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### LWV Bulletin, March, 2021

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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# LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF THE HUNTINGTON AREA

## March 2021 E-mail Bulletin

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### HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION IS ACTIVE, FEDERAL AND STATE



Congress continues to work on the latest COVID stimulus package, named the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The League of Women Voters supports increased benefits in the Plan, which is projected to cost about \$1.9 trillion.

The plan includes a direct payment to many, expanded child care tax credits, some college debt forgiveness, increased unemployment benefits, funds to increase the supply and administration of vaccines, funds to assist opening schools, increased minimum wages, and much more. It is expected to be up for approval in the House of Representatives soon, and then go on to the Senate. A full and current list of proposals is easily available. It is time to contact Senators Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito, and Representative Carol Miller, to make your wishes known and ask for prompt passage.

At the state level, several health care bills have been or will soon be filed. Our League is working with several partners who share our interests in part, to gain passage of some bills. One is HB 2266, extending Medicaid's post-partum coverage to one year, with income eligibility increased to 300% of poverty level. This legislation is supported by LWWUS at the federal level, as is the maintenance and extension of Medicaid.

Last year dental care was added to Medicaid. This year the hope is to add vision care to Medicaid. Both are vital to overall health, and especially to assist in the ability to obtain employment. We are working to lower drug prices. Last year there was success in capping the price of insulin, but this year the hope is to cap it at a lower price to make insulin and diabetic supplies affordable to more patients.

Another is the establishment of a Minority Health Advisory Team, to work to reduce and eliminate disparities in health and health care of minorities.

A Bill that is advancing fast is HB 2015, sponsored by Delegates Dr. Matt Rohrbach and John Mandt, requiring rules of local Boards of Health to be approved by the County Commission except in cases of public emergency. It is on second reading as I write this. A similar bill, SB 12, has been filed in the Senate. In Cabell and Kanawha Counties, where Board members are appointed by both County Commission and City Council, rules would need to be approved by both bodies. This adds at least one more layer of approval required, slowing and complication applications. This bill has been attempted before, especially to reverse clean indoor air rules.

Because of the pandemic, there are a lot of restrictions on access to the Capitol, reducing ability to work with our legislators in person. Committee meeting access is restricted. All the restrictions have made it harder to have an impact on legislation through our members of the legislature in general. You have a copy of the excellent Guide to the Legislature. Please check <http://www.wvlegislature> regularly for information on health bills introduced and action on them in committees or the full House, and contact your delegates and senators to make your views known. Because the movement is fast this year, we will have to be more diligent to have any impact.

It is important to mention in connection with health care the large role that the state budget plays in funding services and programs. Cutting income to the state budget from income taxes is a major concern in this discussion.

#### **WEST VIRGINIA'S GREEN HORIZON** Nyoka Baker Chapman



West Virginia is a now part of the Paris agreement because the US is back on board and dialogues on this topic are on fire!

Should the recent Covid-19 stimulus bill receive enough support to pass the Senate there may be as much as \$35 billion dollars authorized for clean energy research and development programs focused on solar technology, advanced nuclear technology, geothermal, wind, energy storage, grid modernization, and carbon capture technology, including a large-scale carbon sequestration demonstration program. As West Virginia suffers as one of the top carbon emissions per capita states in

the US, we could hope that our state would be on the list for a portion of funds to help WV meet the goals of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/covid-19-new-stimulus-package-includes-sweeping-energy-reforms>

The administration of federal funds by any state that is not ideologically compliant with the implementation of climate change goals is highly problematic. Reaching zero carbon emissions by 2050 will surely require compatible legislation at the state level to pave the way. Possibilities of waste, diverted allocation and mismanagement must be prevented. The Energy Committee that will provide oversight of the apportionment of funds to address energy transitions is fully aware of this. Careful planning with science and technology at the table will be crucial to ensure that implementation is successful. There is no doubt that there are different plans that get to

the same goal and as to which road will be the safest, the cleanest and the most profitable (particularly with securing new job creation and employment transitions) will require advanced creative problem solving, cooperative communication, and transparent coalitions

Most Carbon Capture projects have failed due to issues of unprofitability and poor storage solutions. There must be accessible processing to functionally convert CO<sub>2</sub> via carbon mineralization (to carbonate) or to create hydrogen (steam methane reforming) or other outcomes in centralized locations close to or at CO<sub>2</sub> capture sites. Archaic storage methods alone would be deferring the problem to be dealt with later and will not be a viable answer. Converting energy usage to hydrogen-based sources has yet to be made practical, yet hydrogen can be stored in cells that if carefully and sustainably contained could be used in the future. Converting CO<sub>2</sub> to a carbonate may seem to be the easiest solution at this time. Yet, in 2080 people may be saying "wish we had the hydrogen that could have been created when they were cleaning up the CO<sub>2</sub> fifty years ago". These are the types of problems the Energy Committee must be facing now in 2021. That Elon Musk has offered \$100 million dollars for the best carbon capture technology (see [xprize.org](http://xprize.org)) tells us that the process has yet to be perfected. Real time successful conversion for carbon capture can be found at [blueplanet-ltd.com](http://blueplanet-ltd.com) as carbon negative building and highway materials can be used for emerging infrastructure.

