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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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The League Stands Ready to Prepare Voters for Fall Elections

First, THANK YOU to everyone who donated to support the *Voters Guide* and the Leadership Circle. Your gifts are greatly appreciated and will go far to support the League's mission.

Speaking of mission, things are really getting busy around here! Plans are well underway to celebrate National Voter Registration Day on September 28. We're working with local libraries, Ziks Pharmacy, the Life Enrichment Center, Interpreters for the Deaf and so many others to engage people from all over Greene and Montgomery Counties to vote. We're happy that representatives from the Greene and Montgomery County Boards of Elections will be on hand to train the many volunteers who will be registering voters that day.

We'll kick off National Voter Registration Day with a candidate forum! On September 27, we'll be working along side the Dayton Unit of the NAACP and the *Dayton Daily News* to present a forum at Grace United

Methodist Church with Dayton mayoral and city commission candidates as well as candidates from other Montgomery County races. Additional forums throughout Greene and Montgomery Counties are being planned as well.

And the *Voters Guide* is coming! Volunteers have been meeting regularly to select the questions that will be posed to candidates and to work through all the details.

So, what's needed? YOU! We need dozens of volunteers for National Voter Registration Day, people to help with the forums and of course, all hands will be on deck to distribute the *Voters Guide*! Look for Laurel Kerr's article on page 3 for more information about how you can get involved. Each of these activities is core to the mission of the League and a great way to get to know other members.

See you soon!

*~Chris Corba,
Executive Director, LWVGDA*



LWVGDA Voter Registration Sites on September 28, 2021

DAYTON

Ziks Pharmacy, 130 West Third St.

The FoodBank, 56 Armor Place

Interpreters for the Deaf, 732 South Ludlow

The Enrichment Center, 525 North Findlay

Gem City Market, 324 Salem Ave.

Dayton Metro Main Library/Downtown,
215 East Third St.

Dayton Metro Library/Northwest,
2410 Philadelphia Dr.

Dayton Metro Library/Southeast,
21 Watervliet Ave.

Dayton Lohrey Recreation Center,
2366 Glenarm Ave.

Greater Dayton Recreation Center, 2021 West
Third St.

Northwest Recreation Center,
1600 Princeton Park

FAIRBORN

Fairborn Library, 1 East Main St.

TROTWOOD

Dayton Metro Library/Trotwood,
855 East Main St.

XENIA

Xenia Library, 76 East Market Street, Xenia

SEE PAGE 3 TO VOLUNTEER

Our Contributors Fuel Our Mission

*Thank you to the following who have made a contribution to the League
as of 8/7/21 and since our August Voter.*

Anonymous (2)
Anonymous, in honor of
Vivienne Himmell
Nancy Adkins
Gary and Catherine Adler
Marilee Baird
Caryle and Jack Barnard
Abe Bassett
David and Peggy Ann Berry
Susan and David Bodary
Carolyn Bohler
Lee and Pat Bradley-Falke
Barbara Buddendeck
Loretta Buddendeck
Susan Byerly
Andrea and Vincent Cobb
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Stephanie and Rex Dickey
Phillip C. Dreety and
Louisa Scarpelli Dreety
Jeanne Eickman
Rowan Evans and Joseph Castner
Laurie Siebenthaler Fanning
Kathy Farmer
Debbie Feldman

William Gerhard in memory of
Judy Gerhard
Carol Graff
Paul Gruner Montgomery County
Engineer
Lisa Hanauer and Sue Spiegel
Dianne Herman
Roger and Vivienne Himmell
Janice James and Joyce Gibbs
Dennis and Rebecca Jarvi
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Janine and Scott Kinnison (Atom
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Rob Streck
Patty and Tom Stricker
Karyn Sullivan
Ritchie Thomas
Pat Torvik
Kathy and Dennis Turner
The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation
Juanita Wehrle-Einhorn, in memory
of Carolyn Perkins
Ann Wilger
Penny Wolff
Paul Woodie
Tom Young Family Fund



*"It was the worst day we had
ever seen, but it brought out
the best in all of us."*

~Senator John Kerry

From the President's Desk

Greetings!

