

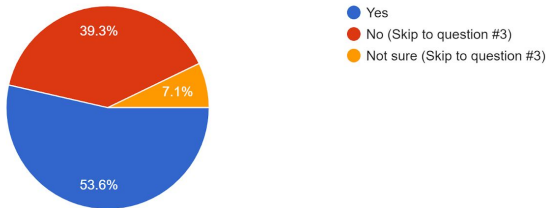


Virginia Libraries Survey Results:

Survey sent to VLA listserv, August 2019.
25 respondents representing 17 of 94 Virginia libraries (18% response rate).

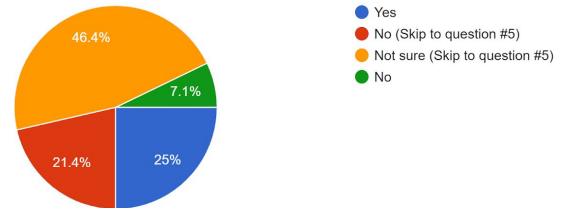
1. Are you aware of a local League of Women Voters (LWV) chapter in your service area?

28 responses



3. Does your local LWV chapter utilize the services of your library?

28 responses

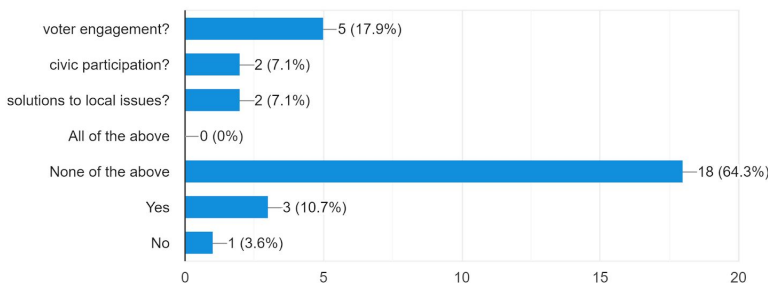


LEAGUES USE THE FOLLOWING LIBRARY SERVICES:

- ★ Meeting rooms
- ★ Tabling: voter registration and education
- ★ Provide print materials for voter education
- ★ Bulletin board to promote LWV programs.

5. Has your library ever partnered with a LWV group to promote...

28 responses



"We partner with the League on programs. One ongoing program is called Civic Lab: Dear Elected Official. Civic Labs are informal, lobby-style programs where we partner with organizations to engage and educate the public on a variety of topics... We engage with customers about how they can learn who their elected officials are and how they can communicate with them. Our newest program, Speed Repping @ Your Library, is a joint partnership between the League, Stafford NAACP, National Pan-Hellenic Council of Greater Fredericksburg, and Delta Sigma Theta. We invited all General Assembly candidates to give the public the chance to sign up for one-on-one slots to speak with them. It's modeled after the speed dating concept. This takes place on 10/6/19." CRRL

PARTNER PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES:

- ★ Voter registration drives
- ★ Town halls and citizen engagement on new community building projects.
- ★ Programs about the history of women's voting rights and the LWV, Civic Labs
- ★ Support the printing of Facts for Voters annual voter education guide for Planning District 16.

What are the benefits or positive outcomes of library partnerships with the League of Women Voters? Summary of 10 responses.

- ★ Recognition of the library as a community player that promotes democracy. By partnering with a non-partisan group, we are maintaining our neutral position.
- ★ Community engagement and public awareness of local civic participation opportunities.
- ★ Patrons and library staff felt that it was easier to educate themselves about local elections.
- ★ LWV members are very knowledgeable and can provide a wealth of resources, like voting information (candidates, registering, etc.) as well as well-researched issues without partisan politics.

"We feel that our partnership with our local League has fostered civic engagement and helped to spread the word about the importance of voting. Using the libraries as a venue to promote voting is a great way to spread the word and help the public understand this vital right."

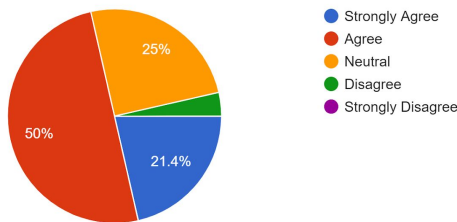
"I think that customers like having local experts help them navigate the process."

