



THE VOTER

Monthly News & Updates

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It's Simple: Just VOTE

This month I'm keeping it short and to the point. **Vote.**

The past few months have been difficult. The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* opened the very real possibility that we may lose even more rights. We've witnessed the aftermath and the senselessness of multiple mass shootings. Every facet of the electoral process may be upended by the Supreme Court by giving state legislatures the ability to set new rules for elections with few checks and balances. Many of us are feeling angry, scared and maybe even a little helpless.

So, what can we do? Should we attend rallies? Yes. Do we need to write and call our elected officials? Of course. But what's going to make the real difference is that everyone needs to encourage their family, friends, and neighbors to get out there and vote. Offer to drive a neighbor to your polling place, bug your kids, offer to take a friend to lunch after you vote, make a plan.

To help get the word out, we've ordered "Register to Vote!" yard signs from Fair Districts that will be available at the office beginning July 27. I'd love to get as many as we can throughout Greene and Montgomery Counties. If you're interested, come down between 9:00 and 5:00 to pick one up for your front yard. Hopefully, that neighbor who drives past your house will see it and will be inspired to cast their ballot.

As always, thank you for your passion and your



August 25
6:00 PM
Wandering Griffin
Brewery, Beavercreek

Join us at the Wandering Griffin Brewery, 3725 Presidential Drive in Beavercreek, on Thursday, August 25, 6:00 to 8:00 PM to celebrate Women's Equality Day!

Catch up with friends and enjoy a presentation from local author, Karol Brown, whose newest book, *The Harriet Tubman Way: An Inspirational Guide to Self-Love, Empowerment and Legendary Leadership for Girls*, which launches on August 26. Her book will be available to purchase that evening.

commitment. Call your representative and demand answers to the hard questions and then vote for the people who share your values.

~Chris Corba
League Executive Director



Ms. Brown will share some little-known facts about Harriet Tubman and share stories that explain why self-love is the first step to changing the world.

Individual tickets are \$35. Bring a friend and the price is \$60 for two tickets! Includes appetizers, salad and pizza, cash bar. Tickets can be purchased using PayPal (click below) or by sending a check payable to: LWVGDA, 127 N. Ludlow Street. Dayton, OH 45402

**BUY
TICKETS**



Your District May Have Changed!

With all the confusion over redistricting, who is running, and what polling places will be open, it is imperative that you check your voter information before going to vote.

Please take the time to **CHECK YOUR VOTER INFORMATION**.

Montgomery County voters follow this link
Greene County voters follow this link

You will be prompted to enter your first and last name. Your name and birth date will appear on the left hand side. Click on Voter Details. There is a lot of information, but if you scroll down to Your Voting Districts, you will see all the ballot areas you are able to vote on. Up at the top of that page you can see a sample ballot. For the primary, you need to choose either D (Democrat) or R (Republican).

Also on the ballot are State Central Committee candidates. These elected persons run the Republican and Democratic parties in Ohio. Among other things, they allocate funds and vote on candidate endorsements.

For this primary, there is a write-in candidate for the Ohio House 39th District. Follow the directions on the ballot to vote for this candidate. If you do not remember the name of the candidate, you may request a paper with the candidate name on it for your use at your polling location.

If you have any questions on this process, please contact the League office at **937.228.4041**.

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 received a letter recently 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.

This year, we're asking that if you are able, you dig a little deeper. Inflation and the market are taking their toll on our bottom line. So, if you donated \$100 last year, we ask that you consider a gift of \$125 this year.

This year's campaign will take place July 1 to August 31. 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.

To donate online, go to lwvdayton.org Thank you in advance for your support!



Program Focus: Ohioans to Vote on Bail Reform Amendment

On November 8, voters will decide whether a proposed amendment to the Ohio Constitution to change the rules for cash bail is, as proponents claim, a better way to maintain public safety, or as opponents claim, a shift in power from the Courts to the

General Assembly that won't impact public safety at all.

A decision by the Ohio Supreme Court in January upholding a reduction in bail didn't sit well with Ohio's State legislature; it seemed to them weak on public safety. They immediately proposed legislation to put an amendment to the Constitution on the ballot this fall. The legislation passed along party lines. If the Amendment passes, it will shift control of bail rules from the Rules of Criminal Procedure, defined by the

Supreme Court, to any laws that the General Assembly may pass. It also changes the wording to include the phrase “public safety” when determining the amount of bail.

