





August 2021

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THE VOTER

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

1920 - 2021

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Dayton League Awarded National Voter Registration Day Grant

Back in June, we received an invitation to submit a grant for National Voter Registration Day. In the past, they awarded mini grants to help with costs associated with the annual event which, this year, will take place on September 28. As I looked over the requirements, I noticed that they were only awarding eight to twelve grants, starting at \$5000, and were focusing on large metropolitan areas with significant races.

I called the grants manager and asked some questions. Yes, they were doing things differently than before. Yes, they were looking for projects that would make a **significant impact**. And yes, there are many big races taking place across the country. As I wondered about our odds, Dick Hattershire said, “if you don’t ask, the answer is always no.”

So, Jo Lovelace Hill, Mario and I talked and came up with a proposal and submitted it. I thought, “let’s see what happens.”

Fast forward two weeks. At the end of the day before the holiday weekend, I glanced at my emails. The first thing I saw was CONGRATULATIONS! Intrigued, I opened it thinking that maybe I had won a trip to Vegas. When I saw who it was from, I yelled YES!! and may have startled our neighbors!



We were awarded one of eight grants from a pool of nearly 100 applications from across the country! What does that mean? That the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area ROCKS! The depth and multitude of programs and services this League has produced over the years and the dedication of its members have resulted in our “emerging as a top applicant.”

Jo and I will be contacting you for help. On National Voter Registration Day, we’ll staff at least 15 voter registration tables throughout Greene and Montgomery Counties with the goal of engaging people of color and underserved populations. We will also conduct a candidates’ forum. Let us know if you’d like to help!

BE PROUD! The LWVGDA is among the best in the country, but you already know that!

*~Chris Corba,
Executive Director, LWVGDA*

Our Contributors Fuel Our Mission

This space has traditionally featured a list of contributors to our General Fund and Educational Fund. As your LWVGDA transitions to one combined fund, we want to extend a BIG THANK YOU to the following who have made contributions to any of our currently operating funds to the League since March 31, 2021:

Amazon Smiles	Patrick J. Foley and Joan C. Foley	Robert and Katherine Stealey
David Bodary	Bill Gerhard – in memory of	The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation
Rosalie Bonacci-Roberts	Judy Becky Kirkland	Judy and Tom Thompson
Rebecca Bowman	Kroger	Kathleen Turner
Carolyn and Dick Bridgman	Rita Lethert	Penny Wolff
*Barbara Buddendeck	LWVUS Voter Service Grant	Tom and Carolyn Young
Susan Byerly	Michelle Maciorowski	
Wendy and Michael Dyer	William and Kathleen Moroney	*in-kind contribution
Jeanne Eickman	Sandra Neargarder	
Darryl Fairchild	Michael Parks	

From the President's Desk

Greetings!

It has been a nice change of pace to begin resuming those activities that have been on hold for so long. Our first in-person League event will feature Tom Archdeacon speaking on how men bolstered the suffragist movement – working with women, not for them. Today we would call them allies. To hear more about our allies back in the day, google “History of the LWV Greater Dayton Area” on YouTube to see our locally-produced play. (Playwright and Director credit to Susan Hesselgesser) There is a spirited discussion on these men at minute 12:30.

In August 2020, members of the Board agreed to align our local organization with the League of Women Voters US Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Policy.

The National LWVUS DEI Policy states:

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

In July 2021, the LWVGDA Board and the Executive Director completed a multi session training program on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, led by Christina Davis from the League of Women Voters US. The training assisted attendees in understanding the breadth of the diversity that exists in our community and will enable them to create a local policy that commits LWVGDA as an organization, to remove any barriers to full participation regardless of a characteristic that can be identified or recognized as illustrating diversity.

This will not be a one and done effort. The goal is to ingrain these ideas into the very fabric of what we do as a League, to make sure we are reaching out to, and are inclusive of, everyone in our local community.

As always, your ideas and comments are welcome. Email them to leaguedayton@sbcglobal.net. Thank you.

~Mario, LWVGDA President



*The League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area
Invites you to join us for*



BUY YOUR TICKETS
BY AUGUST 13

Bring a Friend and Enjoy Appetizers, Pizza & “Brews” at
Wandering Griffin Brewery & Pub
3725 Presidential Drive
Beavercreek, OH 45324

Then sit back and enjoy our

Keynote Speaker: Tom Archdeacon

Dayton Daily News Award-Winning Sports Columnist

As he reminds us that men did play an important part in the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

In life and in Sports, teamwork is the “magic” ingredient.

