

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

June, 2020

[Click here to contact your State Senator about SB 191](#)



**2020 Annual Meeting**  
Thursday, July 9, 2020, 6:00-8:00pm

5:45pm | Virtual Social Gathering, Get Acquainted with TEAMS Meetings Platform

6:00 - 7:15 pm | Annual Meeting led by President Jackie Derrow

7:15 pm | Featured LWVO Speakers: Iris Meltzer, Chair, Board of Directors & Jen Miller, Executive Director

Due to the pandemic, we are holding our Annual Meeting via the secure Microsoft TEAMS platform so you can participate by video/audio on your computer, tablet, or phone. It's easy to use and there is no cost to you.

Register through this link: <https://bit.ly/30jI2HM> (click "Continue as Guest")

Training and detailed instructions on how to participate via TEAMS will be emailed and posted on [lwvaa.org](http://lwvaa.org)

You are needed now more than ever as we explore new ways to  
**ADVOCATE, INFORM, EMPOWER, AND EDUCATE**

Please join us to confirm and kick-off a new course of action for 2020-2022



## Make Voting Safe!

As public health concerns persist, the Ohio General Assembly must make improvements to absentee and early voting, so that no Ohioan is forced to choose between protecting their health and casting their ballot.

Senate Bill 191 is commonsense legislation to make our Absentee Voting system more efficient for voters and election officials, by allowing voters to request an absentee ballot online.

[Click here to contact your state lawmakers today, and ask them to Support SB 191.](#)

As we saw in the Primary, voting by mail in Ohio is inefficient, confusing, and cumbersome for voters and election officials alike. Countless Ohioans were cut out of the process through no fault of their own. SB 191 would allow voters to securely request their ballot online, but we also need other improvements: prepaid postage for ballots and applications, multiple drop boxes and Early Vote Centers per county, and more.

Thank you! Jen Miller, LWV Ohio Executive Director

### **Any problems voting in the Primary Election?**

[Click here](#) to submit issues / challenges you encountered during the 2020 Primary.



**LWVAA**

**Upcoming**

## **A Message From the President**

Dear Members,

Our country is boiling over with grief and rage. The recent acts of police brutality perpetrated on members of the African American community have inflamed the long-held understanding that there is a differential system of justice for people with black and brown skin.

Until white Americans, like many of us, can truly empathize with the black and brown experience in

# Events

**Because of COVID-19, all LWVAA in-person events are postponed until new guidelines are issued**

## **Respond today to the U.S. Census**

You should have received an invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census, and some households will also receive paper questionnaires.

For more information and to complete the census online (it only takes 5 minutes), go to [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov)

Thank you to Liz King for all of your efforts as the LWVAA liaison for the Summit County census. As of June 6, the response rate was 69.9% compared to 65.7% for the State of Ohio.

## **June 9, 2020**

**Following the Money: The History and Where We Are Now**

housing, education, healthcare, criminal justice and opportunity, nothing will change.

As Statehouse Minority Leader Emilia Sykes writes, *“Racism can no longer be a burden people of color shoulder themselves. It is up to white people to check and acknowledge their privilege. We can offer conversations about the inequities facing communities of color, but until white communities truly look inside themselves and say “We would not want this for ourselves,” we will not see any change.”*

LWV advocates a potent solution: Voting. We see safe, accessible elections that encourage participation and an informed citizenry as the most important tools we have to elect leaders that understand the need to effect meaningful change. We want to see commonsense election changes that will make voting easier and more accessible for all voters.

On Thursday, however, the Ohio House passed HB 680, a bill that will make it much harder to vote, especially for the poor and disadvantaged, in the event of an emergency like the pandemic. The bill arose out of the problems with the March / April primary election.

As written it prohibits the governor and department of health director from conducting an election other than as prescribed in the Ohio Revised Code. The legislation prescribes the same confusing all vote by mail process that occurred during the primary, made worse by explicitly prohibiting the Secretary of State from forwarding absentee ballot applications and ballots to voters with pre-paid postage.

Many of the most objectionable provisions of the original bill were dropped due to successful bipartisan lobbying efforts by voter rights groups like LWVO and Common Cause, as well as the Secretary

6:00p.m - 7:15p.m.