On August 21st the Board of Directors held a Board Retreat in the Talbott Towers Conference Room. In keeping with our new normal, it was a combination of in-person and Zoom participation. So many things have shifted in the last 18 months that it was good to get together and review what we are about and how we are doing the work of the League. This is a great opportunity to do a “re-fresh” by looking at past practices and how we can incorporate the lessons learned from the era of Covid.

We will be looking at the makeup of this publication and how it can become a more meaningful “read” for our membership. We discussed the opportunities to engage our membership in meaningful League interactions and how we can improve the Zoom experience (because I think hybrid meetings are here to stay!)

One of the more exciting ideas to come out of the retreat was the idea of creating Oral Histories with some of our members. There is a wealth of knowledge out there and it would be great to have these women be our story tellers as we move solidly into our second century.

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

~Mario, LWVGDA President



National Voter Registration Day is September 28. Dozens of volunteers are needed to staff voter registration tables throughout Greene and Montgomery Counties. It's a great way to help further the mission of the League, and you'll have fun, too!

Two volunteer trainings will be provided:

- September 14 at the Greene County Social Service Center located at 541 Ledbetter Road, Xenia
- September 15 in the conference room at Talbott Tower above the LWV office at 124 W 1st St, Dayton

Each will take place at 6:00 pm and will provide you with all the information and instruction you will need to register voters properly. There may be snacks involved!

Contact Jo Lovelace Hill, VP Voter Service, at **lvlacej@aol.com** to sign up **by September 10**.

Additionally, volunteers are needed to help with candidate forums and the distribution of the *Voters Guide*! If you are interested in helping with either of these modes of providing pertinent information to voters, please give the office a call at 937.228.4041 to sign up, or email **leaguedayton@sbcglobal.net**.

We need you! Questions, or looking for other ways to get involved? Email **LaurelKerr1549@gmail.com**.

Voter Suppression, Knowing Our History

In light of recent events in Texas regarding the introduction of controversial new laws regarding voting, it is illuminating to review the history of disenfranchisement in what some have called the state in which it is the most difficult to vote. As described in Carol Anderson's excellent book, *One Person, No Vote*, Texas enacted a statute in 1923 that would expressly forbid anyone but Whites from voting in the Democratic primary. At the time, Texas, along with other Southern states, was a one-party system composed of Democrats, so despised was the party of Lincoln. The result was that winning the Democratic primary election was tantamount to winning political office.

While the U. S. Supreme Court had previously decided that the poll tax and the literacy test were constitutional, after reviewing Texas's White Primary law, the court found that the law was an explicit violation of the equal protection law of the 14th Amendment. Undaunted, the Texas legislature simply redrafted that statute to turn the Democratic Party into a private organization. Blacks challenged this change in court and again they prevailed. But, through a loophole in the US Supreme Court ruling, Texas tried again by calling a Democratic Party statewide convention and passing a resolution restricting membership in the party primary to White citizens of Texas, once again effectively disenfranchising Blacks and also Latinx groups, especially Mexican Americans. When the state was sued again in 1935 for its exclusionary

practices, this time the Supreme Court upheld the law, stating that an organization had the right to choose the qualifications for its membership.

It was not until a subsequent U. S. Supreme Court decision in 1944 in *Smith v Allwright*, that an 8 to 1 majority ruled that the White Primary, although supposedly a private affair, was central to the election process and, therefore, fell under the domain of federal law and the U. S. Constitution. But it would not be until 1965, with the unrelenting pressure of the Civil Rights Movement and the bloody beating of peaceful protestors on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in March of that year, that federal law in the Voting Rights Act was enacted in order to protect the rights of African Americans to vote. Sadly, the U. S. Supreme Court has recently diluted many of the protections of this law that it provided to prevent state legislatures from seeking to erect barriers to voting.

There is a long and sordid history in the United States of legal and extra-legal, violent, actions to prevent some groups from voting, especially less powerful and marginalized ones, that continues to this day. The White Primary is just one example of many of this legacy.

