

★ 1920

2020 ★

100
years!



OHIO VOTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OHIO **SPRING 2020**

Powering Democracy One Volunteer, One Voter at a Time!

2020 is shaping up to be one of the biggest and busiest years the Ohio League has seen in a long time. Voting and elections are the bread and butter of the League's work, and we invite you to help make sure that elections are fair and accessible for every Ohioan.

Voter Education and Outreach: The League's Voting 1-2-3 cards are a popular resource with all the essential voting information every Ohioan needs. We have cards for the primary election and the general election, in both English and Spanish. These cards are great to distribute at voter forums, registration tables, and in community spaces like your public library or community center. Be sure to place your order well before any events you have scheduled. You can view all of LWVO's educational resources and swag at www.lwvohio.org. Email lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org to place your order.

Voter Registration Best Practices: Join LWVO's Voter Service call on March 24 at 7 PM to learn or get a refresher on Voter Registration Best Practices. You'll get tips on how to make sure voters fill out all critical sections, as well as how to serve the needs of unique populations like homeless voters. This is a great opportunity for both newer and long-time members. If you have not already signed up to be on the voter service call list, please email lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org.

Election Protection: LWVO is proud to be a member of the Election Protection coalition, a non-partisan group of voting rights activists led by the national civil rights organization, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Election Protection works to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to vote and have that vote count. It is a source of comprehensive information and assistance at all stages of voting – from registration, to absentee and early voting, to casting a vote at the polls, to overcoming obstacles to their participation. There is a toll free hotline available in multiple languages, which is included in LWVO's Voting 1-2-3 cards.

Volunteering for Election Protection is a great way to ensure that voting is accessible and fair in your community! The information gathered through Election Protection volunteers also help inform the League's state-level policy agenda for improving Ohio's democracy. We have needs throughout the state, but especially in NW, SW, and SE Ohio. Volunteers are trained to provide voter information, document problems they encounter when voting, and work with partners and volunteers on the ground to identify and remove barriers to voting. Learn more at www.protectthevote.net.

Become a Poll Worker: Poll workers are the backbone of any election and truly impact voter experiences. Counties across Ohio struggle with poll worker shortages. Smart, committed poll workers are especially important during years of high turnout, like we expect to see this fall. Long lines, technology malfunctions, and polling location changes can severely impact vulnerable populations such as senior citizens, voters with disabilities, and low-income communities. Signing up to become a poll worker helps ensure that every voter in your community has a voice. Ohioans from diverse backgrounds are especially an asset as poll workers, like those who can speak another language or have experience with disabled individuals. Contact your local board of elections to sign up.

Youth at the Booth: Seniors in high school, who are at least 17 years old and US Citizens, can participate as poll workers. They get paid for their service and invaluable hands-on experience that will help them develop into lifelong voters and civic leaders. If you have youth who qualify, contact your county board of elections for more information.

Rides to the Polls: Once again League is partnering with the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio to offer rides to the polls in most metro areas. We need volunteers to offer rides to the polls on election day or during early voting season. To volunteer, email lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org for more information. If you or someone you know needs a ride to the polls, call 614-484-7272.

Complicated Struggle for Woman Suffrage

The League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund (LWVOEF) received a grant from Ohio Humanities to commemorate the 19th Amendment. LWVOEF hired humanities scholars, Dr. Carol Lasser (Oberlin College Emeritus Professor) and Dr. Treva Lindsey (Ohio State University Associate Professor), to create literary materials and conduct regional talks around Ohio.

To date, we've hosted regional events in Columbus, Athens, Akron, Cincinnati, and Dayton. In total, more than 500 guests attended, and thousands have accessed the literary materials. Several female elected officials attended from all levels of government from County Commissioner to Congress, Republicans and Democrats alike.

The lively discussions explore challenges faced by early women leaders and illuminate how government became more responsive to the needs of families and communities once women began to vote. Attendees also learned how the 19th Amendment didn't fully extend the right to vote to all women in the US, in which many women of color and women with disabilities couldn't vote until later in the 20th Century. Finally, the discussions link the history of suffrage to the importance of voting, working for democracy reforms, and having women in elected office today.

Feedback from event participants has been overwhelmingly positive. "LWV Ohio is leading by example, asking us to think deeper and demand better inclusivity in our League work. It was an honor to attend an event with such an engaged and thoughtful audience," Melissa Currence, LWV of Cincinnati Area event attendee.

