

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS TALKING POINTS May 7, 2022

From LWVUS and LWVIN

- Abortion is still legal nationwide.
- This is a very scary time for women and all people who may become pregnant.
- For anyone who experiences pregnancy, our basic freedoms depend on our ability to control our reproductive health.
- Our reproductive choices impact our physical and psychological wellbeing, including the foods we eat, our financial resources, and our capacity to gain and maintain employment.
- Not only is the right to a safe and legal abortion a matter of personal freedom, it's also a major factor in the movements for racial and economic equality. Black women and all underserved communities already experience unfair barriers and limited access to adequate health care services.
- Protection for reproductive health decisions is a democracy issue — [and specifically, it is a DC statehood issue. Because Washington, DC, is not a state, Congress has the final say over the District's local laws. For decades, Congress has instituted laws that restrict access to reproductive health services, like abortion, within the boundaries of the District of Columbia.]
- Generations before us have fought tirelessly to gain and protect the rights we have today. We will not back down. We are in a fight to make sure everyone has the power to control their own bodies, lives, and futures.
- We deserve elected officials — at all levels of government — and judges who believe in our right to privacy and choice. We'll keep fighting in every state in the nation.
- True democracy depends on equal rights for all people. Losing our right to reproductive choice would open the door to the loss of other freedoms like marriage equality, contraception, and gender-affirming care.
- Keep the focus on the impact on women and people who can become pregnant. Focus on choice and privacy and the connection to democracy.
- Emphasize voter participation as a major tool in the toolbox to fight reproductive oppression.
- There is a lot of passion surrounding this issue; when speaking for the League, remember to be nonpartisan in your remarks.
- Lift up local reproductive groups as much as possible. They are the experts with years of activism and advocacy experience in reproductive rights.

IT IS CRITICAL THAT WE SHOW UP AND MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE.

- Join protests, rallies, and events. **The League is an ally in this fight.**

SHOWING UP AT EVENTS

- Verify the legitimacy of any event before you choose to partner or participate. Make sure it is an appropriate event for a nonpartisan organization to join.
- On May 14, reproductive justice organizations will hold events across the country with the goal of turning out 10 million people. LWVUS is partnering at the national level. [Find an event near you.](#)
- Protests and rallies are also voter education opportunities. Encourage your local Leagues to coordinate with event leaders to bring a voter registration booth if possible.
- It's appropriate for participants to wear League gear at reproductive rights rallies.
- Stay safe! Refer to our [LWVUS protest safety guidance.](#)
- If you become uncomfortable engaging with opposition protesters, connect with the organization that is leading the event.