Ticket price: \$30 for one; bring your favorite guy and the price is \$50 for 2 tickets! COD bar
Don't miss out! Make your reservation (& your favorite guy's too) now through our website lwvdayton.org;
or make your check payable to: LWVGDA, 127 N. Ludlow St., Dayton, OH 45402 **by August 13, 2021.**

DID YOU KNOW that a mother's letter to her son helped push the last-minute final vote for ratification of the 19th Amendment into the 'win' column? On August 18, 1920, the all-male Tennessee legislature was divided between those who didn't support the vote (wearing red roses in their lapels to show their intentions) and those who did support the vote (wearing yellow roses in their lapels). The Tennessee Senate had already approved the amendment, but a tie in the House meant defeat. They could only win if ONE of the House opponents changed his mind. The roll call had landed on Harry T. Burn; at 24 the youngest state lawmaker. He had voted twice to table the amendment. On his lapel was a red rose. But beneath the rose, in the pocket of his suit jacket, was a letter delivered that morning from his mother, Febb Burn. Between updates on the farm and the family, she had slipped in three references to the vote. “Hurrah and vote for suffrage,” she told her son, “and don't keep them in doubt. Don't forget to be a good boy and help Mrs. ‘Thomas Catt’ with her ‘rats.’ Is she the one that put rat in ratification? Ha!

No more from Mama this time. With lots of love.”

And her son knew what he had to do. “Aye,” said Harry Burn, and he pulled off his red rose.

Tennessee became the “Perfect 36th” and women were legally able to vote!

HB294 Proposes Restrictive Changes to Ohio Voting Laws

In early May, Representative Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) introduced HB 294 that would put changes and restrictions on Ohio laws related to early voting, voter ID for absentee ballot requests, and ballot drop boxes. While Republicans say Ohio's voting laws are already good and this will improve them, Democrats say it will lead to voter suppression.

In terms of early voting, the bill would eliminate in-person voting the day before the election, although those hours could be reallocated to other days. Historically, the Monday before election day has been a popular day for early voting, although some election officials are in favor of this change. The bill would also require two forms of ID to request an absentee ballot in an online request process. The current requirement is for one form of approved voter ID. Online requests would not require voters to print out the application and mail it in, which some have said would be better than the current system. The bill would disqualify ballots not returned in ID envelopes and would ban state-paid return postage for absentee ballots (unless lawmakers vote to approve that). It would also require that requests for absentee ballots must be received by 10 days before the election. The current deadline is three

days. The proposed legislation would also limit counties to three ballot drop boxes on Board of Elections property for 10 days prior to the election, not for the full four-week early voting period. Currently, Montgomery County has an exterior and interior drop box, operational 365 days at all hours so that voters can drop off absentee ballot requests and voter registration forms. It would create automated registration through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles rather than automatically registering all adults to vote, which Democrats have wanted.

"...some of his Senate colleagues would like to dramatically cut back or even eliminate the no-excuse absentee voting that's been in place since 2005"

In an interview for "The State of Ohio," Seitz stated that he's no fan of Ohio's four weeks of early absentee voting, and has said that's the one vote in his 21-year legislative career he wishes he could take back. He also indicated that some of his Senate colleagues would like to dramatically cut back or even eliminate the no-excuse absentee voting that's been in

place since 2005.

The bill has had two hearings in the House, both of which have been highly contentious. Hearings are planned to resume soon.

~Dianne Herman, Speakers Bureau

TAKE
ACTION
RIGHT
NOW

We need you to speak up right now to hold our leaders accountable so that we can keep the good and throw out the bad in this bill. Send a message to your legislator to demand they remove deliberate barriers to voting, especially:

- Reducing access to secure, efficient drop boxes
- Requiring excessive and complicated identification rules that create unnecessary work for elections officials and poll workers, while likely denying eligible voters
- Making it harder for active-duty military voters overseas to vote (this affects military personnel from Wright-Patterson AFB here in Greene County)
- Undermining Ohioans' freedom to vote in the manner of their choice

Go to LWVOhio.salsalabs.org/protectohioansvoterrights to automatically generate a letter to your legislator, and/or call your legislator to communicate a personal message.

Find a complete list of Montgomery and Greene County legislator contact information, go to our website at LWVDayton.org and select 'Voter Information' from the top menu bar, then 'Links.'

Redistricting Map-Drawing Can Start Mid-August

Background: Thanks to the passage of redistricting reform legislation in 2015 and 2018, Ohio's constitution requires, for the first time, an independent commission to finish redrawing legislative districts by September 1, 2021. It sets a September 30 deadline for the state's General Assembly to complete a new map of congressional districts in time for the 2022 election.

The Problem: Legislators and community groups like LWV were concerned that the Census Bureau would not be able to produce data needed to draw new districts lines in time for Ohio to meet the new constitutional deadlines when the Commerce Department announced a delay in producing the Census data due to the pandemic. The State of Ohio sued for the release of the relevant 2020 data, and as part of a settlement announced mid-May of this year, the Census Bureau promised to release the redistricting data no later than **August 16**.