The Rules of Criminal Procedure already include public safety, with provisions for electronic monitoring, treatment programs, and other restrictions.

Regardless of the outcome of this amendment, other work on bail reform will continue, with bi-partisan bail reform measures currently in committee in the State legislature.

Voters will be either voting Yes to shift control of bail rules from the Rules of Criminal Procedure, defined by the Supreme Court, to any laws that the General Assembly may pass, or voting No to keep the current Constitutional language and the current balance of power between the judicial and legislative branches of government.

~Mary Sue Gmeiner

[READ MORE](#)

From the President's Desk

Lots of things going on these past few months! I was at the National Convention in June via Zoom and it was really interesting. We were able to get two registrations without having to also provide airfare, lodgings and meals. One highlight was the approval of a bylaws change which will impact membership.

LWV US is looking to transition membership dues from a fixed amount to a pay-what-you-can amount. One of the reasons for this change is to remove a cost barrier to membership. The details are in the process of being worked out and the updated bylaw should be rolling out in two years.

There are additional changes coming at the state level and to some extent at the local level. Iris Meltzer, LWVO Board Chair, will be speaking at a general membership meeting in April (time and place to be determined) to walk us through what National has planned.

At the Annual Meeting in May we said thank you to Dick Hattershire, who as Treasurer held the helm steady during Covid, and welcomed Marilyn McCauley in that role. She is retired from a career in government financial management and served as Treasurer for the Family Violence Prevention Center in Greene County. Tony Curington joined the Nominating Committee. Many thanks to Wendy Dyer and Deb Mustard-Gibson for their service over the last few years.

At the Board Retreat in July, there was a lot of conversation on how we can effectively communicate with membership. What issues are most important to us? Are we in person or



Introducing our newest members:

Debbie Byrd-Williams

Janet Boehmer

Maria Camacho (student member)

Mary Fricke

Karin Hirtschkatz

Stefanie Jacobs

Karen Levin Nancy McHugh

Marian & Steven Moeckel

Karissa Speakman (student member)

Kathy Swensen

Tina Wingate

Mark Willis

LaPearl Winfrey

remote or both?

We have a new committee, Let's Go Together! Conceived by Laurel Kerr, this committee is putting together opportunities to educate and socialize. So far a group has gone to Michael Carter's exhibit of his personal collection on the Black experience, a lunch program on Juneteenth, and a walk along the The Miami Valley Peace Heroes Trail in Miamisburg. It is proving a great way to get together with other League members. This is not just a member event – friends are most welcome!

Constant Contact emails go out regularly and our Facebook page is a wealth of information. As always, your ideas and comments are welcome. Email them to league@lwvdayton.org. Thank you.

~Mario, President



Do you like the new email newsletter format?

Yes

No



New Committee: Let's Go Together!

This new committee will seek out educational, interesting, and fun activities particularly related to expanding our knowledge and experience of diverse people and cultures. Committee members will coordinate opportunities for League members and guests to visit or attend together. Some events will be in person while others will be virtual. We will pair these events with lunch, dinner, or other

refreshment opportunities so we can get to know each other in informal and inexpensive settings. These will also be opportunities to invite friends, neighbors, and family members who may be interested in joining or learning more about the League, or who just want to hang out with some really cool people! Watch for emails from the League with "Let's Go Together" in the subject line if you'd like to know what we're doing next.

If you have an idea for an in-person or virtual event, exhibit, or program, please let us know! Email **Laurel Kerr** to share your ideas or to join this working committee. We are particularly looking for someone who could organize and coordinate periodic virtual events.

NEXT EVENT: September 7, 11:00 AM

Women of **Woodland Cemetery** – Guided tour with a focus on suffragists and forward-thinking women of Dayton

This is an outdoor event designed to be walkable. We will meet at 118 Woodland Ave, Dayton, OH 45409. More details available closer to the event. We will gather for lunch at nearby Dewey's Pizza, 131 Jasper St, Dayton 45409.

