



THE VOTER

Monthly News & Updates

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Springing Into Action

Happy Spring! The activity surrounding the Citizens Not Politicians campaign really picked up in March! As the Regional Hub for booklet distribution, team leaders from Clark, Darke, Greene, Montgomery, Miami, Preble, and Shelby counties have visited us each week. It's been wonderful getting to know folks who are just as committed as we are to FINALLY achieve fair districts in Ohio. Many thanks to Joyce Gibbs who has been coordinating our efforts. Now that the warm weather is back, look for more ways to help. If you've not signed up to collect signatures, you can do so [HERE](#).



Be sure to mark May 21 on your calendar for our annual meeting which will be held at the Montgomery County Business Solutions Center. The packet including our slate of officers and the 2024/25 fiscal budget will be emailed to each of you. If you'd like a hard copy prior to the meeting (as always, annual meeting packets will be available to each attendee), please send Jessie an [email](#) to request one. I hope you'll join us to celebrate your achievements over the past year and to learn more about plans for 2025. Look for more information in a Constant Contact email coming soon!

Finally, I'm excited that my family and I will be celebrating our daughter Colleen's wedding in Italy, April 12-23. The committee chairs and Jessie are prepped and ready to support League efforts while I'm away! A presto!

~Chris Corba, Executive Director

VOTERS GUIDE



The 2024 General Election will be consequential, but fear not! The *Voters Guide* will be available to assure that you have the information you need to make educated decisions at the polls! And we need your help.

The *Guide* has provided information about candidates' views - written in their own words - and balanced information about issues since the League was founded in 1920. It is distributed via the *Dayton Daily News* and other local newspapers as well as businesses, libraries, high schools, and churches. This request is being made not as a fundraiser but a community service. We need your support to continue this important service to our community. Each donation helps to underwrite printing and distribution costs, which increase each year. The names of donors and businesses who contribute \$100 or more will be listed in the *Guide*, and your gift is tax- deductible. You can make your donation through the League's [website](#) or mail a check to LWVGDA to 127 N. Ludlow Street, Dayton OH 45402. If you'd like to help distribute the *Guide* or would like copies available at your place of business, **let us know!**

What a Busy Month March Was!

Not only did the League gear up its petition efforts to get the Citizens Not Politicians proposed amendment to end Gerrymandering on the November ballot but members also circulated petitions election polling places on March 19; the League held its most successful Dangerous Dames of Dayton Event to date; and we presented two excellent programs on very important subjects to citizens in the Miami Valley. Not forgetting our future voters, League members even presented voter-themed storytime events for children at Dayton Metro Libraries.

For more information on programs "A Conversation on Democracy with David Pepper" and "Public Education Today: Challenges and Opportunities" continue reading [HERE](#).

Enjoy photos of March events below. What we as members of the League of Women Voters do through our advocacy, *Voter's Guide*, candidate forums, programs and the sharing of information serves as essential "continuing education" in service of democracy. The challenges are formidable; the League needs whatever time, talent or resources you are willing to share. If you think about it, we all have a footprint in saving democracy. Keep informed, engaged and share your passion for saving democracy with everyone within your shared community. Be that voice they need to hear.

~President Beth Schaeffer

Delightful Dangerous Dames of Dayton Event

What a night! Our annual fundraising soiree attracted one of our highest attended events ever, thanks to deserving Dangerous Dames honorees Robyn Lightcap (executive director of Preschool Promise), Terra Fox Williams (president and CEO of YWCA Dayton) and Mattie White (active volunteer and First Vice President of NAACP Dayton), and our compelling keynote speaker Ayeshe Rascoe, host of

Each honoree seemed to relish her Dangerous Dame title, and encouraged the audience to take chances and reach outside their comfort zone when a real Dame is needed to make their community the best it can be! Ayesha Rascoe talked about her career path as a journalist, from a brash Howard University newspaper reporter to White House correspondent and finally host of NPR's *Up First: the Sunday Story*. She also talked about the challenges facing today's journalists. They operate in a hostile environment while navigating an ever-changing digital medium. News is funneled into echo chambers and this creates opportunities to deceive and twist the truth. Ms. Rascoe believes that one reason Americans have lost trust in journalism is that journalists have over-promised. She challenged journalists on every level to know their audience, present information that is easily understood, and be honest with expectations when delivering breaking news.

Amazing gift baskets were raffled off, and someone walked away with a trip for two to Italy! Wow! Of course participants were given the opportunity to sign the Citizens Not Politicians petition to finally end gerrymandering in Ohio.

