

Fair Districts = Fair Elections

This title is the motto of the present initiative to change the way district maps are drawn in Ohio. Every ten years, after the census, the states are given the option of redrawing the maps based on how many congressional representatives they have in Congress. In the last census, Ohio lost two Congressional seats based on its reduction in population. It also gives the party in power the ability to redraw the districts that guarantee a winning party candidate.

In 2015, with heroic efforts of LWVO, Fair Districts Ohio, Common Cause, and others, an initiative was placed on the ballot to end the unfair district maps drawn by the party in power. That initiative passed handily. But is only applied to the STATE Assembly.

The next step is to get the same response for the U. S. Congress.

Since maps cannot be redrawn until the census results are available, which means after 2020, the momentum is building to get another initiative on to the ballot for the 2017 election.

A landmark gerrymandering case may also be heading to the Supreme Court's next term.

After review and approval by Attorney General Mike DeWine, the proposed summary language of the reform proceeds to the Ohio Ballot Board, which will then decide if it is a single issue.

This campaign will need lots of help: signing a petition; carrying a petition; donating money to help get the publicity into the public's consciousness; and getting out the vote! A total of 305,000 VALID signatures will be needed to qualify for a place on the ballot. The entire state of Ohio is gearing up for this campaign.

Please check the following websites to get updated information as this campaign progresses:
www.fairdistrictsohio.org; www.lwvohio.org; www.dispatch.com/news/20170424/signatures-filed-for-ohio-congressional-redistricting-issue; <https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/a-landmark-gerrymandering-case-heading-toward-the-courts-next-term>.



Valerie Lee, Action Director
Vivienne Himmell, Board Advisor

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*In-kind contribution

**In-kind + monetary contribution

The League of Women Voters recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. The LWV affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of America in its membership, leadership and programs.

It's nice when we have so many new members. Welcome all!

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2017 Annual Meeting Business & Fun Rolled Into One

Our League held its Annual Meeting at Goodwill Easter Seals on May 15 with 45 members in attendance. The evening began with an ice breaker game where members learned historical, felonious, and fun facts about our membership, leaving no lingering doubts our League consists of quirky, accomplished and interesting people.

Annual Meetings are significant because the yearly business of the League is voted on or proposed at these meetings. This year members in attendance:

- Voted to approve the General Fund proposed budget, with a few recommendations from membership which the Board will approve at its June meeting
- Recommended the Education Fund proposed budget to the Education Fund Trustees for their review and vote of acceptance
- Approved the following proposed programs for 2017-2018 year: "Electoral College Reform; Healthcare; Age of Water System; International Trade Issues; Trash Talk"
- Thanked outgoing Board members Ana Crawford, Susan Darcy, Rebecca Jarvi, Lillian Moskeland, and Patty Skilken
- Approved the 2017-2019 Proposed Slate of Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee Members:
 - Officers: President: Susan Byerly; President Elect: Andrea Cobb; Co-Voter Service Vice Presidents: David Bodary and Mario;
 - Secretary: Janet Hess (fulfilling unexpired term ending June 30, 2018);
 - Directors: Greene County Rep: Sandra McHugh; Public Relations Rep: Peggy Berry (fulfilling unexpired term ending June 30, 2018);
 - Webmaster: Rita Peterson
 - Nominating Committee Members: Barbara Buddendeck, Dona Fletcher, Lillian Moskeland.

Additionally, we congratulated 25 year members Charles Berry, Bea Delph, Gary Leppla, Rhine McLin, Lillian Sagstetter, and Anwyl Scott.

There was a moment of silence to remember our deceased member Judy Gerhard.

Everyone left with a feeling of accomplishment and pride in the work of the League.

Washington Post columnist Petula Dvorak wrote an article (January 22) titled "The Cat in the Hat Certainly Understands That: At a Women's March, the Men Mattered Most." The article addressed women's issues i.e., the fight for equal rights, equal pay, and equal opportunity. How refreshing to find men marching alongside America's women for a myriad of reasons.

