



THE AKRON VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area

April, 2018

[April 9 is the deadline to register to vote for May 8 primary election!](#)



Summit County Primary Candidates Forum

Summit County Candidates for U.S. Congressional, Ohio Senate,
Ohio Representatives, County Council-at-Large

For the Primary Election Tuesday, May 8

Monday, April 9, 2018, 6:00-8:00pm

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

Free and Open to the Public

*Forum sponsored by the Leagues of Women Voters
of the Akron Area, Tallmadge, and Hudson*

Learn more by visiting www.Vote411.org
for a customized Voters Guide





LWVAA Upcoming Events

April 9, 2018

Summit County Candidates Forum

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

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Moderator: Terrie Nielsen, Kent
League of Women Voters

Over 20 candidates will attend!

Free and open to the public

April 22, 2018

Earth Day!



April 26, 2018

A Message From the President

Optimism is running high that Issue 1, the redistricting reform constitutional amendment that is on the May primary ballot will pass. While this is a big step toward improving the democratic process, it is not the solution for all the problems with the election system. Laws and policies that result in creating barriers for some voters must be reversed in order to achieve the intent of the constitution.

Shortened early voting hours and days, obstacles to registering to vote, and misinformation at the polls that a person is not eligible to vote all contribute to the lack of convenience for voters. Some messaging in social media also discourages people from voting.

The rate of voting in the US is low, but in primary elections is dismal. Low rates skew the results of elections, which should reflect the preferences of all citizens. It's been documented that minorities, young people and lower-income citizens have a lower rate of voting than white, middle and high income people.

Studies conducted in recent years identify problems and some solutions. Key findings include:

- Personal contact with voters or prospective voters from trusted sources by phone, email, text messages or in person is the most effective way to motivate people to vote.
- Repeated contact reinforces the message and emphasizes the importance of individuals' votes.

**Climate Change: Real or Imagined
and Why Should I Care?**

Unitarian Universalist Church

3300 Morewood Road,
Akron, Ohio 44333

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Featured Speakers:

Doug Bell, Ohio Regional Director of
Citizens Climate Lobby

Scott Sheridan, PhD, KSU Chair
Department of Geography

Co-sponsored by the Unitarian
Universalist Church of Akron
Stewardship of the Earth Committee

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

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Convenience factors (more days or hours available for voting, allowing absentee voting without having to explain why, early voting and voting on weekends) play a part in increasing voting. These options are not utilized by minorities, youth and low income voters to the extent that middle and upper class voters are.

A highly effective change to increase voter turnout is allowing voters to register and vote on election day. Making it a one step process without cut-off dates prior to election day can significantly increase voting, particularly among low income groups. This is not a new or unique practice in the United States. Utah recently joined 15 other states and the District of Columbia in allowing voter registration on election day. North Dakota completely eliminated voter registration in 1951.

Another effective reform is automatic registration, where citizens who have contact with state agencies such as are automatically registered unless they opt out. Often called, "motor voter" laws, this reform is spreading and as of February 2018 a total of 10 states, both red and blue, and the District of Columbia have adopted it.

In regard to the upcoming elections, we have time to make a difference in the number of voters who cast their ballots. The deadline for voter registration for the primary election is April 9. Between then and election day on May 9, contacting registered voters directly and urging them to vote can increase turnout. Urging your friends, family and neighbors to vote will make a difference. It doesn't cost anything but a little time.

Barbara Hunsicker
LWVAA President

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

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

Climate Change: Real or Imagined and Why Should I Care? April 26

The League of Women Voters of the Akron Area will sponsor a topical event on climate change with two distinguished speakers.

Climate Change: Real or Imagined and Why Should I Care? will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 3300 Morewood Road, Akron, Ohio, on Thursday, April 26 from 7:00-9:00 pm.

The featured speakers will be: Doug Bell, Ohio Regional Director of Citizens Climate Lobby, and Scott Sheridan, PhD, Kent State University Chair for the Department of Geography. Scott is also the editor of various environmental and biometeorological publications.

The event is free and open to the public, and will be co-sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron Stewardship of the Earth Committee. For more details visit www.lwvaa.org

Fair Districts = Fair Elections

Vote Yes on Issue 1 - We can't stop now

Submitted by Jackie Derrow, President Elect

We've come a long way with the Fair Districts campaign, achieving a compromise with the legislature that is now Issue 1, the Bipartisan Redistricting Reform Amendment. Issue 1 will appear on the May 8 primary ballot. Our major task now is to get out the vote and assure that the citizens of Summit County understand how Issue 1 benefits them.

