

THE VOTER

Season's Greetings
from the LWVEA!

Are you ready for 2026?

2026 is an election year! The Alabama state primary elections will be held on **May 19**. The Auburn municipal election will be held on **Aug. 25**. The Alabama state general election will be **Nov. 3**. See the next page for additional election dates and deadlines.

Do you know your voter registration status? Check your status [here](#).

Do you need to register to vote? Or maybe you are registered, but you've moved recently? Click [here](#) to register or update your registration information with the Alabama Secretary of State.



Mark Your Calendar!

Starting February 2026: Monthly LWVEA speaker events will be held on the **2nd Monday** of each month.



**WERK
EL ELEGÍ**

Work the Legis

On **Saturday, January 24**, from 9:30 am–1 pm in Montgomery, **ACLU Alabama** will host its annual community teach-in about Alabama's legislature. Click [here](#) to learn more and RSVP.



The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act for the second time in April 2025. The SAVE Act will require citizenship documentation to register to vote even though voters in every state are already required to affirm or verify their citizenship status when registering. The Act will provide additional, unnecessary obstacles to voting.

Now, the Senate must reject this bill to prevent it from becoming law.

Contact your Alabama U.S. senator today!

View your senator contact information and call by phone.
Or send a message via the LWV platform.

Sign up for LWV Alabama action alerts!

2026 Election Dates & Deadlines

ALABAMA STATE PRIMARY ELECTION: May 19

- May 4 Voter registration deadline
- May 12 Last day to apply for an absentee ballot by mail
- May 14 Last day to apply for an absentee ballot in person
- May 18 Last day to hand-deliver absentee ballot
- May 19 Absentee ballots returned by mail must be received by noon

STATE PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION (if necessary): June 16

- May 29 Last day to hand-deliver voter registration
- June 1 Last day to postmark voter registration forms & register electronically
- June 9 Last day to apply for an absentee ballot by mail
- June 11 Last day to apply for an absentee ballot in person
- June 15 Last day to hand-deliver absentee ballot
- June 16 Absentee ballots returned by mail must be received by noon

Election info links:

[Alabama State 2026 Voter Guide](#)
[Auburn Municipal Election Dates](#)

BILL WATCH

Prefiled Bill Aims to Expand Voting Access for Disabled Alabamians

Ahead of the 2026 Alabama state legislative session, Rep. Adline Clarke (D-Mobile) has filed [HB45](#) to expand voting access for disabled Alabamians. Currently, only the voter may mail or hand in their absentee ballot to the absentee election manager themselves. **HB45 would allow a disabled person to designate an individual to deliver their ballot on their behalf.**

If you support eliminating unnecessary burdens on disabled Alabamians, the LWVEA encourages you to: 1) **Contact Rep. Bob Fincher**, Chair of the Constitution, Campaigns and Elections Committee, to encourage the Committee to put the bill up for a vote, and 2) **Contact your local state representative** to voice your support for the bill.

How would this bill help you or your loved ones? [Share your story anonymously with us.](#)

Local media coverage of the bill is available [here](#).

Alabama's legislative session for 2026 will begin on **January 13**.



Looking Ahead to 2026

Fireside Chat Current and Former LWVEA Presidents Reflect on 2025 and Discuss 2026

The LWVEA newsletter staff sat down with current LWVEA President **Kim White** (pictured, right) and former LWVEA President **Elizabeth Kane Noel** (left) to discuss what brought them to the LWV, their favorite activities of 2025, and what 2026 has in store for the LWVEA.

What brought you to the League?

EKN: I moved to Auburn for my husband's job, and people in his department immediately encouraged me to join the League when they found out that I worked in elections! I joined in 2021, and by 2022, was elected to the Board.

KW: I was searching for a way to get civically involved, and the League was the search result that caught my eye. I came to the Holiday Social at Zazu in 2012 or 2013, met some wonderful Leaguers, and the rest is history!

What's your favorite part about being a LWV member?

KW: I love the opportunities to learn about important topics from smart people. It's also rewarding when friends and co-workers ask me about voting because "Kim is really into voting." :)

EKN: Not being a native to Alabama, I have found that the League has been a really great way to both find out about current events & local issues, and learn about the area's history from our members.

What were some of your favorite, or most impactful, LWVEA activities in 2025?

EKN: I was so proud of our members and friends that stepped up to help with the LWV State Convention we held in May. From a really informative trip to the AU Archives, to lovely receptions at the Collegiate Hotel and Well Red, East Alabama showed our colleagues from across the state the best our area has to offer!



KW: This isn't an "activity" per se, but I think having such a strong slate of directors has been really impactful. We have board members with different strengths and skills, and I think we work together well. If you need more of an activity: the State Convention—it was so great to meet National LWV President Dianna Wynn and to see friends from across the state.

What was a memorable 2025 speaker event LWVEA hosted?

KW: It's hard to choose! I learned a lot about Alabama Arise's good work when Formeeca Tripp spoke to us in September. It's inspiring to see the positive change that Alabamians can bring about when they work together.

EKN: I loved the presentation at our Annual Meeting by AU professor Dr. Melissa Estes Blair about women's role in electoral politics in the 20th century. She was a very engaging speaker and sang the praises of the LWV and its historic role in fighting for voting accessibility.

What will the LWVEA be up to in 2026?

EKN: I am so excited by the energy this Board is bringing to the organization, and it seems we have no shortage of ideas for great and informative programs in 2026, including but not limited to: environmental and climate justice, intellectual freedom, and civil liberties protection. The 2026 election cycle will also provide a lot of opportunities for our members to be involved and informed.

