LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LEWISBURG AREA

Vol. 71, No. 3
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LEAGUE LINE

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

LEADERSHIP TEAM MESSAGE

Your Support Makes Our Work Possible

We're in the midst of an intense election season. Across the country, the League is helping Americans navigate a changing election landscape, protect eligible voters from wrongful removal from the voting rolls, challenge unlawful changes to election laws, defend voters' privacy and advocate for fair representation.

State and local Leagues lead much of this advocacy. Here in our area, LWVLA educates voters and monitors the administration of Union County elections. Your membership makes this work possible! From producing Voters Guides to offering Mauch Millennial fellowships and internships, and operating our Observer Corps, we depend on your support and participation.

Renewals

Every member matters, whether you joined recently or have been with us for years. Unlike the past, we no longer conduct a fall membership drive. Renewals are handled electronically through the national League (LWVUS). Although many members renew in January, renewal dates vary. Renewal occurs at the time the payment is complete. If you renew before your expiration date, membership is pushed forward one year. Please watch for renewal reminders from LWVUS and use the link in the email to renew and make an additional donation if you're inclined. You can check your membership status at **LWVUS.org** or email **LWVLewisburgArea@gmail.com** for assistance.

Prefer to pay by check? Make it payable to LWVLA and mail it to P.O. Box 206, Lewisburg, PA 17837, or bring it to a Forum or our November 12th membership social.

Gift Memberships

Finally, if you're looking for a meaningful gift for someone in your life, please consider giving a membership to the League. What a great way to introduce people to this fine organization! You can pick from more than 700 communities in 50 states, and 30 (including LWVLA) right here in Pennsylvania. The recommended rate for any individual is $75.00, but it's pay what you want and any amount above $20.00 will be accepted. Log into the Portal and click **Gift** on the home screen, or go directly to:

portal.lwv.org/membership_gift

Thank you for being part of our League and helping us keep voters informed and democracy strong. We look forward to seeing you at Forums, the November 12th membership social, and throughout the year!

With appreciation,

Your LWVLA Leadership Team

WHAT'S HAPPENING

*The following events are current as of publication date, November 1st. Please check our website, **LWVLewisburgArea.org**, frequently for the most current updates.*

Tuesday, November 3rd, 7:00am - 8pm

GENERAL ELECTION - Vote!

Thursday, November 12th, 4:00-6:00pm

LWVLA MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL
Dr. Kay Nottis, Bucknell University Professor of Education, Emeritus:
"To be a citizen is to be a voter"
Bull Run Tap House
605 Market Street, Lewisburg
Please RSVP with the number of guests attending by November 7th to ***griffma1993@gmail.com***

Tuesday, December 1st, 4:00pm

BOARD MEETING
Mary Zimmerman's home
Lewisburg

Thursday, December 3rd, 4:00pm

FORUM
Scott R. Meinke, Professor of Political Science, Bucknell University:
"Looking Back and Looking Ahead: Understanding the 2026 Midterm Election and the New Congress"
Public Library for Union County
255 Reitz Boulevard, Lewisburg

Tuesday, January 19th, 4:00pm

FORUM
John Hunter, Professor of Comparative and Digital Humanities, Bucknell University
"An Introduction to Technological Change and A I"
Public Library for Union County
255 Reitz Boulevard, Lewisburg

OBSERVER CORPS

Members of the Observer Corps (Phyllis Dyer, Linda Harris, Susan Mathias, Teri McBride, and Mary Zimmerman) continue to attend the monthly meetings of the Union County Election Board. Commissioner Jeff Reber chairs the meetings, which also include fellow commissioners, Stacy Richards and Preston Boop.

At the October 6th meeting, Laura Seward, Director of the Election Office, reported that mail-in ballots were sent out October 6th. The Government Center has started receiving completed ballots during their operating hours.

Director Seward noted that the voting equipment vendor completed a check of all equipment, as is customary prior to every election, to make sure each machine is in working order. Every ballot scenario was run through the machines to verify results are accurate. All machines passed the test.

On Friday, October 30th, ballot testing will begin. It is open to the public, and representatives from each party. At least two Election Board members test ballot reading accuracy which is the culmination of the equipment testing. Two Observer Corps members will observe the testing on October 30th.

