



**Statement for Jessica Jones Capparell, Director, Government Affairs
League of Women Voters of the United States
US House Democratic Spotlight Hearing
Protecting Democracy: Defending the Right to Vote
September 22, 2026**

Ranking Member Raskin, Congresswoman Scanlon, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. My name is Jessica Jones Capparell, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at the League of Women Voters. I appreciate the Committee's commitment to upholding the integrity of our electoral process and to assuring the public that our democracy remains strong.

The League of Women Voters was founded more than a century ago, following the adoption of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote. Across the country, the League comprises more than 800 state and local leagues, with tens of thousands of volunteers who do the day-to-day work of democracy in their communities, educating, registering, and empowering voters year-round.

Our work is grounded in the belief that our country is strongest when every eligible citizen can participate in free and fair elections. This principle is enshrined in our Constitution and has been reaffirmed by generations of Americans who have fought to expand and protect the right to vote.

In April 2025, the League declared a constitutional crisis because we believe the foundational principles that have sustained our democracy — checks and balances, the rule of law, and free and fair elections — are under direct and sustained threat. We have worked steadfastly to educate voters and urge Congress to fulfill its oversight duties, including passing legislation to ensure every voter can cast a ballot that counts. The League remains committed to our mission to safeguard this right and ensure the voices of all voters are heard.

In recent months, Americans have been exposed to escalating rhetoric and misinformation aimed at undermining trust in our electoral system, particularly surrounding the upcoming Midterm elections. We have seen coordinated efforts—led by President Trump and his allies—to cast doubt on the security and legitimacy of our elections. The League has been clear that these narratives are designed to distract, confuse, and discourage eligible Americans from exercising their right to vote.



Recent League Litigation

The League is fighting – and winning – in the courts to protect voters’ access to the ballot. Most recently, after President Trump issued an executive order on March 31, 2026, that inserted the USPS into the state’s jurisdiction over mail ballots by requiring a rule for processing mail ballots, the League immediately challenged this unlawful order and won when the US Supreme Court stayed the USPS rule just last week.

In November 2025, LWV and various state and local Leagues sued the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) over its policy prohibiting third-party voter-registration groups from registering new citizens at USCIS-hosted naturalization ceremonies. The complaint alleged that the policy violated the Administrative Procedure Act and the First Amendment.

The League, along with the Electronic Privacy Information Center and five individuals, sued the Department of Homeland Security, the Social Security Administration, and the Department of Justice to protect Americans’ sensitive information from being used in violation of the Privacy Act, the Administrative Procedure Act, and the US Constitution.

The League has also successfully challenged requests for voter data in states across the country. We have also challenged documentary proof-of-citizenship requirements enacted through state legislation and, just last week, won a victory that ensures voters have clear, accurate information about their registration and what they need to do to participate fully in our elections.

These legal battles are essential to protecting the right to vote, but they also underscore the urgent need for comprehensive, nationwide protections. The League’s courtroom victories demonstrate both the ongoing threats to our democracy and the effectiveness of robust legal safeguards. However, litigation alone cannot replace strong federal legislation.

Harnessing League Power Against Suppressive Rules and Legislation

The League of Women Voters has led efforts to oppose the SAVE Act and other anti-voter measures proposed at the federal level. Under the guise of election security, the SAVE Act would impose unnecessary, burdensome documentary proof-of-citizenship requirements that threaten to disenfranchise countless eligible American voters—particularly naturalized citizens, seniors, and members of historically marginalized communities. The League has mobilized advocates nationwide to send more than 121,000 letters to Congress, engage with lawmakers in their home districts, and provide expert testimony on the discriminatory intent and harmful consequences of these proposals. We are committed to ensuring that federal policies protect, rather than restrict, access to the ballot, and we continue to fight legislation that undermines the fundamental right to vote.

Preparing for November



Until the November elections, the League will work to educate and empower voters. We encourage voters to take proactive steps: verify your voter registration status, familiarize yourself with your polling location and hours, make a plan to vote early, and

share accurate information with your friends and neighbors. By acting collectively and responsibly, we can ensure that attempts to sow doubt will not succeed.

Despite attempts to sow distrust, our elections remain secure. The American electoral system is the product of generations of improvement, oversight, and dedication by nonpartisan professionals at every level of government. Across the country, election officials—many of whom serve their communities with little recognition—work tirelessly to ensure that every eligible vote is counted accurately and securely. Our system includes checks and balances: secure voting machines, rigorous chain-of-custody procedures, transparent audits, and bipartisan observation. These safeguards are not theoretical; they are in place and protect the integrity of each ballot cast.

During civic holidays, the League encourages all Americans to participate in voter registration drives, educational events, and community outreach to foster a culture of informed, active citizenship. On Election Hero Day, we lead efforts to honor the dedication and service of election workers and volunteers, who are essential to the smooth functioning of our elections. By uplifting these national days, the League not only recognizes those who make democracy work but also inspires greater participation and appreciation for the vital processes that uphold our electoral system.

Voters must know that amid the noise and distraction, their voices matter. The League of Women Voters urges all eligible Americans not to be deterred by misinformation or intimidation. Do not let unsubstantiated claims or rumors keep you from the polls. The most effective way to counter those who seek to undermine our democracy is to participate, stay informed, be prepared, and be confident that your vote will count.

Vote411.org is the League of Women Voters' nonpartisan election resource, providing voters with everything they need to participate confidently in the November election. Through Vote411.org, voters can:

- Check their voter registration status and deadlines.
- Find their polling locations and hours.
- Access personalized sample ballots
- Learn about candidates' positions and compare their responses to key questions.
- Review state-specific rules for voting by mail, early voting, and in-person voting.
- Access information in English and Spanish
- Find answers to frequently asked questions about voting rights and election procedures.

Vote411.org empowers voters to make informed decisions, navigate the voting process, and ensure their voices are heard at the ballot box.



For those with questions or facing challenges at the polls, help is available. The nonpartisan Election Protection Hotline—1-866-OUR-VOTE—provides real-time assistance to voters nationwide. The League remains vigilant and will collaborate with local partners to address voting barriers on Election Day and during early and mail-in voting periods.

While it is vital that we protect the vote in this election, our work does not end when the polls close. To truly secure the future of our democracy, Congress must act to strengthen and restore the right to vote for all Americans. That means passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to modernize and restore essential protections against discrimination and enacting the Freedom to Vote Act to ensure fair, accessible, and transparent elections nationwide. These measures are essential to building a robust, inclusive democracy for generations to come.

In closing, I want to reiterate the League's unwavering belief in the American people and the resilience of our democracy. History shows that when we stand together and exercise our rights, our nation emerges stronger. This November, your vote is your voice. Do not let those who seek to undermine the process and strip away your power silence it. The League of Women Voters stands ready to support all voters and defend the promise of free and fair elections for all.

Thank you for your attention and steadfast commitment to protecting the right to vote. I look forward to your questions.