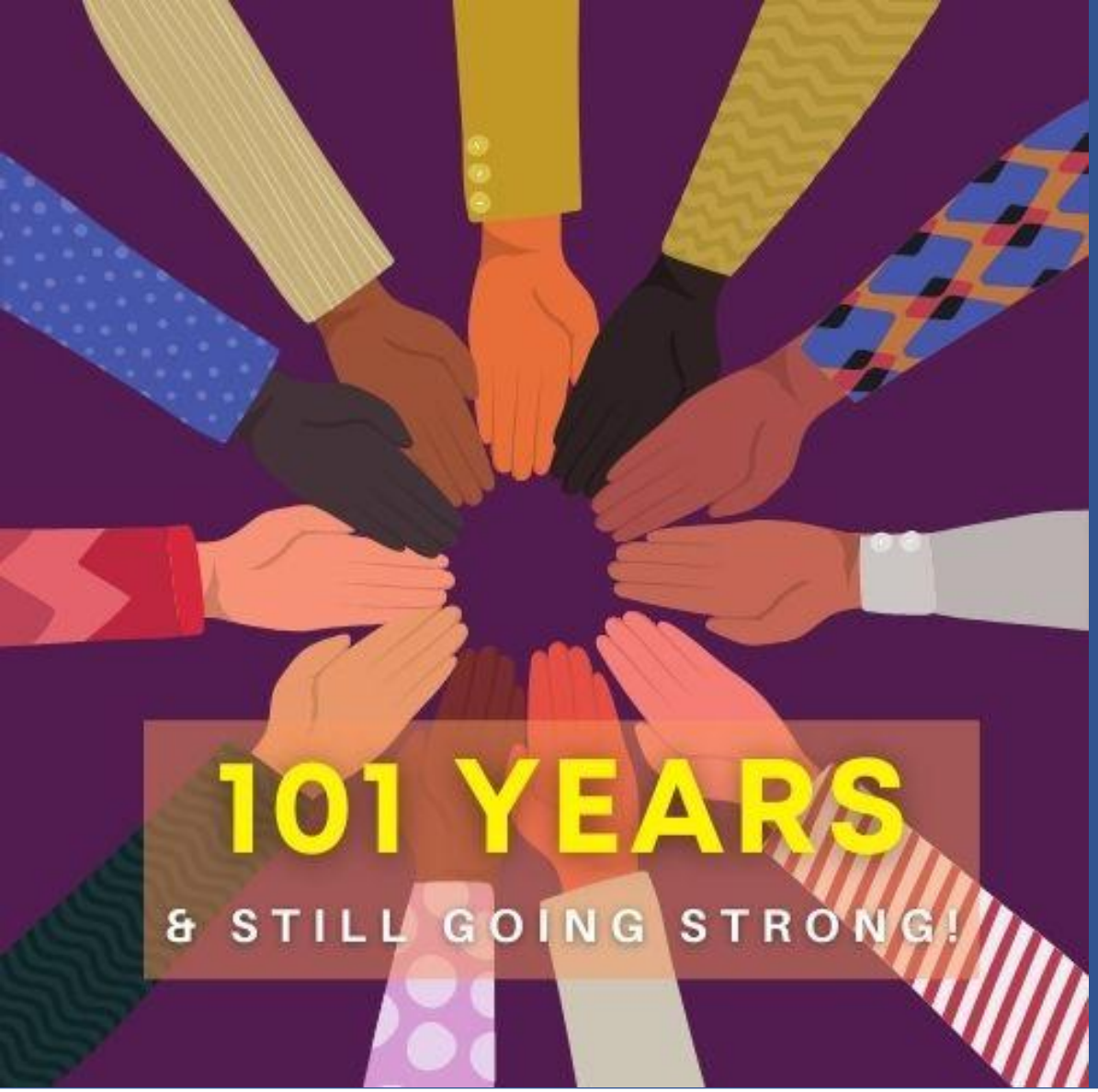

100 YEARS LATER - STATUS OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

2021 LWVO Convention

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OHIO

WELCOME REMARKS

Iris Meltzer

LWVO Board President

2021 LWVO Convention

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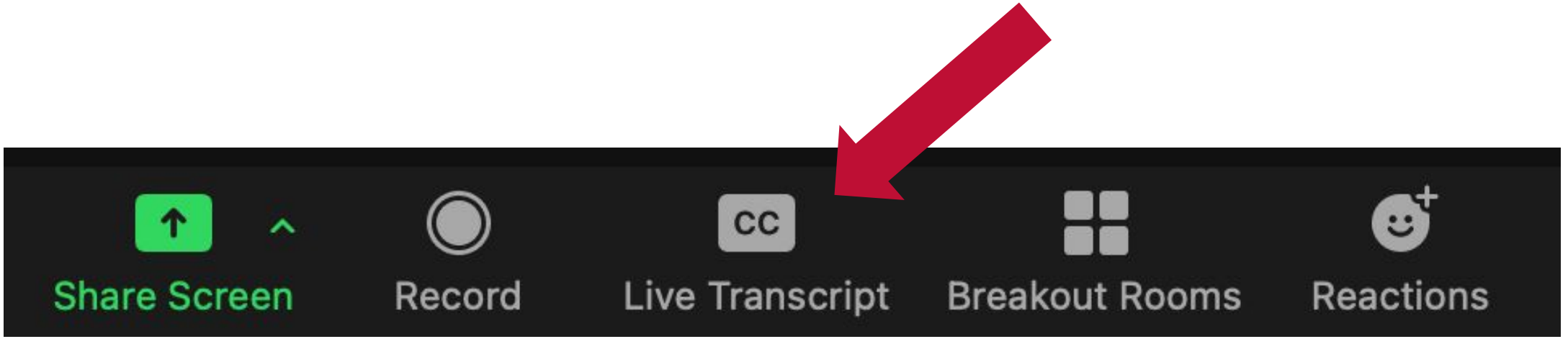


Welcome Remarks

Jen Miller

