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**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®**
of Delaware County Ohio

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

The Voter
April 2018

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Message from the President:

Welcome to the first edition of our new monthly newsletter, THE VOTER. The name is not new but the delivery system is!

We are living in very politically active times and aim to engage all our members and to recruit new members. The slogan of the LWV is "Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy". This year brings us Issue 1 on the May ballot, the redistricting initiative that will redraw Congressional districts in a fair and balanced way.

All eyes are on the race for the 12th Congressional District; since Congressman Pat Tiberi resigned his seat in Jan 2018, the race is wide open to fill his unexpired term AND to assume the new term which starts Jan. 3, 2019. There are several Republican and Democratic contenders for both terms and they will be on the May primary ballot TWICE. The winners will face off on the August 7 Special Election ballot, and again in November.

Read about all the exciting activities the Delaware County League is up to!

We look forward to seeing you at any or all of these upcoming events!

Alice Frazier, LWVDC President

Voter Updates:

Candidate Forum:

April 12, 6:30-8:00pm

[Delaware Area Career Center North](#), 1610 State Rte 521, Delaware

The U.S. House seat representing Ohio's 12th Congressional District became open for the first time since 2000 when Rep. Patrick Tiberi (R) announced that he would resign effective January 15, 2018. The primary election is scheduled for May 8, 2018, the same day as the state's regularly scheduled primaries, while the special election is scheduled for August 7, 2018.

The League of Women Voters chapters in Metropolitan Columbus, Delaware and Licking County as well as the Franklin County Consortium for Good Government are collaborating to present a forum on April 12 featuring all candidates running for the U.S. House of Rep. 12th District seat in the Primary Election. Voters will have a chance to learn about each candidate and what they would do if elected to office.

The event starts at 6:30pm with a half hour meet & greet. The forum officially begins at 7:00pm.

Vote411.org:

Our online electronic voter guide for the upcoming primary election is up and running! [Check it out!](#) It's simple to use. Just put in your address, follow the prompts and you'll come to your ballot...exactly as it will be on Election Day. Be prepared. And...VOTE!

Issue 1:

Did you know that there was real compromise achieved by the Democrats and Republicans in Ohio and the League of Women Voters was instrumental in helping that come to fruition? One of the most partisan issues of this politically polarized time, gerrymandering, is being addressed in Issue 1, the congressional redistricting reform measure. We are all going to have a chance to vote YES on this issue on the May Primary Ballot. If you'd like to know more about how the League has been involved, what the main talking points of the issue are and how to be more involved in voter education, and getting folks out to vote Yes on the issue, visit the League of Women Voters of Ohio website by following this [link](#).

Primary Election: May 8

Early Voting, Registering to Vote and Updating Your Information

The primary is here! You have visited our Voter411 site and attended our candidates night. Now it's time to vote. Early voting begins April 10 at the Board of Elections early voting center. For more information on early voting, registering to vote and updating your voter information visit the Delaware County Board of Elections [link](#).

Committee Updates:

During the summer of 2017, the Board invited members to participate in a series of strategy planning meetings where we discussed the mission, vision, goals and objectives of the LWV of Delaware County. During those meetings, the current committee structure was developed and the Board voted to accept the recommendations of the committee on this structure. Below is a quick summary of the LWVDC Committees and their current projects. All committees welcome input and support and would appreciate increased participation. Please contact the League about becoming more involved. lwvdelawarecountyohio@gmail.com

Voter Services:

The Voter Services committee will develop and implement a plan for voter and issue education under the guidance of the Board.

Activities include:

- **Vote411** (see Voter Updates above)
- **Candidate Nights** (see Voter Updates above)
- **Voter Registration Events**
 - A new and upcoming potential project is a **candidates night or town hall** scheduled for late summer coordinated in partnership with **Hayes High School Politics Club** and with the Youth Engagement subcommittee of the LWVDC. Watch for updates.

Outreach and Programming Committee:

The Outreach and Programming Committee will create and hold programs throughout the community to appeal to a diverse and inclusive community audience based on issues prioritized by the Board. Activities include developing relations with community partners, such as the Rotary Club, Political Parties, the Chamber of Commerce, etc.; organizing community events such as the Bean Dinner, Women's Equality Day, and social events such as the Brown Bag Lunches; and, organizing and carrying out youth engagement projects.