~Laurel Kerr

Introducing Our New Summer Intern, Maria

My name is Maria Camacho, and I am a rising senior at Carroll High School. This summer I decided to intern at the League of Women Voters because I was inspired by my peers and mentors to get involved in my community. My interest in civics began with a program called Youth and Government. The Ohio Youth and Government program consists of high school students from across the state who gather at the statehouse to debate and discuss our legislative proposals. Hundreds of young Ohioans come together passionate about making a change in their state, eager to overcome the challenges of the future. My experiences from Youth and Government taught me many lessons but most importantly it taught me the power of democracy. **At the 2022 Youth and Government conference I was elected youth governor of Ohio.** I am honored and excited to lead the youth of Ohio, they inspire me to grow the program and advocate for youth participation in civics.



We must defend democracy and ensure that all voices can be represented because power lies within the people. Remember that your vote matters now more than ever. Apathy is the enemy of democracy; democracy is not a state, it is an act. In times of despair remember that your vote has the power to change your community. Each one of us has the power to make tangible change in our communities. The time is now. Go out to the polls and make your voices heard. Be the change you wish to see.

The League of Women Voters defends democracy. It equips the community members with the information and resources to go out and vote. The League of Women Voters doesn't draw partisan divides; instead it unites people of a community under the common cause of democracy. Organizations like the League of Women Voters are vital to our community because they preserve the vibrancy of democracy. Each member, each donor, each volunteer helps further the mission. The League of Women Voters has reinvigorated my passion for democracy and community. I am proud to call myself a member and I am extremely grateful for all the learning opportunities throughout my internship.

League Hosts Tony Hall and Bob Taft

The League hosted "Reaching Across the Aisle: A Conversation with Tony Hall and Bob Taft" on



June 8, 2022, at the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community. Given the volatile atmosphere in politics today, we wanted to hear from politicians who had successfully worked with others with different points of view to drive change.

Ashley Bethard, *Dayton Daily News* Editor and Chief Content Officer, moderated the event.

Tony Hall, a Democrat, who has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize, is a leading advocate for hunger relief programs and improving human rights conditions in the world. He served the Third District of Ohio in the U.S. House of Representatives for almost twenty-four years. While serving in the House of Representatives as a Democrat, Mr. Hall was invited by President George W. Bush to serve as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture. In 2015, Mr. Hall founded the Hall Hunger Initiative to collaborate with community partners to create a just and equitable food system in the Dayton region.

Bob Taft, a Republican, began his career in public service as a Peace Corps volunteer (an experience he shares with Tony Hall), working as a schoolteacher in Tanzania, East Africa after graduating from college. He served as an elected official in Ohio for thirty years as a member of the state legislature, a county commissioner, Ohio Secretary of State and Governor of Ohio (1999-2007).

Each agreed that building relationships is key to driving change. Hall mentioned that years ago, legislators lived in Washington, socialized with each other, had dinner together, and their kids played together. Now, elected officials have little time to build that trust with one another which leads to friendships and the capacity to listen. Moreover, today's campaigns focus on attacks, meaning it's more difficult later to find ways to work together.

Taft said that when he was governor, he reached out to the communities who in large did not vote for him, to determine their needs. He then created legislation, working on both sides of the aisle, to address those needs.

Each is worried about the state of our democracy. They are concerned about the vast

amounts of money coming from PACs, the way that primaries are run, and that 80% of the districts are not competitive, meaning that whoever wins the primary is the person who will win the general election.

Each agreed that the only way that we are going to be able to reach a level of bipartisanship is to stop the personal attacks and to get back to the real reason people should want to become elected officials: to make a difference.

We recently received a note from a community member who saw the article about this event in the *Dayton Daily News*: “. . . (we) need more of this type of civil discourse - thank you again,” and also a request to duplicate the event in Warren County!

Read the *Dayton Daily News* article [HERE](#).

We Thank Our Donors

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Deborah Spears
Jeffrey Trzeciak and Michael Sieveking
Penny Wolff

UPCOMING CALENDAR

August 2 Primary Election -- use [Vote411](#) to learn more

August 9 Deadline for September Voter Newsletter articles--email [Mary Robertson](#)

August 25 [Toast to Tenacity!](#) Event

August 26 Women's Equality Day

September 5 Labor Day--Office Closed

September 20 "Redistricting: What it Means for You" event (watch for more information)



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