



2025 IMPACT REPORT

*Empowering Voters.
Defending Democracy.*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	About Us
3	A Message from the President and the Executive Director
4	Our Impact
19	Consolidated Statements
20	Thank You
21	Board and Staff

ABOUT US

The League of Women Voters is a **nonpartisan, grassroots** organization working to **protect and expand voting rights** and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through **advocacy, education, and litigation**, at the local, state, and national levels.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Advocates,

At the beginning of this year, we wrote to you that we were going to face significant challenges. It was undeniable that the federal administration's policies and rhetoric did not align with our organization's values or positions or the basic tenets of our country's core democratic principles.

In the face of these federal threats, we asked you to roll up your sleeves and join us in building the kind of democracy that serves us all. We recognized the urgency of the moment and the need for New Jersey to be a leader and set an example for the rest of our country.

You answered our call and got to work.

The results of your hard work are clear. New Jersey experienced the highest voter turnout in an off-year gubernatorial election in decades. To make this happen, you shared voting information in 10 languages, registered thousands of voters, knocked on more than 3,500 doors, texted 145,000 voters, and spent countless hours talking to people in your communities about the importance of this election. Your efforts increased enthusiasm in new and returning voters. Thank you! The country was watching, and you demonstrated that people still have the power to take back their democracy by making their voices heard at the polls.

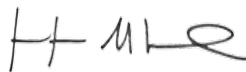
In addition, with your support this year we increased our capacity to respond to threats and advocate for a more inclusive democracy in our state. Together, we stopped new attempts to undermine fair ballot design, fought for our rights in court, and advanced a strong state Voting Rights Act. And, as you read this, we are hard at work advocating for the "People's Agenda," which includes legislation in support of voting rights, climate justice, immigrant rights, and other critical civil rights and social justice bills. As the election season has closed, we are ever-mindful that the census and redistricting are on the horizon. We are proactively building coalitions to ensure a complete Census count and to advocate for fair redistricting.

Please enjoy this Impact Report showcasing all that your support enabled in 2025. You have made such a meaningful difference in this work to empower voters and defend democracy. We are so grateful.

Fondly,



Jesse Burns
Executive Director
League of Women Voters
of New Jersey



Jennifer M. Howard, MD, MPH
President
League of Women Voters
of New Jersey





OUR IMPACT

Reaching One Million Voters in 2025

With the support and dedication of our members, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey showcased our commitment to expanding voter participation by participating in a massive *Get Out the Vote* effort. The New Jersey Million Voters Project (NJ MVP) is a nonpartisan coalition of community organizations, faith groups, and labor unions with the collective goal of mobilizing and empowering one million voters across New Jersey ahead of the 2025 general election. Working alongside our partners, the League's volunteer network targeted communities with historically low turnout rates and focused on building civic engagement power for the state's rising majority: voters of color, youth, new citizens, women, returning citizens, and working-class communities.

In the past year, more than 100 League members and volunteers knocked on 3,500+ doors, texted over 145,000 voters, and played a central role in organizing Community Civic Action/Listening Sessions throughout the state. We heard from thousands of voters about their concerns and motivations, shared materials and resources in multiple languages, educated voters on the ways and importance of voting, and had meaningful conversations on the connection between the issues that voters care about and the tangible act of voting.

The combination of deep canvassing, digital outreach, and targeted community listening and engagement had a measurable effect on voter participation. The final voter turnout rate for New Jersey's 2025 general election was 54%, with nearly 3.6 million voters casting their ballots.

Our significant and strategic civic engagement efforts helped to dismantle voting barriers, lifted voices from marginalized groups, and led to the highest voter turnout in decades. Not only was the League's work instrumental in mobilizing thousands of voters for New Jersey's 2025 general election, but it will have a lasting impact beyond this election cycle. Moreover, the Million Voters Project will be a blueprint for future campaigns working to ensure a more vibrant, diverse, and stronger democracy.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

100+
Volunteers



3,500+
Doors
Knocked

145K
Voters
Texted



54%
Voter
Turnout



“

We heard from thousands of voters about their concerns and motivations, shared materials and resources in multiple languages, educated voters on the ways and importance of voting and had meaningful conversations on the connection between the issues that voters care about and the tangible act of voting.

