



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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www.ccsjwv.org

UPDATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2026

MISSION STATEMENT: The Community Coalition for Social Justice is a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting the principles of social, environmental, and economic justice and respect for all persons. We oppose discrimination and hate-motivated violence in Morgantown and surrounding communities.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026, AT 7:30 P.M. ON ZOOM. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Bob Cohen, a member of the Morgantown Civilian Police Review and Advisory Board, will update us on its work. CCSJ advocated for the creation of this board and nominated Rachel Fetty Anderson as a member.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88996412958?pwd=dPeEwiD3k8E157kMKOYmdk0fNoU1Oa.1>

Meeting ID: 889 9641 2958

Passcode: 909559

One tap mobile

+13017158592, 88996412958#, *909559# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968, 88996412958#, *909559# US

Join instructions

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/88996412958/invitations?signature=Fqefnl_5sHJmz7UvM1h_17JhL0eEl1USdoeRebtgOfs

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY RECAP: Thank you to all who attended. If you missed the event or want to watch it again, it is on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/HuCjxvcoGk>. This year's theme was "Lift Every Voice and Vote!" Barb Howe presented "The Road to the Vote," chronicling voting rights from 1776 to 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. She also provided information about deadlines and ballot

choices for the May primary, with assistance from Alea Robins, voter services manager at the Monongalia County Clerk's Office. Jessica Nelson represented the League of Women Voters-Morgantown/Monongalia County with information about voting access for individuals in long-term care facilities, caretakers, and students, including an emphasis on absentee voting. This is a big but little-known issue affecting hundreds of voters in Monongalia County and thousands throughout West Virginia. Delegate Anitra Hamilton, past president of the Morgantown - Kingwood Branch of the NAACP, represented the branch and focused on the importance of voting because every vote counts as it impacts our communities and our state.

Executive committee member of Fair Districts PA (FDPA), Tony Crocarno, discussed "Lobby Legislators on Any Issue: A Non-confrontational, Team-approach to Citizen Advocacy." The handouts he mentioned for a lobby visit roadmap and lobby visit purpose and contact list are available on our website at <https://ccsjwv.org/ccsj-news.html#MLKDay>.

Morgantown musicians Chris Haddox and the Osage Soul & Gospel Choir featuring Al Anderson and Aristotle Jones provided the music. In addition, Al's solo is a tradition of our programs.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the program and, especially, to Jascenna Haislet, executive director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WVU (OLLI), who hosted the Zoom for us and publicized it through OLLI.

CCSJ EXHIBIT ON VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965 AT MORGANTOWN HISTORY MUSEUM: This 3-panel exhibit focused on the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is at the Morgantown History Museum through February 23. The museum is at 175 Kirk Street in downtown Morgantown and is open Wednesday-Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is open Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6:00 p.m. It is closed on all major holidays. The phone number is 304-319-180. The website is morgantownhistorymuseum.org, and the email is morgantownwvhistory@morgantownwv.gov.

... **AND AT BLACK POLICY DAY:** Eve Faulkes plans to take this 3-panel exhibit to Charleston for Black Policy Day at the capitol on Saturday, February 24.



If you wish to exhibit the original 6-panel exhibit on the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or the Voting Rights version, please contact Eve Faulkes at faulkeseve@gmail.com, who designed both exhibits. Both exhibits “travel” in the back of her car. We also have half-size posters of the six panels of the 1964 Civil Rights Act to show in smaller spaces.

NEW SOUTH MEDIA, INC. HOSTING JUNE 23RD BOOK CLUB MEETING FEATURING OUR BOOK: New South Media, publishers of *WV Virginia Living* and *Wonderful West Virginia*, among other magazines, is purchasing copies of our book for the June 23, 2026, session of its “Book of the Month” meeting from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. EDT. Eve Faulkes, who compiled and illustrated the book, plans to attend, as does Joan Browning, one of the storytellers who is a Freedom Rider.

