

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE AKRON AREA
THE AKRON VOTER
Newsletter for LWVAA Members and Supporters

September, 2020

[Click here to confirm your Voter Registration by October 5](#)

2020 **General Election**
CANDIDATE FORUM

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 30
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

LOCATION: Virtual Forum
Please register at LWVAA.org

MODERATOR:
Nikki Marchmon-Boykin,
LWVAA member

Sponsored by:



Co-sponsored by:



Non-Partisan Informational Event
Covering Races in Summit County

Meet the Candidates for:

Common Pleas Court -
Domestic Relations

County Executive

County Prosecutor

County Clerk of Courts

County Sheriff

County Fiscal Officer

State Senate 28th District

State Representative 34th District

State Representative 35th District

State Representative 36th District

State Representative 38th District

Learn more by visiting VOTE411.org for a
customized voters guide.





LWVAA

Upcoming Events

Respond today to the U.S. Census by September 30!

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 September 6, the response rate was 73.1% in Summit County compared to 69.5% for the State of Ohio.

A Message From the President

Dear Members,

“Trial by fire.”

“Survival of the Fittest.”

“What doesn’t kill you, makes you stronger.”

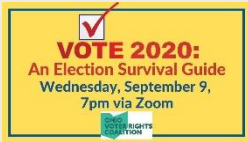
You have heard these phrases used to describe difficult situations. You may have uttered them yourself. Watching the news lately, I have even thought, “This is almost Biblical!” Fires in California. Hurricanes in the Gulf States. Millions infected with Coronavirus. Citizens marching in protests. Record-setting heat waves. Rising sea levels.

Can our governmental leaders help us find a way through? Will our democracy survive?

Yes, most likely, we shall survive. We will not be more fit or stronger, but surely some of us will be wiser. The National, State and Local Leagues of Women Voters are certainly becoming wiser. The weight of our national problems is straining our election systems to the limit, and we see firsthand where the weaknesses are. Every barrier between a citizen and the ballot box must be removed.

Beginning with a Voter Verification and Registration System, continuing with secure mail-in ballots that do not require signature matching or postage and are sent to every registered voter, and finishing with numerous early-voting locations and drop boxes that make it possible to vote without long drives, our election system can be made stronger.

You must become part of the fitness program. Become wiser about the barriers between citizens and the ballot box. Start by registering for the [Real Talk Webinar](#) League of Women Voters of Ohio



**September 9,
2020**

**VOTE 2020: An
Election Survival
Guide**

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

[RSVP here](#) for this Webinar by [Camille Wimbish](#), Election Administration Director, Ohio Voice

Sponsored by Ohio Voter Rights Coalition

[RSVP here for our upcoming virtual forum, Following the Money: The History and Where We Are Now.](#)

**September 14,
2020**

Real Talk - Access and Barriers to Voting: Where is Ohio today?

"Understanding Ohio Elections: How to Vote - Access, Challenges, Rights"

7:00 - 8:30p.m.

[RSVP here](#) for the link to join online

The second session is September 21, details below.

2-Part Panel Discussion: **Access & Barriers to Voting: Where is Ohio Today?**



Then start asking questions about this issue of every candidate running for office. Be sure to join us for our [Candidate Forum](#) on Wednesday, September 30 at 6 – 8pm (an invitation will be coming to you soon).

Get your copy of our [Vote 411 Voter Guide](#) and study it. Vote for candidates who will work for Voter Rights! Then call and write to those candidates repeatedly and insist they address the issues surrounding our electoral system. And don't forget to follow the Ohio redistricting process when it starts next year.

All this work matters. This is what it takes to become a stronger democracy that can survive the fires, floods, divisiveness, and plagues of time.
Rosanne L. Winter Ph.D.

Real Talk - Access and Barriers to Voting

Join LWV Ohio for a 2-part panel

discussion examining Ohio's election system and its impact on voter access – what are the access points, where are the barriers, and how do Ohioans ensure their vote is counted.

OPENING SPEAKER:
Dr. Deborah Turner,
President, LWVUS

PANEL MODERATED
BY: Jen Miller,
Executive Director,
LWV Ohio

Hosted by League of Women
Voters of Ohio

In partnership with: Ohio Voter
Rights Coalition, Common
Cause, All Voting Is Local, A.
Philip Randolph Institute,
OhioVotes, and Coalition on
Homelessness and Housing in
Ohio.

Real Talk Leagues: LWV
Hudson, LWV Greater
Cleveland, LWV Akron Area,
LWV Kent, LWV Canton Area,
LWV Oberlin Area

**September 21,
2020**

**Real Talk - Access
and Barriers to
Voting: Where is
Ohio today?**

"Equitable Voter
Access: The Long
Road to Access – Are
We There Yet?"

