



# THE VOTER

## Monthly News & Updates

June 2024  
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### 10,000 Signatures; Now Real Work Begins

Happy June! I don't know about you, but I feel like winter and spring just flew past! We went from November to summer in the blink of an eye.

As I write this, note we're beginning to wrap up the signature collection phase of Citizens Not Politicians. I'm pleased to report that as a region our volunteers collected over 10,000 signatures! Thank you to everyone who pitched in to make this happen. The certification process will be completed by mid-July and then we're on to phase two—passing the amendment and ending gerrymandering in Ohio once and for all.

It never ceases to amaze me how the League is able to mobilize so quickly and easily to make change happen. There'll be plenty to do in the upcoming months including card writing parties, staffing tables at community events and of course, gearing up for the general election. So, put your toes up now and get your rest! Starting mid-July or so, it's going to be a very busy couple of months!

~Chris Corba, Executive Director



### Ohio Purges Voter Roles Before Presidential Election Again

Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose has instructed county Board of Elections staff to once again purge an estimated 159,000 voter records before the Presidential election in November. The pending cancellation affects those who have

Our League will be  
holding postcard-writing  
parties and texting parties  
to encourage voters in

filed government forms, like the U.S. Postal Service change-of-address form, indicating they've moved, or who have not voted at their registered addresses for the past four years after being flagged by elections officials for removal. The voter purge is part of the state's regular process of updating its rolls, including removing voters who are presumed to have moved away or died.

The process has been criticized for the timing of the purge and for not being accurate enough to prevent voters being removed from rolls by mistake.

You can help inform voters by reminding them to **CHECK THEIR VOTER REGISTRATION**. A state **website** includes a searchable database showing all the registrations. Anyone who's on it can prevent their registration from getting canceled if, before July 22, they:

- Update their voting status on **Vote411.org** or at a county board of elections office
- Confirm their address at a county BMV or county board of elections office
- Request an absentee ballot
- Sign a candidate or issue petition

In the meantime, League of Women Voters will be monitoring the process to assure eligible voters are not removed from rolls.

If citizens find themselves deleted from voter rolls after July 22 they can re-register in time for the November election by October 7.

**danger of being removed from Ohio's voter rolls to update their voting record. Watch for an opportunity to participate in your neighborhood soon!**



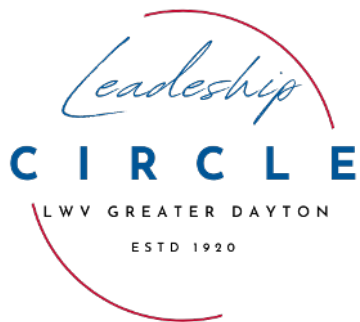
## Attorneys General Challenge Ohio's Voting Restrictions Affecting Disabled Citizens

Attorneys General from seven states signed on to an amicus brief condemning Ohio's voting laws put into place in 2022 that restrict who can turn in an absentee ballot on behalf of another person. The federal court challenge has to do with ballot access for people with disabilities. Read more **HERE**.

Ohio is not alone in the number of states who have placed new, more prohibitive voting laws on the books in recent years. However, according to an article in *Ohio Capitol Journal*, "...the AGs argue Ohio is an outlier because it doesn't provide flexibility for people who face legitimate barriers in accessing the ballot box." Voters with disabilities can get help to file their ballot, but the list of people allowed is restricted to close relatives only and does not include grandchildren or healthcare staff.

We will be monitoring this lawsuit. Ohio can and must do better to assure the rights of ALL citizens to vote is protected.

**Leadership Circle Appeal Begins July 1**



The fate of our democracy will be on the ballot this year. This may sound like hyperbole, but with a highly consequential presidential race, a ballot initiative that will finally end gerrymandering in Ohio, congressional and senatorial elections and numerous local elections, our mission to provide truthful information to voters has never been more important.

We've already begun planning for the general election. First, we are providing forums in the neighborhoods we're targeting for the Voter Empowerment Project—those neighborhoods that have high voter registrations but low voter turnout. We'll also be providing information about Citizens Not Politicians throughout Greene, Montgomery and Miami counties. On August 20, we will kick off the campaign with a rally featuring retired Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor (watch for details soon).

At the beginning of July, you'll receive a request to support your League's efforts through the Leadership Circle. I hope you'll consider a generous donation. Your contribution to the Leadership Circle helps to ensure that the members of our community receive the information they need to make educated decisions at the polls. Your donation is tax deductible and 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 at [lwvdayton.org](http://lwvdayton.org). Thank you!

"Fight for the things you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." ~Ruth Bader Ginsburg

~Beth Adelman, Director Funding and Development

## 62nd Annual Meeting Outcomes

The League of Women Voters Greater Dayton Area (LWVGDA) held its 62nd Annual Membership meeting on Tuesday, May 21. Almost 70 members attended the event, held at Montgomery County Business Solutions Center in Dayton.



