

January 6, 2022 Morristown, NJ Candlelight Vigil Remarks Donna Guariglia, President LWV Morristown Area

The League of Women Voters of the Morristown Area is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Elections and voting are core concerns for the League. We are committed to providing fact-based information about issues and positions candidates take on those issues to help voters make their own decisions and participate in the electoral process. We envision a democracy where everyone has the right, the knowledge, the confidence and the opportunity to participate.

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy is our message. Defending Democracy is why we are here tonight. We have to continue the fight to protect our voting rights and end the voter suppression laws that have been put in place across our country. We need to speak the truth about what happened on January 6th 2021 and hold those accountable. Our future depends on what we do next after this dark chapter of our history.

The shared non-partisan effort on behalf of our partners and our focus on ensuring all voters have the right to choose our elected officials at all levels to represent them is the backbone of our democracy. While we continue to work hard towards making voting easier there continues behind the scenes the efforts to limit fair and free elections in our country. We must continue the fight to urge Congress and the President to pass legislation to protect our voting rights, to protect our democracy.

The Freedom to Vote Act which will protect the freedom to vote for all Americans, stop partisan gerrymandering, limit the influence of dark money so elections can't be bought, and prevent politicians from sabotaging future elections.

The Protecting Our Democracy Act – a pro democracy package for all, will create and strengthen guardrails to prevent the abuse of presidential power and restore fundamental checks and balances in our government.

The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act –restores and strengthens our freedom to vote by making sure that any changes to voting rules that could discriminate against voters based on our race or background are federally reviewed, so we all have an equal say in our future and our rights are protected.

Join us in our non-partisan efforts to get our elected officials to pass this much-needed legislation to protect our country, to defend our democracy. Join the LWVNJ in our Fair Districts in NJ process where we believe it should be impartial, transparent, and put the power in the hands of the voters. Join our LWVMA efforts to educate and empower local voters to use their voices. We provide the best voter forums and stepped up during the pandemic to continue to get the voters questions answered through virtual forums.

We stand here tonight united at this candle light vigil to honor those who fought and died on January 6th, to recognize those officials and police who stood up that day for democracy to thwart the effort to try to subvert the constitution. We can never forget the unimaginable threat our fellow citizens and elected representatives hiding in the Capitol that day experienced wondering what the outcome might be and if they would even survive. For those of us that have visited the Capitol, walked the halls, stopped in to see our elected officials it was unfathomable

to watch January 6th 2021 unfold. We need to demand those involved are held accountable and actions are taken to prevent it ever happening again.

The transfer of power throughout our history was a peaceful process. The integrity of our democracy depends on the continuation of that process. Stand up for truth and join the focus of our mission to empower voters and defend democracy!