~Dianne Herman, *Speakers Bureau*

In Memoriam

We mourn the recent death of Onnolee Mills, and we offer our heartfelt sympathy to her husband David and her entire family. Onnolee was an active member of our League until 2019.



Welcome
To Our New
Members

Jordan Ford

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klpeck1@gmail.com

Redistricting Deadlines Tight; Your Voice is Critical

The Fair Elections/Redistricting Committee, led by Kim Senft-Paras has been tireless in its efforts to drive home the need for a fair mapmaking process. Legislation passed overwhelmingly by the state in 2015 and 2018 calls for the discouragement of gerrymandering with greater input from the minority party.

Since mid-April, members of the committee have spoken to 14 community groups, executed a program to commemorate the People Powered Day of Action, facilitated community mapping activities with residents of Centerville/Washington Township, Kettering, Beavercreek, Trotwood, North Central Montgomery County, and Jefferson Township-SW Montgomery County, with mapmaking sessions to be announced for Oakwood and Harrison Township. These sessions served as a way for citizens to be ready to testify at ten public hearings scheduled throughout Ohio the week of August 23.

The redistricting process is intense, and deadlines are tight.

Legislative districts must be drawn by September 1. If completed by this date, the plan must be approved by four of the commission's members, including both Democrats. If not approved, the commission can put out a map with a majority vote.

That map does not have to be bipartisan and a public hearing must be held. Once the hearing is complete, the commission will adopt a final plan. If the map has bipartisan support, it will be in effect for ten years; if not, the map must be redrawn after four years.

The deadline for Congressional district maps to be drawn is September 30.

The map needs to have support from 60% of both the House and the Senate. Half of the Democrats in each chamber must approve the map for it to be in place for ten years.

If lawmakers cannot agree on a plan, the commission steps in. Four of the seven members of the commission, including two Democrats, would have to approve the new districts by October 31.

If the commission fails to reach agreement on the Congressional map, state lawmakers will continue the process. They will need to create a map that garners 60% approval and only one-third of Democrats, the minority party, will have to agree to make it a ten-year map. If that doesn't happen, the majority can create a map, but it will only last for four years.

Members of the Redistricting Commission include:

- ◆ Governor DeWine: 614.644.4357, 614.466.3555, **Laurel.Dawson@governor.ohio.gov**
- ◆ Secretary of State LaRose: 614.466.2585, **FLaRose@ohiosos.gov**
- ◆ Auditor Keith Faber: 614.466.4514, **contactus@ohioauditor.gov**
- ◆ Senate President Matt Huffman: 614.466.7584, **huffman@ohiosenate.gov**
- ◆ Speaker Bob Cupp: 614.466.9624, **rep04@ohiohouse.gov**
- ◆ Senator Vernon Sykes: 614.466.7041, **sykes@ohiosenate.gov**
- ◆ House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes: 614.466.3100, **rep34@ohiohouse.gov**

There is still time to have your voice heard! Continue to contact the members of the commission to insist that fair maps are drawn.

REDISTRICTING

VOLUNTEER VOICES



League Offers Implicit Racial Bias Training

October 23

10 am to Noon

Sinclair Community College

All League members invited

FREE thanks to

United Way of Greater Dayton Area



“It doesn’t matter whether we, deep down, believe ourselves to be ___-ist or whether we intend our actions to be hurtful or ___-ist. It. Doesn’t. Matter. If the impact of our actions is the furthering of oppression, then that’s all that matters.”¹

In this quote, shared in the LWV DEI training discussed by Dianne Herman on page 7, we are invited to fill in the blanks with whatever “ism” we may experience; racism, agism, sexism...You get the idea.

When our behavior doesn’t match our intent, it may be because we hold implicit bias, defined as “a form of bias that occurs automatically and unintentionally, that nevertheless affects judgments, decisions, and behaviors.”²

With funding from a Racial Equity Mini Grant from the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area, we are all invited to learn more about Implicit Racial Bias.

