



THE VOTER

Monthly News & Updates

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League Leadership in Voter Engagement More Important Than Ever

We're in the throes of another big election season! In November, the Greater Dayton Area will elect leaders from a pool of nearly **300 candidates in over 51 contested races**. All of this comes at the heels of a busy summer that culminated in the sound defeat of Issue 1. We've barely had a second to catch our collective breath, but I think it's important to take a break and think about what that big turnout in August meant. To me it means there's hope. Despite seeing low turn-out for the past few election cycles, obviously **people are paying attention and will vote when they feel strongly about an issue**.

Thirty-eight percent of registered voters in Ohio turned out for the August 8 special election, the **THIRD** greatest voter turnout in a primary or special election since 1986! In 2008, voter turnout was at 46%, in 2016, 43.66%. Getting out the word and educating our community is what the League does best and this summer, we shined! So, take that breath and get ready, we've got an **EXTREMELY** busy few months ahead of us. Check out the volunteer opportunities coming up. This is a great time to be a member of LWVGDA!

~Chris Corba
Executive Director

Ways to Help This Election Season



More Outreach Needed to Inform Voters of New Voter ID Laws

The August Special Election saw an amazing voter turnout. For some counties, it also saw a rise in rejected ballots due to insufficient voter identification.

This was the first election requiring voters to have a valid photo ID to vote in person. While there is no hard data on how many voters were turned away at polls because they lacked a valid photo ID, they do have data on how many provisional votes were cast and rejected. If a voter does not have a valid photo ID at a polling site, voters are offered the opportunity to return to their polling location with a valid photo ID or file a provisional ballot. These voters have four days after the election to return to their County Board of Elections with a valid photo ID.

In Montgomery County, 1,872 provisional ballots were cast, and 192 were rejected due to a lack of proper ID. Greene County saw about the same number of provisional

Contact [Dianne Herman](#) for more information

1. Volunteer to staff tables and to serve as timers at our upcoming forums.
2. Volunteer to staff voter registration booths on National Voter Registration Day September 19.
3. Sign up to distribute the *Voters Guide* throughout Greene and Montgomery Counties at end of September...we've got about 30,000 to get out to the community!
4. Volunteer to help with a mailing to educate new citizens who'll be voting in their first General Election!

ballots not counted due to improper ID as in previous years; 60 were rejected. The good news is that 1,680 voters were motivated enough to travel to the Montgomery County Board of Elections after election day with their valid photo ID. But without knowing how many voters were turned away at their polling site is a concerning sign that much more work needs to be done to educate voters on the new ID requirements, especially in Montgomery County.

~Mary Robertson
VP Community Relations

register
to vote
by
October
10

LWV

OCTOBER 10 is the deadline to be registered to vote in the November 7 General Election

Tell your circle of family and friends to update their voter registration if they have moved or changed a name, or register to vote [HERE](#)



From the President's Desk

Despite the time and energy devoted to defeating issue 1, League members are actively preparing for the November election. Information has already been gathered for the *Voters Guide* and questions for candidate forums continue to come in. There will be plenty of opportunities for members to participate and

trainings made available.

One of our challenges is not only registering new voters, but getting those who are registered to VOTE in these local elections. Unfortunately, even though the issues, and who decides them, directly impact our daily life and communities, voter turnout has often been disappointing. Hopefully we can build on the motivation to vote in this past August Special Election, and embed our message that one person--one vote and every vote counts.

As we push ahead, I am confident that we have one of the best teams in place to take on this challenge. It also needs to be said that in large part it was through the leadership of our past President, Mario, and the countless hours she spent working in the office during the transition of executive directors, formalizing procedures and re-engaging with the community. All to the benefit of our league and for which we can all be grateful as we focus on our mission.

~Respectfully, Beth Schaeffer, President



DEI IN ACTION

Mama Bears: A Diversity Film Series Screening In Partnership with Sinclair Community College

Spread across the country but connected through private Facebook groups, over 30,000 mothers in America—many from conservative, Christian backgrounds—fully accept their LGBTQ+ children, and they call one another “mama bears” because of the ferocity with which they fight for their children’s rights. Although they grew up as fundamentalist, evangelical Christians praying for the souls of LGBTQ+ people, these mothers are now willing to risk losing friends, family, and faith communities to champion their kids—even if it challenges their belief systems and rips apart their worlds. An intimate, thought-provoking exploration of the journeys of two mama bears and a young lesbian who struggle for self-acceptance

exemplifies why the mama bears movement is vitally important.

