



# THE VOTER

## Monthly News & Updates

June 2023 | Volume 100 Issue 6

### Defeating Issue 1 Requires Attention to Fast Moving Information

As you are all aware, Senate Joint Resolution 2 was passed on May 10 forcing a special election on August 8. This proposed amendment (Issue 1), if approved, will undo citizens' power to make changes to Ohio's constitution. As I write this article, we're creating a plan to educate the community and to get everyone out to vote. We'll be holding a number of voter registration events, programs and flooding social media with information. Here's what you can do now:

Look for Constant Contact notifications as we set up events where you can volunteer. We'll need folks to register voters, march in parades, distribute handbills, and attend programs.

Talk to your friends and family and explain the far-reaching consequences if the amendment is approved. It's important that voters understand that this amendment is a stand-alone issue. It will block citizens' right to drive change in Ohio and will eliminate majority rule. Proponents are purposefully confusing voters by linking this amendment to the Choice Ballot Initiative.

If you have a Facebook account, consider using the *VOTE NO AUGUST 8* logo for your cover photo or profile photo. You can download it [HERE](#)



### Why You Should Vote NO on Issue 1

As you talk to family, friends, people at festivals or in the grocery store, here are our main reasons why they should vote NO on Issue 1:

- Issue 1 unnecessarily **overturns over 100 years of 50% + 1 simple majority** threshold for approving constitutional amendments. No one is arguing that the current system is broken!
- With a new 60% supermajority threshold, Issue 1 would effectively **allow 40% + 1 of voters to choose the fate of citizen-led constitutional amendments over the will of a majority of voters.**
- Issue 1 would make **citizen-led ballot initiatives nearly impossible** by raising the threshold groups proposing amendments must meet. This inability gives more power to special interests

If you are able, consider a donation that can be directed toward our local efforts to get out the vote. We're going to have a busy five months leading up to the General Election!

Thank you for all you do!

~Chris Corba  
Executive Director



## Promoting Early Voting and Voting by Mail Is Key Strategy for Historic Summer Election

The Issue One legislation has been fast-tracked for an August 8 election. (Read about a lawsuit on the legality of this election later in this issue.) August elections are notorious for extremely low turnouts. Historically an average of only 7% of voters turn out in August.

This is TOO IMPORTANT of a decision to be decided upon by a mere 7% of Ohio voters.

One key solution: Early Voting, especially Voting by Mail (Absentee Voting).

Urge anyone in your circle to utilize Early Voting or Voting by Mail. Key information:

- Go to [VoteOhio.Gov](http://VoteOhio.Gov) now and request an **application to vote by mail**.
- Absentee Ballots will start to be mailed to voters on July 11, right after the deadline to register to vote in the August 8 Election (July 10).
- Early Voting begins July 11 at County Board of Election offices. See schedule **HERE**.
- Applications for Voting by Mail must be **received** by August 1.
- Absentee ballots must be postmarked by August 7 or dropped off at County Board of Elections by 7:30 PM August 8 (Election Day).

and less power to Ohio voters.

- Issue 1 **takes away the rights of citizens to amend the constitution** and effectively allows legislators (and their backers) to operate **without checks and balances from voters**, opening the door for corruption and disintegration of democratic government.
- The August 8 election is being challenged for its legality, was fast-tracked by special interests to intentionally draw the least amount of voters, and will **cost Ohioans \$20 million**.
- According to all former Ohio Governors, and several former Attorneys General of each party, Issue 1 will have a **detrimental effect on Ohio governance for generations**, preventing citizens from shaping MANY major issues effecting our everyday lives like economic development, building schools, jobs programs, land conservation and keeping corruption at bay.

Educate yourself on these points, and explain why Issue 1 is undemocratic, unpopular, unfair and unnecessary.

~Mary Robertson  
VP Community Relations

## Read the Official Ballot Language and Arguments For/Against Issue 1

Understanding what the Issue 1 ballot language states and both official positions on Issue 1 is important for voter education.

Read the Official Ballot Language **HERE**

Find the VOTE NO argument **HERE**  
Find the VOTE YES argument **HERE**



## From the President's Desk

It has been a privilege and pleasure to have served you as President these last two years. I have been amazed at your willingness to put yourselves out there for the things you believe in. We have weathered some trying times, but your continued commitment to being a member, to financially supporting the work of the League, to attending events and making your opinions known, all ensure that the League will continue to do what it does best – educate and inform voters on issues of importance.

I am preaching to the choir when I say Vote No on August 8, but please make sure that your family, friends, and acquaintances also learn about the importance of defeating this amendment. Materials are being created that will help spread the message. You will be notified as they become available.

We will begin All Member Meetings with the inaugural session set for June 22, 6-7 PM. Thereafter, they will be quarterly. Mary Robertson, Community Relations VP will talk about her plans to improve communications with members and will ask for your ideas and suggestions.

This is my last missive as President. Beth Schaeffer takes office July 1 and I can't think of anyone more qualified and committed to leading this organization to the next level. The entire board, both seasoned and new members, are an impressive team.

As always, your ideas and comments are welcome. Send me an **Email**. Thank you.

