

# LWW VOTER

League of Women Voters of Central Delaware

March 2023

## Brennan Center: How Misinformation Sabotages Our Democracy — March 10

The LWVDC Civic Education Committee presents this program and the one below as a two-part Hot Topic series on how to deal with misinformation and disinformation in a democracy and how to talk to people with different views.

On **Friday March 10** at Noon on Zoom, three speakers from the Brennan Center for Justice will discuss “Election Misinformation Can Sabotage Democracy: What Can We Do about It?”

The speakers are:

- Dr. Maya Kornberg, a researcher with the Brennan Center’s Elections and Government Program whose work focuses on information, disinformation and money in politics.
- Mekela Panditharatne, an attorney who serves as counsel to the Brennan Center’s Democracy Program focusing on election security, election reform and voting.



- Ruby Edlin who is an advocacy campaign coordinator in the center’s Democracy Program.

According to the New York Times, Pennsylvania led the country with the highest number of social media posts spreading mail-in voting misinformation during the 2020 general election.

The state and Delaware County are still dealing with the legacy of that misinformation. Election deniers and misinformation continued to vex election officials and workers during the 2022 midterm election. The Hot Topic presentation is free but you must register to receive the link to the

Zoom Virtual Presentation.

To register and submit questions, click [HERE](#). Event Contact: Cathy Yungmann [cyungmann@gmail.com](mailto:cyungmann@gmail.com)

## Navigating Challenges of Civil Discourse — March 31

Join us on **Friday, March 31**, at Noon on Zoom for Hot Topic - “Navigating Challenges of Civil Discourse: Strategies to Build Bridges.” Presenters from Braver Angels and Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE) dive into ways we can have productive conversations in polarized times.

The presenters will be:

- Heather Blakeslee, Braver Angels Coordinator for Pennsylvania and Editor of Roots Quarterly, who is committed to the vision of growing the space where people from a broad spectrum of backgrounds, experience, and ideology come together to engage in civil discourse that allows their best selves to shine through.

- Angel Eduardo, senior writer and editor of Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE), which is best known for creating the rhetorical concept of star-manning, a technique that taps into good faith, understanding and compassion to navigate disagreements and the acrimony they often feed.

The Hot Topic presentation is free but you must register to receive the link to the Zoom Virtual Presentation via email.

To register and submit questions, click [HERE](#).

Event Contact: Marilyn Berberich [mjberb@aol.com](mailto:mjberb@aol.com)

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### Visit our website(s)

You can find our website online at [LWVCDC.org](http://LWVCDC.org) or on Facebook. Go on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/LWVCDC) and search League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County. Then click "like," post a comment, send us pictures.



# President's Message

## Please Take Our Survey

LWVCDC invites its membership to participate in two separate but more or less simultaneous things this month.

The first is a survey of our local League members to determine what they are interested in doing, becoming involved in or seeing at the local level to guide the Board of Directors in planning local events and structuring operations going forward.

This is a real survey. We are not conducting a fake survey as an excuse to ask for money. We only want to know your interests, thoughts and ideas.

Please fill out all eight sections and complete the survey by March 10. The results will be shared anonymously with the Board and the Strategic Planning Committee only. To access the survey, click [HERE](#).

## Help Us Plan the 2023-2025 State League Program

If you have the time and inclination, attend a Zoom program planning review meeting this Thursday, **March 2 at 11 a.m.** LWVCDC will be deciding what we want to advise the state League, LWVPA, to adopt as its program of action and advocacy for the next two years, ahead of the LWVPA Biennial Convention June 16-18. LWVPA asks all the local leagues to review its current program and suggest changes to be adopted at the state convention.

At the convention, voting delegates from all of the state's local leagues will vote to approve the proposed programs for the next two years. The state program is composed of issues that rise above those of the local leagues. We must submit the program planning review forms to the LWVPA by March 16.

Often it is only the local boards of directors and committee chairs who participate in this process, but the LWVCDC Board decided this year to invite the entire membership to tell us what you think. You can come and help make the sausage or just watch it being made.

To find out about the process of program planning, click [HERE](#). Here is the [review form](#) LWVPA asks us to go over listing its programs from the last two years. To register to attend this meeting, click [HERE](#).

Helpful League resources to review prior to the meeting:

- [Where We Stand](#)
- [Impact on Issues 2020-2022](#)
- [Campaign for Making Democracy Work®](#)
- [On Our Radar](#) (Social Policy)
- [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion \(DEI\)](#)
- [LWV Education Fund Clearinghouse Positions & Studies](#)

*Anne Mosakowski*

# Environmental Health Priorities in Delco

Our Jeanette Ross lecture this year will feature an examination of the threats to environmental health in Delaware County, on March 23, at 7:30 p.m. by Zoom.

