

The Voter

October 2020

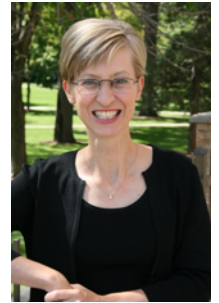
League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

100 Years



Who Knows More About Politics? Dr. Melissa K. Miller Presents A Dual Explanation of the Gender Gap

Is there a gender gap when it comes to political knowledge? Do women really know less than men about politics and government? Dr. Melissa K. Miller, associate professor of political science at Bowling Green State University, has conducted innovative experiments to answer these questions. Though decades of research have documented a gender gap in political knowledge, Miller demonstrates that the gap is merely an artifact of the way it is measured. Her talk at Way Public Library on Tuesday, October 13, at 7 p.m., sets the record straight.



The Perrysburg League is partnering with the library *Dr. Melissa K. Miller* on this event which will be held via Zoom. Registration

is required and the Zoom link will be sent at least 24 hours before the discussion.

Please plan to attend. You can register online at waylibrary.com or by calling 419-874-3135, extension 119.

An expert in American politics, Dr. Miller's focuses include voting behavior, women in politics, public opinion and the media.

Please note: Register early for Topical Tuesdays
Did you know, Way Library closes the registration 24 hours before an event in order to ensure registrants are sent the ZOOM link in a timely manner? Don't miss reserving your spot!

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Have You Paid Your Dues Yet?

... If not, please send a check made out to LWVPA for \$65 to LWVPA, P.O. Box 712, Perrysburg, OH 43552.



Board Votes to Support Upcoming School Levy

The Perrysburg League of Women Voters board voted recently to support the Perrysburg Schools request to renew the district's 1.9-mill permanent improvement levy on the November 3 ballot.

The current five-year levy is set to expire at the end of this year, and the school board is asking voters to renew the expiring levy at the same rate.

This levy is designed to ensure the care of the district's long-term maintenance needs, from preserving school buildings and replacing aging buses to enhancing safety measures. The monies from a permanent improvement levy cannot be used for salaries or other day-to-day expenses.



League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

President:

Jacki Stedman
stedmanfamily@sbcglobal.net
419-787-7092

Voter Editor:

Roseanne Barker
roseannebarker@sbcglobal.net
419-874-5151

LWVPA

**P.O. Box 712
Perrysburg, Ohio 43552**

LWVPA E-Mail

lwvperrysburg@gmail.com

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>

Board Letter

Hello League Members,

This month I thought it fitting to honor the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Born March 15, 1933, died September 18, 2020. Justice Ginsburg earned her “Notorious RBG” nickname through decades of fighting for equality, on the bench and off. About her legacy, she said, “To make life a little better for people less fortunate than you, that’s what I think a meaningful life is. One lives not just for oneself, but for one’s community.”

The following are just some of my favorite quotes that show her commitment and candor.

“Women belong in all places where decisions are being made.”

“Reading is the key that opens doors to many good things in life. Reading shaped my dreams, and more reading helped me make my dreams come true.”

“I would like to be remembered as someone who used whatever talent she had to do her work to the very best of her ability.”

“When a thoughtless or unkind word is spoken, best tune out. Reacting in anger or annoyance will not advance one’s ability to persuade.”

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1993 until her death in 2020. Justice Ginsburg was a pioneering advocate of women’s rights, who was also a cultural icon and a liberal hero.

Nancy J. Kelley

Second Vice President

Board Votes to Support Schol Levy

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Permanent Improvement funds may only be used for maintaining facilities, purchasing buses and acquiring other educational equipment that has a functional life of at least five years.

This is not a new tax. The levy would renew a five-year 1.9-mill levy passed in 2015, which expires at the end of this year. The rate would remain the same and would collect approximately \$1.5 million annually. It would continue to cost the owner of a \$200,000 home \$9.70 per month.



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, October 13 —
7 p.m. *Who Knows More About Politics? A Dual Explanation for the Gender Gap*, Melissa K. Miller, Associate Professor of Political Science, Bowling Green State University

Tuesday, November 17 —
7 p.m. *Unpacking the 2020 Presidential Election: How Many People Voted and Why*, David J. Jackson, Professor of Political Science, Bowling Green State University

The Program Committee, headed by Nancy Kelley and Way Library's Programming Specialist Natalie Diehlman, are busy planning this season's Topical Tuesdays.

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



Voter Guide Available Now

Our online *Voter Guide* is ready for you and your friends at www.Vote411.org. It's easy to use! Just click *See What's On Your Ballot* and you'll get personalized voting information.

Voters look to us for voting information. Direct them to our website and Facebook page. Help us get the word out about voting!



Perrysburg League Holds Successful Members-Only Meeting on Health Equity

by Jacki Stedman, President

On Monday, September 28, 16 Perrysburg league members gathered via Zoom for a members-only consensus meeting on health equity. Our league was asked to consider seven detailed questions regarding the impact of social determinants of health on public health and health equity in Ohio. A link to the full packet is found here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o0p2kPfcNGB8iBB3FnUg9Mab8MjOXI0anzldJ3k60Wo/edit?usp=sharing>

Although we understood that a consensus is not a majority vote, we did use the polling option on zoom to poll the attendees as a quick method to determine which answers had the most support. If there was less no consensus, the team then spent time discussing the top choices and/or outliers. A summary of our results is found below.

Thanks to Lynne Fleure and Nancy Kelley for arranging the ZOOM logistics and to Lynn, Kathy Donahue, Carol Russell, Josette McCarthy, Starr Wlodarski and Jacki Stedman for studying and moderating each question.

