

# The Dare Voter

Official Newsletter of the Dare County League of Women Voters

## March 2024 Newsletter

### President's Message

by Ginger Walters

President's message for March Newsletter  
Have you used [Vote411](#) to decide on your candidate for the March primary?

This year our ballots contain Republican, Democratic and Libertarian candidates. Most of us will not be familiar with all the state offices nor all the primary candidates. I urge you to take a few minutes and review the candidates. League of Women Voter volunteers have worked hard to provide all voters with information they need to make an informed decision.

Our Vote411 Director, Deb Helber has uploaded the candidate information for both Dare and Currituck Counties. She has succeeded in getting more and more candidates to participate and 100% of Dare candidates have responded. BIG shout out to Deb for her contributions.

Early voting is open and the last day to vote early is Saturday, March 2 between 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. You can vote at any location; Manteo Dare County Administration building, Kill Devil Hills town hall or Buxton Fessenden Center. The advantages of one stop early voting include same-day registration and voting. The new voter rules are in effect, so remember to bring your valid photo ID. If you wait to vote on Primary Election Day March 5, 2024, you must report to your assigned voting place.

[CLICK HERE for LWV Dare Board of Directors/Leadership](#)

[League of Women Voters Sponsors](#)



### Upcoming Events

Important events can be found on the League's Calendar at the League of Women Voters of Dare website. Click [HERE](#) to view the calendar of events.

#### **International Women's Day Movie Event - "Cabrini"**

Thursday, March 8, 2024 at 4:10 pm to 6:35 pm

RC Theater

1803 N Croatan Hwy

Kill Devil Hills, NC

Arriving in New York City in 1889, Italian immigrant Francesca Cabrini is greeted by disease, crime and impoverished children. She soon sets off on a daring mission to convince the mayor to secure housing and health care for society's most vulnerable.

[Reserve your seat HERE](#)

### **Board Meeting: All Members are Welcome**

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Kitty Hawk Fire Station 13

859 W. Kitty Hawk Road

Kitty Hawk, NC

### **Dare to be Safe II**

Thursday, April 25, 2024 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Baum Center

300 S. Mustian Street

Kill Devil Hills, NC

Our second community forum focusing on gun safety and storage. Our speakers include representatives from NC SAFE.org and Moms Demand Action

## **Membership**



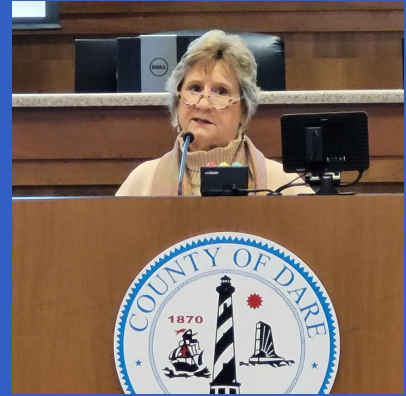
*From the Editor:* Susan has moved on to different adventures (and will be dearly missed), but it just didn't feel like a proper goodbye without a final poetic adieu: ...

But I heard her exclaim  
As she flew off in a dash,  
Pay your dues everybody,  
We take card, check or cash!

Welcome Lorelei DeBernardo to the Membership chair! And, if you are interested in becoming a member or renewing your membership, simply click [HERE](#) and choose your own renewal adventure.

# Government Day Presentation for Leadership OBX

Our Co-President, Ginger Walters, introduced League of Women Voters of Dare County to the 2024 class of Leadership OBX sponsored by the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber asked LWV of Dare to provide the goals and mission for League of Women Voters and to discuss elections in Dare County. The session was held on Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> in the county commissioners' meeting room.



LWV of Dare was the first presenter for Government Day which included officials and elected representatives to discuss the inner workings of government. Representatives and officials of local towns, county government and state representatives including Senator Bobby Hanig explained government policies to the group.

Ginger gave a terrific overview of our mission and goals. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Ginger only had a 12-hour notice to make this presentation. Nevertheless, she made a positive impression on the leadership class. Ginger stepped up and gave a professional presentation to this large group. She started with her personal story about why she joined the League. She explained our suffragist history, our three-tier organization of local, state and national all focused toward our mission of defending democracy and educating voters. Ginger highlighted that we are all volunteers serving our community. We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy. We support an informed, active and healthy community that participates in all facets of voting and participation in a free and open democracy.



During the discussion, Ginger provided flyers and brochures for our organization. She explained that our Citizen's Guide brings important local contacts to Dare residents. Ginger described our Vote411 website and the election information available to the public. She talked about changes in voting laws and the efforts of LWV to help voters understand the new rules. Ginger also highlighted our programs and events like Human Trafficking and Dare to Share. She spoke about our advocacy and dedication to tackle difficult topics. Afterwards there were numerous questions from the group, including a question from Senator Hanig. He gave high praise to LWV and stated that "they do so much more" and thanked us for our service to the community. Thank you Ginger!

## Education Report

by Marion Midgett



This report first covers interesting business and program information presented, discussed, and/or approved at the local Dare Board of Education level during the fall and winter of the 2023-24 school year. Secondly, information is outlined about how the 2023-24 State budget, policy changes, and a court challenge affect education in North Carolina.

### Local

The BOE added three student "advisors" in the fall of 2023. All girls, they come from Manteo High, Cape Hatteras Secondary School, and First Flight High. They appear at each meeting leading the pledge of allegiance to the flag and presenting information about happenings at the ten Dare schools and the Learning Academy, formerly the Alternative School. At the end of each Board meeting, they make comments along with the elected

members.

