



November 30, 2023

Letter From the President

Hello LWV Hudson!

Want to make you all aware that LWV Ohio (and therefore LWV Hudson) is joining forces with Citizens Not Politicians, Fair Districts, Common Cause Ohio, and other allies to gather signatures to end gerrymandering in Ohio.

The goal is to have enough signatures by June 2024 to have this amendment added to the ballot in November 2024.



The Citizens Not Politicians amendment would create a citizen led redistricting commission comprised of 5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, and 5 Independent Ohio citizens representing all geographic and demographic areas of our state. Current and former politicians would be banned from the commission. It would disallow discrimination or favor for any political party or individual politician. The commission would be required to operate under an open and independent process.

Petition drives provide volunteer opportunities for everyone! Thank you to Hillary Sullivan and Lorann Murphy, who volunteered to be Petition Captains. They can answer questions and are encouraging all to volunteer. First step is to get yourself registered and educated! See below for instructions.

Fair elections are the cornerstone of democracy!

Also, don't forget to RSVP for our holiday dinner on December 14. Deadline to RSVP by sending in a check is Dec. 6. (And why not include your dues at the same time?) It's always fun when we get together!! More details below. See you there!

Tracey Mackay

Mark your calendars! Here's what we have coming up in the next few months:

Next Board Meetings:

Monday, December 4th at 7pm All are Welcome!

Monday, January 8th at 7pm at 5230 Knollshire Drive.

Thursday, December 14th at 6pm, we will have our Holiday Social at D'Angelos in Twinsburg. More details below.

Monday, January 29th at 7pm, we will chat with the Mayor and City Manager at my home: 5230 Knollshire Drive. This is a members-only (*who have paid their dues*) event. Reservations will be required.

Thursday, February 8 at 10:30am at the Library, Chief Perry Tabak will join us to talk about safety and security in Hudson.

Thursday, March 14th at 7pm, the Climate Sustainability Committee will update and educate us on their latest work.

Thursday, April 11th at 10:30am, we are going to hold Facilitator Training. LWWH often needs skilled facilitators; let's hone our skills so we are sharp for the next climate or candidate roundtable.

RSVP Now! Holiday Social is on Dec. 14, 2023



D'Angelo's Ristorante
7995 Darrow Rd.
Twinsburg, Oh

Dec. 14, 2023
Thursday, 6pm

\$39

RSVP by Dec. 6

From Kathy Battaglia: Because D'Angelo's has been so good to us in the past, we will gather there as we have the last few years with delicious food and celebrate the holidays together.

We'll have the same buffet as last year:

- House salad
- Fresh baked rolls
- Chicken Marsala, Eggplant Parmesan
- Smashed redskin potatoes with light garlic
- Mixed Italian vegetables

- Penne with Marinara Sauce
- Tea, coffee, non-alcoholic beverages included

We'll start at 6pm with social time, followed by dinner at 6:30pm. **The price, including gratuity will be the same, \$39.00!** Desserts and alcoholic beverages are available at an additional charge.

RSVPs need to be received by **December 6, 2023**. To RSVP, send your check for \$39.00 made out to the LWV Hudson and mail it to Hudson LWV, P.O. Box 331, Hudson, OH 44236. *(While you're writing a check, if you haven't already done so, **please pay your dues**. It's \$70 for an individual and \$105 for a family. Deadline is December 31.)*

Citizens Not Politicians



It's time to end
Gerrymandering
in Ohio

The League of Women Voters of Ohio is joining forces with Common Cause Ohio to obtain signatures on the Citizens Not Politicians Amendment. Signature books are available and we hope to collect some during December at events around Hudson. Signature collection will continue through at least May. This amendment:

- Creates the 15-member Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission made up of Democratic, Republican, and Independent citizens who broadly represent the different geographic areas and demographics of the state.
- Ban current or former politicians, political party officials, lobbyists, and large political donors from the Commission.
- Require fair and impartial districts by making it unconstitutional to draw voting districts that discriminate against or favor any political party or individual politician.
- Require the commission to operate under an open and independent process.

To be a volunteer to collect signatures, here's what you need to do:

1.) REGISTER with Citizens Not Politicians [HERE](#). and also register with Citizens Not Politicians - Summit County [HERE](#).

