

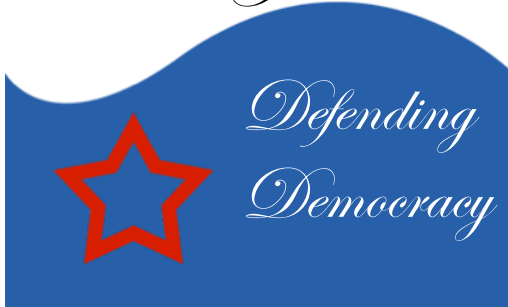


The Voter

January 2023

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

100+ Years



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Have you had a change of address recently — e-mail or snail mail? A new phone number? Please let the Membership Chairman know of any changes to your information.

Topical Tuesday:

Toxic Algal Blooms Will Be the Subject Of Our January 24 Monthly Meeting

Dr. Kefa M. Otiso, professor of geology at Bowling Green State University, will join us for a presentation on the socioeconomic effects of toxic algal blooms at a Topical Tuesday meeting on January 24, at 7 p.m. at Way Library.

In his ongoing research, Dr. Otiso is looking at the socioeconomic effects of HABs in Kenya’s Lake Victoria waters — although the research is also applicable to the Great Lakes region of North America.

The area around Lake Victoria is one of the most densely populated rural regions in the world, with over 30 million people relying on the lake for food, transportation, power, and income from tourism.

The growing presence of HABs in the lake therefore threatens the drinking water and livelihood source for millions of people.

This event is a collaboration of the Perrysburg League of Women Voters and Way Public Library.



Dr. Kefa M. Otiso

The Ohio Channel

If you want to watch the Ohio Legislature and the Ohio Supreme Court (OSC) in action, then you may want to check out *The Ohio Channel*. You can livestream broadcasts and view archives of previous broadcasts. In addition to the Legislature and the OSC, you will also find archives of Governor DeWine’s announcements and press conferences, the Redistricting Commission and other councils and committees. The site posts a schedule of upcoming livestreams.

The Ohio Channel is similar to C-Span for the State of Ohio. Browse OhioChannel.org for their full schedule, archives, and more information about their operations.



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Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Web Site

<https://my.lwv.org/ohio/perrysburg-area>

***The deadline for
Voter articles is the
25th of each month.***

Board Letter

Happy New Year, League Members!



Hope you enjoyed the holidays and are looking forward to the new year!

Jacki Stedman, LWVPA President, and I got a jump start on 2023 when we attended LWV Ohio's (LWVO) Annual Statehouse Day on December 7. The agenda was filled with excellent speakers on a variety of subjects, while leaving time for networking with over 200 League members from across the state.

Jacki spent time with a new President of another league. She was thrilled that Jacki took time to answer her questions and give her some advice for a successful League. Over lunch, four members of the Kent League shared with me how they conduct their Candidates Forum – a discussion that will be helpful as we plan future Forums.

Speakers from several organizations, including Ohio Association of Elections Officials (Boards of Elections), Ohio Voter Rights Coalition, and Common Cause Ohio provided up-to-date information on voting issues, voter rights, voting legislation, and background on citizen-initiated Ohio Constitutional amendments.

At the end of the day, my one big takeaway was the even-greater-need for the League's ongoing work surrounding Voter Services. Per LWVO's Priorities, (see article on page 6) voting and elections is where the League spends most of its time: voter education, voter registration, redistricting, distributing signs and materials, advocating on key voting and elections legislation, etc. LWVPA is lucky in that we have a strong foundation in Voter Services developed over many years. However, this year's Statehouse Day started me thinking that perhaps it's time to refocus on our Voter Services activities and consider new strategies in meeting our goals. We had many members in 2022 who helped make our ongoing and new initiatives successful. We need to continue building on these successes.

So, here's my ask: *if you are interested in working on or learning more about Voter Services, please contact me.* No amount of volunteer time is too small. No idea for successful Voter Service activities is too insignificant. We need you! Voters need you!

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Debra Gorman

Director, Voter Services

Debra.GreenleyGorman@gmail.com



Upcoming Meetings

For the most up-to-date information on League activities, click on

[League Calendar](#)

Tuesday, January 24 —
7 p.m. Dr. Kefa M. Otiso,
BGSU professor of geology,
*The Socioeconomic Effects of
Toxic Algal Blooms.*

Tuesday, February 7 —
2 p.m. *The Past and Future of
Perrysburg*, Perrysburg
Mayor Tom Mackin,
Perrysburg Council
Chambers, 201 W. Indiana
Ave., Perrysburg.