Plans are unfolding for two additional panel discussions in Perrysburg (Thursday, March 19, 2020) and Oberlin (Tuesday, April 28, 2020). "The Oberlin League is very excited to be partnering with several organizations, like the AAUW and YWCA, to present this clear-eyed view of the fight to get the vote for women. We're also planning some surprises in addition to the main event and look forward to seeing everyone on the 28th," Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick, Chair, LWV of Oberlin Area (LWVOA) centennial commemoration committee.

The scholars are working on one more publication that will dispel some of the greatest myths about woman suffrage, which the Ohio League will make available this spring. Please join us at our upcoming events, and let us help you make your own commemorative efforts more inclusive and meaningful. Check the LWVO website www.lwvohio.org for more event details.



LWV Statehouse Day 2020

Join us for LWV Ohio's 2020 Statehouse Day! League members and supporters from throughout the Buckeye State come together once a year to hear from experts about LWVO's legislative priorities, learn advocacy best practices, and meet with elected officials. This year's legislative priorities include improving Ohio's outdated voter registration system, implementation of voter-approved redistricting ballot initiatives, and other democracy reforms. The keynote lunch will feature a conversation between Virginia Kase (Executive Director of LWVUS) and Jen Miller (Executive Director of LWVO) about the League's rich history and even brighter future.



When: Thursday, April 16, 2020
8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Registration opens at 8:30 am

Where: Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square
75 East State Street Columbus, OH 43215

Registration Fees:

- \$50 League members
- \$65 non-members
- \$35 students

You can register using the tear off form below or online at www.lwvohio.org.

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Sponsorship opportunities are available to help keep the registration price low. If you would like to be a sponsor, or if you have an idea for a business LWVO should approach for sponsorship, please contact the LWVO office at (614) 459 -1505.

LWV Ohio Statehouse Day – Thursday, April 16, 2020 Registration Form

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Local League _____

Fee: \$50 Member \$65 Non-member \$35 student

Lunch Yes No Note: This will help ensure we have an accurate count for lunches.

Special dietary needs (e.g., Vegetarian) _____

Would you like to meet with your legislator? Yes No

**Please make checks payable to LWVO and send this form with payment to:
LWV Ohio • 100 East Broad Street, Suite 1310 • Columbus, Ohio 43215
For information call: (614) 469-1505**

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' CENTENNIAL CLUB!



The CENTENNIAL CLUB was formed as a way to celebrate 100 years of the League of Women Voters. The CENTENNIAL CLUB was also formed as a way to commemorate 100 years since the beginning of women's right to vote. As a member of the CENTENNIAL CLUB, you will:

- Receive a special commission CENTENNIAL CLUB lapel pin.
- Receive recognition in all upcoming LWVO publications.
- Provide the funding necessary to ensure LWVO can provide outstanding service for the next 100 years.
- Help LWVO meet the needs of our ever-increasing membership.

Donate today!

Yes, I want to join the Centennial Club!

\$100

Gifts can be made payable to:

- LWVO

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Please return to: League of Women Voters of Ohio,
100 East Broad Street, Suite 1310, Columbus, OH 43215

Thank you!

Our goal is to have at least 1000 CENTENNIAL CLUB members by LWVUS Convention June 25-28, 2020! CENTENNIAL CLUB membership is \$100 since LWV was founded 100 years ago.

Join the CENTENNIAL CLUB TODAY with a \$100 donation. You can also give the gift of democracy with an additional \$100 CENTENNIAL CLUB donation in the name of a loved one.

Complete the form or visit <https://lwvohio.salsalabs.org/lwvocentennialclub>. The link is also available on the homepage of the LWVO website under 'news and events' section.

Thank you for your continued support!



Check out LWV Ohio's New Website!

We have been hard at work for many months completely revamping our website, and we are finally ready to share it! The website has been designed to be more modern, easier to navigate, and more aesthetically pleasing. We hope you enjoy the new experience, and look forward to your feedback.

Member Corner: We have a new "member corner" page that is password protected with resources and information that is exclusive to our members. We have created this page to give you easy access to all the resources and tools you need and want as an LWVO member! Please call the LWVO office if you do not receive the password in our initial website announcement.

