

LEAGUE LINE

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

OBSERVER CORPS

The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area has started an Observer Corps whose members will begin attending the meetings of the Union County Election Office in February. They will be reporting to the membership in the *League Line*. Members of the Observer Corps are Teri MacBride, Susan Mathias, Linda Harris and Mary Zimmerman. If you are interested in further information, contact Mary Zimmerman at nvzimm@gmail.com.

Mary Zimmerman, Leadership Team

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We are in the thick of the annual membership renewal season. Many members' renewal date was January 1st. As you may be aware, the national league (LWVUS) is implementing new procedures for annual membership renewal. You are now encouraged to renew online through the member portal at:

<https://portal.lwv.org/>

using a credit card or an ACH payment directly from your bank account (the credit card option is much easier – I used the ACH method, and it took several extra steps).

For those members with a January 1st renewal, you should have received an email message detailing how to log into the membership portal and renew your membership. If you do not wish to renew using one of the online methods, you can simply write a check, payable to LWVUS, with a note on the memo line saying “renewal”. Mail it to our post office box at:

LWVLA
PO Box 206
Lewisburg, PA 17837

I will update the portal with your renewal date and send in the check to national.

As I'm sure you have heard, the suggested fee for renewal is \$75, and that amount has been chosen by most renewing members, to date. Please be aware that you can choose to renew for any amount over \$20, according to your circumstances. The portion of the renewal fee that our Lewisburg Area League receives is 20%.

At the same time you renew your membership, you will be given the opportunity to donate to your local league (LWVLA). We do not share any part of that online donation with the national or state league. Your donations have provided the vast majority of

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

Tuesday February 7th, 4:00p.m.

BOARD MEETING - JAN. rescheduled
Mary Zimmerman's home, Lewisburg

Tuesday February 24th, 4:00p.m.

BOARD MEETING
Mary Zimmerman's home, Lewisburg

Tuesday March 17th, 3:30-5:30p.m.

*FORUM
Mr. Shawn McLaughlin, Union County
Department of Economic Development
“Shaping Union County's Future”
Public Library for Union County
Community Room
255 Reitz Boulevard, Lewisburg

Tuesday May 19th, 5-7p.m. - SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL MEETING!
At the Brasserie Louis restaurant, Lewisburg

*FORUMS will begin at 4p.m. and conclude at 5:30p.m., with doors opening at 3:30. We encourage League members to invite friends, and welcome members of the public during the social time before and following the presentations.

the operating expenses we incur each year and will continue to do so. You can also send your donations to our post office box (listed earlier) As in past years, please make your check payable to LWVLA and on the memo line write “donation”.

To make the donation income tax-deductible, please make it payable to LWVUS Education Fund and note “donation” on the memo line. Mail it to our post office box (listed earlier).

Thank you for your timely membership renewal. Please let me know if you have questions. My email is: abvsi11@ptd.net
Hood Johnston, Treasurer

MARCH FORUM

The next League Forum is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17th, 2026 at the Public Library for Union County. Mr. Shawn McLaughlin,

Union County Planning and Economic Development Director will present *Shaping Union County's Future*.

We will hear an overview of the updated Union County Comprehensive Plan - its goals, guiding principles, and strategic priorities. Learn how this long-range planning document will influence land use, infrastructure, economic development, and quality of life across the county. Discover what it means for residents, businesses, and local leadership as Union County plans for sustainable growth and a vibrant future.

Shawn McLaughlin has overseen Union County economic development and planning activities for 20+ years. He will describe what's changing in our economy and land-use throughout the county. Our region is rich in agricultural resources and agrarian activities while we also have major highways and utility infrastructure which intersect and serve the county and the multi-state region. Our population is aging and residential needs are changing. What are our best opportunities for keeping young people here and contributing to the present and our future?

The Forum is held at the Library for Union County Community Room. Doors open at 3:30p.m. with the presentation starting at 4. As always, we encourage and welcome everyone to attend, league members and the general public.

JANUARY FORUM

Vincent Hoover, Superintendent of the Lewisburg School System, and Dr. Bernadette Ulrich Boerchel, Director of Adult Education and Workforce Development at the Cental Susquehanna Intermediate Unit, presented the January 20th League Forum. They spoke on the use of Artificial Intelligence (A-I) in the school system. They were clear that the goal of the school system is always student-centered effective teaching and community engagement. They discussed the ways A-I could possibly aid and supplement the core mission of the Lewisburg School System. This forum was very interactive, interspersed with numerous questions and comments from the audience.

Mr. Hoover highlighted Lewisburg's use of new technology in on-line counselling, enabling schools to expand counselling available to students and parents. The

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Lewisburg School System has purchased an A-I Toolkit called **Magic School**, which is available to teachers and students. It has the capability to adjust the reading level of material, assist with lesson planning and provide suggestions to teachers, such as how to incorporate Taylor Swift into an algebra lesson.

