

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 will be transitioning to ZOOM
Monday, May 18, 2020
11:30 A.M - 1 P.M.

Speaker: Anthony Albence, Delaware Election Commissioner

There will be a 30-45-minute presentation followed by questions from the membership that have been submitted prior to the zoom meeting.

Please send your questions to lwvde@comcast.net Further details will be sent to you closer to the event.



Anthony Albence is the current elections commissioner for the state of Delaware. He took over that role from Elaine Manlove in June 2019. It has been an exciting year for Anthony with COVID-19 and the implementation of the new voting machines. Prior to this position, he served 12 years as New Castle county's director of elections.

Previously, Anthony served as director of Public Allies Delaware, and as a training specialist at Catholic Youth Ministry in Wilmington. He received a bachelor's degree from Catholic University, and a masters in urban affairs and public policy from the University of Delaware.

- **2020 National Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States will be held June 25 to 27 but it will be held as a virtual meeting.** Details are not available regarding registration fees for delegates and visitors. If you are interested in attending as a delegate or visitor contact marjci@comcast.net. LWVNCC can have 4 delegates.
- **LWV of Delaware Biennial Council meeting will be held Saturday, May 30 from 1:15 – 4:00 pm by zoom.** It will be led by LWVSC president Gwendolyn Miller. Following a very brief business meeting, Gwendolyn will lead a 2-hour interactive Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Awareness Program. We are most fortunate to have Gwendolyn's expertise on this topic, as she has conducted similar DEI programs throughout the country. The Council is made up of state board members and the presidents and vice presidents of the local leagues.

The League of Women Voters of New Castle County invites you to its monthly

TED X Talk Discussion

Presenter, Dr. Anindya Kundu

The 'Opportunity Gap' In US Public Education – And How To Close It"

Saturday, May 16 at 1:00.

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

Join us for an engaging discussion from your location on your computer, ipad or cell phone via Zoom.

Go to the link at end of this notice to pre-register.

The May TED Talk is more of a call to action than necessarily a solution to the challenges in our public education system. Presenter, Dr. Anindya Kundu, in his talk, **The 'Opportunity Gap' In US Public Education – And How To Close It**, "invites us to take a deeper look at the personal, social and institutional challenges that keep students from thriving in the United States". From his perspective, Dr. Kundu believes that in closing what he calls the 'opportunity gap' that public education would be valued for being "the greatest investment in our collective future. The call to action then becomes what would it take for us to regain pride in the public education system such that a child's future is not determined by their birth but rather by the opportunities afforded them through their public education.



Dr. Anindya Kundu is the author of *The Power of Student Agency: Looking Beyond Grit to Close the Opportunity Gap*. As a sociologist Dr. Kundu, studies the concepts of agency and human potential. In this capacity he "examines the social contexts, educational systems, and opportunity structures that create positive change in people's lives". Dr. Kundu is a senior fellow at the City University of New York, Graduate Center. He has taught at New York University where he has received a school-wide Outstanding Teaching Award. Dr. Kundu has appeared on NPR Education, MSNBC and Huffington Post.

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: May 16, 2020 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting: (If link does not work copy link into your browser.)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkcOCprD8iE9O1J6y1WgF5eIbhE7J2YiDN>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Contact Kay Palmer if you have any questions – kaypalmer@421lc.com

NOTE: Zoom is a free to you to join into this video presentation. If this is your first time using Zoom you may want to go to the Zoom app a little before the 1:00 start of the discussion to download the application. Zoom will allow us to see each other (if you are interested, have a web camera in your computer, and select the video option) for the discussion. Kay will be able to share her computer screen so that you will be able to see the TED Talk video.

VOTE411 VOTER GUIDE UPDATE

The VOTE411 voter guide will have information up for the **presidential primary and school board elections throughout the month of May**. In addition to candidate profiles and personalized ballot information, check VOTE411 for the latest news about election delays, absentee ballots, and any candidate forums state-wide.

Per Governor Carney's emergency order, **all** Delaware voters can vote absentee in 2020. Start at either VOTE411.org or elections.delaware.gov to learn about it and request your absentee ballot(s).

