



VOTER

September 2020

Election Law, Process and Security

The Central Delaware County League of Women Voters is not letting a little thing like an international pandemic slow down its work promoting safe, secure, fair elections, especially the upcoming Nov. 3 presidential election.



Jamie R. Mogil

Join us for our first Hot Topic event at 12 noon, Sept. 11 to hear about the historic changes that were made to Pennsylvania election law and security governing our elections as we try to exercise

our right to vote in the time of COVID. Let the League of Women Voters tell you the

FACTS governing voting in Pennsylvania, from the point of view of an election lawyer and a print journalist. The presenters are Jamie R. Mogil, election rights attorney and the Voter Services Chair of the LWV of Lower Merion & Narberth and Jodine Mayberry, journalist, writer for Westlaw Journals on legal matters and LWV Delaware County Board Member and editor of the Voter for LWV-CDC.



Jodine Mayberry

The Hot Topic presentation is FREE but to receive the link to the Zoom Virtual Meeting via email you MUST register.

To attend, please register [here](#).

PolitiFact Director Aaron Sharockman to talk about election misinformation and disinformation!

LWV-CDC is thrilled to book Aaron Sharockman, executive director of PolitiFact at the Poynter Institute to speak at our second fall Hot Topics event, Sorting out News from Noise, about the misinformation, disinformation and lies voters are being bombarded with daily on social media in the months leading up to the Nov. 3 election. Sept. 30, 7 p.m.

Facts right now are under attack, and people aren't sure what information to trust. PolitiFact,



Aaron Sharockman

the winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 2009, is America's largest political fact-checking website. They've been sorting out fact from fiction for 13 years and published more than 18,000 fact-checks on its Truth-O-Meter, which rates statements from True all the way to Pants on Fire false. PolitiFact is the arm of the Poynter Institute that fact checks journalists and debunks political lies. Check out its work [here](#).

Please register for this event [here](#).

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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

Despite the pandemic and adjusting to a different lifestyle regarding travel, social life and our health, the Central Delaware County League of Women Voters has been very active. Over the summer, LWV-CDC has been preparing for virtual voter registration drives and candidate forums and working to engage our members with enhanced communications on the web, e-marketing and social media. It's August and it's time to renew your membership with LWV-CDC. We have a newly updated online renewal and payment process for 2020 featuring a digital form to update your contact and membership information. Go to [Join](#) on our website.

SAVE the DATES for our September **Virtual Hot Topic Discussions**. You will need to register to receive an invitation followed by a Zoom link to participate in the program.

- Sept 11, 2020 at noon – *Election Law, Process and Security*, a panel discussion with League election law attorney Jamie Mogil and Journalist Jodine Mayberry to discuss the history changes brought about by Act 77 and what they will mean for voting this fall. See Page 1.
- Sept. 30, 2020 at 7:00 pm – *Sorting out News from Noise*: Aaron Sharockman, Executive Director of PolitiFact, the largest fact-checking organization in the United States and a division of Poynter Institute, will address truth-telling in media in the leadup to the Nov. 3 presidential election. See Page 1.

LWV-CDC is committed to equity for all voters and the recognition that democracy is strengthened by the inclusion of all the diverse voices within the community. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) are important commitments in LWV-CDC's organizational mission. Several initiatives are underway. We are partnering with the Delaware County Youth Educational Alliance to provide resources and support for non-partisan voter registration of youth in Delaware County. We are in discussion with the NAACP, Media chapter, to address DEI and support a special program that provides education and awareness about this topic. I'll have more to tell you about this important initiative next month.

Informing the electorate on mail-in voting, registering new voters and conducting candidate forums are our most important efforts for fall 2020. For the latest information on mail-in voting check out [this page](#) on our website. LWV-CDC Voting Registration Committee is identifying unregistered voters and conducting a post-card campaign to help them register to vote. If you are interested in helping out with voter registration, please contact Katherine Peterson kmpeter@hotmail.com or Marilyn Gilmore zpixel@yahoo.com.

Barbara Amstutz

2020 Primary Results, a Horror Story for November?

By Jodine Mayberry

According to a report we received from County Councilwoman Christine Reuther who is the council liaison with the Election Bureau:

It took two full weeks after Election day, June 2, to count all of the 126,853 ballots cast by mail or at polling places.

Of the 55,630 mail-in ballots cast, 76 percent were cast by Democrats and 23 percent by Republicans. Of the 71,223 ballots cast at polling places, 73 percent of Republicans voted in person and 46 percent of Democrats did so.

By June 14, 12 days after the election, the Delaware County Election Bureau had only just completed counting the in-person and mail-in ballots and had not begun to count the 7,700 provisional ballots cast. That count took another week to 10 days but did not change the election outcomes.

Many of those provisional ballots may have been people who requested mail-in ballots but then decided to cast their votes in person. Those voters had to vote provisionally and leave it to the Election Bureau post-election to determine if they had also cast mail-in votes.

