

ANNUAL MEETING 2022

& Potluck Brunch

Saturday, June 4, 2022, 8:45 a.m.

Pierson Hall, [United Methodist Church](#)

1435 E. Main St., Kent, OH

Speaker at 9:45 a.m. ~ Business Meeting at 10:30 a.m.

(You can arrive at 9:30 a.m. for the speaker and business meeting only, if desired.)

In Person This Year!

After two years of Zooming, we can finally gather face-to-face for the League's 2022 Annual Meeting! And we're ready to see everyone in person again. Free event.

Why Have an Annual Meeting?

The League's Annual Meeting sets the stage for the next program year: the organization's operating budget is approved, local program is determined, officers and directors are elected, changes to the bylaws are approved, and a general direction is given to the board.

What to Bring?

- YOUR MEETING PACKET! Be sure to read and study it first!
- *Optional* contribution of a brunch item. The brunch is free to all. If you plan on joining us, we ask that you bring your own reusable place setting. Another option is to purchase a handmade LWV Kent Mess Kit that will be on sale at the event for \$25. To reserve a kit, email Jill Hazelton [here](#). LWV Kent will provide beverages.

Do I Need to RSVP?

YES! YES! YES! By JUNE 1. Click [here](#) now to do so!

Speaker: Lynn Vogel

Lynn Vogel, stormwater educator for the Portage Soil & Water Conservation, provides conservation and stormwater education programs for community members and K-12 students and educators. Vogel also provides rural, suburban and urban landowners with conversation assistance related to stormwater quality and retention on their property. Vogel has a B.S. degree in industrial hygiene and environmental studies from Ohio University.



What's Inside . . .

Agenda.....2 Proposed 2022-2023 Budget 3 LWV Kent Positions.....5 Nominating Report 13



AGENDA

8:45 a.m.-9:00 a.m. | Gather

9:00 a.m. | Meeting opens for participants to have brunch and visit with other members

9:30 a.m. | Meeting instructions. Welcome. Announcements and introductions – President Debbie Barber

9:45 a.m. | Lynn Vogel is the stormwater educator for the Portage Soil and Water Conservation District and a member of the Kent Environmental Council.

10:30 a.m. | Business Meeting

- **Call to Order** – President Debbie Barber
- **Secretary's Report** – Secretary Jackie Peck; minutes from 2021 Annual Meeting ([click here](#)); 2021 Reviewers: Chris Schjeldahl, Kathy Wilen and Jill Hazelton
- **Adoption and Approval of 2022-2023 Budget** (Annual Meeting Packet pages 3 and 4) – Budget Committee: Nena Hankins, Chair; Sally Saltzman and Treasurer Gail Pytel
- **Action on Positions to Retain, Update or Delete**¹ (Annual Meeting Packet pages 5 through 12), Vice President Janice Hutchinson and Vice President Penny Graves
- **Election of Officers and Directors**² (Annual Meeting Packet page 13) – Nominating Committee: Roberta O'Keefe, chair; Mary Myers, Chris Schjeldahl

11:15 a.m. | **Remarks:** President Debbie Barber

Procedural Notes for the Business Meeting:

¹The LWV Kent Positions are grouped together to be acted upon with one motion and one vote through a procedure called consent agenda. Consent agenda is being used because all of the positions were considered and discussed at the Positions and Priorities meeting in April, and most of the positions have been topics for information and discussion at meetings throughout the year. Any member in attendance at the Annual Meeting may request that any or all positions be considered and discussed separately and removed from the consent agenda. Requests for removal will be honored at the meeting; however, if possible, please contact Debbie Barber at dbarber@kent.edu in advance of the meeting to make your request.² Unless there are nominations from the floor, we will vote on the entire slate of nominees as presented.

