



THE VOTER

Monthly News & Updates

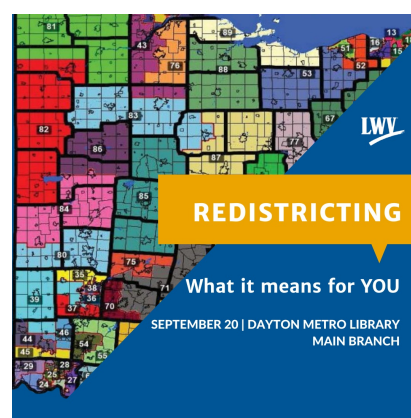
September 2022 | Volume 99 Issue 8

Joint Effort with ACLU Helps Shape Community Priorities

Last month, Dona Fletcher and I co-hosted two discussions with League members to support ACLU Ohio's goal of getting input from 10,000 Ohioans about what they believe are the most significant issues affecting our communities. After the conversation, we provided a report to ACLU Ohio to help them determine their priorities for 2023.

The League members, aged 17 to older adult, were of different ethnicities, socio-economic levels, religions, gender identities, sexual orientation and educational levels. Each came to the table with a wide range of points of view and experiences. By the end of the discussions, each of us came away with a better understanding of how we are all affected, either positively or negatively, by the current systems that are in place. An added bonus was getting to know one another on a deeper level.

What truths came out of the meetings? First, racism permeates our community. From the lack of access to preventive medical care with the closing of Good Samaritan Hospital which left a large hole in health care for those who live in West Dayton, to the disparity of how people are treated within the criminal justice system, local experiences show that white privilege is very real. Racism is evident, more subtly, through microaggressions that occur in everyday life.



September 20
6:00 PM
Dayton Metro Library
Main Branch
215 E. Third St.

Redistricting in Ohio has been marked by confusion and controversy over the last year. Many of us worked hard in 2015 and 2018 to pass Constitutional amendments that established requirements for fair districts, and we had high hopes that we had finally slain the gerrymander. Instead, we will go to the polls in November to elect Congressmen and state legislators in districts that have been ruled unconstitutional.

How did we get into this mess?
Where do we go from here?
How can we get fair districts that

Poverty in our community was a common theme as well; there is a huge divide between the “have nots” and the “haves” who are often oblivious to the needs of others. Limited access to food, affordable housing, educational opportunities and lack of opportunity hurt our community. Dayton City Schools are struggling to meet the needs of their students.

And we’re all feeling unsettled about the violence we’ve been seeing in our world.

But there was also hope for the future. Many of us talked about the next generation becoming more involved. They’re asking the hard questions and they want to effect change. More effort is being put into educating people about the importance of equity. The rebirth of the Arcade, the opening of Gem City Market, and the West Social Tap and Table all signify that we are beginning to see a glimmer of hope for the Greater Dayton Area.

What’s next? The members who attended would love to continue and broaden these discussions across the community. More information to come!

*~Chris Corba
League Executive Director*

The Voters Guide is Coming! The Voters Guide is Coming!

The *Voters Guide* is scheduled for delivery the second week of October and we’ll need volunteers to help distribute stacks of *Guides* throughout the community. Stay tuned for a volunteer sign-up opportunity later this month!

actually let voters choose their representatives? Get the answers to these and other questions at the community forum “**Redistricting – What it Means for You**” taking place at the Dayton Metro Library main branch on Tuesday, Sept. 20, from 6 to 8 p.m.

LWVGDA’s Redistricting/Fair Elections Committee has organized a panel of experts to discuss the history of redistricting and gerrymandering, how the process went this year, how it could have been done better, how various population groups are impacted, and what changes might help to achieve fair districts. Participants include: Dennis Turner – Professor Emeritus, University of Dayton School of Law, Catherine Turcer - Executive Director, Common Cause Ohio, Tom Roberts – Member of the Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission and President of the Ohio State Conference, NAACP Myla Cardona-Jones, J.D. - Associate Professor, Sinclair Community College, Gary Leppla, J.D. - Attorney, Leppla Associates, Ltd. Lucy Anne McKosky will serve as moderator of the discussion. This is an opportunity to increase your understanding of this timely and consequential topic. League members are invited to come and to share this invitation with your friends and networks. Democracy depends on an informed and engaged citizenry.