7:00 - 8:30p.m.

[RSVP here](#) for the link
to join online

*The first session is
September 14, details
above.*

OPENING SPEAKER:
Dr. Elizabeth Smith-
Pryor, Professor of
History, Kent State

Monday, Sept 14, 2020, 7:00-8:30pm ET
**Understanding Ohio Elections: How to Vote -
Access, Challenges, Rights**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

This discussion details Ohio's 3 options for voting,
addresses challenges with in-person and mail-in
voting, and offers best practices to ensure your vote
counts.

OPENING SPEAKER:
Dr. Deborah Turner, President, LWVUS

MODERATED BY:
Jen Miller, Executive Director, LWV Ohio

PANEL:
➤ Pooja Chaudhuri, Associate Counsel, Lawyers'
Committee for Civil Rights
➤ André Washington, President, A. Philip Randolph
Institute of Ohio
➤ Kayla S. Griffin, Ohio State Director, All Voting Is
Local, Ohio
➤ Terry L. Burton, Director, Wood County Board of
Elections

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF OHIO

real talk
2-Part Panel Discussion
Access and Barriers to Voting: Where is Ohio today?

Understanding Ohio Elections
How to Vote - Access, Challenges, Rights
Monday, Sept 14, 2020
7:00-8:30pm ET
OPENING REMARKS
Dr. Deborah Turner, President, LWVUS

Equitable Voter Access
The Long Road to Access - Are We There Yet?
Monday, Sept 21, 2020
7:00-8:30pm ET
OPENING REMARKS
Dr. Elizabeth Smith-Pryor, Kent State Univ

Monday, Sept 21, 2020, 7:00-8:30pm ET
**Equitable Voter Access: The Long Road to
Access – Are We There Yet?**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

University

PANEL MODERATED
BY: Jocelyn L. Travis,
Voter Services Chair,
LWV Ohio; Organizing
Manager, Sierra Club

**September 22,
2020**

**Voter Registration
Drive**

12:00-4:00p.m.

Arlington Church of
God, 539 S Arlington
Street, Suite One

Voter registration,
Census check, safety
kit giveaways, ice
cream truck to
celebrate National
Voter Registration Day

Hosted by Akron Votes
2020 - follow [Facebook
event](#) for more
information

**September 22,
2020**



**National Voter
Registration Day**

Follow LWVAA and
LWVO on social media
for events targeted for
this important day!

The second part of this series explores the long hard road to voter access within traditionally marginalized communities. What unique pathways have been cleared... what specific barriers remain... and how do we use the hard-won victories of the past to propel us forward.

OPENING SPEAKER:

Dr. Elizabeth Smith-Pryor, Professor of History, Kent State University

MODERATED BY:

Jocelyn L. Travis, Voter Services Chair, LWV Ohio;
Organizing Manager, Sierra Club

PANEL:

- Lilly Cavanaugh, Executive Director, Latino Affairs Commission
- Rev. Raymond Greene, Executive Director, The Freedom Bloc
- Kevin Truitt, Legal Advocacy Director, Disability Rights Ohio
- Kevin Walter, Advocacy & Community Outreach, International Institute of Akron
- Maria Bruno, Civic Engagement Coordinator & Policy Analyst, Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio

Hosted by League of Women Voters of Ohio

In partnership with: Ohio Voter Rights Coalition, Common Cause, All Voting Is Local, A. Philip Randolph Institute, OhioVotes, and Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio.

Real Talk Leagues: LWV Hudson, LWV Greater Cleveland, LWV Akron Area, LWV Kent, LWV Canton Area, LWV Oberlin Area

**September 30,
2020**



**LWVAA General
Election Candidate
Forum**

6:00-8:00p.m.

Non-Partisan
informational event
covering races in
Summit County

Moderated by LWVAA
member Nikki
Marchmon-Boykin

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

October 5, 2020

**Ohio General
Election Voter
Registration deadline**

[Click here](#) to check
your registration status
or to register

October 6, 2020

**Early Voting in
Summit County
begins**

[Click here](#) to check
your registration status
or to register

Project GRAD Akron

Submitted by Laurie Curfman

**Project GRAD Akron's Annual Achieving Dreams
Celebration will be held Saturday, October 3,
2020, at 6:30 pm.**

This year we are especially excited to have The
Honorable Stacey Abrams as our Keynote Speaker
at this virtual event..

Project GRAD Akron has been serving students and
families in the Akron Public Schools since
2002. The heart of their work is showing students
the pathways to a successful life - academic
achievement, high school graduation, and attending
and persisting in college.

The event is our signature fundraiser. [Click here for
tickets](#). Proceeds from the event will support the
programs, services, and scholarship fund off Project
GRAD Akron.

