

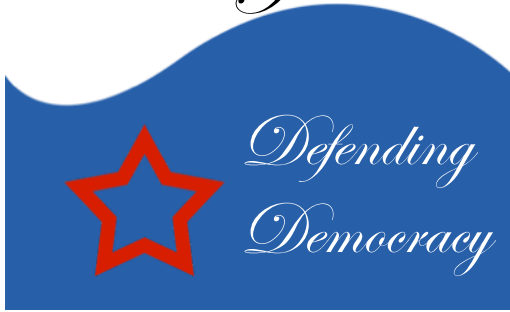


The Voter

February 2021

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

100 Years



February Topical Tuesday:

Mayor Tom Mackin Will Make Presentation On State of the City at February 23 Meeting

Perrysburg Mayor Tom Mackin will speak on the state of the city at the February Topical Tuesday meeting presented by the Perrysburg League of Women Voters in partnership with Way Public Library. The presentation will take place on Tuesday, February 23, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Mayor Mackin will discuss COVID-19 and its impact on the community, 2020 accomplishments, 2021 projects and transportation options in the city of Perrysburg.



Mayor Tom Mackin

Mayor Mackin, his wife and their two children moved to Perrysburg in 1990. He was appointed to City Council in 1998 to fill a vacant seat. He won his first election the following year. Mayor Mackin was re-elected to council four times.

During his time on Council he served on a number of council committees. He served on the Finance, Economic Development, Service-Safety, Health, Sanitation and Public Utilities, and Planning and Zoning Committees.

Mayor Mackin chaired the Finance Committee the entire time he was on council. As chair of the Finance Committee he reviewed and oversaw the City's budget. On the Service Safety Committee he worked with Perrysburg Police for more than nine years to help ensure that their operations and policies best served the community and were consistent with

the city's short and long term needs.

Mayor Mackin is an honor graduate of the University of Toledo College of Law. He was in private practice for 25 years until 2015 when he joined the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority as its Chief Legal Officer.

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Have you moved ... or changed your email address or phone number?



Please let the League know your new information.

Please note: Register early for Topical Tuesdays
Did you know, Way Library closes the registration 12 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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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](https://my.lwv.org/ohio/perrysburg-area)**

Board Letter

Dear League Members,

We often hear the slogan, “Get involved. Stay involved.” In the middle of a pandemic, it may feel as though this is a hard directive to live by. But, the League has worked hard to keep our members engaged and informed. In some instances, it is easier than before the pandemic to be involved in advocacy, planning, and learning about local and state issues. Here are three ways for you to be involved without ever leaving your home:

LWVPA Calendar

Bookmark LWVPA’s website, my.lwv.org/ohio/perrysburg-area and check it often for event updates. For quick reference, the homepage shows two or three upcoming events. For a full list, click on “Calendar” under the links. League members may participate in any event listed on our calendar and if registration is required, register right from the website. Events open to the public are titled, “Public Meeting”. Invite your friends to “Public Meetings” and direct them to our website for registration and content summary.

Action Alerts

Members of LWVPA receive Action Alerts via email from both LWVO and LWVUS. As stated by LWVO, “Action Alerts are how we inform and mobilize people on critical and timely policy issues.” Action Alerts contain a summary of the issue, officials to contact along with their contact info, and suggested verbiage for the message you are delivering. You can use the sample message verbatim or edit it as you like. When you act upon Action Alerts, you are NOT speaking as a representative of the LWV. You are speaking on your own behalf. Action Alerts makes it simple to advocate for those issues you care about. You can also find Action Alerts on the [LWVPA’s website](http://my.lwv.org/ohio/perrysburg-area) under the link, “Action Alerts”.

Facebook

Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/leagueofwomenvotersofperrysburgarea](https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvotersofperrysburgarea). Our Facebook content includes LWVPA-generated posts as well as posts from other sources that are connected to League positions and events. Help us increase the League’s reach by sharing our posts with your own Facebook friends. Our Facebook content is also streamed on LWVPA’s [homepage](http://my.lwv.org/ohio/perrysburg-area).

Contact me at Debra.GreenleyGorman@gmail.com if you have questions about the above items or how to use the technology to attend a virtual meeting. (One hint for Zoom meetings, you do NOT need a Zoom account.) We really do want everyone to “get involved and stay involved”.

Debra Gorman

Director Voter Services



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, February 23 —
7 p.m. *State of the City and What Does the Future Look Like in Perrysburg*, Mayor Tom Mackin

Tuesday, March 23 —
7 p.m. *All Things Lake Erie*, Matt Markey, Outdoors Editor for the *Toledo Blade*



Tuesday, April 20 —
7 p.m. *COVID-19 Vaccines*, Ben Robison, WoodCounty Health Commissioner and a Mercy Hospital of Perrysburg nurse.