LWVO Executive Director

2021 LWVO Convention

MODERATOR

Sarah Warner

LWVO Board Member

2021 LWVO Convention

From Trend Setter to the Sidelines:

Women Running for Public Office in Ohio

LWV State Convention, May 2021

Barbara Palmer, PhD

Baldwin Wallace University, Professor of Political Science

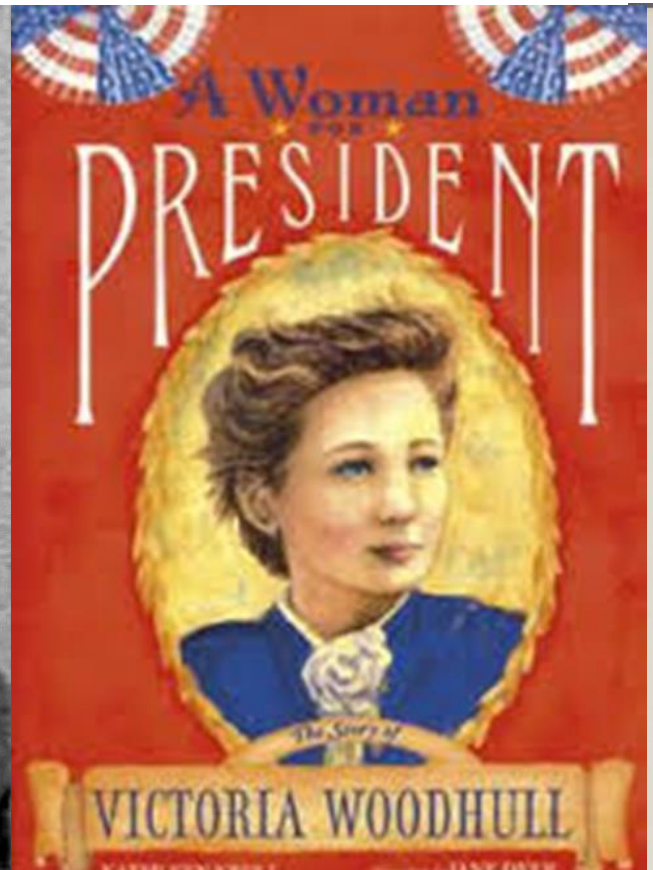
Executive Director of the Center for Women & Politics of Ohio

