



# DELAWARE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Delaware

Winter 2016  
President: Jill A. Fuchs

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www.lwvdelaware.org

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Editor: Letty Diswood

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

## LEAGUE DAY IN DOVER

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Outlook at the Duncan Center, 500 West Lookerman Street, Dover, DE 19904

### Access to Justice: Current Issues in Delaware’s General Assembly: Bail Reform, Pre-trial Detention, Minimum Mandatory Sentencing, and Solitary Confinement

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Delaware. Cosponsors: American Association of University Women (AAUW); American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU-DE); Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow; Delaware Center for Justice (DCJ); Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence (DCAGV); Delaware Coalition for Open Government (DelCOG); Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice

Come learn, advocate with the League on four key issues the LWV of Delaware and our cosponsors are addressing during the 148th session of our General Assembly. Hear from speakers on these topics: Bail Reform, Pre-trial Detention, Minimum Mandatory Sentencing, and Solitary Confinement, plus our Luncheon speaker, The Honorable Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr. will report on findings of the Access to Justice Commission he established to study these and related issues. Enjoy lunch with fellow members and legislators, then visit Legislative Hall with a volunteer, registered lobbyist to meet with your Representative and Senator to present Position Papers that express our views on each of these issues, and to attend Committee hearings.

8:30-9 AM Registration and refreshments

### PROGRAM

9:00 AM Welcome: Jill Fuchs, President

9:05 AM Moderator: Sandy Spence, Advocacy Corps Chair will introduce and frame the issues and introduce speakers. Each speaker’s schedule will include time for Q&A

9:15 AM Bail Reform with Q & A: Alan Davis, Chief Magistrate, Justice of the Peace Court

9:45 AM Pretrial Detention with Q & A. Brian Bartley, Office of the Public Defender

10:15AM Break

10:30 AM Minimum Mandatory Sentencing and Collateral Consequences with Q & A: Ryan Tack-Hooper, Staff Attorney, Legislative Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union-DE

11:00 AM Solitary Confinement with Q&A: Rep. J. J. Johnson, Chair, House Corrections Committee

11:30 Lunch with Legislators (buffet)

12:00 PM Access to Justice with Q&A: Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr.

1:30 PM Attendees will visit legislators to provide them with fact sheets on the issues discussed today as well as other LWVDE issues. Individuals are encouraged to attend legislative sessions of the House and Senate legislative committee hearings in Legislative Hall in the afternoon. (Continued on page 2 LD)

## COSPONSORS of League Day in Dover:



**REGISTRATION FORM is on page 11 of this newsletter.**

**Registration fee \$30.**

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## The Gender Wage Gap Equal Pay Day Event Tuesday, April 12, 2016

### Co-Sponsored by:

- *The American Association of University Women of Delaware*
- *The Delaware Commission for Women*
- *The League of Women Voters of Delaware*



Pay Equity Day occurs on April 12 this year. This is the point during the year when, on average, women's salaries finally equal what men made in the prior year. Events will take place in Dover on April 12 to bring this issue to the attention of our legislators and the public at large. Please join us.

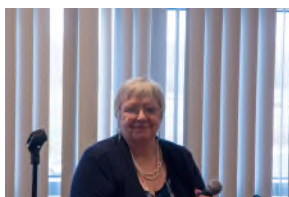
Based on the latest pay figures available, women in Delaware were paid only 81% of what men in our state were paid in 2014. This is **down** from 2013, when women were paid 83%. Things are going in the wrong direction!

### EVENT ACTIVITIES - (no rsvp required):

- 11:00 A.M. Informal lunch at Frazier's Restaurant ("dutch treat") [9 E. Lookerman Street, Dover]. Information about the gender wage gap will be presented.
- 1:15 P.M. Press Conference in the Senate Hearing Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Legislative Hall
- 2:00 P.M. (or whenever the session begins) – Introduction of a House Concurrent Resolution declaring April 12, 2016 as Equal Pay Day in Delaware

~~Wear **RED** to symbolize how far women's wages are '*in the red*' compared to men's~~

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Education and advocacy continue to be the primary goals of the League of Women Voters. Delaware has much activity among committees and members on a myriad of subjects ranging from racial, social and judicial justice, campaign finance, education and reform, health etc. We are proud, and should be, of all the work and advocacy that goes on daily.