**LWV KENT PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET
(PAGE 1 OF 2)**

	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET
	For year ended 6/30/21	For period ended 3/31/22	For year ended 6/30/22	For year ended 6/30/2023
Revenue				
Contributions-Member	1,807.50	2,780.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Contributions-Nonmember	3,258.19	2,380.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Contributions--In Kind	88.50	280.46		
Dues (Note 1)	7,372.50	9,120.00	9,030.00	9,330.00
Book Award Contributions	80.00	100.00		
CEEP Donations	350.00		500.00	
Meeting Reservations	560.00	465.85	3,000.00	1,500.00
Springer Fundraiser		1,285.00		
VoterGirl	900.00	1,968.00	2,580.00	2,350.00
Coffee/PLB Sales	100.00		200.00	
LWVK Totes		205.00		
Miscellaneous	63.05	141.92		
Helen Dix Scholarship (to Portage Fdn.)		25.00		
From Reserves			3,650.38	8,048.13
Total Revenue & draw from Reserves	14,579.74	18,751.23	24,460.38	26,728.13
Expenses				
<u>Membership Recruitment & Development</u>				
Women in Public Service				100.00
Membership events			290.00	320.00
Printed Material		171.00	100.00	175.00
Name badges			100.00	100.00
Total Membership Rec. & Dev.	-	171.00	490.00	695.00
<u>Board and Administration</u>				
Insurance	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Postage	137.40	23.20	210.00	174.00
Supplies/Misc.	206.74	16.14	250.00	200.00
Website	412.00	410.00	500.00	500.00
LWVK Totes/Mess Kits	499.55	126.00		
Miscellaneous - other (incl. PayPal)	30.56	143.90	100.00	150.00
Total Board/Administration	1,786.25	1,219.24	1,560.00	1,524.00
<u>VOTER Production & Mailing & Misc.</u>	520.00	385.00	560.00	600.00
<u>Finance Drive Exp.</u>	212.01	209.20	650.00	670.00
<u>Travel and meetings (Convention, etc.)</u>		35.00	4,000.00	2,000.00
<u>League Support</u>				
LWVUS PMP (dues) (Note 1)	4,496.00	4,832.00	4,816.00	4,976.00
LWVO PMP (dues) (Note 1)	3,336.88	3,918.75	3,574.38	3,693.13
Total League Support	7,832.88	8,750.75	8,390.38	8,669.13
<u>Advocacy</u>	469.23	202.88	500.00	500.00
<u>Meetings (Note 2)</u>	713.27	347.00	3,600.00	2,270.00
<u>Voter Service/CEEP (Note 3)</u>	4,366.94	2,107.83	2,500.00	6,950.00
<u>Community Outreach</u>				
Festivals--fees/supplies/eqpt.			200.00	200.00

**LWV KENT PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET
(PAGE 2 OF 2)**

	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET
	For year ended 6/30/21	For period ended 3/31/22	For year ended 6/30/22	For year ended 6/30/2023
Environmental Awards Dinner sponsor	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Chamber of Commerce dues	100.00		100.00	100.00
Voter Girl	48.58	1,772.47	1,360.00	1,900.00
TRHS book award	500.00		500.00	500.00
Miscellaneous Outreach	25.00	50.00		100.00
Total Community Outreach	723.58	1,872.47	2,210.00	2,850.00
Total Expenses	16,624.16	15,300.37	24,460.38	26,728.13
Excess	(2,044.42)	3,450.86	-	-
Checking Acct. balance 7/01/2020	20,362.56			
Checking Acct. balance 7/01/2021		18,318.14		
Checking Acct. balance 6/30/2021	18,318.14			
Checking Acct. balance, ending 3/31/21		21,769.00		
Designated for Book Award		895.00		
Undesignated		20,874.00		

Note 1: Dues & PMP (per member payment)

146 primary, 19 additional, 5 student & 8 life members on 1/31/22 (178 total members). We do not pay PMP to LWV Ohio or LWVUS for students and life members.

Dues: 146 @ \$60 + 19 @ \$30 + 5 @ \$0 + 8 @ \$0 9,330.00

Calculated on all members paying the full amount; therefore assumes that other members will contribute enough to make up the difference if some members "pay what you can."

PMP LWVUS 146 @ 32 + 19 @ 16 4,976.00

PMP LWV Ohio 146 @ 25 + 19 @ 12.50 - 5% discount 3,693.13

Note 2: Meetings

Note 2: Meetings--Gifts & Honoraria (\$100), Real Talk (\$120), December meeting (\$1600), Annual Meeting (\$250) & Other Meetings (\$200). December meeting expense will be offset by \$1500 budgeted revenue from reservations for a net cost of \$100.