You can get information about the Book Club at <https://wvliving.com/bookclub/> and register for the June meeting at <https://304tix.com/events/west-virginians-experiences-in-civil-rightsa-wv-living-book-club-discussion-event-6-23-2026>. You can choose to attend in person for \$12.24, including food and beverages, or attend on Zoom at no cost. If you wish to purchase a copy of the book, you can do so after you register for \$20, including shipping. We expect that the books will be available by mid-March for those who wish to pick up a copy in person at New South Media’s office, next to The F.A.R.M., which is at 1179 Main Street in Granville, WV. Please call 304-413-0104 or email Natalie Webb at info@newsouthmedia.com to arrange a time frame for sale and pickup. Payment may only be made by credit card.

WEST VIRGINIANS’ EXPERIENCES IN CIVIL RIGHTS: HOW WE HAVE BEEN CONNECTED ALL ALONG!, our graphic novel, is available at:

Appalachian Gallery, 270 Walnut Street, Morgantown. The phone number is 304-296-0163.

Barnes & Noble, 3000 University Town Centre Dr., Morgantown. phone: 304-599-1294.

Terra Cafe, 4325 Industrial Avenue, Star City. phone: 304-554-2233.

The book also is available on Amazon as both paperback (\$15) and Kindle (\$8) versions. The easiest way to find it is to type “Eve Faulkes” in the Amazon search engine.

If you buy the book on Amazon, you may be able to leave a review. Go to Amazon.com, search for Eve Faulkes to bring up the book title. Then go to the bottom of the page where it says “Review this product” in the lower left corner for the guidelines.

PRAISE FOR GRAPHIC NOVEL: Our first national press for the book came in the November 2025 issue of the *Journal of Southern History*, the journal of the Southern Historical Association. The author of the Book Note provides a general overview of the book and concludes that “The book conveys complex historical material to a larger public in a beautiful way.”



We still have a few copies of this printing for libraries, museums, schools, and related organizations.

It is important to note that “*This project [our reprint] is presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Humanities Council, the official state affiliate of the National Endowment for the*”

Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations do not necessarily represent those of the West Virginia Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.”

CONTACT US: Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield at mdattfieldo@gmail.com. Please contact any of the steering committee members to volunteer to help and to share your suggestions for our work or e-mail us at ccsjwv@gmail.com. Please send items to share with our membership to Barb Howe at barbarahowe3@gmail.com.

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR DUES - \$10 for individuals and \$25 for organizations – to CCSJ, PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160. You can join or donate by credit card via PayPal on our web site.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK! Just look for “Community Coalition for Social Justice” under “Groups” and become our friend. Thanks to Mike Sharley for being our group “leader.”

LOCAL NEWS



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting should be Thursday, Thursday, February 19th, at 6:30 p.m. Contact information for the commission and information on filing complaint forms is at www.morgantownwv.gov/272/Human-Rights-Commission.

You can get copies of the agendas and minutes for the commission meetings at www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/human-rights-commission/human-rights-commission-agenda-minutes/.

New Commission Members: The Morgantown City Council made three appointments to the commission at its January 20th meeting, but the names are not yet posted on the website.

Here are events for February from

<https://www.morgantownwv.gov/DocumentCenter/View/396/Calendar-of-Annual-Human-Rights-Observances-PDF/>

Black History Month – Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.

February 1-7: World Interfaith Harmony Week

February 14: Race Relations Day – A day designated by the National Council of Churches in recognition of the importance of interracial relations and learning.

February 15: Susan B. Anthony Day - Birthday of Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906), a pioneer in the Women’s Rights Movement.

February 20: World Day of Social Justice – Recognition of the imperative for tackling issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MORGANTOWN-MONONGALIA COUNTY (LWV-MM). Thanks to Cynthia Nelson, the secretary of the LWV-MM, for this report:

The WV Legislature is in session. Our LWV-WV LLAW team is watching attentively and will be alerting citizens to be aware of bills introduced that are in opposition to, or in support of League priorities. Please watch our “Make Some Noise” campaign alerts in your email if you are a member, <https://lwvvv.org/category/league-of-women-votes-of-wv/action-alerts/>, or on League of Women Voters of West Virginia facebook page. When legislation is introduced that impacts your concerns, the best time to contact your representative is immediately.