Activities include:

- **Brown Bag lunch series**
 - The committee is planning to reinstate this "oldie but goodie!" Please mark your calendars for the 4th Wed. of each month. The locations will vary. Time is noon start and is expected to run about an hour. Also, please contact Trish if you're willing to work on finding a guest speaker or know of a great (and free) location for a meeting. Email Trish at hackoontrish@gmail.com
 - So for April 25 pick up your lunch and meet us at The Barn at Stratford. Our speaker will be Stephanie Rowe with Turning Point. Stephanie will update us on the Delaware Co facility, as well as sharing statistics on need in Delaware as it relates to the Marion facility. She'll talk for about 30 minutes followed by a Q&A. Let's have a good turnout for this Brown Bag Lunch! We'll also fill you in on what's new with your League. No reservation necessary...just come!
- **Annual Bean Dinner** (see Upcoming Events)
- **Annual Meeting** (see Upcoming Events)
- **Youth Engagement Activities:**
 - **Now You're 18!** The committee is partnering with the **Delaware County Bar Foundation** and working with the **Delaware Area Career Center** to create an HTML website that can act as the primary information source for new adults or those approaching that threshold. The site will provide relevant information not only on voting related issues but also such content as jury duty, military service, food insecurity, distracted driving, etc., from the perspective of young adults. This information will be vetted by both the League and the Bar Foundation. Once the site is operational, we will work with local school districts and colleges to get the information to the youth in the community.
 - The committee will work with the Voter Services Committee and with Hayes High School to potentially bring candidates to Delaware County to engage with the community via a Candidates Night or Town Hall.
 - Future activities include working with schools to provide more information to the youth in the community on civics and voting issues and to have voter registration events within the local high schools.

Media Communications and Community Relations Committee:

The Media Communications and Community Relations Committee will promote the League of Women Voters of Delaware County as the respected nonpartisan resource for voter education and advocacy in the county.

Activities include:

- **developing a media strategy**, including determining what content will be communicated on what platform
- **maintaining the website and social media platforms**
- **creating and publishing a newsletter**
- **creating and arranging the publication of press releases**

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)

The Development Committee will create and implement a strategy to maintain current League membership (90% retention rate) and achieve new and diverse growth of 5% per year. Further, it will work to create and implement a strategy to raise funds for programs and League activities, including, but not limited to, endowments and gifts.

Activities include:

- **implementing a consistent membership program**
- **developing strategies to involve non-members** to participate in League initiatives
- The Committee has been working to **revamp the LWVDC power point presentation** that they will **use to introduce our League and its activities** to schools and civic organizations in order to gain members and friends in the community.

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

Upcoming Events:

2018 LWV Ohio Statehouse Day

Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 8:30am-4pm

[Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square 75 East State Street, Columbus, OH 43215](#)

Join us for LWVO Statehouse Day 2018 on Wednesday, April 11. Our theme this year is "Putting the Voter First." What could be better - a room full of League members from around the state, connecting and collaborating about the most important issues we face and how to have an impact in our communities. Find all this and more at this year's LWVO Statehouse Day! Cost: Varies. Signup required. Follow this [link](#) to sign up today!

U.S. Representative 12th District Candidate Forum

Thursday, April 12, 2018, 6:30-9pm

[Delaware Area Career Center, North Campus, 1610 State Route 521, Delaware, OH 43015](#)

The U.S. House seat representing Ohio's 12th Congressional District became open for the first time since 2000 when Rep. Patrick Tiberi (R) announced that he would resign effective January 15, 2018. The primary election was scheduled for May 8, 2018, the same day as the state's regularly scheduled primaries, while the special election was scheduled for August 7, 2018.

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The event starts at 6:30pm with a half hour meet & greet. The forum officially begins at 7:00pm.

4th Annual Bean Dinner

Thursday, April 19, 2018, 5:30-8:00pm

[First Presbyterian Church, 23 Winter St., Delaware, OH 43015](#)

Feeling pinched from paying your taxes? Join us for a night of intellectual stimulation and belly-filling goodness at a price that won't break the bank. Our speaker for the evening is Dr. Michael Flamm, OVU Professor of History, speaking on "Axis Sally": Ohio Wesleyan's Most Notorious and Least Understood Alum. We'll be serving ham and bean soup, vegetarian black bean soup and cornbread. All for a suggested donation of \$5 per person.

