



The West Virginia Faith Table is a diverse interfaith and multiracial grassroots organization of both clergy and laity. We are united by our shared values and common goals. We are called to uphold and strengthen our country's democracy, especially civic engagement, voting rights, and fair elections. We respond to emerging issues as an integral component of a well-functioning democracy.

# 2022 Steering Committee

The Rev. Jordan Trumble, Rev. Darick Biondi,  
Sister Carmella Campione, Rabbi Joe Blair,  
Rev. Brad Davis, Loretta Young, Marian Alston,  
Rick Wilson, Martha Hill, BA Miskowiec





# Congress passes and President Biden signs the Electoral Count Reform Act

We took action, establishing communication channels, attending virtual constituent meetings, and delivering letters to U.S. Senators calling for bi-partisan support.



# Advocating for John R. Lewis Freedom to Vote Act

With our partners, we hosted podcasts, webinars and education sessions, organized the submission of LTEs, OpEds, phone calls, and letters to members of Congress.





# Voting is Fundamental to Democracy

We partnered with the Charleston NAACP, Rise Up WV, and WVCAG to distribute voting guides and toolkits, and host a virtual webinar on the four Constitutional Amendments.

**WAYS TO VOTE**

- 1 VOTE ABSENTEE**  
Review your eligibility and request an application by contacting your **county clerk**, the **Secretary of State's Office (304-558-6000)**, or visiting **GoVoteWV.com**
- 2 VOTE EARLY**  
Early voting is from **Oct. 26th - Nov. 5th**  
To find your Early Voting Locations and much more, go to **GoVoteWV.com**
- 3 VOTE ON ELECTION DAY**  
Polls open on **Nov. 8th 6:30am - 7:30pm**  
Find your polling location at **GoVoteWV.com**



Loretta is  
providing  
this photo  
according  
to Marian

## Watching the United States Supreme Court

We collaborated with  
Greenbrier Valley NAACP and  
Race Matters, WV on a virtual  
forum related to Moore v.  
Harper and the independent  
state legislature theory.



# Strengthening Democracy

With Charleston partners, we held a press conference and rally, and testified in local and state hearings in support of absentee voting and early voting locations.



## West Side voting site is on



Martez Washington, a Charleston resident and candidate for mayor, speaks to the Kanawha County Commission Thursday night in favor of creating an early voting location at the Black Diamond Girl Scouts Center on the city's West Side.

**Kanawha rebuffs GOP, defies Secretary of State's Office in unanimously approving early balloting location**

By LOBI KERSHY

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Over opposition from the Kanawha County Republican Executive Committee, the Kanawha County Commission voted unanimously Thursday to move ahead with a plan to put an in-person early voting site on Charleston's West Side during this year's election.

In doing so, the commissioners defied a legislative rule from the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office that a state election official said had the "force and effect" of law.

"I can't help but think that when a law is written, even if it's neutral on its face, and even if that law is being used for political advantage — which laws always are," Commissioner Ben Salango said, "when it's used for political advantage, and when it disenfranchises certain voters, certain minority voters, we can follow that law."

So, whether that law from 2020 is in place, or it's not, I think we have an absolute right to make sure that we expand community voting," Salango said. "And I'm making the motion tonight we expand community voting on the West Side."

The vote came after nearly two hours of discussion with



Tress Howell, chairwoman of the Kanawha County Republican Executive Committee, speaks to the commission Thursday night in opposition to creating the early voting site.

speakers for and against the commission's proposal to add the county's ninth community voting location in the Girl Scouts of Black Diamond Council building, at 323 Virginia St. West.

Just before the meeting, representatives from several organizations, including the Charleston NAACP, WV Citizens Action Group and the WV Faith Table held a rally in support of the West Side community vot-

ing location. Speaking during the meeting in support of adding the location, Charleston mayor candidate Martez Washington thanked County Clerk Vera McCormick for picking a place on the West Side and asked the commission to add more in other areas of the county.

"The only thing I would ask is that we take partisanship out of this, because this is good for Kanawha County," he said.

"This isn't a Democrat or Republican matter."

Some opposed to the additional site said the short distance of about a mile between the community voting location at the Kanawha County Voter Registration Office and the Girl Scouts building.

Others argued that the commission should instead put a site at Alum Creek or other

301 VOTING, 10A



## Foster reform dies again

House had no time to concur with Senate changes to bill

By JOE SEVERINO

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The only piece of major legislation aiming to make short-term changes within the state's foster care system died Saturday night with the conclusion of the 2022 West Virginia legislative session.

House Bill 4344 was just mere steps from passage. After the Senate advanced the bill with less than three hours until law-

makers adjourned sine die, the House did not have enough time to concur with the last-second changes made by Senate Finance Chairman Eric Tarr, R-Putnam. If delegates had enough time to accept Tarr's changes, the bill would have been sent to the governor's desk.

They never got the chance.

Tarr waited until there were three days left in the session before taking up the bill in his committee. Senate Health Chair-

man Mike Maroney, R-Marshall, passed the bill out of his committee six days earlier, and before that, the House of Delegates advanced the bill out of their chamber on Feb. 23 on a 99-1 vote.

When Tarr did take up the bill, he chose to gut it. He removed the provisions giving 15% pay raises for Bureau of Social Services workers, the creation of a public information dashboard and a new centralized abuse and neglect report intake system.

Tarr left only the amendments adopted by Maroney's committee, which gave the foster care ombudsman more freedom to investigate claims, as well as an expansion of services for family court proceedings.

An amended HB-4344 still did not cross the finish line. The bill was the Legislature's third bipartisan shot in three years at beginning to reform the state's

SEE FOSTER, 13A

## CHARLESTON GATHERS TO PRAY FOR UKRAINE



Prayer and songs ring out Monday evening during a vigil for Ukraine at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, on Charleston's East End. See Ukraine story, Page 2A.

# Praying for Peace In Ukraine

We lifted up and supported a peace vigil with an interfaith service of messages, prayers, and songs at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Charleston.



# THANK YOU!

For More Info:

Visit our website, [Wvfaithtable.org](http://Wvfaithtable.org)

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West Virginia Faith Table