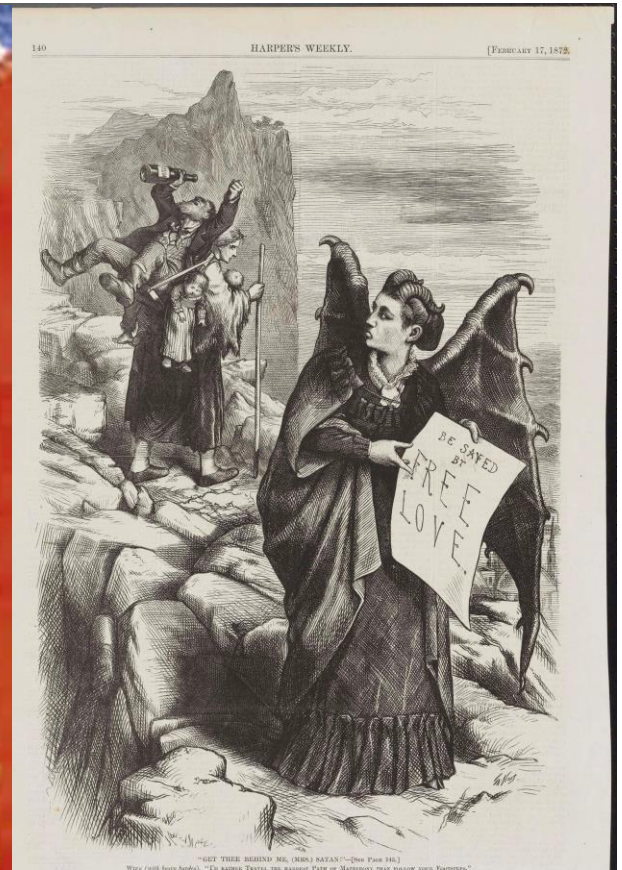
Ohio was a national trend setter, with numerous “famous firsts.”

The First Woman to Run for President

Victoria Woodhull, born in Homer, OH,
ran in **1872** as an Equal Rights Party candidate.

Biography: *Other Powers,* by Barbara Goldsmith





1922 14 women ran and 6 won seats in the Ohio Statehouse

"Politics is a great game, better than bridge,"
Maude Comstock Waitt

Maude Comstock Waitt, Senate, Republican

Nettie Bromley Loughead, Senate, Republican

Nettie MacKenzie Clapp, House, Republican

Lulu Thomas Gleason, House, Republican

Adelaide Sterling Ott, House, Republican

May Martin Van Wye, House, Republican

The First Woman to Ever Serve in Multiple Judicial Positions

Florence Allen:

1920: First woman ever elected as a judge in the nation (Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas)

1922: First woman ever elected as a state supreme court justice

1934: First woman to ever be appointed to the US Circuit Court of Appeals

The First Woman Elected to the US House From Ohio

Frances Payne Bolton won a US House seat in 1940 as a Republican.

The Dean of the Women in the US House

Marcy Kaptur was elected in 1982 as a Democrat.

Longest serving woman currently and ever.

Where are we now?

Ohio has…

Never had a woman run under a major party label for governor.

Never elected a woman to the US Senate.

Ranks 22nd in the nation for the proportion of women in the state legislature.

