

Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

League of Women Voters of New Castle County
HOT TOPIC LUNCH Monday, January 27, 2020
11:30 A.M - 1 P.M.
Michael's Restaurant, 1000 Churchman's Rd, Newark, DE 19713

SPEAKER: ATTORNEY ADAM BALICK

TOPIC: *Too Much Criminal Justice Reform?*

Some experts have come to the conclusion that the Delaware's criminal code needs to be rewritten. Others believe that would be "too much."



Our speaker is Adam Balick of Balick & Balick, one of the oldest law firms in Delaware. For over 50 years Balick & Balick has been home to attorneys who are immersed professionally, politically, and personally, in Delaware life. Adam Balick has extensive knowledge of the intricacies of Delaware law, courts, and agencies.

Mr. Balick has considerable litigation experience, first as a prosecutor in the **Delaware Attorney General's Office, then in private practice.** Among his many distinctions, Mr. Balick has served on the Criminal Justice Improvement Committee and the working group tasked with a rewrite of the Delaware criminal code. He now serves on the Criminal Justice Council as Chair of the Delaware

Correctional Reentry Commission. [Join us to learn more.](#)

LWVNCC Hot Topic lunches are held at Michael's Restaurant in Christiana. \$18.00 paid at time of the event covers buffet lunch, soft beverage and tip. Please pay in cash if at all possible. If you don't wish to buy lunch, you may come around noon for the program only (the presentation usually starts around 12:10 pm). The public is cordially invited to attend.

Please RSVP to lwvde@comcast.net or 302-571-8948 by Sunday, January 26, so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect. If you need a ride, leave a message on the League Office phone or e-mail when you RSVP. If you have not made a reservation, please come anyway.

Join the 2020 Delaware Women's March Our vote, our voices. Celebrate 100 years of suffrage Sunday, January 18, 2020 at 9 a.m. – noon. Organized by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Newark, 420 Willa Road, Newark, Del.

LWVDE ALTERNATIVE VOTING STUDY

Electoral System Presentations

IS THERE A BETTER WAY TO VOTE?
LEARN ABOUT ALTERNATIVES TO *THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS* ELECTIONS.
Come and participate in the beginning of a LWV study and concurrence!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 6-8 p.m. **ROUTE 9 LIBRARY AND INNOVATION CENTER**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 10 a m.-NOON **BEAR LIBRARY, MEETING ROOM 1A**

Free admission, light refreshments provided

We will cover:

- Ranked Choice Voting (Instant Runoff)
- Standard runoff elections
- Range or Score voting
- Multi-member districting
- The LWVUS proposed 2020 Concurrence on Electoral Systems
- The presentation will include hands-on ballot demonstration exercises so that participants can experience how it feels to vote using the different methods and see how the outcome may differ depending on the voting method used.

Please join us to learn about and try out ranked-choice voting (RCV) along with other types of alternative voting methods. Review a proposed 2020 LWVUS concurrence on Electoral Systems that all local Leagues nationwide have been asked to weigh in on.

You can read more about the proposed concurrence here: www.lwv.org/league-management/recommended-concurrence-lwvus-board-2020-22-program-planning

The presentations are free and open to the general public. Please reserve your seat using one of the Eventbrite links below:

- NCC #1 – Jan. 14, 6-8 p.m. Route 9 Library: www.eventbrite.com/e/alternative-votingelection-systems-presentation-ncc-session-1-tickets-82539898057
- NCC #2 - Jan. 25, 10a.m.- noon Bear Library: www.eventbrite.com/e/alternative-votingelection-systems-presentation-ncc-session-2-tickets-83358299919
- Sussex County – Jan. 31, 2-4 p.m. Lewes Library: www.eventbrite.com/e/alternative-votingelection-systems-presentation-sussex-county-tickets-85721807233
- Kent County – Feb. 12, 11a.m.-1p.m. Dover Greene Turtle: www.eventbrite.com/e/alternative-votingelection-systems-presentation-kent-county-tickets-84442518847

LWVDE Alternative Voting Study Co-chairs: Kim Wells, 302-650-6897 (mobile), kimwells19702@gmail.com
Jill Itzkowitz, (302) 650-6862 (mobile), Jill.itzkowitz@gmail.com

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County
invites you to its' monthly
TED X Talk Discussion
The Political Power of Being a Good Neighbor
January 18, at 1:00 p.m.

Place: St. Philip's Church, 5320 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808

The format is to watch the TED X Talk and then discuss the Ideas Worth Sharing.

