

LWVAA May, 2020

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE AKRON AREA

THE AKRON VOTER

Newsletter for LWVAA Members and Supporters

May, 2020

[Click here for virtual events by LWVO, LWVGC, and Common Cause Ohio](#)



2020 Annual Meeting
Thursday, July 9, 2020, 5:30-8:00pm

5:30pm | Virtual Social Gathering, Get Acquainted with TEAMS Meetings Platform

6:00 - 7:15 pm | Annual Meeting led by President Jackie Darrow

7:15 pm | Featured LWVO Speakers: Iris Meltzer, Chair, Board of Directors & Jen Miller, Executive Director

Due to the pandemic, we are holding our Annual Meeting via the secure Microsoft TEAMS platform so you can participate by video/audio on your computer, tablet, or phone. It's easy to use and there is no cost to you.

Training and detailed instructions on how to participate via TEAMS will be emailed and posted on lwvaa.org prior to the meeting.

**You are needed now more than ever as we explore new ways to
ADVOCATE, INFORM, EMPOWER, AND EDUCATE**

Please join us to confirm and kick-off a new course of action for 2020-2022





LWVAA

Upcoming Events

**Because of COVID-19,
all LWVAA in-person
events are postponed
until new guidelines
are issued**

Respond today to the U.S. Census

You should have received an invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census, and some households will also receive paper questionnaires.

For more information and to complete the census online (it only takes 5 minutes), go to 2020census.gov

Thank you to Liz King for all of your efforts as the LWVAA liaison for the Summit County census. As of May 1, the response rate was 61.5%.

A Message From the President

Dear Members,

Greetings from the coronavirus bubble. I'm so ready to return to normal but know all too well that's a long way off. What we can and must do at this time is address our democracy beginning with our elections. This is especially critical now as it's likely that continued health concerns in the fall will limit in-person voting.

The results from the just completed primary election don't bode well for receptivity of an all mail-in election under Ohio's current two-step process of requesting an absentee ballot application, waiting for turnaround and then receiving a ballot. We must use all of our advocacy power to change this for November.

When we compare this primary with the previous presidential primary in 2016, the rate of participation drop-off is dramatic.

Summit County 2020 Primary Election Final Unofficial Results

Total Registered Voters	363,612
Total Votes Cast	70,570
Percent Participation	19.4%

Summit County 2016 Primary Election Final Results

Total Registered Voters	344,662
Total Votes Cast	153,771
Percent Participation	44.6%

There are a number of factors that could explain this wide disparity in participation including:

- 1. Confusion around the March 17 primary.** Voters were set to go to the polls Monday, March 16, only to find out when they awoke the next day to find there would be no in-person voting. A new primary date was initially set for June 2, but then against the objections of insufficient timing by Boards of Election, the Secretary of State along with LWVO and other voter rights groups, the legislature set the new date for April 28.

May 6, 2020



Video Forum: Vote by Mail in Ohio: The Best Way to Do It

7:00p.m - 8:30p.m.

[Click here to register](#) and for conference details

With a massive vote by mail effort needed for the November 2020 election, how should Ohio proceed?

Featured Speakers:

Amanda

Gonzalez, Executive Director, Colorado Common Cause

Jen Miller, Executive Director, League of Women Voters Ohio

Kate Titus, Executive Director, Common Cause Oregon

Catherine Turcer, Executive Director, Common Cause Ohio

2. **Slow turnaround.** As predicted, the timing was insufficient to turnaround ballot application requests and send ballots to voters. Postal delays contributed to this issue.

3. **Ohio's complex, two-step process of requesting an absentee ballot application, waiting for turnaround and then receiving a ballot.** Voters without access to a computer to download the form had to call the Board of Elections to have an absentee ballot request sent, then, using their own stamp and envelope, mail in the form and wait for a ballot. Given many voters' more pressing concerns about paying their rent and having enough food to feed their families, this cumbersome, time-consuming process is a barrier too large to overcome.

4. **Not much on the ballot for many voters.** On April 8 Joe Biden became the presumptive Democratic party nominee. Since most Ohio voters still hadn't requested a ballot application, the incentive to do so may have been diminished. There were of course many other issues and primaries down the ballot, but for many the main reason for voting was the presidential primary.