Learn about the history of money in politics and why we need to "follow the money."

Presented by Catherine Turcer, Executive Director, Common Cause Ohio.

[RSVP here for our upcoming virtual forum, Following the Money: The History and Where We Are Now.](#)

## June 16, 2020

### LWVO Virtual Birthday Celebration

"A Look Back and a Leap Forward: Trailblazing Through the Next 100 Years"

11:30a.m - 1:30p.m.

On June 16, 1919, Ohio ratified the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment. On June 16, 2020, LWVO will have the **honor of sharing with you three amazing trailblazers:**

Virginia Kase – current CEO LWVUS

Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins – former LWVUS President and author

of State and Boards of Election. These groups saw the legislation as an opportunity to ease voter participation and ensure a safe, accessible process that would be reasonable for Boards of Election to implement. HB now moves to the Senate and then onto the governor for his signature. During the testimony against the bill, Rep. Brigid Kelly said her office received thousands of calls in opposition. These were your calls! They do make a difference.

We are not going to be quiet when there are attempts to limit voting access. The League is initiating **Take Action Tuesdays**, a weekly call to action to contact legislators and share our views on priority issues for ***Making Democracy Work***, i.e., on elections, gerrymandering, and money in politics. As one legislative aide told me earlier this week, "We don't often hear from voters." That's going to change with your help when we engage in **Take Action Tuesdays**.

### *On a Personal Note*

This is my last message to you as president. It has been an honor to serve as president, but like you, I know I can't sit still. We face a challenging year ahead and our new president and board will need our full participation. Together we can make real change – we've done it before and we'll do it again.

### *Democracy Isn't a Spectator Sport!*

Best,

Jackie Derrow, LWVAA President

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## 2020 LWVAA Annual Meeting - July 9

Members will be electing a new Board and President

Jennifer Smith-Richards – Chicago Tribune reporter

[Register here](#) for the Trailblazer Event

## July 7, 2020

### The Impact of the Pandemic on K-12 Education in the Akron Public Schools

7:00-8:30p.m.

#### Speakers:

Dr. Ellen McWilliams-Woods, Chief Academic Officer-Assistant Superintendent, Akron Public Schools

Laura Kepler, Coordinator of Child Nutrition; Yvonne Culver, Program Manager, Counseling

Learn how the school district is adjusting to the challenges resulting from the pandemic – academically, financially and how students' emotional, nutritional and academic needs are being met.

Watch for registration information posted [on our web site](#) soon

## July 9, 2020

at our **Virtual Annual Meeting on Thursday, July 9 at 5:45pm**, using the Microsoft Teams platform. I encourage all members to join as we recap the last year and look forward to a new direction for 2020-2021.

[Click here](#) to register in advance for the meeting, when you register click "continue as guest." You will be emailed a link to the meeting closer to the date.

After the business of the Annual Meeting we'll hear from special guests Iris Meltzer, LWVO Chair, and Jen Miller, LWVO Executive Director. Members will receive registration details for the Annual Meeting soon.

If you've attended a Zoom meeting, you'll recognize the Teams format, but there are a few differences. We're holding two short trainings to familiarize you with the Microsoft Teams platform. Pick one and you'll be sure to be all set for the meeting.

We highly recommend that you [download the Teams app](#) on your laptop or phone in advance for the best experience. By clicking the link below you will join the audio directly and you won't have to dial into the conference number.

**July 1 Training, 5pm-6pm.** To join, click [here](#) **or** as an alternative call (866) 679-9995, conference ID 83834426#

**July 2 Training, 1pm-2pm.** To join, click [here](#) **or** as an alternative call (866) 679-9995, conference ID 541414177#

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## LWVAA 2020 Annual Meeting

6:00-8:30p.m.

Featured LWVO  
Speakers:

**Iris Meltzer**, Chair,  
Board of Directors  
**Jen Miller**, Executive  
Director

Virtual Meeting via  
Teams Conferencing  
via your computer,  
phone, or tablet.

Members only event  
[Click here](#) to register

We highly  
recommend that  
you [download the  
Teams app](#) on your  
laptop or phone in  
advance for the best  
experience. Join us  
for a training session  
to be prepared!

