

# LWW VOTER

League of Women Voters of Central Delaware

January 2023

## What's Going on in Harrisburg? — Jan. 20

Join us on **Friday, Jan. 20 at Noon via Zoom** to get answers to the questions: What the Heck is Going on in Harrisburg? What's going to happen in the Pennsylvania Legislature in 2023? Will it be the same old gridlock in the House and Senate or will legislators find a way to compromise to get important work done?

Democrats elected a slight majority in the House but now three of those seats are empty and the Republicans retain a one-vote majority. The House did elect a compromise speaker that signals bipartisan cooperation. (See Page 4). The Senate remains controlled by Republicans.

In a panel discussion on Zoom the League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County is exploring how it can work in this dynamic setting to advocate for legislation around issues of health care, mental health, gun safety, election reform and reproductive freedom.

### The panelists include:

- State Rep. Mike Schlossberg, D-Lehigh County, who is



working to shepherd a one-time allocation of \$100 million in federal funds for mental health needs through the Legislature.

- Dr. Rachel Sorokin Goff chairs the Rules Research Team for Fair Districts PA and is a member of the Fair Districts Executive Committee. She can speak to the rules changes Fair Districts is advocating for in its Fix Harrisburg campaign that would break the years' long gridlock in the Legislature.
- Susan Gobreski is director of government policy for the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania.

She helps direct the LWVPA focus on legislation and regulation and keeps local Leagues informed on important legislative and election issues.

LWV-CDC's legislative advocate, Jodine Mayberry, will moderate.

To register for this FREE event and to receive the Zoom link [CLICK HERE](#).

## How Safe are LNG Terminals? — Jan. 12

Join us on **Thursday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. via Zoom** to hear a panel of experts present details on **the safety hazards of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG)** Export Terminals, facilities built specifically to receive natural gas from transmission pipelines, liquefy it, store it, and transfer the LNG to ships for export to other countries. One such terminal has been proposed for Chester.

Speakers are Tracy Carluccio the deputy director of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN); Fred Millar a public interest and environmental safety advocate, analyst, lobbyist, educator, and consultant, and Mike Ewall, founder and executive director of the national organization Energy Justice Network.

This FREE webinar is co-sponsored by The League of Women Voters PA, Central Delaware County League of Women Voters, Energy Justice Network, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Chester NAACP, and Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living (CRCQL). To register, click [HERE](#).

**Event Contact:** Kathy Cook LWVPA Environmental Policy director, [environmental\\_policy@palwv.org](mailto:environmental_policy@palwv.org).

## LWV-CDC Officers 2022-2023

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### Voter Editor

Jodine Mayberry

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**Committee Chairs:** You are invited to write brief, timely articles about your committee's work and appeal for new members. Just submit your articles to Jodine at the email above. Or let her know what you would like to see covered in the Voter.



## 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 2023. Currently our League has 190 members and is growing with 28 new members in 2022. As a member of a local League of Women Voters you are part of the county, state and national League of Women Voters which is funded through your dues contribution.

As your League President 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 CDC's 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.**

To see our level of activities in 2022 check out and share our YouTube Video [LWV CDC 2022 Year in Review](#). We look forward, with your HELP, to build on these activities in 2023. Please review, register, and share our upcoming events posted on [our events calendar](#) and in this issue of The Voter.

We are very pleased to announce that our League has received two grants from the LWV US to continue our efforts to register voters. See details on Page 3.

As a member of our League of Women Voters we strongly encourage you to stay and/or get involved by joining a committee. Committee descriptions and contacts can be found on **our website** under the **Get Involved** section on [Our Committees page](#).

Please contact us at [lwvcdc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcdc@gmail.com) with questions, concerns and/or ideas on advancing the LWV Mission to **Empower Voters & Defend Democracy**. Thank you.

*Anne Mosakowski*

# LWV-CDC Gets Two New Grants for Voter Work

Our LWV of Central Delaware County is pleased to announce that we received two grants from the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) to continue our voter registration efforts. The grants are in the areas of **Youth Voter Registration** and **Voter Registration with Former & Currently Incarcerated Persons**.

Our dedicated Voter Services/Voter Registration Team is currently providing voter registration opportunities to youth and the incarcerated but these grants will allow us to continue and grow our efforts. These grants are also a recognition of our voter registration work.

In both grant applications we described the current model we are using to outreach to schools and cor-

rectional institution authorities to foster voter registration opportunities. Also mentioned that if awarded these grants we would build on the grants we received in 2022 from LWV of Pennsylvania focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion and our establishment of the Voter Engagement Coalition. The coalition consists of a variety of community organizations that also work to register voters and/or partner with us on voter registration. We plan on growing the Coalition and working together to expand our outreach throughout Delaware County.

If you are currently a member of our Voter Registration Team we thank you for ALL your volunteer efforts but if you want to join this dynamic team and help carry on this vital League work, reach out to our Voter Registration Co-Chairs [Marilyn Gilroy](#), [Kathy Knight](#) and/or [Kathleen Peterson](#).

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## Run for Office: Toss Your Hat in the Ring Webinar — Jan. 24



The League of Women Voters of Delaware County in conjunction with Penn State Extension is offering a webinar to prepare candidates to run for office on Tuesday, Jan. 24, via Zoom from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

This webinar is for those people who have ever thought about serving on their school board, borough council, township board or other local government offices. Here's your chance to learn how to do it.