Tuesday, June 8 —
1 p.m. *Annual Meeting*,

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.

Report from the LWVO Volunteer Lobby Corps

The LWVO Advocacy Team was busy in 2020. A summary of recent efforts by the LWVO Volunteer Lobby Corps is below.

The team worked on this all in the midst of the Presidential election. They noted that we "know that a priority will be the redistricting process at that unfolds." For more on redistricting, please see your Fall 2020 *Ohio Voter*, the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Ohio and check out LWVOH.org for a recent article by Andy Chow, Statehouse News Bureau, entitled *Ohio's Redistricting Reforms to Avoid Gerrymandering Take Shape in 2021*.

Short Summary of Advocacy at This Point

A. Education Policy Update - Public Education Is Taking a Beating

1. **Governor DeWine ordered a \$300 million cut in K-12 Foundation Aid to School Districts**

The cuts are designed to balance the state budget for this fiscal year that ends June 30. Every district will lose funds.

2. **EdChoice Vouchers to continue in 140 Districts in 2020-21 school year**

Without further action, the explosion will take place on February 1, 2021, when the voucher applications for the next school year begins again. The state decides where vouchers are available, but it requires local school districts to pay for them. A very simple way the legislature can protect local resources for public education during this financial crisis is to halt new EdChoice vouchers. Reps. Patterson and Robinson introduced HB 587 that would suspend vouchers for 20-21 school year. It has not had a hearing.

3. **The Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding announced a legal challenge to EdChoice Vouchers**

On May 14 Bill Phillis, director of the coalition that filed the DeRolph school funding case in the mid 1990's that found the system unconstitutional announced that he is working with local school districts to challenge the legality of Edchoice vouchers.

4. **Ohio Supreme Court ruled on the challenge to the provisions in HB70 that created Academic Distress Commissions to govern schools where state report cards defined performance as unacceptable.**

Short Summary of Advocacy

Continued from Page 3

What lies ahead? What do we do?

Funding of public education will be in jeopardy from the existing financial crisis facing our families, state, and nation, and from the deduction method of funding vouchers and charter schools. Funding, vouchers, and federal aid will all vary by school district.

Our most important job is to continue to advocate for the importance of public education in a democracy, and to urge that stabilizing opportunities in our public system must be our priority in policy making – not advancing private education at public cost.

B. Gun Control

By far, the biggest task I have had for the 133rd Ohio General Assembly has been to monitor and evaluate the numerous gun bills introduced into the Ohio General Assembly. There have been approximately 25 bills that LWVO could have supported under our position statements and 12 that we could have opposed. Assessing the viability of these bills has been very time consuming.

Unfortunately, there have been only two or three viable bills this session. The first was HB 178. On May 22, 2019, I presented in-person LWVO Testimony opposing HB 178, Permit-less carry of a Concealed Weapon which moved out of committee but did not go for a floor vote.

The other two that currently deserve our attention are SB 381, a “Stand Your Ground” bill and SB 317 that identifies the level of active shooter training for school staff who have been authorized by their school boards to carry guns into a school.

Currently, the most active and threatening gun bill is the very dangerous, Stand-Your- Ground (SYG) legislation, HB 381. This bill lifts the duty to retreat when someone feels threatened, justifying the use of lethal force. We also have studies showing that a white person who “stands their ground” and kills a black person in self defense, will more likely be exonerated by our criminal justice system than a black person who kills a white person.

C. Social Policy

Human trafficking: submitted written testimony supporting SB 13, the Protect Trafficked Minors Act, to House Criminal Justice Committee on Feb. 13, 2020. This bill passed the Senate unanimously but is stuck in the House; action may be expected in the lame duck session. I have submitted testimony in support of similar bills in past sessions, based on our state position.

Housing: Activity in this area generally involves supporting the Housing Trust Fund during budget negotiations; however, in this session the trust fund was treated fairly and League support was not needed. League was recently asked by COHHIO to support a request that the state use stimulus funds to provide emergency rental assistance to avoid evictions, but chose not to do so in view of other priorities and limited LWVO staff. (I would disagree and believe that avoiding evictions is key to family stability. I have a bias toward housing and would generally support a COHHIO request, having served as the League representative on the COHHIO board for 15 years.) Housing activity is based on national positions, as Ohio does not have a state housing position.

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Short Summary of Advocacy

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Reproductive rights: I wrote testimony opposing the Heartbeat bill, SB 23, for a February 26, 2019 hearing, although the testimony was given in person by another Leaguer. We can expect more bills to erode reproductive rights unless the composition of the legislature changes.

