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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® of Delaware County Ohio

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

The Voter October 2018

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Welcome Message:

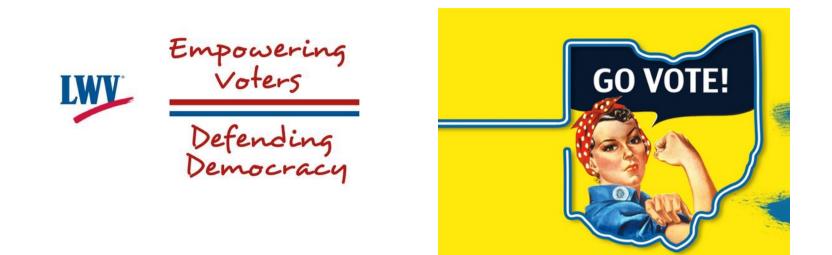
Presidents Message

The November election is rapidly approaching! Our League is busy with voter registration drives and voter education. On Sept. 25, we held an event at Columbus State Community College, and on Oct. 6 attended the Unity Day at Second Ward Community Initiative, registering voters and checking registrations.

LWV Ohio has taken a neutral position on Issue 1. While they agree sentencing reform around drug offenses is needed, they disagree that it should take the form of a constitutional amendment. Our local League is fortunate to have Judge Marianne Hemmeter speaking to us on Issue 1 on Oct. 24 at noon at the Commissioners' Bldg.

Coming up on Tues., Oct. 9 at 6:30 pm at DACC North, the Delaware County LWV will host candidates for Delaware County offices, as well as the 12th Congressional District. We will have a "carousel" format, where the public will be seated throughout at tables, and the candidates will move from table to table, answering questions. Many thanks to those of you who have volunteered to be discussion guides at the tables. It promises to be an interesting evening!

Most importantly, the General Election will be held on November 6, before the next edition of the Voter. Avail yourself to all resources available to become educated about issues and candidates, including Vote411 (link available on our website's homepage) and Judicial Votes Count (see below). Then make sure to participate in the election. It, like all elections, is an important one! Let your voice be heard! Vote!



Voter Updates:

1. Final Day for Voter Registration:

Tomorrow, Tuesday, October 9, 12 midnight

- If you are registering or updating information for yourself or have collected paper registration/update forms from others during registration drives, remember paper forms mailed to a Board of Election office or the Secretary of State's office must be **received** by them by October 9th. As this would not be possible at this point please hand deliver your forms by 9:00 pm, 10/9.
- Eligible voters can register online at the <u>Secretary of State's Office</u> until midnight on October 9th.

2. Early Voting begins October 10!

In Delaware County, you can vote at the Board of Elections beginning at 8:00 am on October 10. For details about voting hours, please visit the <u>Board of Elections</u> webpage.

3. Candidate Night, DACC North Campus, October 8, 6:30

Coming up on Tues., Oct. 9 at 6:30 pm at DACC North, the Delaware County LWV will hold a candidates night in the Commons area. We have invited candidates for the 12th Congressional district, Ohio House 67 and 68, Ohio Senate 19, and the County Commissioner and County Auditors races. We will also have a representative from the Delaware Library and Board of Developmental Disabilities there, as they have levies on the ballot.

Instead of a stage format, we will have the public seated at round tables, of approximately 10 people each. The candidates will then rotate from table to table, spending time at each table and answering questions posed by the audience.

Brandon Feller, director of the United Way of Delaware County, will be the moderator. He will introduce the candidates, who will make a 1 min. statement each before the table rotation begins.

Location: <u>Delaware Area Career Center, North Campus* 1610 State Route 521</u>, <u>Delaware, OH 43015</u>

*(Note this campus is not off of 23, but rather is the one off of 521, near Oakland Nursery)

4. October 18 Candidate Forum

Hosted by the Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce and Sponsored by Columbus State Community College

The League is facilitating a candidate forum for the Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce. Candidates for State Senate District 19, State House Districts 67 and 68 and US House District 12 have been invited. Those that have agreed to attend include: Louise Valentine (D)-District 19, Cory Hoffman (D)-District 67, Kathleen Tate (D) and Rick Carfagna (R) both of District 68; and Danny O'Connor (D) - US House 12. The event will be moderated by Journalist Jo Engles.

