



VOTER

League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County

January 2022

Taking the Temperature of the New Health Department

Building the Delaware County Health Department is the Hot Topic presentation that the League of Women Voters Central Delaware County has scheduled for Friday, **Jan. 14, 2022 at Noon** via Zoom.

For decades the League of Women Voters within Delaware County have studied and advocated for the establishment of a public health department. We are very happy to share that this advocacy has come to pass. In this program we will learn about developments to date in the establishment of the Delaware County Health Department and the Board of Health mission and strategic plan.

You will also learn about collaborative relationships across the county to promote public health, the evolving structure of the Health Department in terms of personnel, facilities and resources, and what Delaware County residents can expect within the next year. The local LWV Leagues have advocated for a health department for 50 years and now we are continuing our advocacy and support as the department becomes a reality.

The presenter for this Hot Topic is Rosemarie Halt, MPH, RPh; President, Delaware County Board of Health. She is also a member of our League and has been pivotal in sharing her expertise with our League work in bringing public health to Delaware County communities.

This event is free on Zoom but you must register to get the link and ask questions beforehand. Register [here](#). Contact [Nancy Sharts-Hopko](#) for more information.



Rosemarie Halt

County Council Zoom 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 Noon. Sadly, it must be by Zoom again this year rather than the luncheons we used to enjoy pre-pandemic.

Members of the Radnor and Central Delaware County Leagues can meet the new councilman, Richard R. Womack Jr. and hear from new Chair, Dr. Monica Taylor, Vice Chair Elaine Paul Schaefer and Council

Members Kevin Madden and Christine A. Reuther. We will also hear from County Executive Director Howard S. Lazarus.

When you register to attend, you can ask the council members questions about county issues, such as the prison and juvenile facility, trash disposal and Covanta, the 911 system, elections, the health department and more.

Register [here](#).

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New Members

Amber Josten Joined on Dec 6, 2021. She lives in Aston.

Judith Hollinger was a member at large (not affiliated with any local League), but she recently joined LWV-CDC. She lives in Bryn Mawr.

Welcome Aboard!



President's Message

As President of the League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County (LWVCDC) I wish you, our members, a very Happy and Healthy 2022. Currently our League has 190 members and is growing and as a member of a local League of Women Voters you are part of the county, state and national League of Women Voters.

As the president LWV-CDC, I serve on the League of Women Voters of Delaware County Board of Directors. The County League is made up of our League and the League of Women Voters of Radnor Township and together we work on issues that impact all of Delaware County. This Inter League Organization (LWVDelco) is led by Olivia Thorne, who also serves as our LWV-CDC membership chair.

At the state level our League is one of the 33 Leagues within Pennsylvania. Many of our members are active with the work of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania (LWVPA) and through this activity we share with our members issues and legislation which impact voters within Pennsylvania.

The National League of Women Voters (LWVUS) consists of "passionate activists" who support our League work in all 50 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands and in more than 700 communities with more than 500,000 members and supporters.

At all levels of The League of Women Voters we are a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Please contact us at

lwvcdc@gmail.com with questions, concerns and/or ideas on advancing the LWV mission to Empower Voters & Defend Democracy.

Many of you have been very active on our various committees in the last year, which we greatly appreciate and we hope you'll continue. Another thing you can all do as league members to feel more connected to its work and ideals is to periodically check all four websites and to sign up for their newsletters, blogs and action alerts.

- **LWV of Central Delaware County:** <http://www.LWV-CDC.org/>. Useful for local events and issues, election dates and results and voter information. Our Facebook page is here: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVCentralDelawareCounty/>
- **The County ILO site:** <https://my.lwv.org/pennsylvania/delaware-county-ilo>. This site keeps up with County Council, the County Election Board, the new health department and other countywide issues as explained above.
- **LWVPA:** <https://www.palwv.org/>. The state League is our policy, lobbyist and litigation arm. Check out LWVPA's new issues page, [On Our Radar](#) and read about its participation in a new lawsuit on redistricting, P. 4.
- **LWVUS:** <https://www.lwv.org/>. This is where the policy gets made for the entire organization. Want to know where LWV stands on redistricting, reproductive rights, election laws, the environment and so on, check out the LWVUS statement of positions: <https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues>.

Happy New Year!

Anne Mosakowski

What is Our Children's Education Worth?

All children in Pennsylvania have a right to a high-quality public education, as guaranteed by the State Constitution, regardless of their zip code. Nevertheless, 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 school districts and others, have sued the state in an attempt to correct those disparities. During our **Feb. 24 Hot Topics noon Zoom**, long-time Delaware County school board members from two districts will discuss the lawsuit and other education issues.

The suit, filed in 2014, has at last gotten to trial and is about four weeks into the estimated six-week hearing.



The Public Interest Law center is keeping a running timeline and weekly diary of the case that can be seen [here](#).

Our speakers are Jennifer Hoff, former William Penn School Board President and current board member, has been intimately involved with the state lawsuit since her district is one of the lawsuit plaintiffs.

Larry Feinberg, current Vice-President and past President of the Haverford Township Board of School Directors, has served on the board since 1999. He has been involved in both the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and the National School Boards

Association for over a decade. Register for the program and submit questions [here](#).

