



The Voter

October 2025

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

100+ Years



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Early Voting Begins

Monday, October 6

Mindful Matters

Raptor Expert Will Conduct Presentation On Birds of Prey In Modern America

John Blakeman, a retired high school biology teacher, will give a presentation titled *Of Hawks and Men, Birds of Prey in Modern America* on **Wednesday, October 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Way Library.**

This program is part of the Mindful Matters series the Perrysburg League presents in collaboration with Way Library.

Through photos and stories he will explore both local and distant species with a special focus on the remarkable restoration of Bald Eagles in Ohio lakeshore counties — a true conservation success.

Mr. Blakeman, who lives near Sandusky, is an expert on raptors.

His interest dates back to the late 60's at Bowling Green State university where he trained and displayed the university's live falcon mascot and also conducted feeding and physiology experiments with American kestrels.

He has studied hawks from Maine to Alaska and did a major hawk survey in northern Nevada. He also conducted one of the first raptor breeding projects.

One of Ohio's first licensed falconers, he attained the status of Master Falconer and was also one of Ohio's first raptor rehabilitators. Mr. Blakeman was a major participant in the Ohio Raptor Survey project, assessing the status of hawks and other raptors across the state.

In addition, Mr. Blakeman is an accomplished nature photographer and was founder of the Firelands Audubon Society. Professionally, he designs native plant landscapes, featuring prairie grasses and wildflowers.

He has directed the restoration of thousands of acres of tall grass prairie at NASA Plum Brook Station in Sandusky and worked as a consultant to restore prairies in other locations. For these efforts he was named to the Ohio Natural Resources Hall of Fame, the state's top conservation honor.



John Blakeman





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



As we move into the heart of fall, I am proud to share what our League has already accomplished this election season and to look ahead at opportunities to connect and engage together.

This year our members have once again stepped up to ensure Perrysburg area voters have the resources they need to make informed choices. **Vote411.org is now live**, and thanks to the hard work of our volunteers, local candidate information is ready for voters to access 24/7. This trusted online guide has become a go-to source for our community, and it is one of the most visible ways we live out our mission of providing voters with clear, nonpartisan information.

On **Sunday, September 28, we filmed our Candidate Forum**, another cornerstone of our Voter Services work. Instead of a one-time event, recording the forum makes it possible for residents to watch at their convenience, ensuring more people than ever can learn about the candidates and their positions. We're deeply grateful to the volunteers and community members who submitted thoughtful questions. The Candidate Forum continues to be one of the most valued services we provide — one that connects voters directly with those seeking to represent them.

Equally beloved in our community is our **printed Voter Guide in the Perrysburg Messenger Journal**. Year after year, residents tell us how much they appreciate having this guide at their fingertips. It remains a reliable, accessible resource, and it reflects the dedication of volunteers who work behind the scenes to bring it to publication.

We have also been busy with **voter registration events**, reaching new voters and ensuring every eligible person can cast a ballot. From high school drives to community outreach, these efforts matter greatly. Every registration completed is another voice ready to be heard at the polls.

Looking ahead, I want to personally invite you to our upcoming **New Member Get Together**. While the event is geared toward welcoming new faces, it's also a chance for current members to reconnect, ask questions, and explore ways to get more involved. I will be there along with **Sue Hoffman and Karen Lakis**, and we would love to speak with you — whether you are brand new or have been part of the League for years. Sometimes all it takes is a quick conversation to discover the perfect fit for your talents and schedule.

The League of Women Voters of Perrysburg Area is now over **68 members strong**, and each of you plays a role in keeping our democracy healthy at the local level. From behind-the-scenes planning to public-facing events, everything we do matters. I hope you take pride in the work we are accomplishing together.

Thank you for your continued support, dedication, and energy. Let's carry this momentum forward into Election Day and beyond.

Best Regards,

Starr Wlodarski

President



Upcoming Meetings

**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
lwvperrysburg@gmail.com

★ *Book Club* — Thursday,
10/2/25, 6 p.m.

★ *Mindful Matters Program*
– John Blakeman, *Of Hawks
and Men, Birds of Prey in
Modern America*, Wednesday,
10/8/25, 6:30 p.m.

★ *Mindful Matters Program*
— Dr. Sara Emery, Director
of BGSU Center for Great
Lakes and Watershed Studies,
Great Lakes Watershed,
Monday, 11/17/25, 6 p.m.

★ *Book Club* — Monday,
11/6/25, 6 p.m.

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

Natural Resources News

By Carol Hall,
Natural Resource Co-Chair



Natural Resource Committee members recently lunched at Cocina de Carlos in Waterville. We went with a scorecard to help determine the eco-friendliness of the restaurant.

Our waiter inquired if we wanted water. The water arrived in glass, not plastic. The straws, neither plastic nor paper, were renewable and compostable.

We were given boxes made from sugar cane or avocado for our leftovers. These same non-plastic, non-styrofoam boxes are used for takeout. Takeout customers are asked if they need utensils and if yes, compostable ones are provided. The bags, if necessary for takeout, are imprinted with “This bag is our commitment to the environment — Reusable, Recyclable and Biodegradable.”

Cocina de Carlos uses local vendors and farmers for meat and produce. They carry 15 local beers in addition to Mexican beers.

Because foods are cooked fresh, this restaurant does not have leftovers to deal with at the end of the day, which makes the need for leftover composting non-critical. However, the owner will look into the recently launched *Perrysburg Composts! Scraps to Soil Program* for disposal of kitchen food waste.

Tables are cleaned with a vinegar-based (not bleach) product in the interest of the health of children.

Editor’s Note: *Perrysburg’s Lupita’s Cantina*, another restaurant owned by Carlos Mendez and his wife Lupita, also follows the same practices.



- ✓ Candidate Bios
- ✓ Q&A with Candidates
- ✓ Links to Candidate Websites / Social Media
- ✓ Compare Candidates



Next Meeting: October 2, 6 p.m., Way Library. *Autocracy, Inc* by Anne Applebaum.

November Meeting: November, 6, 6 p.m., Way Library. *Bad Law* by Ellie Mystal

America250 — Their Mission and Vision



America250 is a nonpartisan initiative working to engage every American in commemorating the 250th anniversary of our country. This multi-year effort, from now through July 4, 2026, is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.

America250's mission is to celebrate and commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, marking America's Semiquincentennial. Their aim is to inspire our fellow Americans to reflect on our past, strengthen our love of country, and renew our commitment to the ideals of democracy through programs that educate, engage, and unite us as a nation.

America250 will foster shared experiences that spark imagination, showcase the rich tapestry of our American stories, inspire service in our communities, honor the enduring strength, and celebrate the resilience of the United States of America.

The U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission was established by Congress in 2016 to plan and orchestrate the 250th celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence of the United States. The nonpartisan commission, chaired by former Treasurer of the United States Rosie Rios, is working with America250.org, Inc. to engage Americans across the country in designing the largest anniversary observance in our nation's history.

Candidates Forum Is Now Online



Go to <https://my.lwv.org/ohio/perrysburg-area>
to view the September forum and hear the
candidates answer the questions
submitted to the League.