The event is from 11:45 - 1:30 p.m. The event requires an RSVP by October 15 and cost for non-Chamber members is \$25. See the <u>Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce</u> Website for

more details and to register. Location: <u>SourcePoint</u>, 800 Cheshire Road, Delaware 43015

5. Voter411.org is live!

Get the election information you need without leaving your home! Enter your address to find your polling place, build your ballot with our <u>online voters' guide</u> and much more! With our voters' guide you can see the races on your ballot, compare candidates' positions side-by-side, and print out a "ballot" indicating your preferences as a reminder and take it with you to the polls on Election Day.

6. LWV-Ohio is Neutral on Issue 1

Ohio Issue 1, the Drug and Criminal Justice Policies Initiative, will be on the ballot in Ohio as an initiated constitutional amendment on November 6, 2018. The amendment is designed to reduce the number of people in state prisons for low-level, nonviolent drug possession; drug use offenses; or for non-criminal probation violations. In addition, it would provide sentence credits for participation in rehabilitative programs; and is intended to direct the savings achieved by such reductions in incarceration to substance abuse treatment programs, crime victim programs, probation programs, graduated responses programs, and rehabilitation programs.

The LWV Ohio takes a <u>neutral position on Issue 1</u>. We agree with the LWVUS position regarding sentencing for drug-related offenses, which states "alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized." This corresponds with the aims of Issue 1 on the 2018 general election ballot. However, LWV Ohio has a long-standing position that the Ohio Constitution should be a "clearly stated body of fundamental principles," and we have opposed other initiative amendments on the basis of that position. In summary, the LWV Ohio supports the goals of reforming drug sentencing and improving treatment alternatives but does not believe those goals are best achieved by amending the Constitution. Additionally, the directives contained in Issue 1 are too specific, and the implementation of those directives could lead to unintended negative consequences.

For basic information about Issue 1, visit Ballotpedia.

7. Get Information on Your Justice Candidates from Judicial Votes Count

Did you know that many people who vote in an election will skip voting for the judges as they do not feel that they have enough information to make an educated choice? But judges matter, a lot. 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. That means Delaware voters have some decisions to make. Let's get informed about the people interpreting our laws.

There are many sources of information on judges. You can read the papers they have published, look at which groups have supported them and look at decisions coming from incumbents' courtrooms. You can also access information from <u>Judicial Votes</u> <u>Count</u>, a site co-sponsored by the LWV-Ohio, The Ohio State Bar Association, The Ohio News Media Association, and several others. Here, you can find out not only about the individual candidates but also the Judicial System in Ohio and what a judge's job is within each of the courts. It's a great resource.

Other Upcoming Events:

October Hot Topics Brown Bag Lunch: Discuss Issue 1 with Judge Marianne Hemmeter

Speaker: Judge Marianne Hemmeter Time and Date: Wednesday - October 24, 2018, 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm Place: Delaware County Commissioners Office

<u>101 N. Sandusky St., Delaware</u>

Please join us on to hear about State Issue 1 from Judge Marianne Hemmeter. If you're struggling to understand this complex issue, come gain some insight from Judge Hemmeter before you go to vote. There will be time for questions and answers.

Judge Marianne Hemmeter was appointed to the Delaware Municipal Court in February 2015 by Governor John Kasich. Before her appointment to the bench, she served as a special prosecutor and the Deputy Director of the Economic Crime Unit for Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine. While at the Ohio Attorney General's Office she prosecuted criminal cases in twenty-three different counties throughout Ohio, including the much-covered Steubenville rape trial. Judge Hemmeter also served on the Ohio Attorney General's Statewide Sexual Assault Response Team and was recognized as a Domestic Violence Subject Matter Expert for the Ohio Peace Officer's Training Commission. From 1999 through 2011, Judge Hemmeter served as an assistant prosecutor for the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office. At that office, Judge Hemmeter handled every kind of felony case, including the county's only death penalty case. She prosecuted over sixty criminal trials with a ninety-percent conviction rate. Before that, she was a prosecutor for the Delaware City Prosecutor's Office. Judge Hemmeter has trained law enforcement officers and judges nationwide in the areas of domestic violence, strangulation, and sexual assault cases.

She has received awards for her work, including a Special Achievement Award in 2013 from the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Assault. Judge Hemmeter served on the Ohio Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence from 2008 through 2011. She has appeared on 20/20, American Justice, and E! Investigates.