With so much activity and concentration on particular interests, it is easy for us to lose sight, or take for granted, the monetary aspect of maintaining our organization. Our Education Fund is very low and we need financial assistance now more than ever before.

I am asking all members to consider a donation the LWVDE Ed Fund at [www.lwvdelaware.org](http://www.lwvdelaware.org) or send it to our office. It is a tax deductible donation that will keep our work moving to help others in the tradition that created the LWV 96 years ago. Hopefully, I will be able to report on your generosity in the near future.

Speaking of the near future – On March 25, our 2016 League Day will be held at the Outlook in the Duncan Center. Our current justice system is under discussion. It will also be an opportunity to visit your designated legislator and to share LWVDE position papers current issues facing our state.

You President in service,  
Jill A. Fuchs



L-R: Bryan Stevenson at Legislative Hall with Jill Fuchs and Sandy Spence lobbying to repeal the Del. Death Penalty.

## LWVDE Acting on Public Policy Issues

### Advocacy Corps Busier than Ever!



**New Lobbyists.** Recently, the board authorized Linda Barnett (LWV of New Castle County) to serve as a LWVDE lobbyist. In addition, Pat Todd, who had taken a break, was re-authorized. They join our volunteer registered lobbyists Charlotte King, Letty Diswood, Jill Fuchs, Joann Hasse, Mickey McKay, Gina Miserendino, Lisa Pertzoff, Peggy Schultz, and Sandy Spence. Several other members play supportive roles in the Advocacy Corps such as monitoring specific categories of bills, researching issues, preparing position papers and testimony, etc. If you'd like to explore how you might participate, email [sandyspence325@gmail.com](mailto:sandyspence325@gmail.com).

**New Coalitions.** The board authorized us to join two new coalitions. The "LWV Coalition for Gun Safety" is a coalition of state Leagues that engage in dialogue about gun violence prevention at the state level and helps us learn from the work of other state Leagues. The other new Coalition is seeking enactment of a bill (HB202) to require large stores to charge five cents each to customers who wish to use plastic bags.

**League Day in Dover.** We've spent a lot of time planning all the details, logistics and program for an exciting and challenging League Day 2016 focused on "Access to Justice." The theme is based on a Commission of that name created by Supreme Court Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr. who will present findings of the Commission as our featured luncheon speaker. See separate article with all the details.

**Major issues.** Among the major bills we are working on are these:

- **Same Day Registration (SB111).** Besides allowing voters to register when they go to the polls to vote, this bill would also eliminate the requirement for felons to have paid all fines and fees before being allowed to vote. (We expect a separate bill to be introduced in March to achieve this latter objective.)
- **School Board Elections SB165** – We are studying this bill and will likely not support most of its major changes in school board elections, which include requiring them to be conducted by mail; requiring that all voters in school

