



THE VOTER

Monthly News & Updates

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Fulfilling Our Mission

We just completed **75** recorded candidate interviews with the support of our good friends from DATV and MVCC. Many thanks to League members Andrea Bauer, Peggy Berry, Janine Kinnison, Jan Runkle and Beth Schaeffer for moderating, and to the candidates who took the time to share their ideas with voters.

I heard from one candidate that a friend of hers posted on Facebook, “I survived the League of Women Voters recorded interview today. Whew!” I’d like to think we’re not THAT intimidating, but it does demonstrate that candidates who choose to participate in League events take those opportunities seriously. They understand that when they take part in an interview or a forum, voters pay attention.

The upcoming weeks are going to be filled with forums, delivering the *Voters Guide*, programs and answering questions from callers needing more information about the issues on the November ballot. As the premier provider of voter information and resources, the League is where voters turn for fair, unbiased facts. Thanks to each of you for helping the League to fulfill its mission to encourage informed and active participation in



Ohioans Deserve Accurate Ballot Language

Last month the Ohio Supreme Court ordered the Ohio Ballot Board to make a small tweak to ballot summary language proposed for the citizen-led *Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety* amendment, or Issue 1, but unfortunately allowed most of the Ballot Board’s language that the League thought was misleading to remain in place.

Ballot language should clearly and accurately represent what is actually on the ballot. Anything less is an affront to voters’ intelligence and constitutes an attempt to erode voting rights.

We stand for voting rights, and the empowerment of each voter. Read the **FULL TEXT of Issue 1**, the *Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety* amendment, as approved by the Secretary of State’s Ballot Board. Issue 1 and Issue 2 ballot language can also

government.

~Chris Corba
Executive Director

be reviewed on our [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) voter tool. Share these links with other Ohio voters, all of whom deserve better.

~Mary Robertson
VP Community Relations



OCTOBER 11 is the start of early voting

Vote in-person at your County Board of Elections (see schedule [HERE](#)). Absentee ballots will be mailed to voters starting October 11. You can still request an absentee ballot to vote by mail [HERE](#).

Everything a Voter Needs

Refer your friends to our award-winning app, [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org). Users can register to vote, check their voter registration, and review and print a personalized ballot to review before voting. Once you've entered your name and address, voting resources are at your fingertips in one place. Information provided by candidates to LWVGDA *Voters Guide* and the ballot language for Issue 1 and Issue 2 will appear on your personalized ballot.



From the President's Desk

Members have asked why the league is not taking a position on Issue 1, the proposed amendment on the November Ballot titled *The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety*.

The LWV is a 3-tiered organization. First is the LWV USA which focuses primarily on National policies and issues that impact all US citizens. Next are the State Leagues which focus on statewide issues. Finally the Local Leagues which can more easily address the issues most important to their respective communities.

Since Issue 1 is a statewide initiative, LWV Ohio is responsible for determining whether to advocate for or against the amendment or to serve as a trusted unbiased source of information for voters and not take a position. Once a position has been taken, Local Leagues cannot take a contrary stance.

The proposed amendment to protect the right to reproductive freedom and health and safety on the ballot this November is both politically and personally charged and there was no consensus among the Local Leagues as to the appropriate position to be taken. After thoughtful consideration and deliberation, the LWV Ohio Board reached the conclusion that the League could better serve its mission by not taking a position on Issue

1, but by serving as that trusted source of unbiased, factual information. This does not mean that Ohio Leagues do not support the right of individuals to make their own healthcare decisions, it simply means that Leagues are honoring their mission to empower voters to make their own voting decisions by providing them with unbiased, accurate, factual information. Knowing that there is already much disinformation and misinformation being disseminated and that LWV may be the only trusted source to provide this crucial information, the LWV Ohio Board decided to fulfill this important role by not taking a position on Issue 1. LWV Ohio is putting time, energy, and resources into making certain that voters know what the proposed amendment really says, what it doesn't say, and what the medical science says. In fact, some of the proponents of the amendment believe that when Local Leagues provide this information, it is actually more helpful than simply adding the League name among the list of supporters. LWV Ohio is making tool kits, resources, and webinars available to Local Leagues to make certain they have what they need to succeed in this effort.

LWV Ohio took a stand on Issue 1 in the August election because limiting the ability of citizens to ever bring an issue to the ballot was a direct attack against voting rights and our democracy, the very reason LWV was formed, and why it continues to exist. LWVGDA will continue to serve our community by providing the unbiased, accurate information that it has come to expect and rely on.