Of the 90,000 mail-in or absentee ballots requested, only 55,630 were voted. That is, only 62 percent were cast so more than 1 in 3 were not cast.

The 35,000 plus mail-in ballots not cast were considered "spoilage." They were either ballots not received by voters, ballots received but not returned and ballots returned too late to be counted.

These results were for a rather low-participation primary election in which the two nominees for president were a foregone conclusion.

The Nov. 3 General Election is going to be a whopper. As of Aug. 10, there are 407,285 registered voters in Delaware County, 199,066 Democrats, 155,857 Republicans and 52,000 unaffiliated or other. Presumably most or all of them will want to vote in November.

With all of the controversy about the Post Office, many of those who signed up for mail-in ballots for the general election may be regretting that choice and planning to go to the polls after all. If they do, their ballots will be cast provisionally and may not be counted for weeks after the election.

Delaware County is trying to cope by purchasing 50 drop boxes to be distributed around the county where people can drop off their ballots and bypass the Postal Service.

The county also plans to re-establish regular polling places and it has purchased a high-speed sorter to sort the mail-in ballots by precinct. It is also moving the Election Bureau to the Wharf in Chester where workers will have more room to send and count ballots.

The Election Bureau needs poll workers and ballot counting volunteers of both parties. If you feel comfortable despite the COVID crisis, please volunteer. Call your local party leaders first to volunteer or call the Election Bureau at 610-891-4673. If you have any questions, email the League: lwvcdc@gmail.com.



August — September Events

Aug. 21 (Friday) — Environmental Risky Business: Speaker Robert Winters, Noon to 1 p.m. livestreamed on YouTube. Click [here](#) to watch.

Sept. 11 (Friday) — Election Law Process and Security: Speakers Jamie R. Mogil and Jodine Mayberry. Noon via Zoom. Register [here](#) to receive the Zoom invitation.

Sept. 30 (Wednesday) — Sorting out News from Noise: Debunking Election Misinformation, speaker Aaron Sharockman, executive director of PolitiFact. 7 p.m. via Zoom. Register [here](#).

The Census — Still Happening, Still Important

Delaware County has only had an overall 63 percent self-reported response to the 2020 Census and now door knockers will be going door to door to try to collect the remaining 38 percent of responses. The bad news is the door-knocking program will end a full month early, on Sept. 30., this time.

The worst census responses are in Upper Darby, Yeadon, and Chester, just the areas that the U.S. government needs data from the most, but the low response rate will affect us all throughout the county in terms of congressional representation, education,

health care funding and anti-poverty measures.

Chester's response rate was 44 percent in comparison to wealthy Rose Valley's 87 percent response rate.

Welcome census takers if they come knocking. Census takers will be wearing masks and valid government ID badges with their photographs and a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark.

People can still self-respond at 2020census.gov or by calling 844-330-2020. If you Haven't yet done so, please respond. It only takes a couple of minutes but will benefit you and your neighbors for the next 10 years.

We're as Busy as Can Be

Despite the coronavirus crisis, LWV-CDC members have been very busy preparing for the upcoming election, attending the online national LWV convention and developing local initiatives.

- You have all received dues renewal and donation letters and emails and are asked to renew your membership promptly, especially as we've been stymied in holding our regular fund raisers due to the pandemic. Consider rounding up your dues amount to \$70, 80, \$100 or any amount really. Pay online [here](#), but a check is better.
- The Voter registration Committee (Marilyn Gilroy, Kathy Knight and Kathleen Peterson) has sent out more than 1,000 postcards to people whose addresses indicate they are not registered to vote. (We need help paying for this.)
- The committee is also working with a Ridley High School student who is arranging to register age-eligible students in the parking lots of local high schools.

- The Voter Service Committee led by Marita Green will be arranging three or four candidates' forums over Zoom in September and October. Email the League at lwvcdc@gmail.com to volunteer.

Here are three candidates' forums the committee has lined up so far. Ballots go out starting in mid-September and people will be marking their choices and sending them back so if you are in any of these districts, you may want to watch the forums first.

1. Wednesday Sept. 16 at 7 p.m.: 17th Senate District — challengers Democrat Amanda Cappelletti and Republican Ellen Fisher. This is an open seat.
2. Thursday Sept. 17, 7 p.m.: 165th Legislative District — incumbent Democrat Jennifer O'Mara and Republican challenger Robert Smythe Jr.
3. Sunday Oct. 4, 3 p.m.: 166th Legislative District — incumbent Democrat Greg Vitali and Republican challenger Christine Boyle.

You will be receiving Constant Contact emails telling you how to register for and watch these online debates.



We Tried, We Really Tried

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, LWV-CDC has had to cancel its Sept. 16 private tour and luncheon of the Brandywine Museum's Suffrage exhibit: Votes for Women: A Visual History of Women's Suffrage. The tour had already been delayed from the spring. As this event was to have been a fund-raiser for the League, we will be refunding any paid fees or ask that they be donated to the League. You can still take a virtual tour of the exhibit [here](#).