

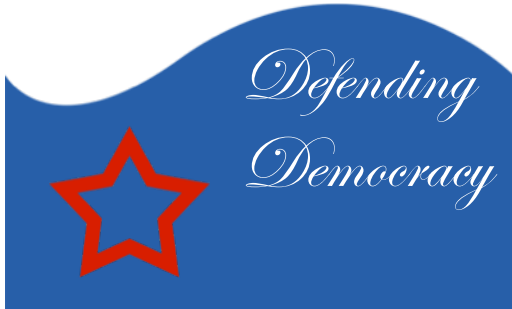


The Voter

January 2025

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

100+ Years



Township Administrator Jon Eckel to Speak On What's Ahead for Perrysburg Township

January Meeting — Tuesday, January 14, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Jon Eckel, Perrysburg Township's Administrator will discuss *What's Happening in the Township*. The program will take place at the Perrysburg Township Fire Station, located at 26711 Lime City Road on Tuesday, January 14, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.



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**Members-Only – Saturday –
January 25, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
RSVP Today!**

It is the first of the year and time for Program Planning! "Program" are the actions that we adopt or undertake to move our mission forward. Each year's Planning meeting has a little different twist — we might focus on our Local League's Program or review actions that the National League or the State League are considering. Getting your input is part of the grassroots nature of League and is very important.

This year's Program Planning agenda will include giving input to LWVO on their *Agenda for Action* – which affects us and all Ohio Leagues. Our last Program Planning Meetings were very successful. Help continue this success by joining us for engaging and lively discussions while learning about our League Program. As an extra enticement, we will be serving hot beverages, pastry, and fruit!

We will also take a few minutes at the beginning of the meeting to talk about and vote to adopt *Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation* for our League. [Read the Amended and Restated Articles in December's edition of *The Voter*.](#)

RSVP by emailing Debra.GreenleyGorman@gmail.com.

This is a free, **members-only meeting**. For planning purposes, we would like to know if you will be attending. **RSVP today!** You may also email Debra if you would like to help with the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you on January 25!

What a Deal!

Your annual membership dues cover not only your Perrysburg League dues, but also Ohio and National League dues too — a three in one deal.



League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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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.**

President's Letter



Happy New Year, LWVPA Members!

I am looking forward to 2025 — both personally and League-wise! Personally, to stick to my annual New Year's Resolution (do you have one?); League-wise, to stay one-step ahead of all that is happening in League and to keep you informed of those happenings.

Last month, *The Voter* informed you of our upcoming Members-Only meeting on Saturday, January 25. We want as many members as possible to attend as we will be giving input to LWVO for their Program Planning, and we will be voting to adopt *Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation* for our own League ([the Articles here on pages 2 and 3.](#)) Find RSVP information for the meeting in the article below.

A major League activity this year is the rollout of LWV's new member / renewal portal called ChapterSpot. As with any new system, there are many moving parts. Fortunately, LWVUS is responsible for implementing the new system. Even better, we have our own local ChapterSpot Team attending training, completing pre-work required of local leagues, and keeping on top of the implementation checklist. Our team consists of Board Members Starr Wlodarski and Sue Hoffman, Co-Membership Directors, Shirley Johnson, Treasurer, and me as President. Below is an overview of ChapterSpot and what you can expect.

LWV is switching to ChapterSpot for all Leagues across the country. As you know, with any major system implementation, the timeline is always in flux. This is what we know as of today.

There is no action that members need to take right now. When the system launches later this month / early February, each member will receive an email to log in to the ChapterSpot portal. Once you have access to the portal, you will be able to update your own information, including contact information.

When it comes time to renew, you will receive an email reminder. Our local League will no longer be mailing renewal invoices. Members are encouraged to renew and pay their memberships online — as you do with your other non-League memberships.

Another big change is that dues will no longer be a fixed rate, but will be pay-what-you-can. The recommended dues amount shown on the new portal will be \$75 for all members across the country, but members can pay any amount – down to a minimum of \$20. You may also choose to pay our League's current dues amount of \$65.

