

LWW VOTER

League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County

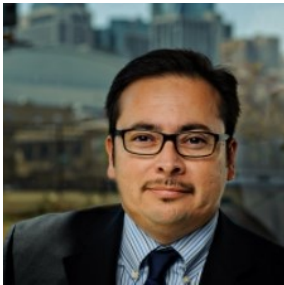
April 2024

Immigration in SE Pennsylvania: An Overview — May 10

Hot Topics don't get any hotter than this: **Immigration Issues in SE Pennsylvania — The Big Picture**. Please join LWV CDC for this important program about the immigrants living among us, **May 10, 1 p.m., by Zoom**.

Our speakers will be Steven Larin, the Deputy Director of Nationalities Service Center (NSC) and Exequiel (Zeke) Hernandez, professor at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Larin is an attorney specializing in removal defense, asylum, and immigrant youth issues. He leads NSC's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program and has served as an Adjunct Professor for the Immigration Law Clinic at Temple University – Beasley School of Law and for the Political Science Department at La Salle University.



Steven Larin

Professor Hernandez publishes pioneering research examining how immigration patterns affect the investment choices, strategic decisions, and performance of firms in foreign markets. The linkage between immigration and economic growth in this line of work has crucial implications for immigration policy.

Professor Hernandez

His forthcoming book, *The Truth About Immigration: Why Successful Societies Welcome Newcomers*, will be published June 4 from St. Martin's Press. It is available for pre-order now wherever books are sold.

The book is an accessible, apolitical, and evidence-based look at how newcomers affect our local communities and our nation. It talks about the impact of immigrants on investment and job creation, and issues such as jobs, crime, and undocumented immigrants.



Zeke Hernandez

The program is free but you must register to get the Zoom link. Please register [HERE](#). The event will be recorded and will be sent to all that register. Event contact is [Ralf Graves](#), chair of the LWV CDC Civic Education Committee.

PA Attorney General Candidate Forum

Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts is holding a candidates forum for all the candidates running for PA Attorney General, Monday, April 15, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Register [HERE](#) to watch.

Last Call for Moms Need Healthcare Access — Friday April 5

Join us for the **Health Hot Topic - Moms Need Healthcare Access: They're Dying Without It** on **Friday, April 5, 2024 at Noon via Zoom**. This Health Hot Topic will focus on the need to ensure comprehensive women's healthcare access in the upcoming election cycle. Presentation is a free event but registration is required. Register Click [HERE](#).

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LWV CDC wants to extend a warm welcome to new members: Pastor Christine Coleman-Crosby, Media; Pam Sivertsen, Drexel Hill; Tina Shelton, Haverstown; Donna Mancini, Media; Regina Brown, Wynnewood, and Shaina Barnes, Wallingford.



President's Message

The League of Women Voters has three levels of organizational structure consisting of national, state and local levels. Through my President's message in February, March and April I have shared how the League of Women Voters advocates to influence public policy. This month, I am focusing on our local league, LWV of Central Delaware County and how it advocates to influence public policy.

The League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County (LWV CDC) Legislative Advocacy Committee works with individual lawmakers, lawmaking bodies and partners to gain support for a League position, initiative, issue or specific legislation in Harrisburg. It involves speaking out on behalf of an issue, conducting various kinds of public events, getting coverage in the media, building public awareness and better understanding among the League and the public.

Legislative Advocacy Chair: [Jodine Mayberry](#) will hold an inaugural legislative advocacy committee meeting by Zoom, April 11 at 5 p.m. If you wish to attend, please email her and she'll add you to her contact list.

Whether you join the committee or not, as a LWV member you can seize opportunities to advocate throughout the year, by attending our hot topics, writing or emailing your congress members and state legislators in response to our action alerts and so on.

For instance, this month, on April 21 you can march (or drive) in the 4th Annual Earth Justice March in Chester (see page 3) and next month, on May 7, you can go to Harrisburg with CeaseFirePA to advocate for several gun safety bills now stalled in the Senate Judiciary Committee. (See Page 3).

Visit our Legislative Advocacy Issue Page [CLICK HERE](#). We explain:

why advocacy matters

What we have done

What we are doing

What can you do

Be a legislative advocate to advance the League of Women Voters Mission to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy

Anne Mosakowski

Join 4th Earth Justice Day March April 20

LWVDC members are invited to participate in the **4th Annual ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE DAY March and Caravan, Saturday, April 20**, beginning at **Noon**. The starting point is Chester City Hall 1 E 4th St, Chester, PA 19013 and it will end at the [Covanta trash incinerator](#). This environmental justice day is sponsored by [Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living](#) (CRCQL) with the purpose to generate awareness of the pollution from the nation's largest trash incinerator and its detrimental impacts to the health of residents in the city and across the county.

Those who cannot walk any distance are invited to caravan by car behind the walkers. The caravan will be organized at the City Hall start.

To be part of the Environmental Justice Day March/Caravan – [SIGN UP HERE](#)

NOTE: CRCQL is a partner of the Voter Engagement Coalition of the [League of Women Voters \(LWV\) of Central Delaware County](#).