The TED Talk for January is at the intersection of the National initiative to build diversity and inclusion and the issues that are confronting our legislature. In this presentation Michael Tubbs, the youngest mayor in American history to represent a city with more than 100,000 people, shares how his upbringing in Stockton, California shaped his bold vision for change. The presentation, ***The Political Power of Being a Good Neighbor***, highlights his commitment to govern as a neighbor and not a politician. Mr. Tubbs notes that: "When we see someone different from us, they should not reflect our fears, our anxieties, our insecurities. We should see our common humanity." His policies, leadership, and ambitious agenda have sparked national conversations.



Mr. Tubbs was elected mayor of Stockton, California in January 2017 as the city's first African-American mayor. He has been included in Fortune's 2018 *40 under 40*, Forbes' 2018 list of the *30 Under 30* and The *Root's 100*.

This stimulating discussion will be centered around the idea of addressing issues by being a good neighbor rather than by taking a more aggressive approach.

R.S.V.P to Kay Palmer at 302.369.8858 or kaypalmer@42llc.com.

Thank you LWV members and friends!
Our fundraiser *Everything but the Kitchen Sink* was a great success!

The League of Women Voters New Castle County held their second fundraising event on December 1, 2019 at Everything but the Kitchen Sink, in Hockessin, Del. Even with all the rain we had a great turnout of family, friends and LWV members which resulted in raising \$1414.50 in donations. There will be some wonderful gifts this holiday!

My thanks to the committee members who helped make this fundraiser such a success: Patti Christopher, Letty Diswood, Marj Johnson, Jill Itzkowitz, Susan Mitchell and Dick Johnson. My thanks also to Catriona Binder-Macleod and Shaniya Lewis for their contributions regarding the flyer and rack card.

Lorraine Botticelli, Event Coordinator

Two other options to keep in mind for gifts at any time.



LWVDE Merchandise (hoodies, t-shirts, mugs and totes) is available

at cafepress.com/decauseshop. Click the LWV logo within the DE Cause Shop to reach our page.

➤ If you shop on Amazon.com, consider going to **Amazon Smile** instead (smile.amazon.com) and designating League of Women Voters of Delaware Inc. as your charity of choice.

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

Study books have been ordered for the 2020 sessions for Great Decisions. We have traditionally started the third Monday in February, but that is President's Day, so we will need to reschedule. We would be glad to have more participation from Wilmington people.

When: to be announced next newsletter

Where: Newark Free Library

What else: Lunch, for those who wish it.

When: Before discussion, 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Where: 11:30 at Skipjack Restaurant in the Shops at Louviers on Paper Mill Road.

How: Contact Flo Waibel, fmwaibel@udel.edu 302-737-7848. All are welcome.

VOTING AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The next LWV Voting and Elections Committee meeting will be held **Tuesday, January 7** at **Sheridan's Irish Pub**, 44 W. Commerce St., Smyrna, Delaware 19977. See map: [Google Maps](#). Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month. This committee is a subcommittee of the LWVDE Advocacy Corps. New members welcome! If you are interested in voting/elections legislation and lobbying, contact Letty Diswood or Jill Itzkowitz for details. This subcommittee has members from all three counties.

Jill Itzkowitz Co-chair

jillitzkowitz@gmail.com

Welcome New Members

Susan and Freeman Williams 302-533-6633 H freesusan@comcast.net

Shane Darby 215-783-9918 snidarby@gmail.com

Francis J. Murphy Home phone: 302-427-7549 francisjmurphy@comcast.net

Nicole Cerqueira 302-635-9664 ncendymion@gmail.com

We are enjoying a fantastic increase in membership. Thank you to all who have renewed their membership. If you have not done so, please do so now, don't wait another week. We have an exciting election year coming and it will be the LWV 100th anniversary! If you have questions please call the office 302-571-8948 or send an email

lwvncc@comcast.net.

SAVE THE DATE! LEAGUE DAY IN DOVER- ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE DAY

Thursday, March 26, 2020. Registration 8:30 a.m. Program 9 – 11:45, Buffet lunch 11:45 – 1:15 p.m. Topic: **Focus is on financing Delaware's state government – looking ahead to what is needed to ensure fiscal stability as we move forward.**

NATURALIZATION CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTS 2019

It has been a very busy and exciting year with 755 new citizens receiving their citizenship certification at the U.S. District Court House in Wilmington Del. and at Clayton Hall, University of Delaware, Newark Del. These new citizens represented over 250 countries such as Bangladesh, Canada, Ethiopia, Greece, India, Mexico, Russia and many others with a number of these countries repeatedly represented throughout 2019.

