



# THE VOTER

## Monthly News & Updates

March 2024  
Volume 101 Issue 3

### It's Women's History Month!

My mom and dad got married in 1961. She graduated in June and was married in August. While she worked for a year as a teacher, when she found out that I was on the way, she quit. She did everything around the house and my dad dispersed the money as he saw fit. She couldn't purchase a home or hold a credit card. She would have earned fifty-nine cents on the dollar compared to men, and could have been fired for becoming pregnant (for that matter, she wouldn't have had access to birth control in many states). She was left in the dark financially and when my parents divorced, she was left with a mess to clean up (which she did, brilliantly). What I learned from her was that I had to make sure that I could take care of myself, a mindset I passed down to my children. My daughter now enjoys freedom and choices that my mother never had. Sadly, we know that we're coming perilously close to losing basic human rights. Most of the great social changes we've experienced over the years occurred in great part because of the tenacity and perseverance of women. Women's History Month is an opportunity to pay homage to those brave abolitionists, suffragists and activists who came before us, and to continue to fight to keep and expand



### Join Fellow League Members Thursday, March 14

Ladies and gents, we have a LOT to talk about!

The months leading up to the general election are going to be challenging to the mission of the League of Women Voters on many levels. Top of the list: helping to pass the *Citizens Not Politicians* amendment to the state constitution. The effort bans lobbyists and politicians from the district map drawing process, paving the way to allow citizens to choose their politicians in fair elections. We also have huge challenges in empowering and informing citizens who don't feel that their vote counts.

To accomplish our mission we need all hands on deck. Join us Thursday,

opportunities for the people who will come after we're long gone. I'd also like to wish my mom, Betty Ann, who was born on March 8, International Women's Day, a happy birthday!

~Chris Corba, Executive Director

March 14 at 6:00 PM for a Zoom call member meeting where we will discuss ways you can get involved. Watch for the zoom link, and more information, in emails from LWVGDA.

~Mary Robertson,  
VP Community Relations



## Dangerous Dames of Dayton

**Tuesday, March 26**

5:30 to 8:00 PM

Daniel J. Curran Place  
1700 S. Patterson Blvd.

Tickets \$125 | Dinner | Cash Bar

**PURCHASE TICKETS  
HERE**

## Don't Miss Our Biggest Event of the Year!

This year, we'll be celebrating the achievements of:

- Robyn Lightcap, Executive Director of Preschool Promise
- Terra Fox Williams, President and CEO, YWCA Dayton
- Mattie White, Community Volunteer

**Ayesha Rascoe**, host of NPR's Weekend Edition Sunday, will be our keynote.

Many thanks to our media sponsors, WYSO and the Dayton Daily News, and to YWCA Dayton, the Dayton Unit of the NAACP, Houser Asphalt and Concrete, Sinclair Community College and Michelle Maciorowski Law, LLC. for their financial support!

~Beth Adelman



## From the President's Desk

*2024 Primary Election Information Worth Sharing*

We are in the midst of yet another election. Please help share this information with your family, friends, and colleagues. Our Democracy only works when eligible voters actually participate in elections, and every election is important! In this March 19th primary election, voters will be given the opportunity not only to

decide who will be their party's candidate in the general election, but to decide such important issues as tax levies and renewals that support schools and essential city services. Depending on where voters live, they may be deciding whether to fund operating support for local police, fire and EMS services. And in some communities, voters will determine whether to permit Sunday liquor sales or to approve proposed real estate development. These decisions directly impact everyday life in the communities where we live and should not be determined by only the few who actually turn out and vote. **Every vote does count**, as evidenced in recent elections where a levy has failed by one vote or a candidate has lost by just a few votes.

It is equally important that voters educate themselves about the candidates and issues so they can make informed choices. Although the *Voters Guide* is not printed for Primary

elections, all candidates running for office and in the Primary are contacted multiple times and requested to provide information about themselves, their qualifications, and positions on important issues for posting to Vote411.org. Their responses are uploaded exactly as submitted by them. When a candidate doesn't respond, this is a missed opportunity for them and for voters who may overlook them due to the absence of this information.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Dayton does, however, provide important Primary Election information for voters in Montgomery and Greene Counties on its [website](#). By selecting Election Information under the Voter Information tab, voters can access candidate interviews and connect to Vote411.org. They can check their registration and polling locations. Information explaining different ways to vote, and the applicable ID requirements can be found there as well as the schedule for early in-person voting which began on February 21. Informed voters “know before they go.”

