



# THE VOTER

## Monthly News & Updates

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### League to Undertake Strategic Planning

Happy New Year! (a little bit late!) I hope that you each had a wonderful holiday season! Now that we've settled into 2023, it's time to get to work! As Mario mentions in her article, one of the first things on our agenda is to embark on a strategic planning process. It's been twelve years since we last created a plan and a lot has happened within our League and our world since then. Our democracy is being tested in ways that were unimaginable in 2011.

The Jael Group, the firm with whom we are contracting to lead the process, will help us assess our strengths and determine where possibilities as well as challenges may lie. The board was very careful to choose facilitators who are highly regarded and who understand the unique needs of nonprofit organizations. With input from you and the community, we'll craft a three-year plan that will help us realize our mission to encourage informed and active participation in government. Look for a survey coming your way in the next few months.

We're also revitalizing the Community Advisory Board (CAB) this year. The purpose of CAB is to provide the League with community expertise, especially in areas of development, public relations and technology. Several LWVGDA Officers met in January to brainstorm which community leaders should be approached to offer us guidance.

Finally, if you've been thinking about getting more involved with your League but need some more information, feel free to **give me a call!** We need



League members honored Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s memory by participating in the MLK Celebration held on January 16, 2023. In February, the League will be celebrating Black History Month. We'll keep you posted on activities throughout the community!



Black History Month  
2023

members to help with fundraising activities, office tasks, registering new voters, and the speakers bureau. We are looking for people who are interested in researching and writing articles for the monthly *Voter* newsletter. You can be as busy as you'd like to be; there's a role for everyone! Enjoy the rest of winter! Stay safe and warm!

~Chris Corba  
League Executive Director

The National Museum of African American History & Culture is celebrating the theme of this year's Black History Month: Black Resistance: A Journey to Equality. Watch a video featuring Museum Curator Mary Elliott [HERE](#).



## Statehouse Day 2022

On December 7, 2022, in Columbus, Ohio, a mighty group from the LWVGDA was among 170 participants at the all-day Statehouse Day event sponsored by the LWV Ohio. The morning commenced with two panels concentrating on voting rights issues. The first panel presented an overview of the 2022 election which revealed that despite fears of possible violence and/or intimidation at the polls, the election went smoothly. Additional topics centered around how to better recruit poll workers, reach underserved voters, and inoculate against disinformation. The second panel, "Fight for Voting Rights" on opposition to the Voter Suppression Bill (H.B. 458) which had been significantly changed only 24 hours before Statehouse Day. The panel prepared LWV members to lobby their legislators to vote against the Bill. Unfortunately, despite these efforts, this Voter Suppression Bill was subsequently passed into law.

The lunchtime keynote panel discussion, "Defending and Using Direct Democracy," focused on opposition to HJR 6, the proposal to increase the threshold of votes required to pass a ballot initiative from a simple majority to 60%. Again, LWV members were present to voice their opposition and lobby their legislators. Fortunately, HJR 6 was not passed during the lame duck session. However, the LWV remains ready to continue to oppose any renewed efforts to reintroduce it.

The day was originally intended to provide the opportunity for League members to meet with their representatives to the General Assembly. However, because of the legislative hearings that were suddenly scheduled that day, many representatives were unavailable.

It was quite a day! More League members should consider participating in the next LWVO Statehouse Day Event, to be held March 9 at the Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square. Watch for registration details soon.

*Respectfully Submitted*  
~Beth Schaeffer, President-Elect

**From the President's Desk:**

***2022 is in the rear-view mirror and***

## 2023 awaits us



We will be embarking on developing a strategic plan that will hone our focus for the next 3 – 5 years. The Jael Group was recommended to us by our local Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) organization, whose mission is to foster vibrant small business communities through mentoring and education. Beth Schaeffer, Chris Corba and I first met with the Jael Group last May. We also attended a SCORE presentation they did in the fall. After Board discussion in September and October, the League applied for and was awarded a grant from the Ray Loughman Fund of The Dayton Foundation in December to underwrite the cost. The remaining funds were raised through a challenge grant from a League member. We now enter the “pre-planning” phase.

Dangerous Dames of Dayton 2023 is being finalized. The event is slated for April 25 at the NCR Country Club. The Funding and Development Committee is excited to announce our Keynote Speaker will be Allison Russo, Minority Leader of the Ohio House of Representatives. Russo represents the 7th district, which consists of portions of Columbus, and Upper Arlington in Franklin County. She will certainly have much to share, and we can't wait to hear her perspective on pending Ohio legislation affecting voters' rights, womens' rights and more.

Kathy Turner, Natural Resources Committee Chair, is planning a program on water quality in our area. She will also announce the recipient of the Jo Columbro Environmental Award. Jo was a long time League member and League president from 2011-2013.

Our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts continue. Spearheaded by League member Jacquie Housel, using her expertise in mapping, a subcommittee is working to identify several precincts in Dayton with low voter turnout. Their plan is to work with community leaders to develop strategies to increase voter participation.

I have been calling the last two years “The Year of the Refresh” and “The Year of the Refresh 2.0.” Similar thinking appears to have occurred at the national level as well. At the League of Women Voters US convention in June last year, there were several structural changes approved by the attendees. Iris Melter, President of the League of Women Voters Ohio, will address our membership at a March meeting (date and place to be determined). She will be giving us more information on

what exactly will be happening come 2024 as well as updating us on the focus of LWVO for the coming year.

By the time this is published, our Program Planning meeting will have occurred. David Bodary, Program Vice President, will compile the topics that will drive our program focus for the coming year. The selected topics are also sent to the LWVO for consideration at the State Convention which will take place in June in Columbus. Mary Robertson, Public Relations Director, developed an Editorial Calendar for *The Voter* newsletter last year to take advantage of the newsletter's move to a digital format. More in depth coverage of issues is now possible. A good example of the possibilities was seen in League member Mary Sue Gmeiner's **article on the bail reform amendment** published in the July/August newsletter. After Program Planning, Mary Robertson will update the calendar with this year's topics. If you are passionate about a topic that would interest other League members, please consider becoming a contributing author. Contact Mary for more information.

As always, your ideas and comments are welcome. Email them to [Leaguedayton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Leaguedayton@sbcglobal.net). Thank you.

~Mario

## Order 2023 Directory of Public Officials Now

We are accepting pre-orders for the 2023 edition of the Directory of Public Officials. The handy booklet lists contact information for all public officials representing Montgomery and Greene County citizens. It also offers tips on how to effectively communicate with legislators. With all the changes after redistricting and last Fall's election, the new edition is indispensable! League members can purchase one directory for \$5 plus \$2 for postage. Additional copies are \$8 each for up to nine copies, orders of ten copies or more are available for the reduced rate of \$7 per directory, plus \$5 shipping and handling. Directories will be available in late March and can be picked up at the League office to avoid postage. Find an order form **HERE**. Please make checks out to LWVGDA.



UPCOMING CALENDAR

**February 7:** LWVO All Member Meeting, 12:00 PM

**February 13:** Board meeting, 6:00 PM

**February 14:** Happy 103rd Birthday to the League!

**February 15:** Lobby Corps, 12:00 PM;  
Susan B. Anthony Day

**February 20:** President's Day, office is OPEN

**February 22:** SAVE THE DATE! "Let's Go Together" tour of the Dayton Peace Museum

**February 28:** Lobby Corps, 12:00 PM;  
Voter Service, 7:00 PM

**April 25:** SAVE THE DATE! Dangerous Dames of Dayton



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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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