



THE VOTER

Monthly News & Updates

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League Volunteers and Staff Cover Fair Maps Issue, Elections

As I write, the congressional and legislative district maps are still up in the air and details about the second primary have not been released. Each day callers ask, "What is going on?" Based on conversations from meetings I've attended, the fight for fair maps is far from over, so get ready to continue your efforts! Many thanks to Kim Senft-Paras for keeping up the momentum!

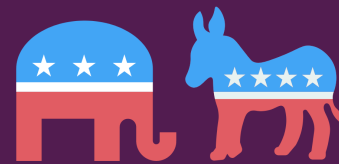
On another note, I had the privilege of volunteering at the US Senate Democratic and Republican debates, sponsored by the Ohio Debate Commission at Central State University at the end of March. I had the opportunity to fill in for LWVO's Executive Director Jen Miller, who was unable to attend due to a commitment related to Fair Districts.

My job was to make sure the candidate to whom I was assigned was where the candidate needed to be, including the makeup chair!

It was fascinating to watch how candidates arrived. Some brought just one or two close allies with them for support, others arrived with a full entourage of staffers, family, and friends. We had early check-ins and a few getting there just in the nick of time! Each had their own way of prepping for the debates, much like an athlete would before hitting the field, the mat, or the ice.

I'm grateful for the experience, and am looking forward to seeing how everything plays out after

Reaching Across the Aisle:



A Conversation with
Tony Hall and Bob Taft

Mark Your Calendar!

The League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area is pleased to host "Reaching Across the Aisle: A Conversation with Tony Hall and Bob Taft" on Wednesday, **June 8, 2022 at 7:00 PM** at the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community.

During these highly partisan times, it can be difficult to find common ground. Ambassador Tony Hall and Governor Bob Taft, long-time friends, will discuss the art of working across party lines to drive positive change.

Ashley Bethard, Editor and Chief Content Officer at the *Dayton Daily News* will moderate that evening and

the primary. Meeting candidates in person gives one an entirely unique perspective!

I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Meeting on May 24 at Goodwill Easter Seals. Keep your eyes open for an email asking you to RSVP. If you don't receive one, please give the office a call!

~Chris Corba
League Executive Director

Nancy McHugh, the Executive Director of the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community, will provide opening remarks.

Learn more, and register for this outstanding event, [HERE](#).



From the President's Desk

Welcome to our inaugural online issue of our newsletter, *The Voter*.

Much thought has gone into this transition (thank you Mary Robertson!). Please let us know your thoughts.

Trying to keep up with all the twists and turns in the evolving saga of our fight for Fair Maps in Ohio has been a challenge. We fought hard for Constitutional amendments to end gerrymandered district maps and for Ohio Supreme Court rulings to uphold the desired outcome of those amendments. Both of these efforts are being ignored by the Ohio Redistricting Commission and other state-elected officials.

But one constant in this battle has been our own League members' participation in the fight. I'm so proud of how our Dayton Area members showed up at hearings, held signs at rallies, wrote postcards to legislators, and sent emails and made phone calls to the Ohio Redistricting Commission demanding fair maps.

We need to continue reminding our elected officials that the will of the people they serve must be respected. The Ohio Supreme Court imposed a May 6 deadline to produce a district map that satisfies Ohio's Constitution that is not likely to be met, according to our own Secretary of State, Frank LaRose. Your voice demanding fair maps is needed now more than ever. Go to the [Fair Districts Ohio coalition site](#) for ideas on how you can continue the fight.

The **Annual Meeting** is coming up on May 24, at 6 PM. Among other things, we will be voting on officers, the proposed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policy, programs for 2022-2023 that came out of our Program Planning meeting in February, and the budget for the coming fiscal year. The meeting is also a great opportunity to catch up with one another.

I am particularly excited about our upcoming event on June 8: "Reaching Across the Aisle." This event will be a conversation with Tony Hall and Bob Taft. In these contentious times, it will be interesting to hear the insights of two master politicians who were, and are, able to make things work for the good of all. Go [HERE](#) to purchase your ticket.

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

~Mario
League President

Contributors Fuel Our Mission

Cathy Adler
Susan Byerly
Dayton Chapter of the APWU
Retirees Association

Kathleen Farmer
Janis James
Marilyn Nagle

David Neuhardt
Kaye Stealey
Judy and Tom Thompson

Educational Opportunity for Members



Our American Journey: The Black Experience in America

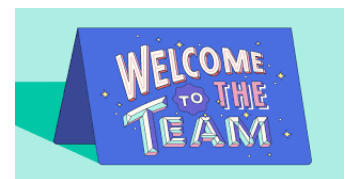
There's a new exhibit at Sinclair you do not want to miss. It is comprised of personal mementos of Black History memorabilia collected throughout the years and from all over the country by Michael Carter, Senior Advisor to the President/Chief Diversity Officer at the Sinclair Diversity Office. The hands-on exhibit allows participants to examine and explore the African American journey through looking at a variety of artifacts such as books, magazines, and pictures as a means of capturing and understanding the determination, courage, and resilience of Blacks in America.