**July 1 Training,  
5pm-6pm.** To join,  
click [here](#)

**July 2 Training,  
1pm-2pm.** To join,  
click [here](#)

## July 27, 2020

### Observer Corps Training

6:30-8:30p.m.

Please consider  
becoming a LWVAA  
Observer and sign up  
for this  
training. Training will  
focus on an overview  
of Ohio's Open



[www.akronvotes2020.com](http://www.akronvotes2020.com)



## A Juneteenth Akron Votes Virtual Party

Friday, June 19, 2020 7-9 pm

*Speakers - Music - Entertainment*

Community Leaders are invited to come  
together to ensure our elections are:

**Fair - Safe - Accessible**

**Let's get this party started!**

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://ppaf.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEoc-uurj4tGdJBDEbmwfQJ64hvrH2zosgd>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



The Akron NAACP is honored to convene these community partners as we work together to ensure everyone's vote counts.

## Letter to the Editor

*The letter below ran in the June 3, 2020 issue of  
the Akron Beacon Journal.*

To the Editor: The Hudson and Akron Leagues of  
Women Voters condemn the recent threats of  
violence to Ohio Representative Emilia Sykes and  
Ohio Senator Vernon Sykes.

These threats are outrageous, reprehensible and  
must not be tolerated. While the League of Women  
Voters (LWV) condemns all threats, of any kind,  
ones that are racially motivated need to be identified  
and dealt with swiftly and severely.

The LWV is an organization fully committed to  
diversity, equity, and inclusion, in principle and in

Meetings Act and the role of the Observer Corps to ensure transparency and accountability at public meetings.

During the pandemic most public meetings are being live streamed making it easier than ever to be an observer. Watch for a SignUpGenius invitation to participate.

### **LWVAA Board Meetings**

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| <b>August</b>    | <b>6</b> |
| <b>September</b> | <b>3</b> |
| <b>October</b>   | <b>1</b> |
| <b>November</b>  | <b>5</b> |
| <b>December</b>  | <b>3</b> |

6:30-8:00p.m.

Online meetings will be held until further notice due to COVID-19

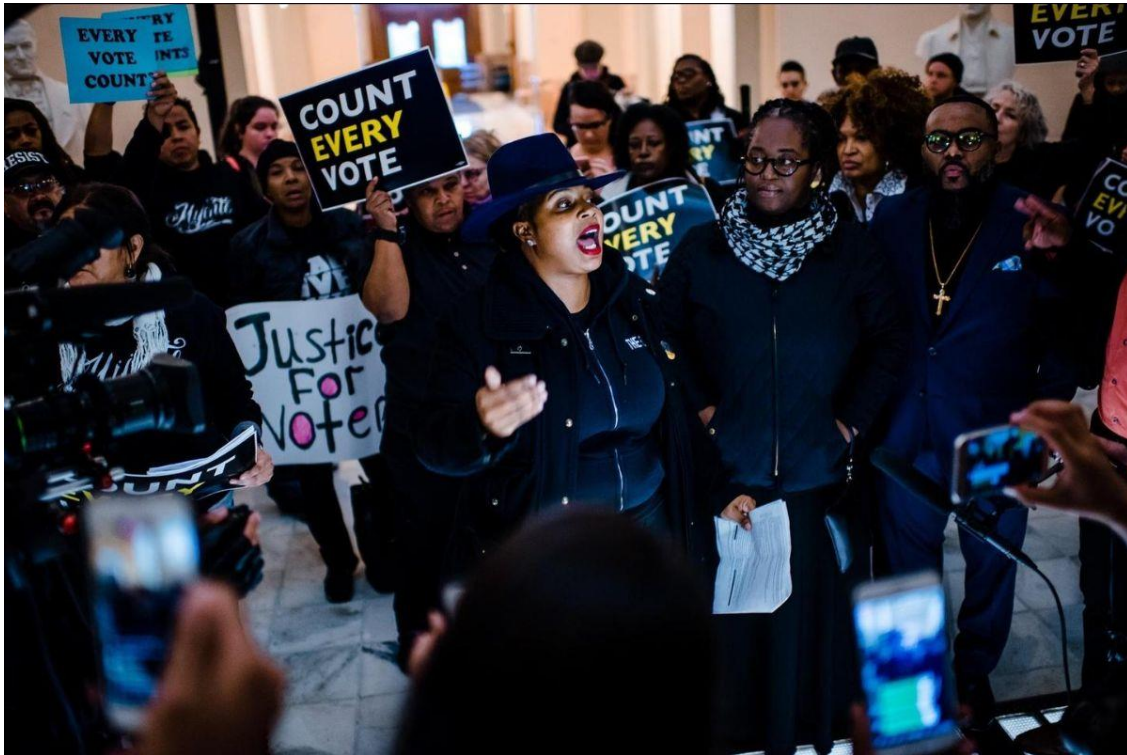
practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