Note 3: Voter Service/CEEP

Marketing--primary & general election (\$4000), Election & Voting Info Printing (\$250), Face2Face Printing (\$200), Voter Guide--VOTE411 & Supplies (\$600), August primary (\$500), CEEP--Campus Election Engagement Project (\$1000), General Items (\$400). The Communications and Voter Service Committees proposed to the board a well-received pilot project to increase online League advertising for candidate forums, voting education and voting promotion. We proposed to place ads for each election beginning with spring 2022 and continuing through the 2022-23 fiscal year. Publications include the Weekly Villager, the Record-Courier (website), Kent Wired and the Portager. Ads will include links to our website and Vote 411 set up to allow us to identify the publication where the visitor originated; we will monitor the analytics available as well as using surveys and questionnaires to determine where best to invest our advertising dollars. In addition to the obvious voter education and voter turnout value of this expenditure, these ads will significantly increase the League's online presence and outreach, especially to younger voters.

LWV KENT POSITIONS

JUNE 4, 2022

Intergovernmental Cooperation and Regional Tax-Base Revenue Sharing

History: At the 2010 annual meeting, LWV Kent concurred with the position adopted/concurred in 2009 by the LWV Cuyahoga Area, Cleveland Area, Shaker Heights.

- A. The League of Women Voters of Kent supports voluntary intergovernmental, collaborative agreements which reduce costs, foster transparency and accountability, improve efficiencies and maintain service standards. Such agreements:
- are appropriate at local, county, metropolitan, multiple-county or regional levels;
 - should be practical and of manageable size; and
 - should demonstrate the interconnectedness of all neighboring communities.
- B. The League of Women Voters of Kent supports regional tax-base revenue sharing as a constructive form of intergovernmental cooperation for the mutual benefit of participating communities. Such a program should:
- advance smart growth, economic development and fiscal equity within the target area;
 - impact positively upon infrastructure, housing, education, recreation, inclusion and/or shared public facilities;
 - set standards for finance, staffing and administration that are consistent, accountable, transparent and efficient;
 - pool contributions from an agreed portion of new growth in local commercial and industrial property tax revenue;
 - distribute that revenue pool among participating communities to further fiscal equity across the area;
 - honor local sovereignty and school funding resources, be flexible, and grow with time.
 - Formulas for collection and allocations should be determined by the participating communities and periodically reviewed.

Recommendation: RETAIN

Charter of Kent City

History: The League's position on this issue was adopted in 1967 and updated in 1975, 1981, 2017, and 2018.

The League supports:

- Local self-government for the City of Kent.
- Retention of a charter for Kent in order that the form of government, system of representation and election system of the city may be locally determined.
- Continuation of the council-manager form of government for Kent. Full responsibility for the administration of the city should be vested in the manager, the city's chief executive.

In conjunction with this form of government, the charter should provide for the appointment of a manager by city council and recognize the subordinate position of staff department heads to the manager. All staff department heads should be appointed by and be responsible to the manager. Department heads, such as the Director of Law and Director of Finance, should not be directly elected by the voters.

- The present system of electing council both from wards and at-large. Four-year terms for council should be retained, as should the present system of staggering terms. Council should be elected by wards that are substantially equal in population.
- The election of Mayor and council members via non-partisan elections.
- The power of electors to remove from office by recall election any officer of the City. A petition signed by no less than 25% of Kent voters who voted in the last Presidential election to sign a petition to place on the ballot recall of Mayor or Council-at-Large, or in the case of a ward councilperson 25% of voters in the ward in question who voted in the last Presidential Election.

The review of the Charter occurring on even numbered years, as needed, but not to exceed 10 years between reviews.

Recommendation: RETAIN

Kent City Finances

History: The League's position on this issue was adopted in 1983 and updated in 1984. A third update began in 1999 and was completed in 2013.