A Deeper Dive into Ohio's US House Delegation

In 2020, only 3 women elected in Ohio's 16 US House districts

-- same number since 2012.

A Deeper Dive into Ohio's US House Delegation

IN 1992: 2 women in the US House (19 seats)

SINCE 2012 (16 seats):

NO CHANGE in the number of women (3)

NO CHANGE in who the women were:

same 3 incumbents*

IN 2020: **NO CHANGE AT ALL:**

all 16 incumbents were reelected.

***In March 2021, Marcia Fudge (11th District) became Secretary of HUD. Special elections are Aug & Nov.**

This is not because women were not running for Congress!

2018 PRIMARIES

17 women ran **(a record)**
11 women won primaries, a success rate of 64.7%

Women were 20.5% of all primary candidates **(a record)**

2018 GENERAL ELECTION (3 women won)

At least 1 female candidate on the ballot in 10 of Ohio's 16 districts.

2020 PRIMARIES

18 women ran **(a NEW record)**
13 women won primaries, a success rate of 72.2%

Women were 26.9% of all primary candidates **(a record)**

2020 GENERAL ELECTION (3 women won)

At least 1 female candidate on the ballot in 12 of Ohio's 16 districts.

Ohio has fallen behind.

Shameless plug…

GET THE BOOK!

- SPECIAL OFFER:
- LVW Members
- get the sale price of $9.99

- PROFPE.COM
- COUPON CODE:
- OhioWomenRun330

THANK YOU!

Barbara Palmer, PhD
Baldwin Wallace University, Professor of Political Science
Executive Director of the Center for Women and Politics of Ohio

The Baldwin Wallace Center for Women and Politics of Ohio (CWPO) is a non-partisan public resource dedicated to telling the story of women running for public office in Ohio.

The Equal Rights Amendment

Meghan Browder, LWVUS

2021 LWVO Convention

The Equal Rights Amendment

I. Equality of the rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

II. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

III. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

The ERA

- The ERA was first proposed to Congress in 1923, but it was finally sent out to the states for ratification in 1972 with a 7 year time limit.
- Ohio ratified the ERA in 1974.
- In 1979, Congress extended the time limit for 3 years.
- In 2017-2019, Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia ratified the ERA.

The ERA

- There are two pending cases
  - Virginia v Ferriero
  - Equal Means Equal v Ferriero
- There is legislation pending in Congress to remove the deadline.
  - HJ Res. 17 passed the House on March.
  - SJ Res. 1
- Move to pull Office of Legal Counsel Memo
- How can you help?
  - Call your senators!
  - Action Alert!

Economic Status of Women

WHERE ARE WE 100 YEARS LATER?

Where are we now?

1963 – Equal Pay Act of 1963 pledges equal pay for equal work regardless of race, sex, or ethnicity.

1968 – Fair Housing Act (1968) prohibits discrimination in selling or renting property based on race, national origin, or religion (notably, sex and gender are not included as protected categories).

1970s – Equal Credit Opportunity Act (1974/1976) establishes women's access to credit and lending without a man's signature for the first time since the 1600s.

1972 – Title IX of the Education Amendments prohibits sex discrimination in all aspects of education programs that receive federal support.