The bill, would require 50 percent of the minority party's votes to approve a congressional district map for 10 years. That map would have to keep 65 counties whole, only split up to 18 counties once, and up to five counties twice. The proposed changes would take effect for the next redistricting process slated for 2021, following the 2020 census.

The amendment needs a simple majority of votes on May 8 to become part of the Ohio Constitution. If passed, Issue 1 would make Ohio the first state to require a certain level of support from the two major parties to approve a congressional redistricting plan in the state legislature.

How can you help?

Vote: Early voting begins April 10 at the Board of Elections, 470 Grant St., Akron. Alternatively, you can request an Absentee Ballot. Absentee ballot applications must be received at the Board of Elections by noon, May 5. For an absentee ballot application, [go to this site](#) (which will open a PDF)

Post a "Vote Yes on Issue 1" yard sign:

Email jderrow@icloud.com if you want a sign. Locations in high visibility areas are especially desirable.

Take a shift at the Board of Elections:

Look for SignUpGenius requests seeking volunteers for a 2-hour shift to remind voters to Vote Yes on Issue 1.

Take a shift at a Polling location on May 8:

Again, look for SignUpGenius requests.

Summit County Primary Candidates Forum April 9

Submitted by Jackie Derrow, President Elect

The Akron Area, Hudson and Tallmadge leagues are joining together to host a Summit County Candidates Forum from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Akron-Summit County Public Library, 60 S. High St., Akron.

The forum will host candidates running for Summit County Council at-large, state representative, state senate and U.S. Congress. At this writing, 18 candidates plan to attend.

The forum, moderated by Terrie Nielsen of the Kent LWV, will be conducted in two segments: one covering the Summit County at-large race and the other on the state and U.S. legislative races.

GET INVOLVED



The Summit County Council at-large segment will include the candidates running for three open seats. The format will be a moderated question and answer exchange. Candidates will be asked to give an opening statement after which they will respond to questions.

Candidates for U.S. Congress, state representative and state senate will each be given time to make a statement on why they are running for office, their qualifications and positions.

The forum is free and open to the public. Please encourage your friends and family to attend.

Remember that we still have very gerrymandered districts and if and until that changes, most general election outcomes are determined in the primaries. Make your voice heard: Become informed and vote!

Go to www.VOTE411.org for Non-partisan Voter Information

Submitted by Jackie Derrow, President Elect

Your LWV-hosted, one-stop shop for voter information, [VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) is ready for your use. Thanks to the hard work and collaboration of Akron Area, Hudson and Tallmadge volunteers Kathy Duncan, Bev Dorson and Nancy Treichler, this on-line voter guide is populated with information posted by the candidates themselves as well as information on state and local Issues populated by the League.



It's easy to use: Just type in your address and follow the commands and you'll be led to a sample ballot that identifies all of the races for which you're eligible to vote.

To help promote VOTE411.org, the LWV Akron Area Education Fund has once again funded bus advertisements that will run on major routes throughout Summit County. Let us know if you see them and share your opinion at lwvaa@lwvaa.org.

New member profile: Susan Handa

Welcome Susan Handa to LWVAA! Below is a little more about her passions and why she joined us.

I have been aware of the League of Women Voters for years and respected their nonpartisan exploration of issues.

I decided to become involved now because I've been increasingly worried about the rancorous nature of our politics, and more recently about the diminishment of acknowledged fair and fact based information.

I think the League's reputation is still intact and therefore serves a useful function in moderating candidate debates and educating the public.

My two passions: environment, especially climate, and democracy, both of which I feel are seriously endangered.

I have been working with the local Akron chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby to educate about the dangers of manmade climate change and to encourage our members of congress to address that issue with urgency. My limited experience of grassroots lobbying has led me to realize that there is more to learn about the legislative process- and to value the CCL approach to advocacy: respectful, helpful, persistent.

As for the importance of voting:

“Every election is determined by the people who show up.”

— Larry J. Sabato, Pendulum Swing

No matter how much money is spent, the outcome is determined by the people who show up.

In Virginia's Dec. 2017 election, the out come was decided by one vote, then a recount, then a drawing from a bowl. If you were the one more person who could have cast a vote and didn't, how dumb is that?