The League believes that the primary responsibility of city government is to provide basic services and therefore supports the provision of the following basic services and funding sources:

- **Fire protection:** Property tax, income tax and general fund revenue.
- **Police Protection:** Income tax revenue, though not necessarily the sole source of funding.
- **Water and Sewer:** Assessment of a fee for each service.
- **Street Upkeep:** Income tax revenue, though not necessarily the sole source of funding.
- **Emergency Medical Assistance:** Income tax revenue.
- **Municipal facilities** supporting basic services as outlined in the position, including design, construction, equipment, any necessary property acquisition and debt service, shall be supported through property tax, income tax and general fund revenue, government funding, private grants and user fees as appropriate.

The League also believes the city should improve its SCMR (street construction, maintenance and reconstruction) and long-range planning, find ways to enhance the city's economic base and continually promote good working relations among the public, the city administration and Kent State University.

Recommendation: RETAIN

Portage County Justice System

History: The League's position on this issue was developed by the League of Women Voters of Northern Portage County and League of Women Voters of Kent and was adopted in 1984 and updated in 1997 to change the name to Portage County Justice System. The position was updated in 2018.

The Leagues support:

- An integrated approach to solving jail-related problems through cooperation among the county's judicial, executive and law enforcement branches.
- Financing for the jail and all recommended services from government funds and private grants.
- The use of alternative sentencing for nonviolent offenders, including the expansion of both the mental health and drug courts.
- Transparency:
 - Records documenting the use of funds seized through civil forfeiture and the auditing of such funds should be available to the public.
 - Collection of local demographic data in order to identify trends in arrests, arraignments, convictions and incarceration and the provision of such data to national databases.
- Comprehensive health care:
 - Provision of a medical evaluation upon intake.
 - Clear and available documentation of medical and behavioral health assessments and treatments maintained in readily accessible files for further use by the system and community-based healthcare/treatment facilities.
 - Licensed health care professionals shall determine and meet the healthcare needs of those jailed.
 - Behavioral health assessment and treatment by appropriately trained personnel from arrest through release from the justice system. This would include development and implementation of wrap-around services post-discharge from the jail or from mental health or drug specialty dockets.
 - Provision of evidence-based treatment for both physical and behavioral health needs.
 - Continuation of prescribed medication in jail, including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) to treat addiction.
 - Communication between the jail's health care providers and primary care providers in the community to facilitate care coordination.
 - Development and implementation of an ombudsman program for families and those jailed.
 - Evaluation of contracted health services by community stakeholders.
- A well-trained police force reflective of the community served.
 - Continuing and mandating Crisis Intervention Team training.
 - Enhancing community interaction of police officers with an emphasis on their role as peacekeepers.
 - Critical incident debriefing and the provision of treatment if indicated.
 - Periodic psychological screening of law enforcement officers.

- The composition of the police forces in Portage Co. should reflect the diversity of the community served.
- Fair, equitable and minimal imposition of bail
 - Minimization of the use of bail, and the use of evidence-based tools when setting bail is deemed necessary.
 - Affordable court costs
 - Payment of court costs and fines through alternatives such as community service, enrollment in education or training programs, and participation in treatment/counseling.
 - Sufficient time to pay fines and court costs assessed on a sliding scale based on personal resources.
 - The use of funds seized through civil forfeiture and auditing of such funds should be publicly available.

Recommendation: RETAIN

Parks and Recreation

History: The League's position on this issue was adopted in 1965 and updated in 1968, 1985 and 2006.

The League supports:

- Adequate park facilities in Kent and Portage County.
- Kent City providing park and recreation programs for all ages.
- Kent City providing adequate funding to maintain these programs. Property tax levies, program and developers' fees are appropriate revenue sources for park and recreation funds.
- Kent City regulations to allow developers' fees to more closely reflect current land market values in lieu of land for parks.
- Continued cooperation between the Kent Parks and Recreation Department and the Kent City School System to ensure adequate gymnasium and meeting space for Kent City recreation programming in addition to the continued operation of the community pool at Kent Roosevelt High School.
- The use of federal/state funds and programs to develop and maintain both city and county parks and programs.
- Establishment of a broad-based source of revenue for the Portage Park District that would provide adequate funds for: the conservation of environmentally sensitive natural areas; a system of greenways and hike/bike trails connecting communities and parkland throughout Portage County; partnerships with townships and municipalities in land conservation projects; expansion of environmental education programs. Specific broad-based sources of funding could be a county park levy, designated developers' fees, transfer tax allocations or other viable options.
- Active planning and collaborative efforts among regional governmental units such as the Portage County Commissioners, townships, municipalities and Portage Park District to

enhance the conservation and protection of the natural heritage of Portage County, which might include watersheds, wetlands, forests, and other environmentally sensitive areas.