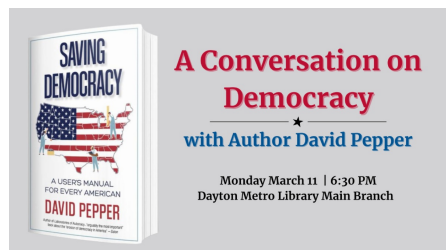
This wonderful resource for voting information is there to empower voters to make informed decisions as they exercise their right and responsibility to vote. Those with additional questions, can always call the League at 937-228-4041.

Remember that your opinion only matters if you vote!

*~President Beth Schaeffer*

## Save the Date!

The League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area's 62nd Annual Meeting will take place on **Tuesday May 21, 2024** from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at the Montgomery County Business Solutions Center, 1435 Cincinnati Street, Suite #300, Dayton, OH 45417. Look for the proposed slate of officers, budget, and program in email/Constant Contact along with your invitation to attend. If you would prefer a hard copy of this information prior to the annual meeting, please contact the office at 937-228-4041. As always, those attending the meeting will receive an annual meeting packet.



## League Co-Hosts Author David Pepper to Discuss Protecting Democracy

The League of Women Voters and the Peace, Justice, and Ecology Department of the Sisters of the Precious Blood are pleased to co-host “A Conversation on Democracy” with author David Pepper. The event takes place Monday, March 11 from



## League Hosts Panel Discussion on Public Education

“Public Education Today--Challenges and Opportunities” will take place on Thursday March 21, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Main Branch of the Dayton Metro Library.

A sustainable democracy requires

6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Main Branch of Dayton Metro Library.

In his most recent book, *Saving Democracy: A Users Guide for Every American*, Pepper stresses that protecting democracy is a bi-partisan concern and provides readers with common-sense ways to engage and participate.

The event is free and open to the public. Free parking is available in the library's parking garage.

**RSVP** no later than March 8. Please add "Pepper" in the subject heading.

the availability of good public education. How can we be sure this happens? Our panelists will discuss the current issues and possibilities facing our educational systems.

Panelists include:

- John Patterson, Ph.D., former Ohio State Representative, and public schools advocate
- Judy Hennessey, Ph.D., former superintendent of the Dayton Early College Academy and of Oakwood School District
- Susan Bodary, Partner, Education First, co-founder of the Dayton Regional STEM School, and former Education Policy Advisor to Bob Taft
- Jeffrey J. Mims Jr., Mayor of Dayton, former Third District Representative for the Ohio School Board and past president of the Dayton Board of Education

Thomas J. Lasley II, Ph.D., founder, CEO emeritus, and director of policy at Learn to Earn Dayton, will serve as moderator.

**RSVP** by March 18 with "Education" in the subject heading.



## Money in Politics: How to Track Money's Influence on Elections and Public Policy

The amount of money raised and spent by political campaigns, political parties and political action committees (PACs) to influence elections and the shaping of public policy has been breaking records with each presidential election. In 2020, the **battle for the White**

**House and Congress** resulted in \$14.4 billion in federal spending. Who is raising and spending this money is often hidden from the public.

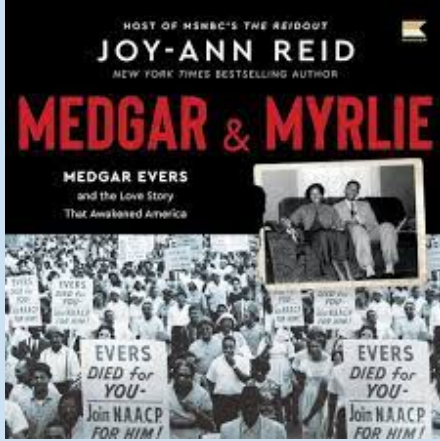
There are sources that can help voters understand how much money is being donated to politicians and who is donating that money. **READ MORE HERE**

~Mary Robertson

## DEI CORNER

Black History is American History





In February, we celebrated Black History Month, a month-long celebration of achievements by African Americans and their central role in U.S. history. The origins of Black History Month date back to 1926, when Harvard historian Carter G. Woodson developed an association dedicated to researching the accomplishments of Black Americans. This group sponsored a national “Negro History Week,” choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The event grew in popularity over the decades, and by the late 1960’s, it evolved into Black History

Month. Since 1976, every President has recognized the importance of this annual celebration. Recently, two new books have helped expand our awareness and understanding of the experiences of African Americans in historical context.