Tuesday, February 28 —
Noon *Annual Program
Meeting*. Luncheon.
MEMBERS ONLY.

March Meeting — Date to
Be Announced, *State of the
Township*, Perrysburg
Township Trustee Bob Mack,
Location: Township Fire
Station, 26609 Lime City Rd.

Tuesday, May 16 —
11 p.m. *Annual Meeting*,
Noon Luncheon and
presentation by Metroparks
Toledo, Location: Hilton
Garden Inn, Levis Commons

**All meetings will be held at
Way Library unless
otherwise noted.**

**All programs will be
announced on our web page
and in *The Voter* as soon as the
dates are secured.**

Mark Your Calendars Now for Members-Only Luncheon, February 28, Noon - 2 p.m, Way Library

Each winter, the LWVPA offers a program planning luncheon followed by a meeting for members only. The meeting gives us time to discuss our priorities for the year. This year, the meeting will focus on hearing your ideas for activities for the 2023-2024 year. Please take some time to think about what you would like to see the league accomplish in the upcoming year. Some examples: special speakers or topics, opportunities to interact with elected officials, panel discussions, community forums, voter registration, or field trips. The sky is the limit so please put on your thinking caps. Kathy Donahue, board recording secretary, has agreed to collate your ideas prior to the meeting, so feel free to email her at donahue874@gmail.com with your ideas. We will also solicit ideas at the meeting.

Please note that the board will provide a soup and salad lunch beginning at noon followed by the brainstorming meeting. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, February 28.

Vote on Updated Investment Policy At February Members Meeting

The board spent the fall of 2022 updating the LWVPA investment policy to better align with our goals and to provide better direction to our investment advisor, Mitchel Skotynsky of the Skotynsky Financial group. Our bylaws require that policy changes be voted on by the membership. Below you will find the current policy (adopted in 2018) and the updated policy (approved by the board in October 2022).

Please note that we did not provide a redline of the changes since we substantially changed the format as well. If you have questions, please bring them to the February 28 meeting or send them to Jacki Stedman or Sara Weisenburger.

Current Investment Policy

Investment Policy for the League of Women Voters Of Perrysburg Area Stranahan Account (Adopted May 22, 2018)

The Virginia Secor Stranahan League of Women Voters of Perrysburg Funds shall be deposited into an investment account with Skotynsky Financial Group LLC, Perrysburg, Ohio, Broker Matt Skotynsky, Raymond James & Associates, Inc. The account is currently invested in all mutual funds. The dividends from the mutual funds are ACH (electronic fund transfers) to our General Fund bank account except for Hartford Growth Opportunities. This mutual fund dividends are reinvested back into this fund. The dividends are received monthly but some funds pay out quarterly so the dividends are larger every quarter.

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Investment Policy

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Investment Objectives

- a. Fixed Income- 70-80%
- b. Maximize return with minimal risk. Risk tolerance for these accounts is low;
- c. A small portion of the portfolio, perhaps 20-30%, should be invested for long term needs to keep up with inflation, balanced with growth;

Investment Committee

- a. The Investment Committee shall consist of the at least two members of the Executive Committee. These will be the President and the Treasurer.
- b. The Committee shall monitor the capital reserve balances and ensure that these funds are invested and reinvested within the guidelines of the investment policy on a timely basis.
- c. No member of the Executive Board or Investment Committee shall be remunerated for any services rendered on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Perrysburg.

Reporting

- a. On a semi- annual basis, an Investment report shall be prepared and submitted by the Committee or Matt Skotynsky, Broker Advisor, to the Board of Directors.
- b. The Board of Directors shall review this LWV of Perrysburg Fund Investment Policy periodically and may amend the policy as conditions warrant. The Treasurer and/or President may recommend amendments to the policy as necessary.

Revised and approved May 2018

Proposed Investment Policy

Investment Objective

The principal investment objective of the League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area (LWVPA) Fund (Fund) is to provide a rate of return sufficient to offset the impact of inflation on Fund assets as well as to provide for capital appreciation and income commensurate with low level of risk while protecting the original principal investment. In order to attain this investment objective, Fund assets shall be composed of equity and fixed income securities as well as cash equivalents allocated in a manner broadly consistent with the long-term goals established herein. Assets shall be invested in a manner consistent with “prudent investor” rules.

