

LWW VOTER

League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County

October 2023

Standing up to Gun Violence Nov. 10

Join us Nov. 10 for **Life or Death: Standing up to Gun Violence in Pennsylvania**. Noon via Zoom.

The program is presented by the Health Com-



Adam Garber

mittee of the League of Women Voters of Delaware County and will feature Adam Garber, executive director of CeaseFirePA. LWVDC is the umbrella organization for LWVDC and Radnor LWV, the two Leagues in Delaware County.

Someone dies by gun violence every six hours in Pennsylvania, according to CeaseFirePA. Three times as many suffer serious wounds and permanent injuries. This takes a devastating toll on victims and

their families, their classmates, hospitals, doctors and law enforcement at every level, making gun violence the top cause of death in children and a major public health issue.

Adam will provide an overview of the problem of gun violence, strategies for prevention, and ongoing advocacy efforts. Adam has a long history of advocacy through his work at the U.S. Public Interest Group where his investigations of contamination threats in foods, cars, toys and other consumer products received national coverage on CBS, in the New York Times, and elsewhere.

The program is free but you must register to get the link and submit questions. Register [HERE](#).

We Honor Taylor Swift for Inspiring Her Fans to Vote

The League of Women Voters U.S. has announced that the 600 leagues around the country had collectively registered 100,000 people on National Voter Registration Day, Sept. 19.

Taylor Swift went on stage, urged her fans to register to vote and got 35,000 people to register! Our Voter Services team felt that LWVDC should recognize Taylor's efforts. She is using her huge platform to do the same work we are dedicated to doing.

We have sent a certificate of appreciation (at right) to Taylor thanking her for taking up voter registration to inspire young people. Thanks to Kathy Knight for organizing this.



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President's Message

Are You Ready to Vote? We are happy to help...

Voter Services is the foundational committee of the League of Women Voters. Our League has a dedicated team of volunteers to help share voting information to our members and our communities. By the end of 2023 these efforts will provide 29 in-person voter information events and several virtual candidate forums. Some of the in-person venues include: Community Fairs, Senior Expos, Colleges and High Schools, Delaware County Naturalization Ceremony, George Hill Correctional Facility, and Community nonprofit Facilities.

Major voter information services include: [registering voters](#); promoting our online voters guide, [Vote411](#), to review candidate information; encouraging members and the voting public to [volunteer as a poll worker](#), and maintaining [our website](#) and especially [our Voter Toolkit](#) and our [FAQ page](#). We share information on [mail-in ballot procedures](#); work with other non-partisan organizations to diversity our outreach; and monitor the work of our [Delco election officials](#) to promote free, fair and secure elections. Finally, while we are nonpartisan and do not support any candidate or party, we help to get out the vote (GOTV).

Important Voting Dates to Remember and Share with Family and Friends

Municipal Election Nov. 7:

- [Polls](#) are open on election day from **7 a.m. - 8 p.m.**
- Last day to [register to vote](#): **Oct. 23.**
- Last day to [request a mail-in or absentee ballot](#): **Oct. 31.**

As a member of our League of Women Voters, you help to empower voters ahead of the November election and to defend democracy all year round. Thank you!

If you are a member of the Voter Services team, we thank you, but if you are not a member and would like to learn more or want to volunteer please reach out to the **Voter Services Committee**. Contacts: Candidate Forums & Vote 411 Co-Chairs [Marita Green](#) and [Joanna Nealon](#); Voter Registration Co-Chairs [Marilyn Gilroy](#), [Kathy Knight](#) and [Kathleen Peterson](#). (Click on their names to email them.)

Anne Mosakowski

PA Tweaks Motor Voter Law to Enable Automatic Registration

Governor Josh Shapiro announced that Pennsylvania has implemented automatic voter registration (AVR) for eligible Commonwealth residents obtaining driver licenses and ID cards at Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) driver and photo license centers.

It was a small but important change. Pennsylvania has had motor voter laws for decades. Now, instead of offering to register those seeking to obtain licenses or ID cards, PennDOT will now automatically take unregistered but eligible applicants through the registration process and re-

quire anyone not wanting to register to opt out.

By implementing AVR, Pennsylvania joins a group of 23 states with leaders from both parties – including Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Georgia, Virginia, and West Virginia – who have taken this step to promote election security and save taxpayers time and money.

The new process also increases access to voter registration by adding instructions in five more languages, for a total of 31 languages.

DA Candidates Forum Coming Oct. 18

Incumbent District Attorney, Democrat Jack Stollsteimer, will square off against Republican challenger Beth Stefanide in a candidates forum Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m. via live stream on YouTube.

Stollsteimer was first elected a DA in 2019. The two candidates served together early in their careers as Delaware County assistant district attorneys and both later served as assistant U.S. attorneys.

Moderator will be Jamie Mogul, president of the Narberth-Lower Marion League.

The forum was organized by the LWVDC Voters Services Committee. Contact [Joanna Nealon](#) for information.

