

# The Voter

February 2026

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

100+ Years



Defending Democracy

## In This Issue:

A Series of Bi-Monthly Meetings Scheduled Throughout 2026	1
Erin Daly to Head Voting Services	1
President's Letter	2
Upcoming Meetings	3
Mindful Matters	3
Book Club News	3
Democracy Defence	4
Voter Services	5

## Our Vision

We envision a democracy where every person has the knowledge, the confidence, the desire and the right to participate. We believe that people have power to create a more perfect democracy and we advocate for informed and active citizen participation in government. The League is proud to be non-partisan.

## League Announcement A Series of Bi-Monthly Meetings Scheduled Throughout 2026

By Karen Lakis  
Membership Co-Chair

In an effort to increase community awareness of league positions and strengthen our outreach during these challenging times, the Perrysburg League of Women Voters is initiating a series of bi-monthly meetings throughout 2026.

Members and guests can gather to get to know one another, learn about current league positions and develop action plans to promote them.

Bi-monthly meetings will be held on the third Saturday of every other month, beginning March 21. That meeting will be held at the Way Public Library and will begin at 9:30 a.m. with Karen Roderick-Lingeman as our speaker. Karen will speak on the importance of our Ohio primaries. We plan to conclude before 11:30 a.m..

Breakfast will be available - bring your coffee mug! Members and guests are welcome.

Future meetings have been scheduled for May 16, July 13, September 19 and November 21, with topics to be announced. These meetings will take place at Schaller Memorial Building, 130 W. Indiana Avenue, Perrysburg, and will also start with a breakfast. We are currently planning these meetings and welcome your input and participation. You are not obligated to attend all the meetings — come as you are able and stay as long as you like.

Hope to see you soon. Any questions? Email Karen Lakis at [lakiskaren@gmail.com](mailto:lakiskaren@gmail.com)



Karen  
Roderick-  
Lingeman

## Erin Daly to Head Voting Services

Board Member Erin Daly has been appointed Voting Services Director for the remainder of this year.

Thank you, Erin, for taking on this very important job for the Perrysburg League of Women Voters!



Erin Daly



## 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](https://my.lwv.org/ohio/perrysburg-area)

**The deadline for  
Voter articles is the  
25th of each  
month.**



## President's Letter

Midterm elections are often called “quiet elections.”

Let me be very clear: **there is nothing quiet about what's ahead in 2026.**

This year voters will make decisions that shape our communities and our state for years to come. On the ballot, we will see **local county offices, state-level races including Governor, U.S. Senate, and Congressional seats** — leadership choices that directly affect policy, funding, and the direction of Ohio.

While November may feel far away, the work starts **now**. Ohio's primary is in May, and preparations for voter education, Vote411, and outreach are already underway. This is where the League excels — providing trusted, nonpartisan information so voters can make informed choices.

### **What is LWVPA doing right now:**

- Preparing for primary-season voter education and outreach
- Coordinating with the Ohio League on advocacy priorities and messaging
- Supporting Vote411 so voters have easy, reliable access to candidate and issue information
- Planning for fall candidate forums and election education programming

On February 7, we will co-host the **LWVO Democracy Defense Teach-In**, an opportunity to learn more about challenges facing our democratic systems and how Leagues across Ohio are responding through education, advocacy, and community engagement.

Midterms historically see lower turnout, but **we know the stakes are even higher this year**. Local and state offices determine how our communities grow and how public resources are allocated. **Congressional races will shape the composition and functioning of the Legislative branch, responsible for lawmaking, oversight, and representation. At a time when many citizens are concerned about gridlock and institutional performance, these races will influence how Congress carries out its constitutional responsibilities.**

This is our moment to **educate, engage, and empower voters**. Whether you help with voter guides, outreach, advocacy, or simply share accurate information, every contribution matters.

Democracy doesn't run on autopilot.

It runs because people like you show up.

**In League,**

***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

[lwvperryburg@gmail.com](mailto:lwvperryburg@gmail.com)

★ *Mindful Matters* Program  
— Dr. Kurt S. Panter, and BGSU Graduate Students, *Explosive Volcanoes Beneath an Icy Sea: Expedition to Antarctica*, Thursday, 2/19/26, 6 p.m.

★ *Democracy Defense*, Saturday, 2/7/26, Location: IBEW #8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

★ *Primaries*, Karen Roderick-Lingeman, Saturday, 3/21/26, 9:30 a.m. Breakfast included.

★ *Mindful Matters* Program  
— Mark Weber, Perrysburg Mayor, *State of the City*, Wednesday, 4/15/26, 6 p.m.

★ *Annual Meeting*, **Members Only**, Saturday, 6/20/26, 9:30 a.m.

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

## ***Mindful Matters***

# **Explosive Volcanoes Beneath an Icy Sea: Expedition to Antarctica**



The League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area in conjunction with Way Public Library will welcome Dr. Kurt S. Panter and Bowling Green State University graduate students for a panel discussion on their research trip to McMurdo Station in Antarctica on **Tuesday, February 19**, at 6 p.m. at the library.

This Mindful Matters talk will include a broad overview of Antarctica, their experiences living and working in that environment, as well as what their research is about.

These researchers returned from a months-long journey across the world to study undersea volcanoes in the Ross Sea, near the coast of Antarctica, shedding light on one of the least seen parts of the world.

BGSU Geology Professor Dr. Kurt Panter, as well as graduate students Katie Shanks '24 and Jacci Kalemba '24 spent two months aboard the *Nataniel B. Palmer*, a research-focused icebreaker, while fellow graduate student Robert O'Conke '24 organized the team's research and space preparations back in Bowling Green.