What's Next: LWVGDA is coordinating a community mapmaking initiative for Montgomery and Greene Counties. The objective is to define and describe the communities of interest that should be the building blocks for fair and effective districts. Our mapmaking team meets with small groups of community members to talk about their communities, then uses a software program called DistrictR to create community maps that become part of a statewide map. These group and individual maps are important as they serve as community 'testimony' in the legislative process. YOU can get involved by:

- Attending an upcoming informational seminar in our region
- Hosting a map-drawing 'party' led by one of LWVGDA trained map facilitators
- Using the free 'DistrictR' web tool to draw your own map (find the link on **FairDistrictsOhio.org/community-mapping**)
- Joining LWVGDA Redistricting/Fair Elections Committee, led by Kim Senft-Paras, and get involved!

For information on all these activities, contact Kim Senft-Paras at **kimsenftparas5@gmail.com**, or call the LWVGDA office.

REDISTRICTING

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

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VOLUNTEER VOICES



Every League Member is a League Volunteer!

Whether you are actively involved in a committee, engage in short-term efforts such as *Voters Guide* delivery or river clean up, contact legislators to advocate for voting rights, or simply pay your dues every year, you are an active or potential volunteer, and YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Here's how:

DUES: Your annual dues are divided among the LWV of the US (48%), LWV of Ohio (38%), and LWV Greater Dayton Area (14%). These funds are put to work at each level to protect and advocate for fair elections and access to voting.

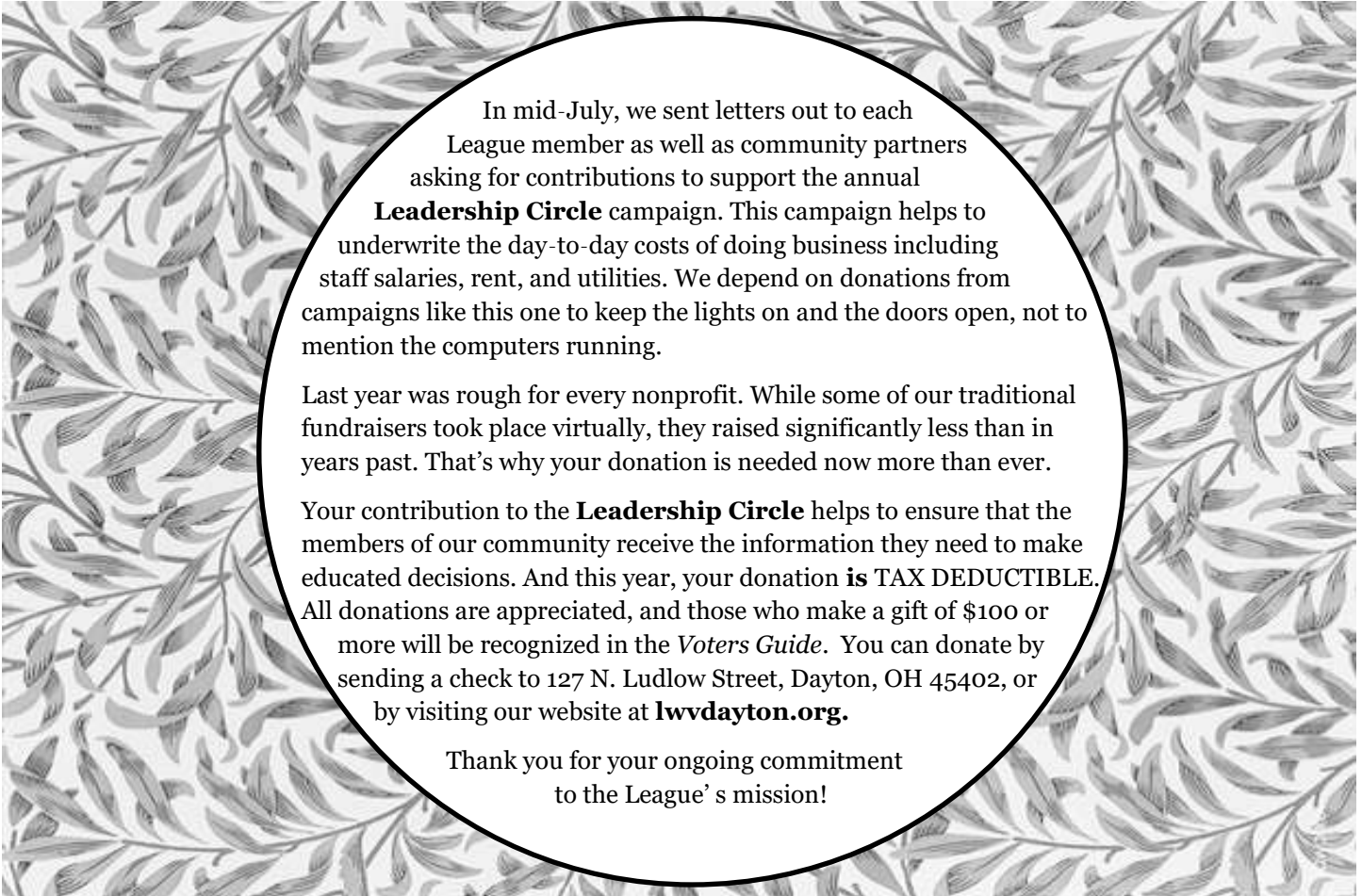
ADVOCACY: Phone calls, emails, texts, tweets and postal mail may seem small, but these add up. Keep up with issues impacting voting rights at every level of government through local and state League email updates, Facebook and Instagram posts, and Twitter. Not sure how to connect? Contact the LWVGDA office.

