




THE VOTER

A Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area

WEBSITE: lwvdayton.org | EMAIL: league@lwvdayton.org | PHONE: 937.228.4041 |    

1920 - 2020



Voting During a Pandemic... What Could Go Wrong?

The League office handles a lot of calls prior to an election. This year is no exception, with many voters contacting us earlier than usual to discuss their election options and address their fears of voting in the midst of a pandemic.

As members of the League, please reach out to those around you to calm nerves and help people choose an election plan that works for them. There are three ways to vote in this election: early in person, by mail (absentee), and in person on Election Day.

Early voting in person. Beginning October 6, voters can vote at their county Board of Elections. There are day, evening, and weekend hours through November 2. (See early voting schedule on page 6.) If your schedule allows, go to the polls in mid-morning or mid-afternoon when lines are shorter. Boards of Elections are set up for social distancing, masks are available, poll workers are wearing PPEs. Voting early in person gives voters flexible voting options and the satisfaction of personally scanning their ballots directly into the system.



Attention

Postage for Absentee Ballots

55 Cents:
Montgomery, Miami Counties

70 Cents:
Greene County
(check with your post office to be sure)

Voting by mail. Expect to receive your absentee ballot after October 6. Once you receive your ballot, fill it out and mail it in. Take your time, use blue or black ink, and be sure to follow instructions and fill everything in correctly. As soon as you complete it, mail it in, with correct postage. The sooner you mail it, the more time it has to get to the Board of Elections. The amount of postage will be indicated in the directions inside the ballot envelope. Election Day is November 3rd. This is a GENERAL ELECTION. Sign the outside of the ballot envelope. Slip that envelope into the mailing envelope. Affix correct postage. Worried about your personal mailbox? Take your ballot directly to the post office or to the drop box outside of your county Board of Elections. Plan a car caravan with friends and do it together! Track your ballot online at VoteOhio.Gov, clicking on Track Your Ballot. Voters will see when their ballot is received. Not computer savvy? Call our office, 937.228.4041

and we will track your ballot for you.

Voting on Election Day. Be prepared. All indications are that the lines will be long due to a shortage of poll workers. Be advised your polling location may have changed. Check your registration and polling location on your County Board of Elections website, VoteOhio.Gov, or Vote411.org. Bring proper identification. Plan to vote mid-morning or mid-afternoon. Wear comfortable shoes. With social distancing, lines may be outside, so dress for the weather. Vote with a friend to keep you company, wear a mask, pack sanitizer, snack bars, a bottle of water and a sense of pride.

No matter how you or your friends and family vote, remember **your vote is your voice and together we make our democracy work.**

~Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director, LWVGD

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The Virginia W. Kettering
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Penny Wolff
Women's History Project
Greene County

