

LEAGUE LINE

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another election, another set of candidates, another barrage of promises, and another chance for all of us to weigh in on the state of the nation. I should also add, another push to get people registered and opportunity for the League to do what it does best: arm voters with the information to make informed decisions.

Membership was invited to the September 6th Board meeting to participate in an open discussion to help the Board formulate a policy statement on how our local League will generally handle ballot issues in the most non-partisan manner. The following is that consensus statement. Keep in mind that this is a general statement and not directed at any specific issues at this time.

“The LWV’s non-partisan status has been deeply ingrained in the mission of the organization since its formation 102 years ago. The League has been tasked with providing information regarding not only prospective candidates, but also facts surrounding any ballot questions or issues that may appear on the ballot.

Our nonpartisan approach is clear: the League neither supports nor opposes any political candidate or party. Approaching issues is a much more sensitive situation. Issues can be construed to be political, especially in this very hyper-partisan environment. It is incumbent upon the League to provide clear information surrounding the issues, their intent, and their consequences in order for voters to make informed decisions at the ballot box.

There will be times when the League needs to make clear its position against any issue that potentially could result in disenfranchising voters or compromising the integrity of the election. At those times, every effort will be made to present clear and transparent communication to the electorate.”

We do have some proposed PA Constitutional Amendments pending. They are going through the various steps to allow them to be placed on the ballot. We will be distributing information regarding these amendments as is appropriate. The thing to keep in mind is they will NOT be on the ballot this November.

More later!!

Kandy Duncan, President

OCTOBER FORUM

PLEASE NOTE: All Forums can now be attended live or via Zoom. The Zoom option still requires registration.

On Tuesday, October 18th, from noon to 1p.m., the LWVLA Educational Forum presents Robin Stelly, state organizer with the PA Health Access Network (PHAN). Her talk, *Affordable Health Care in PA: An Advocacy Challenge*, will focus on strengths and weaknesses of healthcare provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act and its implications at the state level. She will discuss PHAN’s advocacy priorities, including affordable prescription medications, affordable healthcare for all, surprise medical bills, long-term health care costs, oral health and rural health access.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

The following events are current as of publication date, October 1st. Coronavirus containment measures may cause delays or cancellations. Please check our website, LWVLewisburgArea.org, frequently for the most current updates.

Monday, October 3rd, 4:00p.m.

BOARD MEETING
East Buffalo Township Municipal Building
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg

Tuesday, October 18th, 12:00-1:00p.m.

FORUM
*Robin Stelly, PA Health Access Network (PHAN)
“Affordable Health Care in PA: An Advocacy Challenge”
Live: La Primavera, 2593 Old Turnpike Road, of Lewisburg; Zoom simulcast: requires preregistration.
* This is a change in speaker and topic from that previously publicized.

Tuesday, October 18th

Last day to REGISTER to vote or to CHANGE PARTY AFFILIATION before the November 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 24th, 2022 for the November election.

Tuesday, November 1

Last day to APPLY for a MAIL-IN or civilian ABSENTEE ballot for the November election.

Monday, November 7th, 4:00p.m.

BOARD MEETING
East Buffalo Township Municipal Building
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg

The forums will be offered in two formats:

- **LIVE:** Participants may attend live at La Primavera, 2593 Old Turnpike Road, Lewisburg, where the doors open at 11:30a.m., and an optional buffet lunch will be available for \$15.50. The presentation begins at noon. No preregistration is required.
- **VIRTUAL:** For people unable to attend in person, the forum will be available for viewing in live time, via Zoom with preregistration. To PREREGISTER, please email LWVLAForum@gmail.com no later than Sunday, October 16. Registrants will receive a unique link for the presentation.

When attending virtually, participants will be viewing the presenters, and can post questions in the chat. They will **not** be able to interact with other participants. Virtual attendees should log in by 11:45a.m. to assure connection.

As always, the LWVLA Educational Forums are open to everyone. You do not need to be a member of the League to participate.