5. **Cultural preference for in-person voting.** Many voters have a long history and pride in going to the polls to cast their vote. States that have successfully introduced in-person voting have done so over time and have made changes to ease participation including adding secure drop-offs, sending pre-paid ballots to everyone, etc.

Where do we go from here? It's all about making our voices heard.

Learn about LWVO's strategy at 11:30am, Wednesday, May 13.

Virtual Advocacy Forum: Making Ohio Election Ready

Hear from experts on how Ohio needs to improve our elections immediately to be ready for the August Special and November General, and then get the tools you need to

May 13, 2020

Virtual Advocacy Forum: Making Ohio Election Ready

11:30a.m - 1:30p.m.

Ohio's primary was chaotic

and confusing for voters and Boards of Elections alike.

Learn from experts on how Ohio needs to improve our elections immediately to be ready for the August Special and November General, and then get the tools you need to advocate to Ohio leaders!

Event is free and open to all. [Click here to register.](#)

May 28, 2020

**Video Forum:
Gerrymandering and Ohio**

7:00p.m - 8:30p.m.

In 2021, district lines will be redrawn. What can we expect in Ohio and nationally from the census delay and results, and their impact on #FairMaps? Watch national and local experts share their concerns and perspectives.

[Click here to register](#)



Panelists include:
Kathay Feng, National Redistricting Director, Common Cause US

Michael Li, Brennan Center For Justice

Jen Miller, Executive Director, League of Women Voters of Ohio

advocate to Ohio leaders! Event is free and open to all. [Click here to register.](#)

LWVAA Annual Meeting July 9 – Save the Date!

Needless to say, we're living in a virtual world and that's true for our upcoming Annual Meeting. The Board agreed to move the meeting to 5:30pm, Thursday, July 9 several weeks ago in the hope that by July an in-person meeting would be possible.

Since that's out of the question at this point, we will be using the secure, Teams videoconferencing platform to conduct our meeting. Watch for reports coming your way in early June that require action at the Annual Meeting: Budget, Bylaws, 2020-22 Priorities & Action Plan and Nominations.

In addition to conducting our business, you'll hear from LWVO Board Chair Iris Meltzer and Executive Director Jen Miller on the strategies we will collectively be pursuing.

The pandemic is spawning change that will require all of us to work in new ways to reach target audiences for voter registration, education and advocacy. We need your buy-in and participation more than ever.

Best,
Jackie Derrow, LWVAA President

Catherine Turcer, Executive Director, Common Cause Ohio will moderate

Co-sponsored by Common Cause Ohio and League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland

July 9, 2020

LWVAA 2020 Annual Meeting

5:30-8:30p.m.

Featured LWVO Speakers:
Iris Meltzer, Chair, Board of Directors
Jen Miller, Executive Director

Virtual Meeting via Teams Conferencing via your computer, phone, or tablet. Details & training announced soon!

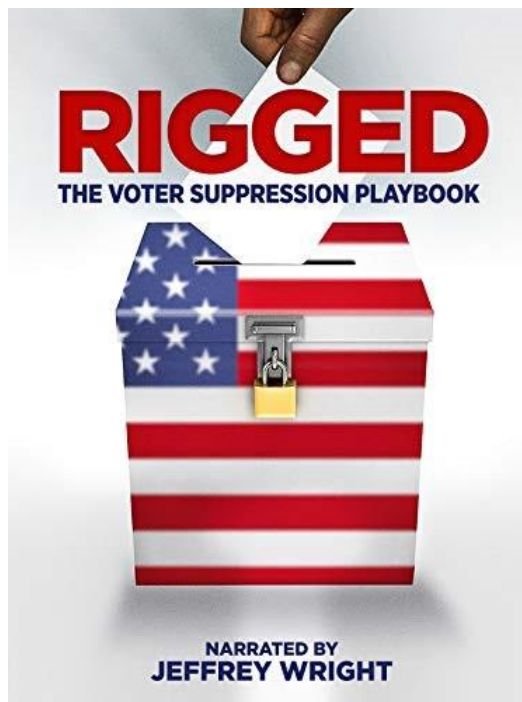
On Demand - Watch Any Time!

