



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

The Voter
May 2018

Contents:

- Message From Our President
- Voter Updates
- Committee Updates
- Upcoming Events
- Statehouse Update

Message from the President:

Congratulations to all of you for your work and support in "slaying the gerrymander!" Issue 1 has passed and a new fairer method for drawing the Congressional district boundaries in Ohio has been adopted. Now we can move closer to the ideal of the voters choosing the candidates, rather than the candidates choosing the voters.

The candidates for the 12th Congressional District are Troy Balderson(R) and Danny O'Connor(D) who will run in a special election on Aug. 7.

We continue in our mission of educating voters on the issues and on voting rights and opportunities and look forward to another year of "defending democracy!"

Alice Frazier, LWVDC President

Voter Updates:

The primary election was held on May 8, 2018. The uncertified results for Delaware County are on the [Board of Elections](#) website.

Highlights include:

Total Delaware County Voter Turnout: 137, 994 (24.15%)
State Issue 1 (Redistricting Reform) Results:

Yes: 75.11%
No: 24.89%
Countywide Tax Levy for Senior Services:
Yes: 72.21%
No: 27.79%

Committee Updates:

Voter Services:

April 12 saw an audience of approximately 250 at DACC North to hear a total of 16 Republican, Democratic and Green candidates for the 12th Congressional District give answers to questions from the crowd, which had been presented to the Channel 6 ABC moderator from LWV screeners. The Delaware County, Licking County, and Metropolitan Columbus Leagues and the Franklin County Consortium, along with Channel 6 collaborated to present the forum. Thanks go to members of these organizations, to DACC, to the Hayes High School string quartet, and the Delaware County Sheriff's office.

The winners in the May 8 primary will face off in an August 7 Special Election. Watch for more information coming from the Committee.

Outreach and Programming Committee:

- **Brown Bag lunch series**
 - Our first Brown Bag lunch of the new series was held at the Delaware County Historical Society's Barn on Stratford Rd. Stephanie Rowe, development coordinator at Turning Point, updated our group on the renovation of the Delaware facility, to be open in the next few months. This will allow the shelter to serve more victims and their families, including pets. Currently, the Marion shelter serves six counties, including Delaware. The organization was founded in 1979 to provide shelter, counseling, and support services for victims of domestic violence. They have added a texting service to give individuals an alternative to making a voice call. In 2017, Turning Point provided 311 women, men, and children with 11,182 days of shelter. The organization is currently conducting a capital campaign and appreciates contributions. They also welcome volunteers.
 - The website is: Turningpoint6.org
 - The address is: Turning Point, P.O. Box 875, Marion, OH 43301
 - After lunch, Donna Meyer, ED of DCHS, gave us an in-depth tour of the Barn and adjacent Meeker House.
 - The web address is: www.delawareohiohistory.org
 - The Historical Society also welcomes donations to: 2690 Stratford Rd., Delaware, OH 43015
- **Annual Bean Dinner**
 - Dr. Michael Flamm, history professor at Ohio Wesleyan, fascinated League members and friends on April 19 at the Annual Bean dinner at the First Presbyterian Church, Delaware, with an in depth discussion of the life of "Axis Sally," whose real name was Mildred Gillars. She was an OWU student who left college in her senior year to pursue an acting career, going to New York City, and eventually to Europe. She worked for a German radio station and broadcast Nazi propaganda to American soldiers. After the war ended, she served 10 years for treason; after her release, she taught at a Catholic convent in Columbus. In 1973, having earned enough credits to graduate, she returned to OWU to collect her bachelor's degree.
 - John Brucia, board member presented the revised power point on our local League, which looks very good and is ready for presentation to other groups.
 - Thanks to our ladies who cooked the delicious ham and bean soup and the church and those who helped with banners and publicity. We actually made a small profit this year!

- **Annual Meeting** (see Upcoming Events below)

Media Communications and Community Relations Committee:

- The Committee is working on making it possible to join and pay dues via the website.
- We have put a button on the website to make donations.
- We have put a button on our Facebook page to sign up for The Voter.
- We are investigating 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, which looks very good and is ready for presentation to other groups.

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

Upcoming Events:

Annual Meeting and Dinner: Your Right to Know... Challenged

Wednesday, May 16, 2018, 6-8:30pm
[Glenn Ross Country Club, 231 Club House Dr., Delaware, OH 43015](#)
Come join the League to Vote in our Officers, learn about our upcoming agenda items and hear from Randy Ludlow of the Columbus Dispatch. He will discuss the Ohio Open Records Law and recent challenges that could impact your right to know. Cost is \$30 per person. RSVP to the League. lwvdelawarecountyohio@gmail.com

Brown Bag Lunch with Stephen Dyer of Innovation Ohio

Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 12-1pm
[County Commissioners Meeting Room, 101 N. Sandusky St., Delaware, OH 43015](#)
Stephen Dyer, Education Policy Fellow with Innovation Ohio has agreed to speak at our Hot Topics brown bag luncheon on May 23 at the County Commissioners meeting room, 101 N. Sandusky St. (former Carnegie Library building). He will discuss HB512, "a monstously long, complicated bill..." which would eliminate the "education policymaking and oversight from the Ohio Department and Board of Education." and make other changes to state education policy.