For more information, please contact Project GRAD
Akron [via email](#) or at 330-761-3113.



Acme Community Cash Back to benefit LWVAA

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

**October 20,
2020**

**Recommended
deadline to send in
Ohio absentee ballot**

[Click here](#) to request an
absentee ballot, or
check the status

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

Make your voting plan today!

**November 3,
2020**

**Ohio General
Election**

[Click here](#) to find your
polling place



**LWVAA Board
Meetings**

October	1
November	5
December 3	

6:30-8:00p.m.

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

[Click here to track your absentee ballot application](#)

LWVAA Board Updates

VOTER GUIDE

Barbara Hunsicker and the Voter Services, Programs and Information Committee members are working hard at getting The League's **Vote411 Voter Guide** completed and disseminated. Invitations to participate in VOTE411 online and print voter guides were sent to 27 candidates on August 25. Candidates have until September 15 to respond to be included in the print voter guide, but late responses will be included in online versions.

VOTER SERVICES, REGISTRATION, EDUCATION

Submitted by Gloria Irwin

The November election is less than 60 days away. What we do as League members takes on added importance as this election season comes to a close.

The Akron and Hudson Leagues are collaborating with the AkronVotes2020 coalition to plan events for National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 22. The Akron-Summit County Public Library system has joined the effort and will offer drive-through voter registrations at some library locations. We will need volunteers to help out and will let you know when and where you can contribute.



Three Options

- 1 No-Excuse Absentee Ballot (By Mail or Drop Box)**

Voters registered by Monday, Sept 7 will receive an **APPLICATION** for a ballot in the mail, which must be returned by Thursday, Oct 15. Applied-for ballots will be sent starting Tuesday, Oct 6. Fill out ballot and envelope, then mail with **TWO STAMPS** no later than **Saturday, Oct 17**, or take to the secure **DROP BOX** at Summit County Board of Elections, 470 Grant St, Akron **by Tuesday, Nov 3 at 7:30pm.**
- 2 Early In-Person Voting**

Early Vote Center, 500 Grant St, Akron, beginning Oct 6.

Mon-Fri	Oct 6-16	8-5pm	Mon-Fri	Oct 26-30	8-7pm
Mon-Fri	Oct 19-23	8-6pm	Sat	Oct 31	8-4pm
Sat	Oct 24	8-4pm	Sun	Nov 1	1-5pm
Sun	Oct 25	1-5pm	Mon	Nov 2	8-2pm
- 3 In-Person Voting at the Polls on Tuesday, Nov 3**

The number of polling locations may be reduced this year because of the pandemic. Lines for voting may be long. Plan to go as early as possible. **Polls are open 6:30am-7:30pm.**

Questions: Call the Summit County Board of Elections 330.643.5200 or summitcountyboe.gov



Interest has increased in helping with the postcard campaign targeting registered voters in Akron. Together with partners the NAACP; sororities Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta and Sigma Gamma Rho, the Hudson League and the Unitarian-Universalist Women's Association, we will mail out 8,500 postcards

Members are also distributing 150 colorful posters announcing this year's voter registration deadline. Members take the posters to groceries, pharmacies, community bulletin boards and drive-throughs in their neighborhoods throughout the Akron area. If you'd like to get involved in either of these campaigns, contact [Gloria Irwin](#).

ADVOCACY

Submitted by Jackie Derrow

LWV Ohio Challenges State's Ban on Additional Ballot Drop Boxes for General Election. Drop boxes are an important option for people who vote from home.

On August 26, the League of Women Voters of Ohio filed a lawsuit against Secretary of State LaRose challenging his unconstitutional August 12 order limiting drop boxes to one per county. The League asks the court to rescind this order and adopt a reasonable drop box-to-voter ratio for each county. Joining the League are Ohio A. Philip Randolph Institute, the Ohio State Conference of the NAACP, and seven individual voters.

"Access to the vote depends on safe, reliable options for casting a ballot, and limiting drop

boxes to one per county severely diminishes this access. To do so during a deadly pandemic is negligent and foolhardy,” said Jen Miller, executive director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio. “Ohio should emulate other states by allowing multiple, secure drop boxes per county, otherwise communities of color, rural Ohioans, immunocompromised individuals, and income-sensitive voters lacking affordable transportation face unfair barriers to the ballot. As the COVID-19 virus continues to threaten the lives of Ohioans, the State should be focused on expanding safe voting options, not reducing those we do have.”

What can you do? Contact the Secretary of State Frank LaRose at **614.466.2655** and let him know Ohio voters need additional drop boxes.