Finally, our league has been asked to participate in a consensus study on *Arming School Personnel*. You can read more about it here <https://www.lwvohio.org/positions-and-studies-1>. If you are interested in assisting with this study, please contact Jacki Stedman at 419-787-7092. We anticipate doing this in the early part of 2021.

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Members-Only Meeting on Health Equity

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Question 1

This question had to do with the factors that can negatively impact health. We were asked to select the statement that we agreed with the most.

The consensus was that statement A was best, with an approval rate of 85%. Statement B was chosen by one person because she felt it was a broader statement and there was more room for interpretation. Statement C was chosen by one person because she felt that racism is not necessarily relevant. No one was in agreement with statements D, E, and F.

Statement A was: Poverty, racism and other forms of discrimination negatively impact health, leading to disparities in the health and well-being of wealthy people compared to people living in poverty, white people compared to underrepresented minority populations (African American, Hispanic, Native, etc.), men versus women, heterosexual versus LGBTQ community, etc.

Statement B was:

Health inequities often stem from systemic and structural racism or the historical disenfranchisement and discrimination of particular marginalized groups, including racial and ethnic minorities, low-income populations, and members of the LGBTQ community.

Question 2

We were asked to rank factors that contribute to the health of an individual. While the directions were not very clear as to how we were to rank, we felt that all options do have an impact and all should be considered. Our rankings were as follows #1 as having the most impact to # 8 having the least. This is with the caveat of thinking of the big picture putting aside any personal experiences or situations:

1. Neighborhood/zip code
2. Education
3. Income, poverty, ...
4. Employment
5. Transportation
6. Family health history
7. Adverse Childhood experiences
8. Personal behavior

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Members-Only Meeting on Health Equity

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The discussion also pointed out that 3,4,5 should almost be ranked the same as we felt that they had the same amount of impact, but given the options we had to rank them.

Question 3

This question listed factors that are important for a healthy community. The group determined that all of these factors were important, therefore consensus was reached:

Safe affordable transportation; not an area of concentrated poverty; access to affordable, healthy foods; safe affordable options for physical activity; green and open spaces; quality, affordable housing free of mold, lead, etc; minimal level of pollution; safe neighborhoods free of violence and crime; support for healthy development of children; socially cohesive and supportive relationships.

Question 4

This question asked us to consider the role of state government in health equity. Our league voted 85% for statement A with the emphasis on the government being a resource for help in dealing with health inequities. We had 15% vote on statement B regarding government leadership in partnering with other sectors.

As we discussed the top two choices, there was a concern regarding the wording... a choice between "can" and "must." Needs may differ between communities. Government may need to take the lead, for example, in getting rid of contaminated drinking water as Flint experienced. We also thought #2 included bringing in the private sectors which are important partners in the community in solving health/quality of life inequities.

Statement A: Government policies and laws can help reduce health inequities by promoting income stability, reducing income inequality, breaking the cycle of poverty, targeting state investments into areas of concentrated poverty, and assessing the health and equity impact of proposed laws and rules during the policy-making process, prior to their adoption.

Statement B: Government must take the lead in bringing public, non-profit and private sectors together (creating partnerships, offering incentives to invest in poorer areas).

Question 5

This question focused on the role of local governments and county boards of health. The group reached consensus that there is a role for both local government and county boards of health. 90% selected option D (There is a role for both local government and county boards of health, but they need resources, technical assistance and other forms of support from the State government). There was some discussion around choice C as this option

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Members-Only Meeting on Health Equity

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had more description about why local government and county input is important, but D addressed the need for resources (a hybrid of C and D would have been ideal). The group reviewed the reference material regarding how county boards of health are funded and were concerned at the low levels of state funding.

Question 6a and 6b

6a. We were asked to consider the statement: “Nonprofit/community/faith-based organizations should move ahead in some areas no matter what is happening with government policy.”

We reached consensus (100%), however the group believed the statement should read:

“Nonprofit/community/faith-based organizations ***could*** move ahead in some areas no matter what is happening with government policy.”

6b. This question asked us to consider areas where non-profits and faith-based organizations could take the lead. We reached consensus in 3 of the 7 areas:

Food Banks/farmer’s markets	consensus yes
Community Gardens	consensus yes
Health clinics/screening	consensus no
Transportation	consensus no
Dental Care	consensus no
Educational and preventative care services	consensus no

There is a role for these organizations in this work, but they need resources from the state and local governments. consensus yes

Question 7a

This question asked us to consider the things that can ensure the health of the community. General consensus was reached on all, but there was a lot of discussion around “Get rid of the newly instituted work requirements for Medicaid.” The group reviewed the expense of the Medicaid work requirement in relation to the number of recipients who fall under this category and felt the cost was high for the number of folks in this category. The group felt that job training and resources should be provided for those who need it.

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Members-Only Meeting on Health Equity

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There was also discussion around “Fund school nurses and full-service clinics in schools”. There was concern that the incorporation of a full-service clinic could put additional burden on the teachers and staff.

Question 7b

This question asked us to select our top two priorities. The group narrowed it down to top four without defining a clear top two:

- Consider the health impacts of proposed rules and laws as a standard part of Ohio’s policy making process at all levels of government
- Help break cycle of poverty (universal pre-kindergarten, full day kindergarten, boost eligibility for childcare assistance)
- Promote income security for Ohio families (raise minimum wage, expand cash assistance program from 50-100 percent of poverty, expand earned income tax credit, protect supplemental nutrition assistance programs).
- Affordable housing in well connected areas (transportation, food, etc.)