LWVGDA presented the **Jo Columbro Environment Award** to Lamees Mubaslat, Executive Director of Dayton Regional Green. Dayton Regional Green is a forum of local citizens, along with government and business leaders, who work to identify strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Montgomery County and the region, including the certification of businesses that follow green environmental practices. Ms. Mubaslat asked that we make a contribution to the Hall Hunger Initiative which, in addition to its commitment to ending hunger in the Miami Valley and beyond, promotes sustainable farming.

### Members approved New Board Members:

#### Officers

President Elect, Jacqueline Housel (2024-2025)

Community Relations Vice President, Mary Robertson (2024-2026)

Secretary, Mary Fricke (2024-2026)

Treasurer, Marilyn McCauley (2024-2026)

### Directors

DEI Director, Dona Fletcher (2024-2026)

Public Relations Director, Jan Berger (2024-2026)

Nominating Committee (two-year terms); Tony Curington, Janine Kinnison, Jo Lovelace Hill and Sandy McHugh

Members also voted on our Program Planning focus for 2024-25. We will continue to support the LWV US program, **Making Democracy Work**, by:

- Expanding Voter Access
- Fighting Voter Suppression
- Investigating Money in Politics
- Reforming Ohio Redistricting Processes
- Supporting Direct Election of the President by Popular Vote

### **LWVGDA Program Rankings (in order of priority):**

#### **1. REDISTRICTING**

- Education on Citizens Not Politicians/collection of signatures/Vote YES activities

#### **2. MONEY IN POLITICS**

- Educate voters about the influence of money in politics, the definition of “dark money” and why it matters
- Case studies on how “dark money” has affected Ohio’s elections (August Issue 1)

#### **3. DIRECT ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT BY POPULAR VOTE**

- History lesson on the electoral college as well as the pros and cons
- Overview of Ranked Choice voting

#### **4. FIGHTING VOTER SUPPRESSION**

- Education regarding voter identification resources
- Education surrounding voter participation in high voter registration/low-turnout precincts/neighborhoods.

#### **5. EXPANDING VOTER ACCESS**

- Educate our youth via direct interaction with a clear emphasis on the importance of voting.

### **ADDITIONAL PROGRAM IDEAS**

- Fix the Red “X” (Poverty)
- Advocate for Housing Access, Fair Housing
- Support Funding for Public Schools
- Rally for Healthcare Equality
- Eliminate Primary Elections

### Other actions taken at this meeting:

- Passed the 2024-2025 budget, as presented by Finance Committee Chair Andy Cobb
- Recognized Kathleen and Dennis Turner on the 50th Anniversary of LWVGDA membership
- Participated in a silent tribute to members who died this year:
  - Carol Bridgman

- Bill Schulz
- Carol Winslow



## DEI Corner

### June is Pride Month

While we celebrate the accomplishments of members of our LGBTQI+ community in the month of June, the origins of Pride may not be known by most of us. It started in reaction to the abuse and discrimination experienced by gays and lesbians in New York City on the evening of June 28, 1969.

As was common practice in many cities at the time, the New York City police department conducted a raid on the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of Manhattan. When the police dragged patrons and employees out of the bar, a crowd of angry locals fought back, resulting in confrontations that resulted in six days of protests and violent clashes with the NYPD throughout the Christopher Street neighborhood. One year later, on the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, a march was held in New York City to commemorate the uprising. In time, the celebration came to be known as the Gay Pride Parade.

Today, Gay Pride parades are enormous celebrations, routinely attracting 5 million or more participants in cities such as Sao Paulo, New York City, Madrid, Taipei and Toronto. In June 2000, President Bill Clinton officially designated June as Pride Month and in 2016, President Barack Obama created the Stonewall National Monument, a 7-acre preserve around the Stonewall Inn.

While the U. S. Supreme Court affirmed gay marriage in its 2015 ruling, LGBTQI+ persons continue to experience structural and interpersonal discrimination and have few legal protections. Recently, there have been numerous attacks in state legislatures that explicitly target gender-diverse groups, especially those who identify as transsexual. This trend is accelerating, going from over 300 anti-LGBTQI bills in 2022 to at least 510 in 2023. In Ohio, bills have been introduced to prohibit gender-affirming care for transgender youth, as well as bans to prohibit trans students from participating in school sports consistent with their gender identities.

We, as League members, can show our support by participating in local Pride events. In Dayton, PRIDE is celebrated at Courthouse Square on the first Saturday in June. Yellow Springs will host PRIDE on the last Saturday in June.