The Delaware state PTA will be hosting virtual candidate forums for school districts where the seat is contested and PTA has a presence... including most NCC districts and Caesar Rodney in Kent. The virtual forums are tentatively scheduled for the evenings of June 2nd and 3rd and will be live-streamed on Facebook.

You can help Delawareans to "*Be Aware, VOTE Aware*" by following us on social media and sharing posts with hashtags #VOTE411 #BeAwareVoteAware. Delaware VOTE411 posts will be found on on Facebook ([@vote411de](https://www.facebook.com/vote411de)), Instagram ([@LWVDE](https://www.instagram.com/LWVDE)), and Twitter ([@LWVDE](https://twitter.com/LWVDE)). We also have an [LWVDE VOTE411 TeamYouTube Channel](#) this year that you can check out. We have several videos planned around VOTE411, the importance of voting, and absentee voting procedures in Delaware.

We are encouraging all **League members to add a VOTE411 frame to your Facebook profile photo** during May and June. Profile photos have the best reach of all! On Facebook, go to your own profile page, hover the mouse over your profile photo and click "Update", then "Add Frame", and enter "VOTE411" in the search bar to find the frame shown below.



Finally, as the elections draw nearer, consider writing a letter to the editor, or a making a post on NextDoor.com, about the importance of still performing our civic duties of voting and completing the census in 2020. Both activities can be done entirely from our Delaware homes in this time of social isolation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kim Wells, 2020 Delaware VOTE411 Coordinator
302-650-6897 (mobile)
kimwells19702@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

LWVNCC ANNUAL MEETING Monday, June 22 at 11:30 a.m. It will be a virtual meeting via Zoom. More details will be sent to you closer to the event.

Some of the business of the meeting will be the budget 2020-2021, slate of nominations to the board of directors, bylaw amendments.

Land Use/Transportation Committee invites you to its meeting

NCC Land Use/Transportation Committee to host Mike Hoffman to discuss the NCC Comprehensive Development Plan and the Unified Development Code

May 26, 2020 1:00 PM to be held by Zoom
Details are at end of this notice

COMP PLAN UPDATE LOOMS! YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO GET READY TO PARTICIPATE ... May, 2020.

The Land Use Department of New Castle County is gearing up to present its draft Comprehensive Development Plan (Comp Plan) update. By law, the Comp Plan has to be updated every 10 years. So, what IS the Comp Plan, and how does it relate to the Unified Development Code (UDC) for the County? Word on the street is that our UDC encourages sprawl. Could this be true? If so, what changes can we make to the new Comp Plan to put a stop to that practice? What other changes will we want to support as we review the new Comp Plan update? What are the political realities involved in passing a new Comp Plan update? We are happy to invite you to a Zoom meeting with the knowledgeable Michael Hoffman, of Tarabicos Grosso, LLP, (law firm of Larry Tarabicos that does a lot of land use work). Mike will join us on Tuesday, May 26th, 1-2:30 pm, via Zoom. His comments will be followed by a question and answer session.

Here are directions for logging on to the meeting:

To attend, you must register in advance, using the link below. (If link does not work copy it into your browser.)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtcuirqzoiH9wVQie5A8mFRH7ESsRY2ZZF>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Now, a little background. The Comp Plan is an important document, but it is in no way the end of the line in terms of planning for good land use. The only part of the Comp Plan that is legally enforceable is the future land use map collection associated with the plan. The zoning maps, part of the UDC, have the force of law but are subject to re-zoning by vote of County Council. Most of the action of the Comp Plan comes when County Council implements the Comp Plan by enacting ordinances, which then become part of the Unified Development Code.

Antoni Sekowski, NCC planner, tells us that just off the top of his head he recalls the following ordinances that have been passed since the 2012 Comp Plan was adopted by County Council. **Environmental:** Solar Energy, FEMA regulations, Septic Systems; **Community Design:** Hamlet and Village Code, Site Design, Complete Communities Enterprise Districts, Guiding Principles; **Transportation:** Incorporating TID's; **Housing:** Accessory Dwelling Units, Workforce Housing and Moderately Priced Dwelling Units; Neighborhood Protection Overlay Districts; **Economic Development:** Economic Empowerment Districts; Jobs Now (Policy), Development Process; **Historic:** Demolition by Neglect. These all are in addition to ordinances currently in the works for Open Space, Forests and Historic Resources. Many of these additions to the UDC were vigorously supported by the LWV, and in particular, the Complete Communities Enterprise Districts ordinance.