We challenge all efforts and tactics that threaten our democracy and limit the ability of voters to exercise their right to vote.

This intimidation of two very respected legislators is deplorable and we applaud Governor Mike DeWine, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose, President of the Ohio Senate Larry Obhof, Ohio Senator Kenny Yuko, and Ohio Representative Erica Crawley for speaking out.

We all must work for the rights of all people to be active members of our democracy.

Carol O'Connell, President, LWV Hudson  
Jackie Darrow, President, LWV Akron Area



As American demographics rapidly shift, "[And She Could Be Next](#)," a miniseries courtesy of [POV](#), tells the story of a defiant movement of women of color, transforming politics from the ground up. The series follows candidates and organizers across the country, asking whether democracy itself can be preserved — and made stronger — by those most marginalized. Filmed in 2018 and 2019 by a team of women of color filmmakers, the two-night special features history-makers including Rashida Tlaib and Stacey Abrams.

**Tune in or stream "And She Could Be Next" Monday, June 29 and Tuesday, June 30 at 9:00 p.m. ET.**

One hundred years after the passage of the 19th Amendment, [American Experience's "The Vote"](#) tells the dramatic story of the hard-fought campaign waged by American women for the right to vote, a transformative cultural and political movement that resulted in the largest expansion of voting rights in U.S. history. "The Vote" brings to life the unsung leaders of the movement and the deep controversies over gender roles and race that divided Americans then — and continue to dominate political discourse today.

**Tune in or stream "The Vote" Monday, July 6 and Tuesday, July 7 at 9:00 p.m. ET.**



**Educational Event Sponsored by  
League of Women Voters of the Akron Area**

**A VIRTUAL EDUCATION FORUM:**

**The Impact of the Pandemic on K-12 Education  
in the Akron Public Schools**



**Featuring Guest Presenter: Dr. Ellen McWilliams-Woods**  
Chief Academic Officer-Assistant Superintendent,  
Akron Public Schools

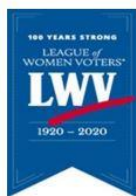
Will be joined by **Laura Kepler**, Coordinator of Child Nutrition, and  
**Yvonne Culver**, Program Manager

*Learn how our school district is adjusting to and dealing with the  
COVID-19 Pandemic – academically and financially, while meeting  
students' social-emotional, nutritional, and academic needs.  
Also, learn about the planning for re-opening the schools this fall  
and the challenges of implementation.*

**Forum Moderator: Michael Shearer**  
Editor, Akron Beacon Journal

**DATE:** Tuesday, July 7, 2020    **TIME:** 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

**PLATFORM:** Microsoft Videoconferencing Platform, TEAMS  
(You will be required to Pre- Register for the Forum  
to access the link to attend)



**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER  
FOR THE FORUM, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:**

<https://my.lwv.org/ohio/akron-area>





## *Thank you Jackie!!*

At our July 9 Annual Meeting, we will transition from Jackie Derrow as our President. We're so thankful for her dedication to LWVAA as our fearless leader, and helping us grow our membership, registered voters, social media presence, and so much more!

We will miss you so much and hope we still get to volunteer together because as you always say, Democracy is not a spectator sport!!





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

Stay up-to-date with LWV Ohio


[Website](#)  
[The Ohio Voter](#)

Stay up-to-date with LWVUS

[Website](#)  
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**Contact us:**

lwvaa@lwvaa.org  
PO Box 5449, Akron, 44334

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