FUNDRAISING: Anytime you're able to contribute through fundraising events such as Dine and Dish and Dangerous Dames, or to a special campaign like the *Voters Guide*, your gift furthers the mission of the LWV. The fundraising events are also informative and fun, as well as a great way to get to know other League members. Want to attend but don't want to go alone? No worries. Contact me at laurelkerr1549@gmail.com or membership chair Leslie Merry at merryleslie@sbcglobal.net.

COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS: The League has several active committees whose leaders are often looking for new volunteers and will contact members when needed. Occasionally, an opportunity pops up through the League office to participate in the community in a unique way, and help is needed. If you'd like to be contacted when these needs arise, please complete the Member Interest Survey connected to the website or contact me at laurelkerr1549@gmail.com.

TRAINING: Implicit Racial Bias training, supported by funds through a United Way Racial Equity Mini Grant, will be held this fall for all members who would like to participate. More information will be coming soon, so be sure to check your email and next month's newsletter so as not to miss this unique opportunity!

~Laurel Kerr, Volunteer Coordinator



In mid-July, we sent letters out to each League member as well as community partners asking for contributions to support the annual **Leadership Circle** campaign. This campaign helps to underwrite the day-to-day costs of doing business including staff salaries, rent, and utilities. We depend on donations from campaigns like this one to keep the lights on and the doors open, not to mention the computers running.

Last year was rough for every nonprofit. While some of our traditional fundraisers took place virtually, they raised significantly less than in years past. That's why your donation is needed now more than ever.

Your contribution to the **Leadership Circle** helps to ensure that the members of our community receive the information they need to make educated decisions. And this year, your donation **is TAX DEDUCTIBLE**. All donations are appreciated, and those who make a gift of \$100 or more will be recognized in the *Voters Guide*. You can donate by sending a check to 127 N. Ludlow Street, Dayton, OH 45402, or by visiting our website at **lwvdayton.org**.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the League's mission!

Voters Guide Sponsors Still Needed

Thanks so much to all of you who made and continue to make contributions in support of the 2021 *Voters Guide*. The *Guide* is one of the most important services the League provides, and we can't do it without our community partners and YOU.

The office will soon be buzzing with activity as candidate profiles start rolling in. If you'd like to make a donation, there's still time, and if your contribution is received by August 30, your name will be listed prominently in the 2021 *Guide*.

A gift of \$100 puts 1000 *Guides* in the hands of voters this fall. You can donate online by visiting the League's website at **lwvdayton.org** or mail a check to the office at 127 N. Ludlow Street, Dayton, OH 45402. You can use the donation form on the back panel of this newsletter, and send it in with your tax-deductible donation.

Please be sure to let us know how you would like your name to appear in the *Guide*. Thank you for your consideration!

Don't hesitate to call us if you have any questions at **937.228.4041**.

☞ *Estate Gifts to support the Voters Guide can be a lasting legacy reflecting your commitment to a better democracy.*



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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:

YES! I want to sponsor the Voters Guide

I have enclosed my tax-deductible gift:

- \$100/1,000 copies \$200/2,000 copies \$300/3,000 copies \$400/4,000 copies
- \$500/5,000 copies \$600/6,000 copies \$700/7,000 copies \$800/8,000 copies
- \$900/9,000 copies \$1000/10,000 copies \$_____ Other Donation

How would you like your name/business/group listed in the *Voters Guide*?

I would like to distribute *Voters Guides* at my business!

Name of business: _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____

Please send a check, with this form, payable to LWVGDA, to:
127 N. Ludlow Street, Dayton, OH 45402

You may also pay online by visiting our website at **lwvdayton.org**

Click Donate | Make a Donation. You do not need a PayPal account to donate online.

Questions? Give us a call at 937.228.4041