



March, 2018



FREE PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

Redistricting and Gerrymandering in America and Ohio:

The Effort to Reform How Districts are Drawn

Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 6:00-7:30pm

Akron-Summit County Public Library Auditorium
60 South High Street, Akron, Ohio

Free and Open to the Public

Moderator: Bruce Wings, Editor, Akron Beacon Journal featuring **Panelists:**



David Daley, National political writer, senior fellow for FairVote, author of *Ratf**ked: The True Story Behind the Secret Plan to Steal America's Democracy* (W.W. Norton/Liveright), frequent lecturer and media source about gerrymandering, former editor-in-chief of salon.com, former CEO/Publisher of Connecticut News Project

Catherine Turcer, Director, Common Cause Ohio, Co-leader of Fair Districts Ohio

Vernon Sykes, Ohio State Senator 28th District and longtime advocate of redistricting reform

This forum will look at the Redistricting issue from a national and local perspective, with experts in each area on the panel. The discussion will center around the latest information and expectations for 2018, the 2020+ census, and more.

Sponsored by League of Women Voters of the Akron Area, The Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, Akron NAACP, Akron Press Club, with support from LWV of Greater Cleveland



Learn more at lwvaa.org



LWVAA

Upcoming

Events

March 21, 2018

**Public Forum on
Gerrymandering**

**Akron-Summit County
Public Library**
60 S High Street, Akron, Ohio

6:00-7:30 p.m.



Featured speakers:

Author David Daley
Catherine Turcer
Vernon Sykes

Moderator:

Bruce Winges, Editor Akron

A Message From the President

Over the past nine months, volunteers all over the state have gathered over 213,000 signatures to qualify the Fair Districts constitutional amendment to end gerrymandering for the November 2018 ballot.

In addition, during January, the statehouse committee on redistricting floated a few alternative proposals that would have done little to address the problem. The initial proposals received resounding opposition from the Fair Districts coalition and thousands of voters across the state.

On February 5, one day before the deadline for placing a constitutional amendment on the May 8 primary ballot, the state Senate and Fair Districts coalition reached an agreement that meets most of the conditions of the Fair Districts proposal. It will:

- End the partisan process for drawing congressional districts, and replace it with a process with the goals of promoting bipartisanship, keeping local communities together, and having district boundaries that are more compact.
- Ensure a transparent process by requiring public hearings and allowing public submission of proposed plans.

Beacon Journal

Open to the public, free of charge

Co-sponsored by The Ray C Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, The Akron NAACP, The Akron Press Club

Thank you to League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland for the support

April 5, 2018

LWVAA Board Meeting

1250 W. Exchange St., Akron, Ohio

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Board Members only

April 9, 2018

Summit County Candidates Forum

Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 S High Street, Akron, Ohio

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Free and open to the public

- Require the General Assembly or the Ohio Redistricting Commission to adopt new congressional districts by a bipartisan vote for the plan to be effective for the full 10-year period.
- Require that if a plan is adopted by the General Assembly without significant bipartisan support, it cannot be effective for the entire 10-year period and must comply with explicit anti-gerrymandering requirements.

Even as the Fair Districts coalition supports Issue 1, we continue to collect signatures so in the event Issue 1 does not pass, we will be within reach of the required number of valid signatures to place it on the November ballot.

Either way, it looks like Ohio's redistricting reform will be complete with a fairer process for drawing congressional lines along with the state district reform from 2015.

Barbara Hunsicker
LWVAA President

Fair Districts Update

Submitted by Jackie Derrow, President Elect

Ohio League just reported that we have reached 213,000 signatures of the 305,000+ needed to get our Fair Districts ballot initiative on the November

April 26, 2018

Forum on Climate Change

**Unitarian Universalist
Church**

3300 Morewood Road,
Akron, Ohio 44333

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Free and open to the public

May 3, 2018

LWVAA Board Meeting

1250 W. Exchange St., Akron,
Ohio

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Board Members only

May 14, 2018

**Roundtable on School
Violence**

**Akron-Summit County
Public Library**
60 S High Street, Akron, Ohio

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Free and open to the public

ballot. Signature collection is continuing even though the League is firmly committed to supporting Issue 1 on the May 8 ballot.

Our further collecting efforts are simply as “insurance” against the possible failure of Issue 1 in May. In that event, we want to be assured that we have sufficient signatures to qualify for the fall. We can’t allow the redistricting status quo continue.

Voter Services Updates

Submitted by Jackie Derrow, President Elect

We are very excited about two important upcoming programs: "Redistricting and Gerrymandering in America and Ohio - the Effort to Reform How Districts Are Drawn" on March 21 from 6-7:30pm at the Akron-Summit Public Library; and our "Summit County Primary Candidate Forum" on April 9 from 6:30-8pm also at the Akron-Summit Public Library.

The first program features national political writer David Daley, author of "Ratf**ked: The Secret Plan to Steal America’s Democracy," a chilling history of how gerrymandering has been used to serve partisan goals and diminish the rights of voters to fair representation. Also featured are Catherine Turcer, Executive Director of Common Cause Ohio and Fair Districts Ohio Co-leader, and State Senator Vernon Sykes of Ohio’s 28th District.

The tremendous pressure brought forward by the Fair Districts petition signature drive helped spur the compromise that led to Senate Joint Resolution 5, now Issue 1, which will appear on the May 8

June 7, 2018

2018 LWVAA Annual Meeting



Café Bricco
Doubletree Hotel
3150 W Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44333

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Members and their guests
welcome

Primary ballot. Senator Sykes' efforts within the Senate were also key in bringing this bipartisan redistricting reform measure to fruition. Moderating our panel will be Bruce Wings, editor of the Akron Beacon Journal.

They say that largely due to gerrymandering elections are determined during the primaries. So, our second program will be an important opportunity to meet the candidates who you'll be eligible to vote for on the May 8 ballot. We've invited the candidates running for the following offices: Summit County Council At-Large; State Representatives for the 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th and 38th districts; and State Senator for the 27th district. This program is jointly sponsored by the Akron Area, Hudson and Tallmadge leagues.



And as you prepare to vote in the Primary, don't forget to use VOTE411.org, the League's website for nonpartisan, personalized voter information. Along with our Hudson and Tallmadge colleagues we are currently updating the site with Issue and candidate races so it will be ready for your use when early voting begins on April 10.

To use VOTE411.org, simply go to the website where it will ask for your street address, city, state and zip code. Then press enter and you're on your way to view the candidates and issues you are eligible to vote for. If you haven't tried the site, please do.

August 23, 2018

2018 LWVAA Picnic



Shady Hollow Lodge
Sand Run Metropark
1750 Sand Run Parkway
Akron, Ohio

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Members and their guests
welcome



[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](#)

** LWV Ohio has moved! The new address is 100 E. Broad St. Suite 1310, Columbus, OH 43215

Please update your records accordingly and stop by if you're in the area!**

Stay up-to-date with LWVUS

[Website](#)

[The National Voter](#)