To register and submit questions, click [HERE](#). The link to watch on YouTube is [HERE](#).



Jack Stollsteimer



Beth Stefanide



New Citizens taking the oath of citizenship at the Delaware County Courthouse in mid-September.

ACLU Wins Delco Election Suit

The ACLU of Pennsylvania has won a lawsuit challenging the Delaware County Election Board over its refusal to count a small handful of provisional ballots that voters cast at their polling place after their mail-in ballots were rejected.

The Election Board said it was constrained by a Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court from counting the ballots after the voters failed to correct their rejected mail-in ballots. The Delaware County Court said that it appreciated the county's efforts to prevent voting twice, but in this instance, its policy prevented the three plaintiffs in the suit from voting at all.

The Election Board was happy to get the court's clarification of the "rules of the road," as one observer put it. The county is not expected to appeal.

Bosco's Friends Helping Friends Oct. 18

Don't forget to come shop at Bosco's Granite Run store on **Wednesday, Oct. 18** and buy your shopping pass from LWVDC to get 25% off nearly every item in the store over and above any other sale price posted that day.

We will be manning a table at one of the doors at the Granite Run store on Oct. 18. Come and find us. All the proceeds from the \$5 passes goes to the League and all the savings go to you.

We also need volunteers to man the table on Oct. 18 for two-hour shifts from 12-6 p.m. To volunteer please contact Gloria Rabinowitz at 302-521-7743, gloriarabinowitz@gmail.com, or Rosemarie Lord at 610-722-5526,

mlord1006@gmail.com.

This is our fall fundraiser so we can keep bringing you Hot Topic programs, candidates forums, voter information tables and other events.



Arming Ourselves to Fight Election Lies

By Jodine Mayberry

If you missed our program on the impact of artificial intelligence on elections, you can watch it now or at any time on LWVCDC's YouTube channel [here](#). Susan Gonzales, a founder of [AlandYou.org](#), and Makela Panditharatne of the [Brennan Center for Justice](#) gave us an excellent overview of what AI is likely to mean for the 2024 presidential election.

"Don't trust anything you see, hear or read," said Susan. Mis- and disinformation has been around for centuries but the internet and now "generative AI" can magnify and enable it to an extent we have never seen before.

But what is AI? It is software that can recognize language and respond ("traditional AI"), and it can teach itself

— machine learning — as it goes along, getting better and better at doing its user's bidding to create original content ("generative AI"). This technology is already used in cars, drones, phones, surgical equipment, medical labs, law offices search engines, and countless other uses.

"Traditional AI," which performs specific tasks based on predefined rules and patterns (Think of search engines, Siri, Alexa, GPS) and "generative AI," (ChatGPT, Lensa and OpenAI), which can create entirely new data that resembles human-created content.

AI can be a tremendously useful tool when used legitimately. But it can also create audio in anyone's voice and make deep fakes — phony photos and videos — so realistic they're virtually impossible to discern. And it can be used to spread lies and conspiracy theories far and wide on every social media platform. Elections may be particularly vulnerable to misuse of generative AI, not only by domestic actors but also by foreign governments.

Here is a real world example cited by Maleka in her report [How AI Puts Elections at Risk](#) on the Brennan site: "Earlier this year, an AI-generated video showing President Biden declaring a national draft to aid Ukraine's war effort — originally acknowledged as a deepfake but later stripped of that context — led to a misleading tweet that garnered over eight million views."

As the election season goes on, misuse of AI is going to get much, much worse. Susan and Makela both emphasized that Congress is very unlikely to meaningfully regulate AI because the industry lobby is so strong.

So there are no guardrails. It's on us as an organization and individually to recognize mis- and disinformation and fight back ourselves. We will have to be checking suspected deep fakes against trusted sources.

On Tuesday, Oct. 3, [AlandYou.org](#) launched an election public awareness campaign that provides tools to help voters navigate the [2024 election](#). Check it out. There is never going to be one resource that's going to tell you everything you need to know about how to recognize misuse of AI because the technology changes so fast, Susan said.

In her report cited above, Maleka points out that AI developers have only been able to perfect deep fakes since the 2020 elections. Before that, fakes were often fairly crude and recognizable out of context. Now they're not.

LWVUS has helpful advice about how to avoid spreading misinformation in its League Management section, available only to members. LWVUS also launched a "Democracy Truth Project" last year that is dependent on the work of local leagues — such as ours — to help combat mis- and disinformation in elections.



Judges' Races are Crucial

While the Nov. 2 election is a municipal election in which we will choose our county, township and school board representatives, the judicial election is vitally important too.

This year we will choose a new member of the PA Supreme Court, a new member of the Commonwealth Court and two new members of the Superior Court. You can get information about the judicial candidates on [Vote411](#).

Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts will hold an appellate judges' candidates forum Oct. 24 at 6:30 p.m. Register [HERE](#).

The Commonwealth Court hears appeals of governmental issues, such as election suits and constitutional amendments. The Superior Court hears appeals of all other cases from the county courts. Learn more [here](#).