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**Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**

**The Voter**  
November 2019

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**Message from the LWV-DelCo President:**

Approximately 18 of us gathered at Oak and Brazen on Nov. 6 for food, wine and conversation. Due to holiday events and other commitments in Dec., we will not have a social gathering or party, but instead will be having a party in late January. Details to follow.

News from LWVUS:

- The Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4), which restores and modernizes the Voting Rights Act, has been introduced and is in committee. (See LWVUS letter of support [here](#).)
- The LWVUS is now an **official partner** with the U.S. Census.
- The LWVUS Policy and Advocacy team will hold a webinar on lobbying with legislators on Thursday, Dec. 12 from 3-4 pm. ET. You can register using this [link](#).
- Warning: The national League directs us not to work with the redistricting organization All On The Line. The organization promotes and endorses certain candidates and is thus NOT nonpartisan.

Looking ahead: The State League is conducting a study on Health Inequity and will be bringing this to local Leagues for input in 2020.

The 2020 League Convention will be in Washington, D.C. June 25-28 and will include a chance to talk to your Representative and Senators. For more information, [click here](#).

Watch your emails for information regarding membership renewal. LWV DelCo Treasurer Laurie Nolte will be sending out renewal information soon. Your membership is important and your dues make things happen locally, as well as the state and national level.

The next newsletter will come out in January. We look forward to empowering voters with you in 2020!  
Alice Frazier  
President, LWV-Delco  
[lwdelawarecountyohio@gmail.com](mailto:lwdelawarecountyohio@gmail.com)

**Member Engagement**

**Monthly Board Meetings**

Did you know that the LWV DelCo Board meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 6:00? If you have any ideas that you would like to share or activities you would like to suggest for League participation, you can contact [Alice Frazier](#) or any of the other Board members in order to have those ideas added to the agenda.

**Welcome New Board Member, Barb Tull**



Barb Tull returns to LWV Delaware County board as a director after an absence in which she focused on numerous other volunteer activities. She joined the League of Women Voters of Delaware County shortly after moving to Delaware in 1962. She was inspired to join the League by a mentor who had been a LWVUS board member. The League appeals to Barb because it focuses on education and action supporting democracy and good government.

Some of the organizations that benefitted from her volunteerism over the years have been social action thru the First Presbyterian Church, supporter of the United Nations for which one of her sons works, Metro Housing Authority, Sustainable Delaware, Citizens Climate Lobby, Great Decisions Board, Delaware's Sister City program, a school advisory board, community theater, and Habitat for Humanity locally and internationally. Current interests that focus Barb's volunteer energies are the environment, peace & justice issues and international relations.

After graduating from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, with a degree in Speech Pathology and Psychology, she earned a Master's Degree at Western Michigan University and worked as a speech-language clinician and university instructor in Oklahoma and Ohio. After receiving an Interdisciplinary Doctoral Degree in Child Language Development at Ohio State University, Barbara worked for the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities as the state-wide coordinator of Language-Communication Skills Development. She served as the Superintendent of a County Board of MRDD, and coordinator of residential programs for low income persons before joining the Peace Corps. Barbara served the Peace Corps in Thailand and the Philippines.

Barb is the mother of five children, two foster children, three stepchildren, grandchildren and eight step-great grandchildren. She and husband, Bob Tammhill, live in Willow Brook Village.



**Voter News**

**Member Thoughts**

**What a Difference One Vote Makes**

We all have heard people say they don't bother to vote because "my vote doesn't matter anyway." That assumption can easily be dispelled. One vote has made the difference in critical historical decisions. For example, in 1800, the Electoral College met in the respective states to cast their two votes for President (at that time the candidate receiving the most electoral votes became President, the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes was VP.) A tie vote for President between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr threw the election of President into the House of Representatives where Thomas Jefferson was elected our third president by a one-vote margin.

President Andrew Johnson was impeached by the House of Representatives in 1868. However, the Senate failed to convict Johnson - which would have removed him from office - by one vote.

