



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

The Voter
June 2018

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Welcome:

We had an informative month in May with two fantastic informational meetings: Randy Ludlow, Columbus Dispatch, presented an update on the state of the Freedom of Information in Ohio at our annual dinner and Stephen Dyer spoke to us at our Hot Topics Brown Bag lunch about HB512.

We are looking forward to our next Hot Topics lunch (6/27) where we will learn about the state of services for seniors in Delaware County (see Upcoming Events below).

We are also proud to announce that our presentation on the Delaware County League of Women Voters, its history and current activities and positions, has been updated and is available with a speaker for presentations at local meetings. To have us present, contact the League at: lwvdelawarecountyohio@gmail.com

Voter Updates:

Did you know that many Ohio Voters do not vote for judges? Many say that they do not know enough about the candidates themselves. Others say they do not understand the judicial system in Ohio well enough to weigh in. This can be very problematic. For example, in 2018, Ohio voters will elect judges to the Supreme Court of Ohio and all 12 districts of the Court of Appeals, as well as most courts of common pleas and county courts but if we are not all voting on the judges, we may not get the judges that most represent our values. But there is help...

Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor brought together the League of Women Voters of Ohio, the Ohio State Bar Association, the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron, the Ohio News Media Association, and the Ohio Association of Broadcasters to better educate Ohioans about judges and the Ohio court system, as well as to increase voter participation in judicial elections. You can learn more from these respected partners at the [Judicial Votes Count](#) website.

Ohio Redistricting Reform Updates:

The LWVOhio has joined the Ohio ACLU and 16 individuals, one from each Ohio Congressional district, in a suit over the extreme gerrymandering of the Ohio Congressional map. The defendants are the Ohio Governor, Secretary of State, the Protem Speaker of the House, and the President of the Senate. The suit contends that the map violates the 1st and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

Because the recent passage of Issue 1, Fair Districts, will not take effect until after the 2020 census, probably in 2022 and because it will take time to redraw the districts, the LWV and ACLU aim to effect an earlier redrawing of the map by winning this suit. The lines could then be redrawn before the 2020 election.

New analytic techniques can prove that 6 elections in the past decade have been affected by gerrymandering; it is this information that enables the suit to be brought at this time.

Committee Updates:

Outreach and Programming Committee:

- **Hot Topics Brown Bag Lunch with Stephen Dyer of Innovation Ohio**
 - Stephen Dyer, Education Policy Fellow with Innovation Ohio spoke to us about HB512, and it's impact on education in Ohio through it's proposed changes to the Ohio Department and Board of Education and changes to state education policy.

Media Communications and Community Relations Committee:

- The Committee continues to work on making it possible to join and pay dues via the website.
- We are investigating changing website platforms.
- We are continuing to investigate non-profit status for the LWV of Delaware County with Facebook which would allow us to have donations made through our page.
- The committee is in **need of a chair and members**. Please contact the League if you are interested in helping to manage the image of the LWVDC through various media. lwvdelawarecountyohio@gmail.com

Development (Membership and Fundraising)

- John Brucia, board member presented the revised the power point presentation on our local League at the annual meeting. He and the other committee members stand ready to present.

We are keeping busy in the community and could do even more with your participation! Contact us now: lwvdelawarecountyohio@gmail.com

Upcoming Events:

League Events:

Hot Topics Brown Bag Lunch: Senior Services in Delaware County with Larry Harris of Willow Brook and SourcePoint

Wednesday, June 27, 1-2:00pm
Terrace Room, [Willow Brook Village, 100 Willow Brook Way, Delaware](#) (Off US23)
Please join us at the for our monthly Brown Bag luncheon as we learn about senior services in Delaware County from Larry Harris, executive director of Willow Brook and SourcePoint Board Member.

There will be lunches available for purchase. \$10/person for Quiche Lorraine and a Muffin. Please RSVP by 7/21 to lwvdelawarecountyohio@gmail.com
Open to the Public.

Other Events in the Community:

Taste of Downtown Delaware

Wednesday, June 13, 5-8:30pm
Join the Rotary Club of Delaware Ohio for an exciting restaurant crawl featuring great food from 22 of Downtown Delaware's eclectic mix of restaurants and bars. With each \$30 ticket purchased you receive eight coupons for food tastes that will be one or two coupons each.

You may also buy additional food coupons for \$2 each.
You'll also receive a SWAG bag with special offers and goodies from our sponsors and if you visit at least four establishments during Taste of Downtown Delaware you will be entered into drawings for gift certificates from participating restaurants.
Proceeds benefit [Delaware County Hunger Alliance](#) and Delaware Rotary Foundation.
[Buy your ticket now](#) (use guest checkout to bypass log-in) and bring it to [First Commonwealth Bank, 41 N. Sandusky](#), between 5 and 7:30 p.m. on June 13 to claim your food taste coupons and your event Passport.

Ohio Courts 2018: What's at Stake?

Thursday, June 28, 10am - 4pm
[Ohio Education Association, 225 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215](#)
With civil rights and democracy increasingly under attack, the strength and impartiality of our courts is essential for achieving justice on all of our issues. Our rights as voters, parents, workers, and community leaders depend on the decisions of our elected judges. What can you learn about this critical piece of our democracy?
How do the courts play a role in justice for Ohioans?