How would the outcomes differ without the partnership with the League of Women Voters? Summary of 12 responses.

- ★ Libraries may not initiate voter registration drives and would merely provide information.
- ★ Libraries may not have the resources, expertise or staff time to create voter guides.
- ★ Without this partnership, library voter events would be "less robust." Partnering with the League provides legitimacy to library voter events.
- ★ League members are often more well-versed on answers to questions about voting, local officials.

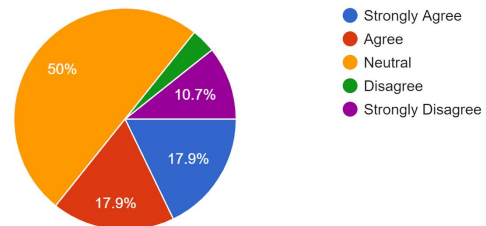
11. The mission of my library aligns with the mission of the LWV. "Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy."

28 responses



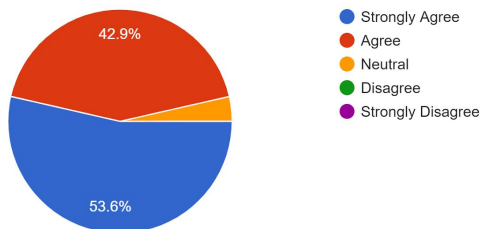
12. The LWV is a key community partner for my library.

28 responses



13. The library should play an active role in the community to promote voter engagement, civic...and solutions to local issues.

28 responses



LIBRARY SURVEY CONCLUSIONS:

1. Library awareness about the League of Women Voters is just above 50% and the percentage of responding libraries that do not partner with the LWV is 64.3%. In contrast, 100% of Leagues reported not only being aware but also partnering with their local library. There are 14 local Leagues in Virginia, covering only some geographic areas of the state, whereas there are 94 public libraries serving the entire state of Virginia. This accounts for libraries' lesser degree of awareness of Leagues than the reverse.

2. Libraries partner with Leagues for voter engagement more than any other type of activity.

3. Partnerships between libraries and Leagues are mutually beneficial.
4. Above all, voter registration and education activities were mentioned as the partner activities that are highly effective and worth replicating. These results concur with the results from the League survey.
5. 71.4% of respondents either agree or strongly agree that the mission of the League to empower voters and defend democracy overlaps with the mission of the library. And 96.5% of respondents either agree or strongly agree that the library should play an active role in the community to promote voter engagement, civic participation and solutions to local issues.

Don't miss upcoming opportunities to partner with the League of Women Voters for timely and relevant civic engagement activities! Consider programs about the Census 2020, OneVirginia2021 (gerrymandering), the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment and the LWV. Schedule voter registration drives and collaborate to create voter education tools. Don't have a local League? Start one! Or at least reach out to the state League of Women Voters for local support. lwv-va.org

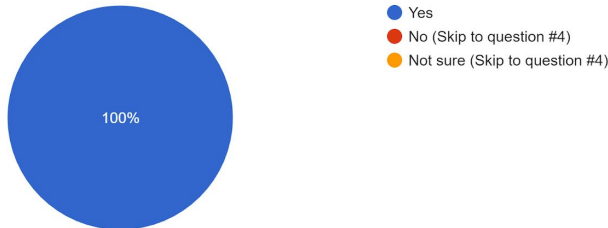


Virginia League of Women Voters Survey Results:

Survey sent to all local Virginia League of Women Voters, August 2019.
12 respondents representing 11 of 14 Virginia Leagues (79% response rate).
58% respondents are current presidents of their Leagues.

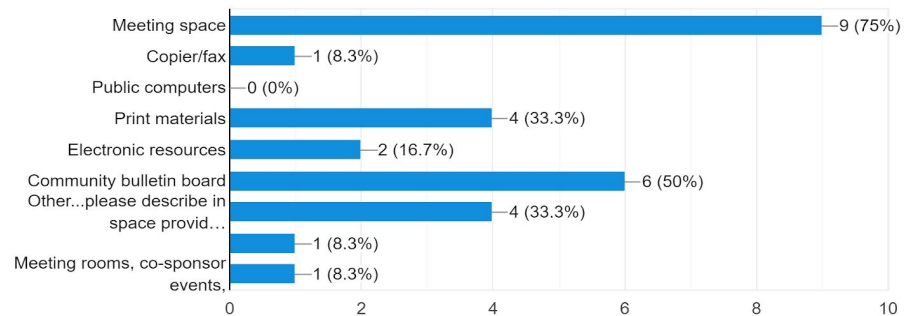
2. Does your local LWV utilize the services of the local library?

