



THE VOTER

Monthly News & Updates

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Tough Conversations Among Neighbors

My neighbor, Carol, and I met in the middle last week. Literally, we walked out into the middle of the street and started chatting. We've known each other for almost 25 years. Her daughter babysat for our kids, we watched each other's animals, celebrated holidays and other milestones, and sat outside talking in the summer.

Now Carol and I have varying opinions about how to handle what's going on in the world right now. I'm sure that you have neighbors and family who have differing views from yours, as well. Despite that, we're friends. I try really hard to not talk about politics in casual conversations, but the attempt on former president Trump's life had just occurred and we spoke about how horrible and frightening that was. The conversation moved to a number of topics that we had really never discussed in depth. We found we agreed on common-sense gun laws, and that women should have control over their bodies. We talked about the amendments we voted on last year and how the ads were so confusing. I encouraged her to start doing her own research when she told me she had quit reading the paper and watching the news because it's depressing. After a while, we agreed to disagree on a number of other issues and said goodnight.

Not every conversation is going to end so amicably this election season. This is going to be a rough one and the stakes are high. I just keep thinking about our mission to encourage informed and active participation in government and how the public will look to the League for the truth. I say it all the time, but the League is needed now more than ever. Thanks for all you do to defend democracy and your efforts to dispel misinformation. We're on a mission!

~Chris Corba, Executive Director



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF GREATER DAYTON AREA

August 20 | 6:30 pm to 8 pm
Dayton Metro Library Main Branch
Eichelberger Event Space

Gerrymandering in Ohio and the Citizens Not Politicians Amendment with Retired Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor

SPACE IS LIMITED Please register at
[https://www.mobilize.us/citizensnotpoliticians/
event/654145/](https://www.mobilize.us/citizensnotpoliticians/event/654145/)



Retired Chief Justice O'Connor to Speak in Dayton

We are thrilled that Retired Ohio Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor will make her only appearance in Southwest Ohio to talk about gerrymandering and the Citizens Not Politicians Amendment with us!

"Gerrymandering in Ohio and the Citizens Not Politicians Amendment with Retired Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor" will be presented on Tuesday, August 20 at the Dayton Metro Library Main Branch, Eichelberger Event Space, at 6:30 p.m. Space is limited and we encourage members and their friends to register now.

**Register
HERE**

Justice O'Connor has been instrumental in leading the effort to add a citizen-led amendment to the state constitution on the November ballot. Passage of the amendment will prevent politicians, or whomever they influence, from the process of drawing legislative maps, and instead put the process in the hands of citizens. She will be answering audience questions. Help spread the word!

LWVUS National Convention: 2024 Highlights

We enjoyed the opportunity to attend the LWVUS 2024 Convention "Turn Up and Turn Out" virtually June 27-30. Nearly 1,000 delegates from across the country, including four from Greater Dayton, voted to continue to support the Making Democracy Work campaign. Its pillars include:

- Expanding Voter Access
- Fighting Voter Suppression
- Money in Politics



- Redistricting Reform

An additional “pillar” was introduced during the Saturday, June 29, plenary session. The “**One Person One Vote Campaign**” is a movement to abolish the Electoral College and create a new system for electing future presidents by direct popular vote. It was noted that five presidential races were decided by the Electoral College rather than by popular vote. Attendees voted to adopt a concurrence with the LWV of Washington’s position on the *Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy*, and approved a LWVUS study on federal judiciary reforms.

Other adopted program focuses for 2024-2026 include the following:

- Support initiatives promoting ethics in government at all levels
- Adopt a United Nations treaty to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women
- Reaffirm existing position for fair and humane immigration reform
- Support of public libraries as a civil right and essential for democracy
- Reaffirm commitment to reproductive rights and bodily autonomy
- Advocate for Washington D.C. to have representation in the U.S. Congress

Celina Stewart, who had been serving as LWVUS chief counsel, was selected by the Board to serve as the new CEO for her proven vision, leadership, and credibility to lead the League through transformation To see her speech describing her vision for the organization click [HERE](#).

