



THE VOTER

Monthly News & Updates

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Low Voter Turnout Requires New Strategies

Are you frustrated? Because I'm frustrated. I just read the *Dayton Daily News* and saw that state-wide, 20.6% of registered voters turned out at the polls for the May 3 primary.

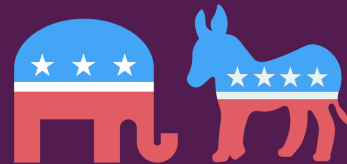
There SEEMS to be enough righteous indignation out there based upon all the memes and GIFs I'm seeing on Facebook. But the reality is, only one-fifth of the eligible voters in Ohio chose who was going to run for governor, which individuals might represent us in Washington, D.C., and which judges, responsible for interpreting the meaning and significance of the law, would be on the November ballot.

As I was listening to an NPR podcast recently, I heard a young activist suggest that simply encouraging folks to get out to the polls isn't the answer. She said that young people turned out in droves in 2020 but are now frustrated that the politicians they voted for aren't following through with the promises they made while campaigning.

I disagree. I learned a long time ago that you can't change other people. Don't like what's going on? You need to get more people elected to office who will walk the walk.

So how do we get other people on board? By reaching out to the people whom we've not reached out to before and by helping to break down the barriers to voting that so many people experience. That means meeting people

Reaching Across the Aisle:



A Conversation with
Tony Hall and Bob Taft

Wednesday June 8
7:00 PM
Fitz Center for
Leadership in
Community

BUY
TICKETS



where they're at, advertising programs in less traditional ways and continuing to vote for elected officials who are dedicated to making voting easier rather than more difficult.

This upcoming general election is going to be important for many reasons. Whoever wins will be responsible for the direction in which our state and country will turn. It's going to be crucial that we get as many people out to vote as we can.

~Chris Corba
League Executive Director

We thank the
Virginia W. Kettering
Foundation for its
recent grant to the
League of Women
Voters of the Greater
Dayton Area
to support our ongoing
activities.



Ohio Redistricting Commission Ignores Will Of Voters, Rule of Law

On June 3, the Ohio Redistricting Commission ignored the Ohio Supreme Court ruling to submit fairly drawn district maps as designated by widely-popular constitutional amendments.

In fact, the Supreme Court has asked the Commission FIVE TIMES to submit district maps that fairly represent the voting trends of Ohioans for the past ten years, and that reduce gerrymandering. Each time, some members of the Commission ignored the Court's direction. Instead, they chose to "wait out the clock" to gain the system and use gerrymandered maps to place their candidates in power before voters could fairly choose candidates for themselves.

The dysfunctional redistricting process caused a federal court to rule that illegal maps be used for a rushed additional primary election for state house and senate seats in August, at \$20 million added cost to Ohioans. Secretary of State LaRose refused to alter the filing deadline for candidates. The mismatched timeline has caused unopposed, uncompetitive candidate races in several districts, and many lawsuits have been filed. The Commission's brazen inaction has caused the degradation of the rule of law and the respect for equal powers of government. Most egregious is how it will cause voter confusion and apathy because many will believe their vote doesn't matter when the process can be so rigged.

We view these actions as a threat to bedrock principles of democracy. We will continue to fight for fair, transparent and accessible elections, and relentlessly help citizens register to vote and participate in elections. Defending democracy and empowering voters is OUR mission, and we will not be deterred. Read a report from our Redistricting/Fair Elections Committee on past and future activities designed to inform and engage voters on this issue, **HERE**.

~ Mary Robertson, Public Relations Director

Lean In For Leadership Circle

The Dayton League is among the largest and most active Leagues in the state and that's because of the support it receives from its members and the community.

You'll receive a letter in July asking you to consider a donation to help "keep the doors open and the lights on." In the past year, members of your League volunteered countless hours to educate the community about the redistricting process, created the biggest EVER *Voters Guide*, provided educational programming, and registered hundreds of people to vote. Those efforts, plus the ongoing administrative costs of running our office, happen because of your gifts.

