



# VOTER

League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County

February 2022

## Register for County Council Gathering Feb. 16

The League of Women Voters of Delaware County will hold its annual get together with the Delaware County Council Feb. 16 at 12 p.m. on Zoom. The county is in the midst of determining how to spend \$110 million in money from the American Rescue Plan Act, what to do about solid waste disposal, how to move forward with a \$50 million renovation of the county's 911 system, getting the new health department up and running, and putting the county prison back into public control.

As members of the Radnor and Central Delaware County Leagues, you can ask about all these issues and meet the new councilman, Richard R. Womack Jr. You will hear from new Chair, Dr. Monica Taylor, Vice Chair Elaine Paul Schaefer and Council Members Kevin Madden and Christine A. Reuther. County Executive Director Howard S. Lazarus will also speak.

When you register to attend, you can submit questions about county issues. Register [here](#).



County Council: Richard R. Womack, Christine Reuther, Dr. Monica Taylor, Elaine Paul Schaeffer and Kevin Madden.

## What is Our Children's Education Worth? Feb. 24

Join the League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County for the Hot Topic: What Is Our Children's Education Worth? on Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022 at noon via Zoom.

Pennsylvania state funding disparities between wealthy and poor public school districts have grown over the years. The Education Law Center and the Public Interest Law Center, representing six Pennsylvania school districts, including the William Penn District, have sued the state in an attempt to correct those disparities and the case is being heard at trial in Commonwealth Court right now.

Join our speakers, William Penn School Board Member Jennifer Hoff and Larry Feinberg, current vice president and past president of the Haverford Township School Board as they discuss the lawsuit, which is currently underway, and the problems of making do with inadequate school funding. Register [here](#).

## LWV-CDC Officers 2018-2019

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Kate deRiel

Marita Green

Joe Lesniak

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## President's Message

In my President's message for February I would like to build on my January message on the power of being a member of a tiered organization that has the backing of national and state organizations.

One of the major tenets of the League of Women Voters is **"Speaking with One Voice"** for determining strategies and action policies, which is essential for our effectiveness as an advocacy and lobbying organization to advance the League Mission to **Empower Voters & Defend Democracy**.

At the local League level, our Central Delaware County League provides multiple ways to engage our members in the work and mission of the League which include:

- Offering Voter Services such as; Voter Registration Drives, Candidate Forums, and Vote411
- Holding Events on Hot Topics
- Conducting Legislative Interviews
- Advocating for Good Governance
- Sharing News on Legislative Issues
- Embracing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)
- Encouraging Our Members to Become Poll Workers
- Practicing Community Outreach
- Leading Discussion Groups

### To help our League "Speak with One Voice"

Visit our Website - [www.lwvcdc.org](http://www.lwvcdc.org)

Like Us on [Facebook](#)

Join a [Committee](#)

Use and Share [Vote411](#)

Register for an [Event](#)

Email Us Your Engagement Ideas [lwvcdc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcdc@gmail.com)

Anne Mosakowski, President  
LWV Central Delaware County

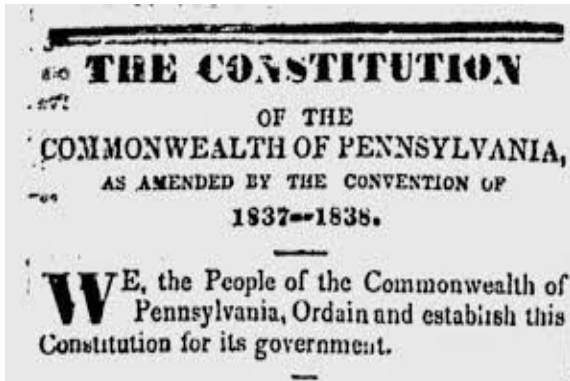


**Happy birthday to us.** The League of Women Voters actually was started as the League of Women Citizens on Feb. 14, 1920, at the National American Woman's Suffrage Association (NAWSA) Annual Convention in Chicago.

After the 19th Amendment was ratified later that year, we changed the name to League of Women Voters and have retained that name ever since as a reference to our history, although we have many male members.

# PA Constitutional Amendment Ballot Questions

**Save this date:** LWV-CDC will present a webinar on Friday, March 11 at 12 – 1:30 pm about the Pennsylvania General Assembly's new tactic of putting partisan issues on the ballot in the form of constitutional amendment questions to avoid Gov. Tom Wolf's veto pen. The pro-



posed amendments cover a wide variety of issues that should be enacted through the normal legislation process — redistricting, election law, anti-abortion, gun safety.

More than 90 amendments have been proposed, most of which are languishing in committee.

Republicans argue that they are merely placing these decisions before the voters, but Democrats contend the Republicans are only proposing changes that they want enacted and that they can parse as convincingly plausible amendments regardless of the actual merits.

Unlike laws that can be changed if they are unworkable, once the voters approve amendments, they are in the Constitution forever. The panelists for the program will be announced in the March Voter. Contact Ralf Graves, [ralfgraves@comcast.net](mailto:ralfgraves@comcast.net), for more information. You can register [here](#).

## Join LWV-CDC's Watch Party for Constitution Center Program

### Elections, Speech, and Political Disinformation

Thursday, March 10, 7 p.m.

What are the leading proposals to combat election disinformation and are they consistent with the First Amendment? **Richard L. Hasen**, leading election law expert and author of *Cheap Speech: How Disinformation Poisons Our Politics—and How to Cure It*; **Catherine Ross**, free speech expert and author of *A Right to Lie? Presidents, Other Liars, and the First Amendment*; and others. Moderator **Jeffrey Rosen**, president and CEO of the National Constitution Center.