The [League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania](#) position on environment states that Environmental Justice ensures the meaningful involvement of all citizens in environmental policy decisions, the equitable treatment/consideration for frontline communities, and mindfulness of environmental decisions on public health. To learn more about the environmental positions of the LWV PA review **Where We Stand** - [CLICK HERE](#).



Go to Harrisburg with CeaseFirePA May 7

Join CeaseFirePA and its dozens of partners, including the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, at a rally and lobby day in Harrisburg, Tuesday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to demand action on two gun safety bills passed by the House last year.

House Bill 1018 would create a process by which firearms could be removed from at-risk individuals and House Bill 714

would provide for increased background checks when purchasing firearms in PA. A new bill, HB 777 banning ghost guns (made on 3-D printers) just passed the House as well. They are now stuck in the PA Senate Judiciary Committee with no sign of movement.

To sign up for the rally go to [CeaseFirePA](#), and fill out the form. Please note, there will be a bus from Delaware County. Some LWV members have signed up for the bus but can drive if necessary. Details on the bus have not been released yet. Email [Anne Mosakowski](#) if you do sign up so we can coordinate transport and visits to legislators.

LWVPA is having its own lobbying day the next day, Wednesday, May 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join the state at the capitol to collaborate with League members, meet with your legislators, and advocate for League priorities. Register [HERE](#) and notify Anne if you're going.



Urgent: Don't let Your Mail-In Ballot be Thrown Out

Election deniers and voter suppressors are doing everything they can to attack mail-in voting and they recently succeeded with a ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit that held that undated and improperly dated mail-in ballots cannot be counted. Don't let the election deniers take away your right to vote by mail.

It remains to be seen whether Delaware County and other counties will take steps to allow voters to cure their ballot mistakes, but the best plan is to not make any errors in the first place. Remember, **seal** your filled-out ballot in the smaller ballot envelope, put it in the outer "declaration (return) envelope," **sign and date** that envelope (with the date you are filling out the ballot), seal and return via mail or drop boxes by election day. Click [HERE](#) for more information on mail-in and absentee ballots.

Proposed 2024-2025 Local Program

The goal for the 2024-2025 Local Program is to develop [committees](#) to address and work on local program initiatives with the intent to become more active and involved in all the communities we serve. Members will vote on these proposals at the annual meeting in June.

I. GOVERNMENT: Engage members and community in all levels of government.

A. Voting Rights and Participation through Education and Action:

Protect the right to vote and security of the election process for every Delaware County citizen.

Encourage everyone to participate in the electoral process:

- a) Conduct voter registration drives and voter information events.
- b) Educate voters through candidate forums.
- c) Promote and expand [Vote411.org](#)
- d) Provide accurate information to community groups about voting and election procedures.
- e) Work with schools to build awareness of the importance of voting and how governments work.
- f) Continue voter education for in-person voting and/or mail-in voting and election security.
- g) Monitor PA and local legislation and election regulations related to voting rights and oppose legislation regarding voter suppression.
- h) Continue efforts to allow eligible prisoners to register to vote and use mail-in ballots to vote.
- i) Work with our partners that are part of the LWVDC Voter Engagement Coalition.
- j) Encourage our members to be poll workers.

B. Municipal Government and Services: Enable members to understand the role of local government.

Continue to develop a “Know Your Community” model for [each municipality](#) our members represent.

Support the Delaware County Health Department and the development of a mental health component.

C. State and Federal Governments: Engage members and communities in the legislative process.

Conduct Legislator outreach.

Monitor government activities and take appropriate action.

Inform community members of government actions.

Advocate for legislation that meets member and community needs related to LWV positions.

Support LWVPA and LWVUS proposals and positions.

II. EDUCATION: Support excellence and equity in our public school systems.

A. Support the equitable distribution of state funding for k-12 education.

B. Continue to develop Civic Education materials and presentations to be used in schools and communities.

C. Continue our leadership role with the [Regional Adolescent Sleep Needs Coalition](#) (RASNC).

D. Continue our leadership role focusing on the impact of social media on the mental health of youth and adults.

III. NATURAL RESOURCES: Support management and protection of natural resources in the public interest, including planning, land use, environmental quality and safety in our communities.

A. Preservation and protection of open space for public use and monitor enforcement of land use ordinances.

B. Advocate for renewable clean energy resources.

C. Monitor legislation that impacts the environment within Delaware County.

D. Promote the work of LWV of Delaware County Environmental Committee and *Environmental Clearinghouse* [envirodelco.org](#).

IV. CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PRISON REFORM: Monitor and advocate for improving the criminal justice system in Delaware County working with the LWV of Delaware County and Delaware County officials and advocacy groups.

V. DIVERSITY, EQUITY and INCLUSION: Support the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) [policy](#), positions and programs of the [LWVUS](#) and [LWVPA](#).

A. Use the [LWV DEI Lens](#) with all program and event development.

Revised March 2024 and submitted for adoption at the LWVDC Annual Meeting scheduled for June 2024