



January 13, 2025

## THE HUDSON VOTER

Welcome to 2025!

I ran into a LWWH member the other day who was concerned about (potential) chaos in the government. It got me to thinking about how to address LWWH members in this newsletter. Then, I listened to *United SHE Stands*, a podcast from new member Ashley Kindsvetter. Ashley and Sara talked about how to stay engaged, get involved and make a difference in the “off season” of an election. They quoted activist Alice Walker,



“Activism is the rent I pay to live on the planet.” Well, this hit the nail on the head! Studied, well-informed, grass-roots **Activism is what League does best!**

LWV was founded in 1920 with the intent to educate and inform women who had just won the right to vote. Our mission has expanded to educating and informing all citizens. *And it’s never been trickier.* Social media, 24-hour news cycles, alternative facts, three sides of every story, whataboutism, click bait, and a shortage of credible, vetted news make our organization more important than ever.

We are “experts” at voting and registering voters. We work with the Summit County Board of Elections to ensure safe, valid elections so we can inform voters that their ballot is safe and their voices count. In addition, League members observe their Board Meetings! We pay attention to what is going on in the meetings and stay informed.

LWVH also observes Summit County Council, Hudson City Council, Hudson School Board of Elections, Hudson Library Board, and many of the various committees that serve Hudson. Our observers let Hudson’s LWV board know if there is anything going on that needs their attention and whether Sunshine laws are being adhered to.

**March 16 – 22 is Sunshine Week.** We plan to raise awareness of Sunshine laws, the public’s right to access government information, staying informed about local, state and federal representatives’ decisions that affect voters, and holding officials accountable. Sunshine Week is a

nonpartisan collaboration among groups in journalism, civic, education, government, and private sectors with the goal to shed light on the importance of public records and open government.

**Government operates best in the sunlight!** See below on how you can get involved.

**January 27<sup>th</sup> LWVH is hosting Hudson City Manager, Thom Sheridan.** Thom will talk with members about past, present and future improvement projects in Hudson. This year member Lorann Murphy is hosting this event at her home. See below for details.

*Maybe you don't have time to volunteer in person but taking a few minutes to stay up to date via [LWVH website](#) and newsletter is something (hopefully) better than nothing!*

It seems like forever ago, but the **2024 Holiday Social** at D'Angelos was a lot of fun and delicious! I really enjoy our social events where we can really get to know one another!

**Tracey Mackay**  
[presidentlwvhudson@gmail.com](mailto:presidentlwvhudson@gmail.com)  
330-608-5264





## Calendar of Events

**January, 13, 7pm, Board Meeting is a ZOOM MEETING this month.**

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/LWVBoardmtg> All members are welcome.

Meeting ID: 871 2241 0806 Passcode: 371634

**January 16, 7pm, LWVH Book Club.** See below for more information.

**January 27, Monday, 6:30pm, Meeting with City Manager, Thom Sheridan.** We'll meet at Lorann Murphy's home to talk about Hudson Happenings. The address is **2580 Brunswick Lane**. Please RSVP to **Tracey Mackay** *This is a dues-paid members only meeting.*

**Thursday, February 13, 10:30am, Positions and Procedures Review,** at the Hudson Library. This is our opportunity to give our input to LWV Ohio for Planning Positions and Priorities for the upcoming two years.

**February 27, 7pm. Climate Sustainability Transportation Follow-Up.** Hudson High School Media Center

**March, 3, 7pm, Board Meeting,** 5230 Knollshire Dr.

**March 13, 6:30pm - 7:30pm Sunshine Meeting,** Hudson Library. Details to come.

**May 15, 6-8pm, Annual Meeting,** Hudson Library. We need a quorum for this meeting. Please plan to attend.

## Member Spotlight



Kate Disney believes that the spread of disinformation in our country today is “causing people to vote against their values.” The importance of providing voters with accurate information through advocacy and education is what drew her to LWV when she and her husband, Patrick, returned to Hudson last year after careers in the military. When Kate was growing up in Hudson in the 1990's little did she know that she would travel the world. Graduating from Hudson High School in 1993, she attended The Ohio State

University nursing program. She joined ROTC as a way to pay for college,

figuring she would stay in a year, get another scholarship and that would be it. But she ended up finishing her time at school in ROTC and staying in the military for 10 years as an Army Nurse Corps officer. She met Patrick on an USO tour to China while she was stationed in Korea and 5 months later they were married at Hudson Town Hall. They were planning on being stationed in Virginia together but those plans were thwarted when Patrick was deployed to Iraq.

