



Community Coalition for Social Justice
PO Box 160
Morgantown, WV 26507-0160
ccsjwv@gmail.com
www.ccsjwv.org

UPDATE: OCTOBER 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, OCTOBER 20, AT 7:30 P.M. ON ZOOM. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86510674995?pwd=jejeRXf5vk6QyEHtlpamfAH31kaaB8.1>

Meeting ID: 865 1067 4995

Passcode: 414424

One tap mobile

+13126266799, 86510674995#, *414424# US (Chicago)

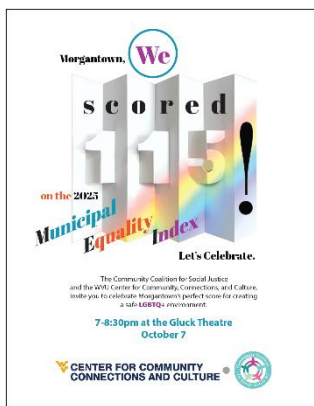
+16468769923, 86510674995#, *414424# US (New York)

Join by SIP

• 86510674995@zoomcrc.com

Join instructions

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/86510674995/invitations?signature=Fgwitcw1nvuGDVLGxyR_JCy3iSllusYEB9GBBA9IBPo



SAVE THE DATE OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH AT 7:00 P.M. AT WVU GLUCK THEATER TO CELEBRATE MORGANTOWN'S MUNICIPAL EQUALITY INDEX SCORE:

The City of Morgantown scored 115 in the 2025 Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index (MEI) for support of the LGBTQ+ community. Morgantown was the smallest city in the country to earn 115. The Community Coalition for

Social Justice (CCSJ) and the West Virginia University Center for Community Connections and Culture (CCCC) are hosting a celebration of this success on Wednesday, October 7 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Gluck Theatre of the WVU Mountainlair. The event is free and open to the public with partial financial support from the City of Morgantown so all are welcome.

The program will open with welcoming comments from Mike Attfield, chair of CCSJ, and Javier McCoy, director of the WVU CCCC.

Speakers will include immediate past chair of the City of Morgantown's Human Rights Commission, Annie Cronan Yorick, Esq., who prepared the annual MEI reports for 2023-2025. She will discuss "How to Earn a Great Municipal Equality Index Score." Key aspects of the report are non-discrimination laws, the municipality as an employer, municipal services, law enforcement, and the City's leadership on LGBTQ+ equality.

CCCC Program Specialist Julia Myers and Assistant Director Ti Bedunah will highlight the work of the Center and its focus on supporting the LGBTQ+ community. This includes Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression (SOGIE) training, Safe Zone training, and upcoming programming for LGBTQ+ History Month in October. The Center "aims to foster belonging, connection and holistic student success through programs, resources and engagement."

Executive director of Fairness West Virginia, Andrew Schneider, will present on the theme "Don't Stop Believing." Schneider notes, "In challenging times like these, it's important to recognize in places like Morgantown that we can still take meaningful action toward attaining protections and representation for LGBTQ+ people in West Virginia. Fairness WV will never stop fighting for and believing in a brighter future for all West Virginians. "Fairness West Virginia describes itself as the statewide civil rights advocacy organization dedicated to fair treatment and civil rights for LGBTQ+ West Virginians."

Dr. Kym Scott, director of choral activities at WVU, will direct a **choir of singers who support the LGBTQ+ community.**

There will be time for discussion with the speakers after the formal program.

The event will be livestreamed through WVU at <https://wvu.zoom.us/j/91541577717>.

CCSJ AT SCOTTS RUN STREET FAIR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19: Lee Petsonk, Mike Attfield, and Eve Faulkes staffed our table.

CIVIL RIGHTS ACT EXHIBIT AND VOTING RIGHTS EXHIBITS AVAILABLE:



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.

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.

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.

AND AT THE PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT! West Virginia Living Co. has a store just outside the arrivals gate or the new airport. You cannot miss the store.



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 mdattfield@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, October 15th**, 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. There is one vacancy on the 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/.

Here are events for October from

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

LGBT History Month – Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the United States.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month – A time for celebrating the strength of battered women and their children and for connecting those working to end violence against women and children.

National Crime Prevention Month - Special awareness for the practice of crime prevention as well as victimization, volunteerism, and the need to create safer more connected neighborhoods and communities.