Dr. Boerckel spoke on how the Central Susquehanna Instructional Unit is providing a series of on-going A-I training sessions for teachers. She hopes to be able to expand that training for local non-profits. She strongly emphasized that with A-I programming, a human is still needed to input information and to check the information.

Mr. Hoover and Dr.Boerckel jointly also spoke to the issue of Charter Schools and discussed the expense of these institutions compared to the brick and mortar schools.

They concluded with a slide which said, "The Future is Human".

Mary Zimmerman for the Forum Committee

DECEMBER FORUM

Janice Butler, who has made a local study of the current immigration situation, and Nick Moffa, Maryland based child immigration attorney, presented the December 12th, 2025 League of Women Voters Forum. Ms. Butler began the presentation debunking a series of myths about immigration citing available relevant state and national data. To cite two of her numerous examples, one common myth is that there has been an invasion of undesirable immigrants. The fact is that in the last 5 years 50% of immigrants have college degrees and immigrants have a lower rate of arrest than the native born. A second myth is that being in the United States without proper documentation is a criminal offense. Ms. Butler made clear that it is a civil offense and explained the ramifications of classifying immigrants without documentation as criminals.

Ms. Butler pointed out that the audience was composed of descendants of immigrants and described the long history of immigration to the United States with its ebbs and flows. She defined the various terms applied to immigrants such as "asylum seekers", "refugees", and "temporary protected status".

Ms. Butler also examined some of the positive aspects of immigration: immigrants contribute to growth, tend to increase wages for non-college native born, and are 80% more likely to start a small business. She cited immigrant impact on Pennsylvania with the statistics that 24% of chefs and head cooks are immigrants, as are 26% of physicians.

Ms. Butler discussed some of the ramifications of ICE policies. Under policy 287G, ICE can contract with local police departments to make them an arm of ICE. There are significant financial incentives for

LEAGUE LINE

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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE LEWISBURG AREA.**

It is typically published from
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Deadline for submission of articles is
the 15th of each month.

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local governments to agree to this policy, but it makes the immigrant communities much less likely to report crimes. She also discussed the ICE detention facility in Moshannon, Pennsylvania, and explained some of the abuses which have occurred there.

Mr. Moffa acts as lawyer for unaccompanied immigrant children who are defined as anyone under 18 not accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Two reasons for children to be unaccompanied immigrants are: being sent to live with relatives so that they can obtain an education beyond primary school, or so they can work to help support the family. However, Mr Moffa also stated in his experience, the most common reason is that children have been threatened with violence in their home country.

When children under 18 cross the border, they go immediately to the border patrol who places them in facilities under the Department of Health and Human Services. These facilities vary considerably in services they provide, but in all cases the children are under constant surveillance. Under an Article III provision they are entitled to a hearing but the judicial system uses judges appointed from the Department of Justice lawyers, who are not encouraged to expedite the cases so children frequently suffer from detention fatigue. There are multiple languages spoken, and frequently no translators, so children do not understand what is happening to them. The goal is to resettle children with families but that may take weeks to years. Under the Biden administration 450,000 were united with family members, but the Trump administration has applied much more stringent requirements for proof-of-family relationship, such as DNA testing which slows down the process.

Mr. Moffa also discussed the ICE detention center at Moshannon with details of how detainees are used to provide labor at the wage

of \$1.00 per day.

Both Ms. Butler and Mr. Moffa provided materials for people who were interested in further information.

Mary Zimmerman for the Forum Committee

BOOK CLUB IS BACK!!

The Lewisburg League Book Club is back!!

We will hold our next book discussion on Tuesday, February 17th, 2026 at 4 pm at the Public Library for Union County in Lewisburg on Reitz Blvd.

The selection for this session is a book that is being read and discussed by many other League chapters nationally: *Attack From Within: How Disinformation is Sabotaging America*, by Barbara McQuade. The book is available at our local public library. I have a copy I am happy to lend out, so let me know if you want to borrow it or have any questions about the Book Club.

Disinformation is the deliberate spreading of lies disguised as truth. In her book, Barbara McQuade identifies how disinformation is seeping into all facets of our society, causing havoc in our voting systems, schools, hospitals, workplaces, and the Capitol. McQuade, an MSNBC legal analyst and former federal prosecutor, confronts the ways disinformation is being weaponized to polarize voters, degrade our legal structures, and leverage the political influence of manipulators and authoritarians.

As always, you do not have to have read the book to join in the discussion.

Please join us and bring a friend.

Mary Beth Clark (moffa5@comcast.net)

VOTER SERVICES

Vote411

The updating of the Vote411.org website with information on the Primary candidates will begin in early Spring 2026. Led by Sheri Stayton, Vote411.org is the source of the candidate information for our printed *Voters Guide*.

Voters Guide

The *Voters Guide* team (Liz Clement, Carole Madle, Linda Harris, Dawn Maneval), led by Editor Sheri Stayton, is about to start preparing for our work on our Spring *Voters Guide*. Anyone interested in joining our mighty Distribution Team to get the Spring issue to sites throughout Union County, contact lwwlewisburgarea@gmail.com.