On a member level, the hope is that these changes will make managing your membership easier. On a League level, this is expected to increase membership around the country and increase our ability to empower voters and defend democracy.

We will keep you informed as the rollout progresses. However, if you have questions or concerns about the new system, please contact me, and our ChapterSpot Team will work to get you an answer.

In League,

Debra Greenley Gorman

President



Suffs

By Sue Hoffman

Perhaps you have heard of *Suffs*, “a play which tells the stories of a handful of fearless women who fought to get the right to vote for American women.” (Dr. Nikki M. Janey). *Suffs* has been playing on



Broadway to tremendous reviews. “Smart, noble and a bit like a rally, *Suffs* is good in both senses – a good show and good for the world.” (Jesse Greer)

The musical reminds us how important voting rights are, how the history of the suffragettes is important for us to know today and how we must keep moving forward. There are two copies of the libretto or text of the musical and two copies of the double disc CD recordings from the musical at Way Public Library. Please check them out. You will be singing along in no time, and you will find the importance of lyrics and text.

Bookmark Our [Homepage](#) And [Calendar](#) for Up-to-Date Info!

Want to get involved with our planning committees? Want more information on any of the following events? Contact us at lwperrysburg@gmail.com

★ Mindful Matters — *What’s Happening in Perrysburg Township?* — Tuesday, January 14, 2-3:30 p.m. Perrysburg Township Fire Station, 26711 Lime City Road, Township Administrator Jon Eckel.

★ *LWVPA Book Club* — Thursday, January 16, 6:00 p.m., *How to Know a Person* by David Brooks.

★ *Program Planning Meeting*, Saturday, January 25, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

★ Mindful Matters — *State of the City*, Monday, February 10, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Perrysburg Mayor Thomas Mackin.

★ *Board Meetings* are held the second Wednesday of the month, 4:45 p.m. All members are welcomed to attend.

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



Next Book Club: Thursday, January 16, 6:00 p.m., location to be determined.

The Book: *How to Know a Person* by David Brooks.

Get Your Copy: Way Library is holding copies for Book Club members to pick up.

Plan Ahead: Future Book Club dates are February 6 and March 6.

Summary of December’s Book *Poverty by America* by Matthew Desmond

Matthew Desmond has spent his life exploring the roots of poverty. “Poverty is on the surface, the inability to afford life’s necessities.” This is poverty on the surface. Going deeper, poverty is a tangle of social problems — violence, instability, and the sense the government is against you. Race intensifies the disadvantages of poverty. Government assistance has long been vilified as a handout, creating long term dependency, yet anyone receiving a tax break is receiving government assistance. Clinton’s welfare reforms created service industries that profit from the poor. Scarcity mindset and the fear of losing their own social position cause deadlock.

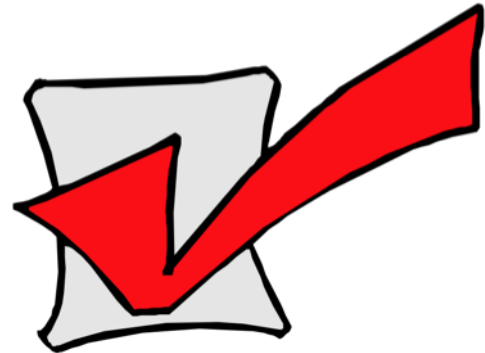
Desmond created a website endpovertyusa.org. The website gives poverty index numbers by state. It provides resources and information for those in need and teaching resources for those interested in making an impact. Several antipoverty policies he lists include **expanded Medicaid coverage for additional populations**, protect housing voucher holders from discrimination, **prohibit or highly regulate payday lending**, spend above the national average of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds on basic assistance, have a progressive tax rate. Ohio does two of the five items (listed in red).

Register New Citizens to Vote!