Deemed one of the best ten books of 2023 by the New York Times, *Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom* by Ilyon Woo is a historical study which describes the escape of an enslaved couple, Ellen and William Craft. A few days before Christmas in 1848, Ellen disguises herself as a white man and travels north to Pennsylvania on the ruse of seeking medical care with her husband, who pretends to be her property. Their journey takes them on a series of trains, steamboats and carriages, but their travels don’t end in Pennsylvania. Instead they become involved in the abolitionist movement. The couple’s activism plays no small part in the sequence of events that leads to the Civil War and the end of slavery.

Released this past month, during Black History Month, and just in time for Valentine’s Day, is the book *Medgar and Myrlie, Medgar Evers and the Love Story that Awakened America*. Author Joy-Ann Reid, an MSNBC journalist, centers her compelling historical review of the civil rights movement in the early 1960’s in the South on the bond between Medgar Evers and his wife, Myrlie. The couple met in college and married on Christmas Eve 1951. Against the backdrop of white supremacist murders of other Black World War II veterans, killed while delivering absentee ballots from other Black voters, and the lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till, Evers works tirelessly reviving field offices across the state and establishing youth councils among Black students. Ever’s story is less familiar to many of us than other civil rights icons, but Reid points out that Evers provided the foundations for other civil rights organizations in the state of Mississippi. The risks of his activism weighed heavily on Myrlie and the terrible moment she had long feared came just after midnight on June 12, 1963 when a Klansman assassinated Medgar in the driveway of the couple’s Jackson home.

~Dianne Herman



## Battle Over Voting Rights Heated In Election Year

There is unprecedented interest in either restraining or loosening laws that affect state voting rights, especially in this 2024 presidential election year.

The League of Women Voters, as part of a coalition of voting rights organizations, is supporting the *Citizens Not Politicians* amendment to the state constitution. This amendment would create a committee of nonpoliticians to draw congressional and

state district maps. This amendment will finally allow Ohioans to choose their politicians rather than politicians manipulating map variables to carve out their voters and squash competitive races.

There are also **eight** active bills in the Ohio legislature that would affect voting rights. Two of those bills would expand access; the remaining are designed to reign in voting access. For a list and summary of each bill [READ MORE HERE](#).

~Mary Robertson

## Member News

### New Members

**Sharon Bonadies** slbonadies@gmail.com

**Kaylin Ely** krely@green-law.com

### Let's Go Together! Went to the Arcade!

A group of almost 30 League members met on Thursday, February 15 to tour the downtown Dayton Arcade's multi-building complex (9 in total). One part of this complex is the actual arcade with its entrance facing Third Street.

We were treated to a behind-the-scenes look at what will be a new downtown hotel (we were told 2024).

Interestingly, the arches facing out over the arcade passage will be windows for hotel rooms. The far end of the arcade will lead to the beautiful domed rotunda currently used as an event space (see pictures). If you are ever in the rotunda, look up. The turkeys highlighting the dome were repainted by the grandson of the original artist!

We were also shown the University of Dayton Hub area (formerly Woolworth with its original wooden flooring), and The Tank, which is an event space below the rotunda (when on Fourth Street you may have noticed a "subway" looking entrance). Also within the complex of buildings are apartments, The Contemporary art gallery, Gather coffee house, Est! Est!! Est!!! Italian restaurant, IHeart radio, and a soon-to-be satellite of WYSO.

The "sleeping giant" has truly been woken! (This is in reference to a picture of a sleeping giant painted on the arcade entrance facing Third Street during early redevelopment).

~Janine Kinnison



### Learning About Voter Turnout

Why don't people vote? Why do people vote? Two questions formed the basis of a "Lunch and Learn" conversation held on Wednesday, February 22. The talk began with a closer

