

## Robust Election Support for Area Citizens

League members were committed as usual to spreading timely, factual, information about voting options, candidates, issues backgrounds and more to prepare Hamilton Co. voters to make their best choices for the Nov. 7 general election.

The league's **Speakers Bureau** was fulfilling requests all year, with activity picking up in the fall:

Out of 49 speaking engagements in 2023, 22 (45%) occurred in October. The most requested topic that month was "the issues." Audience size varied from two people to about 50.

In addition to 16 members who presented (5 of whom gave several talks each), others created and/or edited slide presentations, staffed tabling events, picked up materials, mentored volunteers, etc. There are 24 willing volunteers on the Speakers Bureau roster.

Veronica Hall, who heads the Speaker's Bureau, sincerely thanks the 16 "incredibly awesome speakers" who fulfilled requests for these groups:

- 6 community councils
- 2 forums
- 3 libraries
- 6 Girl Scout troops
- Collaborated with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., for 2 engagements
- Collaborated with Quinn Chapel AME Church for 2 engagements

A Girl Scout Presentation Team was created and has 5 volunteers – more are needed for 2024! Special thanks to member Ann Nunes, who created the LWVCA's GS/Brownie Democracy 101 lesson plan and resources.

The **Vote411.org** team, led by Liz Shockey and Hope Fountain, began logging into the website dashboard in late August, and loaded county board of elections data into the site in mid-September, performing multiple accuracy checks on candidate and issues entries, while also contacting candidates with questions for them to answer. We estimate it took 6 volunteers more than 30 hours to have our Vote411.org site ready for anyone in the world to use.

Hope produced a tally of Hamilton County Vote411.org users from a report provided by the national LWV. An unduplicated count of 15,800 people logged in for election information. Cincinnatians accounted for the majority, with 11,877 unique users, followed by residents of Blue Ash (624), Finneytown (470), Loveland (369), and many other municipalities.

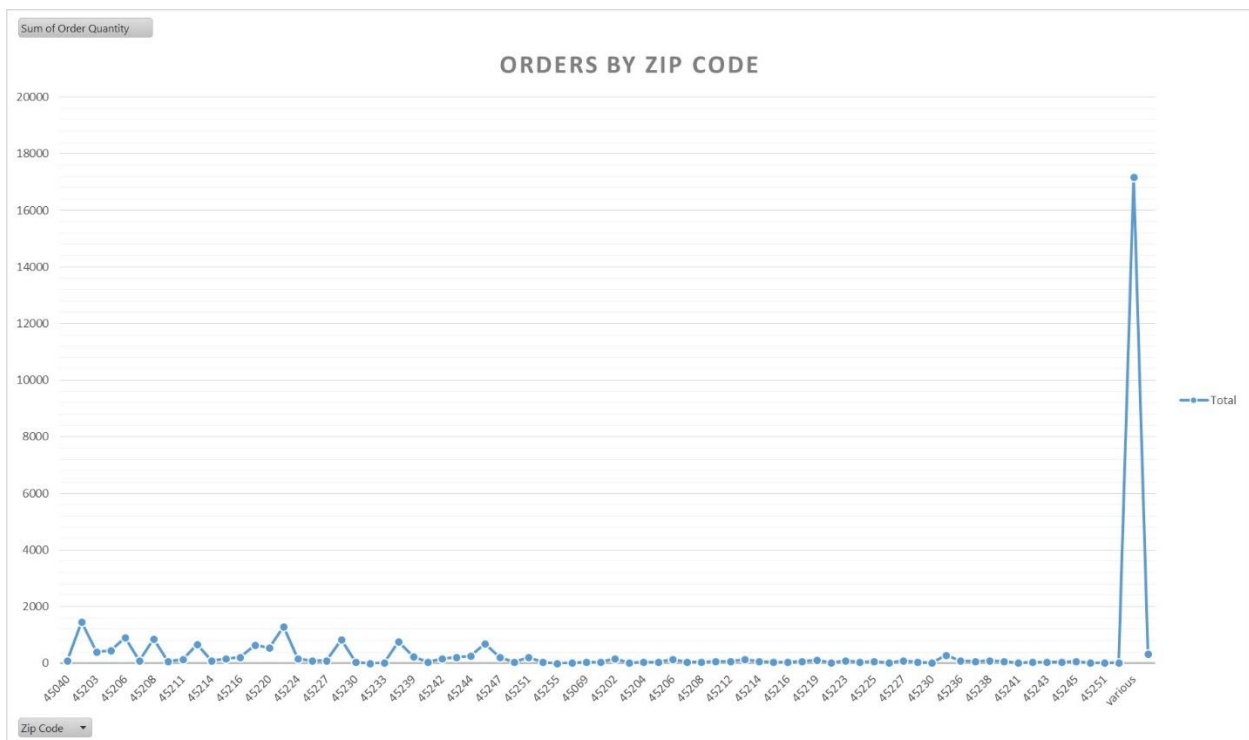
At the same time the website was being completed, candidate and issues information, logos and images were collected and designed to fit the printed **LWV Voter Guide**. Once data was laid out (by Sesh Design/The Cincinnati Herald), many members proofread it, and Mary Kate Genis polished the front page. We count more than 20 hours on these steps.