Dianna Wynn, the newly elected President of LWVUS, kicked off her presidency by stating, “A bigger, bolder, more powerful League of Women Voters can shape the future of our democracy.” The goal is to grow and strengthen LWVUS at all levels by transitioning to a centralized membership process and providing resources and support to state and local leagues so the fight for democracy can be fought successfully at all levels. See her speech [HERE](#).

For a more in-depth summary of the 2024 LWVUS National Convention click [HERE](#).

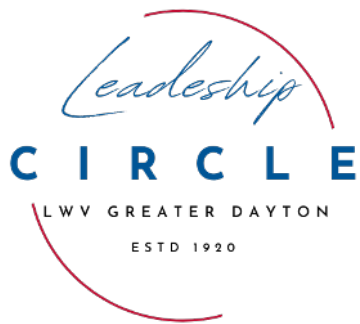
Reflections: We were also reminded there is power in the collective to bring about change, and now is the time to summon all the moral and ethical courage that resides within us to speak out against positions and policies that threaten our democracy. Silence and boycotting as a form of expression of one’s beliefs does not work in politics; in fact, it undermines what is required of a democracy: full participation. That is why our Dayton League, like the US League, is focusing on educating and empowering voters so they can and will vote. Please do what you can to support these efforts.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Beth W. Schaeffer, President
Chris Corba, Executive Director*

Leadership Circle Appeal

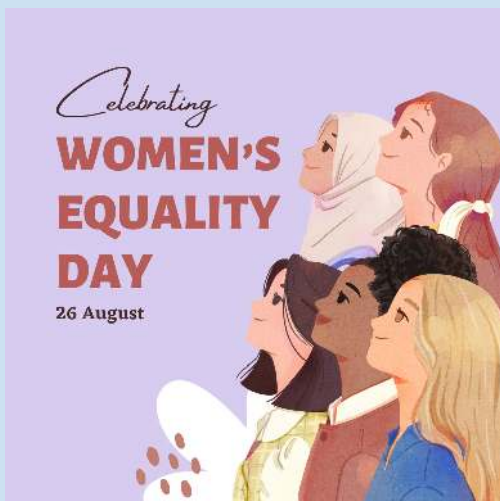
Thanks to everyone who has donated to support our League through the Leadership Circle. Your gifts will ensure we have the resources to provide voters with the information they need to make educated decisions at the polls.



This year, a generous donor has offered to match any MEMBER's new or increased donation up to \$5,000! This is how it will work: If you've never contributed to the Leadership Circle and you donate at least \$100, this donor will make a gift of \$100 as well. If you donated \$100 last year and you decide to donate \$250 this year, the donor will match that \$150 increase for a total gift of \$300.

Your donation is tax deductible and those who make a gift of \$100 or more will be recognized in the Voters Guide. You can donate by sending a check to 127 N. Ludlow Street, Dayton, OH 45402 or by visiting our [website](#). Be sure to **make your donation by August 31!** Thank you!

~Beth Adelman, Director Funding and Development



DEI Corner

August 26th is Women's Equality Day

It took over 70 years from the first woman's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848 until the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920 for women to win the legal right to vote in the United States. Women were fighting for the vote in order to improve their social and economic status, with the hope that one day they would achieve gender equality. But by the early 1970s it was becoming apparent to American women that, while some progress had been

made, sex discrimination was still a major problem. Women were earning 59 cents for every dollar a man made for similar work. Harvard was still not admitting women. Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg were not hired in law firms despite outstanding educational qualifications. Some states were still denying women the right to serve on juries. Incredibly, women could not obtain credit cards, make wills, or own property without a husband.

During the era of social change in the 1960s and 1970s, women organized. The Women's Strike for Equality, a rally sponsored by the National Organization for Women (NOW), took place on August 26, 1970, the 50th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment. There were marches, rallies and other various forms of revolt that took place in more than 90 cities and towns, making this the largest protest for gender equality in U.S. history to that point. An estimated 50,000 women marched down 5th Avenue in New York City, a group took over the Statue of Liberty and hung banners from her crown, and another group stopped the ticker tape at the American Stock Exchange while holding signs reading, "We won't bear any more bull."