In free time, I read, garden, travel, and enjoy dinner parties!

A Brief History of the League of Women Voters

Submitted by Ardith Keck, LWVAA Membership Chair

The League of Women Voters is 98 years old. It began when women gained the right to vote in 1920 with the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the US. Prior to that, women were barred from child custody, owning property, any public speaking profession. And that's 144 years after the Declaration of Independence.

If you aren't familiar with these names and you are a woman, you should be: Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Alice Paul.

The last of these, Alice Paul, led a group of 33 women suffragists to picket the White House in 1917 and they were arrested for “obstructing sidewalk traffic” and put into jail. One night 40 prison guards wielding clubs and with their warden's blessing went on a rampage and the women were beaten, chained, choked, slammed, kicked until they lost consciousness or lay there bleeding. For weeks, the only water was from an open pail and their food was infested with worms.

They got word out about their conditions and that ended the torture and they were released. I shortened the descriptions of the text, but we owe a debt of gratitude to all the women who finally got us the right to vote. It wasn't easy.

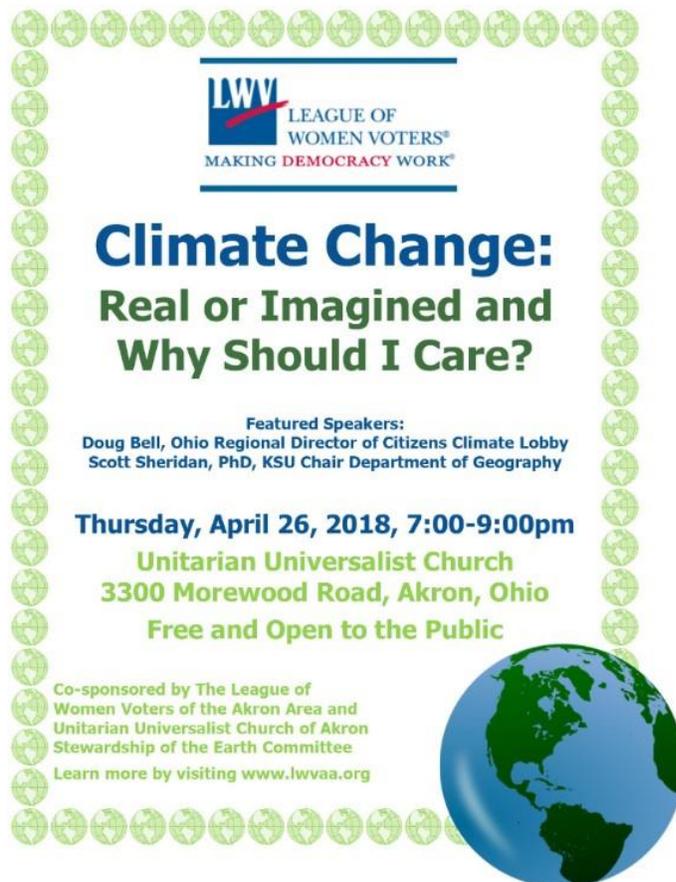
The LWV was formed in 1920, 6 months after the 19th Amendment passed because it was thought that women would need help in becoming thoughtful and informed citizens who would change politics and improve their country. The purpose of the League is the same today as it was then: “A nonpartisan, political organization whose purpose is to encourage the informed and active participation of all citizens in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.”

Membership is open to all citizens over 16, men as well as women. Changing the name from Women Voters is probably not possible because of its historical significance and recognition. The League provides factual information on government, political parties, voting procedures, election issues and candidates.

League positions are taken on issues, but never on candidates. League positions are the result of members all over the country seeking information on an issue to be studied, being on a committee doing the study, holding lengthy discussion on the issue and reaching consensus or agreement. Many people are surprised to learn that the League concentrates on other issues besides voting.

All of the following have been studied and we have positions which allow us to act: Health Care, Campaign Finance Reform, Recycling Waste and Pollution Control, the right to privacy in reproductive choices, Child Care, Land Use Planning and Zoning, Schools and School Financing, Housing, Juvenile Justice, the death penalty and the list goes on. Then action, including testifying before governmental bodies, lobbying, monitoring, letters, telephone, emails, and on. And we try to use the media and social media to alert the public.

Learn more about League [here](#).



LWV LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK®

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Scott Sheridan, PhD, KSU Chair Department of Geography

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

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