October 1: International Day of Older Persons – Appreciates the contributions which older persons in diverse situations make to their communities and recognizes the need for opportunities for willing and capable persons of advanced age to participate in and be celebrated for their action in society.

October 13: Indigenous People Day (Native American Day) – Celebrates and honors Native American history and culture.

October 15: World Food Day – A day for awareness of the need for greater equity in access to food production and distribution locally, statewide, nationally and internationally.

October 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty Day – Call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide.

October 24: United Nations Day – Commemorates the founding of the United Nations in 1945.

October 31: World Cities Day – “The human future is largely an urban future. We must get right reduction of greenhouse emissions, strengthening resilience, ensuring basic services such as water and sanitation, and designing safe public streets and spaces for all to share.”(UN Sec.Gen.)



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

Important deadlines and early voting!!!

Make sure your registration is still active by going to sos.wv.gov

Use the online tools to make sure your registration is still active.

Check your district assignment and voting location.

The deadline to register is October 13, 2026. You can register online at the link above.

October 21, 2026: Early voting begins. Go to your county clerk’s website to see locations and times. Make a voting plan and assist friends and neighbors with transportation. Early voting means limited lines and handicapped access.

Absentee ballot requests are open now.

If you are, or know, a qualified absentee voter be sure every instruction is followed to have your ballot counted. County Clerks are not permitted to assist you with the completion process.

The USPS announced early this year that they will no longer postmark mail on the day they receive it. Postmarks are not applied until the date they “process” the item. Absentee voters should mail their ballot as quickly as possible.

The LWV-US, LWV-WV, and LWV-MM continue to be concerned about the handling and counting of absentee ballots. We encourage all voters to make a plan, assist family, friends and neighbors that might need assistance to go to their polling place on Election Day or take advantage of early voting locations to ensure their ballot is counted!!!

Visit your county clerk's web page to download a sample ballot. mononaliacountyclerk.com or your appropriate county. You can complete your ballot on paper and take it into the voting booth with you. You may not use your cell phone or other electronic device in the voting booth. For information on your candidates we suggest you do the research on Vote411.org and ballotpedia.org. Both sites have questionnaires and ballotpedia.org gives biographies and voting histories of candidates if available.

Finally, the WV Legislature has a ballot measure to change the state constitution. LWV-WV opposes Amendment I and our statement regarding this stance is below.

League of Women Voters of West Virginia Opposes Amendment One Morgantown, WV: The League of Women Voters of West Virginia urges voters to vote AGAINST Amendment No. 1 on your 2026 ballot. Amendment One would add a ban on non-citizen voting to our state constitution. Yet, non-citizens are already prohibited from voting under West Virginia and federal law. This statutory framework, along with other existing electoral safeguards, ensure that only eligible citizens vote in our elections. The amendment is unnecessary and serves dubious purposes. State and federal law already dictate that only U.S. citizens can vote in our elections.

West Virginia and every other state have multiple checks in place to ensure that only eligible citizens can vote. TO even register to vote in state and federal elections, a person must swear they are a citizen under penalty of criminal prosecution. Under federal law, a non-citizen could face up to five years in prison simply for registering to vote. It's also a deportable offense for a non-citizen to register or vote. False and exaggerated claims about non-citizen voting are used to enact restrictive voting laws that make it harder for eligible citizens to vote. As these falsehoods are repeated, they undermine trust in the electoral process, breed suspicion and animus toward immigrants, and sow division in our communities. The Brennan-Center for Justice, a non-partisan law and policy institute, has compiled numerous studies that rebut the myth of non-citizen voting. They also document the damage caused to our democracy by those who peddle the lie that non-citizens vote in significant numbers. Such false claims about non-citizen voting have been used to purge substantial numbers of voters from the rolls and enact restrictive voting laws that make it harder for eligible citizens to vote. The conservative Heritage Foundation actively promotes claims about the risk of non-citizens voting in its efforts to encourage states to enact restrictive voting policies. However, its own database underscores how rare these instances are. Of the 36 West Virginia election fraud cases in the Heritage Foundation database (1982-2024), only one mentions registering and voting by a non-citizen.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan volunteer organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate, but is engaged in local, state, and national issues of importance to our communities. The League works to influence public policy through advocacy and education.

League membership is open to all men and women age 16 or older.