THANK YOU!

The support for the [Leadership Circle](#) has been amazing. We far surpassed our budget goal of \$17,000. Many, many thanks to everyone who contributed this year!

Donors as of August 9, 2022

Marilee Baird
Andrea and Vincent Cobb
Peggy Finke
Linda Fish
Constance Gilhooly
Scott and Janine Kinnison
Gary and Patty Leppla
Elizabeth Lutes

Rhine McLin
Tim and Teri O'Connell
Maureen Pero
Mary Robertson
Kim Ann Senft-Paras
D.J. Shade
Kaye Stealey
Ann Wilger



From the President's Desk

Greetings! There is now a strong desire by many to take advantage of the improved Covid environment, reconnect with family and friends, and rediscover the fun of travel. However during Covid your League of Women Voters remained engaged and involved with events around us.

LWV US held their biennial convention this past June. The key takeaway for us was the approval of a bylaws change that will impact how we collect membership dues. The bylaws change approved by the members at the convention will implement a pay-what-you-can model of membership that will be coordinated through LWV US. The goal is to open membership to a wider audience who currently feel that the cost of membership dues is a barrier and this change fits in with the DEI perspective on becoming more inclusive. Currently we retain about \$6 per membership. The proposed dues model may actually result in our retaining a larger portion. In addition, they will be looking at strengthening State Leagues to make their advocacy efforts more effective. Iris Meltzer, LWV Ohio Board President, will speak to our membership at an event here in Dayton in April to give us more information on these changes which are expected to go into effect in 2024.

On September 20, the Redistricting/Fair Elections Committee is coordinating a panel discussion on where Ohio is with the constitutionally mandated redistricting process. (Hint - not where we ought to be). This will be held at the Dayton Metro Main Library from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

Mark your calendars for the Tom Suddes evening in October. More information can be found in this newsletter.

Moving forward, we are reinstating Quarterly Meetings, another opportunity to gather as League members.

The Observer Corps will be revitalized as will the Community Advisory Board. Stay tuned for more information shortly!

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 me.** Thank you.

~Mario, LWVGDA President

Remembering Patty Skilken

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of **Patty Skilken**, who passed away on July 25, 2022. Patty served as President of the Dayton League between 2015 and 2017. Hers was a life well-lived.



Donations Made in Memory of Patty Skilken

Barker Hostetler
Robert and Ellie Bernstein
Ann and Raymond Borelli
Pat Bradley-Falke
Barbara Buddendeck
J. Stephen Davis
Alan Duvall
Jennifer Hanselman
Michelle Hervey
Raam Jani
Julie Kirschnick
Carolyn Rice
Peg Schulz
William and Patricia Seall
Mariam Stevens
Robert and Sue Whittaker
Andrew Zappin
Andrea Zavakos
Stephen C. Zimmer



Introducing our newest members:

Marcia Cox
Jamie Via



Let's Go Together!

Join us **September 7** for Women of **Woodland Cemetery** – A guided tour with a focus on suffragists and forward-thinking women of Dayton.

Reservations must be received no later than September 5.

This is an outdoor event designed to be walkable. We will meet at 118 Woodland Ave, Dayton, OH 45409. After the tour

we'll meet for lunch at nearby Dewey's Pizza, 131 Jasper St, Dayton 45409. Let us know you are coming **HERE**.

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.

~Laurel Kerr

Volunteer Opportunity: Community Board Representative

One of the lesser-known opportunities in the League is to be a **Community Board Representative**. From time-to-time local boards ask for a member of the League to sit on a board and provide community input.