<https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2019/11/13/20839531/climate-change-industry-co2-carbon-capture-utilization-storage-ccu>

Recent comments made by Senator Joe Manchin in his informative fireside chat with the Bipartisan Policy Center, and by his staff at a recent meeting with the WV Climate Alliance appear to indicate that the transition will be slow, as at this time there are too many unknowns to articulate specifics as new technologies have yet to be proven and extensive research is needed to make sure that we make the right choices. Manchin has said that he wants to "innovate, not eliminate." There is clarity here that fast choices may not bode well for the best future outcomes.

'Cleanup' of uncapped, abandoned and orphaned gas wells, some of which have resulted from bankrupted petrochemical companies, appear to be the subject of transitions to greener jobs for those currently working in the petrochemical industry. Methane leakage from this source continues to be a major environmental problem, being a major contributor to greenhouse gasses. This Princeton study estimates the number of abandoned and active gas wells in WV alone (over 60,000, though the actual number seems to vary from source to source). <https://scholar.princeton.edu/mauzerall/publications/measuring-methane-emissions-abandoned-and-active-oil-and-gas-wells-west>  
[https://observer-reporter.com/business/abandoned-wells-are-a-lingering-environmental-issue/article\\_ce929e62-fc23-11ea-94e0-5f5bd8637708.html](https://observer-reporter.com/business/abandoned-wells-are-a-lingering-environmental-issue/article_ce929e62-fc23-11ea-94e0-5f5bd8637708.html)

That taxpayers would be involved in going into debt to fix the problems left behind by fossil fuel industries is not surprising and such has been anticipated for the last few decades. But attention is also immediately needed NOW to tackle the issues of fracking waste, contaminated waste water and storage that is causing devastating health issues. The plans needed to do so though are evasive. One would anticipate that an increase in jobs to provide oversight from the Dept of Environmental Protection and the WVDEP would be logical in attempting to tackle the

overwhelming number of problems that currently exist and to prove citations for increased industrial accountability.

A primary concern for WV will be passing the type of climate change legislation that has already been enacted in other states which compel participation to meet climate change goals and reinforce the use of renewable energy technologies. This will be essential to meet the changes that are so desperately needed in WV. The state of Virginia has already passed vigorous environmental legislation that has forced compliance by AEP which will affect power plants in WV by default to meet 100% carbon free generation by 2050. We wonder if WV can follow Virginia's lead.

Virginia Clean Economy Act passed by the Virginia legislature: HB 1526 Electric utility regulation; environmental goals. This is very impressive legislation.

<https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+HB1526>

<https://www.appalachianpower.com/info/news/viewRelease.aspx?releaseID=5908>

Citizens, lawmakers and organizations are working on so many fronts now to help birth the great changes that must be made in this decade and those to come. The LWV will be continuing the fight to curb climate change. Thank You! LWV of the Huntington Area for being a part of this important work.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATES



THE LWVUS' STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE – “The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and planet. The League believes that an international approach to combating climate change — including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources — is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem. The League supports climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations. Individuals, communities, and governments must

continue to address this issue, while considering the ramifications of their decisions, at all levels — local, state, regional, national, and global.” For more information search for the LWVUS Toolkit for Climate Change.

A WEBINAR - In January, the California, Oregon, and Washington Leagues hosted a webinar that includes a presentation by Dr Martin Keller, director of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and president of the Alliance for Sustainable Energy. Dr. Keller spoke on the state of renewable energy research and capacity in the United States, followed by a Q&A session. The Webinar covered leading edge technology, what is working now, and the prospects for the future. If you would like to access the webinar, contact Helen Gibbins, [gibbins@frontier.com](mailto:gibbins@frontier.com)

WEST VIRGINIA – The West Virginia Climate Alliance recently published “The Citizen’s Guide to Climate Change”, a publication targeted to West Virginians. The goal, according to Alliance member Perry Bryant, is not to endorse a certain climate change policy proposal, but to lay out

the basic science of what is causing climate change and some of the solutions. Nyoka Baker Chapman is the League of Women Voters of WV representative to the Alliance.