Naturalization Ceremonies (where immigrants to our country who have met requirements for citizenship, are sworn in as full U.S. citizens) take place in our area every month. Volunteers are needed to attend the ceremonies, congratulate the new citizens, and register them to vote! Here's the background:

LWV Toledo/Lucas County (LWV-TLC), has for many years, greeted, and registered these new citizens to vote. According to their website, "*LWV-TLC collaborates with the Federal Court of the Northern District of Ohio at Naturalization Ceremonies. Once sworn in, new citizens are greeted by League members who provide information on voting, registers them to vote, and encourages their active participation in our democracy.*" LWV-TLC already has a large



Naturalization Committee, but is looking for more volunteers.

LWVPA member, Karen Lakis, is one of the volunteers. She says working with LWV-TLC members and greeting new citizens is extremely rewarding. Recently she volunteered at a Naturalization Ceremony held at Bowling Green State University where 80 new citizens were sworn in. She, along with the Toledo/Lucas County League members, registered 48 of the new citizens to vote!

The LWV-TLC Naturalization Committee has turned to our League to recruit more volunteers. According to Karen, "Volunteers will not, necessarily, get called for all Ceremonies. It depends on the number of new citizens and, of course, the availability of volunteers. The ceremonies are during the week and locations are in and around Wood and Lucas counties."

Please consider joining Karen and other League members in this particularly important Voter Registration activity. If you have questions about the Committee, or if you are ready to volunteer, contact Karen directly or send her an email at lwvperryburg@gmail.com with your phone number and she will be in touch.

League Position Summaries

For anyone who was unable to attend our Members Only Meeting in September we will be printing a summary of one of the topics covered during the meeting in each Voter over the next few months.

The information was compiled by board members who researched various positions of the national League of Women Voters.

Reproductive Rights

Compiled by Starr Wlodarski

Reproductive Rights is included in the LWV's Health Care Reform Position

The US health care system should provide all US residents with a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost. Basic care includes disease prevention, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute and long-term care, mental health care, and health promotion and education. Health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services and delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level.

The League of Women Voters believes that public policy must affirm the right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices and that every individual should have access to quality health care at an affordable cost.

LWV is proud to partner with leaders in the abortion rights space to promote everyone's right to bodily autonomy. The restoration of reproductive rights is a central tenant in our Women's Inequality Day campaign.

LWVO follows the national position on reproductive rights.

Key Milestones

- 1. 1970s:** Following the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, the LWV began to actively support reproductive rights, emphasizing the importance of individual privacy and the right to choose.
- 2. 1983:** The LWV formally adopted a position supporting the right to choose at their national convention. This marked the beginning of their official stance on reproductive rights
- 3. 1980s-1990s:** During these decades, the LWV focused on opposing legislative efforts to restrict reproductive rights. They supported access to contraception and abortion services and advocated for policies that expanded reproductive health care.
- 4. 2000s:** The LWV reaffirmed its commitment to reproductive rights by supporting comprehensive sex education and family planning services. They also opposed policies that sought to limit these rights and worked to protect abortion access.
- 5. 2010s-Present:** The LWV has continued to be a vocal advocate for reproductive rights, opposing restrictive laws and supporting efforts to expand access to reproductive health care. They have been involved in legal challenges to protect these rights and have supported legislation aimed at ensuring reproductive freedom for all individuals.

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League Position Summaries

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Throughout these decades, the LWV's stance has remained rooted in their broader commitment to gender equality and individual privacy. They believe that everyone should have the right to make their own reproductive choices without government interference.

This position supports all reproductive rights, care after a miscarriage, IVF treatment and contraceptives

What You can Do from LWVO website

1. Keep informed about LWV trainings and advocacy updates
2. Write Letters to the Editor: LWVUS has provided important guidance from LWVUS on talking about reproductive justice. *Remember to remain nonpartisan; focus on the issue.*
3. Demand that sex-based equity be enshrined in the Constitution through the Equal Rights Amendment.
4. Stand with Planned Parenthood and other allies at local events
5. Join with LWVO allies Faith Choice Ohio and Pro Choice Ohio to learn about and promote reproductive rights in your community