One of these grants was awarded to me, with help from Peggy Coale and David Bodary, to provide a brief Implicit Racial Bias training. The training will be both online and in person, with the in-person portion for League members and staff held Saturday, October 23, 10 am – 12 pm, or on Zoom if advised due to COVID. The online portion will be completed at your convenience prior to the in-person or Zoom training. Participants will be asked to take a short anonymous pretest and post test through Survey Monkey.

“When people are acting out of their implicit bias, they are not even aware that their actions are biased. In fact, those biases may be in direct conflict with a person’s explicit beliefs and values.”³

Each person who completes the training and testing will receive a \$10 e-gift card to a Black-owned business as a thank-you gift. This training is also being provided for volunteers and staff at the Dayton Mediation Center.

Sinclair professors Myra Bozeman, Kathleen Gish, and Kathy Rowell are presenting the training. The training will be held in the Charity Earley Auditorium, located in the Ponitz Center Building 12, Sinclair Community College. Parking is provided in the structure beneath Building 12 and will be free to attendees.

Benefits of participation include increasing awareness of your implicit biases and learning how to dismantle their effects (teaser: you

can’t think your way out of vast cultural conditioning). Please consider participating in this pilot project. We would love to have 50 or more participants from the League! Look for more information and an opportunity to register and take the online training soon through an email invitation.

Questions? Email Laurel Kerr at
laurelkerr1549@gmail.com.

¹ Utt, Jamie, “Intent vs. Impact: Why Your Intentions Don’t Really Matter” on Everydayfeminism.com July 30, 2013

² National Institutes of Health website <https://diversity.nih.gov/sociocultural-factors/implicit-bias>

³ ADL.com <https://www.adl.org/who-we-are>

~Laurel Kerr, Volunteer Coordinator

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area



Following the murder of George Floyd, Major Nan Whaley issued a City of Dayton Declaration stating that Racism is a Public Health Issue, as did many other cities and organizations in our country which pledged to eliminate racism in principle and practice as a result of this terrible killing. In response to Mayor Whaley's Declaration, a group of LWVGDA members, including Val Lee, Jo Lovelace Hill and Dona Fletcher drafted a statement of support for the Dayton Declaration. They also petitioned the LWVGDA Board to form a committee to review the League of Women Voters United States Diversity, Equity and Inclusive Initiative with the goal of creating a plan to embrace DEI principles throughout our local League. Our Board responded by approving the formation of a LWVGDA DEI Committee. Members include Dona Fletcher, Tonya Wilson Wood, Penny Wolff, Lillian Moskeland, Val Lee and Mario. This committee set as its first goal to educate members of the Board on the principles and application of issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. To that end, Christina Davis of the LWVUS

provided 8 hours of training over a three-day period in July for members of the Board of Directors, committee chairs and DEI members, which was attended by 18 of our members.

A major focus of the training was to ask ourselves to examine our work through a DEI Lens by asking questions such as:

- Who is involved in the process of decision-making?
- Who will be impacted?
- What are the intended and unintended outcomes?
- Does this activity/program/project align with our vision for an equitable and inclusive organization?
- What changes could be made to make our activities more equitable?

The LWVUS has done a great deal of research and analysis on how Leagues can become more inclusive and welcoming of marginalized communities, and they have provided our local Leagues with resources and materials. This information is easily

accessed through the DEI page of the LWVUS website: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/diversity-equity-inclusion>. This training and resource development is reflective of the LWVUS policy, which states, in part, "The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in 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."

As we move forward, LWVGDA will be developing its own DEI policy that reflects our commitment to the basic fundamentals of LWVUS policy, to effectively engage individuals, household, communities and policy

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success

makers in creating a more perfect democracy. Stay tuned for further developments. Please feel free to call the office at 937.228.4041 for further information or to provide suggestions.



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Dayton, OH 45402-1703

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*"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:

September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Deadline for Legislative Districts to be drawn	2	3	4
5	6 LABOR DAY	7	8	9	10	11 
12	13	14	15	16	17 Military and Over- seas Absentee Voting begins	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY	29	30 Deadline for Congressional Districts to be drawn		