

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

May, 2019

[LWVUS positions on issues have been newly updated and published. To find them click here then go to "Impact on Issues 2018-2020."](#)

Please join us for the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area

## 2019 Annual Meeting

Special Guest: Iris Meltzer, LWVO Board

Thursday, June 6, 2019

5:30pm Meet & Greet

6:00pm Dinner

7:00pm Business Meeting

**Bravo Cucina Italia Summit Mall, 3265 W Market Street, Fairlawn, OH 44333**  
Family style dinner includes Salads, Pastas, Chicken Marsala, Beverage, & Dessert

Cost is \$30. Please RSVP by June 1<sup>st</sup> to [LWVAA.ORG](http://LWVAA.ORG)  
or send a check to LWVAA, PO Box 5449, Akron OH 44334



[VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG)  
[Click here to get](#)

## May 7 Primary Election info



**LWVAA**

**Upcoming**

**Events**

**May 7, 2019**

**Summit County Primary  
Election**

Polls open 6:30am - 7:30pm

Find details [here](#) and launch [VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG) to get information about candidates and your polling location

## **A Message From the President**

Dear Members,

April has been a whirlwind month, topped off with the news that **Ohio's U.S. Congressional Districts have been ruled unconstitutional and must be redrawn in time for the 2020 election!!** Our work on redistricting reform led to this momentous decision and we should all take a moment to breathe in this victory. Read the full story below.

We held our Money in Politics Forum on April 10. Our expert panel, moderated by retired ABJ editor Bruce Wings, led a lively discussion that centered on campaign finance and the key Supreme Court decisions that opened the floodgates of "dark money" into the political process. While the presenters, who represented all sides of the political spectrum, didn't advocate restraining campaign spending, they argued that to make informed decisions voters need transparency.

The speakers recommended two websites that help unmask publicly disclosed donors but not Super PAC donors who donate through non-profits that don't require public disclosure:



**May 10-12, 2019**

**LWV Ohio State Convention**

Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center  
100 Green Meadows Drive  
Lewis Center, Ohio

Click [here](#) to register

Click [here](#) to see the schedule of events

**June 6, 2019**

**LWVAA Annual Meeting**

5:30pm Meet & Greet

6:00pm Dinner

7:00pm Business Meeting

**Bravo Cucina Italiana**

3265 W Market Street  
Fairlawn, Ohio  
(At Summit Mall)

**Special Guest:** Iris Meltzer,  
LWVO Board

\$30 per person for family style dinner includes Salads, Pastas, Chicken Marsala, Beverage, Coffee and Tea & Dessert.

<https://www.opensecrets.org> and <https://www.followthemoney.org>. Click this [link](#) to view the forum.

May 7 is the first primary election being held in May after Akron voters approved moving the primary date from September to May last year. Candidates for mayor, city council at-large and most ward seats are in contested races for election and Akron voters had a chance to meet them and learn more about their positions at our Primary Election Forum on April 16. Click this [link](#) to view the event.

Many of these candidates also participated in our voter guide, [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org). Please encourage your personal network to use VOTE411.org to get the candidate information they need to make an informed vote.

It's Annual Meeting time! On June 6 we'll be celebrating our 2018-2019 fiscal year and looking forward to a very active year ahead. We hope you'll join us at [Bravo Cucina Italia](#) to break bread, network with new and old friends and usher in our new board members and priorities for 2019-2020!

Best, Jackie Derrow, LWVAA President

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Click [here](#) to RSVP and pay via PayPal.

Open only to members, who are welcome to join us at 7:00pm just for the Business Meeting



**August 25, 2019**

**Women's Equality Day  
Celebration at the Akron  
Rubber Ducks**

Joint event with LWV Hudson and Kent members

More details soon!

### **LWVAA Board Meetings**

**June 6**

*(Annual Meeting, open to all members, details above)*

<b>August</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>December 5</b>	

## **An End to Gerrymandering in Ohio, Victory for Voters**

**HOT OFF THE PRESSES! Ohio's U.S. Congressional Districts Ruled Unconstitutional (Rich Exner, Cleveland.com)**

On May 3 a three-judge federal panel unanimously ruled that Ohio's gerrymandered congressional district map is unconstitutional, and ordered the creation of a new map in time for the 2020 election.

(The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio, on behalf of the League of Women voters and others [and supported by LWVAA board member John Fitzpatrick's testimony] filed the suit a year ago in an attempt to move up the timetable for congressional redistricting reform in the state.

"This ruling is a victory for every Ohio voter, because a fair congressional map before 2020 means a stronger democracy for the Buckeye State," said Jen Miller, executive director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio.

The court ordered the state to create a new map by June 14. But if the state fails to adopt a constitutional version of the map for Ohio's 16 congressional districts,

6:30-8:00 p.m.

1250 W. Exchange St., Akron,  
Ohio

Board Members only

the court may then do so itself. An appeal is possible directly to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Read the full story [here](#).

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[Watch for a SignUpGenius request to help plan our LWVAA 2019-2020 Book Club Series. We look forward to hearing your ideas on books to read and best dates, times and locations to meet.](#)

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## LWVO State Convention

State Convention is a wonderful time to come together in League, participate in dynamic workshops, share ideas and successes, plan for our League's future, catch up with old friends and make new ones.