*(Continued on page 4 Advocacy Corps)*

*(Continued from page 4 Advocacy Corps)*

- elections be registered voters; and providing that all school elections be held on the 2nd Tuesday of May, including referendum elections, which may be held only once a year. A related bill (HB 155) contains the provision requiring that voters in any school elections be registered voters; currently any citizen living in the school district may vote in that district's elections.
- **Death Penalty Repeal (SB 40).** Although it passed the Senate, the House defeated this bill. Rep. Kim Williams voted against the bill in a strategic move to allow her to call it up for reconsideration. But, lacking sufficient votes for passage, leaders in the Repeal Coalition suspended their campaign while awaiting outcome of consideration of the constitutionality of the death penalty by the state Supreme Court, which may not be decided before the June 30 end of session.
- **Solitary Confinement Study (HJR 5).** This Joint Resolution, adopted last June, authorized funding for the Department of Correction to contract for a study of solitary confinement, but the overdue study had not been released as of this writing. We have been urging significant reduction in use of solitary confinement, especially for children and the mentally ill.
- **Three Strikes. (SB 163).** This bill was intended to reduce the impact of the current three strikes law that can result in lengthy minimum mandatory sentences for "habitual offenders." We are studying whether a compromise substitute bill (SS1) is enough of a reform to support.
- **Limited use of Shackles on Children (SB 211)** Although we support this bill, we have learned that Family Courthouses in Kent and Sussex are so crowded that court officials have recommended against it and it has not moved out of Committee since introduction last June.
- **Enforcement of Candidate Finance Reporting (HB 167).** We supported this bill that would improve the authority of the Commissioner of Elections to enforce campaign finance laws.
- **Audits of Charter Schools (HB 186 and SB 171).** These are two competing bills aimed at improving fiscal accountability and transparency. Both are pending while sponsors Rep. Kim Williams and Sen. David Sokola attempt to work out their differences.
- **Minimum Wage (SB 30).** We have supported this legislation that would raise the current \$8.75 minimum to \$10.25 over four years, beginning in June 2017. It has passed the Senate.
- **Urgent and preventative dental care for Medicaid Recipients.** (HB 142 and 148). We are supporting this legislation as a means of preventing significant health outcomes that can result from inadequate dental care.
- **Fee for use of Plastic Bags (HB 202).** Pat Todd is representing us with the Coalition lobbying for this legislation that would require large stores to charge 5 cents for use of plastic bags. She is exploring whether the bill could be amended to provide relief for low income persons.
- **Healthy and Transit-Friendly Communities.** (SB 130). This bill, originally called the Complete Communities Enterprise Districts, would allow local governments to designate districts with a mix of commercial and residential land use that would encourage just what the new title suggests. As a benefit, DELDOT would provide transit friendly services and work to eliminate barriers to walking and biking.



*(Continued on page 5 Advocacy Corps)*

*(Continued from page 4 Advocacy Corps)*

- **Source of Income** (SB 179). This bill would add “source of income” as a protected class under DE's Fair Housing Act & Landlord Tenant Code. In an effort to secure passage, sponsors have amended the bill to exclude Section 8 vouchers from the protected class.
- **The Governor’s Proposed Budget** (SB 175). Peggy Schultz testified on funding for open space and agricultural land preservation; Linda Barnett testified in favor of funding for dental care for Medicaid recipients to ensure that HB 142 and HB 148 can be implemented; and Sandy Spence testified for funding for the Public Defender and the Judiciary and supported pilot projects to explore costs, policy, and privacy issues in relation to the use of body cameras. The Joint Finance Committee has completed hearings on the proposed budget and must finalize recommendations for final approval by the House and Senate by June 30.

**Other Actions.** In other work of the Corps, Charlotte King testified at a Criminal Justice Council hearing and Sandy Spence spoke at a hearing of Justice Strine’s Access to Justice Commission. Both highlighted Justice portfolio priorities focusing on the high number of inmates held in pre-trial determination (25% of males and 40% of women in our prison population), the need to reduce the number of laws that take away judicial discretion by setting minimum mandatory sentences, and the need to reduce the large number of prisoners held in solitary confinement, particularly children and the mentally ill.

Open Government portfolio chair Mickey McKay is exploring how we might be involved in the controversy around the lack of accountability and transparency in use of forfeited property including money by police agencies.

The Environment Committee and Land Use and Transportation Committee have developed several statements on regulatory issues that are described in separate articles in this Voter.

Sandy Spence, Advocacy Corp Chair

## LWVDE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORT

The EC, in conjunction with the LWV Land Use/Transportation (LU/T), continues to monitor legislation related to Delaware’s natural resources and environmental protection needs. Current advocacy efforts by several committee members are urging the Legislative Joint Finance Committee (JFC) to provide full funding for Open Space Preservation, as was the intent of the Land Protection act of 1991 as well as for the Agricultural Lands Preservation, both of which have been the target of drastic reductions in recent years, thereby leaving millions of federal dollars on the table.

We are represented by Pat Todd on the Plastic Bag Coalition, sponsors of HB 202, an effort to expand existing legislation, to require all covered stores to provide reusable bags and to charge customers 5¢/bag for each single-use plastic bag. Coalition members are currently attempting to secure favorable votes from among the eleven members of the House Natural Resources Committee.

The EC is also supporting a current DNREC proposal to raise fees for its Wildlife Areas – these are areas where licensed individuals may legally hunt and fish. These areas have been traditionally supported by hunting/fishing licenses, although used by a wide variety of purely recreational visitors, from equestrians to birdwatchers who have not borne any of the maintenance costs. DNREC is proposing to remedy this imbalance by widening and broadening its fee structure. This proposal, when finalized, will require Legislative approval, and a bill is expected this session. At the same time the EC voted to support the Delaware Nature Society in its effort to defeat a separate proposal to legalize Sunday hunting.