FROM A WV PUBLIC BROADCASTING INTERVIEW WITH PERRY BRYANT - "This publication was designed to begin a dialogue with the citizens of West Virginia," he said. "In order to have that dialogue, we thought it was really important for people to have a very clear understanding of what is the basic science of what's causing climate change. The guide pulls from scientific studies and the work of U.S. and international agencies including the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. According to the guide, West Virginia can expect to see more frequent and severe rainfall events, which can lead to flooding. The Mountain State is also expected to see temperatures increase by nearly 8 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century if action isn't taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

View "A Citizen's Guide to Climate Change" at <https://wvrivers.org/climate>. For a printed copy of the guide, or to comment on its content, contact Bryant at [perrybryantwv@outlook.com](mailto:perrybryantwv@outlook.com).

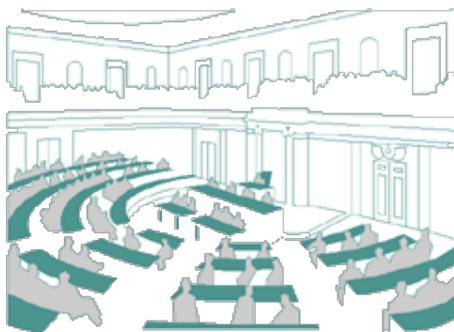
### NETFLIX TV SHOW TO STREAM



*Amend: The Fight for America.* Hosted by Will Smith, *Amend* is a new riveting Netflix 6 series show that tells the story, warts and all, of our country's fight for freedom and equality for all of our citizens. The first episode explores how escaped slaves and abolitionists fought to achieve those goals, culminating with the passage of 13th amendment (ending slavery) and the 14th amendment (guaranteeing freedom and equality for all of our

citizens.) As we know, the goals of the 14th Amendment were watered down, but it laid the foundation for freedom and equality. In the first episode "Amend" dramatizes the leading characters of the time, such as Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, and includes portions of their speeches. Even though I thought I knew most of the events leading up to the Civil War, I found in "Amend" new concepts and a better sense of the history of the time. (I did not doze off once, even though TV time is usually when I sleep the best.) Other episodes will cover freedom and equality movements throughout our history, all showing how the 14th Amendment enabled the achievement of those goals.

### GUIDE TO THE WV LEGISLATURE 2021 -- CABELL and WAYNE COUNTIES



#### **Office of Reference & Information (Legislative Services):**

**Address:** Room MB-27, Building 1, State Capitol Complex  
Charleston, 25305.

**Phone:** 877-565-3447; 304-347-4836; Fax 304-347-4901

**Website:** <http://www.wvlegislature.gov>

- Disseminates information on all facets of the legislative process
- Provides written & electronic educational materials, publications & news releases regarding actions of the Legislature.
- Can take messages from the public for WV Senators & Delegates

**LEGISLATORS SERVING CABELL AND WAYNE COUNTY RESIDENTS:**

NOTE: Address mail to the legislator's designated room number, WV State Capitol Complex, Charleston WV 25305.

**SENATE (2021):**

**President of the Senate: Craig Blair** (R - Berkeley)

E-mail: [craig.blair@wvsenate.gov](mailto:craig.blair@wvsenate.gov)

Capitol Office: Room 229M

District Address: 47 Wasser Dr., Martinsburg, WV 25403

Capitol Phone: (304) 357-7801

**Committee Assignments:** Chair: Rules. **Interim Committees:** Chair: Finance; Chair: Special Investigations; Vice Chair: Education; Dept. of Transportation Accountability; Economic Dev.; Natural Gas Dev.; Volunteer Fire Depts./Emergency Medical Services.

**5th SENATORIAL DISTRICT:**

**Robert "Bob" H. Plymale** (D - Wayne)

E-mail: [robert.plymale@wvsenate.gov](mailto:robert.plymale@wvsenate.gov)

Capitol Office: Room 218W, Building 1

District Address: 206 Cliffview Dr., Huntington, WV 25704

Phones: Capitol: (304) 357-7937; District: (304) 638-7147

**Committee Assignments:** Confirmations; Education; Finance; Health/Human Resources; Pensions; Rules; Transportation/Infrastructure. **Interim Committees:** Dept. Transportation Accountability; Education; Education Accountability; Finance; Govt./Finance; Health; Infrastructure; Pensions/Retirement.