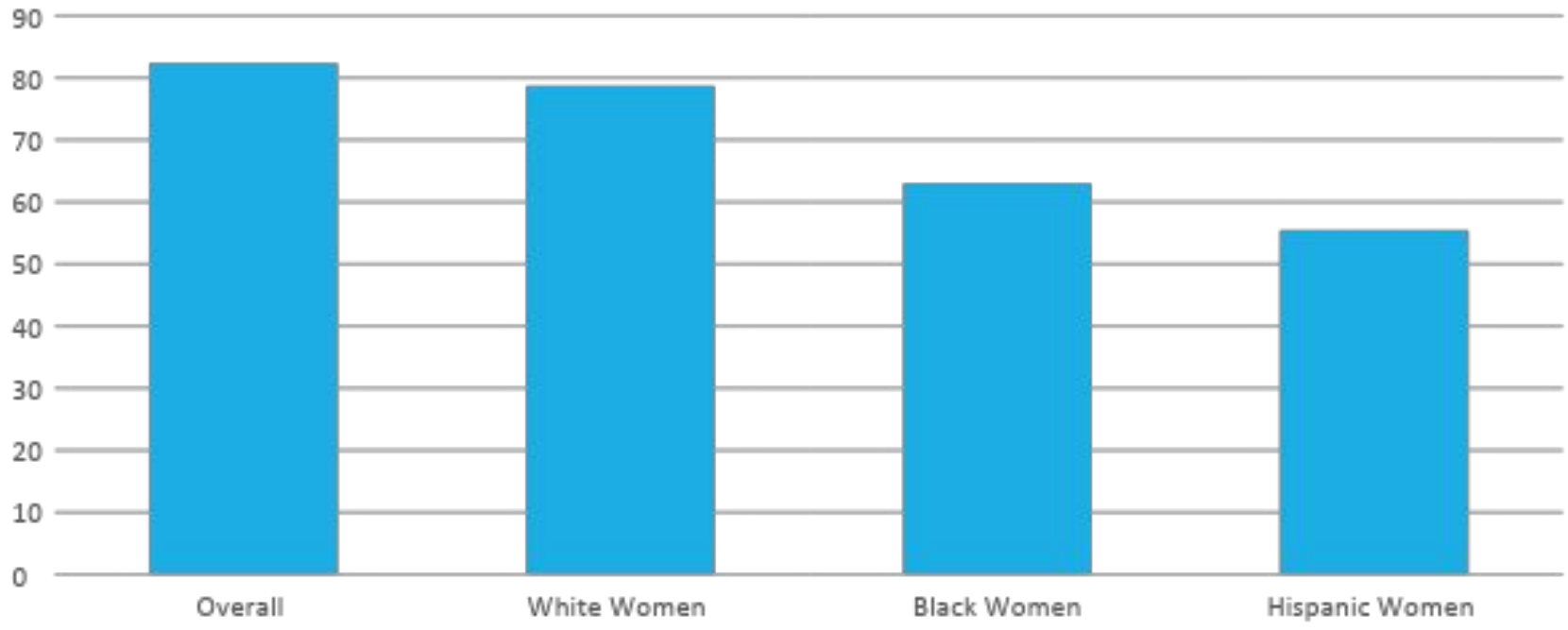
1974 – Housing discrimination on the basis of sex and credit discrimination against women are outlawed by Congress.

1980s – Passage of Women's Business Ownership Act of 1988 makes it illegal to require a male relative's signature on a business loan.