The E.C. recently testified at DENREC’s hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Clean Power Plan (CPP) proposal to reduce emissions from electricity-generating plants. Although this is a significant step on the part of the federal government, it does not address transportation fuels emissions at all. The League believes the EPA’s target is not sufficient. Instead, we urge Delaware to become a national leader in setting higher emissions-reductions targets from all sources, while capitalizing on the development of its huge renewable energy potential.

*(Continued on page 6 Environmental Committee Summary)*

*Continued from page 5 Environmental Committee Summary)*


We have initiated contact with DNREC's Climate Change section to ascertain how the league can be most helpful to their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Chad Tolman, chair of our climate-change subcommittee, continues to work on two issues: How to most effectively develop a regional price on carbon emissions as well as maximize the use of funds flowing into the state from the 14-state Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).


Most recently, the committee's position against seismic testing off the mid-Atlantic coast, was approved by the LWVDE. This matter has assumed some urgency since, after a brief hiatus, , the federal government recently announced its intention to resume testing in its quest to discover fossil fuel reserves in the area. Aside from the catastrophic harm to marine mammals by this testing, there is no urgency for further discovery/exploitation the products' value, currently at historic lows due to a world-wide glut.

We continue to engage in a multi-agency effort to bring attention to Delaware's polluted waterways. This effort is being spearheaded by the DNS who has recently added a fulltime staff member whose job title is Clean Water Advocate, and who has offered to meet with us as soon as time permits.

The next E.C meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2016, from Noon-2:00 pm.

Lisa Pertzoff

 Help Wanted! Do you have an interest in the financial health of the LWV of Delaware? We are looking for a person to chair this committee. To find out what this committee does call Jill Fuchs at 302-300-8171 email: [jillandkenny@verizon.net](mailto:jillandkenny@verizon.net).

 Help Wanted! A LWV of Delaware Campaign Finance Committee has been formed to educate members and work to reform Delaware's campaign finance system. They are seeking members from LWVNCC, LWVKC and LWVSC. Please contact Nancy Powell at [powellnanc@gmail.com](mailto:powellnanc@gmail.com) if you are interested.

### **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE Land Use/Transportation Committee Report**

The Land Use/Transportation Committee is pleased to report on its activities for the past season.

In February Heather Dunigan, planner with WILMAPCO, spoke on transit-oriented development, and James Wilson, executive director of Bike Delaware, spoke on a bill currently before the State Legislature, the Healthy and Transit-Friendly Development Act. The venue was LWVNCC's monthly Hot Topics lunch for February. On March 16th, James, a League member, will again address the proposed legislation as a participant on a panel called "Educating for Wise Growth in Sussex County," a forum sponsored by the LWVSC. The League has been a primary supporter of the bill which James will discuss, SB 130.

Also in February, a representative of the committee, Jerry Schultz, shared with the Croda Citizens' Advisory Council, the League's reasoning behind its statement regarding Croda's new ethylene oxide facility. The League had no objections to the local manufacture of this dangerous chemical since transportation from the Gulf Coast could be thereby avoided, but registered a complaint with DNREC that carbon dioxide emissions ought to be reported and offsets be provided when necessary, since the Act requires such a measure for all air pollutants.

The League continues to have a seat on the Public Advisory Committee of WILMAPCO, the regional planning organization for New Castle and Cecil Counties. A League representative attends bi-monthly meetings of this organization.

Statements prepared and, in most cases, presented:

Open Space Council State Resource Area map update; the League urged greater attention to areas potentially vulnerable to sea level rise.

