social causes, and YPN committee members hosted a workshop that highlighted ways to engage millennials in organizations like LWV NJ.

LWV NJ and Planned Parenthood
On April 11, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey partnered with Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey at the 2015 Generation Action Spring Training.

Twenty-four students representing six colleges and universities from across New Jersey participated in an all-day workshop to support their efforts to advocate for reproductive health, rights, and justice in their campus communities.

Throughout the day, participants heard from established activists in the field, and learned about current trends affecting reproductive health nationwide. The training concluded with an YPN led lobbying-skills training. During "Lobbying 101: Making Your Voice Heard," participants learned the ins and outs of meeting with decision makers and delivering an effective message. They broke out in groups and role-played a lobbying visit with a legislator (either one who was supportive, neutral or opposed) to practice talking to legislators about issues affecting family planning services in New Jersey.

Participants were members of Planned Parenthood Generation Action, a nationwide network of young activists who organize events on their college campuses and in their communities to mobilize advocates for reproductive freedom, in addition to raising public awareness about reproductive health and rights, educating young people about sexual health, and creating lasting change in those communities. This unique network acknowledges and supports the dynamic perspectives and intersectional framework that young people are using to connect reproductive health to other issue like civil rights, immigration, the environment, and identity politics.



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Getting to Know the League: What Happens at the State Convention



LWVNJ interns tabling at Convention

By Stacey Faella

LWVNJ held its 2015 biennial state convention on May 2nd. Convention was preceded by a lively cocktail reception and awards ceremony which honored several women including millennial Jessica O’Hanlon. Jessica received the “Making Democracy Work” award for her dedication to empowering women and millennials through her career at Planned Parenthood and her numerous leadership and volunteer roles.

You may be wondering, what exactly is convention, and what happens there? We were wondering the same thing, and since the YPN committee attended this year’s convention, we’re happy to tell you. For much of the morning, the board and committees reported out on recent activity. We heard from representatives of local Leagues as well as committee chairs and learned about what our fellow members have been working on. For example, the Immigration Committee had supported a

bill that would allow more immigrant students to qualify for resident tuition and financial aid; the Natural Resources committee was involved in numerous efforts to protect our environment, from opposing construction of a gas pipeline through NJ to participating in the NJ for Renewable Energy and Efficiency Coalition to develop legislation to help NJ transition to renewable energy and meet benchmarks set for 2050; and numerous League members have participated in voter registration drives. Speaking of which, guest speaker Winnie Rowell-Bullard was honored for her tremendous dedication to empowering voters in her community and several local Leagues received awards. In addition, Convention featured keynote speaker Ryan Haygood, President and CEO of the NJ Institute for Social Justice and Laura Wooten, who honored for her service as a poll worker for 75 years. You can read more about the [guest speakers here](#).

Later in the day, delegates (voting representatives appointed by local Leagues) voted on a series of recommended and non-recommended studies. Two studies were approved; one will consider the problem of sexual assault on college campuses and viable means of prevention; the second will be a redistricting study to examine ways to improve the process before the next voting district maps are drawn. Delegates also voted for the 2015-2017 Board of Directors. We’re excited to announce that two millennials who serve on the YPN Committee currently serve on the state board. One of our goals is to integrate YPN and young members across League activities rather than operate in a silo, and we see this board integration as a great first step!

So Why Join the League?

So what did we take away from Convention? The League of Women Voters is a recognized name, and LWVNJ has a long history of engaging NJ constituents in local and national politics. Convention is an opportunity to get a close-up look at, and as a delegate to help influence, the policy issues that LWVNJ is working on. And we know from experience that local and state-level work can end up influencing the national conversation. Most recently, we saw the LWVNJ position on human trafficking get adopted by LWVUS, which means League members and staff across the country are now able to work on related issues. The takeaway here is that by participating in your local League and by attending events like Convention, you’ll find real opportunities to work on behalf of issues that matter to you and influence policy. If you’d like to get more involved, [we recommend that you join LWVNJ today!](#) Regular membership is \$60 a year (that’s just \$5 a month!), and student membership is available at the low rate of \$22 per year.



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What's Happening in Politics?

What does LWVNJ stand for?

LWVNJ has positions on numerous policy issues, from education to climate change to immigration. You can learn more about the League's issue positions on its [issues page](#). You can also learn more about the LWVUS issue positions and its impact on policy from [Impact on Issues](#).

Who's who in the presidential election?

This spring marked the beginning of campaign season for the 2016 presidential election, and plenty of candidates have already announced their run. To find out who has announced and who else might run, check out [this list from The Atlantic](#). For more information on the candidates and other election coverage, check out Politico's [The 2016 Blast](#).



LWVNJ members host a panel discussion



A member of the YPN gives a talk at Rutgers University

Stay connected and be the first to know what we're up to!

Join our Facebook group

The Young People's Network will be hosting and participating in more events this spring and summer. To stay in touch, get updates on local and national politics, and be the first to know about YPN and other League events, [join our Facebook group!](#)

Join our email list

If you're not already signed up, [join our email list](#) to receive our newsletter plus invitations to LWVNJ and YPN events around the state!

Join YPN

If you're interested in getting involved with YPN, contact Jesse Burns, LWVNJ staff liaison at jburns@lwnj.org.