

LWV DC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
January, 2017
CO-PRESIDENTS – BAILEY KOEPEL & SHIRLEY SENARIGHI
LWVDCPREZ@GMAIL.COM

JANUARY 17 LWV LIVELY ISSUES! 11AM – 1 PM Stone Harbor

Join League of Women Voters of Door County members as they discuss issues of importance! All are welcome to this roundtable luncheon scheduled for Wednesday, January 17th 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Stone Harbor. Attendees can order off the lunch menu. However please confirm plans to attend to LWV DC Co-presidents at lwvdcprez@gmail.com or 743-1691 by Tuesday, January 16th so the restaurant staff can prepare for the correct number of people.

The **majority of our time together** at this Lively Issues session will be spent on issues of concern to local members. Come share your thoughts, opinions, and feelings! This session often leads to future programming for our local league.

We will also briefly review the LWV US 2018-20 program recommendation ***The Campaign for Making Democracy Work 2018 and Beyond*** which actually began in 2016-18 to ensure a free, fair, and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters. A description of the recommendation, takes from the LWV US website. Read over this prior to attending if possible!

For almost 100 years, the League of Women Voters has championed voting rights and this programmatic work is more important now than ever. Local and state Leagues and the LWVUS have made progress in The Campaign for Making Democracy Work[®] but our work is not finished. The League continues to be up to the challenge to advance these priorities. At the local, state and federal level, our work on voter protection and mobilization, election reform, money in politics and redistricting is at the heart of the League's mission and its future.

Voting Rights – LWVUS continues its core work to expand voting rights by advocating for proactive reforms such as expanded early voting and online voter registration, ensuring existing pro-voter laws are being followed and challenging all efforts that limit the ability of voters to exercise this basic right. LWVUS and state Leagues are actively opposing voter photo ID laws, advocating against barriers to the voter registration process, working to prevent last-minute Election Day obstacles and helping millions of voters get the information and any required documentation they need to vote.

As in previous Congresses, the League of Women Voters is lobbying both the House and Senate for restoration of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) by supporting passage of the Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would strengthen the VRA following the 2013 decision in *Shelby v. Alabama*.

The League has spoken out actively against the new 'Election Integrity Commission' which the current administration established to justify false claims of widespread voter fraud in the 2016 election. The commission, which is populated by political ideologues with dangerous agendas, is itself a vehicle for attempts to suppress the vote.

State Leagues and LWVUS continue to mount legislative judicial challenges to state laws designed to make it harder for people to vote in states like North Carolina, Ohio and Wisconsin

Improving Elections – At all levels, the League of Women Voters is working to modernize our voting systems and make it easier for all eligible voters to become active participants in our electoral

process. In our efforts to improve the voting experience, the League works to establish permanent and portable statewide voter registration, expand early voting, improve polling place management, expand online voter registration and implement electronic streamlining. We also work to ensure compliance with laws like the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). In the states, the LWV Missouri and LWV Indiana are among those going to court to get their states to comply with the NVRA.

We continue to lobby against Congressional attempts to terminate the Election Assistance Commission (EAC). The EAC does invaluable work to improve our nation's election systems. The Commission works to ensure the efficacy, reliability, and trustworthiness of our nation's election systems by conducting research, collecting data, and sharing information among elected officials, the public, and interested organizations. The EAC is also responsible for improving the election experience for disabled voters.

In the 117th Congress, the League is supporting the Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2017. Under this legislation, when eligible voters interact with a government agency, they will automatically be signed up to vote unless they decline. This bill also provides online voter registration for all eligible voters. State Leagues are also working on automatic voter registration laws and are celebrating victories in Illinois and Oregon.

Campaign Finance/ Money in Politics— In addition to supporting positive campaign finance reform proposals, Leagues are fighting attempts to cut back on existing campaign finance laws. In 2017, the LWVUS lobbied against Congressional attempts to eliminate public financing for presidential campaigns and supported the Honest Ads Act.

LWVUS also supports the We the People Democracy Reform Act of 2017 which includes legislative solutions to many of the money in politics issues the U.S. faces. Provisions include small dollar fundraising, disclosure, defining coordination and overhauling the Federal Election Commission (FEC). State Leagues continue to push for campaign finance reform in many states including Arizona, Maine and California. And the St. Petersburg, FL League successfully lobbied their city council to abolish Super PACs and limit foreign corporate spending in local elections.