*(Continued on page 7 Land Use/Transportation Committee)*

*Continued from page 6 Land Use/Transportation Committee)*

- Farmland and Open Space preservation Budget Committee hearings in February, in response to the Governor's budget requests; the League again supported full funding for Farmland Preservation (\$10 million) and Open Space Preservation (\$9 million), even though the Governor requested only \$3 million and zero, respectively.
- Coastal Zone applications from Praxair (on the Delaware City Refinery property), for a process that would turn plant carbon dioxide emissions into dry ice; and from Mountaire (a poultry plant in the Coastal Zone), for the installation of a new pellet cooler. In neither case did the League have issues with the impacts of the new processes and the accompanying offsets, but rather with the failure of DNREC to require that carbon dioxide emissions be reported and offset where necessary.
- New Castle County Council, regarding its proposal to pay \$25,000 to \$30,000 per acre for the conservation rights to farmland, while other NCC farmers with the most expensive properties received a maximum of \$8,000 per acre fee simple. The League objected both to the lack of transparency in the process, and to activity outside the State Farmland Preservation program....activity which would undermine the effectiveness of this nationally-recognized state program.

In addition to these state issues, the committee has also submitted statements relative to updates to the New Castle County Comprehensive Plan. The statements related mainly to deletions from an earlier draft which emphasized sustainability.

*Peggy Schultz, Co-Chair with Jane Dilley, Land Use/Transportation Committee*

**Thank YOU to all who have made a financial contribution to the League of Women Voters of Delaware and to the LWV Education Fun. Listed below are contributors since the Summer VOTER:**

*Jean Bauer, Lynda Brantley, Susan Brynteson, Judith Butler, Patricia A. Christopher (Patti), Alice Davis, Paulette DeLaVeaux, Jane and Frank Dilley, Mary Eggers, Theda Ellis, Phyllis Faulkner, Katherine M. Flaherty, Mary Field, Letty & Larry Diswood, Jacqueline & Jack Harris (Jackie), Joann Hasse, Ruth Helm, Edith C. Herron, Joyce Johnson, Marjorie Johnson, Carol Jones, Jane Lord, Barbara A. Mullin, William Narcowich, Lisa Pertzoff, Carol Reid-Grandfield, Nadyne Rosin, Sandra Spence, Lester & Christine Stillson, Carole and Bill Walsh*

**Contributions to sponsor forums: American Association of University Women (AAUW); American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow; Delaware Center for Justice (DCJ); Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence (DCAGV); Delaware Coalition for Open Government (DelCOG); Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial**

**Thank YOU to all our VOLUNTEERS who spend their time and money advocating and educating for the issues we all care about. There are no reimbursements for mileage, gas or food.**

**A HUGE THANK YOU.**

### **Join the Conversation**

Our online communities represent the diversity we want to build in our League. Our 196 Facebook friends and 139 Twitter followers include a state senator, policy director, state representative, media members, DOJ director, community partners such as Common Cause, and educators and citizens from all walks.

Twitter provides a quick digest of the nation's leading headlines, while Facebook gives us an open forum where we discuss the important issues of the day. All posts and points-of-view are welcome long as our nonpartisan and inclusive policies are being respected.



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**To join Facebook**, go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and follow the instructions. Once you join, search for the League of Women Voters of Delaware and send us a "friend request."

**To join Twitter**, go to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and follow the instructions. Once you join, search for @lwvde and "follow" us!

***The League of Women Voters of New Castle County cordially invites you to attend the presentation of the Tenth Carrie Chapman Catt Award.***

***Tuesday, April 12, 2016***

***5:45 - 6:30 pm Social Hour (Cash Bar); 6:30 - 7:45 pm Dinner; 7:45 - 8:45 Presentations  
University of Delaware, Arsh Hall, 2700 Pennsylvania Avenue, Wilmington, DE.***

Details and registration [www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org](http://www.lwvdelaware-newcastlecounty.org) or call 302-571-8948

**Awardees**



**Moonyeen Klopfenstein, MS, RN**, usually known as “Kloppy”, has been a registered nurse for 50 years and is still working at Christiana Hospital. Kloppy is the founder of the “Loving Arms” Support Group which was started in 1978 for parents who had lost a baby through an ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death. She started, and continues a bereavement education program for medical students and residents entitled “How to Give Bad News Appropriately”. She also continues to teach a statewide program on preparation for end-of-life (at any age) called “What If? Make Your Wishes Known”.



**La Vaida Owens-White** is a Faith Community Nurse serving the congregation of Christ Our King RC Church in Wilmington, the Interdenominational Ministers Action Council of Delaware, the Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families, the Delaware Region Health Ministries Network, the Interfaith Clergy Group of the Ninth Ward, and the State Chapter of the NAACP as well as the Wilmington Branch of the NAACP.