Then came **distribution**: 50,000 guides were printed and 31,884 picked up or delivered to hundreds of locations:

The salon/barbershop program, with 23 volunteers, distributed 358 small voter info. posters and 2,195 Voter Guides to 127 locations.

13,650 were delivered to the county/city library distribution center for disbursement, and many hundreds more were requested as some libraries ran out. Speakers also distributed 500 guides when they spoke to groups.

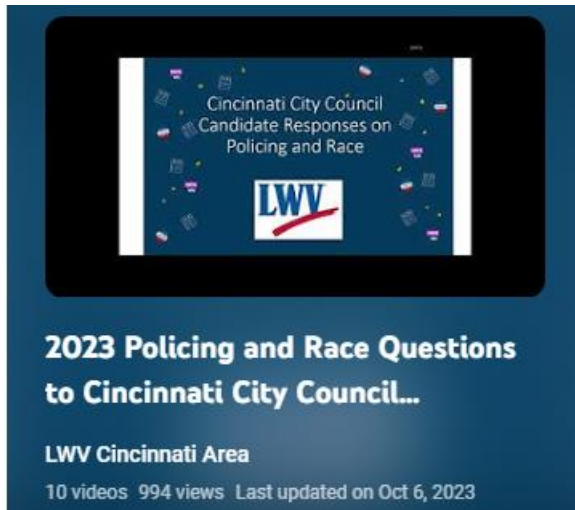
See the geographic distribution this way:



Here are other locations where guides were distributed:

- 27 churches (some with repeat requests)
- 10 community centers
- 5 universities and one high school
- 5 recreational centers
- 27 public service agencies (for example, the NAACP, a BMV site, Ohio Valley Goodwill, MARCC, YWCA, the Freestore Foodbank, etc.)
- 7 clubs that distributed them to members
- Several laundromats

- 15 stores or restaurants
- 5 retirement or assisted living communities
- 5 apartment complexes
- And hundreds more signed out by volunteers for “neighborhood,” “office,” Clifton,” etc.



The Policing and Race Committee, with support from the communications team, created a list of questions and instructions for Cincinnati City Council members to produce video responses to four questions to help voters know where they stand on policing, safety and race. Hope assembled the responses into **a playlist on our YouTube channel** and it appears individual candidates’ videos garnered between 76 and 213 views each, with [the entire playlist](#) having a combined 994 views.

Many LWVCA members also serve the public at large as precinct election officials (poll workers). Per a survey in our newsletter, at least nine members worked the 15-hour day. Thanks to everyone for their roles in empowering voters and defending democracy, fulfilling the mission of the league.