— Ary Kumar, Community Organizer

”

Vote411

It was another successful year reaching a record-breaking number of voters on Vote411.org, the League's nonpartisan online voters' guide.

As one of only two gubernatorial elections in the nation, New Jersey voters were flocking to the guide to learn more about the candidates and their voting options.

Once there, they were particularly interested in the hundreds of local races populated by an outstanding team of League member volunteers.



Energizing Young Voters

Energizing Young Voters (EYV) continued to reach youth across the state. Working closely with the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of State, EYV was instrumental in helping register 20,360 high school students to vote ahead of the June primary election!

In addition, EYV expanded their partnerships to include the Youth Justice Commission to reach even more young voters with nonpartisan education.





Registering New Citizens

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey continued our work registering new citizens to vote at naturalization ceremonies. Several local Leagues led this initiative, participating in 220 events, reaching over 6,700 people with nonpartisan voter education materials, and registering almost 3,500 new citizens to vote.

Unfortunately, an August 2025 rule change barred nonpartisan organizations from this essential work. Be sure to read about how we are fighting back against this unjust policy later in this report!

“

It's a disservice to our fellow Americans and our democracy when the government intentionally makes it harder for new citizens to register to vote.

— Jesse Burns, Executive Director

”

Registering Returning Citizens

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey expanded our work serving individuals on parole and probation. With volunteer Annette Scott's leadership and dedication, the League reached 1,260 voters at 159 events, directly registering over 380 of these voters.



OUR IMPACT

A Complete Count and Fair Maps

As attacks on our democracy intensify nationally, it is increasingly important for states to prepare and work across sectors to build a strong, multiracial democracy. **The League of Women Voters of New Jersey is leading the work in New Jersey for a complete census count and fair redistricting.**

Currently, the nation continues to grapple with battles over redistricting and the gerrymandering of electoral maps, making the fight for fair and equitable representation more urgent than ever. With states racing to redraw maps for political advantage, it is critical that New Jersey begin laying the groundwork now in preparation for our next round of redistricting. The League of Women Voters of New Jersey's Fair Districts coalition had significant success advocating for map-making transparency and public access in 2020. The work to build on that success starts now.

Fair representation and funding rely on a complete census count. However, the federal government is taking steps that threaten an accurate and fair count and undermine a strong, multiracial democracy. Efforts to dismantle the Census Bureau and proposals to add a citizenship question are designed to suppress participation, particularly among immigrant communities.

In response, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey is taking a proactive approach. To protect the political representation of historically undercounted communities and safeguard the integrity of our democracy, **we are building a strong foundation for Census 2030 through coalition work** with advocacy organizations, local governments, and direct service providers. By coordinating across sectors and beginning early, we aim to ensure a fair and complete count in New Jersey. Looking ahead, this work will remain at the forefront of our efforts, alongside our partners, as we prepare to meet the challenges and opportunities of the next decade.



New Positions for a More Inclusive Democracy

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey adopted two new positions this year that align with our values of building a multiracial, inclusive democracy.

Lowering the Voting Age

LWVNJ believes that voting in New Jersey elections is a fundamental right that must be guaranteed to New Jersey citizens 16 years of age and older.

At the 2025 LWVNJ Convention in June, League members reviewed LWV Maine's *Voting Age Study* and voted to concur with their position on lowering the voting age. In 2026, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey will work closely with Vote16 New Jersey to advocate for lowering the voting age in more local elections. We will also support state legislation to provide New Jersey citizens 16 years of age and older the right to vote.

Reparations

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey supports reparations for Black/African Americans and believes the legacy of slavery still impacts Black/African Americans in New Jersey today. LWVNJ supports a broad range of possible reparations. In addition to financial investments, these reparations focus areas include, but are not limited to, policy reforms in the following areas: Housing, Criminal Justice, Education, Health Care, and Economics.

In 2023, League members began the process of conducting a study about reparations. Our dedicated members formed a study committee and shared their findings with League members, who then participated in the consensus process. At the 2025 Convention, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey officially announced our position in support of reparations. Using this position, the League will partner to advance reparations in our state.

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey is the first League in the nation to pass a position in support of reparations.



OUR IMPACT

Powerful Advocacy

Voting Rights

Every year, voters across New Jersey report serious obstacles at the polls, including late openings, barriers for voters with disabilities, inadequate language access, improper ID requests, electioneering, and more. At the same time, the federal Voting Rights Act continues to face significant attacks.