Once you have registered to attend the watch party, you can go to the Park Avenue Community Center, 129 Park Ave. in Swarthmore at 6:30 p.m. March 10, for dessert, the program and discussion afterwards. Donations to LWV-CDC would be appreciated at the door. Register with LWV-CDC as the center has a limited capacity. Register [here](#). Contact [Barbara Amstutz](#).

**Desperately Seeking Environmentalists:** The League of Women Voters of Delaware County (the umbrella organization for LWV-CDC and Radnor LWV) is looking for CDC members to serve on the county League's environmental committee with Radnor. The committee will work Delaware County issues and climate change. Just bring your passion for environmentalism, your time and your desire to learn more. You'll get lots of help. Contact [Olivia Thorne](#) to volunteer.

## February-March Events Calendar

**February 16 (Wednesday)** — Get together with Delaware County Council on Zoom. 12 p.m. LWV of Delaware County President Olivia Thorne will moderate. Register [here](#).

**February 24 (Thursday)** — Hot Topic program on Zoom at 12 p.m. What is our Children's education Worth? A discussion of the lawsuit over school funding currently being tried in Commonwealth Court. Register [Here](#).

**March 10 (Thursday)** — Watch party for Constitution Center webinar on Elections, Speech and Political Disinformation. 6:30 p.m., Park Avenue Community Center, Swarthmore. Register [here](#).

**March 11 (Friday)** — Civics Education Committee panel discussion on Pennsylvania constitutional amendments. On Zoom. 12 p.m. Register [here](#).

# Wanted: Members to Participate in Legislative Interviews

The League of Women Voters requests that each local League coordinate and conduct Legislative Interviews of Pennsylvania State House and Senate Representatives that serve our region. These interviews are a critical part of the League's advocacy work.

## **Why do we conduct legislative interviews?**

These interviews gauge the attitudes, knowledge, and interests of lawmakers on the issues that the LWVPA has prioritized. These interviews:

1. Help the State League identify supporters, opponents, champions, and roadblocks for legislation we intend to support or oppose;
2. Give Local Leagues an opportunity to educate your legislators about issues the League cares about and to let them know our position on those issues; and
3. Help local Leagues build and maintain relationships with their local legislators.

These interviews are not intended to be "lobbying"

sessions; rather, they are fact-gathering events intended to help you and help us understand the priorities of your local legislators. The interview questions are supplied from the LWVPA Policy Directors and will be shared with those that are conducting the interview.

For this LWV PA 2022 Legislative Interview Project the League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County, Radnor Township and Lower Merion Narberth have formed a coalition to interview legislators in districts we share.

After we receive your response, the Legislative Interview Team will reach out to you to join an interview team for your selected legislator(s). The survey lists shared PA Senators and PA House of Representatives.

When you answer this survey, you will have an opportunity to select your first and second choice of Legislators to interview. We will attempt to assign you to your first choice.

If you, our members, are interested in being part of a Legislative Interview Team please complete the brief survey [CLICK HERE](#).

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## Votes and Court Battles over Election Law, Redistricting

**Redistricting:** The five-member legislative Reapportionment Commission approved the new district maps for the state Senate and House last week and they now go to those bodies for approval. The commission voted 4-1 to approve the maps, which create nine House "opportunity districts" that will allow Pennsylvania's fast-growing Latino population to elect their candidates of choice, according to LRA Chair Mark Nordenberg.

Once the maps win legislative approval and are signed by Gov. Tom Wolf, Republicans are expected to challenge them in court. Democratic voters challenged the

new congressional maps, which Wolf vetoed, and the state Supreme Court has taken up that challenge. The court will choose among 13 competing maps or draw its own map.

All of the reapportionment decisions should be finalized very soon as the opening day for candidates to gather nominating petitions is Feb. 15 and they must be filed by March 8 for the May 17 Primary Election. The candidates need to know which districts they are running in.

**HB 1800:** The House was scheduled to vote this week (Feb. 7-11) on HB 1800, the reworked omnibus election reform bill, as well as on proposed constitutional amendment ballot questions and bills regarding creating districts for statewide judicial elections, voter ID requirements, canvassing of ballots, a new reapportionment commission and various other election-related bills and amendments.

**Act 77:** In the meantime, the Commonwealth Court has overturned Act 77, the 2019 law that allows no excuse mail-in voting. The court said it was unconstitutional because it was not approved by the voters for inclusion in the state Constitution. Pennsylvania voters can still apply to vote by mail while the ruling is appealed to the state Supreme Court. LWVPA urges you to sign up for mail-in voting at [vote.pa.gov/ApplyMailBallot](https://vote.pa.gov/ApplyMailBallot).

Fair Districts PA will hold a virtual town hall to review the new legislative maps Wednesday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. by Zoom. Register [here](#).

### New Members in January

Anne Bush, Springfield

Kimberly Kenderdine, Drexel Hill/Upper Darby

Kirstein Heine, Haverford

Cynthia Jetter, Drexel Hill/Upper Darby

Carl Stieger, Lansdowne

We hope all new members will join us on a League Orientation Zoom Call Gathering. Contact Olivia Thorne, Membership Chair, 610-566-5474, [olivia.thorne@verizon.net](mailto:olivia.thorne@verizon.net) for more information and to sign up. There will be multiple dates at different times of day.