**Priscilla B. Rakestraw** Among Priscilla’s extensive community, organizational, and fundraising activities, she has been Development Director for the Ministry of Caring since November, 2012. In recognition of her prior volunteer efforts, Brother Ronald presented her with the Caring Bowl, the symbol of caring for the homeless and hungry. Priscilla was elected as Delaware’s Republican National Committeewoman in 1975 and served until August, 2012. She is the longest serving national committee member for either party in history.

**League of Women Voters Outlining the League’s Priority Federal Issues for 2016**

By: Jessica Jones 01/12/2016

The League of Women Voters has the opportunity to play an active role on many priority issues in 2016. In addition to lobbying the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress in support of League priorities, we are working on a number of important policy proposals put forth by the President and agencies of the federal government. We will also be participating in litigation that could have a major impact on laws and regulations supported by the League.



**Here’s a sample of some of the important work the League will be focused on in 2016:**

**Voting and Elections:** [Restoring the Voting Rights Act \(VRA\)](#) continues to be a top priority for the League. It’s now been nearly three years since the [U.S. Supreme Court gutted key provisions of the VRA](#) and Congress has failed to act on historic legislation to restore the voting rights of Americans across the country. The League will continue to lobby House and Senate leadership, and engage grassroots support, to ensure that legislation to restore the VRA gets hearings and a vote in both houses of Congress.

In the area of voter registration, [LWVUS has called on the Obama Administration](#) to comply with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) when applicants apply for health insurance through the federal health exchanges under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The League believes the exchanges are public assistance agencies and therefore must

*(Continued on page 9 League’s Priority)*



(Continued from page 8 *League's Priority*)

provide voter registration opportunities to all applicants, similarly to [other social services such as the Department of Motor Vehicles or Medicaid enrollment](#). Some states, [like California](#), that offer state-run health exchanges under the Affordable Care Act have begun to offer voter registration opportunities following pressure from the League. We believe proper implementation of the NVRA at the health benefit exchanges is an incredible opportunity to help every eligible American citizen participate and contribute to our democracy.

**Money in Elections:** As we enter a Presidential election year, billions of dollars are flooding into our political system and yet, voters still have no idea where the money is coming from. The League continues to push Congress to move the [DISCLOSE Act](#) to the forefront.

We also continue to [address disclosure and independent expenditures](#) with the Federal Election Commission (FEC). The League hopes to build on our success of sending [nearly 30,000 comments](#) to the FEC encouraging them to redefine these two terms and end corruption in politics.

**Climate Change:** Now that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has [finalized the Clean Power Plan](#), the historic regulations to limit carbon pollution from power plants, the implementation of these regulations heads to the states. State officials and legislatures must now follow the common sense building blocks developed by the EPA to meet the goals established in the plan. Leagues across the country are working to [build support for, and promote compliance with, the Clean Power Plan](#).

**Redistricting:** Late last year, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in *Evenwel v. Abbott*, a major case that could forever change the way we view the political map. *Evenwel* has the potential to upset the criteria for drawing state and local legislative districts so that districts would be determined by the total number of voters instead of total population. The League submitted [an amicus brief in \*Even wel\*](#) that supports the current practice of drawing district lines based on population counts. Leagues around the country are also involved in their own redistricting processes. The [League of Women Voters of Ohio](#) helped pass a major ballot initiative to amend the state constitution and [change how the lines are drawn in Ohio's state legislative districts](#) (PDF).

2016 promises to be a busy year. Across the country, [state and local Leagues will continue to lead the way](#) to fight back against bad voter reforms and initiatives as well as for pro-voter reforms in their own legislatures. At the federal, state and local levels, Leagues will be working hard to influence public policy and encourage participation in government on these key issues and more.

### **Reforming Immigration**

The United States is a nation of immigrants, and the League of Women Voters has a long history of encouraging their participation in American society. Immigrants have helped weave the fabric and identity of our nation, and we believe that it is critical for the U.S. to encourage their participation in our democracy. Our work around [comprehensive immigration reform](#) largely falls into the following categories:

**Working for a path to citizenship– Helping immigrants become active participants in our democracy –**

**Advancing Health Care** The League is dedicated to ensuring access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans. We believe that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care, including disease prevention, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute long-term care, mental health care and health promotion and education. Over the past 20 years, we have [lobbied at the national, state and local levels for health care policy solutions, including the Affordable Care Act \(ACA\)](#), to control costs and ensure a basic level of care for all.