Over the next several years, Patrick was deployed 3 more times to Afghanistan. They were challenging years, she says, but they are grateful that they are able to look back on those times together.

Their military careers resulted in them living around the world – Hawaii, Korea, Honduras, to name a few. Living in other parts of the world gives you perspective, she says. She has been able to witness the ways that legislation and governments can positively or negatively impact people's lives. She believes you can legislate a better life if people are provided accurate information.

Kate and Patrick have two sons, Sam, who is a junior and Jake, who is a freshman. Jake was diagnosed with autism when he was 3 and Kate was in a Master of Nursing program. She completed this program but when she saw the work that behavior analysts were doing with Jake and the difference it was making in his functioning, she enrolled in a BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) program so that she could gain the skills to continue to work with him. Now she shares her knowledge with several school districts in the area as a consultant.

Upon retiring from the military, they chose to come back to Hudson to give their sons the benefits of the childhood that Kate experienced. Now she is exploring ways that she can be a part of and contribute to the Hudson Community. Her energy, enthusiasm and perspective are great assets to the League and to Hudson, as well. Welcome, Kate!

## Volunteer for Sunshine Week Committee

Are you a current member, looking for a way to become more involved in our local league without a long-term commitment? If so, plan to join the Sunshine Week 2025 Ad Hoc Committee!

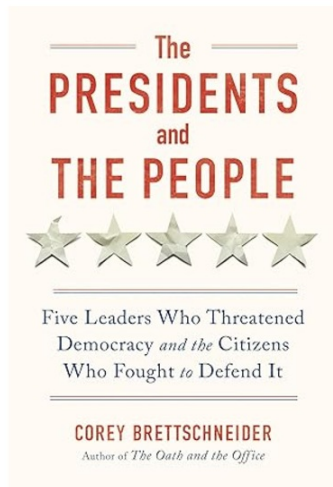


As a league, we celebrate Sunshine Week in March every year, and this year, we would like to raise more awareness about the public's right to access government information and hold officials accountable.

**We will be meeting again within the next few weeks** to finalize our plans to commemorate Sunshine Week, March 16-22, 2025 and could use your help. Contact **Maura McCaughey** if you are interested in joining us.

Also, see <https://sunshineweek.org> for ideas and information about Sunshine Week.

# LWVH Book Club



## *The Presidents and the People: Five Leaders Who Threatened Democracy and the Citizens Who Fought to Defend It*

by *Corey Brettschneider*

**Thursday, January 16, 7pm**

**Kathy Battaglia's Home**

Imagine an American president who imprisoned critics, spread a culture of white supremacy, and tried to upend the law so that he could commit crimes with impunity. Constitutional law and political science professor Corey Brettschneider provides a thoroughly researched account of *assaults on democracy by not one such president but by five*—John Adams, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, Woodrow Wilson, and Richard Nixon. This is a book about citizens—Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells, Daniel Ellsberg, and more—who fought back against presidential abuse of power. Their examples give us hope about the possibilities of restoring a fragile democracy

Bring a friend! Non-members are welcome. Please [RSVP](#).

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

**LWV of Hudson**  
PO Box 331  
Hudson OH 44236  
[lwwhudsonohio@gmail.com](mailto:lwwhudsonohio@gmail.com)  
[www.lwwhudson.org](http://www.lwwhudson.org)

Visit LWV Hudson website

**LWV of Ohio**  
[www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org)

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League of Women Voters of Hudson | PO Box 331 | Hudson, OH 44236 US

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