

2019

ANNUAL REPORT



6500 BUSCH BLVD, SUITE 129, COLUMBUS, OH 43229
WWW.LWVCOLS.ORG | VOTE@LWVCOLS.ORG

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

It is my privilege to serve as President for the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus (LWVMC) as we approach our 100th anniversary in 2020. Our mission to encourage informed and active participation in government, to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy has not changed since our inception almost a century ago.

This year, the LWVMC Board set two priorities for the organization: voter outreach and diversity & inclusion (both internally and externally). As you will see in this report, our volunteer membership worked hard to increase our presence in the community by providing reliable nonpartisan election information to a wide variety of populations in Franklin County. We look forward to continuing this important work in the coming year!

Barb Hykes
President, LWVMC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Staff

Elizabeth Grieser, Operations Manager

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Mary Burkey, Vice President, Voter Service
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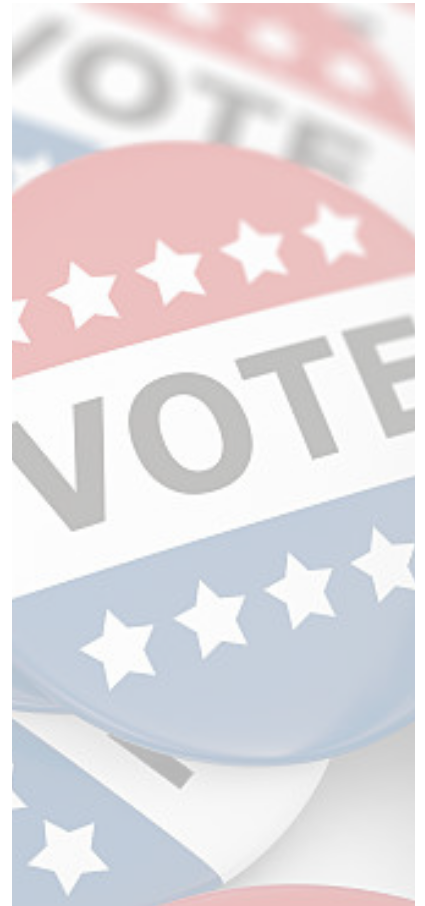
Cheryl Roller, Trustee
Tracy Moebius, Trustee
Lindsey Austin, Trustee
Steve Tingley-Hock, Trustee
Nitya Velu, Trustee
Pam Conrad, Trustee

WHO WE ARE

The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus was founded in 1919. Our commitment to voters and to the larger central Ohio community is as strong today as it was then.

Each year, the League:

- Holds free public forums on issues important to the community
- Registers central Ohio residents to vote.
- Works with local high schools and colleges to teach classes in advocacy and civic engagement.
- Sponsors candidate forums throughout the metropolitan area prior to each election.
- Provides the nonpartisan, unbiased Voter Information Bulletin to the community prior to each election and online through Vote411.org.
- Staffs the Election Day Phone Bank at WBNS-10TV.
- Advocates in Franklin County for public policy changes consistent with our positions.



OUR MISSION

The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus, 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. The League is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

OUR COMMITTEES

Voter Service
Education & Advocacy
Membership
Development
Communications

Get involved by visiting www.lwvcols.org

335
members

OUR WORK

- Conducted public meetings on a range of civic topics, including the 2018 local ballot issues, affordable housing in central Ohio, and voter registration trainings.
- Collaborated with Dublin Scioto High School to teach activism to local high schools students.
- Produced **“College Voting 101,”** a short video that reviews the basics of voting for college students.
- Partnered with a dozen local high schools, mostly in low income neighborhoods, to present a civics lesson on voting, and registered over **500 high school seniors** to vote.

Citizen Education

Member Service

- Published a weekly electronic newsletter, **The eVoter**, to inform members of upcoming political issues, events, and information about local elections.
- Planned **Civic Cocktails** events to discuss current issues.
- Welcomed over **90 new members!**
- Held a New Member Orientation.

Voter Service

- Published the nonpartisan **Voter Information Bulletin (VIB)**, for the 2018 General Election and 2019 Primary Election. More than **100,000 copies** of the VIB were distributed on Saturday, October 13 in the **Columbus Dispatch**. The VIB was also published online through Vote411.org, distributed to area schools, and was available to the public in libraries across central Ohio.
- Hosted 7 Meet the Candidates Forums throughout central Ohio in the fall of 2018 in partnership with the **Franklin County Consortium for Good Government**.
- Staffed the **WBNS-10TV Phone Banks** during the 2018 May primary and November general election, providing information to hundreds of callers on polling locations and answering other voting-related questions.
- Held **over 50 voter outreach events** on college campuses, high schools, food pantries, senior citizen communities and area organizations.
- Provided speakers and moderators to organizations throughout central Ohio hosting meetings on upcoming elections and candidate forums.
- Maintained the League of Women Voters website (www.lwvcols.org) with important information on the 2018 election, and posted Facebook updates during election season. There are **over 60,000 visits** to our website and our online VIB this year.
- Provided voters with pro/con arguments for local ballot issues in the November 2018 ballot.