### **Protecting and Implementing the Affordable Care Act**

**Women's Reproductive Health** – The League believes in the constitutional right to privacy, and [trusts women to make their own reproductive health care decisions](#)

(Continued on page 10 *League's Priority*)

(Continued from page 9 *League's Priority*)

**Gun Safety** America faces an epidemic of gun-related violence that puts us in great need of stronger gun safety measures. Every day, 32 Americans are murdered with guns, and 140 are treated for a gun assault in an emergency room. Death due to gunshot wounds is the second-leading cause of death for young people in the U.S., with a death rate that is nearly 12 times higher than that in other developed countries.

**OTHER WORK:** [Fixing Fiscal Policy](#) \* Improving Government \* Global Democracy

## How to Make a Gift to the League Grow

By donating to the LWVDE Endowment Fund at the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF) you can make a gift that continues to give and grow. Our Endowment Fund, with a current balance of \$12,435, has achieved full status as a permanent fund by reaching DCF's \$10,000 minimum. This means that we can receive income each year to support our educational activities. Currently, DCF funds pay out 5% of the average fund balance over the previous twelve quarters. Endowment funds at DCF are professionally managed to ensure the funds remain strong over time.

The Board established our fund to ensure long-term financial stability and a permanent source of funding. It also enables members to donate not only cash, but non-cash assets such as stock and real estate, insurance benefits, gifts through your will or trust, gifts that pay you income for life, or gifts of retirement plan assets.

Because our Fund is part of our 501(c)(3) Education Fund, all donations are tax deductible. One League member donates stock that she inherited years ago. As a result, the current value is so much higher than the original value that most proceeds would be taxed, were she to sell the stock. Instead, she can take a charitable deduction for the current market value.

If you'd like to write a check, just make it out to the Delaware Community Foundation and write League of Women Voters Endowment Fund in the memo field. You could mail it directly to the League office where it will be recorded and forwarded to the DCF. For information on how to contribute stock or other kinds of assets, add the Fund to your will or trust, or donate other forms of gifts, contact David Fleming, Senior VP for Development, at 302.504.5224 or [dfleming@delcf.org](mailto:dfleming@delcf.org).

**Give a gift that keeps on giving! Donate to the League's Endowment Fund.**



Be prepared for the next rain storm! And consider how carrying this umbrella around will add visibility to the League of Women Voters.

The high quality umbrella features a nifty push button to both open *and* close and has the League *logo* and text reading "*Be informed & VOTE*" on a blue background. They are for sale for \$18.

**Contact: Sandy Spence** 302-841-2882 cell or [sandyspence325@gmail.com](mailto:sandyspence325@gmail.com) to buy yours with funds going to the state League.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**LWV of Delaware will hold its COUNCIL 2016 meeting in May from Friday 6 to Sunday 9, 2016 at the Virden Center, Lewes DE.** Council is held everyone every two years and most of the business includes workshops, time to socialize, enjoy a party, and have a great time. More information will follow shortly. All League members and friends are welcome.

REGISTRATION FORM

**Access to Justice: Current Issues in Delaware’s General Assembly:**  
Bail Reform, Pre-trial Detention, Minimum Mandatory Sentencing, and Solitary Confinement

**Cosponsors: American Association of University Women (AAUW); American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Delaware Center for Justice (DCJ); Delaware Coalition for Open Government (DelCOG); Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2016**

NAME (S) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (S) \_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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RECEIPT REQUESTED \_\_\_\_\_ LWVDE Fed tax ID 516021961 [501(c) 4]

*CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED—YOU CAN GO TO LWVDELAWARE.ORG AND PAY THROUGH PAY PAL: **HERE***

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CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED: Discover \_\_\_\_\_ Master Card \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Contact 302-571-8948**

Send this form and check (if using check) to LWVDE, 2400 W. 17<sup>TH</sup> Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level, Wilmington, DE 19806-1311. Please call the League office at 302-571-8948 or e-mail [lwwde@comcast.net](mailto:lwwde@comcast.net) if you have any questions. [www.lwvdelaware.org](http://www.lwvdelaware.org)

