

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

January, 2020



— HAPPY NEW YEAR —



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®



A Message From the President

Dear Members,

The post-holiday season gives us time to review the past year and think about the year ahead. As we commemorate 100 years of women attaining the right to vote, we can reflect on what our forebears might think about the position of women in today's society.

Women suffragists fought to have an equal voice in society including the right to vote, to own and inherit property, to pursue equal education, to participate in professions from which they had been excluded and to earn equal pay for their labor.

While a lot of progress has been made, the struggle for parity continues. And that parity has been particularly compromised in the area of reproductive rights.

It troubles me that our Ohio legislature has spent so much time on controlling women's dominion over their own bodies. According to Lauren MacIvor Thompson, historian at Georgia State University, most women's rights activists in the 1800s promoted "the right of women to bear children only when they felt they were ready. Reformers knew that women's right to bodily integrity, above even the right to vote, was the key to truly becoming full citizens."

Beginning with the "heartbeat" bill which prohibits abortion after a heartbeat is detected in the fetus and was signed into law in April 2019 by Governor DeWine (and was temporarily blocked before the law was to take effect) to more recent bills on pretreatment notification of the possibility of abortion reversal (not scientifically valid) and care for a live

LWVAA

Upcoming

Events

**January 11,
2020**

**LWVAA Positions &
Priorities Meeting**

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist
Church, 3300
Morewood Rd, Akron,
Ohio

This year we'll review
the League's [national
positions](#) in the area
of representative
government and
our [local positions](#)

**February 10,
2020**

**All Member Book
Club**

6:00 p.m.

Pub Bricco, 1841
Merriman Road,
Akron

***American Women's
History: A Very
Short Introduction,
by Susan Ware, 2015***

Enjoy a glass of wine
and discuss the the
richly diverse
experiences of
American women as
they were shaped by
factors such as race,
class, religion,
geographical location,
age, and sexual
orientation.

**February 18,
2020**

**Ohio Voter
Registration
Deadline for the
Primary Election**

Click [here](#) to register
to vote, check your
registration status, or
change your address

**February 19,
2020**

**Early Voting Begins
for the Primary
Election**

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

birth after an abortion procedure (already a medical standard) – our legislature’s actions are making it harder for women to take on their full role in society. Needless to say, these bills inordinately impact the lives of the poor.

So where does the League stand on women’s choice? LWWUS has positions on issues covering everything from representative government to natural resources to social policy. The position on reproductive policy states “that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.”

On January 11, we will be hosting our most important meeting of the year – our Positions and Priorities Meeting (see sidebar). This is a great meeting for new and old members alike to learn about where the league stands and how our positions frame any actions we take. This year we’ve narrowed our focus to the positions under the umbrella of Representative Government. Click [here](#) to find all LWWUS positions.

2020 is going to be an action-packed year. We need you more than ever to help educate and engage voters and to preserve and protect voting rights for all citizens.

Jackie Derrow, LWWAA President

March 17, 2020

**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

**LWVAA Board
Meetings**

**February 6
March 5
April 2
May 7**

6:30-8:00 p.m.

1250 W. Exchange
St., Akron, Ohio

GET INVOLVED



**LWVAA Positions & Priorities
Meeting**

Know your League Positions! Once a year we gather to review our Positions and Priorities, and this year it will be on Saturday, January 11, from 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 3300 Morewood Rd. in Fairlawn.

The League's Positions on issues - from government to social justice and the environment - underlie all League action. Sometimes the positions need updating or amending.

Last year we reviewed the LWV Ohio positions. This year we'll review the League's [national positions](#) and our [local positions](#), which can be reviewed in advance by following the links.

Our review can lead to studies and ultimately position revisions that, if supported by the membership and other state leagues, can result in a vote at the LWVUS national convention. This is grassroots democracy at it's best, so bring a friend!

**LWVAA Board Votes to Support Summit Metro
Parks March Ballot Issue**

Submitted by Jackie Darrow, LWVAA President

In accordance with our League's position on Land Use*, we urge your support for the

March ballot levy which renews the existing funding of 1.46 mils and adds .54 mils, an increase of \$1.58 per month per \$100,000 property value.

According to Summit Metro Parks, the county supports more than 14,000 acres with 16 open parks that receive 5 million visits annually. However since 2006, despite a trail increase of 25% and 5,000 acres of land, Metro Parks funding has not increased.

Our Metro Parks improve our quality of life and property and are a key selling point for newcomers to the area. **Please support this levy when you vote on March 17.**

*LWVAA Position: Support policies to ensure adequate funding, necessary land acquisition, preservation of green space, and citizen involvement in the Summit Metro Parks.

Photos from our Holiday Gathering!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for a special holiday celebration in December, highlighted by an impressive panel of speakers: Dr. Carol Lasser, Dr. Treva B. Lindsey, and LWV Ohio Executive Director Jen Miller.

We also received a proclamation for the centennial of women's suffrage from Summit County Council in honor of the centennials of women's suffrage and the League of Women Voters. The proclamation acknowledges the considerable contributions of the League as a voter advocacy and education organization as well as honoring LWVAA on its 80th anniversary.





Legislative Updates
Submitted by Laurie Curfman

Governor Mike DeWine to Trump Administration: Ohio will continue accepting refugees, Cincinnati Enquirer, Jackie Borchardt - 12/30/19

Ohio plans to continue accepting refugees fleeing war, violence and persecution following an executive order from President Donald Trump allowing states to opt out of resettlement efforts.