Speaker Ruth McDermott Levy will discuss issues such as how trash management and natural gas pipelines affects the health of Delaware Countians, particularly residents of the city of Chester.



Dr. McDermott-Levy is an expert in environmental health, global health, and public health nursing and has taught and conducted research in Philadelphia's Arab-American and immigrant communities, with community health workers in Nicaragua, and in the Marcellus Shale region of Northeastern Pennsylvania. She has advocated for health protective regulations for those who live in oil and gas development communities.

With nurse colleagues around the U.S., Dr. McDermott-Levy has developed recommendations and teaching strategies to incorporate environmental health and climate change into the nursing curricula. Dr. McDermott-Levy is a co-editor of an open-access environmental health textbook for nurses, *Environmental Health in Nursing*.

The program is free but you must register to receive the link. Register [HERE](#). Event Contact: [Nancy Hopko](#)

## CeaseFirePA Rally and Advocacy Day in Harrisburg

Five years after more than one million Americans rallied for the March for Our Lives, hundreds will gather in Harrisburg to demand stronger gun safety laws in Pennsylvania. Join us on **Thursday, March 23** as we call on the new gun safety majority in the House to act.

Sign up [HERE](#) to learn more about transportation and training, and to be scheduled into a lobby meeting. LWVPA is part of the coalition organizing this event.

The rally will take place from 12-2 p.m. and advocacy

meetings with legislators and training will take place from 9 a.m. to noon and again from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. CeaseFirePA is in the process of arranging transportation. Rally organizers need you to sign up so it can see what your transportation needs are.

Jodine Mayberry would be willing to drive a small group — three or four people — from Delco but does not plan on getting there for the morning advocacy session, only for the rally and afternoon session. Email her at [jodinemayberry@comcast.net](mailto:jodinemayberry@comcast.net) if you are interested in doing that.

## March Events

**March 8 (Wednesday):** Ballot Box Basics — LWVPA hosts a free webinar on [the importance of municipal elections](#). 5:30 p.m. Register [HERE](#).

**March 10 (Friday):** Hot Topic — Brennan Center for Justice speakers will present a program on [election misinformation](#). Noon on Zoom. Register [HERE](#).

**March 14 (Tuesday):** International Relations Study Group — [Iran at the Crossroads](#). Register [HERE](#) to attend by Zoom; contact Joan Hazbun at [jchazbun6@gmail.com](mailto:jchazbun6@gmail.com) to attend in person.

**March 23 (Thursday):** CeaseFirePA rally and lobbying in Harrisburg. Register [HERE](#).

**March 23 (Thursday):** Jeanette Ross Lecture — [Environmental Health Priorities in Delaware County](#), Speaker Ruth McDermott-Levy, Zoom, 7:30 p.m. Register [HERE](#).

**March 31 (Friday):** Hot Topic - [Navigating Challenges of Civil Discourse](#): Strategies to Build Bridges. Noon on Zoom. Register [HERE](#).

# LWVCDC Proposed 2023 Local Program

The bylaws require that the proposed local program be published to the membership at least 30 days before the annual meeting. The goal for the 2023-2024 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.

## 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 by:

- a) Conducting voter registration drives.
- b) Educating voters through candidate forums.
- c) Promoting and expanding Vote411.org
- d) Speaking to community groups.
- e) Working with the schools to build student awareness of the importance of voting and how governments work.
- f) Continuing voter education for in-person voting and/or mail-in voting and election security.
- g) Monitoring ALL PA Legislation related to expanding voting rights and opposing legislation regarding voter suppression.
- h) Continuing efforts to allow eligible prisoners to register to vote and use mail-in ballots to vote.
- i) Working with our partners that are part of the LWVCDC Voter Engagement Coalition.
- j) Encouraging 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. Click here for more information about your community [www.delcopa.gov/towns.html](http://www.delcopa.gov/towns.html).

Continue to support the initiatives of the Delaware County Health Department.

### C. State and Federal Governments: Engage members and community 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 our members' and communities' needs.

Support LWVPA and LWVUS proposals and positions.

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

### A. Monitor the progress and outcome of the fair funding for schools (Fund Our School PA).

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

### 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.

## 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. Join the LWV of Delaware County Environmental Committee efforts with that of the LWVPA and other environmental groups.

## 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, 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 February 2023 and submitted for adoption at the LWVCDC Annual Meeting scheduled for June 9, 2023**