Peggy Schulz, Land Use/Transportation Committee Chair



At the May LWNCC Zoom Board Meeting we experimented with electronic chat and voting in preparation for the upcoming annual meeting. The following thoughts were expressed in our chat room in response to the question: **Name one positive thing that has come out of this quarantine period for you.** Amidst all the heartache, grief, and economic tragedy, and with gratitude to all those essential workers that no one ever noticed before, I share these with you and hope you will also have one of your own.

- “More time to read and cook.
- I don't have the virus.
- People have reconnected with themselves. It gives us time to reflect on what our priorities are. Realizing how little I need and re-aligning my viewpoint of what is important and what is not; what are real needs and what are just wants. I find I "don't sweat the small stuff" as much.
- Meeting so many neighbors that I had never seen, riding and walking. With kids, dogs and all saying Hi.
- People trying to work together. Families being together more and connecting.
- People are figuring out new and different ways to communicate. I have connected with some "old" friends that I haven't talked to in a long time. Having virtual “parties”.
- Learning to meet digitally saves wear and tear on the roads; saves time. Cleaner air.
- Nice to see everyone's hair looks like mine. Nice to see familiar faces without masks.
- My science background has really been renewed with this virus and antibody and immunization quest.
- One positive is how Covid-19 highlights the inequities in our culture—a call for action!”

STAY SAFE AND DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

ELECTION COMMITTEE

The elections committee will meet by zoom on June 2, 2020 at 11 am for its regular meeting by Zoom. Please contact me if you would like to participate at jillitzkowitz@gmail.com.

Jill Itzkowitz, Chair

VOTER SERVICE UPDATE

We are urging all to go to register, or request an absentee ballot for school board elections, presidential and general primaries go to <https://ivote.de.gov/voterview>.

Patti Christopher, Chair

UPDATE ON NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES IN WILMINGTON DE

The Naturalization Ceremony held at the US District Court for the District of Delaware for June has unfortunately been cancelled due to the Coronavirus emergency, and that it is in the best interest of everyone's safety. There are no more ceremonies scheduled until September.

Lorraine Botticelli, Chair

Welcome New Member

Connie Cox 302-379-1311 c mikeandcon@comcast.net

REMEMBER TO FILL OUT THE CENSUS 2020!

CALENDAR

Wednesday, May 13, 2020, 9:30 - noon	ZOOM meeting	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 Linda Barnett
May cancelled due to LWVDE council meeting in May.	ZOOM meeting	LWVDE BOARD MEETING. No meeting in May.
Saturday, May 16, 2020, at 1:00 pm	ZOOM meeting	Watch TED X Talk then Discussion. Dr. Anindya Kundu, The Opportunity Gap' In US Public Education – And How To Close It Contact Kay W. Palmer, 302.983.6946.
Monday, May 18, 2020 11 am-12:30 pm	ZOOM meeting	HOT TOPIC: SPEAKER, ANTHONY ALBENCE COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS OF DELAWARE. Details will be sent closer to the event.
Tuesday, May 26, 1-2:30 pm	ZOOM meeting	LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE meeting. Open to all with preregistration.
Saturday, May 30, 2020 1:15 – 4 pm	ZOOM meeting	LWVDE COUNCIL MEETING. Details will be sent closer to the event.
Monday, June 1, 2020 6:30-8:30 pm	ZOOM meeting	LWVNCC BOARD MEETING. Regular meeting of the League of Women Voters of New Castle County Board of Directors
Tuesday, June 2, 2020, 11 a.m. - noon	ZOOM meeting	ELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING. Contact Jill Itzkowitz for details (302-650-6862) jillitzkowitz@gmail.com

League of Women Votes of New Castle County
2400 W. 17th Street, Clash Wing, Room 1, Lower Level
Wilmington, DE 19806

302-571-8948

lwvncc@comcast.net

my.lvv.org/delaware/new-castle-county