In 1994 the Montgomery County Commissioners established the Montgomery County Sanitary Appeals Board for the purpose of reviewing disputed water and sewer bills, and making a recommendation to the Commission to accept, reject or modify the bill in question.

The three-person board is composed of members representing the Ombudsman's office, the Montgomery County Water and Wastewater Advisory Committee and The League of Women Voters. They meet several times a year, depending on the number of complaints.

Our current representative is unable to continue. We need a volunteer to fill out the term which expires in August 2023. If you are a member in good standing and want to be of service to your community in a unique way, please **contact the office** to let them know of your interest.

The Montgomery County Environmental Services department will be scheduling tours and education overviews on the responsibility of a board member as soon as we have filled the position.



A Conversation with Tom Suddes

Tom Suddes, Coordinator of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University and a regular contributor to the **Dayton Daily News'** "Ideas and Voices" page, will share his take on the past year in Ohio politics.

Described as ". . . a consistent, sharp voice about what's going on in politics. . ." by the *Free Times*, Tom will provide a behind the scenes view of the Statehouse. Tom is an eloquent

A favorite columnist of the League!

speaker, and the evening is sure to be entertaining and enlightening!

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

7:00 to 8:00 PM

Fitz Center for Leadership in Community
1401 S. Main Street
Dayton, OH 45409

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased **HERE** or by sending a check to LWVGDA 127 N. Ludlow Street, OH 45402

BUY TICKETS


Rock the Vote! At The Brightside

The LWV Greater Dayton is partnering with The Brightside Music and Event venue in Dayton to present **Rock the Vote! Concert and Voter Registration Drive** on Thursday, September 22. Doors open at 7 PM. All ages welcome.

Rock the Vote is a nonpartisan nonprofit dedicated to building the political power of young people. The event features local bands playing pop, soul and independent folk styles. League members will help with voter registration, requesting mail-in voting applications, and answering questions.

Tickets are \$10 at the door, and a portion of any proceeds will be donated to the League.

CLICK HERE for more information.

ROCK THE VOTE	
A Concert Thursday September 22 The Brightside 905 E Third St Dayton, OH Doors at 7 PM \$10 All-ages	Un Concierto Jueves 22 de Septiembre The Brightside 905 E Third St Dayton, OH Abierto a 7 PM \$10 Todos años
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instructions: Come to the show, get registered to vote, and head to the polls in November. This is a Non-partisan event.• If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Do not cross out or your vote may not count.• Instrucciones: Venga al concierto, regístrese para votar y diríjase a las urnas en Noviembre. Este es un evento no partidista.• Si comete un error, pida una nueva boleta. No lo taches, o puede que su voto no cuente.	
All-pop Songwriter Candidate <input type="radio"/> SERIN OH	Pop/Rock Party Candidate <input type="radio"/> KRIS N.
Gas Daddy Go Party Candidate <input type="radio"/> SMUG BROTHERS	Independent Folk Rock Candidate <input type="radio"/> NOVENA
Soul Singer Songwriter Candidate <input type="radio"/> MARIAH J.	Karma Chief Party Candidate <input type="radio"/> M. ROSS PERKINS
 <small>The League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area will be on-hand to register voters, help you request an absentee ballot, and answer questions!</small>	

UPCOMING CALENDAR

September 5: Labor Day, Office Closed

September 6: LWVO All Member Meeting

September 7: The Women of Woodland Cemetery Tour

September 9: **Naturalization Ceremony**

September 12: Board Meeting

September 13: Funding & Development Committee
Membership Committee
Articles for October issue of *The Voter* due

September 20: **Redistricting: What it Means for You**
National Voter Registration Day

September 22: **Rock the Vote!** Concert and Voter Registration Drive

September 26: Rosh Hashanah

September 27: Lobby Corps Call
Voter Service Call

October 4: **Conversation with Tom Suddes**



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League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area | Talbott Tower, 127 N Ludlow St.,
Dayton, OH 45402-1703

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