

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE AKRON AREA
THE AKRON VOTER
Newsletter for LWVAA Members and Supporters

March, 2020

Create your ballot with VOTE411 for the Ohio Primary Election on March 17

Educational Event

Fair Courts 101

Why do judges consistently receive low vote totals in local elections? Perhaps it's because most of us don't have a good understanding of the Ohio court system and how the courts impact our daily lives.

When: Monday, March 9, 2020
Time: 6 PM in Room 2AB
Where: Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 South High Street, Akron

Presenter: Catherine Turcer, Executive Director,
Common Cause Ohio

Facilitator: Liz King, LWVAA

Nonpartisan, Free and Open to the Public

Join us to discuss how Ohio's courts work and the opportunities within the courts that could lead to better outcomes for individuals and the community overall.

Sponsored By:



Primary Election Date is March 17th.
Learn more by visiting www.Vote411.org for a customized Voters Guide





LWVAA

Upcoming Events

Early Voting for Primary Election until March 16

Click [here](#) for details on hours and location and [here](#) for voter information.

**March 9,
2020**

Fair Courts 101

6:00 p.m..

Akron-Summit
County Public
Library, 60 S High
Street, Room 2
AB, Akron, Ohio

Discuss
challenges and

A Message From the President

Dear Members,

We are thrilled with the fantastic response to our outreach for Voter Registration Leaders. New members and experienced members alike have responded to the call. With this new leadership corps we'll have an experienced person at the helm for every voter registration event we host, so don't hesitate to join in when you receive future SignUpGenius requests.

Registering voters is important, but perhaps more important is helping voters educate themselves about the candidates and issues on the ballot. Those of you who attended our very informative Candidate Forum on February 26 saw a wide divergence of positions on issues. As we are seeing in the presidential primary, each person's vote can make a difference in the direction pursued by a political party. The same is true for races that follow down the ballot.

In my view nothing beats seeing the candidates respond to questions in person. If you missed the Forum, you have a chance to see how the candidates for Sheriff perform in a debate on March 10, sponsored by the Akron Press Club and co-sponsored by LWVAA. See the sidebar for details.



opportunities
facing Ohio's
Justice System

Common Cause of
Ohio Executive
Director Catherine
Turcer will present

**March 10,
2020**

**Summit County
Sheriff Debate**

Doors open 6:30
p.m..
Debate begins
7:00 p.m.

Who wants to be
the new sheriff in
Summit County?

Find out when the
Akron Press Club
presents a debate
between the four
Democratic
candidates in the
March 17 primary.

The debate
sponsored by
Akron Press Club
is free and open to
the public.

Co-sponsored by
LWVAA and the
University of Akron
Ray C. Bliss
Institute for
Applied Politics.

**March 17,
2020**

If you can't make it to the debate, our candidate and issue website, VOTE411.org has the information needed to make an informed decision and it's very easy to use. Simply go to VOTE411.org, select "Find Out What's On Your Ballot," input your address and select "Go To My Races."

There you'll find a customized "ballot" that includes only the candidates and issues for which you are eligible to vote. Candidates on the site have responded to questions posed by the League – we do no editing. So whenever I'm asked, "Who Should I Vote For?", I'm glad I can direct that person to VOTE411.org.

Because we feel so strongly about this site we have used our limited budget to promote it through bus ads circulating through Summit County, on postcards and flyers distributed at all County libraries, and through social media posts.

Our partnership with ABJ means the LWVAA Voter Guide is also [published online](http://beaconjournal.com/voterguide) at beaconjournal.com/voterguide and one of the questions for each candidate is expected to be printed in the paper on March 8.

Please encourage your friends and family to use VOTE411.



Women Power the Vote

One of the most potent anti-suffrage fears was that women would vote in blocs and exceed the number of votes cast by men thus overtaking the country's power structure and agenda. Once the vote was obtained in 1920 and for decades thereafter, this fear proved to be unfounded. Much to the chagrin of the suffrage movement leaders, women tended to vote for candidates supported by their husbands or fathers and their voter participation was surprisingly low.