Observers Phyllis Dyer and Linda Harris for the LWVLA Observer Corps

OCTOBER FORUM

More than 20 LWVLA members and 15 guests attended the October 20th Forum. Amy Widestrom shared her perspective on the midterm elections and how citizens can do more than vote: they can actively participate in the local electoral process as election judges, clerks and more.

Drawing on her experience as Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, as a political science professor, and an advocate for greater citizen involvement in election administration, Amy emphasized that Pennsylvania follows all election laws yet gives counties considerable discretion in how elections are conducted. She encouraged attendees to become nonpartisan canvass monitors to observe the counting of mail-in and provisional ballots. She suggested that throughout the year, members can attend

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county election board meetings to learn firsthand how elections are administered.

Are you interested in joining the LWVLA Observer Corps? To learn more, email **lwvlewisburgarea@gmail.com**. These experiences build understanding and confidence in our election systems.

Teri MacBride for the Forum Committee

DECEMBER FORUM

Mark your calendar for Thursday, December 3rd! Bucknell Professor of Political Science Scott Meinke will discuss what the November midterm elections mean for the next Congress and state governments. His talk is *Understanding the 2026 Midterm Election and the New Congress*.

Dr. Meinke will discuss what we know about the choices of campaigns and voters in this year's congressional races, and how the results can be explained. With the new Congress set to convene in January, what issues might take center stage, and what are the prospects for new directions in the House and Senate? We'll look back at what happened in November, and ahead. We'll consider what the process and results mean for the state of American politics.

Doors will open at 3:30p.m. with the presentation beginning at 4:00p.m. As always, the meeting is open to league members and the public. Bring a friend who shares your interest in the topic. All are welcome. There is no charge to attend this talk.

For more information, email **LWVLAForum@gmail.com**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Board needs to find interested individuals to join the Nominating Committee, a group that helps find the officers and directors for our League. Each of these positions has a limited term and, at the end of the term, this committee is responsible for determining if the existing officeholder is willing to continue for another term or, if not, to find a new member to take over. Work on this committee starts in December, with the goal of presenting nominations for the officers and directors of our League offices to the Board early next year. If you are interested in talking to someone who has served on this important committee, send the Board an email at:

LWVLewisburgArea@gmail.com

LEAGUE PROPERTY INVENTORY

We are compiling an inventory of League property and archived materials currently held by League members. It includes items like scrapbooks, board orientation materials and notebooks, the podium, party supplies like tablecloths and glassware, **VOTE411** signs, etc.

LEAGUE LINE
NOV. 2026

League Line is published by the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LEWISBURG AREA.
It is typically published from September to April, and available by the first of the month.

Deadline for submission of articles is the 15th of each month.

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If you are storing any League assets, we need to add them to our master list. So please email the details to

LWVLewisburgArea@gmail.com

To be clear, we're not seeking to collect them physically (unless you're actively downsizing). We're simply trying to determine what and where League property has gone through the years. Thank you!

The Leadership Team

VOTER SERVICES

Fall General Election: Nov. 3rd!

The Fall General election is very close! It will be on November 3rd this year. The ballot for this election will contain:

- Offices at the state level:
  - Governor
  - Lt. Governor
  - State Representatives: Districts 76, 83, and 85
- Office at the federal level:
  - U.S. Congress: 15th District

Returning Mail-In or Absentee Ballots

If you have requested a mail-in or absentee ballot and have not yet returned it, please do **NOT** send it by postal mail because there is no longer time to guarantee your ballot will arrive by the deadline. However, you still have the following options to make your ballot count:

- Take your mail-in/absentee ballot directly to the Union County Elections Office, at the Union County Government Center (155 North 15th Street, Lewisburg, PA) before 8pm on Election Day, November 3rd!
- OR Go to your polling place on Election Day bringing your mail-in/absentee ballot with you. Once you turn in your ballot, you can vote in person, at the polling place.

Make sure your voice is heard!

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MEMBERSHIP

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of the LEWISBURG AREA

2026 Annual Membership Social

Thursday November 12, 2026
4:00 to 6:00 PM

Speaker, Katharyn Nottis, Ph.D.