Join the conversation and view this documentary together on **October 4, 5:30 PM** at Sinclair Community College Conference Center, Room 12-116. FREE with FREE PARKING.

REGISTER HERE with your name and organization (LWVGDA)
VIEW TRAILER HERE



LWVO STATEHOUSE DAY

Wednesday, September 20, 2023
10:00am to 5:00pm

Join us for 2023 LWV Ohio's annual Statehouse Day event on **Wednesday, September 20** from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square in downtown Columbus.

You'll hear from experts about pending legislation, learn best practices for lobbying elected officials, and enjoy an inspiring keynote lunch. Teams of advocates will then be assembled to educate lawmakers on our policy priorities. \$50 for members, \$65 for non-members, \$10 for students (refunded after student attends event).

**Register
HERE**

**Why did League Request Dismissal of
Redistricting Lawsuit?**



In March of last year, the LWV Ohio, ACLU and others filed two lawsuits against the US Congressional district maps as being illegal and unconstitutionally gerrymandered. So why did Attorney Don McTigue, who represents anti-gerrymandering groups fighting against the congressional map approved by the Ohio Redistricting Commission, ask the case be dismissed by the current Ohio Supreme Court?

It's a matter of timing.

The LWV and other plaintiffs still maintain that Ohio's congressional and legislative districts are unfairly and unconstitutionally gerrymandered. However, the Ohio Constitution already orders a new map be redrawn after the 2024 General (Presidential) election. According to McTigue, redrawn maps asked for in the lawsuit would therefore only be "effective" through 2024, whether or not a new map is actually drawn. Legal challenges could cause a repeat of the 2022 debacle which left Ohioans in limbo as to who their representative would be. Confusion for voters who would have to yet again face new polling sites in 2024 would be a disservice to the democratic process.

Also, procedural questions highlighted in the lawsuits that prompted delays in the last round of map drawing are now moot, partly thanks to the US Supreme Court ruling rejecting the argument that state supreme courts can't rule over state legislators in election laws - a concept called "independent legislative doctrine."

The Ohio Supreme Court agreed with LWV and other anti-gerrymandering groups and dismissed the lawsuits on September 7.

The LWV and others are now petitioning an amendment to the Ohio Constitution that would fix the problem with the current law. The current law gives a politician-run Ohio Redistricting Commission the power to rule on the maps used in elections. The proposed amendment will create a nonpartisan community board to determine if congressional and state maps meet the intent of the law. That proposed amendment is designed to be placed before voters at the November 2024 General (Presidential) election. The League continues to fight for an end extreme gerrymandering. Stay informed and stay dedicated to the finish line!

~Mary Robertson, VP Community Relations

DEI Corner: Voting and Violence

On August 26, our nation commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the March on Washington, which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. made his famous, "I have a dream" speech. That same day, a heavily-armed 21-year-old, white male supremacist murdered three Black Americans at a Dollar General Store in Jacksonville, Florida. In reporting on this incident, several sources also recounted the incident known as Ax Handle Saturday—an incident in Jacksonville in 1960 on Saturday, August 27, when a group of white men attacked African Americans who were engaged in sit-in protests opposing racial segregation.

Violent backlash by white Americans against efforts to advocate for civil rights and voting rights has long been a feature of American culture. In our commemoration of the 1963 March on

Washington, let us remember three women who suffered violence because they were activists promoting democracy.



Fannie Lou Hamer was a leader in the civil rights movement, serving as vicechair of the Freedom Democratic Party, which she represented at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. She also organized Mississippi's Freedom Summer along with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. She cofounded the National Women's Political Caucus, an organization created to recruit, train, and support women of all races who wished to run for political office. In June 1963, Hamer was returning from a voter registration event sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) when she and others were arrested. Once in the county jail, the activists were brutally beaten. Hamer was also sexually groped repeatedly by officers during the assault and disrobed. She required more than a month to recuperate. She never fully recovered from the profound physical and psychological effects, including suffering permanent damage to her kidneys. Nevertheless, she



Amelia Boynton Robinson was a leader of the American Civil Rights Movement in Selma, Alabama and a key figure in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches. At the time, Selma had a population that was 50% Black, but only 300 of the town's African American residents were registered to vote in 1965. To protest continuing segregation and disenfranchisement of Blacks, a march was organized to the state capital of Montgomery. The event on March 7, 1965 became known as Bloody Sunday, when county and state police stopped the march and beat demonstrators after they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Boynton was beaten unconscious. A photograph of her lying on the bridge went around the world, and the heroism of the marchers and of Amelia resulted in the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, so that by 1966, 11,000 African American were registered to vote in Selma.