That is why the League of Women Voters of New Jersey and our coalition partners are committed to the passage of the **John R. Lewis Voter Empowerment Act of New Jersey (NJVRA)**. This legislation directly addresses many of the challenges voters face and affirms New Jersey's commitment to defending the sacred right to vote.

This summer, the NJVRA received a hearing before the *Assembly Oversight, Reform, and Federal Relations Committee*, where League staff testified in strong support. Our persistent advocacy and coalition-building have helped generate strong momentum for the bill, securing 39 Assembly sponsors and 15 Senate sponsors. The League remains steadfast in our commitment to advancing this bill through both chambers before the end of the current legislative session. New Jersey has a chance to lead at a moment when leadership is urgently needed, and we will not stop fighting until everyone's rights are fully protected and every voice is heard.

Immigrant Justice

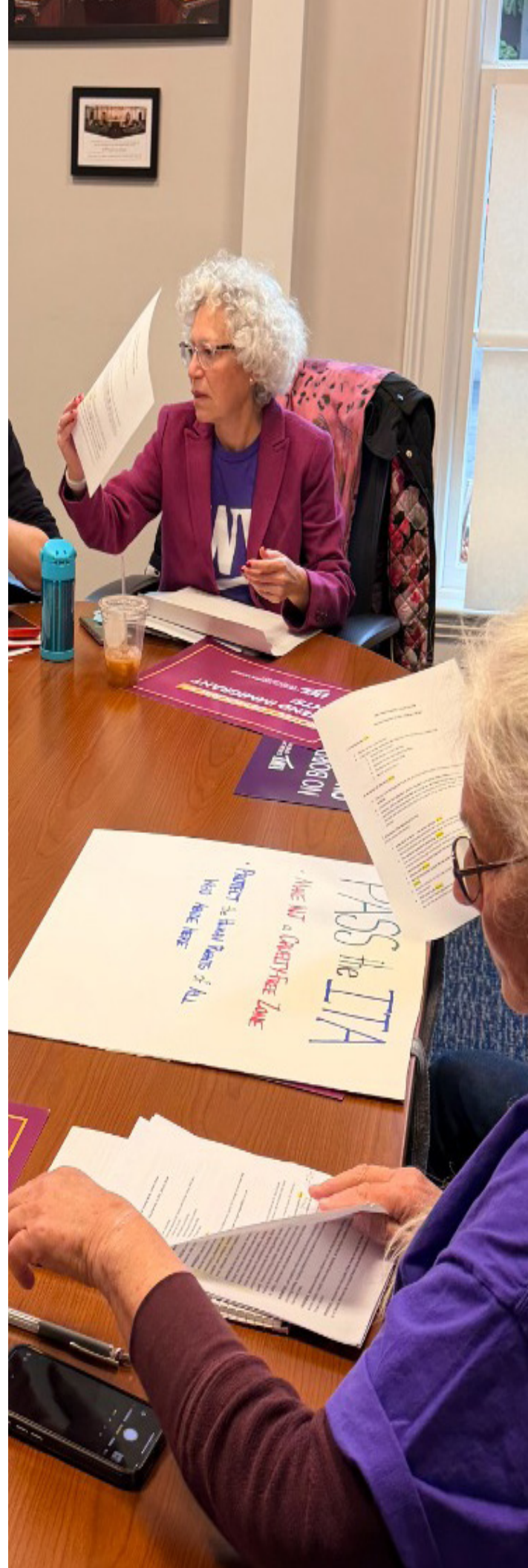
2025 has been an extremely challenging year for New Jersey's immigrant community. Hateful and dangerous rhetoric from the federal administration has been directed at people of color across our country. Masked ICE agents have separated families and apprehended New Jersey residents at alarming rates. Our friends, family, and neighbors have been held in detention facilities in our own state.

We stand strongly with our allies calling for due process and humane treatment for everyone, regardless of immigration status. To this end, we are fighting for the passage of the Immigrant Trust Act (ITA), legislation that establishes critical protections that allow immigrant community members to access the programs and services they need from state and local agencies without fear of deportation.

In February, our members joined partners for a day of action, lobbying our legislators at their district offices and demonstrating pervasive constituent support. League members have also participated in numerous rallies, protests, and lobby days around the state.