Republican nominee Rutherford B. Hayes lost the popular vote to Democratic nominee Samuel J. Tilden, but Tilden fell one vote short of securing the necessary 185 electoral votes. With 20 electoral votes being disputed, a Congressional committee was established to decide where they should go. In the end, Hayes won by a vote of 8-7 and assumed the presidency in 1876.

In 1941, the Selective Service Act (military draft) was saved by a one vote margin - just weeks before Pearl Harbor was attacked, which brought the U.S. fully into WWII. More recently, Senator John McCain's famous "thumbs down" gesture saved the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) from repeal on July 28, 2017. Prior to that vote, Chief Justice John Roberts was the deciding vote 5:4 in the Supreme Court to uphold the individual mandate to buy health insurance as a constitutional exercise of Congress's taxing power.

Although most of us will not have such power individually, it is our duty and privilege to carefully consider the importance of our votes for those who do have the power to tip the balance by one vote whether in local town or city councils, on boards and commissions, state legislatures, or the U.S. House or Senate. Determining who becomes president is critical to Supreme Court appointments and thus decisions that affect our lives profoundly.

-Becky S. Cornett

**Delaware County Voter Election turnout, November 2019**

The elections on November 5, 2019 was an off year election. Historically, voter turnout is not high in off-year elections. However, of Delaware County's 140,280 registered voters, 37,017 voters turned out to vote. That means we had a 26.39% turnout. This is higher than Franklin County's 22% turnout and something we can be proud of as a county. You can explore more results breakdowns using interactive maps or numerical data by visiting the [Delaware County](#) and [Franklin County](#) Board of Elections Results information on their websites.

**LWV-O Supports and Advocates for Legislative Reforms in Regard to Voter Access and Security**

The League of Women Voters of Ohio has had a focus on improving access to and the function of the electoral democracy throughout the state for nearly 100 years. They continue to do so now. Issues they are currently advocating for include:

- SB 52 - Ohio Cybersecurity. This bill became law in October when it was signed by Governor DeWine. It calls for a civilian unit of the Ohio National Guard, the Ohio Cyber Reserve, which will respond in the event of a cyber attack against election systems and the like. It further provides for a Chief Information Security Officer within the Secretary of States Office who will assist county boards of elections and will give the SOS a seat at the table on the Homeland Security Advisory Council. This bill was promoted by Secretary of State Frank LaRose. For more information see this article in [the Hill](#) and this one in [the Blade](#).
- SB 194: Set Security Standards for Voter Registration, This bill would rename the Board of Voting Machine Examiners to the Board of Voting Equipment Examiners and would necessitate the inclusion of voter registration systems in systems requiring state approval. It would also add a cybersecurity expert to serve as a non-voting member of the Board. (The bill passed the Senate unanimously on November 6, but has yet to be heard in the House. -Karen Rainey)
- SB 186: Modernize Voter Roll Maintenance, this includes a form of AVR (automatic voter registration). That is, when an eligible Ohio citizen interacts with the BMV or other government agencies, they would be registered to vote or have their information updated if required unless they opt out. This makes the voter rolls more accurate and is cheaper than our current paper based system. LWVO supports this legislation with the following requests for changes... shorten implementation timeline, remove all party affiliation language, modify removal process so that it occurs only when there is direct evidence to support removal and add pre-registration of 16 and 17 year olds.
- SB 191: Online Absentee Ballot Request. If passed, an elector could apply online to vote via an absentee ballot. The Secretary of State would imply security measures to ensure the integrity and accuracy of all information on the ballot.

LWV-O will also continue to work on the following issues that impact voters and democracy.

