



# *THE VOTER*

Monthly News & Updates

July 2024  
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## State and Local Leagues Key to Achieving National Goals

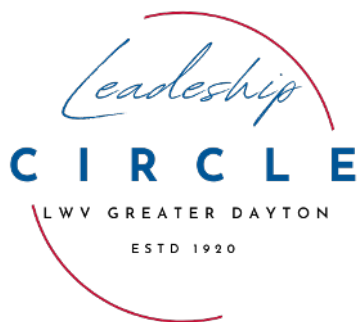
Last month, Beth Schaeffer, Jacquie Housel and I had the opportunity to hear Kelly McFarland Stratman, LWVUS' Interim co-CEO speak at LWVO's new headquarters. Kelly, who previously served as the executive director of LWVO, provided us with an overview of the goals for LWVUS in the coming years and the infrastructure changes that will be put into effect at the beginning of 2025.

LWVUS's first goal is to eliminate the Electoral College. While this won't happen overnight, LWVUS believes that it's key to making democracy work. Other aims include finally getting the Equal Rights Amendment enacted, strengthening the John Lewis Voters Rights Advancement Act and securing statehood for the District of Columbia.

She knows that here in Ohio, we have our own "fish to fry" before we can begin to work on such lofty goals! Since advocacy efforts are increasingly taking place at the state instead of the national level, LWVUS saw the need to support state and local Leagues by easing the administrative tasks that burden Leagues without paid staff and to increase our funding. Beginning in January, membership dues will be collected by LWVUS. You'll receive a notification on your anniversary date as you always have, but joining and renewing your membership will shift to the national office. Additionally, local Leagues will no longer have PMP (Payment Per Member) costs. Instead, LWVUS will send 20% of dues back to local Leagues as opposed to the roughly 12% we retain now. State Leagues will receive about 60% of the cost of joining a league.

Why this new fee structure? We need to build up state Leagues to support their local Leagues. There are only TWELVE state Leagues with paid staff. This transformation will make a huge impact on those states' capacity to effect change.

What does it mean for us and how we'll operate? Jessie will no longer have to send out renewal letters and will be able to concentrate more on member relations. We'll receive a little bump in our income from dues, and LWVO will have additional resources to support our efforts. There will likely be some glitches, but we'll work through them! We'll be sharing more information in the coming months. Enjoy these summer days!



## Leadership Circle Appeal

You'll soon receive a request to support your League's efforts through the Leadership Circle. I hope that you'll consider a donation.

This year, a generous donor is willing to **match gifts from members** who have not donated to the Leadership Circle in the past or those who increase their donations over last year's gifts, up to \$5,000.

This is how it will work: If, as a member, you 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 increase and make a gift of \$150.

Your contribution to the Leadership Circle helps ensure that members of our community receive the information they need to make educated decisions at the polls. Your donation is tax deductible and gifts 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



**CELEBRATE  
DISABILITY PRIDE**

## DEI Corner

### July Is Disability Pride Month

In May, the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio, along with other legal groups, filed a motion asking a federal court to strike down restrictions in Ohio House Bill 458, which makes it a felony for anyone who is not an elected official or mail carrier to possess or return an absentee ballot of a voter with a disability, unless the person assisting that voter falls within a list of in statutorily

enumerated relatives. The list of approved persons is so narrow that it excludes caregivers, friends, and even grandchildren of the disabled voter. Many voters with disabilities rely on voting by mail to cast their ballots because they are often unable to vote in person. If they do not have access to one of the approved persons listed in HB 458, they are essentially disenfranchised.

Soon after HB 458 became effective in April 2023, the League of Women Voters of Ohio and individual voter Jennifer Kucera filed a lawsuit claiming alleged discrimination against Ohio voters with disabilities. The restrictions imposed by HB 458 violate the Voting Rights Act and the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) by creating an unlawful burden on the right to vote for the nearly 28% of adults in Ohio with disabilities. The State of Ohio has offered no evidence that permitting voters with disabilities to choose their assistants would fundamentally alter the absentee-

voting system.

Jen Miller, Executive Director for the League of Women Voters of Ohio, stated in a press release following the filing of this motion, “Voters with disabilities face unreasonable barriers to the ballot box. Making it a felony to help your grandparents or roommate exercise their right to vote is fundamentally wrong. Ohioans with disabilities deserve to be heard, which starts by ensuring that they can freely and fairly vote.”

Jennifer Kucera, plaintiff in the case added, “This lawsuit is fighting back against a society that for most of history has tried to crush the voices, thoughts, and spirits of its disabled inhabitants.”

~Dianne Hermann, DEI Committee

## Member News



### Let's Go Together!

Join members and friends of the League to tour the exhibit “**Behind the Byline: Erma Bombeck’s Story**” at University of Dayton Roesch Library on Wednesday, July 26. The group will meet at 10:30 a.m.

The exhibit follows the trajectory of Bombeck’s life from a shy child to housewife writer to household-name celebrity. Her multifaceted life and legacy are told through the Erma Bombeck Papers, including correspondence, notes, photographs and even her typewriter. Bombeck’s witty observations and roles of writer, housewife, feminist, humorist, mother, activist, philanthropist, columnist and pioneer are inseparably linked and continue to connect us to her story.

Please contact **Laurel Kerr** for more information and to let her know you are planning to attend.

## Volunteer Opportunity: Speakers Bureau

One of the services that our League provides to the community are speakers for community organizations, service clubs, senior centers, churches, etc. This is a valuable service for it exposes citizens to the League and publicizes our events, publications, candidate forums and educational events, and provides voters with the information they need to make informed decisions. We are always well received by our audiences, and they appear to value the information provided.



Since this is an presidential election year, we anticipate a large number of requests for speaking engagements. If you would be interested in volunteering for the Speakers Bureau, please **email Dianne Herman**, Speakers Bureau Coordinator, or call her at 937-510-4759. Training is provided, including shadowing a presenter to an event, and all League volunteers are accompanied by another League member to any scheduled

program.

Having provided a number of speaking engagements over a couple of years, I have found this volunteer experience to be especially gratifying. It offers an opportunity to meet many interesting people and to learn more about our community.

~Dianne Hermann, Speakers Bureau

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SAVE THE DATE and plan to bring a friend to "A Toast to Tenacity" August 15. Tickets will go on sale soon so watch for more information.



LWV GREATER DAYTON PRESENTS

# A TOAST TO TENACITY

An evening of music, fun and surprises

Thursday, August 15  
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The Wandering Griffin  
3725 Presidential Drive, Beavercreek

LWVDayton.org

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## Welcome New Members

(Corrections from last month's new member list)

**Jenny Rapson**, rapson2000@yahoo.com

**Marcia Muller**, mgmmorzhia@gmail.com

**John Lyman**, jlyman12346@gmail.com

## UPCOMING CALENDAR

*For more information contact the League office at 937-228-4041 or email at [league@lwvdayton.org](mailto:league@lwvdayton.org)*

### Mark Your Calendars!

**July 2:** LWVO All Member Meeting – Zoom – Noon

**July 4:** Independence Day, office will be closed. No Board Meeting

**July 9:** Lobby Corps – Zoom – Noon  
Funding and Development – League office – 1:30 p.m.

**July 22:** Deadline to update voter record before purge of 'inactive' voters

**July 23:** Lobby Corps – Zoom – Noon

Voter Service Call – Zoom – 7:00 p.m.

**July 26:** Let's Go Together – Behind the Byline: Erma Bombeck's Story – UD Roesch Library –10:30 a.m.

**August 15:** A Toast to Tenacity! The Wandering Griffin, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.



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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, OH 45402-1703 US

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