Recommendation: An UPDATE was initiated in 2021; recommended continuation of update with attention to underserved communities and access by public transportation.

Land Use and Zoning

History: The League's position on this issue was adopted in 1959 and was updated in 1985 and 1996. A third update began in 1999 and was completed in 2003. A fourth update began in 2018. The League of Women Voters of Northern Portage County and the League of Women Voters of Kent collaborated to update their land use positions with the goal of creating a combined Portage County position, which would enable the two Leagues to take unified action locally. The position update by both Leagues was completed in April 2021. The resulting position was adopted by the boards of Northern Portage and Kent also in April 2021.

The Leagues support **decisions on land use** by local governmental entities that:

- Limit land use that degrades land to the point where it cannot support flora, fauna and fungi. (e.g., strip mining and fracking).
- Preserve local ecosystems; minimize air pollution and stormwater runoff; avoid reduction of habitats and/or natural food sources for wildlife.
- Conserve available farmland to ensure a robust local foodshed.
- Conserve undeveloped lands, especially those that support a robust, diverse ecosystem
- Encourage repurposing of previously developed land over developing undeveloped land.
- Encourage designated high-density areas for new buildings, homes and other development.
- Encourage a wide range of housing for different demographic needs (e.g., age, income, accessibility, developmental ability, grand-families).

The Leagues support consultation of the following **stakeholders** by local governmental entities when making decisions about land use:

- Cities, Villages and Townships should regularly review zoning codes with robust citizen involvement.
- Landowners should have direct opportunities to influence neighboring land use that might have a long-term negative impact on their land.
- Citizens should have direct opportunities to influence land use zoning decisions that have a long-term, wide-ranging impact.

The Leagues support development of a **county-wide comprehensive land use plan** that:

- Includes protection of wetlands, water tables, wildlife habitats, tree canopy, farmland and any other features that create local resilience.
- Discourages land use that creates pollution, erosion, and greenhouse gases.
- Includes affordable housing for different demographic needs (e.g, age, income, accessibility, developmental ability, grand-families).

- Includes input from: residents; the city, village and township governments; local farmers and their organizations; the park districts; the Soil and Conservation District; local environmental groups; local groups representing historically marginalized communities (e.g., NAACP, Family and Community Services); local health agencies; local businesses and industry; and local colleges and universities.

The Leagues support governmental agencies **prioritizing certain uses of land** (e.g., via zoning, landbanking, tax incentives):

- Land that already has infrastructure such as water, wastewater treatment and utilities should be preferred for new development.
- Affordable housing for different demographic needs (e.g., age, income, accessibility, developmental ability, grand-families).
- Land that is part of the local foodshed, watershed, and ecosystems should be preserved through easements, transfer of development rights, conservancy initiatives, and the allocation of public monies.
- Land that has historical or archeological significance should be preserved through easements, transfer of development rights, conservancy initiatives, and the allocation of public monies.

The Leagues support governmental agencies' support of the following **public or community services**:

- Intermodal transportation systems that connect local communities with each other and with wider transportation systems.
- Rail-to-Trail and other walking and biking corridors between and within local communities.
- Mass transit options, such as buses and light rail.
- Affordable and/or subsidized housing.

Recommendation: RETAIN

Kent City Schools

History: The League's position on this issue was adopted in 1986 and updated and condensed in 1999. The following is a statement of the condensed position adopted at the 1999 annual meeting. The position was updated in 2003 and 2017.