*In-kind contribution

**In-kind contribution + monetary contribution

Recent Contributions Appreciated

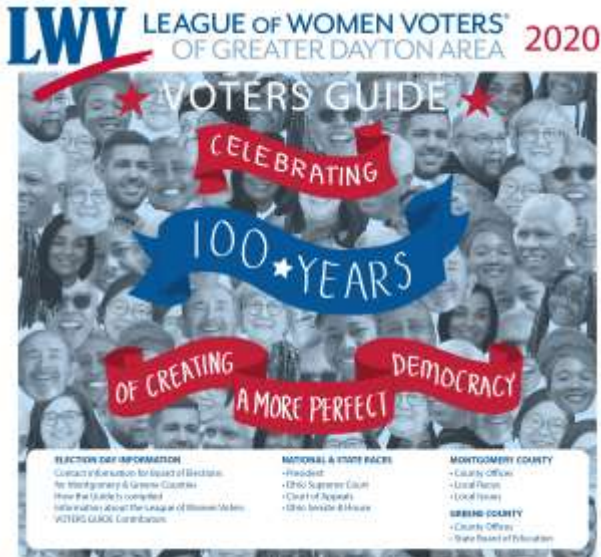
General Fund—a 501(c)(4)entity

Cathy and Gary Adler, Anonymous (2), Peggy Ann Berry, Dale Berry, Carolyn Bohler, Mary L. Bolton, Lee & Pat Bradley-Falke, Barbara Buddendeck, Julie Burneson, Andrea & Vincent Cobb, Zella Falcon Cook, Bruce & Cheryl Craver, Beatrice Davis, Dayton Metro Library, Stephanie & Rex Dickey, Alice Dinicola, Judy Dodge, Debbie Feldman, Marni Flagel, Dr. & Mrs. Ronald L. Fletcher, Gary & Debbie Froelich, Jeffrey Froelich, Virginia Platt Gehres, Carol Graff, Ray & Ina Green, Paul Gruner, Mary F. Hanaghan, Lisa Hanauer & Sue Spiegel, Jo A. Lovelace Hill, Vivienne & Roger Himmell, Rebecca & Dennis Jarvi, Sue Koverman, Herbert Lee, Valerie Lee, Elizabeth Lutes, Joan & Warren Mansfield, Dr. & Mrs. David Matthews, Judge Alice O. McCollum, Sandy McHugh & Jerry Sutton, Margot & Michael Merz, Remington & Leslie Merry, Sandy Neargarder, David & Sharen Neuhardt, Tim & Teri O'Connell, Alaine Office, Kathleen Peoples, Maureen Pero, JoAnne Rau, Mary Robertson, Jenell Ross, Margaret & Gregory Sammons, Stephanie Smith, Deborah Spears, Donelle "Lynn" Stout, The Rubi Girls, Chuck Theobald in Honor of Vivienne Himmell, Tom & Sandy Williams

Education Fund—a 501(c)(3)entity

Beth Adelman, Nancy Adkins, Frieda & Mike Brigner, Cena Buchannon, Loretta Buddendeck, Peggy Coale, Carol Graff, Paul Gruner, Kurt Hatcher, Dianne Herman, Janet Hess, Susan & John Hesselgesser, Jo A. Lovelace Hill, Mary Lou Baker Jones, Laurel & Matthew Kerr, Rebecca Morgann, Carolyn Ray, Patty & Tom Stricker, Karyn Sullivan, Jan Underwood, Theresa Williams, Penny Wolff, Kathleen Turner, Ann Wilger, Paul Woodie

Our Voters Guide Is a Powerful Tool for an Informed Electorate



This year's *Voters Guide* will be available on the League website lwvdayton.org on October 1, 2020 and will be distributed with the *Dayton Daily News* and *Xenia Gazette* on October 8. Copies will also be available in the League office, at local libraries, senior centers, churches, and businesses.

Volunteers are needed to deliver the *Guides* to distribution sites across Montgomery and Greene counties. To sign up, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a4faaab29a7f58-voters1> and choose the delivery locations you like. *Guides* will be available for pickup around October 5, and will be packaged in bundles of 100 copies. If you have an idea for a good spot to distribute the *Guides*, (your church, business, favorite coffee shop, etc.) send an email to Michelle Arostegui at Michelle.Arostegui@gmail.com, and she will add the location to the list.

People are eager for information about candidates, especially since COVID-19 has shut down so many traditional campaign activities. Distributing *Voters Guides* across our community is a great way to help people be more informed voters.

Hi, my name is Maddie Thomas...

I receive dozens and dozens of emails every day, especially during an election. Most receive a quick answer and are filed away for future reference; very seldom does one make my heart sing, but this one did...here's why.

I am a Dayton area high school student. I can't vote yet, but I'm passionate about civic participation. I have become concerned about the possible voter turnout for this election, given that people may feel unsafe voting in person and/or not know how to vote by absentee ballot. To this end, I have created a flyer with information about voter registration and absentee ballot requests and printed out about 150 copies.

Unfortunately, I have run into a bit of a problem. I don't feel safe knocking on people's doors, because I am a young woman and because of the current pandemic. It is illegal to place flyers on people's property without their permission, and the stores I have contacted (mostly supermarkets) will not allow me to pass out flyers outside... Mailing flyers to people's houses would prove to be too expensive for my limited funds.

I admire the mission and efforts of the League of Women Voters, and I was wondering if you might have any suggestions as to how I might distribute this vital information.

Maddie just dropped off her red, white, and blue fliers to our office and we will proudly make them available at upcoming voter registrations in Montgomery County. I am so encouraged by the enthusiasm, passion, and determination of this young woman. Who knows, someday she just might run for public office and maybe in her campaign speech she will mention her participation in the 2020 election and the League of Women Voters.



Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director

Toast to Tenacity 2020



In celebration of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, on August 26, another Toast to Tenacity was held here in the Miami Valley. The first, held in a South Dayton wine store, honored the well-known originators of the movement. This time, those more famous suffragists were not the main topic of conversation. Instead, local members of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority focused on a *Washington Post* article from August 8 about the less well-known women of “the Black sorority that faced racism in the suffrage movement but refused to walk away.” African American women were not listed in the official program for the 1913 parade; but 22 young founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. from Howard University marched, although they were segregated at the rear of the parade. White suffragists, well aware of how the elevation of Black women

would alienate Southern politicians, chose to minimize their presence.

Undeterred, Black women set about organizing Black suffrage clubs all over the country. It should be noted, the 1913 parade was not totally segregated. Suffragist Ida B. Wells would not be denied her place with the all-White Chicago delegation. Noted White suffragist, Belle Squire, came to her defense and not only did Ida B. Wells march with the delegation, but Belle Squire co-founded the Alpha Suffrage Club with Wells.