The League of Women Voters of the United States issued the following statement in response to the continued escalation of federal military activity in Minnesota from federal immigration officials: “The League of Women Voters condemns the escalating actions by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that put people at risk, deny individuals their constitutional rights, and undermine the democratic values meant to protect us all.

“We are horrified by federal immigration enforcement operations that deliberately infringe upon First Amendment rights to assemble and dissent. The use of intimidation, surveillance, and deadly force against lawful protestors is not public safety—it is repression. The use of lethal force against people exercising their constitutional rights is unacceptable and must be fully investigated. These fatalities, followed by false narratives designed to obscure the truth and impede oversight, represent a historic abuse of power we’ve never seen as a country. Democracy cannot endure when its government uses violence to silence dissent and evade accountability.

“The League of Women Voters reaffirms that the rights outlined in the Constitution belong to all people, without exception. We will not accept policies or practices that suppress civic participation, weaponize enforcement, or undermine fundamental rights and human dignity.”

With the candidate filing deadline of January 31, 2026, our Vote 411 team is springing into action to upload candidate information and obtain candidate profile information from each candidate. If a candidate in your district is not providing the information requested to inform voters of their priorities, then feel free to ask them why they are not participating in the important voter education resource. You do not have to be a League member to use vote411.org.

The LWV of Morgantown-Monongalia County invites everyone to subscribe to LWV-MM’s Substack <https://lwvmorgantown.substack.com>. A subscription gets you automatic updates. And it’s free.

Follow the League on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LWVMM and contact them by email at lwvmorgantown@gmail.com. You can join the League of Women Voters at tinyurl.com/join-lwvmm.

The next monthly board meeting will be via Zoom on Thursday February 19, 2026 at 6:30pm.

We encourage all members to participate in the monthly meetings!

The Morgantown/Monongalia County League has been a member organization of CCSJ.



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER MEETS FEBRUARY 10TH:

“Join us in February as we listen to former Mayor and House of Delegates member, Charlene Marshall, tell us about what life was like growing up in West Virginia. This talk will be specifically focused on her work life as a black woman before, through the Civil Rights movement, and beyond.”



The Friends Meeting House is located at 648 E. Brockway, Morgantown.

Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/ or email at morgantownnow@gmail.com.

NAACP

MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH. This meeting of the membership will be at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact the NAACP at 3241naacp@gmail.com for more information and to learn how to participate.

The branch has a Readings on Race and Rights group and does its work with a variety of committees, including Education, Political Action, Legal Redress, Criminal Justice, and Health.

Follow the NAACP on Facebook at www.facebook.com/naacp3241/?ref=page_internal.



MORGANTOWN CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD NEEDS ONE MEMBER: The City of Morgantown is currently accepting applications for the one vacancy on the board, and you can get a link to the application and more information by going to morgantownwv.gov/640/Civilian-Police-Review-and-Advisory-Boar. “The Board shall consist of nine members appointed by City Council. Each member shall be a

resident of the city or an active member of an organization that works within the city to promote purposes consistent with the purpose of the Board.”

The board meets the second Tuesday of each month at noon at the Morgantown Public Safety Building conference room. For links to agendas and minutes of past meetings, go to www.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter/Civilian-Police-Review-Advisory-Board-47.



MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN-MENNONITE: Do you miss traditional sourdough buckwheat cakes? Come to Morgantown Church of the Brethren February 7 between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. and enjoy them with us. This is not a fund raiser, and tickets aren’t needed. The cakes we don’t eat will go to the Community Kitchen.

Sunday School is at 10:00 a.m. Services are in person or on Zoom at 10:30. All are welcome to stay for a potluck in the church fellowship hall after the service. For Zoom instructions, please go to <https://www.morgantowncob.org/>.

The church has a Blessings Box outside the church at 464 Virginia Avenue, Morgantown, where you can drop off extra food you may have or take some if you need it, or swap food. Feminine hygiene products are also welcome.

The church is a member organization of CCSJ.

MONONGALIA FRIENDS MEETING: First Day meetings are at 11:00 a.m. at 648 E. Brockway, Morgantown. Contact them at monquakers@gmail.com.

