

# LEAGUE LINE

A Bulletin of The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

We live in our house. I'm sure all of you have been in homes that are so neat and tidy that it is hard to believe that anyone lives in them. We, my husband and I, are prone to clutter. All flat surfaces attract bills, letters, advertisements, and newspapers. Once a piece of paper makes its way to a flat surface, it proliferates. Soon there are piles. The same happens to "things" that gather in places such as closets, basements, garages, barns, etc. If left unchecked or without an occasional straightening or cleaning, clutter can become unmanageable and the important objects can get lost.

Webster defines clutter as scattered or disordered things that impede movement or reduce effectiveness. It is also defined as a state of confusion or disorder. It gives examples of clutter as items without a place or trash masquerading as clutter.

It seems that the political environment gets more cluttered every year. Whether on a national, state, or local level, the political clutter serves to impede clear thinking and effective functioning of the government. In fulfilling its mission of Defending Democracy and Empowering Voters, the League helps the electorate wade through the clutter to ensure the important things don't get lost. We do this through educational forums, *Voter Guides*, *Facts for Voters*, and Vote411. We support these efforts with our book club discussions, the work of the Mauch Millennial Project, and with thoughtful discourse of our upcoming diversity initiative.

Of course, none of this can be done without the membership. Always feel free to join us in clearing the clutter if you have a special interest in any of the activities. If you haven't done so, please renew your membership.

As always, please stay safe and well.

*Kandy Duncan, President*

## SEPTEMBER FORUM

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, Scott Meinke, Bucknell Professor of Political Science, spoke about how the courts, Congress, and the states are expanding and restricting access to the ballot. A recording of this talk is available on our LWVLA website at:

[LWVLewisburgArea.org/whats-happening/what-you-missed](https://www.lwvlewisburgarea.org/whats-happening/what-you-missed)

A brief summary follows.

Since the 2020 election, some states have increased voting restrictions by limiting mail-in ballots, early voting, and drop boxes, while other states have increased the use of these options. Changes in individual options may make less difference in outcomes of elections than one would have anticipated. Important differences in outcomes depend on relative ease of voting. The harder it is to vote, the lower the turnout; lower turnout might disadvantage either or both parties. Changes could have a boomerang effect, mobilizing voters.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

*The following events are current as of publication date, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Coronavirus containment measures may cause delays or cancellations. Please check our website, [LWVLewisburgArea.org](https://www.lwvlewisburgarea.org), frequently for the most current updates.*

**Monday, October 4th, 3:00p.m.**

BOARD MEETING  
Buffalo Township Building  
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg

**Monday, October 18th**

Last day to change your voter registration for 2021 Municipal Election

**Tuesday, October 19th, 12:00-1:00p.m.**

FORUM  
Bucknell Professor Judith Grisel  
"The Neuroscience of Addiction"  
Via Zoom opening at 11:30a.m.

**Tuesday, October 26th**

Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot for the 2021 Municipal Election.  
The application must be received by your county election office by 5:00p.m. on this date.

**Monday, November 1st, 3:00p.m.**

BOARD MEETING  
Buffalo Township Building  
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg

**Tuesday, November 2nd**

MUNICIPAL ELECTION  
In-Person voting: Polls open from 7:00a.m. to 8:00p.m.  
Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots, in person or by mail, by 8:00p.m.

**Tuesday, November 16, 12:00-1:00pm**

FORUM  
Professor Sue Ellen Henry  
"Critical race theory and local K-12 policy"  
Check website for details

**Thursday, December 9th, 5:00p.m.**

SAVE THE DATE - Winter Social  
Buffalo Valley Commons  
Details to be determined

On the federal level, Congress is considering the "Freedom to Vote Act" S 2747. Changes in the legal environment are seen in two Supreme Court decisions in the last decade: Shelby County vs Holder in 2013, and Brnovich vs DNC this summer, which set out standards for laws about voting unless discrimination against minorities could be demonstrated. Comparisons are made to the 1982 standard.

If access to the ballot is a basic right, as indicated by the amendments to the Constitution, it does matter. New issues include election administration with state legislators introducing formalized roles for checking or overriding election officials. Modern elections are remarkably free and fair. Some problems, that new laws attempt to address, are not actual but are fueled by political rhetoric. It is important for democracy that citizens are confident in their elections.

*Barbara Kolmen, Forum Committee*

## OCTOBER FORUM

**PLEASE NOTE:** All Forums until further notice will be held via Zoom, and will require registration.

The October 19<sup>th</sup> LWVLA Forum meeting will be held on-line, from noon to 1p.m. as a Zoom Video Conference Meeting, to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission. The speaker is Judith Grisel, a behavioral neuroscientist and Professor of Psychology at Bucknell University. Her talk is entitled "Never Enough, The Cycle of Addiction." She is the author of *Never Enough, the Neuroscience and Experience of Addiction*. All participants must pre-register. The Zoom room opens at 11:30. Afterward, participants may join an optional small-group discussion.

To register for the October Forum, send an email with your name to:


[LWVLAForum@gmail.com](mailto:LWVLAForum@gmail.com)

The registration deadline is Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. A unique Zoom meeting link, and instructions will be sent only to those who preregister.

As always, the LWVLA welcomes all to register and attend via Zoom. Subsequent recordings will be posted on the League website [LWVLewisburgArea.org](https://www.lwvlewisburgarea.org)

*Teri MacBride, Forum Committee*

## FINANCE DRIVE

If you, like me, have been getting year-end reminders about IRA required minimum distributions, consider making a donation to support our local League. The LWVLA Education Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization. To print out a donation form, click on the  button at the top of any web page on our LWVLA website.