MORGANTOWN NOW: In lieu of the regular monthly meeting in November, M-NOW will be holding its annual **Berlin-Style Ping Pong Fundraiser** at the **Co-op, 131 Pleasant St,** on **Sunday, October 25th, at 6:00 p.m.** This very popular event is like musical chairs, only with a group of people circulating around a ping-pong table, many of whom are enlivened by beer. Costumes are welcome to celebrate Halloween!

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



MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20TH: The meeting 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 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: Thanks to Linda Yoder for this information: Quilt tying continues at Morgantown Church of the Brethren Tuesday, October 13. 1:15 pm, with tea of course. No experience necessary. Quilts are sent to Mennonite Central Committee for refugee housing.

Beyond the Picket Line, a workshop, continues every other Tuesday, October 6 and ongoing, 6-8:30 pm, beginning with supper at Morgantown Church of the Brethren. There is no charge, and preregistration is not needed. We are studying circle processes and reading *Living Resistance and Living More with Less*.

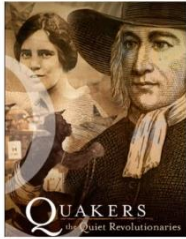
The church has a Blessings Box outside the church at 464 Virginia Avenue, Morgantown, where you can drop off extra food you may have or take some if you need it, or swap food. Feminine hygiene products are also welcome.

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.

**OPEN HOUSE
MOVIE SCREENING
JOIN US!**

Quakers have led anti-slavery, civil rights and women's rights movements and are strong advocates for world peace. The PBS Film: *The Quiet Revolutionaries* tells the story of a spiritual movement that has played a remarkable role in the life of our nation. Following seven iconic Quakers, the film takes us from England in 1652, to their arrival in the New World. What can we learn from these Quakers about non-violent resistance? Can they lead us?



**Come Celebrate
WORLD QUAKER DAY
at Monongalia Friends Meetinghouse**

Program

11 am - 11:15	Brief Introduction to Quaker worship
11:15 - 11:45	Silent Worship in the manner of Friends
12 pm - 12:30	Light lunch provided with vegetarian options
12:30 pm	MOVIE: <i>Quakers, The Quiet Revolutionaries</i>



Sunday, Oct 4th, 2026
648 E Brockway Ave, Morgantown
For more info and questions, call: 304 276-4416



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.

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.

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.



FAIRMONT PRIDE: "Join us for our monthly meetings at the Frank & Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center on the campus of Fairmont State University. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM." Go to <https://fairmontpride.com/meetings/> to access the link to join the meeting virtually.

Follow this group on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/fairmontpride> and at [Fairmontpride.com](https://fairmontpride.com).



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

#pridetribeMorgantown #morgantownwvpride #YallBelongHere



PROJECT RAINBOW: Follow Project Rainbow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/projectrainbowwv or on the web at www.projectrainbowwv.com.



MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (MCCAC):



Join us on November 15th at the Mon County Center for MCCAC's Holiday Market & Quarter Auction! Shop local vendors and enjoy holiday fun with the whole family while supporting a great cause!



Follow this group at moncocac.org/news/ or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MONCOCAC.

OSAGE GOSPEL 'N SOUL COMMUNITY CHOIR: The next meeting should be Monday, October 26th, 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.

STATEWIDE NEWS

IT IS TIME TO VOTE!! If you live in Monongalia County, you can find all you need to know about voting in the county at <https://www.monongaliacountyclerk.com/index.php/elections/17-current-election/124-2026-general-election-information>, including the sample ballot for your precinct.

Check your registration at <https://apps.sos.wv.gov/Elections/Voter/AmIRegisteredToVote>.

The last day to register is **Monday, October 13**. You can register online at <https://ovr.sos.wv.gov/Register/Landing>.

The last day to request an absentee ballot to vote by mail is **Wednesday, October 28**.

Early voting starts October 21 and runs through October 31, excluding Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. In Monongalia County, there will be early voting at Election Central at the Mountaineer Mall on Greenbag Road and at the Red Barn at Mason-Dixon Park. Anyone registered in Monongalia County can vote at either early voting site.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Go to your county clerk's website or the Secretary of State's website to find your polling place. On Election Day, you must vote at your assigned polling place to be sure your vote is counted.