In November, LWV Teaneck and LWV Northern Valley members met with Senator Johnson, the ITA's prime sponsor, to create urgency for this legislation and hold him accountable for taking more leadership steps to move this bill forward.

Federal immigration enforcement actions carried out by ICE have repeatedly violated the principles of dignity, respect, and the fundamental right to due process for all. In addition to our work on the ITA, we have called for the closure of Delaney Hall, demanded that all detainees be released to their families and communities, opposed the arrest of Mayor Baraka, and condemned the political prosecution of Congresswoman McIver, who faces federal charges for simply performing her oversight duties.





Climate Justice

It is time for New Jersey to take bold action and demand that polluters pay their fair share for the harm they have knowingly caused. The Climate Superfund Act (CSA) holds corporations accountable for the damage they have inflicted on our environment and communities.

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey joined coalition partners at multiple lobby days and rallies, urging our legislators to act now on this legislation. In March, a League member testified in support of the CSA at the *Assembly Environment, Natural Resources, and Solid Waste Committee*. This legislation is a priority for the League and we are fiercely advocating to get this bill passed by the end of the year.

In addition, our Natural Resources Committee joined coalition efforts to support renewable energy and public transportation, pass a New Jersey Green Amendment, oppose new fossil fuel projects like NESE and the Williams Transco project, and more.

VICTORY: Braddock Park

After years of tireless advocacy, our Natural Resources Committee secured a victory when North Bergen announced that they were withdrawing their application for a permanent diversion for a preschool in Braddock Park.

For over a decade, the League has advocated for the removal of temporary preschool trailers located in Braddock Park and moving the students into permanent school buildings. Finally, the students were all transferred out of the trailers, and the town withdrew the proposal to continue operating the school in the park.

Good Government

In 2024, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey and our partners had a significant victory when we successfully won a court battle to bar the notorious “county line” from our ballots. However, the New Jersey legislature then took up the task of redesigning our ballots, and their proposal fell far short of best practices in ballot design.

Our Government Committee led League members in opposition to the proposal, urging legislators to design a ballot that was simple, clear, and did not seek to advantage one candidate over another. Members were successful in defeating the worst provisions of the legislation, but the bill that ultimately passed still fell short.

This legislation was yet another step away from good government, reinforcing concerns raised by the Election Transparency Act, the erosion of OPRA, and reduced access to the State House. We are paying attention, and we urge our representatives to rebuild trust by implementing meaningful transparency measures and following best practices.

We also joined the fight to repeal the “Gag Rule,” legislation that has silenced the voices of student organizations at New Jersey public universities by prohibiting student groups that are funded through voluntary student fees from lobbying at the state level. Our members successfully lobbied to make this a bipartisan bill by getting a sponsor from both sides of the aisle.

Finally, the Government Committee successfully advocated for the League to support Fusion Voting and continues to work to advance related reforms in our state.



Women & Family Issues

Over the past year, our Women & Family Issues Committee has educated members and stakeholders and strategically advocated for state policies related to childcare, long-term care, reproductive and LGBTQ+ equity, and sex education. To advance our work, the Committee strengthened relationships with several statewide coalitions and organizations, including the THRIVE Coalition, AARP NJ, and Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ).

Alongside our partners, the League supported multiple childcare measures and bills aimed at making services for children more affordable for families. In addition, the League wrote testimony, signed onto letters, and attended lobby days advancing measures to support the aging population and elder care.

Specifically, the Women & Family Issues Committee worked to increase the personal needs allowance for nursing home residents on Medicaid, address issues surrounding the lack of accountability for nursing homes, and bring transparency to taxpayers and the families of residents. In the reproductive freedom space, the Committee continued to champion strong versions of the bills in the Reproductive Freedom and Health Equity Bill Package.

In March, the League joined with the Garden State Equality Action Fund and other allies for an LGBTQ+ lobby day, building awareness and urgency to pass protections for patients and providers of gender-affirming and reproductive care.

Education

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey Education Committee is deeply concerned about the school funding cuts from the federal government. Members are working closely with Our Children Our Schools, along with partners and trusted allies in other coalitions.

The Committee is also hard at work finalizing a white paper on early childhood education and represented the League at the 2025 New Jersey Education Association Conference, among others.



