



2017 SEPTEMBER VOTER

[DONATE](#)

[JOIN](#)

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

LEAGUE GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 19



Where: Geier Room
103 Wm. Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

When: Tuesday, September 19, 2017
Doors open at 6:30pm
Presentation starts at 7:00pm

At the LWVO convention in May we learned about [Citizens Climate Lobby](#) (CCL), a "non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change." In July, the LWVO agreed that CCL's goals are in alignment with the LWVUS position on climate change. Local leagues have been encouraged to learn more about the CCL carbon fee and dividend proposal for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

According to CCL, "we exist to create the political will for climate solutions by enabling individual breakthroughs in the exercise of personal and political power." The "consistently respectful, nonpartisan approach to climate education" espoused by CCL is designed to create a "broad, sustainable foundation for climate action across all geographic regions and political inclinations." CCL is similar to LWV in its approach to legislative action, by building upon shared values rather than partisan divides. CCL empowers supporters to "work in keeping with the concerns of their local communities towards the adoption of fair, effective, and sustainable climate change solutions."

CCL's [carbon fee and dividend proposal](#), supported by a strong, bipartisan [Climate Solutions Caucus](#) (Congresswoman [Marcy Kaptur of Ohio just joined the caucus in July](#)) is

a "national, revenue-neutral carbon fee-and-dividend system that would place a predictable, steadily rising price on carbon, with all fees collected minus administrative costs returned to households as a monthly energy dividend." A [report summarized in Nature](#) this July makes it clear that we have very little time to act: 2020 is a hard deadline.

~Elizabeth Zak, LWVCA Action Director

September Discussion Units

Congressional Redistricting Reform in Ohio

League discussion units meet in September after a summer break. The topic is redistricting and the Fair Districts initiative campaign. We particularly encourage members who actively collected initiative signatures this summer to attend a unit meeting and share their experience.



There currently are six discussion units in the Cincinnati area. Some meet during the day, others meet in the evening. Some are robust and attracting new members, while others may be too small to continue. We are continually seeking to engage members in ways that work for them and are currently exploring the possibility of a virtual unit with an online discussion. Another possibility is a new unit at a retirement community. If you are interested in either of these possibilities or have other questions about unit meetings, contact Unit Coordinator Helen Rhoad.

The Anderson unit is not meeting in September. Members are welcome to join another unit discussion.

LWVCA UNIT DISCUSSION MEETING LOCATIONS

Northeast Evening Unit

*Monday, September 11, 7:00pm – 8:45pm
Madeira Public Library, 7200 Miami Ave, Madeira*

Hilltop North Unit

*Tuesday, September 12, 12:00pm – 2:00pm
Friendship United Methodist Church, 1025 Springfield Pike, Wyoming*

Warren/Butler Unit

*Tuesday, September 12, 7:30pm – 9:30pm
Mason United Methodist Church, 773 Mason Montgomery Road, Mason*

Central Evening Unit

*Wednesday, September 13, 6:15pm – 8:15pm
LWVCA Conference Room, 103 William Howard Taft*

Metro Day Unit

Wednesday, September 20, 12:00pm – 2:00pm

LWVCA Conference Room, 103 William Howard Taft

SEPTEMBER STUDY PAGES

NOVEMBER 2017 ELECTION PREVIEW

This November we elect local officials: mayors, city councils, township trustees, municipal judges, and school board members. There will be at least 5 issues on ballots in Hamilton County: Senior Services levy, Mental Health levy, Indigent Care levy, and the statewide initiatives on Victim Rights and Prescription Drug Prices. In addition, local jurisdictions may have other issues on their ballots, e.g. Sunday alcohol sales, gas or electric aggregation, or public services levies.

The Voter Services Committee is hard at work preparing voter education material for the November election: the print Voter Guide (formerly the Who & What), the online Vote411, the Speakers Bureau, and candidate forums. September and October are very busy months for the League. If you want to get involved in this exciting work, contact Nancy Dawley, Vice President for Voter Services.

- October 10 Last date to register to vote
- October 11 Early voting opens at the new Board of Elections office in Norwood
- November 7 Election Day

VOLUNTEER 2 HOURS FOR THE VOTER GUIDE

The 2017 Voter Guide is beginning to take form. There is still time for you to join in if you wish. We need a significant number of members for 2-hour shifts doing final proofing of the document before printing. Working in teams of 2, you'll be catching typos, missing words, and other bloopers so that the Voter Guide is as good as we can make it for our community.

Email voterguide@lwwcincinnati.org or call the League office (513) 281-8683 and leave your name and preferred times for a shift on Friday, September 29 and/or Saturday, September 30. It's very satisfying work when you think about how many people are reading our Voter Guide.

~ Nancy Dawley, LWVCA Voter Service VP



Every year the League of Women Voters receives requests to inform voters about what will be on the ballot. *We have a PowerPoint presentation ready and several knowledgeable volunteers to help*

us get the word out. If you are interested in speaking, contact League members Joan Gilmore or Mary Kay Gardener. If you know of a group that would like a presentation, please complete the [Speaker Bureau Request Form](#).