Monongalia Friends Meeting is a member organization of CCSJ.



DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER “IS ON HIATUS.”



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MORGANTOWN: The church is located at 456 Spruce Street. Adult Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. Online worship is at 10:00 a.m., and in-person worship is at 11:00 a.m. The church’s Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/FPCMorgantown and has details about the many activities. The church has been a member organization of CCSJ.

It is a value of First Presbyterian Church that when we gather, we welcome one another just as God loves us, without any conditions.

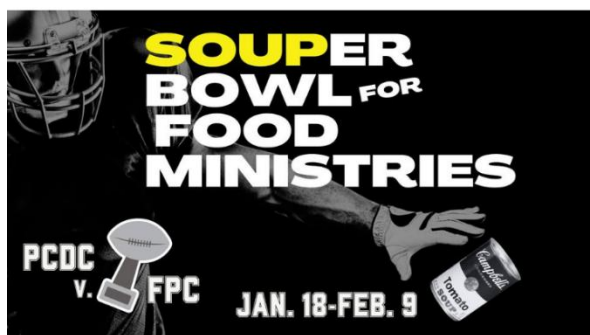
No matter who you are or where you’re from

No matter where you live or work

No matter your family of origin or ethnicity

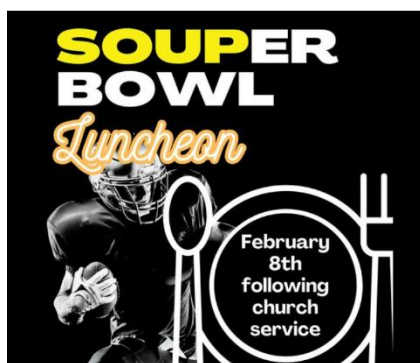
No matter who you love or how you identify, or wherever you are on your spiritual journey

We welcome you just as God loves you, without any conditions.



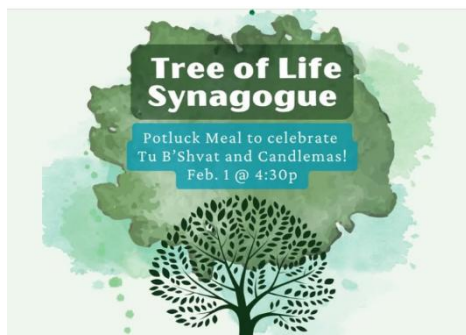
Souper Bowl Food Drive

It is time for our annual Souper Bowl Food Drive! We will be collecting canned, ready to eat food for our blessing boxes and local Food Pantries to help them restock after the holidays. Canned soups and vegetables are especially helpful (easy open cans preferred). We will collect food from January 18 - February 8 in the Entryway, and will be competing with PCDC!!



We will celebrate with a Deacons Lunch on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 8 after worship. Deacons Souper Bowl Luncheon - Feb. 8. Come celebrate the conclusion of our food drive with a Deacons potluck Luncheon on Feb. 8 following worship and the congregational meeting.

TU B'SHVAT & CANDLEMAS POTLUCK W/ TREE OF LIFE SYNAGOGUE – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST AT 4:30 P.M.



We are joining with Tree of Life Synagogue for a joint celebration of holidays in the Jewish and Christian traditions - Tu B'Shvat (Jewish New Year of Trees) and Candlemas (Feast Day of Jesus Presented at Temple). All ages are welcome. The potluck meal will be held at Tree of Life Synagogue (242 S. High St.). Please bring a VEGETARIAN dish to share! **THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELED UNTIL A LATER DATE.**



FAIRMONT PRIDE MEETS FEBRUARY 17TH: This public business meeting is from 6:00 to 10:30 p.m. at the Frank and Jane West Virginia Folklife Center. "Open to the public but only members may vote in business. Bring a friend, allies welcome!" If you wish to join virtually, message the co-hosts from the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fairmontpride. The email is fairmontpride.com. The Facebook page also has the dates and times for meetings for the rest of 2026.



MORGANTOWN PRIDE: Morgantown Pride has an Instagram page at www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en. Follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride.

"We're excited to announce the contestant packet for the Morgantown Pride Pageant is now available!