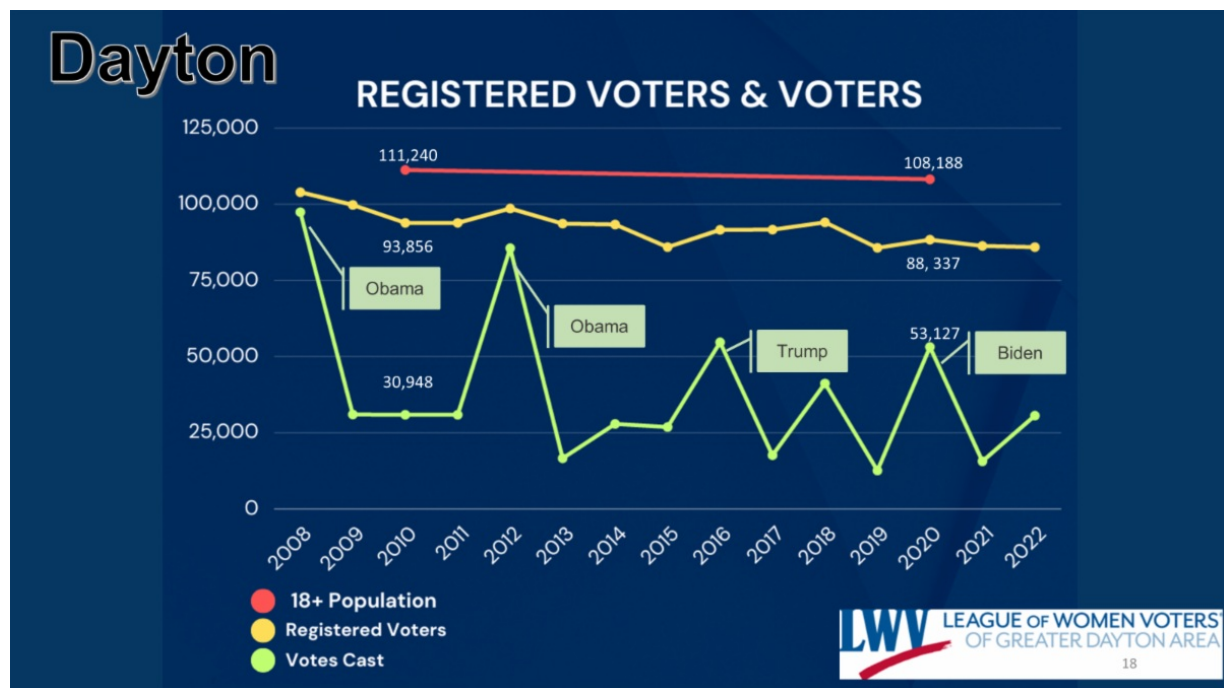
look at graphs and maps of voting turnout in Dayton over several election cycles. Below is a graph that helps to visualize eligible voters, registered voters and active voters over these cycles. Certainly we see a downward trend in voting, even during the presidential elections. Participants had some good suggestions on how to improve League efforts in getting out the vote, including:

- expanding member recruitment
- being more present in underserved areas
- improving media presence
- training more speakers, and
- partnering with local businesses and organizations
- 

Great ideas to add to our growing list. What next? If you know of organizations who would like someone to speak on Voter Turnout, please contact the League office or Jacqueline.housel@gmail.com. We would like to spread the word.

The focus of our next “Lunch and Learn” is redistricting. It will be held on **Wednesday, March 20 at noon**, again in the Conference Room of Talbot Tower. **Please register for this event with the League office.**

*~Jacquie Housel and Dona Fletcher Voter Service Committee*



## UPCOMING CALENDAR

**March 4:** LWVO All Member Meeting, Noon on Zoom

**March 8:** International Women’s Day

**March 10:** Ramadan begins, ends April 10

**March 11:** *A Conversation on Democracy* with David Pepper, 6:30 PM at Dayton Metro Library

**March 12:** LWVO Lobby Corps, Noon on Zoom

**March 14:** LWVGDA All Member Meeting, 6:00 PM on Zoom

**March 17:** [St. Patrick's Day](#) and the last day for Early Voting

**March 18:** Deadline to postmark absentee ballots

**March 19:** **PRIMARY ELECTION DAY!** Polls open 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM

**March 20:** Brown Bag - *Redistricting Update*, Noon, 7th Floor, Talbott Tower Conference Room; RSVP as space is limited

**March 21:** *Public Education Today--Challenges and Opportunities*, 6:30 PM at Dayton Metro Library

**March 26:** LWVO Lobby Corps, Noon on Zoom

LWVO Voter Service Call, Noon on Zoom

**DANGEROUS DAMES OF DAYTON**, 5:30 PM at Daniel J. Curran Place

**March 31:** Easter Sunday



---

[Our Organization](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Past Newsletter Editions](#)

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.,  
Dayton, OH 45402-1703

[Unsubscribe league@lwvdayton.org](mailto:league@lwvdayton.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data  
Notice](#)

Sent by [league@lwvdayton.org](mailto:league@lwvdayton.org)