[Read More](#)

Volunteer Voices

One thing is clear after the League-sponsored debate watch parties: Our local libraries are more aware of the League of Women Voters. Debate watch parties at Huber Heights, Miamisburg, Northwest, Vandalia, and Wilmington-Stroop branches of the Dayton Metro Library and the Wright Memorial Library in Oakwood all helped extend the work of the League into the community in a new way, raising awareness and building relationships in the process.

After learning the Primary State Senatorial and Gubernatorial debates would be held at Central State University (in Greater Dayton League territory!), Valerie Lee came up with the idea of hosting debate watch parties as a way to promote the League in various parts of the community, particularly in areas where there is little LWV awareness



Introducing our newest members:

Jean Binger
Sarah Hanley
Jacqueline Curl
Constance Crockett
Peggy Finke

or engagement. While participation was slim, League members talked with library staff, supplied voter services materials, and answered questions about the League. Val had this to share, "When there were attendees at the watch party, the post-debate discussions were worthwhile. Too bad the candidates were not able to hear from our insightful voters." Val is planning to continue to build relationships with library personnel and hopes to schedule debate watch parties this fall with more lead time for publicity.

Special thanks to League members Rosalie Bonacci-Roberts, Louisa Dreety, Dona and Ron Fletcher, Janet Hess, Sue and John Hesselgesser, Jo Lovelace Hill, Janine Kinnison, Val Lee, Mario, Rem Merry, Beth Schaeffer and Cindy Hatton Tepe, along with Jo's friend Delores Ross for representing the League at the various libraries. You were willing to give this inaugural idea a try, invite friends, and provide useful feedback for future events. We are grateful!

Do you have an idea for promoting the work of the League? Would you like to volunteer at a future event? Contact the League office at **937.228.4041** or league@lwvdayton.org.

~Laurel Kerr
Volunteer Coordinator

Jacqueline Gaines
Sarah Hanley
Angelina Jackson
Walter Goldschmidt
Dawn Martin
Marilyn McCauley
Alice McCollum
Audrey McGowin
Susan Riordan
Shelly Whitehead



Imagining Community: Shaping a More Equitable Dayton

Kudos to League members Dianne Herman, Jacquie Housel and Lucy Anne McKosky for their outstanding presentation, "Social Inequity and Voting," at the University of Dayton's symposium, which was held April 7-8, 2022. It was great to see so many other League members lend their support including Kim Senft-Paras, Nancy Nerny, Dona Fletcher, Jo Lovelace Hill and Mary Sue Gmeiner.

Many thanks to Sinclair Community College student Jeremy Liscum who also presented that day. Jeremy, who is pursuing his Associate Degree in Geospatial Technology, created maps that illustrate how voter turnout is affected by where voters live, their household income, level of education, and access to transportation.

The breakout session was full of self-described "democracy nerds" who discussed why many citizens, while registered to vote, simply don't turn out at the polls. The dialogue generated ideas regarding how we as a League could engage voters.

An interesting finding was that while the University of Dayton has one of the highest percentages of registered voters per capita, the campus has among the lowest voter turnout in the

city of Dayton. Is it as simple as a lack of transportation, or as one attendee wondered, society's extension of adolescence? If that's the case, it's even more crucial to engage young people and get them to the polls as soon as they turn 18 to ensure they make voting a habit!



Donate to the Westwood Book Drive

The Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) Committee would like to ask the LWVGDA to support the Westwood Elementary School Book Drive. Westwood is a community on the west side of Dayton that has been hit hard by urban blight. Read the *Dayton Daily News* article [HERE](#) that gives a description of the book project sponsored by Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Washington Twp. They are looking for books for children ages 4-12 including picture books, chapter books, and early readers. Books featuring characters of color are an added bonus. You can also contribute funds for books by [DONATING ONLINE](#) or mailing a check made out to MVUUF with "book drive" in the memo line and send it to:

MVUUF
8690 Yankee St.
Washington Township, OH 45458

You can begin dropping off books today!! The drive will end on Friday May 20.

Please drop your donations at the LWVGDA office Monday through Friday between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Give us a call at **937.228.4041** to let Chris and Jessie know you'll be dropping by.

With Gratitude!!
The DEI Committee

UPCOMING CALENDAR

- | | |
|--------|--|
| May 9 | Board Meeting |
| May 10 | Finance Committee
Funding & Development Committee |
| May 24 | 60th LWVGDA Annual Meeting |
| June 4 | Voter Registration Event
1 PM to 4 PM
Courthouse Square, Dayton |
| June 8 | "Reaching Across The Aisle: A Conversation with Tony Hall and Bob Taft" |



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