Our members as individuals, but not as representatives of the LWV, are encouraged to personally advocate in accordance with their own beliefs.

~Respectfully, Beth Schaeffer, President



DEI CORNER

The Jewish community recently celebrated the Jewish High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and Yom Kippur – the Day of Atonement, the most sacred and important holiday in Judaism. But last month in Cincinnati white supremacist flyers were placed on car windshields that contained swastikas and hateful messaging about Jewish people. And this incident was only

the most recent in a string of similar incidents in the Greater Cincinnati area.

Antisemitic incidents reached an all-time high in the United States in 2022, with almost 3,700 incidents of assault, harassment and vandalism reported to the Anti-Defamation League, marking a 36% increase from 2021. Ohio ranks as the 14th highest state of reported incidents, and we are experiencing the highest number of antisemitic attacks recorded in the states since tracking began in 1979.

According to James Pasch, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League in Ohio, "Antisemitism is the canary in the coal mine. I am concerned that this dramatic increase in antisemitic incidents—which coincides with similar increases in reported incidents and hate crimes against Black Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders and Muslim Americans—should serve as a warning to all Americans that our social norms are fraying."

~Dianne Herman, DEI Committee

Media Literacy Week is October 23-27

U.S. Media Literacy Week is the celebration of Media Literacy across the United States, held in conjunction with UNESCO's Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week. This year, U.S. Media Literacy Week will celebrate the five components of media literacy:

- **Access** to tools, technology, and digital skills by all parts of a society are necessary to a thriving democracy.
- **Analyze** media content by asking questions about a piece of media in order to identify authorship, credibility, purpose, technique, context, and economics. Knowing how to critically analyze media helps prevent the spread of "fake news."
- **Evaluate** media content by drawing one's own meaning, judgment, and conclusions about media messages based on the information gathered during media access, thoughtful analysis, and self-reflective interpretation.
- Media **Creation** is a form of expression. It encompasses learning how to express ideas through media and communication tools and using that power to create media narratives beyond those that exist in mainstream media. One must understand their own agenda, intent, and bias when creating media.
- **Act(ion)** is the culmination of accessing, analyzing, and evaluating media messages. You can act by advocating for media literacy in classrooms, sharing reliable content online, and reporting or fighting misinformation online.

We will be sharing information on aspects of media literacy all month on LWVGDA social media.

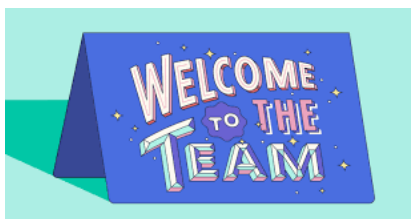
Read more about **Media Literacy Week**, and access resources like **tips for parenting** in the digital age.

~Mary Robertson, VP Community Relations

Our Condolences

Condolences to long time member Peg Schulz and her family for the loss of **Bill Schulz**, her husband of 58 years. Bill passed away on September 23.

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of **Carolann Winslow** who passed away on September 27. Carol was a lifetime member of League of Women Voters and served as president of the Dayton League between 1991 and 1995. She led our League's 75th anniversary celebration.



Welcome to our New Members

Roseanne Douville, Beavercreek
rdouville@gmail.com

Zachary Lutz, Dayton
zplutz@gmail.com

Connie Kearns, Oakwood

UPCOMING CALENDAR

October 4: Trotwood Candidate Forum (Phillips Temple Church), 6:00 PM

Mama Bears Documentary Screening (Sinclair Community College), 5:30 PM

October 9: Indigenous People's Day (office is OPEN)

LWVGDA Board Meeting (Zoom), 6:00 PM

VOTERS GUIDE DELIVERY WEEK OCTOBER 9-13!!!

October 10: Lobby Corps (Zoom), Noon

October 11: Centerville Candidate Forum (Centerville Library), 7:00 PM

EARLY VOTING BEGINS

October 12: Oakwood Candidates Forum (Wright Memorial Public Library), 7:00 PM

October 24: Voter Service call on Zoom – 7:00 PM

October 31: Halloween (Don't boo...vote!)

November 1: **Behind the Ballot**, Girl Scouts of Western Ohio (League Office), 6:00 PM



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The League of Women Voters Greater Dayton Area is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice.

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