That brings me to William Foote, the first man to join the League of Women Voters of Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties in Kentucky. At the age of 67, he was recognized by the Northern Kentucky League. Bill Foote had two sons, one of whom (Steven Foote) now resides in Trotwood, OH with his wife, Janet. William Foote's wife gave him full credit for leading her into membership with the League. William was born in Greenwood, British Columbia, and immigrated to the US with his three siblings. He arrived in Kentucky in 1943 where the family settled on a 15 acre chicken farm. In the words of Mrs. Foote: "I was shopping around then, and I'd say it was unusual hereabouts to find a man who respected the rights and ideas of women in the early 40's." Even though his wife was always #1 in his life, he had a secondary admiration for Jill Ruckelshaus, who kept her job after President Nixon fired her husband from the Justice Department.

So I invite all men in the greater Dayton community to join in the spirit of activism with members of the League. We need your support for our voices to be heard on issues such as voting rights, affordable healthcare, an end to gerrymandering, and, of course, equal pay for equal work. To borrow from a recent campaign, say loud and say proud ***I'm With Her!***

Valerie Lee, Action Director

REMINDER! Women for Common Ground ~ an experiment for women

Don't forget to sign up for this opportunity to connect women, build relationships, foster good will and trust with people with different perspectives, and provide leadership in the community and authentic conversation across the aisle. To take part in the discussion, participants must sign up in groups of two, one a republican, the other a democrat.

Dates are July 17-20 6PM. Please contact the office to sign up for one evening of discussion and, if possible a second evening to participate as a scribe for another group 228-4041.

Save the Date

Join us for our next League Quarterly Dinner Meeting Tuesday, July 25, at 6:00PM. We will meet at Coco's Bistro located at 250 Warren Street in Dayton.



If you are a new member, please join us. We'd like to share exciting ways you can be involved with League! Meet with other League members and learn about upcoming programs and activities and learn how you can be involved in the Fair Districts campaign this fall. Existing members, please bring your enthusiasm and experience to share with new members.

If you plan to attend, RSVP to our office (937-228-4041), visit our website to reply online, or send an email (league@lwvdayton.org) by July 17. We really need a head count to make sure we have enough space reserved.

We look forward to seeing you!

Andy Cobb



Follow us on Facebook!

The League of Women Voters
Invites you to dinner and a discussion of

“ Blood in the Streets ”



with author and co-author

Daniel Baker and Beth Nalls

*Hear the powerful true story from the rookie cop and the teenage girl who
witnessed wide-spread fear and race riots, sparked by a serial killer
in our own hometown.*

Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2017

Time: 6 pm

Location: Carillon Park Bier Hall
1000 Carillon Blvd.
Dayton 45409

Tickets: \$35 (\$12 tax deductible)

Enter park from Patterson Blvd. Plenty of free parking

Seating for this event is limited and reservations are required.

Advance payment only, either by receipt of check or thru PayPal, online at lwvdayton.org



Sponsored by the Dayton Area League of Women Voters Education Fund

Phone: 937-228-4041 • lwvdayton.org • E-mail: league@lwvdayton.org

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The Voter is published monthly by the League of Women Voters of the Greater Area (LWVGDA); Talbott Tower, 127 N. Ludlow Street, Dayton, OH 45402-1703; Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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www.lwvdayton.org

Advocating Voter Education
and Action on Issues

Current Resident or:

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

As I write this, my term as President of LWVGDA is nearly over. As I have said in the past, never have I been part of a group that I admire more. Our members, volunteers, staff and directors are smart, engaged, curious, and informed...the meat and potatoes of our League...the ones who get things done. Continuing the metaphor...I have only been the spoon that stirs the pot and sometimes, for better or worse, suggests a recipe or adds a little salt and pepper. Your League now occupies new office space which will make it much easier to continue our mission, expand our reach, raise our profile, accept new challenges, and gain new members.

Our staff, Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director, and Mary Winfree, Office Manager, is as good as it gets. Their direction and expertise come into play with every event and task that the League participates in. If, in my dotage, I decide to start another business, (I'm not convinced that retirement suits me!) I would love to have them on my team.

At Annual Meeting on May 15, Susan Byerly was elected to be our League's President starting July 1 — a choice I heartily applaud! Not only do I endorse her as the new president, but I am grateful for her unfailing support and help during my term. You will love her!

I will always be proud of having been part of the leadership team of LWVGDA and thank you for allowing me to serve as your president. I will brag about it every chance I get! Look for me at upcoming events...I look forward to being part of the cheering section!

Patty Skilken, President LWVGDA

