

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE AKRON AREA
THE AKRON VOTER

Newsletter for LWVAA Members and Supporters

A Message from the
PRESIDENT

There is a whirlwind of activity happening at the State level with legislation that undermines our Democracy and the 1 person, 1 vote imperative! A key piece of legislation that impacts all Ohioans is SJR 2 (Senate Joint Resolution). On May 10, 2023, the Ohio House passed the joint resolution to increase the ballot threshold from 50% to 60% to amend the Ohio Constitution. For detailed information, please access the PowerPoint slides via this link: [May 2023 Huddle presentation.pptx](#)

Common Cause Ohio said it best, "Make no mistake: this resolution will make citizen-led ballot measures virtually impossible, dilute voter power and enable a minority of voters to determine the fate of the Ohio Constitution and our state".

Please keep a watch for updates and guidance from LWVO as to our upcoming work!

[voteninaugust.org](#)

However, there is **GOOD NEWS** right here in Summit County! Recently the **10 Judges of the Summit County Common Pleas Court unanimously agreed to include residents with Drivers Licenses into the Jury Pool**. This change could potentially increase the jury pool by 85,000 Summit County residents. The jury pool currently only includes registered voters. **Judge Susan Baker Ross**, the Presiding Judge in the Commons Pleas Court (and LWVAA member) stated in the Akron Beacon Journal on May 11, 2023, that this change will "involve more of our community in the jury system". The rationale to increase the jury pool is to create a pool of potential jurors that better reflect our community profile, which in turn will result in fairer trials. Although there are additional details that remain to be worked out, LWVAA will keep you informed on this change.

Annual Meeting

We hope you are planning to attend our **Annual Meeting on June 15th**. This member meeting includes dinner, a Keynote Speaker, and we conduct our business to determine officers, our new fiscal year budget, and our program plan for the upcoming year. It is also a time for fellowship with league members and an opportunity to consider your involvement - short term, long term, one project, multiple projects - to support the league. As an all volunteer

organization we want to expand our leadership and volunteer base to secure folks to ensure our work continues into the future. Please plan to attend the meeting and consider how your skills and talents can be utilized to support our work.

HELP WANTED! We need YOU!

Do you have organizational skills or public speaking skills and would like to take on a short term project to support the League? We have two areas where we need member support! Specifically, we are seeking anyone interested in working with Voter Services on:

Coordinating Candidate Forums - Please contact Suzanne Maliszewski for more information at suz486@gmail.com

Serving on the Speaker's Bureau - If you are interested, please contact Barb Metzger at hillerymetzger@gmail.com

Both of these volunteer opportunities are ways to support the league and our work to inform and educate our community! For additional information or to let us know you are interested in helping, please email Laurie Curfman at akronleague@gmail.com.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK -
EMPOWERING VOTERS AND DEFENDING DEMOCRACY!**

Yours in Service,
Laurie



LWVAA 2023 Upcoming Events

- 6/9-11: LWVO State Convention
- 6/15: LWVAA Annual Meeting
- 8/17: LWVAA Annual Summer Gathering
- 9/13: Women's History Project of the Akron Area, Inc. Women of the Year
- 9/15: Akron Bar Association's Constitution Day
- 9/30: State House Day (postponed from March)



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE AKRON AREA



VOTE NO
ON AUGUST 8TH

Join us!

Thursday, June 1, 5:30 pm
Akron-Summit County
Public Library
60 S. High St., Akron

Come learn about the "VOTE NO in AUGUST" campaign and why it's our Highest Priority!

Ohio State Rep. Galonski will join us to discuss why getting out the vote for the August 8th Special Election is critical to the future of our voice in Ohio, essentially the future of our democracy.

Time is short. Together we'll brainstorm ways to support this important effort.



State Representative
Tavia Galonski

Please register [HERE](#) to join us TODAY at 5:30pm, June 1.
We need you!