*~Dianne Herman*

## A Our Village is Amazing

As we close out our fiscal year, we'd like to thank the organizations we collaborated with during 2023-24 that provided information, in-kind support and inspiration:

Beth Abraham Synagogue  
Centerville Library  
College Promise  
Dayton Access Television  
Dayton Bar Association

House of Bread  
Human Race Theatre  
Learn to Earn Dayton  
Miami Valley  
Communications Council

Sinclair Community  
College  
Sisters of the Precious  
Blood  
The Fitz Center for



Dayton Daily News  
Dayton Metro Library  
Dayton Rotary  
Fairborn Senior Center  
Fair Districts  
Five Rivers MetroParks  
Girl Scouts of Western  
Ohio  
Greater Dayton LGBT  
Center  
Greater Dayton Move to  
Amend

Miami Valley Nonprofit  
Collaborative  
Montgomery County Board  
of Developmental  
Disabilities  
NAACP  
NCCJ  
Omega ODC  
SCORE

Leadership in Community  
The Food Bank  
University of Dayton  
Human Rights Center  
Walnut Hills Neighborhood  
Association  
Westminster Church  
Birth Certificate Ministry  
Westwood Right Project  
Wright Memorial Public  
Library  
WYSO  
YWCA Dayton

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## CITIZENS NOT POLITICIANS UPDATES



### Greater Dayton Region Turns in 10,000 Signatures

The signature-gathering phase of the Citizens Not Politicians effort is wrapping up. Our region's petition circulators have collected 10,000 signatures so far! All signatures must be turned in and counted by mid-July. Once the ballot

measure is approved by the Attorney General, it will be given an issue number and volunteers can start encouraging voters to pass Citizens Not Politicians to END GERRYMANDERING in Ohio once and for all!

~Joyce Gibbs, Chair, Fair Elections/Redistricting Committee

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### Ohio's Black Vote Diminished By Gerrymandered Districts

According to a recent study by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University (NYU) law school, **77% of Ohioans** (about 9.1 million people) live in "districts where elections for state representatives are not in serious dispute" or voters have little or no choice in electing a representative in a competitive contest.

"This report validates what happens when the redistricting process and those in charge of it draw districts that all but guarantee the outcome of state legislative races, often at the expense of diminishing the voting power of Black voters in the state," said Petee Talley, Executive Director and Founder of Ohio Unity Coalition.

According to Talley, Ohio's gerrymandered districts make it hard for voters of color to have their voices heard through their vote. Read more [HERE](#).

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### Buy a Citizens Not Politicians T-Shirt

YOU can help advertise the End Gerrymandering--Citizens Not Politicians message by

simply wearing a campaign t-shirt at upcoming outdoor concerts, Pride Day and Independence Day festivals, walks in the park, etc. Gets yours [HERE](#).

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## Talk About How Gerrymandering Erodes Democracy

We all need to do what we can to inform our circle of friends, relatives, coworkers and neighbors on the truly crushing effects gerrymandering has on Ohio voters and the democratic process of fair elections. Learn these key three principals and be prepared to discuss them readily:

### ***Gerrymandering lowers voter participation***

Safe districts mean predictable election outcomes, and predictable outcomes discourage voters from participating. Why vote if the winner is already a foregone conclusion? When fewer people vote, we're even further away from being a true democracy.

### ***Gerrymandering distorts democracy***

Gerrymandering leads to political outcomes and policy decisions that do not reflect the concerns and desires of the voters.

### ***Gerrymandering steals voter power***

Gerrymandering politicians dilute the power of the voters who oppose them by spreading them out across several districts or packing as many as possible into just one or two districts.

Get a printable flier explaining why we should care about gerrymandering, [HERE](#).

## Member News

### Welcome New Members

**Effie Sue Kemerley**; Ekemerley1@woh.rr.com 937-623-1683

**Jenny Rapson Rapson**; 2000@yahoo.com

**Marcia Muller**; mmmgmozhia@gmail.com 937-789-7551

**John Lyman Jlyman**; 12346@gmail.com 937-470-0770

**Ann & Bill Schuerman**; Schuermanfamily@gmail.com 937-286-7784

**Marie Iberico**; Melg.lozada@gmail.com 937-671-1203

**Christi Devlin**; 937-490-9833

**Christine Legawiec**; 737christi@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)*

**June 10:** LWVGDA Board Meeting – 6 p.m. on Zoom

**June 11:** Funding & Development –10:30 a.m. at League Office  
Lobby Corps – 12 p.m. on Zoom

**June 13:** New Member Meeting, 6 p.m. at Dayton Metro Library, 203 E. Third Street

**June 14:** Flag Day

**June 16:** Father's Day

**June 18:** Voter Empowerment Meeting - 12 p.m. at League Office

**June 19:** Juneteenth – Office closed but join us at the Kettering Juneteenth Celebration, 5 - 8 p.m. at Lincoln Park Civic Commons

**June 27-30:** LWVUS Convention

**July 4:** Wear Your *Citizens Not Politicians* T-shirt at Independence Day Celebrations!



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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.

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