



# THE VOTER

League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area  
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## SLAYING THE GERRYMANDER!

### LWV Ohio Statement on Results of Issue 1



**Columbus, OH, May 8, 2018** - The League of Women Voters of Ohio celebrates passage of state Issue 1, a constitutional amendment to reform the way congressional districts are drawn.

"After decades of advocacy from the League of Women Voters on redistricting, and over a year of public education and signature collection, we are thrilled that Ohio voters have put new rules to end partisan gerrymandering into our constitution," said Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick, LWV Ohio Co-President. "This victory is a testament to the hard work of so many League members and redistricting reformers throughout both this campaign and past efforts."

"We thank the thousands of people across the state who collected signatures, handed out flyers, and spread the word in so many ways," added LWV Ohio Co-President Alison Ricker. "The legislature came to the table and reached a compromise on this proposal because of public pressure, so this win truly belongs to the committed reformers and their hard work. Issue 1 is the reform we have been looking for, and we will now lay down our clipboards and turn to implementing these new rules and making sure they work for Ohioans."

Placed on the primary ballot by a vote of 114 to 10 in the state legislature, the amendment will mandate bipartisan approval for ten-year congressional maps, institute strict anti-gerrymandering criteria if the parties couldn't agree, and require transparency and opportunities for input including public hearings and citizen map submissions.

"It took the women's suffrage movement seventy-two years to secure the right to vote in the US Constitution," concluded Jen Miller, Executive Director of LWVO. "The League of Women Voters was born out of that movement and that persistent, indomitable spirit is what caused us to lead the charge on redistricting reform from the 1980s through today's victory."

*Jen Miller, Executive Director, LWVO*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Tuesday, June 12 @ 6:00 pm, **DINE & DISH** at Top of the Market, 32 Webster Street Dayton.  
*See page 2 for details.*





**"Wave"ing Hello  
to New Members  
4/10/18–5/16/18**

**Cheryl & Charlie Gross**

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**Felicia Hill**

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## HANDS ON HISTORY PROJECT



A popular project of the Dayton League is called "Hands on History." This fun traveling project is an attempt to connect the current League to the women who came before us during our 98-year history.

The project consists of several large fabric banners that are displayed at events such as Dangerous Dames of Dayton. Each of these banners is festooned with colorful handprints placed by local women and League members. There's nothing quite like seeing our members dressed in their professional garb, willingly presenting the palms of their hands to be covered in tempura paint. They then press their hands against the banner and sign their name. They're also asked to fill a LWV note card with a few words about why they joined the League, or what the fight for women's rights means to them.

The women who have participated in the Hands on History project are creating a link between our formidable predecessors and the women who will follow us. We plan to archive the banners and the stories as a way of reaching out to the League of 2120 as they celebrate another 100 years.

Leading up to our centennial celebration, we are seeking a small group of volunteers to work on this project. We need someone to gather the names of all the women who have signed the banners and solicit personal stories from the ones who haven't yet submitted one. This work can be done via email and phone, from your home or in the League office. It's a short-term, one-time assignment. Let's say it's a perfect way to leave your fingerprints on the work of our League.

**Please call the office at 228-4041  
if you want to learn more about what this project entails.**

## Tuesday, June 12, 6:00 pm

at Top of the Market, 32 Webster St., Dayton

**Dinner, Discussion, and Cash Bar ~ \$35**

The League of Women Voters will host author Dennis Turner, University of Dayton law professor, to discuss his newest book, *What Did You Do In the War, Sister?* Available on Amazon, the author calls the book "imaginative fiction" inspired by real-life stories of Belgian nuns who hid refugees and Jews from Nazis during World War II. **Bring your book for the book signing.**

Contact League 228-4041 or reserve online,  
under 'Upcoming Events' at: [lwvdayton.org](http://lwvdayton.org)

**DINE & DISH**



## OHIO LEAGUE NEWS



# STATEHOUSE DAY

*April 21, 2018*



Every year in the spring, the League of Women Voters of Ohio hosts a statehouse day to update local Leagues about urgent issues facing Ohio and about legislative events of concern to League members. Eight of our local members, in addition to our state Board member, Andy Cobb, and our executive director, Susan Hesselgesser, attended. The day started off with members of the LWVO Lobby Corps providing information about women's reproductive health, gun safety and environmental initiatives in the state legislature, most of which was not positive in terms of League positions on these issues. On a more positive note, Ann Henkener, who has been working on redistricting for several years, was finally able to report that the League, in concert with the Fair Districts coalition, was able to reach a compromise reform proposal to reduce gerrymandering of Ohio Congressional districts. While not as robust as the initial proposed reform measure, Ann stressed that "we should not let the perfect be the enemy of the good." LWVO encouraged all to vote "Yes" on Issue 1 on May 8. Sue Hesselgesser and other local Leagues presented a panel discussion on engaging young people in the political process. Discussion featured some best practices including the Voter Girl Project, a civic education program sponsored by LWV Kent and the Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio. The Keynote address by Mike Curtin reminded members of the persistence that has characterized our organization from its inception. This includes decades of struggle to win the right to vote for women, and our long history of fighting for redistricting reform in Ohio, which has resulted in the passage of Issue 1. The day ended with Tom Roberts encouraging more collaborative efforts between the NAACP and the League of Women Voters, and Lauren Litton's presentation on fostering civil discourse.

*Submitted by Vivienne Himmell*



## NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS

### House Holds Hearing on Census Citizenship Question

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee held a hearing on the proposed inclusion of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census. The League commends Chairman Gowdy for demanding DOJ officials to answer census citizenship questions. **Read our blog** for more information on the hearing and **sign our petition** to tell Congress to correct this issue before it is too late.

### Webinar Recording on Constitutional Convention

Interested in the idea of states holding a Constitutional Convention to amend or rewrite the US Constitution?

This concept is allowed in the Constitution of the United States, but not defined therein. There is a quiet movement afoot to call such a convention in the coming months or years, and LWVUS recently presented a webinar on the topic. If you missed it, the **recording** and the **Power Point presentation** for the webinar on understanding the dangers of a constitutional convention are now available.

Thank you to all that were able to join us!

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WE CAN'T HELP  
EVERYONE, BUT  
EVERYONE CAN HELP  
SOMEONE.  
- RONALD REAGAN

***Advocating Voter Education and Action on Issues***



Current Resident or:

## THANK YOU, LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS!

*Susan Hesselgesser Executive Director*



I give a lot of speeches and often end by saying the League is powered and empowered by its members. That's not just something I say, I mean it because I live it, every day. We are a swiftly running stream of good work spurred on by great ideas and high expectations.

Because of gerrymandering, primary elections generally cause only a slight blip on the League radar screen. Not so in this political climate nor the 2018 primary. For the first time in years several races were contested. Our Voter Service team stepped up to serve Greater Dayton by utilizing Vote411.org, organizing candidate forums, providing cable interviews, answering dozens and dozens of election questions and working our hearts out to ensure Issue 1 passed; and on May 8 it did, completing a 45 year effort by the League to end gerrymandering in Ohio. The flow of enthusiasm from our members continues to foster the imagination that created the League of Women Voters 98 years ago. Now more than ever, our League's work is respected as a strong proponent of voters' rights and a go-to resource for our community.