Judge Hemmeter holds a bachelor's degree from Trinity College and a law degree from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. She is married to Joe Schmansky and has two children.

Bring your lunch and a drink. No reservations required. For more information, contact: Trish Bishop 614-394-8339



Judge Marianne Hemmeter will discuss State Issue 1 with us on October 24th, just in time for the election (details above).

The Matriots will have an event on October 15 to introduce their mission and some of their locally endorsed Candidates (details below).

October Matriots Mondays (Community Election Related Event)

Time and Date: Monday - October 15, 2018, 5:30-6:30pmPlace: Old Bag of Nails66 N. Sandusky StDelaware, Ohio 43015Please join the Matriots for Matriots Mondays to learn about The Matriots PAC,
founded in May 2017 with the mission of electing more women to office in Ohio who
will promote an economy in which women can prosper and thrive.

We look forward to engaging in some great conversation. And, we also will be joined by some of our local endorsed candidates!

RSVP by October 12 to Helen Fite at helen.fite@matriotsohio.com

Save the Date: 2019 LWV-Ohio State Convention

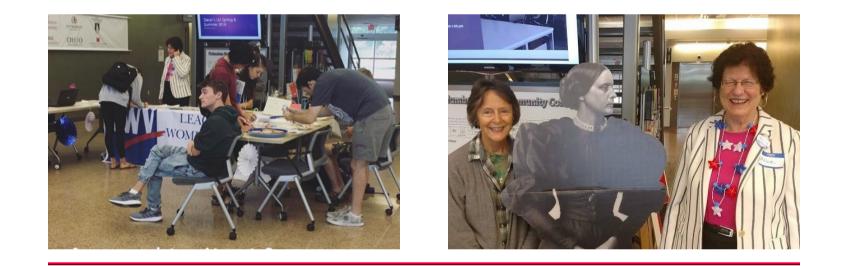
Time and Date: May 10-12, 2019 **Place:** <u>Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center</u> 100 Green Meadows Drive, Lewis Center, Ohio

Past Events:

National Voter Registration Day Event

Our League partnered with Columbus State Community College for the third year in the National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 25. League members Julia Foster, Celia Vail, Barbara Brown, Carolyn Kneisley and Alice Frazier and prospective member Marian Jacques joined with energetic college students in registering students to vote. Dr. Ben Pugno, Associate Professor, and Averee Fields, Columbus State Student Engagement Coordinator, were a major addition to our effort. Students verified voters' registration on-line, and also had a self-administered political quiz available. The League displayed the state of Ohio maps of Congressional districts, as well as of the Ohio House and Senate districts. Vote411.org cards and the list of candidates on the ballot were available and Columbus State distributed free pocket copies of the U.S.Constitution. Susan B. Anthony herself was available for photo-ops!

The <u>2018 National Voter Registration Day</u> was the largest event since its inception in 2012. 4,087 partner organizations worked with over 10,000 volunteers to register over 800,000 new voters, not to mention all the folks that took the opportunity to verify their registration status. We look forward to participating in this event annually.



September Hot Topics Brown Bag Lunch

We had a great meeting with Jen Miller, executive director of <u>LWV-Ohio</u>. She told us about her circuitous path to her current position and how it actually ties all her passions and strengths together. She will be using her experience with The King Arts Complex and the Sierra Club to be just what the Ohio LWV needs right now.

She discussed areas of emphasis that she plans to expand with the State and local Leagues. These include voter rights and access, especially early voting, alternative voter ID, ending the voter roll purge, and requesting absentee ballots (not only the application) online. The League also strongly advocates for the passage of the Automatic Voter Registration act which would automatically register those who obtain a driver's license.

She also let us know that local Leagues will not be left behind in her plans moving forward as she knows the State and Local Leagues are stronger together. She is aware of the financial challenges that local Leagues face, as the State League is in a similar situation.

She hopes to use her previous experience in successful grant writing to bring more funds to Ohio projects and to spend as much of her limited manpower as possible to develop tools that can be shared with local Leagues. These tools include images to be used on social media, educational materials, speaker trainings, etc. Further, she let us know that we could call the State Office for assistance with Vote411 and website development questions.