2025 PRIORITY LEGISLATION



NEW JERSEY VOTING RIGHTS ACT



CLIMATE SUPERFUND ACT



IMMIGRANT TRUST ACT

3

COURT CASES

2

NEW POSITIONS

1

STRONGER DEMOCRACY



“

A healthy democracy depends on every resident feeling confident that their local government works for them and not against them.

— Jesse Burns, Executive Director

”



OUR IMPACT

In the Courts: Fighting for Our Rights

Supersession of the Paterson Police Department

In January, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey joined with ACLU-NJ, the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, Reimagining Justice, Inc., and Salvation and Social Justice to file an amicus brief in support of the New Jersey Attorney General's supersession of the Paterson Police Department.

The brief argued that supersession is a necessary tool to promote accountability and to stop abuse by police of vulnerable communities. The League and our partners argued that supersession of municipal police departments has helped improve troubled police departments in the past and that Paterson's systemic failures necessitated this intervention. Ultimately, we were victorious when the New Jersey Supreme Court unanimously ruled in favor of the attorney general.

About the case, Jesse Burns, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey, said this: "Police are public servants, and public trust in policing is absolutely integral to our democracy. The Office of the Attorney General has a right and a responsibility to intervene when these public servants fail to protect the residents they are meant to serve."

Protecting Immigrant Communities

This fall, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey joined the ACLU of New Jersey and 28 other partners to file an amicus brief in support of community trust policies enacted by Newark, Jersey City, Paterson, and Hoboken that limit voluntary collaboration between municipal agencies and federal immigration enforcement. The brief argues that community trust policies promote the safety, health, and welfare of all residents, regardless of immigration status.

“No individual should fear being targeted in the community they call home,” said Jesse Burns, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. “When our neighbors feel safe accessing public services, trust grows. That trust is broken when local governments are drawn into federal immigration enforcement. A healthy democracy depends on every resident feeling confident that their local government works for them and not against them.”

Registering New Citizens

In August, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) published a new rule that bars nonpartisan civic engagement groups from providing voter registration and promoting civic engagement to new U.S. citizens at administrative naturalization ceremonies. In response, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey, the League of Women Voters of the United States, and four other state and local Leagues filed a lawsuit against USCIS, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and other federal officials for enacting—abruptly and without following the required process—this new rule.

The League of Women Voters has, over the course of decades, registered hundreds of thousands of new U.S. citizens to vote after naturalization ceremonies nationwide. As a result of USCIS’s rule change, however, state and local Leagues have already been forced to cancel at least 166 planned voter registration events, where League members and volunteers expected to register approximately 10,000 new voters.

“By banning the League of Women Voters from offering voter registration at naturalization ceremonies, USCIS is unlawfully restricting free speech and civic participation,” said Jesse Burns, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. “It’s a disservice to our fellow Americans and our democracy when the government intentionally makes it harder for new citizens to register to vote.”



LEAGUING AS WE GO



FINANCIALS

CONSOLIDATED AND ABBREVIATED COMBINED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES*

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

INCOME

General Revenue	\$739,686
Membership	\$78,451
Restricted Revenue	\$97,611
Building	\$21,076
Total Income	\$936,824

EXPENSES

Program and Mission Impact	\$530,677
Member Services	\$46,383
Building	\$43,038
Development	\$109,462
Administrative/Office	\$134,986
Total Income	\$864,546

**This financial activity includes most, but not all, of the combined income and expenses for both the League of Women Voters of New Jersey and the League of Women Voters of New Jersey Education Fund. For complete financial statements please view the organizations' 990s.*

THANK YOU

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW JERSEY DONORS

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

\$100,000 +

Estate of Jean Aires
Anonymous
EQUIP-NJ
The Fund for New Jersey

\$20,000 +

Hackensack Meridian Health
Make the Road
Sixteen Thirty Fund

\$10,000 +

The Herb Block Foundation
New Jersey State Bar Foundation
The William L. Gibson Fund

\$5,000 - \$9,999

BSG Family Fund Robert Goldstein
Johanna Donson
Grunin Foundation
Nancy and Robert Hedinger
Steve Lax
New Jersey Policy Perspective
PSEG
Schmiedel Family Foundation

