New Ohio Voting Machines Help Secure Elections

Will Russia, China, or Ukraine hack our elections? Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose isn’t planning on it; not on his watch! Recently I was asked by the Board of Elections in Miami County to observe a mock election that would introduce the new voting machines to their residents; some counties do not have Leagues, so we are happy to assist other communities when possible. I was pleased to have the chance to observe the new operation and chat with voters who ventured out to give them a spin—or as it happens, a scan.

At the end of the day, Ohio Secretary of State LaRose entered the building to chat with the public and the workers. To my surprise, he walked right up to me to introduce himself, mistaking me for Miami County BOE Director Laura Burns. Quickly realizing his error and my League of Women Voters pin, he smiled, shook my hand, and commented that someone from the League of Women Voters had been at every event he had attended in the last several weeks. “Well, voting and elections, that’s what we do,” I smiled back. He invited me to go through the new security measures for Ohio’s elections.

Secretary of State LaRose is an Eagle Scout, a decorated combat Army Veteran, and a former member of the U.S. Army Special Forces. He knows about security and has taken on cyber security by pushing back against the varied forms of attack on elections from both foreign adversaries and domestic criminals.

The equipment Ohioans use to cast their ballots, paper or electronic, is not connected to the Internet; neither are the machines the poll workers use to tabulate election results. Hackers would have to have hands-on access to voting equipment, and even then, there are fail-safe mechanisms that would allow authorities to detect if a piece of voting equipment had been tampered with. What LaRose feels is a more vulnerable target is voter confidence in the election system due to the onslaught of hackers spreading false information on social media pages, perhaps even the possibility that the Board of Elections website could be attacked. To solve the latter, LaRose issued an election cybersecurity directive to all 88 of the state’s county elections boards. With the help of federal, state, and local agencies, every Board of Elections has had an assessment and has been deemed secure.

If you vote on Election Day at the polls, you will be given a paper ballot. Yes, paper. Voters will fill in their ballot, walk it over to the scanner that records the ballots, and deposit it in a locked container. No one touches a completed ballot except the voter. Can Ohio residents trust that their ballot is safe and will be counted? As Secretary LaRose might say, “Scout’s honor.”

~Susan Hesselgesser,
Executive Director, LWVGDA
DAYTON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CONTRIBUTORS

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*In-kind contribution  **In-kind contribution + monetary contribution

Recent Contributions Appreciated

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Peggy Ann Berry; Julie Burneson; Lee & Pat Bradley-Falke; Yvonne & Tony Curington; Dayton Metro Library; Stephanie Dickey; Maureen Dowd; Marni Flagel; Dr. Ronald L. Fletcher & Dona C. Fletcher; Paul Gruner, Montgomery County Engineer; Matt & Irena Joseph; Russ Joseph; Karl Keith; Viola Matyas; David & Sharen Neuhardt; Pickrel, Schaeffer & Ebeling LPA; Margaret Quinn & Ronald Pohlman; JoAnne Rau; Jean & Claude Short; Sinclair Community College; Thomas & Sandra Williams; Esther Wright

Education Fund—a 501(c)(3)
Peggy Ann Berry; Cena Buchannon; Dayton Miami Valley AFL-CIO; Dr. & Mrs. Ronald L. Fletcher; Pat & Jackie McGohan; Sinclair Community College

Thank you!
What History Teaches Us about the Electoral College

Can the Electoral College be considered legitimate today, based on the Constitution’s original intent? Are we following the Constitution’s true meaning and intent with our present-day interpretation of the Electoral College? These questions posed by lecturer Tim Hrastar at the September LWV Forum on the Electoral College guided us through an evening of fun, facts, and food.

We learned that throughout our history there have been more than 700 proposals to change the Electoral College system. We came closest to abolishing the Electoral College with the 1969 Bayh-Celler Amendment, supported by Richard Nixon and a bipartisan vote in the House of 339 to 70. It died in the Senate without a vote when the 91st Congress ended on January 3, 1971. Since the 1971 failure to abolish the Electoral College, two more Presidential elections occurred (out of only five in our history), where the winning candidate didn’t win the popular vote but won the presidency.

The Five Elections Where Winners Lost the Popular Vote but Won the Electoral Vote:
- 1824: John Quincy Adams (Democratic-Republican) v. Andrew Jackson (Democratic-Republican)
- 1876: Rutherford B. Hayes (R) v. Samuel J. Tilden (D)
- 1888: Benjamin Harrison (R) v. Grover Cleveland (D)
- 2000: George W. Bush (R) v. Al Gore (D)
- 2016: Donald Trump (R) v. Hillary Clinton (D)

Dayton Access TV taped the session and you can access it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpW4XHnCDUs&t=50s

~Valerie Lee, Action

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 Capitol Chat: Our guest speaker will be Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose, who will discuss the November 2019 election, how the new voting machines worked, what plans are in place for the 2020 election, and other current topics from the Secretary of State’s office. We have built in plenty of time for questions from the floor. Time and location information will be published on the website as soon as it’s available.