It was an unforgettable evening! Thanks again to our sponsors: Dayton Daily News, WYSO, YWCA Dayton, Montgomery County Commissioners Office/Office of Strategic Initiatives, Dayton Unit NAACP, Houser Asphalt & Concrete, Sinclair Community College, Andrea & Vincent Cobb, Leppla Associates Ltd, and Michelle Maciorowski Law LLC.



2024 Dangerous Dames Mattie White and Terra Fox Williams.

Robyn Lightcap's family.
Emily Broughton accepted the award
on her behalf.



Keynote Speaker Ayesha Rascoe, NPR journalist, with League Director Chris Corba and League President Beth Schaeffer.



Author David Pepper: A Conversation on Democracy

The League in partnership with Sisters of the Precious Blood co-sponsored a discussion with author and political commentator David Pepper on March 11. Great discussion!



Public Education Today: Challenges and Opportunities

Fantastic audience filled the auditorium of Dayton Metro Library downtown branch for this informative program on March 21.

Members Read to Young Voters

In the month of March, four League members went to five Dayton Metro Library branches as part of a storytime collaboration. The focus was on voting. We were able to reach 45 children along with 34 adult chaperones. Per one guest reader, "It is so much fun seeing them cast their ballot in the "high stakes" election of which song to sing." A strong correlation between action (voting) and outcome (song).



The League hopes to continue to expand this program in or near the November 2024 election. If you would like to try your skills as a guest reader, please contact **Janine Kinnison**.

Thank you to our members Kaylin Ely, Jean Tarr, Lisa O'Connell, and Janine Kinnison for participating!



League Members Mobilize to End Gerrymandering

Joyce Gibbs, our Citizens Not Politicians project coordinator, and other League members stood outside select polling sites on Primary Election Day gathering signatures to put the Citizens Not Politicians amendment proposal on the November ballot. Hats off to all of you!

If you or someone you know have not had the chance to sign the petition yet, find an opportunity at a location near you on the MOBILIZE site mobilize.us/citizensnotpoliticians. Pass the word!!

Member News

Join League Members in Earth Day Activities April 20

The LWVGDA has volunteered to participate in Five Rivers MetroParks' Adopt a Park program on Earth Day for many years. This year MetroParks is reviving a program using their Service Kits to gather trash and recycling in any of the MetroParks properties or even in your own backyard.

The Service Kits include instructions and equipment for 5 people (who can be any combination of Leaguers, friends, and families) to be used on Earth Day, April 20. Your group can pick up a Service Kit at the League office at 127 N. Ludlow St, Dayton, 45402 between April 5 and April 19. Give the office a call first to make sure there is still a kit available and to register your group.

After the clean-up, the filled trash and recycling bags can be placed next to any trash and/or recycling can in any MetroPark for their daily pickup, or at other locations on the direction sheet in your Service Kit. Unused equipment can be returned to the League office, or you can keep it for another day of collecting.

If the traditional MetroParks Earth Day activities appeal more to you, take a look at metroparks.org/adopt for more information. Questions? **Call Kathy Turner**, LWVGDA Natural Resources director, or send her an **email**.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

League members and families – come out to Day Air Ballpark on Thursday, June 6 at 7:00 PM for an evening of fun! Tickets are \$14 and the League gets to keep \$7 of every ticket sold. What could be better than enjoying a cold beverage, snacks, and cheering on the Dayton Dragons with friends?

Tickets MUST BE PURCHASED by May 6, so don't delay! Purchase **HERE**.

Calling All Photographers, Videographers

The Community Relations committee is looking for volunteers with experience in event photography and videography to help with a social media campaign designed to educate Miami Valley voters on gerrymandering and the Citizens Not Politicians ballot measure. **Contact Mary Robertson** if you or someone you know can lend their talent.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

For more information contact the League office at 937-228-4041 or email at league@lwvdayton.org

April 8: FULL SOLAR ECLIPSE! LWVGDA Board Meeting, 6:00 PM on Zoom

Note: We will be working remotely beginning at 1:00 that day

April 9: LWVO Lobby Corps, Noon on Zoom

April 20: Earth Day

April 23: LWVO Lobby Corps, Noon on Zoom, Voter Service Call, 7:00 PM on Zoom

May 21: **SAVE THE DATE!** LWVGDA Annual Meeting, 6:00 PM at Montgomery County Business Solutions Center

June 6: Dayton Dragons League Outing, 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.

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