



2023-2024 Report to the Community

*Empowering Voters.
Defending Democracy.*

Our Mission

The League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

We serve citizens who reside in Montgomery and Greene Counties.

The League is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in principle and practice. Diversity, equity and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

Core Values

- Respect individuals
- Value diversity
- Empower grassroots
- Recognize the power of collective decision-making for the common good
- Encourage civic engagement

Services

- Candidate forums and interviews
- Voter registration services
- Legislation and election information
- Speakers Bureau
- Observation of government meetings
- Link to State and National LWV
- Facebook and website election information

Publications

- Annual *Voters Guide*, in English and Spanish which is distributed through local news publications, on our website, LWVdayton.org and Vote411.org
- Annual Directory of Public Officials
- Monthly *The Voter* Newsletter
- Report to the Community

Funding

The LWV depends solely upon contributions from our members and the community.

Membership

We continue to expand our membership and welcome all who are age 16 and over to join us.

A message from our President

The League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area is among the largest and most active Leagues in the state because of the support it receives from its members and the community.

When the Dayton League was founded over 100 years ago, our sisters faced many of the same issues that we face today. In the 1920s, Americans were dealing with inflation that caused food costs to more than double, racial violence was rampant, and laws that ensured women rights were repealed.

Throughout those turbulent times, our founders educated citizens about important issues and inspired them to vote. The mission of the suffragists who came before us continues today.

Our goal is to be a trusted source of unbiased information that gives the public the knowledge they need to make educated decisions at the polls.

The annual *Voters Guide*, our televised *Empowering You* programs, produced in collaboration with Dayton Access TV, candidate forums, and live educational events highlight subjects affecting our day-to-day lives. Each topic is presented from a variety of points of view, providing audience members with the information they need to reach their own conclusions.

We are proud to provide this report to our community and remain committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in principle and practice, and to work with citizens and policy makers to create a more perfect democracy.

Beth Schaeffer, President

2023-24 Board of Directors

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Highlights of 2023-24



Ending gerrymandering in Ohio

The LWVGDA took an active role in educating our community about the redistricting process and gave citizens the tools they needed to advocate for their community. League members:

- Solicited petition signatures in multiple locations, allowing the Citizens Not Politicians amendment to appear as a ballot issue
- Engaged with 2,235 citizens

Listening and Growing

Small groups of League members gathered to listen and discuss the value of diversity, to share their experiences, and most importantly, to get to know one another at a deeper level.

Leadership embarked on a Strategy + Planning exercise that helped identify its Strategic Aspiration: LWVGDA energizes and empowers people to be active in the electoral process as the premier provider of voter information and resources.



Voter Information

The 2023 *Voters Guide*, which is 100% volunteer-driven and community supported, provides citizens with the information they need to make informed decisions at the polls.

The 2023 *Guide* was the largest to date:

- Featured over 200 candidates in contested races
- 50,000 copies were distributed via local newspapers
- Another 30,000 copies were available at Greene and Montgomery County public libraries, businesses schools and churches



A "Surprise" Election

After the announcement of a special election to be held in August 2023, the LWVGDA rallied to defeat a proposed amendment that would have made it nearly impossible for citizens to initiate changes to the Ohio Constitution.

Dangerous Dames of Dayton

WYSO helped the League bring to Dayton, as keynote speaker, NPR's *Up First* host Ayesha Rascoe. This year's Dames included:

- Robyn Lightcap, Executive Director of Preschool Promise
- Terra Fox Williams, President and CEO of YWCA Dayton
- Mattie White, First Vice President of the Dayton Unit of the NAACP



Events and Outreach



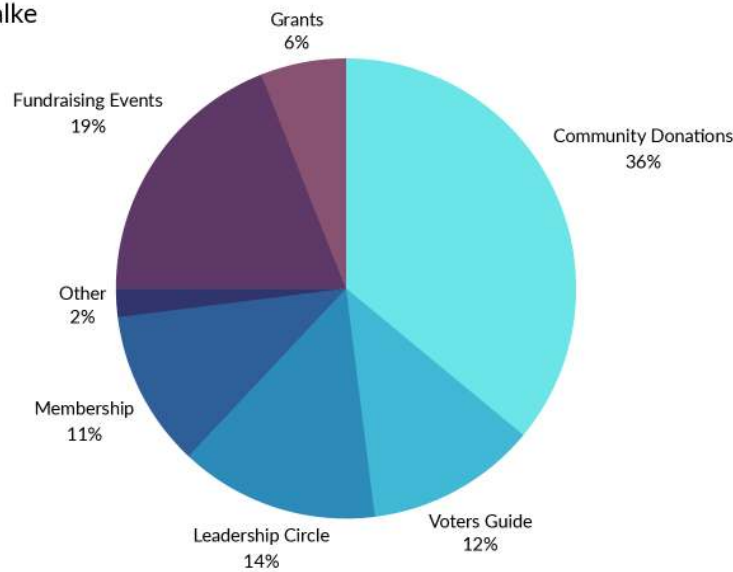
- Recognizing the need for voters to have unbiased factual information about the Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety Amendment available to them before voting, the League presented a "Facts First" panel discussion.
- Partnering with the Sisters of the Precious Blood, the League co-hosted a Conversation on Democracy with Author David Pepper.
- The League presented "Public Education Today - Challenges and Opportunities," moderated by Thomas J. Lasley II Ph.D., founder of Learn to Earn Dayton, featuring panelists who discussed current issues that affect K-12 public education.

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