**When:** May 10 - 12, 2019

**Where:** Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center, 100 Green Meadows Drive, Lewis Center Ohio 43035

**Voting Delegates:** The Convention shall be composed of Voting Delegates, Visitors and Guests. Voting Delegates include:

- The members of the LWVO Board of Directors.
- The President {or designated alternate} from each Local League.
- One delegate from each Local League for each 50 voting members, or fraction thereof, based on the records in the state office on January 31, 2019. All other League members may attend the Convention as Visitors.

Click [here](#) to register.

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## LWVAA bus ads spotted on the go

Once again we are running bus ads throughout Summit County to encourage using [VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG) to learn about candidates and polling locations. Thank you to the [LWVAA Education Fund](#) for your support of this important voter awareness campaign for the May 7 Primary Election.



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## In the News

Submitted by Laurie Curfman

### **Proposed voter registration expansion by Jeremy Pelzer, cleveland.com on 4/23/19**

Secretary of State Frank LaRose and state lawmakers on Tuesday (4/23/19) said they're working on legislation to reform the state's voting system – including automated voter registration and increasing the sharing of information between agencies to avoid voter purges. One of the ideas LaRose said his office is working on would create an “opt-out” voter registration system. That means that when voting-eligible Ohioans file taxes, renew a driver's license, get a fishing license, or have other interactions with a state agency, they would be registered to vote unless they push a button or check a box declaring they don't want to be.

### **Women voters outnumber men by Rich Exner, cleveland.com on 4/23/19**

An estimated 2.5 million Ohio women took part in the November election, accounting for 55.9 percent of the voting-age citizens in the state, the Census Bureau found. Yet among men, just 2 million, or 48.9 percent, took part in the election. Nationally, the voting turnout rates were 55 percent for women and 51.8 for men, among the voting-age citizens.

**Gerrymandering news:** A panel of federal judges has told Michigan lawmakers to redraw at least 34 legislative and congressional districts for the 2020 elections because Republicans unconstitutionally gerrymandered them, the Associated Press reports. Ohio just received a ruling in a similar case. (see article above)

**HB 123**, the Fairness in Lending Act, went into effect on 4/27/19. The bill has new requirements to make payday lending fairer to consumers. Details of the law state that loans cannot be higher than \$1000 payable in 12 months, which prior to the law there were no limits. Additionally, the interest rate is capped at 28% plus a 10% maintenance fee, previously having no restrictions. The bi-partisan legislation's goal, signed by former Governor Kasich in July 2018, is

to end the cycle of debt Ohioans could get into when small loan amounts escalated with unrestricted fees and interest.

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## Centennial Spotlight

*Community events highlighting women's efforts to attain the vote*

### Sojourner Truth Hike

Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Wesley Temple, AME Zion Church, 104 N. Prospect St., Akron

Actor Josy Jones will re-enact the Sojourner Truth "Ain't I a Woman?" speech from the 1851 women's rights convention held in Akron at Wesley Temple, AME Zion Church.

The group will then proceed to the Sojourner Truth Ohio Historical Marker on High St. where Historical Society President, Leianne Neff Heppner will talk about the 1851 convention.

For free tickets and more information email [schs@SummitHistory.org](mailto:schs@SummitHistory.org) or call 330.535.1120.

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## Legislative Update

Submitted by Jackie Derrow, LWVAA President

**Abortion Ban.** On April 11 Governor Mike DeWine signed into law the so-called heartbeat bill that bans abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected, often before most women know they're pregnant. This law makes Ohio one of the most restrictive in the country for women's health. The ACLU has promised to fight this legislation on U.S. Constitutional grounds. On a more positive note, on April 26 the Kansas Supreme Court ruled that the Kansas Constitution protects a woman's right to an abortion. This right would be preserved regardless of whether *Roe v. Wade* is reversed.

**Women's Suffrage Commission.** On April 24 Governor Mike DeWine signed into law the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission to honor the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. The Commission will be led by the Secretary of State's office and will hold events and raise awareness of the fight to achieve the 19th amendment while reminding citizens of the importance of exercising their rights as voters.

**Education.** HB154, which would repeal the controversial state takeover law for school districts

with persistently low grades, was passed by the House on May 1.

With a renewed focus on education in the Ohio Statehouse, it is prime time that school funding in Ohio is fixed! Contact your legislators and let them know that, as a member of the League, you support full funding of an aid formula that increases investment of state funds in local public schools, distributes funds fairly, and reduces reliance on property taxes; and support equalizing the contribution of state aid to local districts by ending the use of the deduction method to fund charters and vouchers.

**“Clean Air Program.”** LWVO opposes HR6, the proposed bailout of Ohio's two old, noncompetitive nuclear power plants and asks that you contact your representative to voice your opposition. For a good Q&A on HR6, click [here](#).

**Action on the Federal Level.** LWVO has been working with LWVUS to launch a campaign around HR1, the For The People Act. This past Sunday, a full page newspaper ad appeared in the Columbus Dispatch pushing for a hearing in the U.S. Senate. The Act was passed in the House on March 8 and introduced in the Senate on March 27 by Senator Udall. [Learn more about For the People Act.](#)

To take Action on HR1, write a letter to the editor demonstrating your support. Use the [LWVO HR1 Fact Sheet](#) as a guideline to help make your case.

Ohio has been a key state in addressing issues of democracy at the federal level. In April, the U.S. House Committee on House Administration, Subcommittee on Elections held a field hearing in Ohio. Read LWVO Executive Director Jen Miller's testimony [here](#). It is an excellent review of LWVO positions and action on democracy, elections, and voting.



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

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