Follow the link (<https://drive.google.com/.../1jmQgV36Kj3KD1TRmRhvDBJq...>) or scan the QR code on the poster to download your contestant packet and learn more about eligibility, requirements, and next steps. (SEE PDF)

In addition to the pageant packet, please click and fill out the interest form also located in the folder.

We can't wait to see you take the stage and make Morgantown Pride history.

#pridetribeMorgantown #morgantownwvpride #YallBelongHere

Date: March 28th, 2026 @ 6pm

Location: Babylon Nightclub, 335 High St., Morgantown, WV 26505

Registration: 2pm- 3:30pm"



PROJECT RAINBOW: Follow this group on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/projectrainbowwv

or on the web at www.projectrainbowwv.com. This Facebook posting is dated January 13, so it is not clear if it is still current, but you can go there for the

referenced form:

"As we bring in the New Year, Project Rainbow is recruiting new members for our Board of Directors! We're looking for people who believe in community-centered responses to homelessness rooted in dignity and care, and who want to help support and shape the future of Rainbow House and our growing

outreach work. If you're interested in lending your skills to these efforts, we'd love to hear from you—please fill out the interest form below."



MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (MCCAC). Follow this group at moncocac.org/news/ or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MONCOCAC.



Stone Tower Brews is at 3345 University Ave., suite 1, Morgantown. Ticket information is available on the Facebook page.

Lights. Glamour. Vegas.

Vegas is calling... and so is Girls' Night Out 2026! This year's theme is Lights. Glamour. Vegas. — and we can't wait to bring the glitz, sparkle, and unforgettable fun of the Boulevard right here to Morgantown.

Tickets will be available soon – grab your girlfriends and get ready for:

- Show-stopping style & Vegas vibes
- Entertainment, auctions, and surprises
- A night out that gives back to children in our community

Save the Date: Saturday, May 30th

Location: The Erickson Alumni Center

[Facebook Event Page](#)

SAVE THE DATE

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT 2026
LIGHTS. GLAMOUR. VEGAS.
Saturday, May 30th

OSAGE GOSPEL AND SOUL COMMUNITY CHOIR: The next meetings should be Monday, February 23rd at the Ferry House at 6:00 p.m.

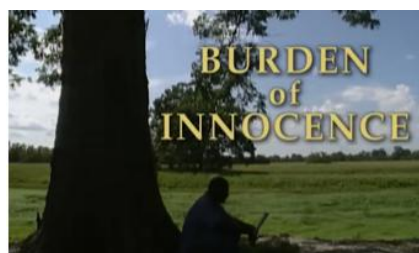


Morgantown WV Mutual Aid

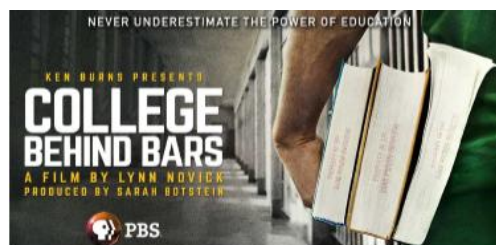
MORGANTOWN MUTUAL AID: Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/search/top?q=morgantown%20mutual%20aid.



WVU HUMAN RIGHTS FILM SERIES SPRING 2026 DOCUMENTARY FILM SCHEDULE: These film screenings and panel discussions are free and open to the public. The programs will be in Room G 21 Ming Hsieh Hall (behind Oglebay Hall) on the downtown WU campus.



Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 6:00-8:00 p.m.: "The Burden of Innocence." Film screening & panel discussion with WV Innocence Project, WVU College of Law, led by Professor Melissa Giggenbach. The event includes presentations by exonerees Debra Milke, who was on Arizona's death row, and Tony Walton, wrongfully convicted of armed robbery in Fayette County, WV.



Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 6:00-8:00 p.m.: "College Behind Bars": Film screening, panel discussion, & book signing with WVU's Center for Prison Education and Research in Appalachia. The event is led by Dr. Katy Ryan, founder of the Appalachian Prison Book Project (APBP) and WV Higher Education in Prison Program (HEPI), and WVU doctoral student Danielle Stromberg, APBP prison Outreach Coordinator and HEPI Assistant Education Coordinator. The

panelists are Darryl Byers-Robinson (formerly incarcerated and featured in the film), a graduate of Bard College, and Celeste Blair, a poet and artist recently released from federal prison.