It seems like everyone says, "Your support is needed now more than ever," but it's true. The political climate of our country is incredibly volatile and it's crucial that the League provide the information citizens need to make educated decisions at the polls. Our rights depend on it. You can help make it happen.

This year's campaign will take place July 1 to August 31. We're asking you to lean in a little more this year if you are able. If you donated \$100 last year, please consider a gift of \$125 this year. Those who donate \$100 or more during that period will appear in the *Voters Guide*. Remember: All donations to the League are tax deductible as allowable by law.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

60th Annual Meeting Highlights



Our 60th Annual Meeting was held May 24 at Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley in Dayton. Members voted on new Board Members, the 2022-23 Budget, Program Topics, and our new Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) Policy.

Congratulations to our 2022-23 Board of Directors:

- President Mario
- President-Elect Beth Schaeffer
- Vice President Community Relations Peggy Berry
- Vice President Program David Bodary
- Vice President Voter Services Dianne Herman
- Secretary Keelie Gustin
- Treasurer Marilyn McCauley
- Action Director Valerie Lee
- Funding & Development Director Linda Fish
- Greene Co Representative Sandy McHugh
- Membership Director Alaina Shoemaker
- Public Relations Director Mary Robertson
- Web Master Rita Peterson

2022-23 Program Topics

The following issue topics our League will focus on for the next program year were approved at our Annual Meeting:

Voter Suppression
Voting Access
Money in Politics
Redistricting
Bail Reform
Preservation of Natural Resources

These issue topics will be the focus of Board discussions, newsletter articles, Empowering You (our DATV produced broadcast), social media posts, and events.

Volunteer Voices



The City of Dayton Continues to Wage Peace – and You Can Play a Role!

The City of Dayton Bosnia and Herzegovina Annual Student Leadership Exchange program allows Bosnian high school students and a few of their teachers to visit the Dayton area for three weeks. During this time, these students join students from local high schools, colleges and universities in learning about democracy, diversity, volunteerism, leadership, human rights, and having fun in the USA. At the end of their time here, the Bosnian students present a project idea they plan to implement in their own community, with some financial support from the Bosnian government for each team project. This spring, students representing seven cities designed seven projects to be implemented over the next year. These projects all include a component to encourage people of different faiths and ethnicities to meet each other and together address issues such as climate change, the environment and opportunities for disabled children.

An important element of the exchange program is the opportunity for students to enjoy a slice of American life by staying with a host family.

[Read More](#)



Women's Reproductive Rights

As you have all heard, women's reproductive rights are in peril. Here in Ohio, Senate Bill 123 and House Bill 598 will immediately ban abortion if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned.

Dr. Deborah Turner, President of the LWVUS, told League members: "I want to acknowledge the pain and fear that this news causes for so many. This very real threat to our reproductive rights puts people in danger, fuels already heightened anxiety, and looms as a dangerous degradation of personal civil liberties."

Read more about the LWVUS position [HERE](#).

The League of Women Voters is an ally in this fight. As we receive information about rallies and events that are



Introducing our newest members:

Karen Hunter
Jenni O'Connell
Gale Heller

appropriate for a nonpartisan organization to join, we'll keep you informed.

Still Time to Support the *Voters Guide!*

Many thanks to everyone who has donated to support the annual *Voters Guide!* **Donations are still being accepted.** Gifts of \$100 and above will be recognized on the back cover of the *Guide*.

Donations can be made on our website [HERE](#) or by sending a check to the League office at 127 N. Ludlow Street, Dayton, OH 45402.



Carl Beyer

We offer our sympathy to Roberta and the entire Beyer family on the recent death of Carl Beyer. Carl and Roberta were long-time active members of our League. Carl was a former editor of the *Dayton Daily News*. He died May 15 at age 92.