- Close Dark Money Loopholes and Prohibit Foreign Spending in Ohio Elections: In May 2010, SB 240 passed unanimously out of the Ohio Senate but never moved to the House. This Bill would close dark money loopholes. LWVO encourages SB240 from the 128th General Assembly be a start to these necessary campaign finance reforms.
- Address Poll Worker Shortages: Poll worker shortages are a particular problem in rural areas thus LWVO advocates for increased incentives for poll workers including raising pay, lowering the age of participation to 16 in the Youth at the Booth program, offering split shifts for seniors and providing continuing ed credits for lawyers and social workers.
- Early Voting: LWVO advocates for the early voting being codified and expanded to include more than one location per county.
- Codify Election Administration Plans into Law: LWVO is advocating for the codification of Election Administration Plans in order to enable county Board of Elections to adequately plan for elections.

Information for this article came from materials provided at and through attending the LWV-O Automatic Voter Registration Advocacy and Training on October 24, 2019. For more information on any of these issues and how you can advocate, contact Nazeek Hapasha at (614)469-1505 or email the [LWVO office](#).

**Statehouse Update:**

Some good news—the so-called pink tax exemption on feminine hygiene products was folded into Senate bill 26, which also included sales tax exemptions on teachers out-of-pocket expenses for school supplies, and was signed into law by Governor DeWine on November 6. One of the proponents of the exemption, Rep. Bridget Kelley of Cincinnati, said that the exemption will give women and girls across the state more access to products, allowing them to go to school, work, and participate in the community while leading more productive lives.

The bad news is that yet another anti-abortion bill has been introduced; this one would make an abortion by any method subject to Ohio's murder statutes. House Bill 413 was introduced on November 14 by Reps. Candice Keller (R-Middletown) and Ron Hood (R-Ashville); it already has 19 House co-sponsors. If the bill were to pass, it would not only outlaw abortions but it could also cause problems for individuals experiencing a miscarriage or other difficulties during pregnancy; it could also prohibit some contraceptives and fertility treatments.

In other news, hearings have begun on the new school funding proposal, HB 305, sponsored by Reps. Patterson and Cupp. Local school representatives are weighing in on how the funds would be distributed, seeking balance between the state and local districts so that the local share reflects the local district's capacity to raise funds. A formula that can be applied to all districts has been elusive.

School report cards are the subject of the Report Card Study Committee, established in the biennial budget bill. The current A-F system is likely to be scrapped and replaced by a simpler format, if representatives of local districts and reform groups are successful. A mid-December deadline for the committee's work is looming.

You've no doubt seen the action alerts from LWV Ohio on Senate Bill 194, Voter Registration systems. It would require Ohio to adopt security guidelines and standards for the purchase and continued certification of voting equipment, and add a cybersecurity expert as a non-voting member of the Board of Voting machine Examiners. The bill passed the Senate unanimously on November 6, but has yet to be heard in the House. Please let your House rep know your concern that this bill passes quickly.

For those interested in knowing the full range of legislation the League's lobbyists are following, consider joining the lobby corps to have access to the Legislative Tracker, as well as the Hannah News Service, the premier reporting service on state government. Just call the state office (614-469-1505) or email [info@lwvohio.org](mailto:info@lwvohio.org).

-Karen Rainey

**Advocate for yourself and your community by contacting your US and State Senators and Representatives.**

Contact US Senators:  
[Sherrod Brown](#)  
[Rob Portman](#)

Find Your US and State Representatives and State Senator by clicking the link below:  
[US Representative](#)  
[Ohio Senator](#)  
[Ohio Representative](#)

**Interested in becoming a member?**

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to men and women of all ages.

Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

Through participation in League projects, you will:

- contribute valuable service to the community
- gain knowledge and experience through the study and discussion of timely and important topics
- discover new interests, develop new skills and learn about crucial issues in your community
- make professional contacts and develop lasting friendships as you meet others in League who share your interests

Cost for memberships are: \$70.00 single member, \$100.00 two members in the same household, Free student membership. There are some scholarships available. Please inquire.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about us and how you can join.

**2019-2020 LWV- Delaware County Board Officers**

President: **Alice Frazier** [lwdelawarecountyohio@gmail.com](mailto:lwdelawarecountyohio@gmail.com)  
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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 and outreach programming.  
 • Strive to maintain our status as the respected nonpartisan resource for voter education and advocacy in the county.

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