Brown Bag Lunch with Stephanie Rowe of Turning Point

Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 12-1pm

[The Barn at Stratford, 2699 Stratford Rd., Delaware, OH 43015](#)

Join us for our inaugural Brown Bag event. Bring your lunch and sit down with members of the League as well as interested community members to learn the latest about Turning Point and their work with and shelter for domestic violence victims. Cost: free but a donation to the Delaware County Historical Society is suggested in gratitude for the use of their space.

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

Wednesday, May 16, 2018, 6-8:30pm

[Gleason Country Club, 211 Club House Dr., Delaware, OH 43015](#)

Public Invited 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

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.

Redistricting: Issue 1 (formerly) SJR 5

At long last, a congressional redistricting proposal that will end gerrymandering will appear on the May 8 primary ballot as Issue 1. Senate Joint Resolution 5, passed with near-unanimous bipartisan support in February, meets most of League's criteria for a reformed process and allows the League to endorse its passage as Issue 1. The redistricted map, as outlined in Issue 1 will require bipartisan support to be adopted. More details are available above (Issue 1). The Fair Districts = Fair Elections coalition of organizations working to put an initiative on the ballot, and including the League of Women Voters Ohio, will continue to gather signatures for its reform proposal as a backup plan in the event the amendment does not pass on May 8.

Education: HB 512

House Bill 512, Consolidated Career-Education Governance, has generated intense controversy in the short time since it was introduced. This Bill would consolidate most of the Department of Education, all of the Department of Higher Education and the Governor's Office of Workforce Development in a new agency controlled by the governor, to be called the Department of Learning and Achievement. The intent is to streamline the oversight of primary, secondary, and postsecondary education, improve accountability and communications, and better prepare students for the workforce. The bill runs counter to at least two existing state positions: One, that the primary responsibility of the State Board of Education should be policy making/planning; and two, that the Board of Regents should have broad policy-making powers. The bill would abolish the Board of Regents and transfer many of the functions of the State Board of Education to the new department. The State Board of Education is embedded in the Ohio constitution and cannot be abolished without amending the constitution, but it would retain only minimal functions.

Organizations opposing HB 512 are largely the defenders of traditional public education. Key objections are to the creation of a "mega-department of education," too much emphasis on job readiness, and potential pendulum swings in education policy as the result of political influence and changes in administration. The State Board of Education passed a resolution opposing HB 512 at its meeting on March 13 by a vote of 11-4.

Human Trafficking: SB 4 and HB 461

Two bills the League supports are pending in the House: Senate Bill 4, Records Expungement, and House Bill 461, Delinquency Abeyance-Child Trafficking. SB 4 passed the Senate unanimously in May 2017; it is designed to ease victim rehabilitation by expunging certain criminal offenses from the records of victims of human trafficking who committed crimes as the result of being trafficked. The criminal convictions make it difficult for victims to find jobs or housing. The League testified in support of this bill in the Senate based on our position that encourages the reintegration of survivors of trafficking back into their communities. No hearings have been held since December 12.

House Bill 461, introduced in January 2018, would bring Ohio legislation into line with federal legislation in that it would protect trafficking victims who are age sixteen or seventeen from being charged with a prostitution-related offense—the same protection given to victims fifteen or younger. This "Protect Trafficked Minors Act" requirement has been included in previous bills and the League has testified in support, however, it has been dropped from the final passage. League support is based on our position that minors who have been commercially sexually exploited or forced into slave labor should be legally considered as victims and given special physical and mental health care.

Elections and Voting: SB 21 and SB 135

The League has testified on Senate Bill 21, Electronic Pollbooks, which passed the Senate on a vote of 28-4 on February 28. The bill would allow boards of elections to reduce the number of poll workers needed where electronic poll books have increased efficiency. However, in testimony, the League raised several concerns about situations when such a reduction would be detrimental and asked that the bill be amended to provide "guardrails" on the discretion of BOEs to reduce the number of poll workers.

The League is committed to free, fair, and accessible elections. Senate Bill 135, Supplemental Appropriation-Voting Program, is a request for \$114.5 million for new voting machines to replace aging equipment. The intent is to help counties purchase new equipment before the 2020 election. The League has not yet testified on this bill.



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 envisions 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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