Asset Allocation

Skotynsky Financial Group, LLC (Investment Manager), taking into consideration the outlook for the general economy and the existing environment of the financial markets, shall determine asset mix. There will be two separate accounts in regard to the LWVPA: One will be the Short Term Account held at a banking financial institution, the second being a Long Term Account. The LWVPA shall target 12-24 months of expected expenses in the Short-Term Account, the balance shall go into the Long-Term Account. The asset mix is expected to reflect a growth/income objective, defined by the Investment Manager as utilizing the following broad policy ranges:

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Investment Policy

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Long-Term Account	<u>MINIMUM</u>	<u>MAXIMUM</u>
Equities	50%	75%
Fixed Incomes & Cash Equivalents	25%	50%
Short-Term Account	<u>MINIMUM</u>	<u>MAXIMUM</u>
Equities	0%	0%
Fixed Incomes & Cash Equivalents	100%	100%

The Investment Manager shall retain cash equivalents sufficient to meet normal Fund liquidity requirements. It will be the responsibility of the LWVPA to notify the Investment Manager of significant liquidity requirements as far in advance as practicable.

Portfolio Constraints

The equity component of the portfolio shall be properly diversified and shall generally be composed of a selection of mutual funds and/or individual equity securities designed to achieve the long-term objectives stated herein. It is the desire of the LWVPA that mutual fund dividends will be distributed to the general fund. Equities or equivalents in a single company shall not exceed 10% of the equity portfolio. Within the equity component, the aggregate international and small/mid-cap equity investments shall be within the range of 0% to 35% of the equity component.

The fixed income component of the portfolio will generally be composed of a selection of mutual funds and money market funds designed to provide current income and stability of principal. To the extent that individual bonds are utilized, such securities shall be limited to obligations of the US Treasury, Federal Government Agencies and well-diversified, high-quality (as defined by minimum Moody's A3 and Standard & Poor's A-ratings) corporate bonds. The average maturity of these holdings shall not exceed ten years. Corporate bonds issued by a single company shall not exceed 10% of the fixed income portfolio.

On occasion, the LWVPA Board may approve a distribution that reduces the principal investment as part of the annual budgeting process or per Board Policies on approving expenditures.

Portfolio Review

In order to ensure that the guidelines established herein are being adequately met and to review the continuing appropriateness of said guidelines, a meeting between representatives of the Investment Manager and the LWVPA shall be held at least annually with additional meetings as may be required. During such meetings, a general review of the investment performance of the portfolio shall be conducted taking into consideration the long-term goals and objectives of the account as well as the existing environment of the financial markets.

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Investment Policy

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Total Fund performance, calculated on a total return basis, over a moving 5-year measurement period is expected to be competitive with industry returns for funds utilizing similar investment parameters. Benchmark comparisons for component returns will include the Standard & Poor's 500 Index for stocks, the Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index for bonds, and 91-day US Treasury Bills for money market funds.

The Board of Directors shall review this Fund Investment Policy periodically and may amend the policy as conditions warrant. The Treasurer and/or President may recommend amendments to the policy as necessary.

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee shall consist of at least two members of Executive Committee and they will be the President and the Treasurer. Remaining members of the Investment Committee shall be the appointed trustees of the Education Fund.

The Committee shall monitor the capital reserve balances and ensure that these funds are invested and reinvested within the guidelines of the investment policy on a timely basis.

No member of the Executive Board or Investment Committee shall be remunerated for any services rendered on behalf of the LWVPA.

LWVPA Board Approved 10/4/22

LWV Ohio Current Policy Priorities

“The League of Women Voters is a peoples’ organization that has fought since 1920 to improve our government and engage all Americans in the decisions that impact their lives. That being said, our primary actions focus on the issues of *Making Democracy Work* at all levels. Most of our time revolves around voting and elections. We never endorse or oppose political parties or candidates, but we are political.” -- [LWV Ohio > Advocacy > Current Policy Priorities](#)

To ensure that our resources are focused on *Making Democracy Work*, the LWVO has eight [Current Policy Priorities](#). The Priorities are presented in an updated format which is easy to read, navigate, and understand. If you do not have time to read all eight, below is the list of the Priorities. Choose the one(s) that interests you most.

Current Policy Priorities:

- [Voting and Elections](#)
- [Public Education & Democracy](#)
- [Honesty for Education](#)
- [Arming School Personnel](#)
- [Reproductive Justice](#)
- [Gun Safety](#)
- [Redistricting](#)
- [Environment](#)