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Redistricting – In 2016, convention delegates adopted a new position on redistricting which enables state Leagues and the LWVUS to call for fair representation in the redistricting process. LWVUS and state Leagues are working in the courts to challenge state laws that enable partisan gerrymandering. The LWVUS has [filed an amicus brief](#) in the case of *Gill v. Whitford* which was heard by the Supreme Court in early October. The League brief argues that partisan gerrymandering violates the First Amendment and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution and points out

that traditional redistricting principles – such as compactness, contiguity, and respect for political subdivisions – have no constitutional foundation. State Leagues including those in Ohio, Florida, Maryland and Pennsylvania continue to challenge state redistricting aimed at letting politicians choose their voters rather than the other way round.

Three questions will be answered by LWV DC members in attendance:

- Do we support the proposed program?
- Would we like to recommend another program, in addition to or instead of the Campaign for Making Democracy Work?
- Which areas within the Campaign for Making Democracy Work has our LWV DC worked on in the past two years?

JANUARY 25 & FEBRUARY 8

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! How to Advocate Effectively

Have you wanted to communicate with your elected officials but hesitate to do so? Many of us procrastinate to write or call and then find we are too late to make a difference. This workshop may be of help t us!

In collaboration with the Door County Civility Project and the League of Women Voters of Door County, Write On presents a series of sessions designed to give you effective strategies to communicate your requests, opinions, and concerns with your elected representatives. This isn't just about voicing strong opinions through letters to the editor – it's much, much more! As important as *what* you do, *how* you do it can make a huge difference as to whether or not your message is really listened to, read, and understood in order to make the impact you want.

While you will learn quick tips on how best to be heard by elected officials, you'll also have time to identify an issue of concern, who you want to influence, and what you want to accomplish. Then, you will begin a draft of communication to an elected representative – script for a phone call, postcard, email or letter to an elected official or to the editor to inform the public of your concern.

Four sessions will be held throughout Door County, with facilitators from the Civility Project, League of Women Voters, and Write On. *You may attend one or more of these FREE workshop sessions.*

Thursday, January 25, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Door County Library, Sturgeon Bay
Thursday, February 8, 4:00-5:30 pm Egg Harbor Town Hall, Carlsville

Register for a workshop by contacting Write On, Door County at writeondoorcounty.org.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE BEGINS ITS TASK

The nominating committee is beginning its work to find individuals willing to support the work of the LWV DC as a 2018-19 board member or officer. Think about your current role with the League. Are you willing to take on a two year position on the board? Are you willing to take on a one year officer position? The LWV DC has benefited from the experience of both new and long-term LWV members on our board. In this time of increasing divisiveness, the LWV DC continues to serve as the non-partisan organization that people can trust for voter assistance and information. There are opportunities to expand our work and visibility. We can only do this with a strong leadership team. Might you take a turn to support the LWV DC in this way?

CANDIDATE FORUMS

The Candidate Forum segment of LWV Voter Service Committee is busy organizing three candidate forums. (There is a chance we may yet receive additional requests.) Once the dates and times (including snow dates and times) for each is set you will receive an email asking for your help at one or more of the forums. It takes 8 individuals to actually implement each.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR OUR REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT

Donald J. Trump president@whitehouse.gov <https://www.facebook.com/WhiteHouse/>
(202) 456-1111

U.S. SENATORS

Ron Johnson <http://ronjohnson.senate.gov/public> (202) 224-5323

Tammy Baldwin <https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/feedback> (202) 224-5653

U.S. HOUSE (8th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT)

Mike Gallagher <http://gallagher.house.gov/> (202) 225-5665

WISCONSIN GOVERNOR:

Scott Walker <http://walker.wi.gov/contact-us> (608) 266-1212

WI SENATE DISTRICT 1

Frank Lasee Sen.Lasee@legis.wisconsin.gov (608) 266 3512

WI ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 2

Joel Kitchens Rep.Kitchens@legis.wisconsin.gov (608) 266-5350

One complimentary copy of the 2017-18 Official Directory of Door County (**a listing of contact information for county, city, village and town officials**) can be picked up at the County Clerk's office at the Door County government building. This directory is also online at the Door County government website:

<http://www.co.door.wi.gov/docview.asp?docid=16450&locid=137>