Subsequent recordings will be posted on the League website LWVLewisburgArea.org
Teri MacBride, Forum Committee Chair

SEPTEMBER FORUM

The September 20th Forum was held in a hybrid format, live at LaPrimavera Restaurant and via Zoom. Marc Stier, Director of the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center, Keystone Research Center addressed the *Key Issue Dividing America: Threats to Democracy, Real or Perceived?*

Although Mr. Stier directs a nonpartisan agency which does not endorse candidates, he reiterated the need to speak factually in describing political characteristics and correlations, including differences between Democrats and Republicans in the PA legislature. He feels that currently democracy is being threatened. In Harrisburg today, 2/3’s of Republican legislators believe the claim that the last election was stolen. Some claim legislators have a right to choose new electors. Some are calling for the end of drop boxes and mail-in ballots. Some support adding compulsory voter ID’s at elections including copies of voter ID’s sent in with mail-in ballots. Governor Wolf has vetoed these efforts.

The Republican majorities have introduced amendments to the state constitution to change the way redistricting would be done, creating a more positive bias toward Republicans. Other proposed amendments include: changing the system of checks and balances so that justices are elected by districts rather than at-large; undermining the power of the governor by requiring a simple majority of the legislature to override a veto instead of the current 2/3’s majority; and a proposal to enact the “Independent state legislature doctrine,” by which the legislature can act independent of review by governor or courts.

Other important issues include education and housing equity. Among the Middle Atlantic States, Pennsylvania ranks below the others.

Despite the very real challenges that Mr. Stier sees to democracy right now in Pennsylvania, he is optimistic about young people and the future of the nation if we can get through the next ten years. Thinking about how challenges and responses to threats to democracy may play out in Pennsylvania is scary but critical to the future.

During Q-and-A following his talk, Mr. Stier addressed the electoral college, voting age and controlling hate speech. A recording of this presentation is available on our LWVLA website at:

LWVLewisburgArea.org/whats-happening/what-you-missed

Barbara Kolmen, Forum Committee Member

MAUCH MILLENNIAL PROJECT

Our projects are moving ahead in exciting ways this month! At Lewisburg Area High School, our intern, Sam Wakeman, is working with one of her fellow students, to introduce discussions related to voting and election issues to a club called Global Minds which promotes intercultural understanding. She is also partnering on voter-registration efforts

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with another LAHS student who is the youth coordinator of a group called Get Out the Vote.

At Bucknell, our Mauch Fellows are hosting a lunch meeting on October 18th to talk about the midterm elections, the importance of voting in all elections, and how to register. They are hanging posters around campus with important registration and voting information and spreading the word by attending meetings of student groups on campus.

On Saturday, October 15th, from 10a.m. to 4p.m., the Lewisburg Children’s Museum is hosting a special program called *Let’s Vote* that will help children understand the democratic process and actually participate in a vote with consequences. The Mauch Millennial Project is donating an item from the museum’s wish list and the children will be able to vote to select which item they prefer in the weeks preceding the November 8th election. On the day of the special program, the children will be encouraged to make campaign posters touting their preferred item while members of the Mauch Committee and the Voter Services Committee will be on hand to help register adult voters.

*Elaine Hopkins,
for the Mauch Millennial Project*

MEMBERSHIP

As I’m sure you all are aware, it is time once again to renew memberships. We have had a very good response to date but if you haven’t renewed, please do!!

We are pleased to announce that we have had 2 individuals rejoin after having dropped their membership:

Janette Campbell
tjcampbell@gmail.com

Sharon Jeffers
sharonjeffers325@gmail.com

In Memorium

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge and honor the passing of Jean Archie on August 4th. As a dedicated member of the *League Line* staff, she faithfully mailed our paper copies for many years. We and the League will miss her cheerful heart and willing spirit.

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

Volunteer Wanted

Distribution List Manager

Qualifications: Because we already have an established list of volunteers, the main job is to maintain the distributors’ lists, which we use to distribute the bi-annual *Voters Guide* and the yearly *Facts for Voters*. The distribution manager will contact volunteers via email and phone calls to remind and coordinate distribution, and have a willingness to contact members to fill vacancies. This position offers a chance to get to know and talk with members. The distribution manager will communicate with all distributors to ascertain their availability 3 times per year: at least 8 weeks before the two election cycles, and before the disbursement of the *Facts for Voters*. Very basic knowledge of Excel would be helpful. Training is available.

Who’s Running in the Upcoming Elections?