The online version of the *Voters Guide* for the Fall 2025 election is still available for download on our LWVLA website at:

<https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/votersguide-fall25.pdf>

Facts for Voters

No Facts for Voters for 2026!



If we as a League are interested in producing a 2027 edition, we need an Editor! This pamphlet is a nonpartisan publication that provides residents of Union County with information about voting and their elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels. Our current team has prepared *Facts for Voters* for several years and would be more than willing to help someone learn the Editor job.

If you are interested, or if you have questions, please contact us at:

LWVLewisburgArea@gmail.com

STUDY THE SAVE ACT

Two LWVLA members (Dawn Maneval & Betsy Noyce) have decided to study the SAVE Act to learn more about this proposed legislation. The state League provides the following information about this act:

- **SAVE Act:** “The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act imposes new restrictions on voter eligibility and registration in an effort to address alleged voter fraud in American elections. However, these provisions create significant barriers for many eligible voters, making it harder for them to participate in the electoral process. While the Act’s goal is to ensure voter eligibility, its provisions introduce severe barriers that will disproportionately affect women, marginalized groups, and under-resourced communities...” For more information, see [this LWVPA write-up](#).

This study will begin in mid-January. We’ve gotten a late start, due to personal schedules. We are now looking at a start date of February 15th, 2026. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Dawn Maneval (dmaneal922@gmail.com) by February 10th, 2026. We hope to see you!

AREAS FOR ACTION

The League, at both National (LWVUS) and State (LWVPA) levels, provides suggested topics for study, as well as recommended materials to include as part of such a study.

LWVUS

- Unite and Rise 8.5: “engage and mobilize 8.5 million voters to protect and preserve our democracy” - for more information, see the LWVUS write-up at: lwv.org/uniteandrise

LWVPA

LWVPA is following several interesting issues and legislation (palwv.org/issues-2):

- **SAVE Act:** For information about the study group started for this act, see the **“STUDY THE SAVE ACT”** article above.
- **PA Election Reform:** “Pennsylvania’s election laws are in flux, with major legislative changes under consideration. Two bills, House Bill 771 and House Bill 1396, will shape how elections are conducted in the state. These bills have significant implications for voter access and election security.”

HB 771 proposes a voter ID requirement, which could restrict access to the polls for marginalized groups.

HB 1396 offers comprehensive reforms that could expand voter access, including early voting, absentee ballot improvements, and the use of ballot drop boxes.

For more information, see [this LWVPA write-up](#).

- **Response to Executive Order “Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of the American Elections”:** “On March 25th, President Trump issued a new Executive Order, targeting the heart of American elections and claiming a power the federal government does not have, according to constitutional law scholars. The provisions of this Executive Order seek to radically change the way elections are conducted in the United States, including the way we register to vote and the way our votes are cast and counted...” For more information, see [this LWVPA write-up](#).

LWVLA

- What does it mean for our League to be nonpartisan? How can our League usefully incorporate the LWV definition of “nonpartisan” into our projects, to make the work we do more relevant to more members of these communities?

Interested?

The only thing we need to start studying one or more of these topics is you! If you are interested in joining a group of folks to learn more about any of these, just let us know at lwvlewisburgarea@gmail.com.

Dawn Maneval for the Leadership Team

ACTIONS AND ADVOCACY

To sign up so you can receive timely information and actions about ongoing state and national initiatives of the League of Women Voters, please click [here](#). Below are some of the other ways you can become active with League of Women Voters initiatives.

Actions

Join [League in Action](#) and share these action alerts with your network:

- **Take Action:** [Tell Your Senators to Oppose the SAVE Act](#)
- **Take Action:** [Tell Your Representatives to Protect Equal Voting Rights:](#)

League in Action is a digital platform where anyone who believes in our mission can directly connect and take action on issues impacting their communities.

League in the News

Emergency investigations into ICE & CBP **January 12, 2026**

Leaders of LWVUS, The League of United Latino American Citizens, and Common Cause, urge Congress to launch emergency investigations into ICE’s and CBP’s use of force following multiple shootings and to halt further funding until accountability and meaningful reform are achieved.

[This letter](#), addressed to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, the House Homeland Security Committee, and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, calls for immediate investigations, emergency oversight hearings, and limits on future funding unless meaningful reforms are enacted to address ICE and CBP use of force and prevent further loss of life.

Unwarranted federal immigration enforcement

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota and LWVUS issued a statement condemning the unwarranted federal immigration enforcement and escalation of military activity in Minnesota. [Read the statement at \[www.lwv.org\]\(http://www.lwv.org\)](#).

New postal rules for postmarks

The US Postal Service (USPS) released a new rule clearly defining postmarks. In simple terms, it clearly defines what, how, and when a postmark is applied or used. It does not make operational changes to the way that mail is processed. People need to remember to mail their ballots as soon as possible after receiving them, but at least a week in advance of the election for a ballot to reach its destination by election day. Leagues can now find frequently asked questions and guidance about the postmark rule [on the League Management Site](#).

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