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Lowenstein Sandler LLP
Sandra Matsen
New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
Jacqueline and Henry Schram
Lauren Supplee

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Ellen Adamoyurka-Patten
Anonymous
Ann and Jay Armstrong
Lucienne Beard
Big A, LLC/Karen Azarchi and Lynne Azarchi
Br'Island Group, LLC
Ruthi Byrne
R. Dawn and Gregory Clarke
Linda and Robert DeLap
Janet Fisher-Hughes
Carol Harvey
Hedinger & Lawless, LLC
Jennifer M. Howard and Willard Alonzo Stanback
Ellen and Bruce Kemp
League of Women Voters of the United States
Susan S. Lederman
Yvette Lincoln
Anne and Mario Maiese

\$1,000 - \$2,499 (continued)

Deborah McComber and Rick Bye
McManimon, Scotland & Baumann LLC
Mariel Mercado-Guevara
The Merrill G. & Emita E. Hastings Foundation
Iveth Mosquera
Evelyn C. Murphy
Louise Murray
New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence
New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company
New Jersey Performing Arts Center
Henal Patel
Patricia & James Marino Foundation
Glorianne and Tony Robbi
Yvonne Shepard
Grace and Frank Sinden
Kathi Blatt Thonet and John Thonet
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Somerset Hills

\$500 - \$999

Katherine and Kenneth Abbott
Alice Paul Center for Gender Justice
AAPI New Jersey
BAYADA Home Healthcare
Ed Gracely
Eleanor and Martin Gruber
Timothy Harrod
Jin Hwang
Andrea and Dennis Kahn
Cecile Kent
LUPE Fund, Inc.
New Jersey Education Association
Elaine Nigam
Jennifer Olmsted
Vicki and James Ray
Sara and Bruce Schundler
Schwartz Family Giving Foundation
Melissa Scott
Sendell Family Fund
Kelly Shea
Patricia Supplee and Thomas Wik
Support Center
Anne Torre Beebe
Arthur Weiner
Jim and Linda Wooldridge

\$250 - \$499

Nike Bach
Deborah Berkowitz
Marietta Carter and Gregory Linde
Susan Coleman
Marie Curtis
Janice Dabney
Polly Dellomo
Alice Dillon
Jill Drew
James and Janet Foster
Jeanne Fox and Steve DeMicco
Arlene and Philip Gartenberg
Peg Goertz
Laura Harper
Lucy Heller
Ellen Herman
Amy Ipp
Bernadette and Matthew Jusinski
William Kehayes
Barbara Kutscher
Kate Liebhold
Terry Lyons
Barbara Marks
Elizabeth Mason
Corrine O'Hara and Joel Schwartz
John Pease
Jessica Richards
Wilma and Robert Pfeffer
Valerie Schmid-Sadwin
Patricia Seyler Schmiedel and Bill Schmiedel
Susan Sferas
Margaret and Glen Skar
Frances Sullivan
Gail Szenes
Gena Whitney
Anne Williams
Ruth Zowader

We have made every effort to ensure this gift information is accurate.

This listing reflects donations made between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

If you believe we have made an error, please contact us at contact@lwvnj.org.

BOARD & STAFF

League of Women Voters of New Jersey Board of Directors

Officers

Jennifer M. Howard, MD, MPH, President

Lauren F. Nance, 1st Vice President

Mariel Mercado-Guevara, Esq., 2nd Vice President

Janet Fisher-Hughes, Treasurer

Kelly Shea, Secretary

Directors

Arun Ayyagari

Lucienne Beard

Marlena Brown

Tyra Maya Gravesande

Kanesha Jones

Sudha Kantor, Esq.

Deborah Y. Lee

Yvette J. Lincoln

Henal Patel, Esq.

Raisa Rubin-Stankiewicz

Alejandra Sorto

Rebecca Uwakwe, Esq.

League of Women Voters of New Jersey Staff

Jesse Burns

Executive Director

Erik Cruz Morales

Director of Democracy

Amara Johnson

Communications Associate

Elissa Kapp

Operations Coordinator

Ary Kumar

Community Organizer

Melissa Marks

Manager of Mission Impact

Jennifer Oakes

Development Manager



www.lwvnj.org

P.O. Box 500 Trenton, NJ 08603

Phone: +1 (609) 394-3303

Email: contact@lwvnj.org