The contributions of members of Delta Sigma Theta cannot be adequately summarized in this space, however on Women’s Equality Day we gathered to toast the work they did, giving accolades that have come 100 years late.

-Valerie Lee, Action Chair

To familiarize yourself with Black suffragists such as Mary Church Terrell, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, and Adella Hunt Logan, I recommend the following newly published books:

Finish the Fight, by Veronica Chambers and the staff of the *NY Times*.

Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All, by Martha S. Jones. Find out more about this new publication in this interview with the author:
<https://youtu.be/wTTTz4M4428>

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Rev. Marcia Dinkins
 4882 Silver Oak St
 Dayton, OH 45424
womenforchange@gmail.com

Andrea Walker Cummings
 782 Big Hill Rd
 Kettering, OH 45419
asc2507@yahoo.com

Susan Oblinger
 40 Broadhill Place
 Germantown, OH 45327
smoblinger@gmail.com

Jane A McGee Rafal
 109 N Main St
 Dayton, OH 45402

Jon & JoAnne Vincent

STATE LEAGUE NEWS

Prepaid Return Postage Rejected by Ohio Legislators



Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose took his proposal to authorize \$3 million in funds to pay postage for each of the absentee ballots returned during the upcoming election to the Ohio Controlling Board on September 14. The measure was defeated in a 2-4 vote. LaRose had stood ready to appropriate the money from his office's own Business Services Division funds (Fund 5990) to provide Ohio county BOEs with the means to affix return postage to each absentee ballot sent out. LaRose stated that he had the authority to authorize postage paid ballots in this manner, but needed financial authority from the Controlling Board. The board members objected because the measure was proposed too close to the election, because it did not appropriately fit into the parameters of the fund, and because it had not been taken before the Ohio Legislature for approval.

In 2016, 1.2 million votes were cast by absentee ballot. LaRose has said local BOEs should be prepared to handle double that amount in 2020, in part because of the pandemic. Part of LaRose's argument for prepaid postage was that ballots would be returned much faster, ensuring earlier counting. "The faster we can get those ballots in, the better," LaRose said. The Ohio Controlling Board, which oversees certain capital and operating expenditures by state agencies, apparently does not see it that way.

LaRose said in a statement following the decision "Ohio has a sound elections system, but today was another missed opportunity by the legislature to make a small change, without an impact on our state budget, that would yield a big improvement."

Historic Pandemic Poses Historic Election Challenges

This has been one wild year for champions of open, free and fair elections.

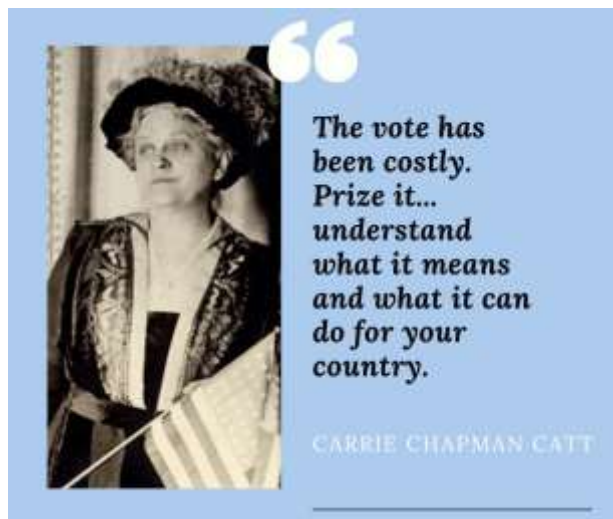
As many of you have followed, the League of Women Voters and other voting rights advocates like Common Cause Ohio, Ohio ACLU, and even the Ohio Secretary of State, have challenged the ability of our election system to accommodate voters so no Ohioan has to choose between protecting their health and casting their ballot.

Key publicized battles LWV championed:

- Changing the deadline to file absentee ballot applications from three days before the election to seven days before the election
- Allowing for absentee ballot requests to be filed online
- Providing prepaid postage on absentee ballots
- Providing additional ballot collection boxes in all counties
- Altering the inconsistent policy of signature matching by untrained Board of Elections staff that can result in

unfairly rejecting the applications or absentee ballots, especially of elderly and disabled voters

Despite these unmet challenges, we urge you to tell your friends, neighbors and acquaintances that, despite its shortcomings, Ohio has one of the more efficient and safe voting systems in America. **Vote fearlessly**, and remember the words of our founder Carrie Chapman Catt:





VOTING STARTS IN OCTOBER

VOTING SCHEDULE

October 5: Deadline to Register to Vote. Boards of Elections (BOEs) open until 9:00 p.m.)