We discussed the upcoming census in 2020 and she encouraged our League to contact the local "Complete Count Committee" which will be formed in anticipation of the census. She suggested contacting the county auditor to find out how to request membership on the committee.

The group also discussed the State League plans for the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment.

Finally, the State Convention will be in Delaware County in 2019 and she has asked that as many of us as possible participate and volunteer where possible. It was a pleasure to meet Jen, and to learn about her dedication to voter issues. We look forward to working with her in the years to come.



12th Annual Community Unity Day

Several members of the Delaware LWV attended the Community Unity Day in the Second Ward Ross Street Park on October 6. They were able to talk to members of the community about the importance of voting, about judicial reform and they were also able to register some future voters and confirm the registration of others. Thanks to all that volunteered on Saturday. It was felt to be a good event for LWV Delaware and we hope to participate again in the future. The event is hosted annually by the <u>Second Ward Community Initiative</u>.



Members at the Second Ward Unity Festival discussing the League and Voter Issues with members of the community.

Committee News:

Outreach and Programming Committee:

• The Committee continues to provide quality programming related to voting and issues we vote on in Delaware County. They are always looking for new ideas or new venues. If you are interested in helping out or have ideas, please reach out to Committee Chair Trish Bishop at backroomtrish@gmail.com

Media Communications and Community Relations Committee:

• The committee is in <u>need of a chair and members</u>. Please contact the League if you are interested in helping to manage the image of the LWVDC through various media. <u>lwvdelawarecountyohio@gmail.com</u>

Development (Membership and Fundraising):

• The Committee is actively seeking opportunities to share information about our League and its activities. Please reach out to the League to schedule an event.

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

Other Items of Interest to League Members:

City of Delaware Comprehensive Plan: Request for Participation

Delaware Together

The City of Delaware Comprehensive Plan is being developed and an important part of creating this plan is for residents to provide ideas and suggestions. Though the community sessions have ended, the committee is still looking for input. Please follow this <u>link</u> to participate.

Planning for the Future is important and this is an opportunity Leaguers should not miss.

Statehouse Update: News from the Statehouse

A Late-Session Correction

Here's a bill that doesn't have a prayer, but it's meant to right a wrong. House Bill 725, introduced on August 29 and sponsored by Reps. Sykes and Boyd, both D's, would require entities funded through the Ohio Parenting and Pregnancy Program to provide only medically accurate information. Why? Because the biennial budget bill (HB 49) passed last year included \$600,000 for the Ohio Parenting and Pregnancy Program, which funds crisis pregnancy centers. These centers have been shown not to provide accurate information on women's reproductive health services and comprehensive family planning. The money was taken from the federal TANF grant, which is intended to be used for assistance to families in deep poverty, and not for providing misleading and inaccurate information to pregnant women and girls.

Ask the candidates about these bills

Several bills that League opposes could be acted on in the lame duck session following the election. These include HB 228 and SB 180, the "stand your ground" proposals that would expand the locations at which a person has no duty to retreat before the use of deadly force in self-defense. Some such situations have led to an innocent person being killed.

Also on deck is HB 258, the so-called "heartbeat bill" that would ban an abortion of a fetus with a detectable heartbeat, usually after six weeks, and often before a woman knows she is pregnant. A similar bill was vetoed by the governor in the previous session, but it could be passed again. League opposes this restriction on reproductive rights.

A bill that League supports that has yet to pass is HB 461, that would bring Ohio's law into agreement with federal law, which defines all minors under 18 as victims of human trafficking and entitled to the same legal protections. Currently in Ohio, 16- and 17- year-olds are treated differently than younger victims. By removing the age distinction, the bill also simplifies the prosecution of traffickers.

-Karen Rainey

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: \$65.00 single member; \$100.00 two members in the same household; \$10.00 student membership (cost \$35 with \$25 scholarship available). There are some scholarships available. Please inquire.

Visit our website to learn more about us an how you can join.

2018-2019 LWV- Delaware County Board Officers

 President: Alice Frazier lwvdelawarecountyohio@gmail.com

 1st Vice President: Marci Bird marci.jem@gmail.com

2nd Vice President: Hallie Serazin serazinh@gmail.com

Secretary: Celia Vail (acting) celiaandrichard@gmail.com

Treasurer: Laurie Nolta laurieang3@gmail.com



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:

county.

- 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

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

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