OHIO LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS: What will be on the near-term Ohio Statehouse Agenda this fall? Prepaid postage for returned ballots? State lawmakers have asked for more time to consider Secretary of State Frank LaRose’s request to spend up to \$3 million on pre-paid postage for absentee ballot envelopes, Andrew Tobias of Cleveland.com reports. LaRose now plans to send the request to the state Controlling Board on Sept. 14. While LaRose says his office could provide the pre-paid postage despite the tight timeframe, it is unlikely that the Controlling Board will approve.

Repeal of House Bill 6? The State Senate returned to Columbus on September 2, for their first full session since June 30. While a majority of Ohioans expect a swift repeal of HB 6, the \$61 million racketeering scheme behind the original legislation that led to the indictments of former House Speaker Larry Householder and four others, the new House Speaker, Bob Cupp is taking a different approach.

As reported by Statehouse News Bureau’s Andy Chow, Cupp is establishing a special committee to hold hearings on the law and its possible repeal. Democrats are decrying this approach as a delaying tactic. Nearly every Ohioan can expect an increase in their electric bill next year if the scandal-ridden legislation isn’t repealed.

What can you do? Contact your legislators to demand repeal of HB 6.

HB 6 demonstrates the influence of dark money. A number of bills have been introduced to offer greater transparency to the role of undisclosed financial sources in elections. Common Cause is advocating for support of HB 737, others are supporting HB 739 saying it’s more comprehensive.

What can you do? Contact your legislators to let them know you demand increased transparency in our elections.

Bipartisan proposals languish. Bob Cupp, the House leader who replaced Larry Householder, is not expecting to advance much legislation during the lame duck session this fall. Meanwhile, as Terra Goodnight of Innovation Ohio reports, the following bills await action and will need to be re-introduced in January if no action is taken.

- The Ohio Fairness Act, to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation
- Ending Ohio's unsustainable private school voucher program
- Reform of Ohio's property wealth-based formula for funding schools
- Bipartisan gun safety reforms like a red flag law and safe storage requirements
- Nuclear bailout repeal and restoration of renewable energy and efficiency standards
- Ending the experiment with Academic Distress commissions
- Modernizing Ohio's election system including online ballot requests and automatic voter registration
- Drug sentencing reform
- Aisha's Law

As you consider your votes this fall, ask the candidates where they stand on the issues important to you.

NATIONAL BRIEFS:

Rejected ballots. More than 500,00 ballots were rejected in primaries around the country, reports Elise Viebeck of the Washington Post. These rejections illustrate “how missed delivery deadlines, inadvertent mistakes and uneven enforcement of the rules could disenfranchise voters and affect the outcome of the presidential election.”

Ohio threw out one in every 100 ballots in the primary election, reports Dan Horn in the Cincinnati Enquirer. Ballots were rejected due to:

- Missed delivery deadlines (which could be alleviated by more drop boxes as advocated by LWVO in its 8/26/20 lawsuit)
- Signature mismatches (the LWVO signature mismatch lawsuit that is still making its way through the legal process)
- Simple errors

In a presidential race that may be decided by a few thousand votes this high rate of ballot rejections could influence the outcome, reports Horn.

Tributes to LWVAA member Harriet Cutler

Harriet Cutler was a joyous, insightful and fun member of our community. Ned met her at King School in the 1980's and I met her when I joined LWVAA in the 1990's.

Working with Harriet always opened you up to her unique perspective on life and her ability to get things done. Once, we were charged with driving around Ward 4 with a megaphone to encourage people to vote. As serious as the project was, we laughed a lot, especially when she had me climb in and out of the window of the front seat because the door was broken. I happily did so because she would have done the same thing! Working with Harriet was ALWAYS an adventure because in her quest for giving and volunteering, she created an atmosphere of childlike wonder with a piercing view of the truth.

She taught me how to knit her special hats for her Findley Elementary School readers. I always looked forward to seeing Harriet and Harloe at League and other activities throughout Akron. They seemed as committed to Akron as they certainly were to one another. We will miss Harriet and her laugh, seeing her around town with Harloe, her infectious spirit. It was fun and educational knowing Harriet.

Jodie & Ned DeLamatre



Harriet Cutler has died and we will miss her. She was a longtime member of the League and volunteered when you needed her. She and Harloe, her husband, could be counted upon to attend meetings and candidate forums. They were always there and asked questions on cards with a curiosity and need to understand. Harriet read a lot and when you spoke with her, you always came away with a book recommendation.

In year's past, she was on the LWVAA Board and, at the time, we met in member's homes. I remember vividly several meetings in the Cutler's home when we had controversial topics to solve and Harriet's comments to help resolve them. In recent years, she took on the task of mailing Voters and other items to those members who don't have email.

She did not have email, so she willingly took on that task. It was only poor health that caused her to pass along that volunteer job. Our very best wishes to Harloe and her family. Harriet RIP.

Ardith Keck



[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

[Website](#)

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