A lunchtime panel will feature former Judge Ron Adrine, of Cleveland Municipal Court, who championed bail reform in Cuyahoga County, and Judge Cindi Morehart, who presides over a special mental health docket in Franklin County Municipal Court. Throughout the day an expert trainer and facilitator Carin Schiewe from Wellstone Action will lead us in dynamic discussions around how the courts impact our rights as Ohioans. We will also explore the direct link between people power at the community level and the impartiality of our courts.

Cosponsored by: American Constitutional Society - Columbus Lawyer Chapter, Common Cause Ohio, Dayton Unit NAACP, Greater Cleveland Congregations, Ohio, Environmental Council, Ohio Voice, ProgressOhio, and RepresentUs

Please [RSVP online](#) or by calling 614-259-8388

Elevating Community, Collaboration and Civility

Thursday, June 28, 4-6pm
[The Capitol Atrium at the Statehouse, 1 Capitol Square, Columbus](#)
In politics today, personal attacks, party polarization and extreme rhetoric continue to rise, and recent elections have many feeling an insurmountable gap between themselves and those with differing ideologies. Though disagreement is inevitable, what steps do we take together to ensure our ability to build civil discourse in our community?

Dedicated to doing our part to foster these conversations, The Patriots, Columbus Partnership and Squire Patton Boggs have assembled a distinguished group of speakers to address elevating civil discourse in politics and business, in Ohio and across the globe.

Dr. Carolyn J. Lukensmeyer, Executive Director of the National Institute for Civil Discourse, will present a keynote address and moderate a panel discussion featuring an interdisciplinary group of community leaders with unique backgrounds and perspectives.

Our panelists include:

- **Nancy Kramer**, Chief Evangelist, IBM iX
- **George Barrett**, Executive Chairman, Cardinal Health
- **Yvette McGee Brown**, Partner, Jones Day and former Ohio Supreme Court Justice
- **Pat Tiberi**, President and CEO, Ohio Business Roundtable and former US Representative

Please join us for this engaging discussion about building collaboration and elevating civil discourse in our community. (RSVP by June 19 [here](#).)

Delaware City Planning Commission Report:

Meeting of June 6, 2018
The first item of business on the Commissions Agenda was both unique, interesting and controversial. Planning Staff presented the following proposal to the seven members. Manos Development has purchased the Perkins House (built by Hiram Perkins, an astronomer and Ohio Wesleyan Professor of many years about 1900) and the property next to it (235 and 239 W. William St.). Manos proposes to renovate and restore the handsome Perkins house, add a sizeable addition on the back and establish a boutique hotel on the property, to be named The Wesleyan Inn. The neighboring house would be raised and the space used for a parking lot. The proposal to the Planning Commission asked for rezoning of the two properties to create a Planned Mixed Use Overlay District, and requested approval of a Preliminary Development Plan for The Wesleyan Inn.

The proposed addition (containing the bulk of the Inn's 43 rooms) would be three stories high, with a cornice line consistent with the historic home. The home was at one time a fraternity house, but is not now occupied. A number of existing trees would be removed and the developer would be required to either replace the caliper inches or pay a fee to the city in lieu of replacement. A left-turn lane on westbound William St. is proposed and the City Engineering Dept. suggests a "bump in" in front of the houses on the north side of William St. to make room for the turn lane to be added.
City Planning Commission policy allows public comment on all proposals that come before it, and there was much comment on this proposal. Residents in the area objected to an Inn adjacent to the homes to the north. The developer responded that he is in process of purchasing the first house north and will convert it to a rental. That brought other objections from those in attendance. Owners across the street from the property raised concerns about the additional traffic and congestion on William St. and the fact that "bump-in" spaces for parking would reduce the already very narrow tree lawn.

Other concerns voiced were the nature of the Inn occupants; i.e., transients; noise from gatherings on the outdoor deck; loss of property values; and loss of privacy due to the height of the building in that neighborhood. A member of the Historical Preservation Commission (HPC), speaking for himself only, asked that a Condition be added to any approval, that required the Developer to consult with and get approval from the HPC of any outside renovations, so as to assure the authentic restoration of this historically significant building.

The Planning Commission members, the Developer and Planning staff, responded to the concerns raised but did not totally satisfy the complainants. After 1 hour 50 min. the Planning Commission moved to approve the proposal as recommended by staff and it passed unanimously. The proposal for a Preliminary Plan now goes to City Council for approval. If approved, the Developer will proceed with detailed plans, will need to work with City Engineering re the William St. issues, etc. and if all issues can be resolved, will return to the Planning Commission with a proposed Final Development Plan. Watch for more on this interesting project. Note: The 4 additional projects on the Agenda took one hour.

Submitted by Katherine Gharrity



Mission: The League of Women Voters of Delaware County, 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 voter education and advocacy.

Vision: As the respected nonpartisan resource for voter education and advocacy, the LWVDC envision an inclusive community of informed citizens participating in civic affairs and the electoral process.

Core Values: The League of Women Voters of Delaware County will:

- Promote objective, nonpartisan, unbiased comprehensive voter information on federal, state and local community issues and candidates.
- Engage with other Delaware County organizations to achieve successful programs on one or more key community issues each year.
- Increase participation of a diverse community in voter education and other outreach programming.
- Strive to maintain our status as the respected nonpartisan resource for voter education and advocacy in the county.

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Our mailing address is:
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