A final note that our old website pages still will show up in Google's search results. We are resolving this issue with our old website platform, but in the meantime please be sure to bookmark www.lwvohio.org to avoid any confusion.



Iris Meltzer

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Happy 100th Birthday, Leaguers!

It is hard to believe 2020 is finally here! Some Leagues, in addition to hundreds of like-minded organizations, started planning for this Centennial Celebration years ago! Groups such as the Ohio Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission (of which LWVO's Jen Miller is a member) have been planning events and advocating for (finally) for a monument at the statehouse to honor Ohio women. Many of our Ohio local Leagues have already held celebrations, as well. I had the opportunity to participate in my home League's birthday party and was honored to speak at the Lake County celebration. Other Leagues around the state have events planned in the weeks and months ahead. (I think it would be fun if our personal birthday parties lasted a year!)

Each of these unique events offers Leagues the opportunity to share the League story, recruit new members and raise much needed funds.

We all know "a rising tide lifts all boats," and there is no better year to band together to lift our boats than this one! Let's work together to support each other's events, leverage partnerships with like-minded organizations, and utilize each of these amazing events as a way to raise funds to further our mission.

Let us use our vast network to spread the word about upcoming events and ideas. In knowing about the ideas/events of other Leagues, we can broaden and diversify our offerings while working together to address our challenges and successes.

If you are planning an event (which might well have a fundraising component), starting a development campaign, or selling wares, please let the LWVO staff know so they can disseminate the information not only to other leagues but to our partner organizations, as well.

2020 is our year to celebrate our anniversary, commemorate the 19th Amendment, and RISE. Let's work on rising together.

Watch the YouTube video of Iris Meltzer (LWVO President) and Dr. Elisabeth Smith-Pryor discussing the history of the right to vote for women on Forum 360 here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tx-pj3Tp0JI>

Learn more from the comfort of your home or office!

LWV Ohio Lobby Corps Call

LWVO's volunteer Lobby Corps meets via phone twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 12 noon. Any member may join the call. It's a great way to hear what is happening in the Statehouse and about lobbying. New lobbyists are always welcome.

Here's how to join the discussion:

Call: 605-468-8003

Enter PIN Number: 742886#.

Calls end by 1pm. You are certain to learn something new about pending legislation and lobbying activities.

LWV Ohio Monthly All Member Call

The state League hosts a conference call open to all members on the first Tuesday of every month at 12 noon. The monthly call is a great way for League members across Ohio to connect, share ideas, get updates on hot topics, and plan action.

Here's how to join the discussion:

Call (toll-free): 866-740-1260

Enter PIN Number: 4691505#.

Watch your email several days in advance for an announcement of that month's call topic. Calls typically end just before 1pm.

LWV Ohio Voter Service Call

We kindly request League presidents and members engaged in voter service work to join our monthly voter service call. This call is typically held the third Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

Please note that League Presidents and voter service chairs are automatically on the list-serve to receive notice about this call. Other members wishing to join this call must contact the state League office to be added to the list-serve.

Organizing Leagues Locally!

Considering starting a local League in your area? LWVO is offering new options for current local Leagues who may be exploring different structure options to find a better fit or a group of At-Large members who want to organize as a formal League entity but have fewer administrative duties at the local level. Either group must be current on payment of member dues to LWV Ohio.

Here is a brief outline of our At-Large Unit options:

Option A: At-Large Chapter

- Minimum of 6 at-large members.
- Must have a nonpartisan policy.
- Must have the following leadership positions: chair, vice chair, treasurer, and secretary.
- Planned meetings and activities for the next few months.
- Submit annual reports to the state League board.

Option B: At-Large Group

- Minimum of 3 at-large members.
- Minimal structure - convener is the only required person.
- Remain nonpartisan.
- Get approval from LWVO for public use of League name – e.g., taking advocacy action, publications, public events using League name.

Members wishing to form either an At-Large Chapter or At-Large Group must petition LWV Ohio for recognition using the application to form an At-Large Unit. To request an application form and for more information contact the state League office at 614-469-1505.



Meet the Intern - Kayla Thomas

Kayla Thomas is a current third-year undergraduate at the Ohio State University, pursuing a degree in Political Science with a minor in Arabic. She began interning with the League of Women Voters of Ohio in January 2020, and will be staying through the spring semester. Her favorite classes have been Arabic and international relations courses. Outside of work and school, Kayla's hobbies include reading and drawing portraiture. After graduation, Kayla plans to attend graduate school for Middle Eastern Studies and apply for the Foreign Service.

