



VOTER

January 2021

What Does Prison Reform Mean to Delco?

The Delaware County Council is going full steam ahead with reclaiming the George W. Hill Correctional Facility as a public institution and phasing out GEO as the facility's private operator over the next six months.

What does that mean for the county's citizens, taxpayers, inmates and judicial system? Kevin Madden, county councilman and chair of the County Jail Oversight Board, and Brian Corson, founder and executive director of MVP Recovery and a citizen appointee of the CJOB, will present information on the deprivatization of the Delaware County prison system, Thursday, Jan. 14, at noon via Zoom.

They will also discuss related issues such as mental health and drug treatment, medical care while in jail and the voting rights of eligible prisoners.

This Hot Topics presentation is free and open to the public but to receive the link to the Zoom virtual presentation via email you MUST register. Click [here](#) to register and submit questions. Questions submitted via the registration form will be shared with the presenters prior to the presentation.

This Hot Topic is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Delaware County and the NAACP Media Area Branch.

Event Contact: LWV-CDC Board Member Marita Green by email at

maritagreen6@gmail.com.



Delaware County Times Dec. 6, 2020

Take LWV's Online General Election Survey

The Delaware County League of Women Voters is seeking feedback on your voting experience in the 2020 General Election. We will be ending the survey in the middle of January so hurry if you haven't taken it. Click [here](#) to begin.

We plan to share the results with our members and Delaware County Election Officials in an effort to continue to improve the voting experience. Please feel free to share the survey with friends, family and other community organizations.

The survey should take about 10 minutes or less to complete. All responses are recorded anonymously. Select the answers that best fit your voting experience or skip questions that do not apply. At the end of the survey please remember to click SUBMIT to share your answers. Thank you!

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Visit our website(s)

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You can find us online at <http://www.LWV-CDC.org> or on Facebook by clicking [here](#). Or go on Facebook and search League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County. Then click "like," post a comment, send us pictures.

By the way, our umbrella organization, the Delaware County League of Women Voters, has a new website too. Check it out [here](#).



President's Message

Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year!

The 2020 elections saw the greatest voter participation in more than century, and the League worked hard all year to make our democracy work. The Delaware County Bureau of Elections processed over 330,000 ballots, a record voter turnout rate of 77.6%! The League's nonpartisan election site VOTE411 helped more than 6 million users find the information they needed to cast their ballots.

Thank you to all our dedicated League members, friends and the Delaware County Election Administration who worked tirelessly to expand and protect voting rights under the most challenging of circumstances. You can view the Delaware County election results [here](#).

This upswing in voter engagement is also reflected by our recent partnerships with local community non-profits in Delaware County. This year we have been sharing our programs with the memberships of three non-profits: Swarthmore Senior Citizen's Association, NAACP Media Branch and Media Fellowship House. NAACP Media Branch is also serving on the Civic Education Committee and working on its programming from the inception. We are thrilled to collaborate and extend our reach in Delaware County.

We are presenting compelling programs for January and February 2021 that address many important issues in Delaware County: deprivatization of the county prison, how to run for public office, and the latest on redistricting in Pennsylvania.

The County Jail Oversight Board (CJOB) and Delaware County Council has agreed to deprivatize George W. Hill Correctional Facility and the county is moving to put the transition process in motion. Join our Hot Topic Discussion on Thursday, Jan. 14, at noon, with Delaware County Councilman Kevin Madden, and Brian Corson, a member of the County Jail Oversight Board, to discuss this transition and other potential reforms at George Hill. Page 1.

Penn State Extension Educator Peter Wulforst, in conjunction with the League of Women Voters of Delaware County, is conducting a workshop, Toss your Hat in the Ring. The workshop will cover how to run for your township, borough or school district offices and the responsibilities and personal rewards that come with public service. Page 3.

On Jan. 5, Pennsylvania legislators will vote on the rules for redistricting that will shape their work for the next two years. Fair Districts PA is calling attention to the need for better rules and for redistricting reform. Carol Kuniholm, chair of Fair Districts PA, will provide an update Friday, Feb. 5, at noon. Page 3.

Register for all three programs on lwvcdc.org and a Zoom link will be sent to you just before each program.

Save the date: The Delaware County League will hold a County Council virtual gathering on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at noon. Due to the pandemic, we will not host a luncheon this year, but you will hear directly from your elected officials on Zoom about the important issues facing Delaware County.

To a better 2021,

Barbara Amstutz

Redistricting Pennsylvania After the 2020 Census

Fair Districts PA Chair Carol Kuniholm, a state LWV board member, will discuss "Redistricting in 2021: What's Happening Now?" at a Zoom virtual Hot Topics event Friday, Feb. 5 at noon.

Fair Districts PA and its affiliated organizations, including LWV, lost the fight to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to establish a nonpartisan commission to redistrict congressional and state election districts in time for the 2020 census.

The congressional districts drawn by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court for the 2018 and 2020 elections have now expired and the task of redrawing the lines for the 18 districts goes back to the Republican-controlled state Legislature. Democratic Governor Tom Wolf has to sign off on new districts as well. In addition, the census results are expected to cause the loss of a congressional district



Carol Kuniholm

Two bills introduced in the 2019-2020 legislative session to establish a nonpartisan commission by statute have not received votes in either Pennsylvania house, and will have to be reintroduced.