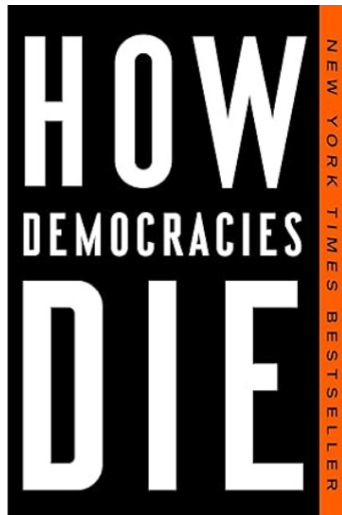
2.) COMPLETE A TRAINING. Once you register you will see the dates for the training sessions. This is a requirement the campaign is

insisting everyone do. Please try to get it done soon. There are two zoom sessions coming up within the next 2 weeks. We will also be offering in person training soon.

3.) CONTACT OUR PETITION CAPTAINS when you've completed the training: [Hilary Sullivan](#) or [Lorann Murphy](#).

To learn more go to www.citizensnotpoliticians.org

Our Next Book for Book Club



How Democracies Die
by Steve Levitsky & Daniel Ziblatt

Next meeting will be on
January 18, 7pm
Place TBD

Bring a friend.
Non-members are invited!

Is our democracy in danger? Harvard professors Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt have spent more than 20 years studying the breakdown of democracies in Europe and Latin America, and they believe the answer is yes. Democracy no longer ends with a bang--in a revolution or military coup--but with a whimper: the slow, steady weakening of critical institutions, such as the judiciary and the press, and the erosion of long-standing political norms. The good news is that there are several exit ramps on the road to authoritarianism.

Levitsky and Ziblatt show how democracies die--and how ours can be saved. [RSVP](#) please.

NOTE: We need some volunteers to host our book clubs in the future, including January. We usually have from 6-12 attendees, so we do not need a large place. Please contact [Kathy](#).

Thank Sarah for Thanksgiving

If it weren't for poet, novelist and essayist, Sarah Josepha Hale, we might not have a National Day of Thanksgiving. We all know that President Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a holiday--but he was not the first. George Washington in 1789 first proclaimed Oct. 3rd a special day of

thanksgiving and gratitude and it was celebrated on *various dates, only in some states, and mostly in the northeast.*



Enter Sarah Hale who tirelessly promoted Thanksgiving's permanent place on the American calendar. She devoted a chapter of her novel, *Northwood: A Tale of New England*, describing in rich detail a classic Yankee Thanksgiving that a visitor from England celebrates with a family in New Hampshire. Critics say it's the finest account in American literature of the mood, spirit, and emotion that generations of Americans have about the holiday. "You can almost smell the roast turkey at its "lordly station" at the head of the table," said one writer.

In 1837, Hale became Editor of *Godey's Lady Book*, where she remained for more than 40 years, growing circulation to more than 150,000 by 1861 and turning it into one of the most influential periodicals in the country. While at *Godey's*, Hale often wrote editorials and articles about the Thanksgiving holiday. She believed that a national celebration would bring together families and communities. "There is a deep moral influence in these periodical seasons of rejoicing in which a whole community participates," she wrote.

Beginning in 1846, when James Polk was president, Sarah requested that he and other leading politicians declare a national celebration of Thanksgiving. Sarah lobbied state and federal officials for 17 years to pass legislation creating a fixed, national day of thanks on the last Thursday of November. Her requests were largely ignored by presidents and politicians. But, by 1854, more than 30 states and U.S. territories had a Thanksgiving celebration on the books, but Hale's vision of a national holiday remained unfulfilled. She also believed that a national holiday could help ease growing tensions and divisions between the northern and southern parts of the country.

Then in 1863 President Lincoln, who seemed to have a similar ability to find hope and reason to be grateful, even in the middle of the civil war, signed into action "A National Day of Thanksgiving and Praise."

Let's remember Sarah Josepha Hale and her determination and perseverance.

For more about Sarah, see www.womenshistory.org or www.history.com

Save the Date: Feb. 23, 2024



Mark your calendar for Feb. 23, 2024 for a Statewide conference on "Methods for Bridging Divides," with a focus on Ohio.

Representatives from Ohio's Colleges and Universities will share their related efforts, along with panelists from LWVO and more! It will be held at Wilmington College in Wilmington, Ohio, which is a 3 hour drive from Hudson. If interested, let [Tracey](#) know so we can carpool.

To learn more about the organization sponsoring this conference, go to ohiopeaceandconflict.org. As the speakers and events are finalized, we will provide more information.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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www.lwvhudson.org

Visit LWV Hudson website



LWV of Ohio

www.lwvohio.org

LWV US

www.lwv.org

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

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