Here are two ways to learn about who’s running in the upcoming elections:

1. Voters Guide

In Print: On October 14th, the LWVLA will begin distribution of the fall 2022 *Voters Guide* to 124 sites around Union County. If you go to a store/library/post office that doesn’t have one, ask if it is available. If not, but the proprietor is

LEAGUE LINE

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the 15th of each month.

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willing to provide them, contact me and I’ll drop some off. We currently provide the *Voters Guide* to the Union County libraries and post offices.

Online: Also by October 14th, the *Voters Guide* will be available on our local League’s website at:

LWVLewisburgArea.org/voter-resources/voters-guide

2. VOTE411.org



This website is owned by the LWVUS (National League). It is an innovative “one-stop-shop” for non-partisan election related information, both general and state specific. Compare candidates’ information side-by-side, and create your own custom ballot based on your address. One advantage to this website: candidates who don’t answer the questions by the *Voters Guide* printing cut-off date can do so on the **VOTE411** website, right up to the election. **VOTE411** also provides links to register to vote, check your voter registration, find your polling place, discover upcoming debates in your area, and much more!

Ballot Questions in November Election

There are no ballot questions for the November election. Local newspapers recently printed a full-page public notice titled: Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

You can read the notice here:

dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/Documents/DOS_JR2021-2_10x21.pdf

A careful reading of this notice is needed to understand there will be NO ballot questions about the proposed Constitutional amendments on the November 2022 ballot. A brief explanation follows.

— **Paragraph 2 of the notice**, beginning “The General Assembly...”, explains what must happen before these proposed amendments can become questions that appear on the ballot or become law. These amendments have been approved once by a majority of the current Senators and Representatives of the 2021-2022 PA General Assembly in July 2022. The next step is a second vote by the new General Assembly, which includes those Senators and Representatives newly elected in the November election. If the second vote results in majority approval of one or more of the proposed amendments by the end of the 2023-2024, those pending amendments would appear on the ballot. The earliest any questions could appear on the ballot would be May 16th, 2023. Each majority approved amendment would appear on the ballot as a separate question for voters to approve or reject.

— **Paragraph 4 of the notice** says, “Words that appear in bold print are changes to the words of the Constitution that are proposed by the General Assembly.” If it is NOT in BOLD PRINT, it is NOT a proposed change. The notice contains parts of the PA Constitution that are no longer the law. Part 4 of Joint Resolution 2022-1 seems to indicate that the voting age is 21, instead of 18, and that residency requirements for voting are more than 30 days. However, this text does NOT propose changes to voting age and residency requirements because it is not in bold print. It is outdated information that hasn’t been formally changed in the PA Constitution. The 26th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution made 18 the legal voting age in 1971. The PA Constitution states this elsewhere, but that statement does not appear in the notice. Also, residency requirements to vote in PA have been 30 days since 2002 (see Statutes of Pennsylvania, Title 25, Chapter 13).

Candidates Nights

We are unable to present Candidates Nights for the fall election. Both incumbents in the 15th district of the House of Representatives and 76th district of the House of Representatives have declined to participate.

Ideas, assistance, questions? Contact me at Lsharris323@gmail.com.

Linda Harris, Voter Services Chair

2022 Pennsylvania Election Calendar: Important Dates to Remember

Source: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Elections and Notaries

2022 Election Milestone	Deadline
Last day to REGISTER to vote or to change party affiliation before the November election Note: If you register to vote by mail, the signed voter-registration form must be RECEIVED by your county election office <u>15 days before an election</u> ; that is, by October 24 th , 2022 for the November election.	Oct 18
Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot for the November 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 <u>by 5:00pm on this date</u> .	Nov 1
Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots for the general election (must be RECEIVED <u>by 8:00pm</u> .) Note: If you vote a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot, the ballot must be RECEIVED by your county election office <u>by 8:00pm on this date</u> (in person or by mail).	Nov 8
GENERAL ELECTION In-Person voting: Polls open from 7:00am to 8:00pm.	Nov 8
First day to REGISTER after the election	Nov 9
Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted military and overseas absentee ballots for the November election (SUBMITTED for delivery <u>no later than 11:59pm on Nov 7th</u>)	Nov 15