October 6: Absentee Voting by Mail begins (ends November 2)

October 6: Early In-person Voting begins

October 31: Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot (Noon)—but we recommend requesting your absentee ballot now, and no later than October 20

November 2: Mailed Absentee Ballots must be postmarked by this date to be counted

November 3: Election Day. Hand delivered Absentee Ballots must reach your Board of Elections by 7:30 p.m.

EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING HOURS

October 6-9: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

October 12-16: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

October 19-23: 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

October 24: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

October 25: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

October 26-30: 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

October 31: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

November 1: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

November 2: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

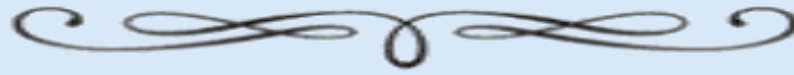
ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 3

Polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m.

Find your polling site at

<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/toolkit/polling-location/>

VOLUNTEER VOICES



Have you watched “**Women Vote: A Centennial Commemoration**”? This project debuted as a Facebook Live Event August 26, and is still available on Facebook through the “*Women Vote: A Centennial Commemoration*” page, and also on YouTube. The women and men involved in that movement displayed exceptional courage and determination for something they believed in wholeheartedly. Determined to tell their stories for this centennial anniversary despite COVID-19, Peggy Coale dedicated hundreds of hours of work to put together a cohesive, entertaining, and comprehensive history of Women’s Suffrage. Other League participants—Dianne Herman, Andrea Walker Cummings, and Dennis Turner, provided much of the content for the program. Lucy Anne McKosky gave voice to the digitized quilt display from the collection “*Suffragists: And They Persisted*” produced by the Miami Valley Art Quilt Network. Andy Cobb warmly introduced the audience to the League. This project was sponsored by Harmony Creek Church, and the League was a significant collaborator. Other collaborating organizations included YWCA Dayton, Holy Shift LLC, and David’s United Church of Christ. Partial funding was provided by the Ohio Humanities Council.

As most of you may know, the story of women’s suffrage is one of more than 70 years of incredible persistence and sacrifice. Votes for Women was not a popular concept. Many were ridiculed, some were imprisoned, and a few endured forced feeding during hunger strikes. Still, they did not give up. As we approach the 2020 general election, be reminded by those who have gone before us that doing what is right is not always easy, and that there are some things worth fighting for. As African American activist and investigative reporter Ida B. Wells said, “The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them.” She lived this truth, leading an anti-lynching campaign in the late 1800s.

In this final month before the election, take courage, take action, and DO ONE THING

In addition to voting, encouraging others to vote, and working to end voter suppression, take a community action that may benefit you as much as it helps others: Donate your used books and clear your bookshelves! As of October 1, there will be a box specifically for this purpose at the League office. New League member Jan Loomis, a chaplain at the Montgomery County Jail, collects reading material for jail inmates. Any donated items not accepted at the jail will be donated to Project READ, a coalition of public and private organizations working together to build skilled workers, strong families, and healthy communities through lifelong literacy.

Below is a list of Project READ collection sites. Both of these causes are worthy, and you are encouraged to consider the League book drop box first if you can, since books will be passed along to Project Read if unsuitable for inmates.

- Project READ (Sinclair Community College, Building 3, Room 142). Call ahead 937.461.READ (7323) for curbside pick-up. No need to park!
- Project READ Book Donation Center, 661 Lyons Road, Centerville. Open Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- The Greene (outdoor bin at Town Square, across from Victoria's Secret)
- Whole Foods Market, 1050 Miamisburg-Centerville Road, Centerville
- Earl Heck Community Center, 201 North Main Street, Englewood
- Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 115 West Riverview Avenue, Dayton

Tax receipts are available for books donated to Project READ directly to their collection locations.

Talbott Tower
127 N. Ludlow Street
Dayton, OH 45402-1703

*"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 LIKE and SHARE our page with friends and family!

Current Resident or:

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE	6	7	8	9	10
		In-Person Early Voting 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.				
		Absentee Ballots dropped off at your County Board of Elections				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	In-Person Early Voting 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.					
Absentee Ballots dropped off at your County Board of Elections all week						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	In-Person Early Voting 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.					
	Absentee Ballots dropped off at your County Board of Elections all week					In-Person Voting 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
In-Person Voting 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.	In-Person Early Voting 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.					In-Person Voting 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
	Absentee Ballots dropped off at your County Board of Elections all week					
1	2	3	Election Day! Polls open 6:30 am to 7:30 pm Absentee Ballot drop-off until 7:30 pm			
In-Person Voting 1 pm to 5 pm	In-Person Voting 8 am to 2 pm					
						Absentee Ballots must be postmarked today