Statehouse Update:

Welcome to the Statehouse update. Every month we will bring you a snapshot of bills and resolutions in the Ohio House and Senate that are particularly pressing or relevant to the voters and citizens of Delaware County.

Energy and the Environment

A survey conducted in July 2017 by Public Opinion Strategies (a Republican pollster), on behalf of the Nature Conservancy, showed that Ohio voters overwhelmingly support policies that increase energy efficiency and encourage expanded use of renewables. In fact, 79 percent of voters support the current requirement requiring electric utilities to increase their use of renewable energy to 12.5 percent over the next eight year and, if necessary, are willing to pay something more to do it. Despite the results of this survey, the Ohio Legislature continues to introduce and pass legislation to impede the expanded use of renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar.

As Al Rosenfield, Energy Specialist for LWVO reports, while electricity providers currently have increasing annual requirements for renewable energy, **HB114** would make the goals *voluntary*. This bill passed the House in March, but has been stalled in the Senate. Further, there is continuing debate regarding the setback requirements for wind turbines. New requirements are so great that new wind turbine construction is not financially viable. Senate-added language in the budget would have reduced those setbacks, but that was removed in the Conference Committee. Senate President, Obhof, has stated that a compromise is in the works for **HB114**, which would include a resolution of the setback issue.

HB393 had its fourth hearing in the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee in January. It would permit sale of processed brine from oil and gas operations to be used in surface application for de-icing, dust reduction, etc. There has been much testimony on this bill by environmental protection organizations regarding the lack of adequate measures, controls, or tests on the processing or application of such brine to assure that public health, safety, and the environment are protected from heavy metals, semi-heavy metals and radiologicals present in measurable amounts.

Women's Health

From the Hannah News Services, April 27, 2018
Attorney General Mike DeWine will ask the entire Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals to review a three-judge panel's ruling against an Ohio law (**HB294**) that blocks health and family planning money from use by groups that offer abortions. A U.S. District Court judge blocked enforcement of this law in 2016, and last week Sixth Circuit Judges upheld that ruling, agreeing the law is an unconstitutional restriction on free speech and association.

In earlier court action:

On Wednesday, March 14, **HB214**, prohibiting abortion for women seeking the procedure because of a Down syndrome diagnosis, was declared "unconstitutional on its face" by US District Court Judge Timothy Black, thereby blocking implementation of this law signed by Governor Kasich 12/22/17 and scheduled to take effect March 23, 2018.

The Ohio Legislature continues to try to prohibit or make more difficult the option of abortion.

SB145 would ban the D&E procedure, the most common method of abortion in the second trimester and would criminalize all "dismemberment" abortions, unless the life or physical health of the mother is at risk. This bill was passed by the Senate in June, 2017 and had its fourth hearing in the House Criminal Justice Committee in March, 2018.

SB28 would require a woman who has had an abortion to have embryonic or fetal tissue buried or cremated and to choose a method in writing prior to the procedure. The abortion facility would be responsible for the cost of the cremation or burial. This bill was passed in the Senate in January 2017, passed by the House in February 2018 and is waiting for a floor vote.

HB258 would require a test to detect fetal heart tones before an abortion is performed and if one is detected, a woman could not have an abortion, except in very narrow circumstances. Failure to test for a heartbeat would be a felony of the fifth degree. It also creates the Joint Legislative Committee on Adoption Promotion and Support to further the General Assembly's intent that women whose pregnancies are protected under this bill be informed of available options for adoption. Reported out of the House in December 2017, waiting on a floor vote before going to the Senate.

HB565 was introduced on March 19, 2018 and is waiting to be referred to a committee. This bill would ban all abortions by making it a crime to abort any living organism from conception onward, including those for medical emergencies, rape, incest, fetal anomalies, and risks to the life or health of the mother.

And most recently, on April 26, **HB619** was introduced. This bill would require the state board of education, in collaboration with the department of health, to develop an instructional program regarding the humanity of the unborn child, and neither entity may consult any organization that provides abortion. Once developed all school districts may choose to implement the program.



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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Our mailing address is:
4477 Chapman Rd.
Delaware, OH 43015

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