The League and Community Involvement

According to data reported in US News and World Report, 19% of students at Westwood Elementary School in Dayton scored at or above the proficient level for math, and 26% scored at or above that

level for reading. Members of the Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MVUUF) congregation decided to help turn around those statistics by donating books and supplies to the school along with providing tutorial services.

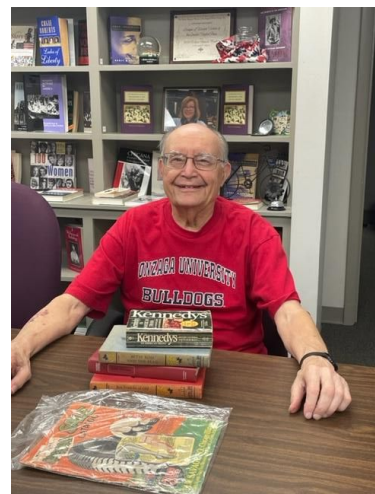
Working with Steven Steel, who served as a contact person for MVUUF, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee of the Greater Dayton League made the decision to coordinate a book drive asking League members to support the MVUUF project. On May 25, DEI Chair Dona Fletcher along with her husband Ronald, Action Chair Valerie Lee, and President-Elect Beth Schaeffer met at the school and delivered eight boxes of books. Steven had coordinated with the principal, Shelly Murphy, along with other members of MVUUF Social Action to transfer the books and learn more about the school. Of particular interest was the book vending machine inside the school lobby. Students earn tokens to use the vending machine based on criteria (such as good attendance) as part of their positive school climate program.

The DEI Committee hopes to have a continuing presence in the community, diversifying our membership and continuing to offer voter services for all.

~Valerie Lee, Action Director

A Special Visitor!

Bill Gerhard dropped by the office recently to contribute a few more books to the League's library. When Bill's wife Judy, who was a member of the Dayton League for many years, passed away he donated boxes of books on women's history and political commentary to the League. Much of the League's collection, which can be borrowed by members, is thanks to the Gerhard family's generosity. Bill continues to support the *Voters Guide* each year in her memory.



One of the items Bill donated is a sales catalog, dated July 3, 1928, from the M.W. Savage Company in Chicago, where you can find everything from bloomers and tires to furniture! A pair of shoes described as "a bit saucy, but the smartest and newest pump of today" could be purchased for \$3.69, a solid oak pedestal table with six matching chairs for \$21.34, and four sets of hose "knit with the seam up the back" could be purchased for just eighty-nine cents!



Bail Reform On November Ballot

A proposed constitutional amendment that sets newly-worded guidelines for setting bail will appear on the November ballot.

The push for a constitutional amendment started after the Ohio Supreme Court said in a 4-3 ruling that money bail can be used only to ensure someone's return to court, and that excessive bail is unconstitutional.

Proponents of the bill say additional language is needed to give judges guidance on all the conditions they should consider when setting high bail for those awaiting trial. Courts must consider public safety, a person's criminal record, the likelihood the defendant will show up for court, and the seriousness of the offense.

Opponents of the amendment say conditions for setting bail are already considered by judges. Ohio has a law allowing a hearing for pretrial detention, in which judges can hold someone in custody if they're deemed dangerous, which is separate from the bail process. They contend the amendment won't necessarily improve public safety, and would only worsen an already-broken bail system that lets rich defendants pay their way out of jail while poor defendants sit behind bars.

Watch for more information on the pros and cons of this amendment in the coming months.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

June 7 LWVO All Member Call

June 8 **Reaching Across The Aisle: A Conversation With Tony Hall and Bob Taft**

June 13 Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM

June 16 **Naturalization Ceremony**

June 17 **Juneteenth Celebration at Sinclair Community College**

June 20 National Juneteenth Holiday (celebrated)

June 25 Yellow Springs Pride Festival / LWVGDA Voter Registration Booth



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