Watch LWVUS Executive Director Virginia Kase's virtual talk at the Cleveland City Club for their May 1 Law Day presentation commemorating the 19th amendment.

[Click here](#) for the replay

LWVAA Board Meetings

May	7
June	4
August	6



Quarantine Film Corner

Send us a great movie that you have discovered during quarantine! Here's one from our President Jackie Darrow:

“**Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook**,” an excellent film on how voter suppression actions have been implemented since the 2008 election of Barack Obama. [Click here](#) to view the film using password *riggedvirtual*

Don't miss it!

LWVUS National Convention goes virtual

Submitted by Jackie Darrow, President

The LWVUS National Convention, planned to occur in Washington, DC, is being transitioned to a virtual convention. This was far from an easy decision but the health and safety of our members is the primary concern.

September	3
October	1
November	5
December	3

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Online meetings will be held until further notice due to COVID-19

Plenary business sessions will be held June 25-27.

Based on our membership size, LWVAA will have three voting delegates at the convention. Watch for more details by mid-May from LWVUS on attendance by delegates and observers.

Follow along [here](#) as updates are posted.

2020 Census Update

The pandemic has disrupted normal U.S. Census data collection especially for hard to reach communities that require face-to-face follow up.

As of this writing, Summit County has a 61.5% self response rate vs. a final 2010 response of 71.6%. Akron has a 53.6% self response rate vs. a final 2010 response of 65.7%. Check out the [Response Rates Map](#) and [Rankings Dashboard](#)

We have a long way to go to be positioned for our community's fair share of federal dollars as well as fair representation in the U.S. Congress.

How you can make a difference!

- Post updates on social media to show your commitment to responding with #2020Census and #ShapeYourFuture with a link to 2020census.gov
- Share posts from the Census [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) accounts
- Visit the [2020 Census Social Hub](#) for customizable graphics to share your support for a complete and accurate count.



ILENE SHAPIRO, EXECUTIVE

SUMMIT COUNTY
Census 2020

Counting on you!



DANIEL HARRIGAN, MAYOR

***WHY:* THE 20 20 CENSUS WILL DETERMINE HOW \$675 BILLION IS SPENT TO SUPPORT YOUR STATE, COUNTY, AND COMMUNITY'S PROGRAMS**

***WHO:* EVERYONE IS COUNTED**

***WHAT:* 20 20 CENSUS**

***WHEN:* APRIL 1, 20 20**

***WHERE:* ONLINE, BY PHONE, BY MAIL**

***IMPORTANT:* YOUR CENSUS RESPONSES ARE CONFIDENTIAL**

For more information, please visit

web: 20 20census.gov

email: 20 20census@summitoh.net

A Request to LeBron James

Our Membership Chair Ardith Keck came up with a wonderful idea to ask LeBron James to help with the challenging voter registration efforts facing the LWV for the November Election.

Below is the letter and we hope he accepts! Great idea Ardith, we love your creativity!

League of Women Voters of the Akron Area

**P.O. Box 5449
Akron, Ohio 44334
www.lwvaa.org**



April 13, 2020

Dear LeBron,

We are fans of yours because of all you do for the youth of our area. You are certainly living a life dedicated to helping others and we applaud you. We (the League of Women Voters) are asking you to take a role in the upcoming November election for the importance of our democracy and our country. You are such an icon with such a fan base that we believe you can do much by encouraging everyone capable to vote to go out to register (necessary to do before October 5) and then go vote in the November 3 election. If you create an ad urging people to vote, it can go a long way to actually getting people to the voting booth. The election of 2016 was decided because too many (millions) did not vote.

I believe you realize how important your voice is to many in our country and that you can make a huge difference in the election. Unfortunately, the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area (LWVAA) can offer you no financial help to get this done. Also, the League has to play a totally non-partisan role in all elections, so, if your ad has any partisan tone, it cannot be endorsed by the LWVAA. So, that part is up to you, but what a service to this country you would be doing if you were to create such an ad to run in September and October of 2020!

Thank you for your help if you can give it!



[Join us today](#) to support democracy, nonpartisan political action, and voter rights in your community.

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[Website](#)

[The Ohio Voter](#)


Stay up-to-date with LWVUS

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