Taking a Stand on Reproductive Rights

Since the 1980s, LWVUS and its state chapters, including LWVPA, have maintained strong positions in favor of reproductive health rights for women that includes a woman's right to choose abortion.

Anticipating that the conservative U.S. Supreme Court may overturn *Roe v. Wade* and throw the issue back to the individual states, LWVPA has issued a statement urging members to support the Equal Rights Amendment, which Virginia recently became the 38th and final state to ratify, and to support reproductive health organizations in Pennsylvania. See the LWVPA statement [here](#).

While Gov. Tom Wolf has consistently vetoed bills to

restrict abortion rights, the battle will soon come here one way or another. As LWVPA points out, Ohio will ban abortion as soon as the Supreme Court acts, and thousands of women will come to Pennsylvania seeking the procedure. What will our legislature do to try to stop women from coming here or to overturn abortion rights altogether here?

If Republicans gain control of the governor's office or of Congress this November, they will seek state and nationwide bans. For 50 years, generations of women have enjoyed a constitutional right to choose. What will they do if that right is snatched away? It's not too early to start thinking about it and planning our response.

January-February Events Calendar

January 14 (Friday) — Hot Topic program via Zoom: Building the Delaware County Health Department with Rosemarie Halt. Noon Register [here](#).

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

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

What's Happening in Harrisburg?

*By Jodine Mayberry
Legislative Advocate*

Redistricting: The State Legislative Reapportionment Commission has proposed redistricting maps both for Congress and for the state's Senate and House districts. The proposed congressional maps would shift the partisan alignment of the Pennsylvania delegation from nine Republican and nine Democratic seats to about nine safe or lean Republican seats and five safe or lean Democrat seats with three competitive seats up for grabs, according to the website [fivethirtyeight](http://fivethirtyeight.com).

The proposed 5th District congressional map for Delaware County – HB 2146 – maintains Delaware County as a whole, eliminates Southwest Philadelphia and a sliver of Montgomery County from the current district and stretches across southern Chester County. It is considered a safe Democrat seat if it remains as it is.

All the current and proposed maps can be seen [here](#) and a terrific side by side comparison of each district can be seen [here](#). Watch Lower Merion and Narberth LWV President Jamie Mogil explain [here](#) how to use a third site, [Dave's Redistricting](#).

Comment now: It's important to remember that Pennsylvania doesn't really have any maps yet. Any citizen can examine the *proposed* maps and comment on them but only until **Jan. 18**, so there is little time left. Go to redistricting.state.pa.us to submit comments. The Legislature must vote to approve the maps and the governor must sign off on them very quickly as candidates for various offices must submit nominating petitions by Feb. 15. Look at county, municipal and school district splits, compactness and population deviation for evidence of gerrymandering.

Redistricting Lawsuits: LWVPA and Fair Districts PA have moved to intervene in two lawsuits, *Carter v. Degraffenreid* and *Gressman v. Degraffenreid*, asking the state Supreme Court to step in and adopt its own congressional redistricting map. The suits were filed after Gov. Tom Wolf criticized the Legislative Redistricting Commission's congressional maps, indicating he may veto them as they stood.

Redistricting Constitutional Amendment: On Jan. 4, Seth Grove, the powerful Republican chair of the House State Government Committee, has introduced a proposed constitutional amendment – [HB 2207](#) -- that would create an 11-member redistricting commission. Fair Districts PA calls the proposal a "[sham citizens commission](#)" that is the opposite of LWV, Fair Districts and other good government groups' efforts to get legislators out of the process. It would allow legislative leaders to appoint most of the members and would eliminate the role of the governor in approving or vetoing the maps. This amendment could be on the ballot for the 2023 primary election where it could be approved by a very small percentage of the state's voters.

Election Law: [H.B. 1800](#), the 183-page omnibus election law bill has passed the Pa. House along a party line vote of 110-90 and will now go to the Senate. LWVPA opposes the bill for several reasons. It was introduced after Gov. Wolf vetoed the first omnibus bill, H.B. 1300. You can sign a petition opposing the bill [here](#).

Environmental Law: In September, the Wolf Administration cleared the last regulatory hurdle to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a coalition of mid-Atlantic and New England states, that are working together to combat climate change by imposing a price on carbon emissions from fossil-fuel-fired power plants. Proponents argue it would reduce pollution and create many jobs in the renewable energy sector while opponents argue it will cause job losses in the coal mining and gas fracking industries and increase the price of electricity. The Republican-controlled House voted in December to "[disapprove](#)" of the state joining the RGGI. Wolf is expected to veto the bill once it reaches his desk.

Litigation: LWVPA took part in a court hearing Dec. 15 in a lawsuit seeking to stop the state Senate from obtaining voters' personal information for an audit of the 2020 presidential election. Senate Republicans have since hired a firm, Envoy Sage, for \$270,000 to conduct part of the proposed audit, which involves reviewing emails and affidavits complaining of election fraud that were filed after the election. LWVPA opposes the expenditure of taxpayer money by one party to conduct an audit of an election that was certified more than a year ago.