

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE AKRON AREA
THE AKRON VOTER

Newsletter for LWVAA Members and Supporters

November, 2020





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LWVAA

Upcoming

Events

**November 15,
2020**

**The 2020
Presidential**

A Message From the President

It has been a remarkable four months. Serving with a group of dedicated, intelligent, open-minded, hardworking individuals who came together for the sole purpose of achieving a shared objective has been exhilarating.

Knowing the power and strength that we can garner as a team gives me the courage to take on new challenges, of which there are many, in the year ahead.

We are seeing from the inside out, the myriad issues inherent in our election process. Working with the Ohio Voter Rights Coalition, The League of Women Voters of Ohio, our sister Leagues throughout Ohio, and the numerous civic organizations determined to set things right, we can begin the next four years with a clear sense of purpose, direction, and

Election: What Happened?

9:30 - 10:30a.m.

[Click here](#) to register for this virtual event

Featuring Tom Sutton, Political Science Professor, Baldwin Wallace, and Director, Community Research Institute

Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland and the LWV of Greater Cleveland

LWVAA Board Meetings

December	3
January	7
February	4
March	4
April	1
May	6
June 3	

6:30-8:00p.m.

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

passion.

Thank you for being part of the solution. However, understand that we are far from success.

Hang on, the fun is just beginning!

Rosanne L. Winter Ph.D.

Suffrage Exhibit

As the 2020 election concludes and the centennial of the 19th Amendment arrives, the Emily Davis Gallery's latest exhibition, Suffrage: Inequality. Persistence. Justice. honors the women who fought and continue to fight to protect and defend women's right to vote.

Suffrage: Inequality. Persistence. Justice. presents work from two Myers School of Art alums, Amber Anderson and Shani Richards, and five regional artists, including April Bleakney, Elizabeth Emery, Corrie Slawson, Adrienne Slane, and Rebekah Wilhelm. Suffrage will be on view through mid-December. Below is one of the works of art.

All events are located in Folk Hall on The University of Akron Main Campus and are free and open to the public, now through mid-December. Learn more [here](#).



Acme Community Cash Back

Please collect Acme receipts for the benefit of the LWVAA Education Fund! Acme receipts now through December 26 are eligible for cash back on selected items.

Please send them to LWVAA Education Fund, PO Box 46, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44222-0046.



2020 Decennial Census concludes

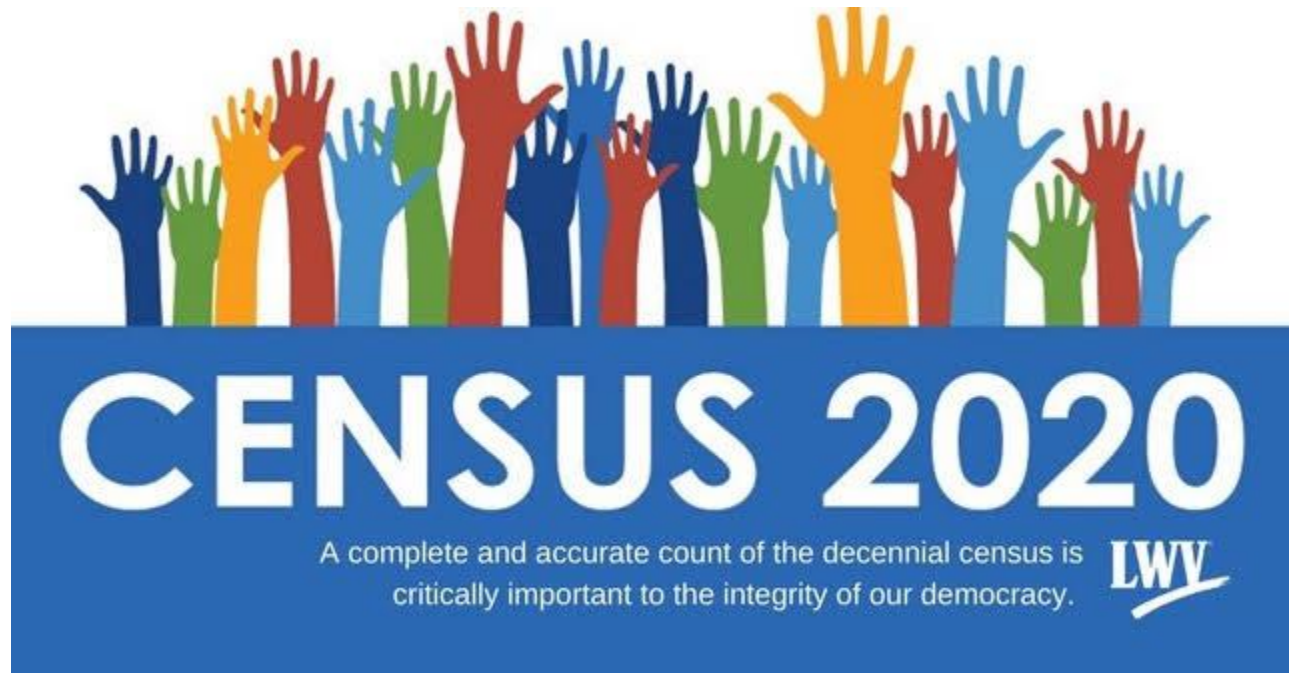
Submitted by Liz King

I put in decennial to get your attention and use a word seldom in our vocabulary meaning “every ten years” but onto the troubling status of another pillar of our democracy.