The series is made possible by the WVU Community Human Rights Film Fund, established by Morgantown residents Don Spencer and the late Carol Howe Hamblen, and is overseen by the WVU Native American Studies Program.

EMPTY BOWLS ANNUAL LUNCHEON IS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH: Our Mission- Through education and continued community involvement, Empty Bowls Monongalia will provide resources and broker assistance to Monongalia County agencies supporting individuals and families threatened by food insecurity. For more information, please go to <https://www.ebmon.org/>.



<https://app.panotix.com/e/annual-soup-luncheon-2026>



Sign up to volunteer at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FAAAC2FA7FFC43-61337016-2026#/>

STATEWIDE NEWS

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE SESSION IS UNDERWAY. CCSJ is a non-partisan organization. Please note that events can move very quickly once the session starts – or start quickly and then stall – or never move at all. Check any of the statewide groups included below or other social justice and environmental justice groups to keep up with their issues and learn who to contact when. Follow the groups on Facebook or with email alerts if you are a member.

You can track bills at https://www.wvlegislature.gov/bill_status/bill_status.cfm.

Find your legislators at <https://www.wvlegislature.gov/>. You can also track bills from this site.

The session will end at midnight on Saturday, March 14th.

ELECTION SEASON IS STARTING: For information on everything you need to know about registering, voting, or running for office, go to <https://sos.wv.gov/elections/Pages/default.aspx>. You can register now for an absentee ballot. Pay attention to deadlines and, if necessary, go to the post office to be sure something is postmarked on time.



WEST VIRGINIA NOW: For more information, go to www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow or email Amanda Ray, the state NOW president, at amandajray@yahoo.com.

Kanawha Valley: KVNOW meets on the 4th Thursday of every month at the Public Library. Follow them on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068111934197>.

Huntington NOW: Follow them on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564175287992>.

FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA: Follow Fairness West Virginia on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fairnesswv.



ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES: Follow this group at www.acluww.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ACLUWV. This is a very active Facebook page so please check it for current issues and actions.



“Our 2026 bill tracker is now live! Every year, ACLU-WV tracks hundreds of pieces of proposed legislation impacting our civil liberties. We're adding new bills every day, so bookmark the page today and continue to watch this space.” The easiest way to find it is to go to

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1318604623635652&set=a.356400379856086> and click on the

link in the window to the right. At “press time,” it looks like they are tracking 167 bills, and you can see if the ACLU supports or opposes a bill, is neutral-monitoring it, or think it needs amendments.



RAINBOW PRIDE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Follow this group at www.facebook.com/RainbowPrideWV or rainbowpridewv.org.



WEST VIRGINIA TRANS COALITION: Follow this group at www.facebook.com/wvtranscoalition/.

FEBRUARY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CALENDAR

<https://www.diversityresources.com/diversity-calendar-2026/>

February recognizes Black History Month, celebrating the achievements, history, and impact of Black Americans. The month includes cultural, religious, and health-related observances.

February 1–7 – [UN: World Interfaith Harmony Week](#): Encourages respect and cooperation between people of different faiths.

February 2 – [Pagan and Wiccan: Imbolc](#): Marks the early signs of spring and is associated with the goddess Brigid.

February 4 – [World Cancer Day](#): Raises awareness about cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment.

February 15 – [Hindu: Maha Shivaratri](#): Major Hindu festival honoring Lord Shiva with night-long prayers and fasting.

February 18 – [Islamic: Ramadan begins*](#): In many countries, Ramadan in 2026 is expected to begin around this date, marking a month of fasting, prayer, and reflection; the exact start varies by local moon sighting.

February Awareness Months

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month: February is a time to raise awareness about teen dating violence. This month, learn more about trends of violence and how to advocate for awareness.

American Heart Month: Highlight the importance of heart health and learn about cardiovascular diseases and their prevention.