The League of Women Voters New Castle County (LWVNCC) had the honor of greeting these new citizens and providing them with a voter information folder. This folder contained:

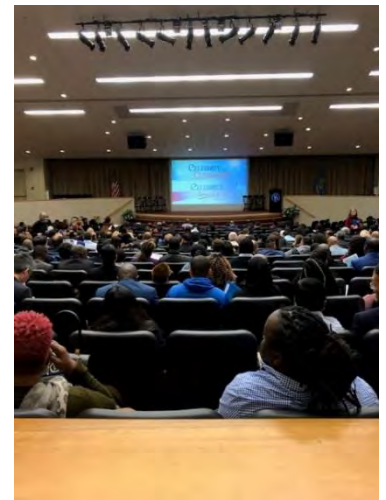
- Welcoming and introductory letter from the League of Women Voters Delaware
- Important Dates and Deadlines for 2020 Elections
- *This Way to the Voting Booth: A Citizen's Guide to Registration and Voting*, a description of a citizen's responsibilities and voting information.
- The current roster of federal and state elected officials of Delaware.
- A flyer from the Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council (DCRAC), a nonprofit organization which provides education on taxes, house and credit.
- iVOTE.DE, a government flyer which provides information on common voter and absentee services.

Our thanks to all the LWVNCC volunteers who compiled the folders, attended the ceremonies and helped with the distribution of this important voting information. Our thanks to DCRAC for funding the contents of this folder.

Lorraine Botticelli, New Citizen Coordinator



Picture of LWV volunteers who helped on Dec. 5 at U of D Clayton Hall...Eugenia Nichols, Cami Seward, Lorraine Botticelli and Bob Taggart



VOTER OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

LWVNCC is planning a **CANDIDATES' FORUM FOR NEWARK CITY COUNCIL**

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, March 24, 2020. Evening, exact time TBD

LOCATION: Newark Senior Center, 200 White Chapel Drive, Newark DE 19713

EVENT: Forum for candidates for Newark City Council Districts 3,5, and 6. All qualified candidates who have an opponent will be invited to participate. Free and open to the public.

Contact: Judy Taggart: judithtaggart1@verizon.net

- The LWVNCC has received a grant from the LWVUS for its nationwide **2020 YOUTH VOTER REGISTRATION PROJECT**.

President's Message -----

 by Marj Johnson



Happy New Year! And not only New Year, but New Decade! And Happy 100th Anniversary! We have much to look forward to this year, but first let me say thank you to all of you who, in so many different ways in 2019, helped the League to continue its work to defend democracy. There are many ways coming up for you to continue your engagement, or to become active in the League and we look forward to working with all of you.

This month we will start our discussions on alternative voting methods, following a rigorous study. Come and join the conversation Jan. 14, 6-8 p.m. at the Route 9 Library and Innovation Center, and/or Sat. Jan 25th 10-12 a.m. at the Bear Library. This study committee looked at several different voting methods and have information to generate discussion and perhaps recommendations for Delaware.

We will also have our first Hot Topic of the decade on Jan. 27 by Adam Balick from Judge Strine's office, talking on the Criminal Code and Legislation being presented. You will see information elsewhere about this, but if you can't make it, be sure to check out the video recording on our website after the meeting.

We have several things planned this year for the League's 100th Birthday in Feb., and the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment in Aug. We will have our birthday party on Sun. Feb. 16th at a wine tasting party at Deerfield Wine and Spirits from 2-5 p.m. Come out and celebrate with birthday cake and toasting! We are engaging students in all the high schools to learn about suffrage, and the responsibility to vote, and will host a presentation of their projects in April. In June, we are hosting an all-women's orchestra concert at Ingleside Apartments. We are planning film presentations in the fall in various libraries and are hoping to partner with the YWCA and Delta Sigma Theta for a showing of "Dignity and Defiance: A Portrait of Mary Church Terrell" which should generate good discussion.

At the state level, mark your calendars and make a reservation for a bus trip the first weekend in May to Seneca Falls, where it all began for the League. During the year, official markers of historic suffrage events will be placed in each county and in Wilmington, and a parade will be held on Sept. 26 in Dover with the dedication of a Suffrage Monument on the grounds of Legislative Hall.

