

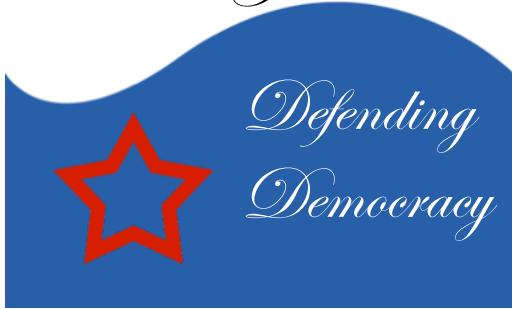


The Voter

February 2023

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

100+ Years



February Meeting: Tom Mackin to Speak on the Past And Future of City of Perrysburg

This year's state of the city address by Perrysburg Mayor Tom Mackin will take place in the Perrysburg Council Chambers, 201 W. Indiana Ave., Perrysburg. Mackin will speak to the League on **Tuesday, February 7 at 2 p.m.** on *The Past and Future of Perrysburg*.



Perrysburg Mayor Tom Mackin

Mayor Mackin, who is in his second term as mayor, previously served on city council. He was appointed to city council to fill a vacancy and was then reelected four times.

Please join us on that date with any questions you may have for the mayor.

Members Only Planning Meeting on February 28

Plan to attend our annual Program Planning Meeting at Way Library on Tuesday, February 28 at noon.

This meeting is for **members only** and gives us the opportunity to discuss our League's priorities. This year the meeting will focus on hearing ideas for activities for the 2023-2024 year.

Your League Board will provide a soup and salad luncheon beginning at noon, followed by a brainstorming session.

In addition, the membership will be voting on proposed revisions to the LWVPA investment policy. The current policy and the proposed policy appeared in last month's

Voter, which can be accessed on our website.

Please take time to consider what you would like the League to accomplish in the upcoming year and take this opportunity to share your thoughts with other League members.



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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.



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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



Dear League Members:

A January 7 editorial in the *Toledo Blade* ran under the headline **Santos News Desert**. In it the editorial board contended that the drastic changes in the ways in which news is produced and consumed in this country have given us the George Santos controversy.

They posed the question how could someone run for Congress and make so many false statements and not get called on them. Their answer was “it happened because local news coverage doesn’t reach the public the way it used to.”

Traditional local news sources — newspapers, radio stations and television stations — have had to greatly cut their staffs or go out of business because of the internet.

“It has nothing to do with political bias. It has to do with the fact that people can obtain news without paying for it,” according to this editorial. “The job of covering the news requires reporters and editors on the ground ... to produce balanced and informed coverage of local governance and politics.”

George Santos, newly sworn in congressman from Long Island, NY, lied about everything of importance in his life in order to get elected, according to a post-election investigative report by the New York Times.

The Blade editorial stated that one local paper, the weekly *North Shore Leader*, detected inconsistencies in Mr. Santos’ claims and called him out. Apparently the paper did not have a big enough reach to make an impact on local readers and the bigger newspapers did not pick up on the story.

“Readers are consuming free news that is heavy on national topics or entertainment and sports. In some instances, we’re getting news from online entities that deliberately distort the news for disinformation purposes.

“The new world of news coverage increasingly has abandoned local news and is allowing frauds like Mr. Santos to succeed, “ the article claimed.

I would join the Blade in urging consumers to demand better. One of the first things I learned in my freshmen college journalism class was that the primary job of a free and independent press was to be a watchdog of democracy.

Please support your local newspapers!

Roseanne Barker

Voter Editor



Upcoming Meetings

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

[League Calendar](#)

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.**

Tuesday, March 14 — 2 p.m. *State of the Township*, Perrysburg Township Administrator Jon Eckel and Thomas Brice, Township Fire Chief, Location: Township Fire Station, 26609 Lime City Rd.

Tuesday, April 25 — 7 p.m. *Economic Development in Wood County*, Wayne Gottschalk, Ex. Dir., Wood County Economic Development Office.

Tuesday, May 16 — 11 p.m. *Annual Meeting*, Noon Luncheon and presentation by Richard Baranowski, Way Library Local History Librarian, Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Levis Commons

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

Mapmaker, Mapmaker, Make Me a Map. . .

From WBEZ Chicago, *This American Life* podcast, hosted by Ira Glass

11/04/22 segment

Take time to listen to (or read the transcript) of [Mapmaker, Mapmaker, Make Me a Map](#) — a recap of Ohio's gerrymandering journey. Ira Glass, host of the podcast, includes many familiar names and voices in the segment: Jen Miller, LWVO Executive Director; now-retired Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, and, Matt Huffman, Ohio Senate President and a member of the Ohio Redistricting Commission.

It is an excellent review of how we came to have the district maps that were used in our last election.

We also encourage you to checkout our [LWVPA Fair Districts website page](#). You'll find a summary, slideshow, and detail of the Fair Districts timeline.

This American Life is produced in collaboration with WBEZ Chicago & delivered to stations by PRX The Public Radio Exchange.

Save-the-Date



Thursday, March 9

LWVO's Statehouse Day

*Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square
75 E. State Street, Columbus, OH 43215*

Details are being finalized, but if you are interested in attending, have questions about Statehouse Day, wondering about carpooling, or to have your registration fee reimbursed, please email lwvperrysburg@gmail.com.

Past and Future Elections

Past: November 2022 General Election

On December 22, 2022, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose issued a press release saying, “Ohio’s county boards of election have finalized their post-election audit of the November 2022 general election. The results show a 99.9% accuracy rate.”

Read the [entire press release](#) and view a 2-minutes video about [Ohio’s post-election audit process](#).

Future: Ohio House Bill 458

The first week of 2023, Governor Michael DeWine signed into law Ohio HB458 which takes effect April 7. The new law enacts changes to Voter ID requirements, Vote-by-mail processes, August Special Elections and other Election procedures.

A quick-read summary, as well as a detailed analysis of the bill, is available from the [Ohio Legislative Service Commission](#). We will keep you posted on how you can help educate voters about these changes.

Native Plant Sources

Following up on Guest Speaker Jan Dixon’s talk on *Plant It and They Will Come* at our December luncheon, Carol Russell has shared a list of native plant sources for anyone who is interested.

Lucas and Wood Counties Plant Sales

Wild Ones Blue Week Native Plant Sale usually the third weekend in May at Blue Creek Seed Nursery in Whitehouse. Look for details in early spring at [wildonesoakopenings.org](#).

Lucas County Soil and Water Conservation District: 130 West Dudley in Maumee (419-893-1966). Sell native trees, shrubs and plants. Pre-order deadlines begin in later March. See [www.LucasSWCD.org/nativeplantsale](#)

Wood County Parks Friends Plant Sale: first weekend in May (419- 353-1897) or [office@wcparks.org](#).

Vendors

Bensell Greenhouse: 5720 Dorr Street in Toledo (419-536-3992). Sell a variety of both indoor and outdoor plants, as well as beautiful native plants. [www.bensellgreenhouse.com](#)

North Branch Nursery: Pemberville, OH (419-287-4679). Be sure to tell them you are interested in native plants as they do not work exclusively with natives.