At the same time, the Legislature is halfway through the process of amending the state Constitution to establish judicial districts to elect Superior, Commonwealth and Supreme Court judges. If the Legislature approves the proposed constitutional amendment for a second time in the upcoming session, it will be put up for a public referendum as early as this year. LWVPA opposes the amendment as being another opportunity for gerrymandering by the minority party. Currently the judges are elected statewide.

Register [here](#) for this important presentation. Event contact is LWV-CDC Board Member Jane Brennan: brennanbij@aol.com

Thinking about Running for Office? Here's How

This webinar, Toss Your Hat in the Ring, via Zoom on Thursday, Jan. 7, from 7-8:30 p.m., is for people who have ever thought about serving on their school board, borough council, township commission or other local government offices. Here's your chance to learn how to do it.

The webinar offered through the League of Women Voters of Delaware County in conjunction with Penn State Extension will provide an overview of local government. Participants will learn how to file a petition, report campaign expenses and other important information, and a panel of local officials will talk and an-

swer questions about why they decided to run for office, their campaign strategies and their experiences as elected officials.

The webinar is a free but registration is required. To Register click [here](#).

NOTE: Prior to the webinar the Zoom connection link will be emailed to those who register. Email and personal data collected will not be shared with third party vendors but is needed to share webinar materials.

Event Contact :Delaware County League President Olivia Thorne, olivia.thorne@verizon.net.

January-February Events

Jan. 7 (Thursday) — Throw Your Hat in the Ring, 7-8:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Jan. 14 (Thursday) — Hot Topic : Prison Privatization with Kevin Madden and Brian Corson, noon on Zoom.

Feb. 5 (Friday) — Hot Topic: Redistricting after the 2020 Census with Carol Kuniholm, noon on Zoom.

Feb. 16 (Tuesday) — County Council Virtual gathering, with all five County Council members, noon on Zoom.

Remember to register on lwvcdc.org for all events.

The County Health Department is Almost Here

By Jodine Mayberry

Delaware County Council Vice Chair Dr. Monica Taylor told us on a Zoom Hot Topics event in December that despite the pandemic, the county plans to have a public health department with 50 to 60 employees up and running by the beginning of 2022.

This is an objective the League of Women Voters has advocated for and supported for at least 12 years.

Dr. Taylor presented an extensive plan, which the county is implementing, to put a health department in place that serves all the residents of the county in the areas of mental health, maternal and infant health, children's health, treatment for drug and alcohol abuse and COVID-19 vaccination and testing. This ambitious program builds on the small Delco Intercommunity Health Coordination Initiative currently in place and the work that the Chester County Health De-

partment has done in monitoring and reporting on Delco's COVID-19 epidemic in the absence of a functioning county department.

The first steps to establishing a county health department are to apply for state approval and seed money for the new department, which is in progress, and to implement a strategy to obtain public-private grants, Dr. Taylor said.

The Health Department Working Group is coordinating with municipal health departments, and with hospitals, schools and other existing health care infrastructure, she explained.

The group will seek public support over the coming months with the aim of engaging the public in the planning process, she said.

The Delaware County LWV is participating in the planning process with the Working Group.

Look at What We Did! — LWV's 2020 Election Achievements

Take a moment and celebrate the achievements of our local LWV Leagues in our 100th year and during the most difficult presidential election in anyone's memory:

- Early in 2020, the County League and LWV-CDC recruited 50 volunteers to demonstrate the new voting machines at libraries and senior centers. That process had barely started when it was shut down by the pandemic.
- Our Voter Services Committee — Marita Green, Kathleen Peterson, Kathy Knight and Marilyn Gilroy — organized the writing and posting of 1,000 postcards to addresses with no voter registrations to urge recipients to register.
- They registered voters or worked with college officials to register students at Cheyney University, Delaware County Community College, Neuman University and Penn State Brandywine.
- The committee also worked with county prison officials to register eligible detainees and help them obtain mail-in ballots.
- LWV also supported the Delco Youth Education Alliance, founded by a new student LWV member, Kayla Cocci, who organized voter registration drives at high schools and a church. Kayla also organized the Media Women's March in October.
- Marita, Joanna Nealon, Kathy Youngman and Anne Mosakowski organized and carried out four Zoom candidates' forums. Those forums were put on YouTube and viewed hundreds of times before the election.
- Some members courageously worked at the polls or counted ballots, exposing themselves to COVID-19, during both the postponed primary election and the Nov. 3 general election.
- The County League's primary election voter survey generated more than a dozen recommendations for the general election, most of which were adopted by the county election board. It is doing another survey for the general election.
- Our website volunteers, Anne, Mosakowski, Cathy Youngman and Olivia Thorne, created a new website for the LWV of Delaware County website and kept our two sites up to the minute with important election information and news.
- Our sister League, Radnor LWV, produced ninety 15-second election information spots that were posted on Facebook and Instagram.
- League members attended all Delco Election Board meetings in-person or on Zoom to let them know the public was watching as they made crucial election decisions.
- Finally, thanks to our tech-savvy members, the local Leagues did not miss a beat, carrying on with a full set of events despite pandemic restrictions.

Everyone involved in all of these efforts deserves a heartfelt round of applause!