Gender Wage Gap

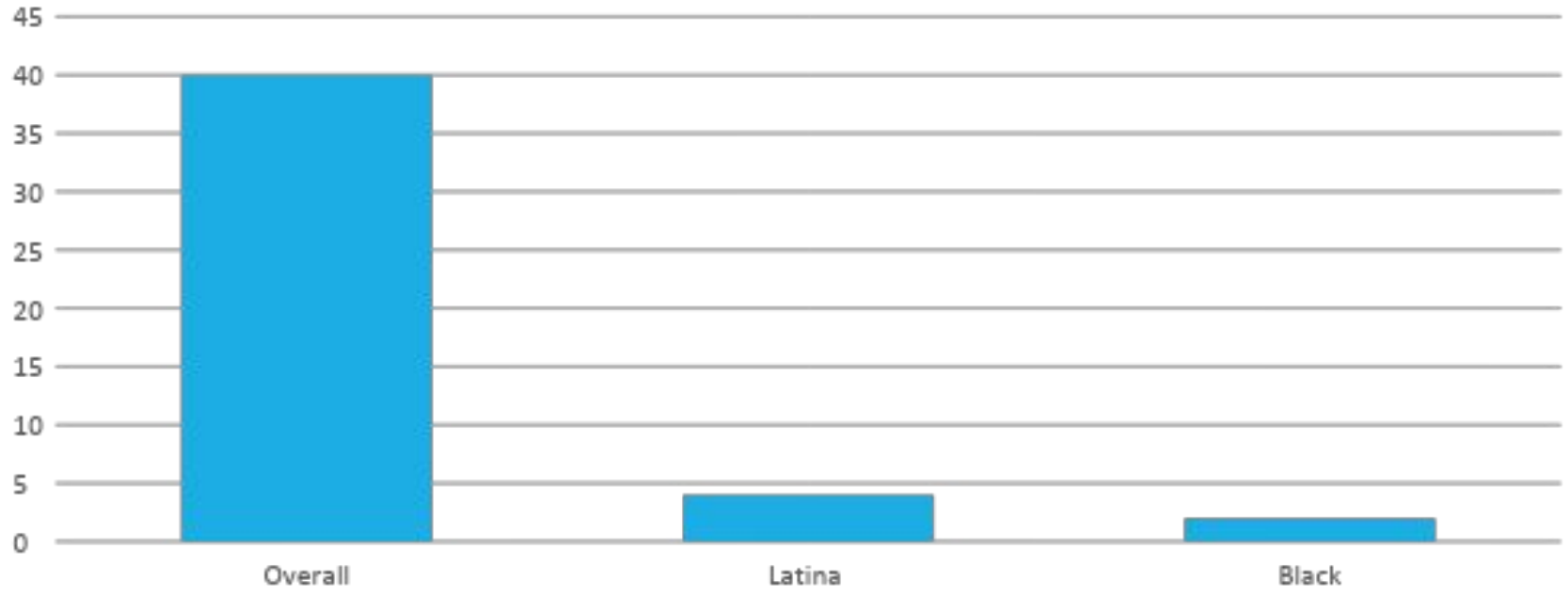
However economic inequities persist

- Gender Wage Gap is most common way of showing the inequity between men and women



Gender Wealth Gap

- However, the Gender & Racial Wealth Gap shows a larger
- Wealth is often a better indicator of economic security as it goes beyond just wages or one's income and understands how an individual is able to weather an emergency.



Gender Wealth Gap Cont.

- **Caregiving:** Women are also more likely than men to take time out of the workforce to care for children or other family members
- **Lack of access to affordable housing**: Women, and women of color in particular, often spend a large share of their incomes on housing costs, leaving them less to save or invest
- High amounts of student loan debt
- Women of color are especially likely to start out and continue working in occupations that pay **low wages or to work in part-time jobs**, limiting their earning potential.
  - Also less likely to come with employer-provided that help individuals invest more of their income into savings and help insulate against economic shocks.
- Women, especially women of color, are often **targeted for risky, subprime loans—which** are more likely to result in foreclosure when homeowners are faced with economic shocks. These

Impact of COVID on Women

- Women are disproportionately represented in low-wage jobs
  - Nearly half of all working women—46% or 28 million—worked in jobs paying low wages, with median earnings of only $10.93 per hour. Compared to 37% for men
- The share of workers earning low wages is higher among Black women (54%) and Hispanic or Latina women (64%) than among white women (40%).
- Closing of restaurants, bars, etc. hit women especially hard. In the United States, women made up 46 percent of workers before COVID-19. Unemployment data indicates that women make up 54 percent of the overall job losses to date.
- Gender Bias: female jobs are 19 percent more at risk than male ones simply because women are disproportionately represented in sectors negatively affected by the COVID-19 crisis
- Caretaking: COVID-19 has disproportionately increased the time women spend on family responsibilities.

Impact of COVID on Women

- Half of COTA customers had a 2020 household income that was less than expected, and a quarter are extremely concerned about losing or not being able to find a job.