As a result of the ensuing controversies and the amount of publicity, "The Women's Strike for Equality" engendered, the following year Bella Abzug, a Congresswoman from New York, successfully introduced a bill that designated August 26 as Women's Equality Day. Each year, our local League honors this legacy of fighting for gender equality to celebrate our past accomplishments and continue to work for democracy for all.

Member News

Lunch & Learn: Trans Voices Learning Through Listening

Join us Wednesday, September 4, Noon at Jimmie's Ladder 11 Upstairs Meeting Room 936 Brown Street Dayton, 45409, for a presentation about the transgender experience.

Ciara Keeton will share her journey as a transgender woman. Topics of discussion will include:

- Her history and personal lived experience
- Sexuality vs. gender identity
- Trans health care for adults and children
- Discrimination and other issues experienced by the Trans community

Please note that this program is not open to the public. **RSVP by August 30** with "lunch and learn" in the subject line [HERE](#).

Support Tour de Gem TEAM SUFFRAGIST!



Susan B. Anthony said, "I think bicycling has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world." Join TEAM SUFFRAGIST at the Tour de Gem charity bike ride on **August 31**.

This event, presented by the United Way of Dayton, is a fun way to raise funds for the League. The family-friendly bike ride starts at 9:00 a.m. at Day Air Ballpark and travels along paved bike paths to Xenia, or a length of your choice, back to the RiverScape MetroPark. Participate by joining our riders, who will be wearing Citizens Not Politicians t-shirts, or sponsor riders by making a donation. You can even cheer on the team at the start/finish area (wear your Citizens Not Politicians t-shirt)! Go [HERE](#) to sign up to ride for the League or make a donation! For more information contact TEAM SUFFRAGIST lead [Jacqui Housel](#).

LWVGDA Booth at African American Wellness Walk

We will be staffing a table at the African American Wellness Walk on Saturday, August 17 from 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Five Rivers MetroParks Island Park.

The AAWW was established in 2000 to raise awareness and combat the heart health disparities for African Americans. In the two decades since it was started, the walk has grown to address the alarming underlying health conditions that plague our families and friends in minority communities.



The League is looking for volunteers to help register voters and to provide voter

information. If you're interested, contact [Nancy Evans](#).

Are you a walker? You can also [sign up](#) as a participant! Registration is free.

Volunteer Opportunity: Bylaws/League Basics Committee

The Bylaws/League Basics Committee is seeking additional members to join the team. If you are detail oriented and enjoy writing, editing, and keeping up with the latest in grammar and writing styles, this is the place for you.

The committee is currently monitoring operational changes from the League of Women Voters of the US that will require our Bylaws to be revised and presented to the voting members for their consideration.

League Basics outlines the policies, procedures, and portfolio descriptions that guide the Dayton League. Keeping this document up to date is essential for good governance and that contributes to our success as an effective organization in the Dayton region. If you are interested, please contact the League office at 937.228.4041.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

For more information contact the League office at 937-228-4041 or email at league@lwvdayton.org

Mark Your Calendars!

August 6: Taste of Old North Dayton/National Night Out 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

August 6: LWVO All Member Meeting – Zoom at Noon

August 17: African American Wellness Walk 7:00 to 10:30 a.m.

August 20: Gerrymandering in Ohio with Chief Justice O'Connor – Dayton Metro Library at 6:30 - 8 p.m.

August 24: Board Retreat

August 27: Let's Go Together - The Grotto Gardens 10:00 a.m.

Voter Service Call - 7:00 p.m. Zoom

New Member Meeting - 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Wright Memorial Public Library

August 31: Tour de Gem bike ride for charity -- Day Air Ballpark at 9:00 a.m.

September 2: Labor Day – office closed

September 4: Lunch and Learn: Trans Voices Learning Through Listening -- Jimmie's Ladder 11 at Noon



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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,
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