The 2020 Census calendar and activities were delayed as a result of the danger of the Corona virus. The Census Bureau, “long the gold standard for nonpartisan probity and statistics rigor in the federal government”, asked and implemented a four-month extension until the Administration in the form of Wilbur Ross, Director of Commerce, which houses the Bureau, shortened that timetable to September

30th.

Courts were involved and the Supreme Court order basically ended the Census enumeration in the middle of October, still short of the needed original extension.



The primary purpose of the Census data is to determine how many seats each state gets in the 435 member House of Representatives (Apportionment). The data also is the basis for allocating \$1.5 trillion per year in federal spending. This process has been walled off from partisan influence, set by law and open to public scrutiny.

There are three key points influencing the Census operation in the next two months that need to be monitored and ready for public action as well as court involvement:

(1) The Bureau is now required to keep a shortened deadline of Dec 31st to present the apportionment numbers to the President, who traditionally has accepted the total population by state, determined equal apportionment from that data and sent that to Congress.

(2) The Bureau has been directed to speed up their process and cannot include the normal review of group quarters, sites of large numbers of residents such as colleges, prisons and nursing homes to make sure all were counted.

(3) One current Justice Department legal filing states that the bureau "will provide the President with information" for the calculations. If the Census Bureau is not in charge of those total numbers; it will be unprecedented and subject to manipulation.

A historic action influencing the 2020 Census will be the Supreme Court Ruling, with arguments on November 30, regarding the case brought by the administration to exclude "aliens who are not in a lawful immigration status" from the apportionment base. The Census has always based the count on who is living in the United States of America on April 1st of that year.

LWV Observer Corps tests ballot system

Submitted by Ginny Melver, Pat Simons (League of Women Voters Hudson)

The League of Women Voters Akron Area October 22, 2020, Summit County Board of Elections

provided a legally required public test of the ballot tabulation system, a run of their absentee and early in person ballot counting machines. Leagues of Women Voters, Hudson and Akron Area, were able to observe.

This department has limited space, security cameras from every angle and climate controlled; Covid conditions made two public attendees, ABJ reporter and photographer and four staff a reasonable maximum. Systems Administrators, Sean Gaffney and Kevin Moreland, facilitated the Official Logic Accuracy Tests. All staff functions are balanced by one Democrat to one Republican.

The sample/test ballots were run through four M100's imitating polling results; all results were run through three high speed counters. Testing procedures checked, cross-checked and reconciled results by machine and by hand count with bipartisan agreement. The counter collated ballots into write-ins, counted and not counted; each one processed by designation.

Write ins and counted proceed while not counted ballots proceed to the Board for review/decision. Five Official Logic Accuracy Tests in total are required pre and post-election. All machines are currently serviced; M100's have back-up machines available and the three high speed counters have service staff ready for immediate response.

Besides the machines, there is always a paper record of all transactions. Public observation of the test run made the process and procedures transparent and accountable showing the ability to handle record number of early and absentee ballots.

LWV Ohio Advocacy Update

The end of the 2020 General Election will bring about another "lame duck" session in the Ohio General Assembly - the few weeks before a legislative session ends and many legislators are either termed or voted out. During this time, legislators work hard (and often with stealth) to see their priority issues to the finish line.

It is imperative that we closely follow key issues and priority legislation during this time and work hard to advocate for the issues that matter. LWVO will be sending out regular updates, action alerts, and rapid response requests to our members and followers via email and social media in the coming weeks.

Legislators are counting on your not paying attention and thinking you can't make a difference. Let's prove them wrong! Here are the some of the issues we'll be following:

Education: HB 305 Headed to the Finish Line: School funding may soon get the overhaul that has been needed since 1997 when the Ohio Supreme Court found the system to be unconstitutional! This is a historic LWVO priority. Thanks to the diligence and perseverance of Rep. John Patterson and Rep. Bob Cupp, a high-quality proposal with bi-partisan support in both houses will be taken up in House and Senate Finance committees during the week of November 10. Our advocacy can help preserve the bill as written and ensure action is taken by December.

Dark Money - Why House Bill 6 Should Be Repealed: House Bill 6, signed into law in July 2019, was highly unpopular and contentious from the start, and was later to become the center of a scandal that brought light to the dangers behind dark money and shook the confidence and trust of Ohioans. Former House Speaker Larry Householder and others were charged with using dark money from FirstEnergy to finance the campaigns of candidates that would support the nuclear bailout. It was bad legislation from the start and must be repealed in order for trust to be restored.



Human Trafficking: In July 2019 the Ohio Senate unanimously passed a bill that would protect 16 and 17-year-olds from prostitution charges in human trafficking cases. Unfortunately SB 13 is stuck in a House committee. Ohio is the only state in the nation that treats 16 and 17-year-olds differently from younger minors when it comes to sex trafficking cases. We can't allow this bill to die in the General Assembly.

Gun Violence is Spiking Across Ohio: The pandemic has highlighted a number of problems, including easy access to arms. Gun violence has risen dramatically in Ohio amidst the societal unrest we face. Governor DeWine has repeatedly called for legislative action on gun violence, and it is time that bipartisan solutions are found that respect the rights of responsible gun owners while curbing violence.

Keep your eye out for Action Alerts from LWVO starting this week!



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

Stay up-to-date with LWV Ohio

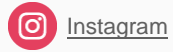
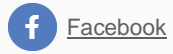
[Website](#)

[The Ohio Voter](#)

Stay up-to-date with LWVUS

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