12 responses



3. If yes, what library services does your local LWV use?

12 responses



As a partner of the library, are there any collaborative activities that you would consider highly effective and worth replicating? If yes, please describe. Summary of 9 responses

- ★ Civic dialogue programs including Civic Lab, Community Conversations, Speed Repping and candidate forums
- ★ Voter registration and education including general and National Disability Voter Registration Week events
- ★ Voter education tools including print "Facts for Voters" guides, webpages
- ★ Informational and action events
- ★ Poster exhibit celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the LWV
- ★ Handout and flyer production with advertising or sponsorship by the library.
- ★ Book discussions

What benefits or positive outcomes have resulted from your partnership with the library? Summary of 9 responses

- ★ Visibility in the community, builds LWV membership
- ★ Venue to host events, speakers and partner with other community organizations about important community topics
- ★ Interfacing with a wider audience, a diverse public and an engaged citizenry
- ★ Provide community outreach

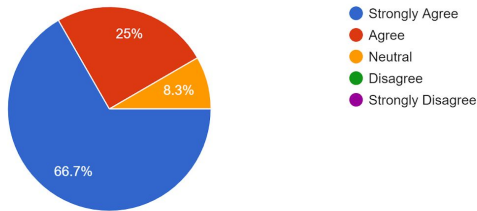
"Our League had its first meeting at the library and has been there ever since. It is a natural place for us as we both promote democracy. It has given us visibility in the community and helped us to build our membership. It has given us a venue to host events, speakers and partner with additional community organizations."

If you had conducted the same activities without collaborating with the library, how would the outcomes have differed in your opinion? Summary of 10 responses.

- ★ Would not be able to achieve as much
- ★ Wouldn't have engaged as many citizens
- ★ Reduced public awareness, lower attendance
- ★ Increased cost

10. The mission of the LWV ("Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.") aligns with the mission of my local library.

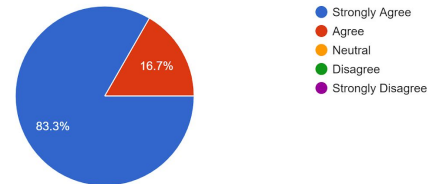
12 responses



"We would love to work with the library but we would benefit from some guidance to indicate when and where our help could best be used."

12. Like the League, the library should play an active role in the community to promote voter engagement, civic participation and solutions to local issues.

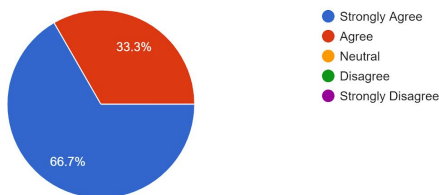
12 responses



"We would like to support services and events that would bring together residents of our very diverse population for discussions and interaction on various topics that would promote civic engagement and cross-cultural understanding."

11. The library is a key community partner for my League.

12 responses



LEAGUE SURVEY CONCLUSIONS:

1. League members are library users, and Leagues are often library partners. Some librarians are League members and can serve as a liaison between organizations.
2. There are a number of partner activities and events that Leagues consider highly effective and worth replicating including voter registration and education, civic dialogue events, displays and book discussions.
3. Perceived benefits and positive outcomes of League / Library partnerships:
 - a. Increased visibility in the community and helps to build LWV membership.
 - b. Venue to host events, speakers and partner with other community organizations about important community topics.
 - c. Interfacing with a wider audience, a diverse public and an engaged citizenry.
 - d. Opportunity to provide community outreach.
4. Without the League / Library partnership, the League wouldn't be able to achieve as much to engage with as many citizens or raise public awareness. Also, meetings and events would have lower attendance and cost more.
5. 100 % of respondents agree or strongly agree that the library is a key community partner and like the League, libraries should play an active role in the community to promote voter engagement, civic participation and solutions to local issues.