It wasn't until the 1960s that the number of women who reported voting equaled that of males, however once that occurred the percentage of women casting votes soon exceeded that of males. In recent elections

Summit County Primary Election

Polls open
6:30a.m - 7:30p.m.
Click [here](#) to stay
updated

Get your
personalized
candidate
information at
VOTE411.ORG



**March 28,
2020**

**"Stand Beside
Her" Concert:
Appalachian
Spring**

8:00 p.m.

Akron Symphony,
E.J. Thomas Hall

The Akron
Symphony is
highlighting the
influential work of
six women
composers / artists
during the 2019-20
season as part of
the "Stand Beside
Her" project, a
yearlong
recognition of the
100th anniversary
of the 19th
Amendment.

The March 28, all-
American program
begins with Joan
Tower's "Made in

women have cast nearly 10 million votes more than men. In 2016, 73.7 million women reported voting vs. 63.8 million men, according to data reported by the Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University, June 2019.

While women are more active voters than men, they remain independent in their voting choices. Just as the feminist movement came alive in the 1960s bringing more liberal-aligned voting and a push for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, we saw Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum housewives in the 1970s successfully push back on the ERA as a threat to the American family.

The struggle to pass the ERA continues today. Despite women's independent views, any candidate facing a large "gender gap" in appeal can expect serious trouble.

Today the power of women is being felt in the congress, in the statehouse and the judiciary. Women are making their voices heard. The message remains for all eligible citizens: Be informed and vote!

Jackie Derrow, LWVAA President

Priority action committee recommendations 2020-2022

Submitted by Rosanne Winter, LWVAA President-Elect

The 2020 – 2022 Priority Action Committee met on Saturday, February 15, 2020, at the Highland Square Library. Committee Members present included Kathie Brown, Kay Clark, Jackie Derrow, Kit Kelly, Ginny Melver, and Rosanne Winter.

The Committee reviewed the recommendations from the Program Planning: Positions and Priorities meeting held January 11, 2020. That review focused on Voting Rights, Election Rights, and Citizens' Rights.

The Committee's recommendations will be submitted to the LWVAA

America” and culminates with Aaron Copland’s “Appalachian Spring” and Leonard Bernstein’s “On the Town.”

[Click here](#) to buy tickets and type in promo code **League19** for a 10% discount.

Board of Directors at the March board meeting. The final plan will be shared with the LWVAA membership at the annual meeting in June.

U.S. Census March 12-20

You should receive an invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census between March 12-20. Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.

For more information, go to 2020census.gov



Important Dates

April 1, 2020

Observer Corps Training

6:00 p.m.

Akron-Summit County Public Library, 60 S High Street, Akron, Ohio

Become a LWVAA Observer and learn about local government from the inside by attending meetings of publicly funded agencies like City Council and school boards.

At the training you'll learn about Ohio's open meeting laws and hear from current Observers about their experiences.

Led by Pat Simons, LWV of Hudson.

HOW THE 2020 CENSUS WILL INVITE EVERYONE TO RESPOND

WHAT THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU WILL SEND IN THE MAIL	
On or between	You'll receive:
March 12 - 20	An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. (Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.)
March 16 - 24	A reminder letter.
	If you haven't responded yet:
March 26 - April 3	A reminder postcard.
April 8 - 16	A reminder letter and paper questionnaire.
April 20 - 27	A final reminder postcard before the U.S. Census Bureau follows up in person.

- Every household that hasn't already responded will receive reminders and will eventually receive a paper questionnaire.
- It doesn't matter which initial invitation you get or how you get it - the U.S. Census Bureau will follow up in person with all households that do not respond.

For more information, please visit

web: 2020census.gov

email: 2020census@summitoh.net

**April 2, 3, 4,
2020**

**CIFF Community
Partner**

Click [here](#) for details and tickets for the film *Softie*.

Use code **LWVAA** for \$1 off tickets to most films at the Cleveland International Film Festival.

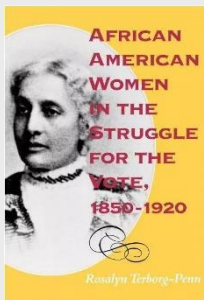
April 13, 2020

**LWVAA All
Member Book
Club - new date!**

6:00p.m - 7:30p.m.