Saturday, March 7, 2020 Dangerous Dames of Dayton: Consider gifting a ticket to the party of the century to a beloved “Dangerous Dame” in your life—your Mom, daughter, sister, or even yourself! Tickets are limited, and the deadline for paying for your reservation is February 21, 2020.

The 2020 Dangerous Dames of Dayton event will be an evening to remember: dinner at the beautiful Dayton Art Institute, and the award-winning American journalist Susan Page as the featured speaker. Susan Page is Bureau Chief for USA Today, political contributor for CNN & MSNBC, past president of the White House Correspondents Association, and is currently on a national tour for her recent book, The Matriarch, Barbara Bush and the Making of an American Dynasty.

Purchase your tickets at www.lwvdayton.org, or by contacting the LWVGDA office at 937.228.4041. You can also email the League office at league@lwvdayton.org. The price is $100 for 100 years of woman’s suffrage. Stay tuned—we will soon be revealing the name of our 2020 Dangerous Dame of Dayton!
Celebrating Women in Books

The next event in the Dayton League’s reading series is at Basil’s on Market, 312 N. Patterson Blvd. in Dayton on **Tuesday, November 12, at 6:30 pm**. We will be discussing *The Hello Girls: America’s First Women Soldiers*, by Elizabeth Cobbs. This is the story of how America's first women soldiers helped win World War I, earned the vote, and fought in the U.S. Army in 1918. The U.S. Army Signal Corps sent 223 women to France. They were the masters of the latest technology—the telephone switchboard. They were responsible for connecting telephone lines and dispatching messages between units and command posts.

RSVP by Friday, November 8, to D.J. Shade at wendellshade@gmail.com, in order to give the restaurant a head count.

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**Speakers Bureau**

**Upcoming LWV Greater Dayton Engagement**

**November 9, 10:00 am breakfast meeting**
Person/Organization: Shirley Mlod, Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority, current and retired teachers sorority
654.9635
Topic: 30-minute presentation on History of Women’s Suffrage
Location: member home (Rachael), call for information

**November 11, 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm**
Person/Organization: Lucinda Wheeler
Philanthropic Education Organization
298.4262, ljwheeler1971@gmail.com,
Topic: 30 minute presentation on History of Women’s Suffrage
Location: Springboro (email for information)

**November 13, 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm**
Person/Organization: Ina Green, American Business Women’s Association of Huber Heights, Polaris Chapter
Topic: 30 minute presentation on History of Women’s Suffrage
Location: DJ Chumps, Huber Heights

**November 13, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm**
Person/Organization: Charles Allbery,
Lawyers Club of Dayton, 228.5912,
AllberyLaw@iCloud.com
Topic: History of League of Women Voters and Current Role
Location: Schuster Donors Lounge (second floor)

**November 24, 10:00 am to 11:00 am**
Person/Organization: Beth Adelman
Beth Abraham Synagogue
Topic: 30 minute presentation on History of Women’s Suffrage
Location: Beth Abraham Synagogue,
305 Sugar Camp Circle, Dayton, 45409

For more information, contact Dianne Herman, Dianneherman2@gmail.com
Many Ohioans have been outraged by the recent TV ad and mailer campaign against the effort to referendum the nuclear bailout bill, House Bill 6. Who is funding this campaign? We don't know exactly. After Citizens United v. FEC, Ohio law was not updated to require the disclosure of corporate dollars in elections, making ample room for “dark money.” Ohio's outdated campaign finance law means that Ohioans aren’t able to consider the source of “information.” In the lead up to 2020, we need to improve our disclosure rules so that we can "follow the money." Secret money has been part of Ohio elections including judicial elections since 2010.

Former Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the majority in Citizens United v. FEC, highlighted the importance of disclosure: “...prompt disclosure of expenditures can provide shareholders and citizens with the information needed to hold corporations and elected officials accountable for their positions and supporters.” Unfortunately, the state legislature has not updated Ohio campaign finance law to address our need for greater transparency.

Write to your State Representative and State Senator today and ask them to support strong disclosure of all political dollars. Tell them it’s time to update Ohio’s campaign finance law to include disclosure of the sources of funding for corporate activities in our elections.

~Camille Wimbish
Ohio Fair Courts Alliance

P.S. To learn more about our call for stronger disclosure, watch footage of our press conference with Common Cause Ohio and the League of Women Voters of Ohio on September 19, 2019. Go to the Ohio League’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lwvohio/videos/ and look for the Sept 19 posting.

~Jeanette Senecal
Senior Director of Mission Impact, LWVUS

[The following is a statement from Ohio League of Women Voters Executive Director Jen Miller. SB 52, the bill to improve information integrity and security of state elections, was passed by the Ohio House on October 2.]