Key 2020 Election Dates

Mar. 14 - Applications for absentee ballots for the March 17, 2020 presidential primary election must be received by boards of elections by noon.

Mar. 17 - Primary Election Day. Polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Absentee ballots must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls.

Mar. 27 - Absentee ballots returned by U.S. Mail must be postmarked no later than March 16 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted.

Jul. 06 - Deadline for voter registration for the Aug. 4, 2020 special election.

Aug. 04 - Special Election may be held. Polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Absentee ballots must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls.

Aug. 14 - Absentee ballots for the Aug. 4, 2020 special election returned by U.S. Mail must be postmarked no later than Aug. 3 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted.

Oct. 05 - Deadline for voter registration for the Nov. 3, 2020 general election.

Oct. 31 - Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed for the Nov. 3, 2020 general election must be received by boards of elections by noon.

Nov. 03 - General Election Day. Polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Absentee ballots, returned in person or via a method other than U.S. Mail, must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls.

Nov. 13 - Absentee ballots returned by U.S. Mail must be postmarked no later than Nov. 2 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after general election).

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JEN MILLER



A Valentine's Day Message to the Ohio General Assembly: League of Women Voters of Ohio used a tactic perfected by our suffragist foremothers by sending Valentine's Day cards to Ohio leaders. Just as suffragists sent Valentine's postcards advocating for the right to vote, LWVO sent postcards to the Ohio General Assembly asking for Voter Verification and Registration (VVR).

VVR is a commonsense digital upgrade to how registration processes occur at the BMV. Eligible Ohio citizens getting licenses or state IDs at the BMV would automatically have their registration information updated or be automatically registered to vote, unless they decline. VVR is supported by Secretary of State LaRose and lawmakers from both sides of the aisle as a way to improve the accuracy and security of Ohio's voter registration system.

About ten percent of Ohio's eligible voting population do not use the BMV, so traditional voter registration drives will still be necessary; the policy could be expanded to other agencies after it is perfected at the BMV. The policy is good for voters, because it will be easier to register and/or update voter registration. It's good for our election system, because more accurate voter rolls will reduce high provisional ballot counts. It's good for Boards of Elections who will have to spend less staff time on list maintenance and data entry of paper registration forms.

Do your part by calling your state legislators today and asking them to support VVR! Also join us at our annual Statehouse Day on April 16, where VVR will be a priority.



Bringing Fair Maps to the People of Ohio: The Census is now in full swing, and we are proud of all the work local Leagues are doing to promote Census participation. From funding for roads and schools to legislative reapportionment, Census data affects our daily lives, so keep up the great work, and remember that you can order "Count Every Buckeye" cards in English and Spanish through the State League office.

It's also time to start educating lawmakers and the public about the next steps for our successful 2015 ballot initiative that will improve Statehouse mapmaking and the 2018 ballot initiative to improve Congressional redistricting. At LWVO's Annual Statehouse Day on April 16, we will be asking them to take the "Pledge to End Gerrymandering."

Stay tuned for opportunities like being part of the speakers bureau and fun Halloween and Independence Day postcard campaigns that call on Ohio leaders to make fair maps. The Ohio League and Common Cause Ohio will also once again host a map-making competition that will encourage everyday Ohioans to submit their own maps to the State of Ohio to consider for adoption.

Open Door Policy: LWVO staff and board members love to help local Leagues. Want someone to review your grant proposal, need help with the vote411.org website, or have an idea for a fundraiser that you aren't sure will fly? Have no fear! LWVO is here. Remember you can always contact us at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org or (614)469-1505.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OHIO
100 East Broad Street
Suite 1310
Columbus, OH 43215

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

To become a member or for information,

(614) 469-1505

lwvinfo@lwvohio.org

Or join online at www.lwvohio.org.



[Twitter.com/lwvohio](https://twitter.com/lwvohio)



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MEMBERSHIP FORM



YES, Sign me up as a Member of the League of Women Voters of Ohio!

- \$60 INDIVIDUAL \$90 HOUSEHOLD
- \$5 STUDENT \$100 ORGANIZATIONAL

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Mail this form with your check to
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