

NEWSLETTER

ACIJ COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

Veronica Ayala



Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice

ACIJ is a grassroots coalition dedicated to upholding the rights and dignity of all individuals in Alabama.



October Civic Leader Meet and Greet

Our upcoming speaker series meeting on **Monday, October 20th** will feature **Veronica Ayala**, Community Organizer for Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice (ACIJ). Veronica will speak about ACIJ's work and how we can help our neighbors.

6 pm (doors open at 5:30)
First Baptist Church
128 E Glenn Ave, Auburn AL

Have you heard about SB 53: Alabama's New Anti-immigrant Law that went into effect 10/1/2025? Visit acij.org to learn more.



Hot Topics



The next Hot Topics meeting will be held on **Monday, October 6 at 6 pm** in Auburn. [RSVP](#) to the event to receive further details.



Volunteer Opportunities

Click [here](#) to join LWVEA members on Tuesday, Oct. 7 at **Opelika's National Night Out**, where we will have an informational voter registration table.



New Event



A Brush with Early Voting

Come paint your own "I Voted" logo and discuss Early Voting Accessibility in Alabama with special guest **AL Rep. Jeremy Gray**.
Supplies provided!

October 28th, 6 pm – 7:30 pm
Whistle Stop Bottle and Brew
830 N. Railroad Ave, Opelika, AL



September Recap

Alabama Arise Organizer Formeeca Tripp Updates LWVEA Attendees on Key Legislative Issues

Have you noticed any changes in your grocery bills? **Alabama Arise**, a statewide non-partisan policy advocacy organization, is working to eliminate Alabama's statewide grocery tax. Reduced from 4% to 3% in 2023, the state-level tax now has been further reduced to 2%, set to take effect by the end of August 2025. While it is a big win, "we're hoping to bring that number down to zero," said **Formeeca Tripp**, Alabama Arise's Senior Organizer for Southeast Alabama.

On September 15th, in this season's first installment of LWVEA's monthly **Civic Leader Meet and Greet Series**, Ms. Tripp briefed attendees on Alabama Arise's work to untax groceries, expand Medicaid coverage for Alabamians, increase children's access to food, and more. She also discussed what impacts the Trump administration's "Big Beautiful Bill" (or OBBBA) will have on these issues for Alabamians.

Medicaid

For those on Medicaid, "we do not expect anyone in Alabama to be immediately kicked off their health coverage," Ms. Tripp said, explaining that the new work requirements are unlikely to affect individuals at this time. She added, however, that "the key incentives that were created to encourage Medicaid expansion are gone, and the key tool Alabama uses to help fund our state's share of Medicaid is now severely restricted." Ms. Tripp noted that rural Alabama hospitals (of which 14 have closed since 2010 and at least 20 more are at risk) will face further financial strain under OBBBA since more uninsured patients will increase uncompensated care costs for providers.

Marketplace Health Plans

Alabama Arise projects that 130,000 Alabamians could lose coverage from Marketplace plans offered on healthcare.gov due to OBBBA's



elimination of subsidies designed to make the plans more affordable. Monthly premiums will double in 2026 for many people who use the Marketplace plans, Ms. Tripp said.

SNAP

"We do not expect anyone in Alabama to immediately lose or see reduced SNAP benefits," said Ms. Tripp. She advised SNAP recipients to continue as usual but to keep a lookout for any changes. She cautioned that as soon as the USDA issues guidance to the states, many veterans, people experiencing homelessness, and young adults aged out of foster care may have to comply with work reporting requirements.

What Can You Do?

Ms. Tripp encouraged attendees to visit www.alarise.org to become a member, locate elected officials, track legislation, and sign up for action alerts.

She also gave a shout-out to [The Alabama Channel](http://TheAlabamaChannel.com), a service of the League of Women Voters of Alabama Education Fund. Did you know you can watch Alabama legislative meetings anytime you want online? Check it out!

Submitted by
Sarah Kapp
LWVEA Board Secretary

Alabama Arise is a statewide, member-led organization advancing public policies to improve the lives of Alabamians who are marginalized by poverty. The League of Women Voters of Alabama is a member group.

September Recap

National Voter Registration Day Bonanza

In honor of National Voter Registration Day, which fell on Tuesday, September 16 this year, LWVEA held not one but THREE voter registration drive events in the Auburn/Opelika area! Volunteers registered residents to vote at Southern Union State Community College, Auburn University, and Auburn High School.

Volunteers especially enjoyed registering students at Auburn High School. While students of age had the opportunity to register, all students were invited to participate in a mock vote: *Which of the following should be enacted as a new rule for Fridays? 1) No tests; 2) Extended lunch period; or 3) Write-in option.*

Option 2 won with a plurality of the vote (42.5%). 120 students participated in the mock election!



Registering voters at Auburn University



Registering voters at Southern Union

September Hot Topics Meetup at Amsterdam

This month LWVEA members and friends met up at the Shug Jordan location of Amsterdam Cafe to discuss recent local elections and what it's like to volunteer at the polls on election day. Thank you to all who came! See you next time!