- **Losing access to Transit** is also a major concern as customers attempt to navigate the quickly changing workforce environment.
  - These concerns where higher for women and especially women of color

Next Steps

- While there are no simple solutions to closing the gender and race based pay gap, it's clear that investing in women strengthens the economic backbone of our community.
- As employers/company leaders:
  - Provide women with opportunities to grow
  - Internal Audit of pay equity
  - Provide benefits
- Collectively
  - Advocate for paid leave laws
  - Encourage policy makers in Ohio to increase the income eligibility threshold to 200 percent of the federal poverty level for child care benefits.

Bids accepted until 8:00pm on May 21st

www.accelevents.com/e/LWVO

BECOME A LEAGUE MEMBER

Join TODAY!

bit.ly/LWVO-Membership

Primary/Individual Membership $60/yr

Household Membership $90/year

Student Membership $5/year

UPCOMING EVENT

NO MORE "SNAKE ON THE LAKE:" THE FUTURE OF REDISTRICTING IN OHIO

The City Club of Cleveland Tuesday June 15, 2021 at Noon

Speakers:

- David Daley Senior Fellow, FairVote, and author, "Unrigged: How Americans Are Battling Back to Save Democracy"
- Jen Miller Executive Director, League of Women Voters of Ohio
- Alora Thomas-Lundborg Senior Staff Attorney, Voting Rights Project, American Civil Liberties Union

Moderator: Karen Kasler Statehouse News Bureau Chief, Ohio Public Radio and Television

Register for this event under ‘Events Calendar’ section on the LWVO Website.

YOUTH IN ACTION

ACTIVISM for Young Leaders

For Ages 13-25

An empowering space for young leaders to learn about and advocate for democracy and social justice issues.

Mentor-Mentee Relationships | Speakers & Workshops
Service Opportunities | Personal & Professional Growth
Leadership Development

lwvohio.org/youth-in-action

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CENTENNIAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP WILL BE OPEN UNTIL THE END OF CONVENTION!

