

# THE VOTER

A monthly e-newsletter of the League of Women Voters Greater Dayton Area

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## Top stories in this e-newsletter



League member makes masks for the deaf



Do one thing: help voters get an ID



Absentee ballot requests sent to every voter



The fight against voter suppression continues

## League member makes masks for the deaf



When COVID-19 struck, League members quickly jumped in to make face masks for Miami Valley Hospital and repair N95 masks for the Department of Health. Since Ohio has one of the largest deaf populations in the country, a problem soon came to light. League member Lauren Schippers, a Service & Support Manager at Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disability Services, explained. "Masks, although a necessary safety precaution, take away what little communication deaf people have with staff members not fluent in American Sign Language," Lauren said. "Facial expressions are a huge part of ASL; they replace voice inflections that are found in verbal languages, so facial expressions are important."

Once League mask maker Rebecca Jarvi became aware of this dilemma, she researched mask patterns for those working within the deaf community and took special care to produce several masks with a see-through panel to allow for lip reading and facial expressions. "Within a day," Lauren reported, "I was told by the staff at one of my group homes that it helped with communication with one of my ladies. The masks Rebecca made are making a big difference."

## Do one thing: help voters get an ID



If you are looking for one thing you can do today or this month to make a difference, and maybe even change the world, here's an idea from Kim Senft Paras, Chair of the LWVGDA Fair Elections Committee: **Write letters for VoteRiders, a nonpartisan organization that helps people get the ID they need in order to vote.** One voter suppression tactic is to make it difficult for people without transportation or funds to procure required ID in their state. **VoteRiders** is asking volunteers to send letters to make people aware of the organization's free services, which include transportation and payment for a driver's license or state ID. Contact Kim at [kimsenftparas5@gmail.com](mailto:kimsenftparas5@gmail.com) to get started, and check out the [VoteRiders.org](http://VoteRiders.org) website for more information!

Do you have an idea to share that can make a difference? Contact LWVGDA Volunteer Coordinator Laurel Kerr at [laurel.kerr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:laurel.kerr@sbcglobal.net).

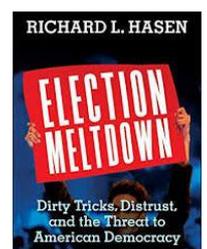
## Absentee ballot requests sent to every voter



November is nearly upon us. Although the Ohio legislators will be recessing in July, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose has announced that funding has been approved through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to send **absentee ballot forms to every registered voter.** Ohioans will have the option to vote early, in person or by absentee ballot. Ballot request forms will be mailed out around Labor Day. Those not yet registered will have until October 5 to do so. Voters can confirm or update their registration as well as print an absentee ballot request at [VoteOhio.gov](http://VoteOhio.gov). The deadline to request an absentee ballot is three days before the election.\*

*\*The League suggests you do not wait until three days before the election to request a ballot, as the turnaround time is not long enough to successfully receive and return your ballot.*

## The fight against voter suppression continues



In a recent forum that brought together African American women for a racial justice virtual Town Hall, three waves of voter suppression were outlined:

- The Jim Crow era in the South (1876-1965) that introduced poll taxes and literacy tests.
- The 2013 SCOTUS case that gutted the Voting Rights Act.
- The disproven theory of voter fraud (Ongoing in 2020) that opened the door to restrictive laws.

Since voter suppression is still with us even today, members of the League must all work together to guard our democracy and ensure a fair election in November. Election law expert Richard L. Hasen offers concrete steps to address threats to our democracy in his book *Election Meltdown*. You can access a discussion of the book directly on the National Constitution Center's website at

<https://constitutioncenter.org/debate/past-programs/virtual-town-hall-how-to-fix-presidential-elections-in-2020-and-beyond>

## In Memorium

The League of Women Voters sadly acknowledges the deaths of two very long-time members.

Both **Lillian Sagstetter** and **Helen Watkins** were loyal members who participated in many of the activities and committees of the local League.

We express our heartfelt condolences to both families.

## WELCOME new members!

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