Notwithstanding those two celebrations, we also have an election this year, and Kim Wells and her committee have been busy updating the Vote 411 system and will be showing films at various libraries with a Vote 411 website demonstration this spring and early fall. We will also be working with our new election commissioner on how to inform people regarding our new voting machines.

And we also have a census this year! We have been working with DANA on developing ways to engage hard to reach communities, and how to encourage everyone to participate. This will take a lot of education in this era of mistrust and fear, so we will need lots of you to help with this effort.

Related to the census, we have a new initiative from LWVUS, "People Powered Fair Maps" dealing with redistricting. Sandy Spence has offered to chair this committee and we hope many of you will contact her to help with this work to be sure the census is done well, to respond to federal legislation around redistricting and the Voting Rights Act, and to engage the public in education and awareness.

**And, so we continue the work of the past 100 years!
Get active! Join the journey!**



Pictured above L-R seated:

City of Wilmington Mayor M. Purzyki and New Castle County Executive M. Meyer are signing an Executive order to opt in (as required by the President) to accept refugees and immigrants into New Castle County and the City of Wilmington. The original order from the president required states to opt in and then was changed to require local governments to opt in as well.

Marj Johnson, LWVNC President

CALENDAR

Monday, January 6, 2020 6:30 -8:30 p.m.	New Castle County Library and Innovation Center, Route 9, New Castle DE	LWVNCC BOARD MEETING. Regular meeting of the League of Women Voters of New Castle County Board of Directors.
Tuesday, January 7, 2020 11 a.m. - noon	Sheridan's Irish Pub 44 W. Commerce Street, Smyrna, DE19977	ELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING. Contact Jill Itzkowitz for details (302-650-6862) jillitzkowitz@gmail.com
Wednesday, January 8, 2020 9:30 - noon	Legislative Hall (House Majority Caucus Room) 411 Legislative Avenue Dover, DE 19901	LWVDE ADVOCACY CORPS Meeting. Regular 2nd Wednesday meeting of the LWVDE Advocacy Corps (legislative lobby group) in Dover. For details or to attend, contact Advocacy Chair Sandy Spence
Wednesday, January 8, 2020 1 – 3 p.m.	Dover Public Library 35 Lookerman Street, Dover DE 19901	ALTERNATIVE ELECTION STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 13, 2020 2 – 4 p.m.	Home of Peggy Schultz schultz_peggy@yahoo.com	LWVNCC LANDUSE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING Newcomers all welcome.
Tuesday, January 14, 2020 6 – 8 p.m.	New Castle County Library and Innovation Center, Route 9, New Castle DE	ALTERNATIVE VOTING/ELECTION SYSTEMS PRESENTATION Session 1. Is there a better way to vote? Learn about alternatives to <i>The Lesser of Two Evils</i> Elections. Background to LWVDE future possible consensus.
Wednesday, January 15, 2020 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Green Turtle Sports Bar 391 N. Dupont Hwy, Dover DE 19901	LWVDE BOARD MEETING. Note: Board meeting for the Delaware state-level. RSVP to Carol Jones sundiallee@aol.com . Notice location change and early time for board training.
Saturday, January 25, 2020 10 a.m. – 12 noon	New Castle County Bear Library Meeting Room 1 A	ALTERNATIVE VOTING/ELECTION SYSTEMS PRESENTATION Session 2. Is there a better way to vote? Learn about alternatives to <i>The Lesser of Two Evils</i> Elections. Background to LWVDE future possible consensus.
Monday, January 27, 2020 11:30a.m.-1p.m.	Michael's Restaurant 1000 Churchman's Rd. Newark, DE19713	HOT TOPIC LUNCH. Speaker: Attorney Adam Balick TOPIC: Delaware's Criminal Code. Recent efforts at legislative reform have succeeded in a piecemeal fashion, but a parallel effort for a complete rewrite to streamline and overhaul has not gained traction in the legislature. \$18 buffet lunch; RSVP to lwncc@comcast.net or call 301-571-8948. The public is cordially invited to attend.
Sunday February 16, 2020 2 – 5 p.m.	Deerfield Fine Wines in the Shoppes at Louviers, 205 Louviers Drive. (Paper Mill Road) Newark, Del. 19711	CELEBRATE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS 100 BIRTHDAY WITH US. Informational displays, wine and bourbon tasting and light refreshments including birthday cake. All friends and members welcome.

League of Women Votes of New Castle County
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