Participants will learn how to file a petition, report campaign expenses and other important information, and a panel of local officials will talk and answer questions about their campaign strategies and experiences.

The webinar is a FREE event BUT registration is required.

To Register [CLICK HERE](#)

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## January-February Events

**Jan. 12 (Thursday):** The safety hazards of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) Export Terminals. Panel Discussion, 7 p.m. Zoom. Register [Here](#).

**Jan. 20 (Friday):** Hot Topic — What the Heck is Going on in Harrisburg. Panel Discussion, Noon, Zoom. Register [Here](#).

**Jan. 24 (Tuesday):** Toss Your Hat in the Ring — program 1 with Penn State for those thinking of running for local offices. Zoom, 7 p.m. Register [Here](#).

**Feb. 10 (Friday):** Hot Topic — LWV Member and President Delaware County Board of Health, Rosemarie Halt will present a program on advocating for lead mitigation on behalf of Children First. Noon. Save the date.

**Feb. 21 (Tuesday):** Delaware County League of Women Voters County Council Luncheon – Noon, Springfield Country Club. \$40 per person. Save the Date.

# The Wonders (and Perils) of AI

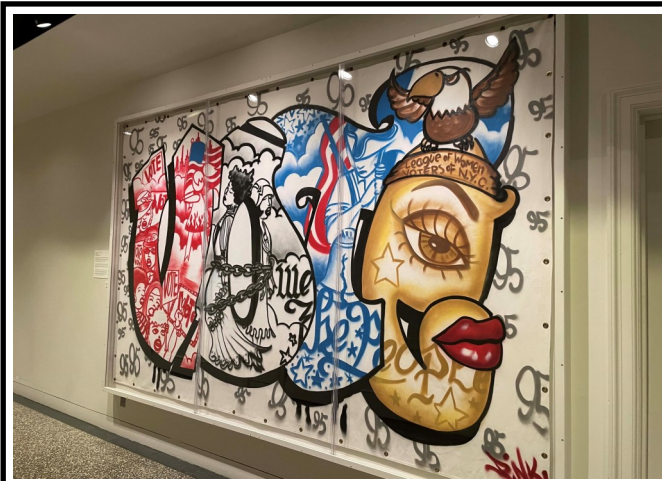
## **The League of Women Voters**

**A powerful force, united and strong  
Fighting for the rights of all  
For a better future, where everyone belongs  
With a mission to educate and inform  
They work tirelessly, through rain and storm  
To protect the right to vote  
And ensure that every voice is heard  
Through their efforts, the power of the people  
Is realized and truly unleashed  
They are the champions of democracy  
And their work will never cease  
So let us join with them  
And lend our voices to the cause  
Together we can make a difference  
And build a brighter future, without pause.**

This poem — admittedly not very good — was written by an artificial intelligence “conversation” program. Could you have guessed?

These new “chatbot” programs are amazing tools that are going to save us a lot of research and writing time and effort but they also pose a dilemma for teachers, journalists, writers and readers — how will we know what was produced by humans and what was assembled by algorithms? How will these products change or eliminate our jobs? When a chatbot was asked to write an essay at a Fifth Grade level, several teachers could not tell if it was written by a student or a robot.

We asked a chatbot to tell us the benefits and drawbacks of incorporating DEI in our LWV work and it did, factually, comprehensively and instantly. Chatbots can also produce illustrations just from a verbal description. If you want to play around with this chatbot, it’s available for free at [chat.openai.com/chat](https://chat.openai.com/chat). Type your request at the bottom and see what it produces.



If you could make out the wording over the top of the “E” in this piece of graffiti artistry, you would see it says, “League of Women Voters of NYC.” This work was commissioned by that League and created by Lady Pink (Sandra Fabera), known as the First Lady of Graffiti, on the spot during a 2014 National Voter Registration Event at New York’s City Hall.

The “V” depicts feminists of the 1970s, the “O” shows two suffragists chained in protest, the “T” includes a revolutionary War soldier and the Liberty Bell and the “E” is what Lady Pink describes as a “tough girl.” It hangs in the New York City Historical Society Museum.

## Things are Looking up in Harrisburg, Maybe

*By Jodine Mayberry, Legislative Advocate*

We have the largest and one of the most inefficient state legislatures in the country. Our sister organization, Fair Districts PA, tells us that in the 2019-2020 legislative session 4,108 bills were introduced and only 293 were enacted. Even though both houses were controlled by the same party, the PA House did not vote on 50% of the bills passed in the Senate and the Senate did not vote on 60% of the bills passed in the House. Rules changes are sorely needed to allow popular bipartisan bills to come to the floor.

It looked like we were headed for more of the same gridlock on Jan. 3 when the new session convened after the Democratic Party gained a two-seat majority in the House but lost two members to higher office and one to death. Instead of a protracted months-long fight over control, the

legislators quickly compromised and elected Mark Rozzi of Berks County as speaker of the House after he switched his party affiliation from Democrat to Independent. He will not caucus with either side.

This is huge! If the Democrats retake those three seats in special elections later this year, the House will still be evenly divided. Obviously the parties will have to work together closely to get anything done over the next two years. In the meantime, here is what Rozzi promised after his election as speaker:

“I pledge my loyalty to the people of the commonwealth, the people who are tired of the hyper-partisanship from both parties, the people who are tired of the middle-of-the-night legislating, the people who are tired of the backroom dealmaking, the people who are tired of dysfunction and obstructionism.”

Wow! Let’s see what he can do.