Volunteer Accomplishments



5,000+

online views of
"Make Calls Not Comments"
and "College Voting 101,"
produced by LWVMC and
aimed at young activists

500 **High School Seniors**

learned basic civics &
registered to vote in 12 local
high schools, thanks to
League volunteers

60,000

online visitors to
www.lwvcolls.org
and our online
2018 voter guides

100,000

copies of the League's
trusted, nonpartisan

**Voter Information
Bulletin**

27

years of honoring citizens for
Democracy In Action

2019 Honoree:
Ted Celeste

200

**Central Ohio Girl
Scouts**

learned how to advocate for their
community and earned their
civics badge by attending the
League's "VoterGirl" program

**7 Meet the
Candidates
Forums**

across central Ohio with
Franklin County Consortium
for Good Government

50+

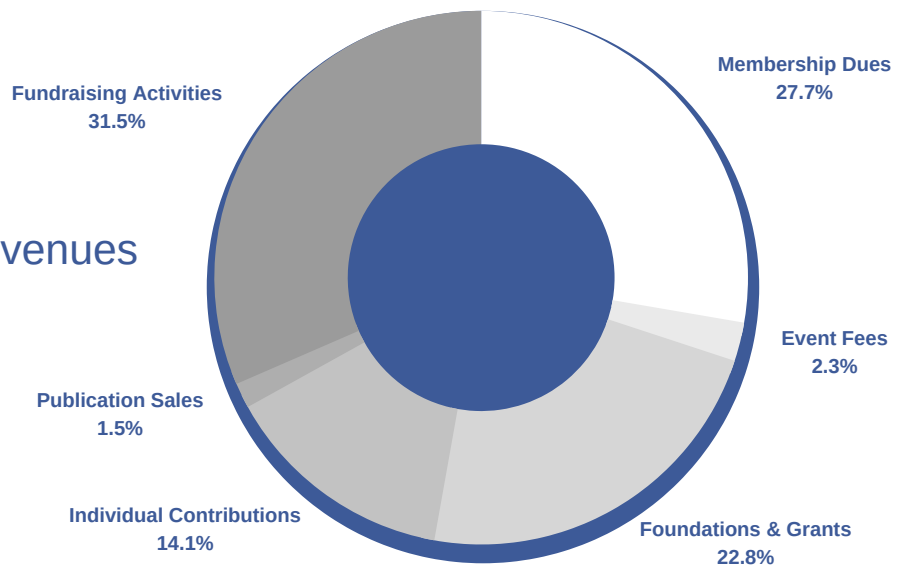
Voter Information Events
in the summer and fall of
2019. Volunteers talked with
thousands of people,
answered questions, and
registered voters



THE FIGURES: JULY 2018-JUNE 2019

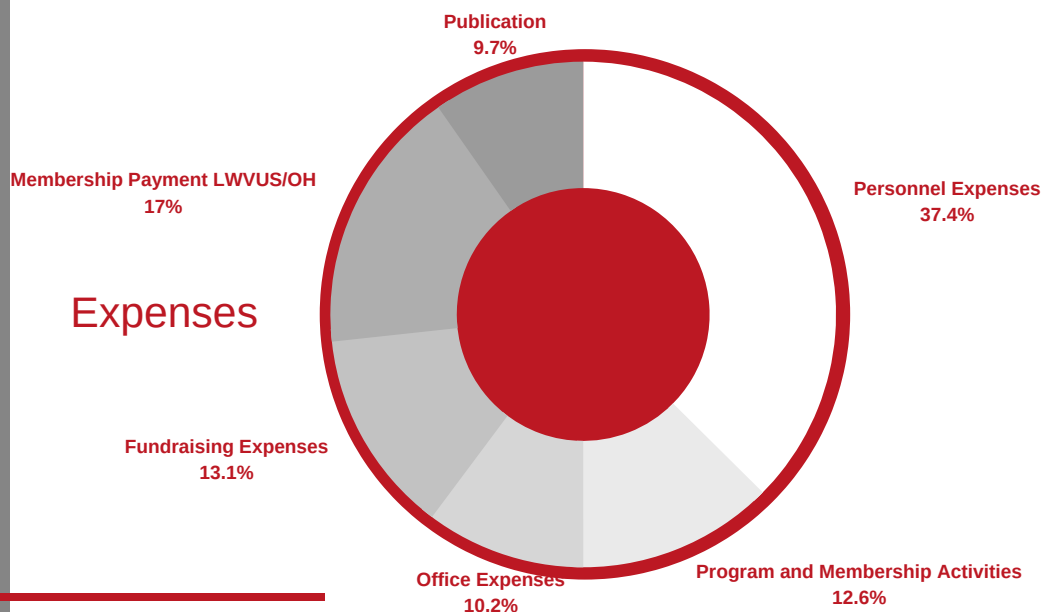
LWVMC is a grassroots organization where volunteer members carry out most program activities with the help of a part-time Operations Manager.

Revenues



Membership dues help support the League of Women Voters of Ohio and the National League

Expenses



Total Income:
\$73,868

Total Expense:
\$75,559

Net Income:
-\$1691

**MAKING
DEMOCRACY WORK®**

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS !

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**** Special thanks to Kelly Parrett for donating design services****

Thank you to the many
dedicated League
volunteers who carry out
the mission of nonpartisan
voter education!

2019 Volunteer of the Year

LWVMC honored long-time
member, **Stuart Wright**, for his
dedication to the mission of the
League of Women Voters!



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

League of Women Voters®
of Metropolitan Columbus

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