Pub Bricco, 1841
Merriman Road,
Akron, Ohio

This month we're reading *African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1850-1920*, by Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, 1998, 166 pgs.



"This comprehensive look at the African

March 9 Fair Courts 101

Confused about the Ohio Court System and your local Courts?

Do you want to learn how our Courts impact us on a daily basis?

Let's discuss the challenges and opportunities facing Ohio's Justice System.

Join us for a presentation by Common Cause of Ohio Executive Director Catherine Turcer, facilitated by LWVAA Board Member Liz King.

March 9, 2020 at 6:00PM at the Main Branch of the Akron-Summit County Public Library, Room 2 AB across from the auditorium

Nonpartisan, free, and open to the public.



LWVAA CIFF Community Partner

LWVAA has been selected as a Community Partner for the Cleveland International Film Festival, Tower City Cinemas.

The film *Softie* will show April 2, 3, and 4 - click [here](#) for details and tickets. Use code **LWVAA** for \$1 off tickets to most films and we get credit for getting you to CIFF!

American women who fought for the right to vote analyzes the women's own stories and examines why they joined and how they participated in the U.S. women's suffrage movement. Terborg-Penn shows how every political and racial effort to keep African American women disfranchised met with their active resistance until black women finally achieved full citizenship."

April 25, 2020

LWVAA Benefit Concert

6:00p.m - 8:00p.m.

Quirk Cutural Center, 1201 Grant Ave, Cuyahoga Falls

Four Shillings Short Celtic, Folk, and World Music

All proceeds go to LWVAA

[Click here](#) to learn more

Our partner film is the story of Boniface "Softie" Mwangi, a political activist who has long fought injustices. Now he's taking the next step by running for office in a regional Kenyan election.

But running a clean campaign against corrupt opponents becomes increasingly harder to combat with idealism. And Boniface soon finds that challenging strong political dynasties is putting his family at risk. Should country really come before family, as he's always believed?

LWVAA Voter Registration Leader Corps expands to 21 members!

Submitted by Rosanne Winter, LWVAA President-Elect

The 2020 -2021 LWVAA Voter Registration Leader Corps has 13 new members and eight returning members. With 21 trained Leaders, the League has expanded its reach during the busy election year. All Corps members received updated training and supplies.

Members include :

Bob Gippin, Margo Work, Gloria Irwin, Tammy Shomo, Kit Kelly, Ricki Schwartz, Susan Handa, Barbara Ague, Cathy Hunt, Terry Hunt, Bill Jordan, Christina Conti, Patricia Yale, Karen Bowman, Cheryl Urban, Kathryn Brown, Richard Klosterman, Renee Pinsky, Kimberly Klosterman, and Jill Cabe.

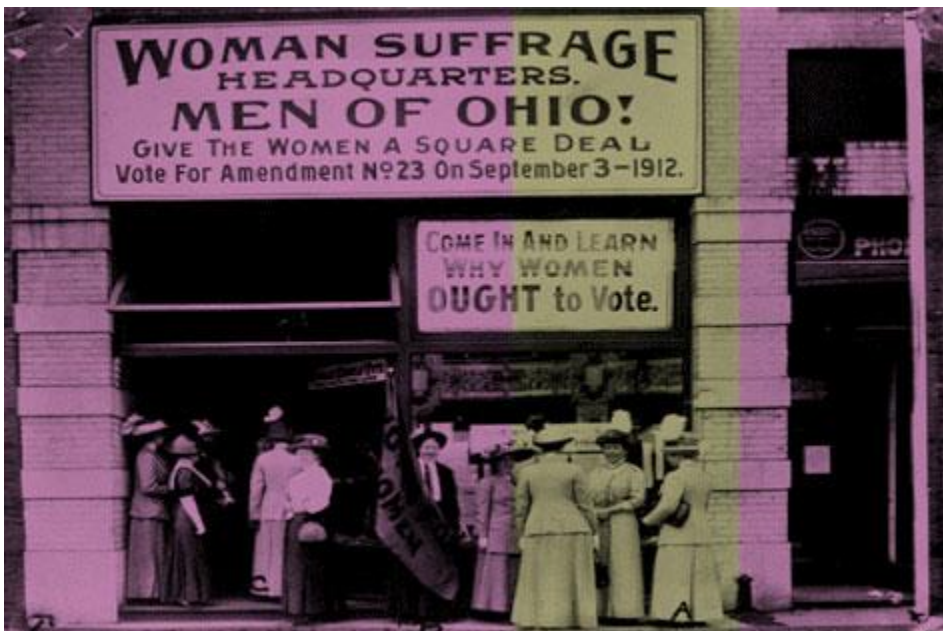
All members and volunteers are invited to join these leaders as Registrars at Voter Registration events throughout the year.