KW: Things will be hopping for the state elections and the Auburn municipal elections! I'll go ahead and put out a plea for members to help us get the word out.

November Recap

Lost Opportunities Alabama Sidelines Lucrative Solar Opportunities for Methane

On November 17, **Sheree Martin**, Deputy Director and General Counsel of **Energy Alabama**, joined LWVEA members and friends to discuss the energy landscape in Alabama, how the state loses out on millions of dollars in revenue by not investing in solar, and why a proposed pipeline project that will run near the Auburn/Opelika area will be bad for residents.

Alabama Is Turning away from Coal but not Toward Clean Energy

Alabama's energy landscape offers both good and bad news. The good news is that the state has sharply reduced its reliance on coal: from 2013 to 2023, coal went from constituting 31.3% of Alabama's total electricity generation to 13.8%, lowering it from 1st place to 3rd among Alabama's power sources. Despite renewed federal support for coal, Sheree Martin does not expect it to rebound. "To be honest, it's not economical, and I don't think we're going to see an increase in the use of coal for electricity generation here in Alabama," she said.

Alabama's leading electricity sources are now methane gas at 44.3% and nuclear power at 32.7%, according to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Hydroelectric power makes up another 6%.

This brings us to the bad news: solar and wind account for less than 1% of electricity generation in Alabama. And while gas may be "cleaner" than



coal, it still poses risks to the environment, public safety, and Alabamians' pocket books.

The Problem with Gas

"Methane gas is a problematic fuel source for electricity generation, because the price is global and it fluctuates," said Sheree Martin. "When the Ukraine war started, methane gas prices went up globally, and our electric bills went up, because we have to pay the fuel costs." In addition, gas pipelines and compressor stations leak emissions, thereby impacting air, water, and soil quality for residents and contributing to global warming. Pipelines are also susceptible to explosions, which can damage land, livestock, and homes.

Alabama's Costly Rejection of Solar

Energy Alabama commissioned a study that compares Alabama with nearby southeastern states in terms of utility scale solar development and economic impact. Among Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and North Carolina, Alabama ranks last in new solar projects. While these peer states have added hundreds of jobs and reaped in millions of dollars in state and local tax revenue from solar construction and operation, Alabama has declined such opportunities.

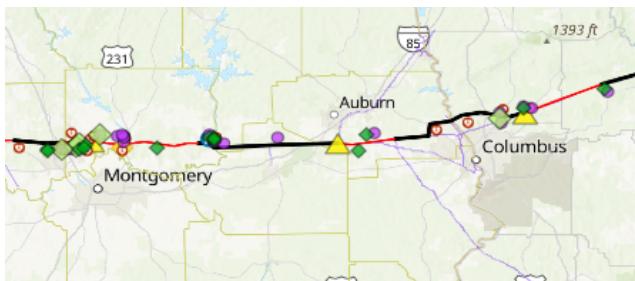
Many rural communities oppose solar development over concerns about losing farmland. Yet in Tennessee, a state-commissioned land-use study found that subdivisions and shopping centers—not solar facilities—are the primary drivers of land loss, Sheree Martin noted. A land-use study in Arkansas, released earlier this year, found similar results.

South System Expansion 4 Pipeline Project (SSE4)

The proposed SSE4 pipeline expansion, which will transport methane gas from west Texas to Alabama and into Georgia, is not good news. If approved, the project's most likely outcome is an increase in the use



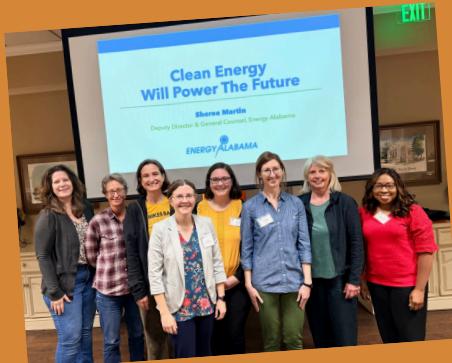
of methane gas for electricity generation in Alabama and Georgia—which will lead to higher electric bills for most Alabama ratepayers. It will also further enable an increase in liquified natural gas (LNG) exports through terminals on the Atlantic coast that serve Europe and Africa. Although the public comment period has closed, the project still requires review from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Energy Alabama opposes the SSE4 expansion and is working with allied organizations, including the Alabama Rivers Alliance, Black Belt Women Rising, and the Southern Environmental Law Center, to stop FERC from issuing a permit.



SSE4 Proposed Expansion Through Alabama

November and December in Pictures

November
Speaker
Series
Featuring
Sheree
Martin of
Energy
Alabama



With this project, Alabama will deepen its reliance on a fuel that is both environmentally harmful and economically unstable. "While methane prices have come down from the highest prices, and supplies are currently sufficient to meet demand, the price of gas is volatile and set by global markets based on many factors," said Sheree Martin. "Aside from the environmental concerns, gas prices can spike at any time in the near term. But within 3–5 years, it's likely that we will see significant increases in the cost of gas and the electricity generated by gas."

Take Action

"It's not too late to fight it," said Sheree Martin. "But it's a hard road." If you would like to join the movement, visit Energy Alabama's [website](#). Additional information about the pipeline from Energy Alabama's partner organizations is available [here](#) and [here](#).

Submitted by
Sarah Kapp
LWVEA Board Secretary

Energy Alabama is a nonprofit membership-based organization advancing Alabama's clean energy future through education and advocacy since 2014.



December Holiday Gathering