Capital Punishment: The Ohio House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a bill that would ban the death penalty for offenders who were seriously mentally ill at the time of the offense. HB136 passed the House by a vote of 76-17 on June 5, 2019 with bipartisan support and was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 11 where it has stayed going into the 2020 Lame Duck Session.

Governor Mike DeWine issued reprieves to the last three Ohio death-row prisoners facing executions dates in 2020, ensuring that the state will not carry out any executions this year. The reprieves were granted “due to ongoing problems involving the willingness of pharmaceutical suppliers to provide drugs to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and

Correction (DRC), pursuant to DRC protocol, without endangering other Ohioans.” DeWine has issued reprieves of 11 executions scheduled in 2020. Former Governor John Kasich previously issued reprieves of three other execution dates that had been scheduled for 2020. There are more legislators moving toward abolition of the death penalty.

D. Natural Resources

Energy: After much bitter contention during 2019 the legislature passed, and the Governor signed, HB6 (the First Energy nuclear bail out). This was followed by a failed repeal-petition drive. As a result all Ohioans will have increased electric bills starting I January. The recent arrests have revived interest in repealing HB6 and repeal. Of concern, there are parts of the bill supporting renewables.

HB246 is mostly concerned with reorganizing the state's energy regulatory structure, However, it does contain language allowing property owners to install solar panels, even if forbidden by homeowner associations. I plan to submit written testimony in favor of this section and declare us an interested party on the remainder.

HB401 and SB234 add a local referendum to the process of approval of a wind farm. I have testified against this bill because it is added bureaucracy intended to additionally inhibit wind energy. Various obstacles, passed by the legislature, have made Ohio the 49th in the nation in renewable energy. I have testified in opposition to SB234 and will submit written opposition to HB401, if it is heard.

SB257 is bi-partisan legislation granting a tax credit to electric vehicles. Although efforts in greenhouse-gas reduction have concentrated on electric generation, transportation is now a larger source.

2020 General Election Statistics

(Source: [Ohio SOS Election & Data](#))

Voter Turnout	<i>All of Ohio</i>	<i>Wood County</i>
Registered Voters	8,073,829	93,149
Voters Who Voted/Ballots Counted	5,974,121	68,103
Official Voter Turnout	73.99%	73.11%

- * See All Counties' Voter Turnout: [Voter Turnout by County](#)
- * See Past Years' Voter Turnout: [Voter Turnout in General Elections](#) ;
- * [Voter Turnout in Presidential Election Years](#)

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Absentee Ballots	<i>All of Ohio</i>	<i>Wood County</i>
Absentee Ballots Cast	3,512,374	40,607
Absentee Ballots Counted	3,503,169	40,512

- * See All Counties' Absentee Ballots Info: [Absentee Supplemental Report](#)

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Provisional Ballots	<i>All of Ohio</i>	<i>Wood County</i>
Provisional Ballots Counted	130,306	1,635
Provisional Ballots Rejected	24,369	271 (a)

Reasons for Wood County Rejections:

— Not Registered in Ohio	212
— Registered in Ohio, Wrong Precinct & Polling Location	12
— Voter Failed to Sign Provisional Envelope	2
— Voter Failed to Provide Current Address	31
— Voter Failed to Provide ID	3
— Ballot Missing from Provisional Envelope	1
— Voter Already Voted	5
— Missing or Incorrect Date of Birth	5

Total Rejected 271 (a)

- * See All Counties' Provisional Info: [Provisional Supplemental Reports](#)

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Post-Election Audit	<i>Wood County</i>
Type of Audit: Percentage Based	
Total Votes Cast	68,103
Total Ballots Audited for each Contest	3,431 (5.04% of Votes Cast)
— Contest Audited: President & Vice President	100% Accuracy
— Contest Audited: Justice of Supreme Court, 01/01/2021	100% Accuracy
— Contest Audited: Sherriff	100% Accuracy

- * See All Counties' Audit Results: [Post-Election Audit Information](#)

***The Bowling Green League of Women Voters Invites you to
join them for an important program***

**THE CHALLENGES FACING PUBLIC
SCHOOL FUNDING IN 2021**

presented by

Susan Kaeser,

State of Ohio League of Women Education Specialist

Susan has served for the past three year as the education specialist for the LWVO Lobby Corps. She has worked extensively with nonprofit organizations focused on mobilizing the citizen voice to support public education.

Her work focuses on building community understanding of how privatization and testing are part of a war on public education.

She lives in Cleveland Heights where for the last 6 years she has been a member of the Heights Coalition for Public Education.

February 9 at 7:00 p.m.

**Bowling Green LWV will
send out the Zoom meeting link.**