"To be a citizen is to be a voter" (Susan B. Anthony, 1873):
The Final Push for Suffrage

Bull Run Tap House
605 Market Street, Lewisburg, PA

Please bring a friend and learn more about the vital work of LWV!
Light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. No host bar

Our guest speaker, Dr. Katharyn Nottis, has multiple years of teaching experience and a wealth of knowledge in her field of education. She received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching at Bucknell University, and in 2011, she became the first woman in the Education Department at Bucknell to become a Full Professor.

Please RSVP with the number of guests attending by November 7th to ***griffma1993@gmail.com***

Membership Committee

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Vote411

Vote411 is turning 20! That's two decades of election information at your fingertips!



For 20 years, **Vote411** has empowered voters across the country with trusted, nonpartisan information to help them make informed decisions and confidently cast their ballots.

Sheri Stayton and her team have completed the update to **Vote411** for the Fall General election and **Vote411** is online! To obtain information about candidates as well as to make your voting plan, go to **Vote411.org**! This **YouTube video** describes **Vote411**.

Voters Guide

Our *Voters Guide* team - Liz Clement, Carole Madle, Linda Harris, and Dawn Maneval, led by our Editor Sheri Stayton - have completed the *Voters Guide* for the upcoming Fall General Election on November 3rd, and our mighty Distribution team has delivered the printed *Guides* to places throughout Union County. This *Voters Guide* is also available for **download** from our LWVLA website.

Anyone interested in joining our Distribution team to help deliver the Spring *Voters Guides* issue to sites throughout Union County, please contact:

lwvlewisburgarea@gmail.com

This *Voters Guide* issue marks the beginning of a new printing relationship between our League and the *Standard Journal*. Our thanks to *The Daily Item* for many years of excellent service and to the *Standard Journal* for printing the Fall *Guides* on time, and under a short deadline.

Dawn Maneval, interum chair for the Voter Services Committee

AREAS FOR ACTION

The League, at both National (LWVUS) and State (LWVPA) levels, provides suggested topics for study, and actions you can take to make a difference. Below are several issues with links for you to take action, read to understand, or print and distribute.
Do this today!!

Census Changes

On September 10th, the Census Bureau announced it would make sweeping changes to how we count people on the census. Initially, the Census Bureau only gave the public thirty-three days to comment on the proposal. But your advocacy to extend the comment period was heard! The comment period was **extended** until November 2nd.

The proposed rule would count only U.S. citizens and green card holders, NOT other visa holders or undocumented immigrants. This would severely distort population counts and give an inaccurate representation of communities when apportionment and redistricting happen.

But the proposed rule doesn't stop there. It would stop collecting race and ethnicity data and ban the collection of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data from any future Census Bureau surveys, including the census. These data are vital for how state and local governments plan services like education, public health needs, emergency services, disaster planning, and more. Additionally, many organizations beyond the government and public institutions rely on the Census Bureau for accurate, reliable data.

These changes are unprecedented and unconstitutional. This rule would create bad data and erode a key legal doctrine of representation: "one person, one vote." If this residence rule is implemented, there would be major undercounts and Congressional districts would lack the data to accurately apportion communities.

Now is the time to make your voice heard. **Urge Secretary Lutnick to secure the census and withdraw the rule!**

ACTIONS AND ADVOCACY

To sign up so you can receive timely information/actions about ongoing state and national initiatives of the League of Women Voters, please click **here**.

Civic Action Toolkit During ICE Activity

With immigration enforcement activity increasing in our communities, it can create fear, confusion, and barriers to participation in civic life. Leagues can now review our **civic action toolkit** on the League Management Site to learn how to show up safely, lawfully, and in solidarity during ICE activity.

The LWV Team

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Leadership Team would like to hear from more of you about how you think our local League can be revitalized! As cited in the national League of Women Voters's website, the purpose of a League is to provide its members and community with ways:

> "to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation, at the local, state, and national levels." (**lwv.org**)

What interests you about the League of Women Voters? To us on the Leadership Team, it is important to find projects and activities that are both interesting to the membership and feasible to get done (with the resources we have available). We would be very interested in hearing from you about what is important to you about your League. For example:

- What services or activities that this League has been providing do you feel are important to continue, or to discontinue?
- What services or activities do you think this League could provide that we currently do not?
- What in particular would you like to work on to support the role of our League in the community?

To send us your feedback, send email to:

LWVLewisburgArea@gmail.com

The Leadership Team