· In December 2023 at the annual reorganizational meeting the group ended the one-year chairmanship and vice-chairmanship of Ron Payne and Barry Wickre. David Twiddy and Carl Woody were elected to the chair and vice-chair positions by 4-3 votes, the same ratio as the vote in 2022. Twiddy had served as chair for several years prior to December 2022.

· Athletics were front and center at meetings this school year. The FFH boys' soccer team won a state championship last fall and the MHS girls' soccer team also won a state championship for spring 2023, each in its division. Manteo High soccer Ralph Cleaver was named the 2022-2023 NC Coach of the year by the National Federation of State High School Associations. Soccer coach Juan Ramirez of FFHS was named the 2023 Boy's Fall Mid-Atlantic Soccer Coach of the Year by the United Soccer Coaches Association. All were honored at meetings.

· A new DCS library vision is being launched as part of a 5-year plan. There is a mission statement and logo to bring attention to the new focus: "Love Literacy, Love Learning, Love Libraries # Check out Dare." A FFHS student designed the logo.

In the interest of reducing absenteeism, the school system has begun a (click [HERE](#) to continue reading)

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## Past LWV Dare President Audrey Esposito

It is with great sadness that the family of Audrey Joan Mathews Esposito, aged 82 of Southern Shores, formerly of Randolph, NJ announces her sudden passing on Sunday, February 25, 2024.

Audrey touched many lives in her long journey through life. She was a dedicated elementary school teacher for 32 years in the New Jersey public school system. She and her husband Sal raised their three daughters in Randolph, NJ where they were close with many friends and family. After retiring from teaching, she and Sal retired to Southern Shores. It did not take long for Audrey to get involved and make an impact on the community. Audrey and Sal enjoyed many years as members at the Duck Woods Country Club and she was actively involved in the League of Woman Voters. Anyone that had the privilege of knowing Audrey knew she loved to cook, enjoyed spending time in her garden, reading with her book club, and playing bridge with friends. Audrey had always said that moving to Southern Shores was the best decision that she and Sal made.



Audrey or Audie as she was lovingly called by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren is (click [HERE](#) to continue reading)

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## Early Voting

by Lorelei DiBernardo

# If you haven't yet voted in the PRIMARY ELECTION ... you still have time!

## \* \* \* \* Dare County 2024 Primary Election \* \* \* \*

**Primary Election: Tuesday, March 5, 2024**

**VOTER ID REQUIRED!**

**Early (One-Stop) Voting February 15 – March 2**

- Monday – Friday 8am – 7:30pm PLUS Saturday March 2 8am – 3pm
- Sites: Dare Co Administrative Bldg, Manteo; Kill Devil Hills Town Hall; Fessenden Ctr Annex, Buxton

**If you don't know who to vote for ... GO TO [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) to learn  
about the Candidates!**

**VOTE411: The League's on-line One-Stop-Shop for election information.**

→ Access [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) and type in your address

- See Who's On Your Ballot & Their Views on Issues
- Check Your Voter Registration & Find Your Polling Place
- And Much More!

**Primary Election: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at your assigned precinct.**

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## National Popular Vote

by Lorelei DiBernardo

**THE U.S. LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
ENDORSES THE ELECTION OF THE  
PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT BY  
DIRECT POPULAR VOTE. THE NATIONAL  
POPULAR VOTE (NPV) COMPACT IS THE  
SOLUTION!**

The Electoral College system creates serious issues:

- In the last 6 presidential elections, 2 candidates were declared the winners without earning a majority of the votes cast nationally. (In total, this has happened 5 times in U.S. history.)
- “Swing” states, those whose outcome is unsure, receive an overwhelming majority of campaign events. In 2020, 96% of campaign events occurred in just 12 states. This over-weighted attention to a minority of states /voters was similar in 2016 and 2012.
- “Swing” states also receive 7% more federal grants, twice as many presidential disaster declarations, and more Superfund enforcement exemptions ... Coincidence?
- “Swing” states represent only 20% of the U.S. population but have an outsized impact on Presidential elections.



· Consequently, presidential candidates have little reason to pay attention to the issues or concerns of voters in states where the statewide outcome is a foregone conclusion.

Read [HERE](#) to discover the SOLUTION.

The National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact is state legislation that ensures (click [HERE](#) to continue reading)

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## Citizen's Guide

by Susan Pfaff

The 2024 Citizen's Guide will be distributed before you know it. The guide is a Dare County star—not many Leagues take on the monumental task of compiling, printing, and distributing a community reference guide every single year (thank you Carol Butscher and your team of worker bees). And, if you're out and about and your guide isn't handy, it is now available online as well.

**Take a look.**

It is easy to find the online Citizen's Guide on our website anytime. Just click on the widget on the sidebar (on a mobile device, it may be on the bottom). It looks just like the one pictured here.



*Citizen's Guide*

*Dare County  
North Carolina*

**Guide to Community  
Services**

## JOIN THE LEAGUE

**EMPOWERING VOTERS.  
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.**

- ✓ We have a 104-year history, but our work has never been more vital than it is today!
- ✓ Working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy
- ✓ In addition to elections, League volunteers tackle many issues of local importance, from education and the environment to health care.
- ✓ Proud to be non-partisan and fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice



# League Worthy Links

[Heather Cox Richardson](#)

[Reproductive Rights Abroad](#)

[Global Backlash Against Women's Rights](#)

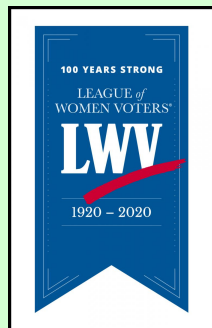
[Proclamation on Women's History Month](#)

[LWV NC Legislative Update](#)

[LWV North Carolina Newsletter](#)

[LWV National Press Releases](#)

[LWV National Blog](#)



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