*Carole Madle*

## ReDiscover! LIBRARY EVENT

On Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, the Public Library for Union County's ReDiscover! event was packed with fun. Our League hosted a table where children practiced casting a ballot by voting for their favorite book. Children and adults, alike, also enjoyed posing as Carrie Chapman, the founder of the League of Women Voters. We also provided voter registration materials, *Facts for Voters*, and information about our League.



It was great to be out in the community connecting with new people and making new friends.

*Lisa Tranquillo, Publicity*

## VOTER SERVICES REPORT

### Volunteers Needed!

League Volunteers Needed! If you are available to help with voter registration events, please contact Linda Harris: [Lsharris323@gmail.com](mailto:Lsharris323@gmail.com).

### Voters Guide

The LWVLA *Voters Guide* is back in print! It will be available both online and in print in our communities beginning October 5<sup>th</sup>. The online *Voters Guide* will be available at:

[lwvlewisburgarea.org/voter-resources/voters-guide](http://lwvlewisburgarea.org/voter-resources/voters-guide)

Our thanks to the *Voters Guide* staff (Sheri Stayton, Dawn Maneval, Liz Clement, and Carole Madle) and to our website crew (Becky Perez and Bev Zorn).

## LEAGUE LINE

**OCT. 2021**

*League Line* is published monthly by the  
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF THE LEWISBURG AREA.**

Deadline for submission of articles is  
the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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### **Facebook Page**

[facebook.com/lwvla](https://facebook.com/lwvla)

### **Website**

[LWVLewisburgArea.org](http://LWVLewisburgArea.org)

### [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org)

Candidate information is available now on [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org), so it is time to display your **Vote411** yard signs! Email [Lsharris323@gmail.com](mailto:Lsharris323@gmail.com) if you would like to post a sign.

### Are you still unfamiliar with Vote411?

[Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) is the national voting information website sponsored by the League of Women Voters. 411 is the number for information, similar to 911 being the number for emergencies.

**Vote411** = voting information

### Why use [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) in addition to the *Voters Guide*?

Here are two important reasons:

1. Candidates provide information in their own words, directly to **Vote411**, unedited by the League of Women Voters. We use that information to make our printed *Voters Guide*. On the [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) website, when candidates submit changes, their information is updated quickly, so even after the *Voters Guide* has been printed, you read what is most current.
2. The [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) website takes you directly to races on your ballot, when you enter a street address in the "Find Out What's on Your Ballot" field. Your address is not saved; it is used solely to pinpoint the correct races in your area.

### [Municipal Candidate Panels](#)

LWVLA is sponsoring two Candidate Panels in October:

- **First panel:** New Berlin Mayoral and Borough Council candidates
- **Second panel:** candidates for East Buffalo and Union Township Supervisors, and Lewisburg Borough Council from Ward 4

You can have important input by submitting questions for the candidates before October 10<sup>th</sup> to: [candidatequestions2021@gmail.com](mailto:candidatequestions2021@gmail.com).

The Candidate Panels will be recorded. After October 15<sup>th</sup>, you can access these recorded sessions on YouTube or on the LWVLA website at:

[lwvlewisburgarea.org/voter-resources/candidate-information](http://lwvlewisburgarea.org/voter-resources/candidate-information)

Previous candidate panel recordings also available on our LWVLA website are:

- **Appellate Courts Candidate Forum:** including races for the Justice of the PA Supreme Court, Justice of the PA Superior Court, and Judge of the Commonwealth Court
- **Spring 2021 Primary Candidates Panels:** Common Pleas Judge, Lewisburg Mayor, Lewisburg School Directors, and the Milton Region 3 School Directors.

For all your election information, visit our [LWVLA website](http://LWVLA website), where you will also find the most up-to-date information about our voter education efforts.

### [Important Voting Dates for 2021](#)

**October 18<sup>th</sup>** — Last day to register to vote or change party affiliation before the 2021 Municipal Election.

**Note:** If you register to vote by mail, the signed voter registration form must be received by your county election office 15 days before an election; that is, by October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for the Fall Municipal Election.

**October 26<sup>th</sup>** — Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot for the 2021 Municipal Election.

**Note:** If you apply for a mail-in ballot by mail, the mail-in ballot application must be received by your county election office by 5:00p.m. on this date.

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>** — MUNICIPAL ELECTION

In-Person voting: Polls open from 7:00a.m. to 8:00p.m.

Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots, in person or by mail, by 8:00p.m.

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>** — First day to register after the Municipal Election


**November 9<sup>th</sup>** — Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted military and overseas absentee ballots for the Fall Municipal Election

**Note:** If you vote a military or overseas absentee ballot, the absentee ballot must be submitted.

*Linda Harris, Voter Services chair*

## MEMBERSHIP

The LWVLA extends a warm welcome to our newest member, Diane Merchant. We look forward to greeting her in person, perhaps at our Winter Social.

The annual membership renewal drive is going well. Just a reminder that you still have time to renew. If you need a membership application, click on the  button at the top of any web page on our LWVLA website.

We are still on track for an in-person Winter Social on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Buffalo Valley Commons. We will be monitoring the COVID numbers and the CDC recommendations to determine if any adjustments need to be made.

As always, we welcome any members who have an interest in joining the social planning process.

*Membership*