

Keeping On Keeping On — Most Important When It's Hardest

Yes, woe is us, but all is not lost, at least, not quite everything. We've been swept backward; we're stunned and sad. It's only a small step to cynicism and defeat.

But **inaction is not an option.**

Fellow activists are challenging us with slogans like [Joe Hill's "Don't mourn. Organize"](#) or from Faith Leaders, "[Focus on justice, compassion, and healing.](#)" [Toni Morrison](#) inspires us to look for what we can learn from the current chaos.

If nothing else, we must work to keep in touch with each other and our bases of moral support.

So, **first, vent.** Do you need to pound on a piano? go for a run? bake 10 loaves of bread? Now is the time to do it.

Then pivot. Our tasks are the same as before this election — just much harder. With the Oval Office, Congress, and Supreme Court out of reach, is there a still a path forward — for Health Care Reform?

The [ACLU thinks](#) there is and offers a drumbeat for us to follow in this [full-page ad in the NYTimes](#):

Dear President-elect,

In case you had any doubt, **we are not moving to Canada.** When you target immigrants, dissidents, and your political opponents, we will challenge you every step of the way:

- in the courts,
- in the states, and
- in the streets.

For the courts, the ACLU says it will continue to litigate. They brought 428 legal actions in Trump's first term and were often successful, even in courts presided over by judges he appointed. Even at the extreme Supreme Court, the ACLU won more cases than they lost.

For the streets, [ACLU calls for People Power](#), keeping up the pressure by turning out and showing up. However, the President-elect's talk of using the

[military against the "enemy within"](#) is bone-chilling. Still, we shouldn't cede the streets without at least testing them. If our worst fears are true, we can look

for places under the radar to show solidarity: perhaps standing out at intersections or showing up for strikers. We can model kindness publicly, and do small acts of justice everyday.

The [ACLU's call to act within states](#), and even regional healthcare initiatives, especially feels within

our capacity. We can support what ACLU calls the "[firewall](#)," familiar to us as protection against federal overreach when states adopted laws or amended their constitutions to protect abortion within their borders. We can support our state Attorneys General, [red](#) and [blue](#), to monitor or deny private equity takeovers of healthcare facilities within their states. Plus, we can support [governors who are already banding](#) together to protect progressive agendas.

We may also see more exciting openings for **community control of health care policy and facilities** here and there across the country. In MA, five of the seven hospitals closed by the disastrous bankruptcy of private equity firm Steward have been [moved to non-profit operations](#), including one taken by eminent domain and added to the state's existing network of community hospitals. In CA, [residents of two counties organized to rescue a hospital](#) in the process of being closed by a private equity firm. They raised funds to relaunch the facility as a community-owned, nonprofit operation. Similarly, in WA, activists (like HCR4US stalwart Alan Unell) are exploring ways — perhaps using the existing [Public Hospital District infrastructure](#)--to build up secular healthcare and tamp down the restrictions and risks that [religious organizations have put on reproductive rights](#) under the mantle of religious freedom.

If we look, **THERE IS MUCH WE CAN and MUST DO** within our states, if we can only muster the will to keep on keeping on. *(submitted by Barbara Pearson)*



NEXT HCR4US MEETING
Sunday, November 24
8:00 p.m. ET

Register at
<https://tinyurl.com/HCR-IG-Nov2024>



TENTATIVE AGENDA:

Intros for New Attendees — Announcements
Legislative Actions — State Reports
Newsletter — Break-out Sessions

In Case You Missed It

Nov. 13 National Single Payer hosted "**20 Years of Failing System Report Cards and 15 Years after the Affordable Care Act: Why Are We Still Here?**" Dr. Margaret Flowers discusses true health care reform: a bold, beautiful, national, single payer health care system free from profit-seekers, where everybody is in, and nobody is left out.

Nov 16 PNHP's Annual Meeting Key-note Speaker Rep Pramilla Jayapal "**Where Does Our Movement Go From Here?**" Outline [here](#).

Upcoming



Nov 24 1:00 p.m. ET via Zoom LWV Alachua County hosts Dr. Ed Weisbart "Demystifying Medicare" Register [here](#).

Nov 28 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Dec. 10 8:00 p.m. US Community Health Care.Net hosts "**Michelle Famula, MD and the Health and Wellness Community Clinic Model**" Register [here](#).



Websites

HCR4US Youtube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/LWVHealthCareReform>

HCR4US Web-Contact Form:

tinyurl.com/Contact-LWV-HCR-4US

HCR4US Google Drive:

<https://tinyurl.com/HCR4US-Minutes-etc>

HCR4US Toolkit:

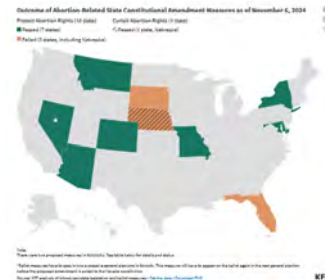
<https://lwvhealthcarereform.org>

HCR4US : Dedicated to educating and mobilizing League members to work toward legislation that enacts the goals of our LWVUS health care position

Newsletter Committee: Barbara Pearson, Jon Li, Candy Birch,

Many Trump Voters Want Abortion Rights

After the 2022 Dobbs decision nullified national assurances of reproductive freedom up to 24 weeks, a dozen state legislatures were quick to write abortion bans into law. To make their control binding, they [criminalized the woman's choice](#) and physician's evidence-based opinions in the matter.



Women and their allies' distress was immediate and strong. Since 2022, [6 red, purple, and blue states](#) put the question to the people, who all affirmed a woman's right to choose in statewide constitutional ballot amendments. Four (CA, VT, MI, and OH), approved protecting abortion; two (KS and KY) failed to restrict abortion.

Many voters looked to the **presidential election as an implicit referendum** on abortion rights. One major candidate had a long history of defending reproductive rights, while the other took credit for eliminating Constitutional guarantees and tossing them back to the states. The outcome of the contest between them would repudiate restrictions on women's autonomy, or cement them.

In addition, [abortion was explicitly on the ballot in 10 states](#). In nine of them, the majority of voters favored preserving a woman's right to choose. [The outlier was SD](#): citizens had voted down abortion bans in 2006 and 2008, but now, 58% voted for it.

Of the seven states that expanded abortion rights and put them into their constitution, 3 favorable votes followed party lines (CO, MD, and NY). By contrast, in 4 red states. Arizona passed its initiative with 62%, Missouri 52%, Montana 58%, and Nevada 64%. We include Florida in the "favorable" column: because their 57% would have passed in any other state. We include Nebraska, too, because [dirty tricks on the abortion-restriction side](#) depressed [pro-choice support](#) to 49+%, still 10 points higher than the pro-choice champion.

These [6 red states highlight the irony](#) in this election. There were more pro-choice votes than there are independents and progressives in the electorate--so basic arithmetic tells us an average of 14% of pro-choice voters voted for the candidate who took away choice. Go figure. (submitted by Barbara Pearson and Candy Birch)

Better Health Outcomes with Community Clinics

The US hospital-oriented health insurance can't compare with Europe's primary care community clinic emphasis: better health outcomes, longer lives, manageable and lower costs, and consumer and provider satisfaction.

Primary care physician **Dr. Michelle Famula** will offer her insights about how to improve health care in with preventive health education and primary care.

Join the **US Community Health.Net** discussion, Tuesday, December 10, at 8:00 p.m. ET on Zoom. Register [here](#). (submitted by Jon Li)