**Senator Mike Woelfel** (D - Cabell)

E-mail: [mike.woelfel@wvsenate.gov](mailto:mike.woelfel@wvsenate.gov)

Capitol Office: Room 203W, Bldg. 1

District address: 801 8th St., Huntington, WV 25701

Phones: Capitol: (304) 357-7956; District: (304) 522-6249

**Committee Assignments:** Banking/Insurance; Economic Dev.; Enrolled Bills; Govt. Organization; Judiciary; Natural Resources. **Interim Committees:** Children/Families; Economic Dev.; Energy; Govt. Organization; Judiciary; Law Institute; PEIA/Seniors/Long Term Care; Special Investigations.

**6TH DISTRICT:**

**Senator Mark R. Maynard** (R - Wayne)

E-mail: [Mark.Maynard@wvsenate.gov](mailto:Mark.Maynard@wvsenate.gov)

Capitol Office: Room 217W, Bldg. 1

District Address: 15577 Rt. 152 Rd., Wayne WV 25570

Phones: Capitol: (304) 357-7808; District: (304) 360-6272

**Committee Assignments:** Chair: Enrolled Bills; Chair: Govt. Organization; Agriculture/Rural Dev.; Interstate Cooperation; Judiciary; Transportation/Infrastructure. **Interim Committees:** Chair: Government Operations; Chair: Government Organization; Chair: Parks/Recreation/Natural Resources Subcommittee; Agriculture/Rural Dev., Education; Forest

Management Review Commission; Health; Interstate Cooperation; Judiciary; Natural Gas Dev.; Post Audits Subcommittee; Volunteer Fire Depts./Emergency Medical Services.

**Senator Chandler Swope** (R - Mercer)

E-mail: [chandler.swope@wvsenate.gov](mailto:chandler.swope@wvsenate.gov)

Capitol Office: Room 229W, Bldg. 1

District Address: 702 Three Springs Dr., Bluefield, WV 24701

Phones: Capitol: (304) 357-7843; District: (304) 920-2460

**Committee Assignments:** Chair: Economic Dev.; Vice Chair: Govt. Organization; Vice Chair: Transportation/Infrastructure; Banking/Insurance; Energy/Industry/Mining; Finance. **Interim Committees:** Chair: Committee on Flooding; Chair: Economic Dev.; Chair: Labor/Worker Safety Issues; Chair: Workforce Investment Economic Dev; Vice Chair: Govt. Organization; Vice Chair: Infrastructure; Dept of Transportation Accountability; Energy; Finance; Govt. Operations.

#### **7TH DISTRICT:**

**Senator Rupie Phillips** (R - Logan)

E-mail: [rupie.phillips@wvsenate.gov](mailto:rupie.phillips@wvsenate.gov)

Capitol Office: Room 223W, Building 1

District Office: P.O. Box 194, Lorado, WV 25630

Capitol Phone: (304) 357-7857

**Committee Assignments:** Vice Chair: Energy/Industry/Mining; Judiciary; Natural Resources; Workforce.

**Senator Ron Stollings** (D-Boone)

E-mail: [ron.stollings@wvsenate.gov](mailto:ron.stollings@wvsenate.gov)

Capitol Office: Room 209W, Bldg. 1

District Address: P.O. Box 365, Madison, WV 25130

Phones: Capitol: (304) 357-7939; District: (304) 369-6194

**Committee Assignments:** Confirmations; Economic Dev.; Education; Finance; Health/Human Resources; Natural Resources; Rules. **Interim Committees:** Economic Dev.; Education; Finance; Health; Health/Human Resources Accountability; Intern Committee; Labor/Worker Safety Issues; Volunteer Fire Depts./Emergency Medical Services.

#### **HOUSE OF DELEGATES (2021):**

**Speaker of the House: Roger Hanshaw** (R - Clay)

E-mail: [roger.hanshaw@wvhouse.gov](mailto:roger.hanshaw@wvhouse.gov)

Capital Office Address: Room 228M, Building 1

District Address: 5035 Wallback Rd., Wallback, WV 25285

Phones: Capitol: (304) 340-3210; District: (304) 587-9947

**Committee Assignments:** Chair: House Rules; Rule Making Review. **Interim Committees:** Chair: Government/Finance; Chair: Post Audits Subcommittee; Chair: Special Investigations; Ex Officio: Rule-Making Review Committee; Water Resources.

#### **16<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT:**

**Delegate Sean J. Hornbuckle** (D - Cabell)

E-mail: [sean.hornbuckle@wvhouse.gov](mailto:sean.hornbuckle@wvhouse.gov)

Capitol Office: Room 258M, Bldg. 1

District address: P.O. Box 591, Huntington WV 25710;

Phones: Capitol: 304-340-3395, District: (304) 360-1015

**Committee Assignments:** Minority Chair: Education; Minority Vice Chair: Small Business/Economic Dev.; Finance. **Interim Committees:** Minority Chair: Education; Education Accountability; Minority Issues.