~Mario

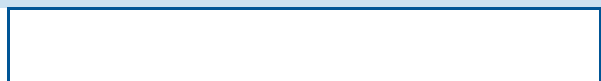
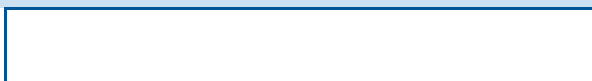
## Announcing New Ways for Members to Connect

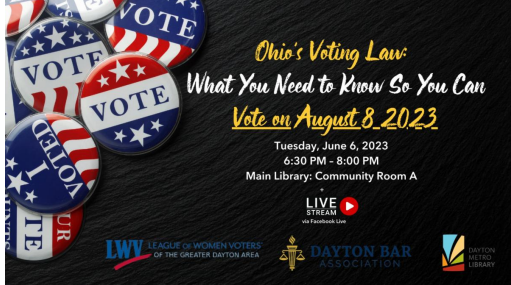
Members have been asking for more opportunities to meet together beyond paid events or issue programming. We will now be holding **LWVGDA All Member Meetings** every quarter. The first one is slated for Thursday, June 22 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM, via ZOOM. You can also mark your calendars for September 14, 2023, December 14, 2023 (Holiday event, in person, downtown), March 14, 2024 and June 6, 2024.

We will also hold **New Member Meetings** August 7, 2023, December 4, 2023, April 8, 2024, and August 6, 2024. New members will mingle with seasoned members to learn about the work of the League and how to get more involved.

Watch for email invitations and we'll see you at one of our new meeting opportunities!

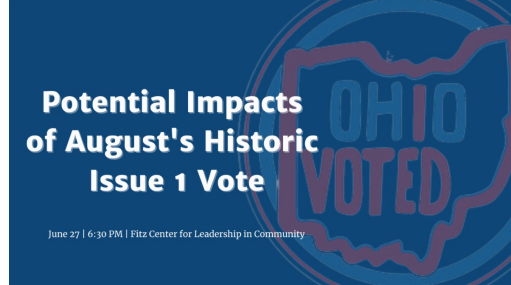
## Two Upcoming Programs Not to Miss





Join us Tuesday, June 6 for a panelled civil community conversation on recent changes to Ohio's voting law. This program is sponsored by The Dayton Bar Association and The League of Women Voters of Greater Dayton Area. The program is held at Dayton Metro Library Main Branch, and begins at 6:30 PM.

If you can't make it in person, tune in to **Facebook Live Stream** at that time.



Join us Tuesday, June 27 for a conversation with former Governor Bob Taft and Michael Curtin, former publisher of the the Columbus Dispatch and former Ohio State Legislator, on the potential impacts of the Issue 1 vote on August 8. The program, held at the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community, is moderated by Nick Hrkman, *Dayton Daily News* Community Impact Editor. The program starts at 7:30 PM and is free but seating is limited. Register by June 26 by **contacting the League**.



## New Board Members, Program Focus Voted Upon at Annual Meeting

LWVGDA 61st Annual Meeting was held Tuesday, May 23rd at Goodwill Easter Seals Community Room. Attendees were enthusiastic in their support of informing citizens of the August 8 election, the defeat of Issue 1, support for our annual budget and committee reports. They were highly supportive of our newly-elected Board members:

Beth Schaeffer, President  
 Keelie Gustin, President-Elect  
 Jan Runkle, Vice President of Programs  
 Jacqueline Housel, Vice President of Voter Services  
 Mary Robertson, Vice President of Community Relations  
 Lauren Karch, Membership Director  
 Beth Adelman, Funding & Development Director  
 Andrea Bauer, Greene County Representative  
 Rita Peterson, Webmaster  
 Rebecca Morgann, Leronda Jackson and Mattie White for Nominating Committee

The organization also approved our slate of focused programs for the 2023-2024 year:

Government: Voting Process and Redistricting

- Clearly communicate how recent voter law changes will impact local voter

precincts, people and processes

- Concerns still exist regarding campaign finance/dark money influence

#### Social Policy

- Housing and promotion of affordable housing
- Racial Justice
- Mental health/suicide prevention
- Attacks on K12 and Higher Education (added upon recommendation from the floor)

#### Natural Resources

- Water Quality
- Biodigesters
- Toxic Waste

Now let's get to work on what is shaping up to be a very busy year empowering voters and defending democracy!



### Welcome New Members!

Sandra Burcham  
1950 Cortina Drive, Centerville  
Skburcham3202@gmail.com

Tess Cortes  
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Tasnim Kamil

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## UPCOMING CALENDAR

**June 6:** LWVO All Member Meeting 12:00 PM (Zoom)

**June 6:** *Changes in Ohio Voting Law* 6:30 PM, Main Library, Dayton

**June 9-11:** LWVO Convention

**June 11:** Oakwood Pride

**June 12:** Board Meeting 6:00 PM

**June 13:** LWVO Lobby Corps (Zoom) 12:00 PM

**June 15:** *Let's Go Together: Americans and the Holocaust*, Main Library, Dayton

**June 16:** *Let's Go Together: Juneteenth Celebration* at Sinclair Community College

**June 19:** Juneteenth, office closed

**June 20:** Funding and Development Meeting

**June 20:** *To Be Brown and Gay in the USA*, co-presented by the LWVGDA and Sinclair Community College, 3:30 PM Building 7

**June 22:** LWVGDA All Member Meeting 6:00 PM (Zoom)

**June 23:** League Night at the Dayton Dragons!

**June 24:** Yellow Springs Pride Parade

**June 27:** *Potential Impacts of August's Historic Issue 1 Vote*, 6:30 PM, Fitz Center for Leadership in Community, Dayton

**June 27:** LWVO Lobby Corps 12:00 PM (Zoom)

**June 27:** Voter Service 7:00 PM (Zoom)

**July 4:** Americana 4th of July Parade and Fairborn 4th of July Parade



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The League of Women Voters Greater Dayton Area is an organization fully committed to

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