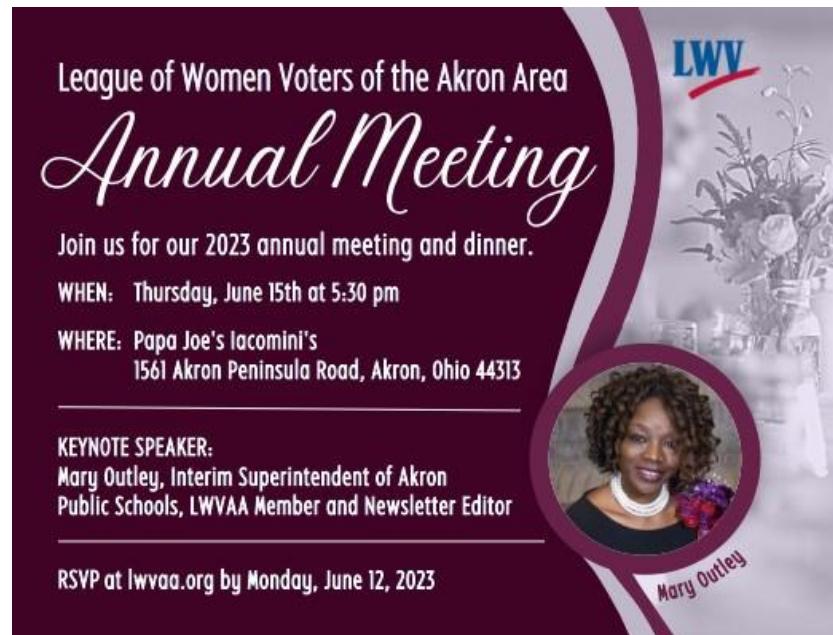
akron roundtable

Head of African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund to speak,
Sojourner Truth Project highlighted

Brent Leggs [will be the next presenter](#) at the Akron Roundtable in June.

Leggs is the executive director of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund and senior vice president of the National Trust.

He will speak June 15 at the roundtable event, which begins at noon, at the Quaker Station, 135 S. Broadway St. in Akron.



Voter Education and Registration needs your help.

This summer we plan to educate voters about the change in ID laws, register voters and share information on Issue #1 all over the city. We need lots of help! Below is a sample of events we hope to cover.
Juneteenth Events

6/17- Stoner Hawkins Park- Festival

6/19- Summit County Historical Society Community Talk

The City of Akron events below - we will share information from the sidewalk.

Concerts in the Parks-10 different Akron parks with 3-4 free concerts starting in June, 7-9pm. Dates and locations on the link below.

AkronRecreationandParks.com

Taste of Akron- Hardesty Park, Thursday, July 20 - 6-10 pm

Akron Art Expo, Hardesty Park July 22 and 23 10-5

There are additional events in August where we will have a table - Porch Rockr and Pride Festival.

You will be supported with materials and an experienced partner. We will send you the details with a sign-up link after you register here:

<https://my.lwv.org/ohio/akron-area/event/voter-registration-interest>

SHOW UP TO PROTECT OUR
FREEDOM AND RIGHTS.

NO ON HJR1

UNDEMOCRATIC.
UNFAIR.
UNPOPULAR.
UNNECESSARY.

DAY OF ACTION
AT THE STATEHOUSE

NOW WEDS, MAY 3



Five LWVAA members attended the Day of Action on May 3rd:
Ann Anderson, Mary Robbins, Jackie Derrow,
Caroline (GiGi) Wilson, and Sherry McMillen.

Thank you for your service.



Jackie Derrow



Caroline (GiGi) Wilson





**Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!
Because of YOUR Support,
the Education Fund Benefit Concert with the
Four Shillings Short raised over \$1,100 in donations!**



You graduated! Register to vote at
VOTE411.org

VOTE 411

Member Spotlight

OUR MEMBERS ARE
OUR GREATEST ASSET

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR AMAZING MEMBERS



Q: In the Spotlight with...

A: Laurie Curfman

Q: How long have you been a member of the League?

A: I have been a member of the League for six years.

Q: Share any positions you currently hold or have held as a member of the League.

A: I have served as secretary for five years and I currently serve as the League's president.

Q: What do you do for a living or have you done, if retired?

A: I am Director of Programs for Project GRAD Akron. We are a non-profit organization serving students and families in the Akron Public Schools to ensure students achieve academic and social success pre-K through career.

Q: What are some of your interests and/or hobbies that bring you joy?

A: Outside of work, my four children, 2 stepchildren, and 6 grandchildren along with my husband, Scott, bring me the greatest joys life has to offer!

My hobbies include cooking and gardening - great stress relievers, but also areas where I have control of the outcomes!

Q: What do you hope to help the League accomplish as a member?

A: I have been involved in social justice for all of my young adult and older adult life. When my beliefs are challenged, I kick into action. Although my time currently is limited by my work schedule, the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area is very important to me. I hope to provide leadership that ensures the league is functioning in a manner that serves our community to inform, educate, and engage the population in our democracy to ensure everyone has their voice heard and our democracy stays strong, especially as we witness ongoing challenges to voting and personal rights and liberties.

[Member Spotlight! Click here to share more about you](#)



Our Contact Information

League of Women Voters of the Akron
Area

PO Box 5449
Akron, OH 44334
330-836-7079

<http://www.lwvaa.org>



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage email
preferences](#)