The ship departed from New Zealand and traveled more than 2,000 miles across the ocean into the southern Ross Sea to better understand the overall effects of volcanic activity in Antarctica, which is home to active volcanoes despite the glaciated environment of the region.

*Bowling Green State University Geology Professor Dr. Kurt Panter and graduate students Katie Shanks and Jacci Kalemba wore ECW (Extreme Cold Weather) gear to brave the harsh conditions of Antarctica.*



## **League Book Club:**

Discussion of *The Power Broker* by Robert Caro will continue at the February 19 meeting at Way Library at 6 p.m.

**Location: IBEW Hall #8 807 Lime City Rd. Rossford, OH 43460**

Registration via [Mobilize link](#)

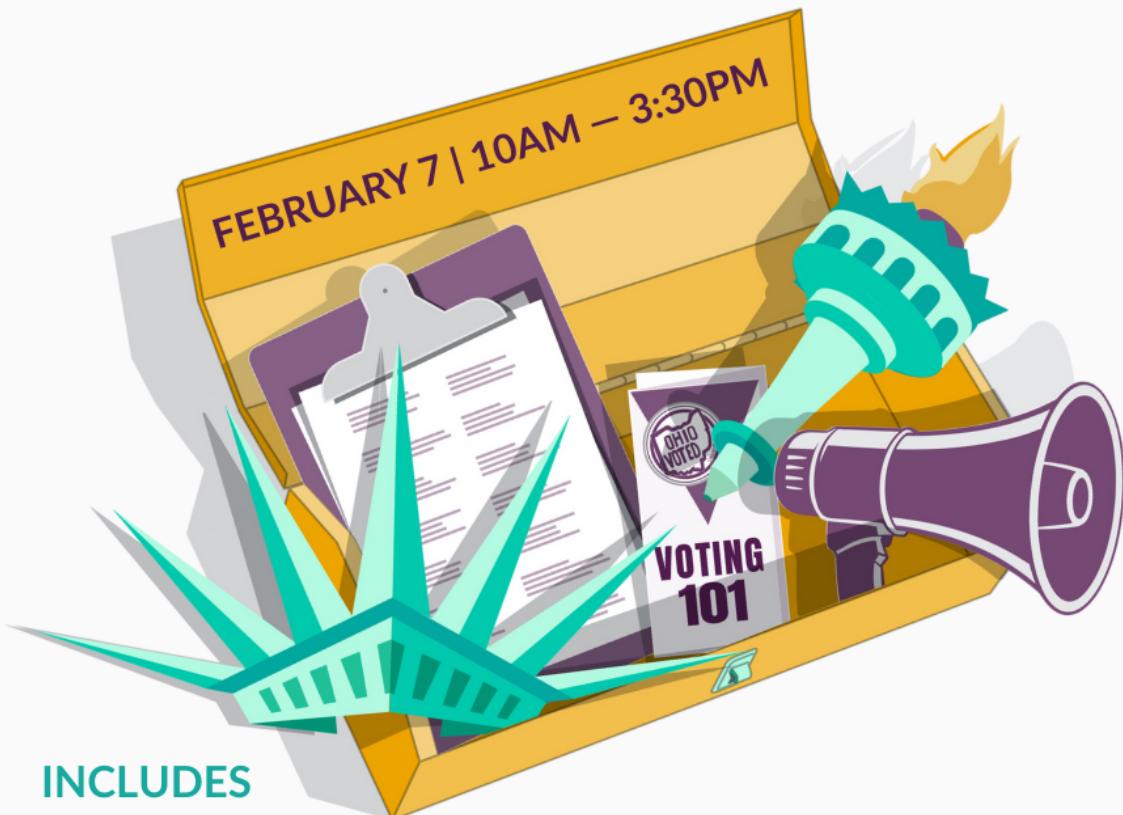


LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF OHIO presents

# DEMOCRACY DEFENSE

A TEACH-IN FOR  
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

*Get the nonpartisan tools you need to empower voters & defend democracy in 2026.*



## INCLUDES

- IN-PERSON TRAINING FROM TRUSTED EXPERTS
- NETWORKING & COMMUNITY BUILDING
- PRACTICAL TOOLS & INFO
- LUNCH

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REGISTER



# Voter Service

*From the January 16, 2026  
League of Women Voters Ohio The Weekly*

**County offices up for election in 2026** | We've talked a lot about the federal and state offices on the ballot this year, and we'll continue to do so—each of those officials will have tremendous impact on the future of our state and nation for the foreseeable future. But there are two county offices all Ohio voters will also have the chance to vote on we also wanted to highlight: County Commissioner and County Auditor.

County Commissioners are the chief decision-makers for how public dollars are spent in our counties. Each county has three Commissioners; two are elected during presidential election years, and the other is elected during gubernatorial election years.

Of particular interest to us, County Commissioners control the budgets that fund county Boards of Elections, voting equipment, poll worker pay, early voting sites, and election security.

County Auditors are their county's chief fiscal officer, and the official who ensures tax laws are applied fairly and transparently.

They also establish property values for property taxes, administer property tax law, and calculate how much of the tax money collected by the county Treasurer goes to each county taxing entity, like school districts, and distributes the tax revenue. With property taxes being one of the biggest issues animating politicians at the state level and the subject of a potential proposed citizen-led initiative on the ballot this fall, County Auditor races across the state are bound to get more attention than usual.

We know many Ohioans are in the dark about how state and county government works. We'll be spending time this year helping connect voters and potential voters with information and resources to empower them to be informed voters. Stay tuned for new Voter Service materials and look for social media campaigns throughout the year.

*On Saturday, March 21 LWVPA Board Member Karen Roderick-Lingeman will speak on the importance of our Ohio primaries at Way Public Library at 9:30 a.m.*