**Delegate Daniel Linville** (R - Cabell/Lincoln)

E-mail: [daniel.linville@wvhouse.gov](mailto:daniel.linville@wvhouse.gov)

Capitol Office: 216 E., Bldg. 1

District Address: P.O. Box 475, Milton, WV 25541

Phones: Capitol: (304) 340-3277

**Committee Assignments:** Chair: Technology/Infrastructure; Finance, Senior/Children/Family Issues; Small Business/Economic Dev. **Interim Committees:** Chair: Employee Suggestion Award Board; Vice Chair: Infrastructure; Finance; Regional Jail/Correctional Facility Authority; Technology.

**Delegate John Mandt, Jr.** (R - Cabell)

E-mail: [john.mandt@wvhouse.gov](mailto:john.mandt@wvhouse.gov)

Capitol Office: 228 E., Bldg. 1

District address: 2445 5th Ave., Huntington, WV 25703

Capitol Phone: (304) 340-3176

**Committee Assignments:** Vice Chair: Small Business/Economic Dev.; Energy/Manufacturing; Select Committee on Prevention/Treatment Substance Abuse; Senior/Children/Family Issues. **Interim Committees:** Judiciary; Labor/Worker Safety Issues.

#### **17th DISTRICT:**

**Delegate Chad Lovejoy** (D - Cabell)

E-mail: [chad.lovejoy@wvhouse.gov](mailto:chad.lovejoy@wvhouse.gov)

Capitol Office: Room 151R, Bldg. 1

District Address: 186 Graystone Dr., Huntington, WV 25701

Phones: Capitol: (304) 340-3280; District: (304) 638-7415

(more about Del. Lovejoy on next page)

**Committee Assignments:** Minority Chair: Judiciary; Banking/Insurance; Committee on Fire Depts./Emergency Medical Services; House Rules; Senior/Children/Family Issues. **Interim Committees:** Infrastructure; Interstate Cooperation; Judiciary; Volunteer Fire Depts./Emergency Medical Services.

**Delegate Matthew Rohrbach** (R - Cabell)

E-mail: [matthew.rohrbach@wvhouse.gov](mailto:matthew.rohrbach@wvhouse.gov)

Capitol Office: Room 215E-C, Bldg. 1

District Address: 25 Kensington Lane, Huntington WV 25705

Phones: Capitol: (304) 340-3221; District: (304) 563-9040

**Committee Assignments:** Vice Chair: Health/Human Resources; Finance; Select Committee on Prevention/Treatment of Substance Abuse; Senior/Children/Family Issues; Technology/Infrastructure. **Interim Committees:** Education; Health; Health/Human Resources Accountability; PEIA/Seniors/Long Term Care.

#### **18th DISTRICT:**

**Delegate Evan Worrell** (R - Cabell)

E-mail: [evan.worrell@wvhouse.gov](mailto:evan.worrell@wvhouse.gov)

Capitol Office: Room 476M, Bldg. 1

District Address: 652 Main St., Barboursville, WV 25504

Phones: Capitol: (304) 340-3175; District: (304) 617-1378

**Committee Assignments:** Vice Chair: Homeland Security; Agriculture/Natural Resources; Banking/Insurance; Govt. Organization; Health/Human Resources. **Interim Committees:** Children/Families; Government Organization; Health; Volunteer Fire Depts./Emergency Medical Services.

**19th DISTRICT:**

**Delegate Josh Booth** (R – Wayne)

E-mail: [joshua.booth@wvhouse.gov](mailto:joshua.booth@wvhouse.gov)

Capitol Office: Room 223E, Bldg. 1

District address: P.O. Box 908, Ceredo, WV 25507

Capitol Phone: (304) 340-3155

**Committee Assignments:** Govt. Organization; Senior/Children/Family Issues; Technology/Infrastructure.

**Delegate Ric Griffith** (D - Wayne)

E-mail: [ric.griffith@wvhouse.gov](mailto:ric.griffith@wvhouse.gov)

Capitol Office: Room 150R, Building 1

District Address: 748 Beech St., Kenova, WV 25530

Capitol Phone: (304) 340-3355

**Committee Assignments:** Minority Chair: Agriculture; Minority Vice Chair: Veterans Affairs; Education; Health/Human Resources; Political Subdivisions; Small Business/Economic Dev.

**Information prepared by the League of Women Voters, Huntington WV.**

The LWV, a nonpartisan organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to men and women.

Contacts: 304-525-7404; 304-522-0983;

LWVWV website: [www.wvlwv.org](http://www.wvlwv.org); LWVUS website: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)