The League of Women Voters of Kent strongly supports public school systems which are empowered by and responsive to the communities they serve. The League supports school systems that strive to provide students with a quality, comprehensive education and exhibit financial responsibility and stability. A system's ability to be a model educational institution stems from its dedicated, well-trained staff and fine physical facilities that are made possible through voter and community support.

- **Citizen Participation**

The League supports:

- Ongoing citizen participation in the planning, development and review of all areas of

Kent education programs. The League believes that active citizen participation is critical to ensure that the district is responsive to the changing needs of the Kent community that supports it.

- Encouragement of Kent citizens' substantive and continuous input through easy access to available information concerning the health, accomplishments, strengths, and weaknesses of the school system. It is the school system's responsibility to provide an aggressive and open public information program that is scheduled into the school calendar, advertised and accessible to all who wish to participate. This can further be accomplished through use of the district's website, small group meetings with District staff members, and printed communication.
- Increased citizen participation through implementation of citizen advisory councils in each building, advertised public hearings, and the appointment of ad hoc committees to address specific concerns, such as facilities planning, curriculum changes, and financial planning.

- **Financial Accountability**

The League recommends:

- Bond issues be considered for capital projects and major improvement projects. The limited use of current operating funds for minor capital improvements is acceptable.
- The District continues efforts to explain its needs for additional funds to potential voters on its own website and in its newsletter, in the local paper, and through any other means.

- **Planning**

The League recommends:

- The District actively and aggressively seek public input on policy and planning issues—including long-range financial planning and facilities planning—before decisions are made on these matters.
- The District actively share the long range plans it has adopted with the community. If members of the community have concerns about planning issues, we encourage them to communicate directly with the administration or the Board of Education.
- Ad hoc committees should have clearly stated goals and time frames that are understood by all who participate. The district should value the results of such efforts and seriously consider any recommendations that are offered and provide feedback on the manner in which the recommendations were addressed.
- The ongoing efforts by the District to use feedback should be encouraged on all levels, national, state and/or local, to establish planning that will guide and move the district toward improvement.

- **Curriculum Development**

The League supports:

- The continued focus on increased instructional time for all students from preschool through high school.
- Opportunities for individual creativity in writing and a continuing emphasis on critical thinking skills, problem solving and decision-making skills.
- A well-integrated reading and language arts program that incorporates strategies designed to meet individual learning styles and abilities. The League further supports

expansion of learning experiences across the spectrum of student capabilities and needs, including the continual growth of gifted educational services and the longstanding Six District Educational Compact in which Kent participates.

- The continuing availability and expansion of technology for students and staff. Continuing integration of technology into curricular instruction is recommended along with additional opportunities for distance learning. The Kent City School District should continue to provide appropriate technical staff, which is crucial for the efficient and effective use of technology.
- The wide variety of curriculum and co-curricular offerings at the secondary level.
- The District's remediation programs that enable students, at all levels, to stay in school and reach their full potential.
- The continued incorporation of strategies and curricular content which promotes emotional wellbeing, social competence and emotional intelligence at every grade level.

Recommendation: RETAIN

Nominations for 2022-2023 LWV Kent Officers and Directors

To Replace for Two-Year Terms:

<i>Position</i>	<i>Current 2021/2022</i>	<i>Agreed to Run</i>
Vice-President	Janice Hutchison	Janice Hutchison
Treasurer	Gail Pytel	Gail Pytel
Directors.....	Amie Cajka	Amie Cajka
	Stacey Yaniglos.....	William Wilen
	Renee Ruchotzke	Renee Ruchotzke
	Sally Saltzman	Kim Gruenwald

Three Members for Next Year's Nominating Committee Who Are Not Serving on LWV Board:

Chris Schjeldahl, Chair
Jennifer Kinney
Mary Myers

Ongoing Elected Board Members – Two-Year Terms Ending 6/30/23

<i>Position</i>	<i>Officeholder</i>
President	Deborah Barber
Vice President	Penny Graves
Secretary	Jackie Peck
Elected Directors.....	Jill Hazelton
	Deborah Austin Sanders
	Sherry Rose

Submitted by Roberta O'Keefe, Chair; Janice Hutchison, Jackie Peck, Mary Myers and Chris Schjeldahl.