In addition to any local issues on your county ballot, there is a **proposed amendment to the West Virginia constitution**. Poll workers are not permitted to explain this amendment to voters so please read it and make your decision before you are ready to vote

This is the information on the amendment from the Secretary of State's website:

Title of Amendment: "Amendment 1: Citizenship Requirement to Vote in West Virginia Elections Amendment"

Summary of Purpose: "This amendment provides that in all elections held in West Virginia only citizens of the United States who are citizens of this state are qualified to vote."

Full Text of the Amendment: §4-1. Only citizens of the United States who are citizens of this state shall be entitled to vote at all elections held within the counties in which they respectively reside; but a person who is a minor, or who has been declared mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction, or who is under conviction of treason, felony or bribery in an election, or who has not been a resident of the state and of the county in which he or she offers to vote, for 30 days next preceding such offer, shall not be permitted to vote while such disability continues; and, a person in the military, naval, or marine service of the United States shall not be deemed a resident of this state by reason of being stationed therein.



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

"Behold! The official flyer for West Virginia NOW's Leadership Conference! Registration is now OPEN! To reserve your spot at the conference, use the QR or go to: <https://www.zeffy.com/.../west-virginia-now-annual-meeting>

ALSO. Please join us for a fabulous pre-conference mingle the night before on Friday, November 13!
There will be dinner, drinks, the works!
Hope to see y'all at both events!"



Kanawha Valley NOW: “Whether you’re brand new to KV NOW or a longtime member, we’d love to see you at our upcoming general meeting! ✨

“This is an inclusive, welcoming space to connect with others who care deeply about supporting women, learn what KV NOW is working on right now, and find meaningful ways to get involved — at whatever level feels right for you.

“We’ll share updates, upcoming actions, and opportunities to plug in, ask questions, and build community together. No experience required — just a belief in gender equity and a desire to be part of the work. 💪

“🌟 Free and open to all people who support women.

Bring a friend, come as you are, and join us in shaping what’s next for KV NOW. We can’t wait to gather, organize, and move forward together.

Also: Virtual option now available! PM for link.

📅 Thursday, October 22 ⌚ 5:30pm - 7pm 📍 Kanawha County Public Library, 805 Quarrier Street, Charleston.

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 GALA IS OCTOBER 17: "Join us in Charleston Saturday, October 17, as we celebrate with a tribute to the 1980s and dance our way to a brighter future for LGBTQ+ West Virginians for the Fairness West Virginia Institute Annual Gala.



"We invite you to *Don't Stop believing* for an unforgettable, 80s-themed night inspired by the music, spirit, and resilience of a decade that taught us how to hold on to hope."

Ticket information and other details are at <https://www.fairnesswv.org/gala>.

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.



"The midterm elections are just around the corner and as always, ACLU-WV is here to answer any voting related questions you may have or assist you if you run into any problems at the polls."



The brunch will be Sunday, November 15 at 12:00 p.m. at 200 Lee Street, Charleston.

RAINBOW PRIDE OF WEST VIRGINIA: Follow this group on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RainbowPrideWV>



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

OCTOBER MULTICULTURAL CALENDAR

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

October 1 – UN: International Day of Older Persons: Recognizes the contributions and rights of older adults.

October 10 – World Inclusion Day: Informal observance encouraging people to practice inclusion in everyday interactions.

October 21 – LGBTQ+: International Pronouns Day: Promotes respecting, sharing, and using correct personal pronouns.

Heritage Month

Hindu Heritage Month

Hindu Heritage Month honors the spiritual tradition and culture of Hinduism in the United States. It's celebrated during a particularly important month for the religion where festivals like Diwali are held. It is also the birth month of Mahatma Gandhi, a Hindu spiritual leader. It hopes to promote awareness for understanding of the unique Hindu customs and practices they follow.

October Awareness Months

Breast Cancer Awareness Month: This annual awareness month raises awareness about early detection of the disease. Nearly one in three of all new female cancer cases are breast cancer. There is about a one in eight chance for a woman living in the United States to get it in their lifetime.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month: This national campaign helps to spread valuable information about disability employment issues. It also highlights the contributions that those living with disabilities have made to the workforce.

Down Syndrome Awareness Month: Raise awareness about Down Syndrome, a genetic condition that is caused by having an extra chromosome 21. During this month, take time to foster understanding and acceptance of all people, especially those living with the condition.

Global Diversity Awareness Month: This month promotes the differences between us and fosters a culture of understanding and inclusivity. This is a great time to celebrate diversity whether in gender, race, ethnicity, religion, ability, mental health, age, and more.