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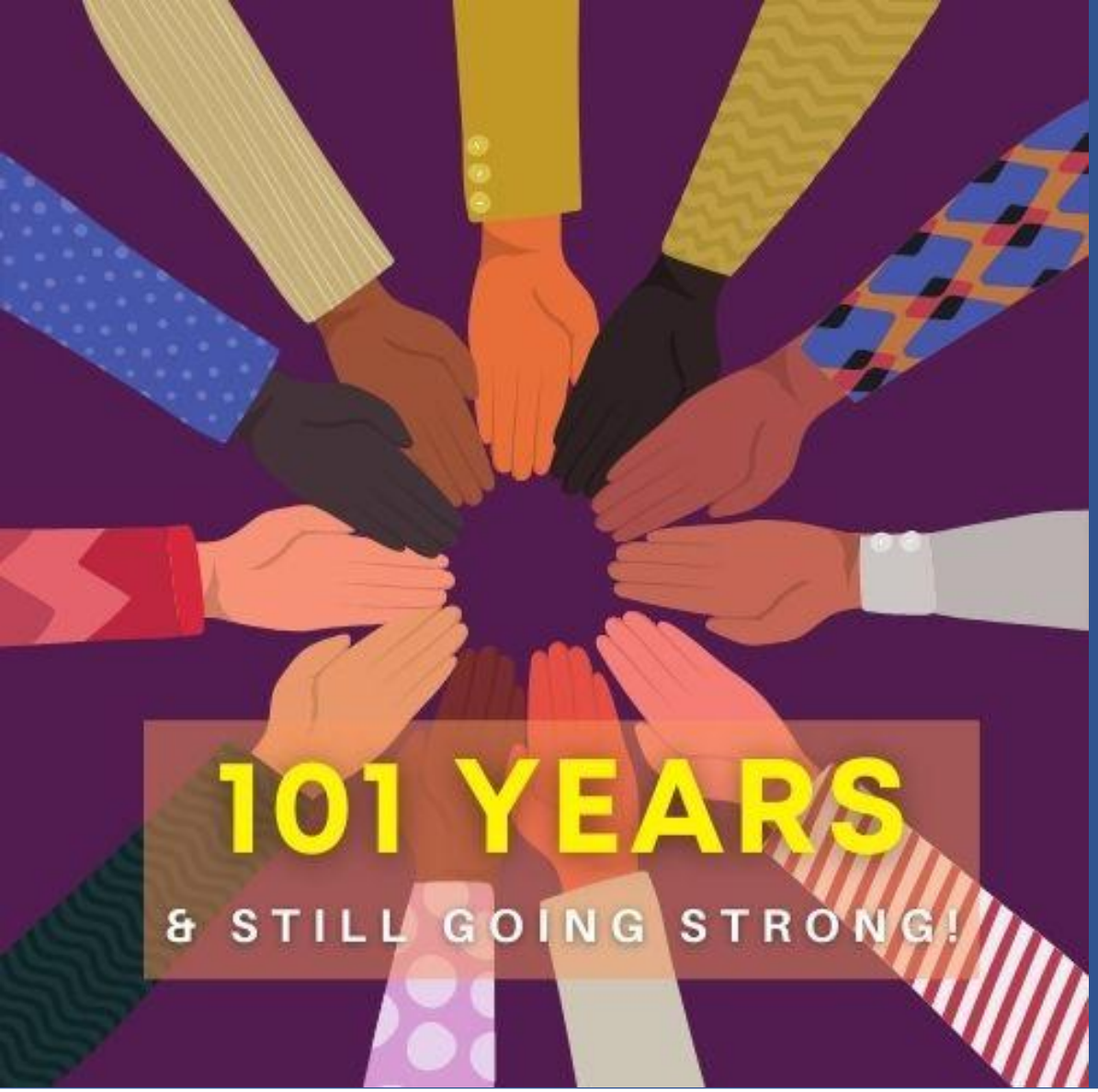
Thank You



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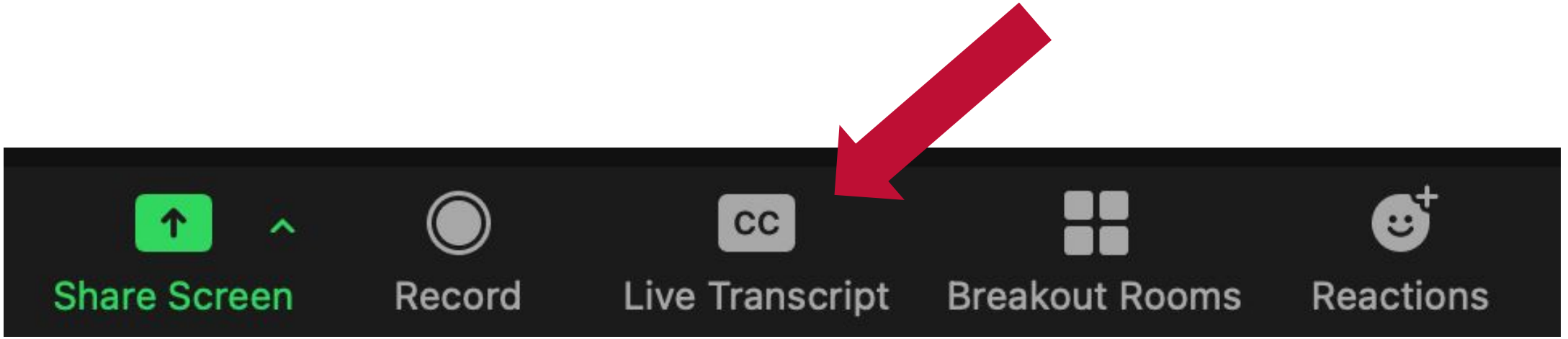

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