**NOTE: The naturalization ceremonies are held on the first Thursday of the month where the LWV hands out welcome folders to all new citizens. The next ceremony is Thursday, April 7, 2016. Call Connie Georgov for times and place 302-275-6785.**

## CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 16, 2016 7 - 9 pm	Sussex County Council Chambers, 2 The Circle Georgetown, DE 19947	<b>Land Use Forum. Education for Wise Growth in Sussex County: Planning Concepts for the 2018 Comprehensive Plan.</b> Part of a 2015-16 Series of Land use Forums to be held in preparation for developing the 2018 comprehensive Plan updates at <a href="http://www.sussexlww.org">http://www.sussexlww.org</a> .
Wednesday, March 16, 2015	CenDel Building, 101 W. Loockerman Street, Dover	<b>LWVDE board meeting</b>
Monday, March 21, 2016, Noon- 2:00 pm.	Pat Todd's house 762- 5995 ptoddwilm@aol.com	<b>LWVDE Environmental Committee meeting</b>
Wednesday, March 23, 2016 8:30 am - 3:00 pm	The Duncan Center <a href="#">500 Loockerman St Dover, DE 19904</a>	<b>League Day in Dover 2016 - Access to Justice: Current Issues in Delaware's General Assembly.</b> The 2016 legislative day will explore four key issues pertaining to justice in Delaware.  The schedule is as follows: 8:30 AM - Registration and refreshments; 9 AM - Welcome and Speaker Introductions; 9:15 AM - Bail Reform - Alan Davis, Chief Magistrate, Justice of the Peace Court; 9:45 AM - Pretrial Detention - Brian Bartley, Office of the Public Defender; 10:15 AM- Break; 10:30 AM- Minimum Mandatory Sentencing - Ryan Tack-Hooper, Staff Attorney, Legislative Counsel-ACLU-DE; 11:00 AM - Solitary Confinement - Rep. J. J. Johnson, Chair, House Corrections Committee; 11:30 - Lunch with Legislators (buffet); 12:00 PM - Access to Justice - Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr.; 1:30 PM - Legislative Hall  To register, click <a href="#">here</a> , and for further information, click <a href="#">here</a> .
Saturday, April 2, 2016		<b>LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY.</b> If you want to vote in the Presidential Primary, be sure you're registered to vote by April 2nd, 2016.
Wednesday, April 6, 2016, 9:30 am- 12:00 pm	Legislative Hall <a href="#">411 Legislative Avenue Dover, DE 19901</a>	<b>LWVDE Advocacy Corps meeting.</b> LWVDE Advocacy Corps meeting. Contact Committee Chair for details or call 302-841-2882.
Tuesday, April 12, 2016 5:45pm	Arsht Hall University of Delaware <a href="#">2700 Pennsylvania Ave. Wilmington, DE 19806</a>	<b>Carrie Chapman Catt Award Dinner 2016.</b> The League of Women Voters of New Castle County cordially invites you to attend the presentation of the Tenth Carrie Chapman Catt Award to Moonyeen Klopfenstein, La Vaida Owens-White, and Priscilla B. Rakestraw. RSVP: LWVNCC, 2400 W. 17th St., Clash Wing, Rm. 1, Lower Level, Wilmington, DE 19806, by April 6, 2016.
Wednesday, April 13, 2016 7 pm- 9 pm	Sussex County Council Chambers, 2 The Circle Georgetown, DE 19947	<b>Land Use Forum - What Drives DelDOT</b> - more information to follow at <a href="http://www.sussexlww.org">http://www.sussexlww.org</a>
Tuesday, April 26, 2016		<b>PRIMARY ELECTION DAY!.</b> This is the day to vote for the person in your party whom you want to see run for President. Only registered voters from participating parties may vote.
Friday, May 6-8, 2016	Virden Center, Lewes, Delaware	<b>State Council 2016.</b> State Council is held everyone every two years.

**League of Women Voter s of Delaware  
2400 W 17th Street, Clash Wing  
Room 1, Lower Level  
Wilmington, DE 19806**

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lwwdelaware.org www.lww.org**