LWVAA Board Meetings

February	6
March	5
April	2
May	7

6:30-8:00 p.m.

1250 W.
Exchange St.,
Akron, Ohio



Centennial Corner

2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed the right to vote for many women. This was an important step to ensuring women are equal members of society.

“Women’s Suffrage Centennial Symposium: From Complex Legacy to Collective Action,”

April 18, 9am - 2pm Tinkham Veale University Center, Case Western Reserve University.

The symposium brings together leading voices on the historical meaning of the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment.

Hosted by LWV Greater Cleveland. Click [here](#) for program details and to make your reservation. The luncheon following the full morning of presentations features LWVUS President Virginia Kase as keynote speaker.

Launch [Summit Suffrage Centennial](#) to learn more and to see details about upcoming events.

Legislative Updates

Submitted by Jackie Darrow, LWVAA President

State Senate Bill 260 passes in the Senate, 3/4/2020.

SB 260 would prohibit doctors from using telemedicine options to provide abortion access to patients in communities without an abortion clinic. The bill now moves to the House. Contact your state representative to voice your opinion.

Ohio Ballot Board splits voter access amendment into four issues, dealing blow to ACLU-backed campaign, 3/3/2020. Andrew Tobias, Cleveland.com

"Backers of a campaign seeking to expand Ohio's voter access laws were dealt a blow on Monday, after a state panel voted to break a single proposed ballot measure into four separate parts. In a party-line 3-2 vote, the Ohio Ballot Board's Republican members ruled the proposed constitutional amendment was actually four separate topics and that each should be a separate ballot question: elections administration, voter registration, voting rights for citizens with disabilities and a requirement for a post-election audit.

That ruling means the amendment campaign now would have to collect more than 1.7 million valid voter signatures — or four times the 442,958 required for a single issue — from 44 of Ohio's 88 counties, by July to get on the November ballot. The signatures could be from the same voters though, since voters would be allowed to sign petitions for multiple issues."

EdChoice Voucher Stand-off Continues

LWV Ohio sent an Action Alert on February 25 referencing the explosion of schools whose students will be eligible for EdChoice vouchers, how the funding loss is undermining public schools and how the statehouse has yet to agree on a solution.

The League recommends you contact Governor DeWine this week as he will be meeting with house and senate members to try and achieve a compromise solution. **Contact Governor DeWine by calling 614-644-4357 or 614-466-3555.** For more information and talking points, [click here](#) and [here](#).



Benefit for the Akron Area League of Women Voters

CELTIC, FOLK & WORLD MUSIC CONCERT



WITH FOUR SHILLINGS SHORT

SATURDAY: APRIL 25, 2020 6:00 – 8:00pm

THE QUIRK CENTER

1201 Grant Ave., Cuyahoga Falls, OH

For info contact (330) 352-5430 or hunsickero@gmail.com

Suggested donation: \$10-20

<https://www.cityofcf.com/play/quirk>

Four Shillings Short play Traditional music from the Celtic Lands, Medieval & Renaissance Europe, India and the Americas on a fantastic collection of world instruments: Hammered & Mountain dulcimer, Mandolins, Renaissance Woodwinds, North Indian Sitar, Recorders & Tinwhistles, Banjo, Guitar, Charango, Psaltery, percussion, vocals & even a Krumhorn.



“Four Shillings Short takes you on a musical journey through time and across the seas as they perform everything from Traditional Irish tunes and airs to Indian Ragas.”

(The Foothills Sun-Gazette/ Exeter, CA)



[Join us today](#) to support democracy, nonpartisan political action, and voter rights in your community.