Gov. Mike DeWine officially acknowledged Ohio's consent to receiving refugees in a Dec. 24 letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. "The State of Ohio has a long and successful history of welcoming and assimilating refugees from all corners of the globe," DeWine wrote. "Ohio also has a well-developed support network to welcome and assimilate refugees, primarily led by our faith-based communities."

The Trump administration plans to scale back the number of refugees accepted in to the U.S. to a record low of 18,000 in the 2020 fiscal year. The cap was set at 30,000 for the fiscal year that ended in September.

Ohio Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Nuclear Bailout Law Referendum Case, Karen Kasler, Statehouse News Bureau – 12/24/19

The Ohio Supreme Court has decided to review the complaint by Ohioan's Against Corporate Bailouts claiming they were denied the full 90 days to collect the additional signatures needed to place the issue on the ballot for the voters to decide. The court will decide whether opponents should get an extra 38 days to collect the 44,000 additional signatures needed.

Editor's Note: The campaign to pass HB6, the bailout of First Energy Solutions' (renamed Energy Harbor) aging nuclear plants and two coal plants while eliminating the state's clean energy standards, was one of the dirtiest we've seen – with paid disrupters circulating fake petitions and otherwise interfering with signature collection, not to mention the ugly ad campaign.

The referendum process is an important vehicle for Ohio citizens to voice their concerns when the legislature has acted against their interests. Whether this issue merits being overturned by Ohioans at the ballot box remains to be seen – but the initiators should get their opportunity to collect the signatures.

Cincinnati Business Courier, 12/20/19: Is Ohio ready for 2020 election? League of Women Voters not so sure

Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose says the state's voting systems are secure and ready for 2020. But Jen Miller of the League of Women Voters is concerned about voter turnout, WVXU reports.

LaRose has been touring each of Ohio's 88 Boards of Elections. He finished up last week in Akron, touting more than \$114 million spent this year to equip almost every county with new voting machines. He estimates another \$13 million to \$15 million in federal "Help America Vote Act" funds is on its way. And he said counties will be completing his 34-point voting security checklist by the end of January to ensure readiness.

Jen Miller, executive director of Ohio's League of Women Voters, is encouraged but said the larger issue is increasing voter turnout – especially with next year's primary coming on St. Patrick's Day.

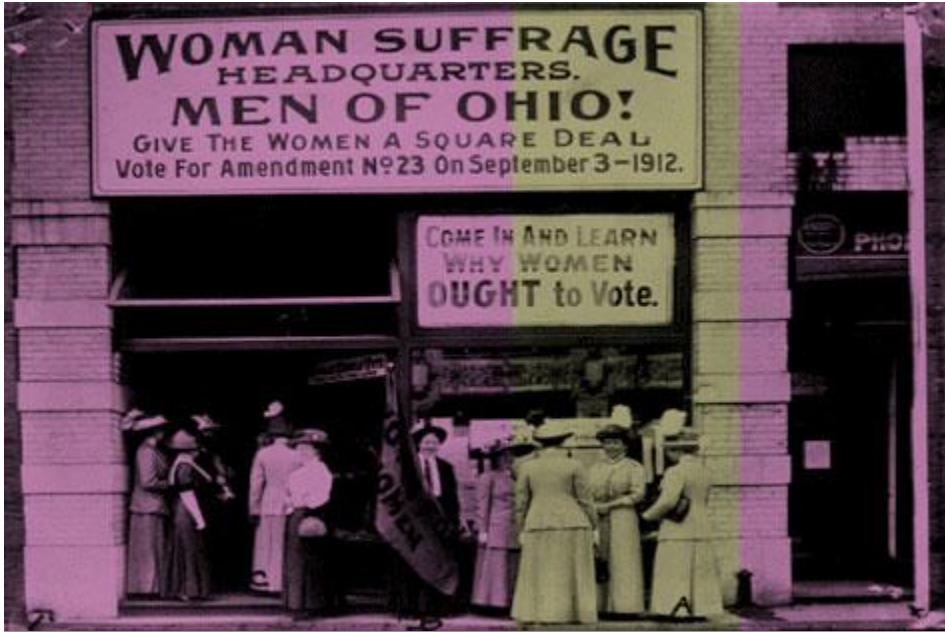
"Polling locations will likely have to change. There could be road closures because of parades. So especially for the primaries, we encourage early voting throughout the state."

LaRose and Miller both say the state is also more secure thanks to the recent creation of the Ohio Cyber Reserve, consisting of IT professionals who can be deployed to combat attacks on government websites.

In Other News: More Voter Purges

Ohio has completed its voter purge and now courts in Georgia and Wisconsin are affirming purges of hundreds of thousands of voters.

While it is necessary to clear the rolls of voters who may have died or left the state, dropping infrequent voters (voters who, for example, only vote in presidential elections and may have missed the last election) is an inefficient and punitive approach that results in disenfranchising countless citizens with the poor being most adversely affected. Automated voter registration is a more efficient, cost-effective method to voter roll maintenance. Let your legislators know you support AVR.



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.

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

Acme Cash Back Program

Thank you for collecting your Acme receipts this season for the LWVAA Cash Back Program! Please send them to:

Janice Jacobs
P.O. Box 26
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44222-0026




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

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