"The passage of SB 52 is incredibly timely, and we encourage the Governor to sign this bill immediately. As we prepare for a major election in 2020, voters can be assured that Ohio’s election will be even more secure. By placing Secretary LaRose on the Homeland Security Council, and through the formation of a cyber security reserve, Ohio elections will be further safeguarded from bad actors. Requiring post-election audits also helps assure voters that Ohio’s election results are fair and accurate. However, our work is not done. We look forward to continuing to work with Secretary LaRose and the Ohio General Assembly on other critical election modernization efforts including automatic voter verification and registration (SB 186) and vetting voter registration software providers (SB 194)."
Tuesday, November 5 is election day, and polls are open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm. All voters must now show I.D. at the polls before they are allowed to vote a regular ballot. Acceptable identification includes:

- Valid Ohio Driver’s License
- Valid State-issued photo I.D.
- Military I.D.
- Copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, or other government document showing the voter’s name and address. Must match voter registration record.

Please note: voter registration acknowledgement or notification is not an acceptable form of identification. Voters who do not provide one of these documents will still be able to vote by providing the last four digits of the voter’s social security number and by casting a provisional ballot.

Did you vote via Absentee Ballot? Both Montgomery and Greene counties Board of Elections websites allow you to check the date your absentee ballot was received. See the links at:

https://greene.ohioboe.com/apps/avlookup.aspx


I recently read in an article on the history of the suffrage movement in the United States that “women received the right to vote with the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920.” One word in that sentence stuck in my head: “...women received the right to vote. ...” I suppose it’s a gentle acknowledgement of the fact that men were the only ones who had the right to vote for it. But in no way were women passive recipients of the vote, as if it were a gift handed to them. Women fought hard and long to earn the right to vote. It was an arduous journey of over 70 years to reach victory with the passage of the 19th Amendment. It is often said it took 50 years to educate the public of the legitimacy of women’s suffrage and then another 20 years of lobbying—and even militant action—to prove our right to vote.

Even then, the actual passage of the 19th Amendment was not an easy task. In the U.S. House of Representatives the amendment passed by only one vote more than required, while the U.S. Senate had to hold three different votes before it passed. The suffragists who agitated for the vote were scorned, and in many cases abused and arrested, before the battle was won. We owe it to them to remember how hard their battle was, how difficult to achieve this victory. We owe it to ourselves to remember how important our voice is. We need to remember—and vote!

~Andrea Cobb
LWVGDA President
Volunteer Voices

Hats Off to “Voters Guide” Volunteers

Volunteers made the difference! Lucy Anne McKosky, Voters Guide editor since 2013, reports “With a few more people with specific skills, we’ve been able to do some big things with the Voters Guide that we haven’t done before.”

Lucy Anne, who worked more than 100 hours herself on the Guide, reports that this was her most enjoyable year as editor due to the number of helpers. Volunteers who framed questions, entered data and responses, and provided eagle-eyed proofreading include Bonnie Buddendeck, Peggy Coale, Jo Lovelace Hill, Jessica Hunter, Mary Lou Baker Jones, Deborah Spears, Pat Stidham, and Patsy Thurin. Mary Robertson designed the eye-catching Guide cover and skillfully made the last-minute adjustments required by the Dayton Daily News.

Once the Voters Guide is printed, it needs to be distributed. Over 56,000 copies are included in newspaper delivery, and hundreds are delivered by volunteers to libraries. Independent and assisted living senior housing facilities were contacted by League member Jenni Harris, and they requested 1,700 copies. Michelle Arostegui took on the role of distribution coordinator, organizing volunteer couriers in distributing thousands more. This year, 94,000 Guides were printed—10,000 more than last year—at a total cost of about $22,000. Funding for the Guide comes out of the Education Fund, a 501(c)3 nonprofit arm of the League. Executive Director Sue Hesselgesser does a tremendous job garnering financial support for this effort.

The Voters Guide plays an important role in our democracy, especially in local races where candidates don’t have funds to advertise. Be sure to get YOUR copy. And now you’ll know who to thank! If you would like to be involved in this or any other League program, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Laurel Kerr for information, at laurel.kerr@sbcglobal.net.

Sherre I. Collier
509 Vaniman Ave.
Trotwood, OH 45426
dstdac41@gmail.com

Maureen E. Schlangen
2921 Hillview Ave.
Dayton, OH 45419
Punctuator
@sbcglobal.net

Virginia Platt &
Daniel Gehres
232 Wroe Ave.
Dayton, OH 45406
vplatt52@gmail.com

Tamela Womack
6581 Deer Meadows Dr.
Dayton, OH 45424
tamela.womack@gmail.com

Deborah D.
Lukjanovs
3428 Bulah Dr.
Kettering, OH 45429
Gypsydeb50@gmail.com

LaTonia McCane
2352 Fieldstone Circle
Fairborn, OH 45324
Lmccane
@daytonfoundation.org

Dick Hattershire
2830 Torrey Pines
Beavercreek, OH 45431
hatterb@woh.rr.com
"Now that you have the vote, what are you going to do with it?"
- founder Carrie Chapman Catt

For up-to-date League happenings, legislative alerts and news, check out our Facebook page, LWV Dayton OH.

Then SHARE our page with friends and family!

November 2019

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