Viola Fauver Liuzzo heeded the call of Martin Luther King Jr. and traveled from Detroit, Michigan to Selma, Alabama in the wake of Bloody Sunday. While traveling back from a trip shuttling fellow activists to the Montgomery airport, she was fatally hit by shots fired from a pursuing car containing Ku Klux Klan members, one of whom was actually an undercover informant working for the FBI. While the State of Alabama was unable to secure a murder conviction, three KKK members were subsequently found guilty in federal court under the 1871 Ku Klux Klan Act. The FBI informant testified in the trial against the other defendants. But, in an effort to deflect attention from having a KKK member employed by the FBI, the agency produced disinformation for politicians and the press, stating that Liuzzo was a member of the Communist Party and a heroin addict who had abandoned her children to have sexual relationships with African Americans involved in the Civil Rights

returned to Mississippi to continue to organize voter registration drives.

movement. In addition to other honors, Liuzzo's name is today inscribed on the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama, created by Maya Lin.

Let's not forget what sacrifices these women made to promote voting and civil rights and recommit ourselves to doing what we can to honor their legacies.

~Dona Fletcher, DEI Director

Environmental News

The *Dayton Daily News* has reported that Dayton's rivers are among the cleanest in Ohio. The overall winner is the Stillwater River, a state and nationally designated Scenic River. DDN also reported a new lawsuit against the Biodigester in Green County. LWVGDA plans a program on this topic in the spring.



The Montgomery County Transfer and Recycling Facility at 1001 Encrete Lane in Moraine is starting an upgrade to its traffic pattern with a new entrance. Because of also needing to redo its infrastructure, the project will take about two years to complete.

In July the Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River yielded over 3,000 pounds of trash. Volunteers used huge bags leftover from Warped Wing Brewery's beer production for the cleanup. A double win.

The University of Dayton's sustainability program has Move In and Move Out days where students are encouraged to use special recycling bins for unwanted clothing and equipment. This has diverted thousands of pounds of materials from landfills to reuse/ recycling.

The city of Dayton will be using a combination of grant money and city funds to further develop electric vehicle charging stations. They plan to put 15 residential chargers into underserved neighborhoods, especially into apartment buildings. They also plan 8 city/public chargers, including in the Oregon District Garage. Maintenance will also be addressed.

~Kathleen Turner, Natural Resources Committee

Opportunities to Serve our Community

On August 7, I attended the College Promise Dinner in order to meet the student that I will mentor weekly for the next four years. This program was added to the Social Services Committee agenda a couple of months ago. If anyone would like to know more about this program and the LWV's involvement, just **contact me**.



The next volunteer opportunity will be on **September 12**, at the House of Bread from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. They only want 4 volunteers that day, so please **text me** if you wish to volunteer on that day at the HOB.

~Deb Mustard Gibson, Social Services Committee

Welcome New Members!

Julie & David Hannan, Middletown
Jmhannan1423@gmail.com

Mary Dysert, Kettering
Mtdysert55@gmail.com

Beverly Farnbacher, Dayton
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Heather Bailey & Frank Scenna,
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Jeff & Linda Connor, Oakwood
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Lisa Japs, Kettering
lrjaps@gmail.com

UPCOMING CALENDAR

September 12: Volunteering at House of Bread, 09:00 AM to 2:00 PM

September 14: LWVGDA All Member Meeting (Zoom), 6:00 PM

September 16-17: Rosh Hoshana

September 19: National Voter Registration Day
Funding and Development Meeting (office)

September 20: **Statehouse Day** (Sheraton Columbus Hotel), 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

September 25: Yom Kippur

September 26: Lobby Corps (Zoom), Noon
Voter Service (Zoom)

October 1: **Tour de Gem** Bike Fundraising Event, Riverscape MetroPark

October 2: Valley View School Board Forum (Valley View High School), 6:00 PM

October 3: Fairborn/Bath Twp. Candidate Forum (Fairborn Senior Center), 7:00 PM

October 4: Trotwood Candidate Forum (Phillips Temple Church), Time TBD
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

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

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