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**March 8, 2019**

**Press Release for LWVCT Forum, March 23, 2019:**

For more information, contact 203-288-7996 or 203-457-9888.

### **Redistricting and the Perils of Gerrymandering**

A free public forum will be held on Saturday, March 23, 10:00 a.m. at the Yale Law School, 127 Wall St. in New Haven to explore “Redistricting and the Perils of Gerrymandering.”

The League of Women Voters has stated that “Political and racial gerrymandering distorts and undermines representative democracy by allowing officials to select their voters rather than voters to elect their officials. When done for purposes of racial discrimination or to ensure the dominance of one political party, gerrymandering runs counter to equal voting rights for all eligible voters.”

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut (LWVCT) will host this forum. Carol Reimers, LWVCT president, stated, “The redrawing of U.S. House and state legislative districts following each Census, as required every ten years by federal law, is a priority interest of the League. Many states' district lines have traditionally been decided by political leaders in their own self interest, and Connecticut's own redistricting system is currently controlled by legislators. We believe our forum is relevant to voters' interests as the U.S. Supreme Court is reviewing several cases related to this topic.”

The LWVCT turned to former Connecticut State Senator and long-time League member Ed Meyer to organize a panel discussion on redistricting. The forum's panelists will be: Heather Gerken, Dean of the Yale Law School and an expert on election laws; Tom Wolf, a principal of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU; Denise Merrill, Connecticut Secretary of the State; Senator Martin Looney, President Pro Tempore of the State Senate; and Senator Len Fasano, Minority Leader of the State Senate.

The LWVCT and Senator Meyer anticipate that the panelists will present a picture of various national and state procedures that either support or contradict the concept of an independent commission to be formed as the vehicle for future redistricting efforts in Connecticut.

The public is invited to attend this free event and to offer questions for the panelists.

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**If you plan to attend, RSVP to LWVCT at 203-288-7996 or [lwvct@lwvct.org](mailto:lwvct@lwvct.org).**