September 14, 6:00 PM Communications Committee - a review of who is doing what and a discussion of ways to improve voter education and election participation. Please attend in the Geier Room if you are interested.

~ Joan Gilmore, LWVCA Communication Director

CANDIDATE FORUMS - your opportunity to hear it first-hand

Local elections are an important way to influence communities. The LWVCA and its partners in the Rookwood Coalition have organized a series of forums for Cincinnati voters to meet and learn about November election candidates and issues - including mayoral, city council, Board of Education, and Municipal Court candidates.

Check out our website for the dates of the forums. Put the dates on your calendar and encourage your family and neighbors to attend. You can also post flyers in shops, churches, organizations, and places you frequent. <http://lwcincinnati.org/calendar.html>

Let's work towards a record turnout of voters on November 7!

Update on Ohio Voter Purge Lawsuit

Remember last year at this time when the League was encouraging voters to verify their registration because of a large number of voters purged from the rolls by the Ohio Secretary of State? A lawsuit was filed challenging the practice of removing registered voters because they had not voted in several elections. The case was filed by a voter who was purged, the ACLU, and other organizations. (The League of Women Voters is not a party, but filed a friend-of-the-court brief.)

In September 2016, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the procedure was illegal. John Husted, the Ohio Secretary of State, appealed the case to the U.S. Supreme Court which agreed to hear it. The pending case was in the news recently because the U.S. Department of Justice changed its opinion on the issue. DOJ lawyers had filed a "friend of the court" brief supporting the lower court's decision that the purge was illegal. With the change in leadership, DOJ announced it now supported the voter purge process in Ohio.

The Supreme Court will decide the issue in its upcoming term. In the meantime, the League's advice is still good – Confirm your registration status. It's easy. Go to the Hamilton County Board of Elections website www.boe.hamilton-co.org and click on "Am I registered?" You can update your address and now even register online.

~ Elizabeth Brown, LWVCA Co-President

LWVCA Advocacy on City/County MSD Agreement

In August the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County approved an agreement on responsibility for the Metropolitan Sewer District for the next 45 years. The current 45-year agreement that resulted in arguments and lawsuits between the City and County in recent years will expire in April 2018.

The League's County Government and Natural Resources Committees have actively followed issues involving MSD for years including the environmental consent decree and the Rate Affordability Task Force. However, League members were frustrated in attempts to engage City and County officials in public discussions on options for the renewed agreement. Instead of a public discussion, negotiations on the future agreement were folded into an ongoing lawsuit between the City and County over the current contract and held behind closed doors protected by a gag order from the court.

The agreement on a new governance structure for MSD was announced publicly on July 26 with City Council and the County Commission both scheduled to vote on it in less than two weeks. At its August 2 meeting, the League Board approved a letter to City and County elected officials objecting to the short time allowed for public discussion and input on a major long-term decision. The letter quoted the League policy "that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation at all levels of government...that governmental bodies must protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed action...."

The vote on the agreement was postponed by five days to Monday, August 14 with last minute changes negotiated over the weekend. The League will follow implementation of the agreement and the new MSD governing Board, educating its members and speaking up as appropriate based on its established positions

~Elizabeth Brown, LWVCA Co-President

LWVCA Tour of Rumpke Recycling Facility

On August 3, a group of members 15 strong met at the Rumpke Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in St. Bernard to begin our tour. After a video and Q&A period, we each put on bright yellow mesh vests; sound reducing earphones that had a voice connection to our leader, Anne Gray – Education Specialist; safety glasses and a hard hat.

We proceeded to the guts of the MRF where the real work gets done. First stop was a window view of a huge eight- wheeled truck depositing the collected material in a roofed area similar to a huge carport with a tiltable concrete floor allowing for some primary separation. We found out that they do this with human labor and high-technology equipment.

The Rumpke's (12 minutes) video is on their website, www.rumpke.com, "We recycled before it was cool- the story of Rumpke recycling" not only provides a bit of the interesting history of this family owned company, takes you on a tour of the facility plus provides important information on recycling. We all left with a more detailed understanding of challenges caused by unacceptable items placed in the recycling carts. Do not put plastic grocery bags in your recycling container. They get tangled in the machines and cause lots of headaches.

Anne Gray gave us examples of items that can and cannot be recycled. Our thanks to our League organizers and to Anne Gray of Rumpke Recycling for a wonderful tour of the Rumpke MRF!

~ Jan Evans, Member



REINVENTING METRO

SORTA/ Metro provides bus service primarily in the City of Cincinnati and some areas in Greater Cincinnati. Ridership has been declining since 2009 due to service cuts and job growth outside of the service area. Fewer riders provide less revenue to cover expenses that have been increasing. Current circumstances provide an opportunity to rethink public transit service in the area with the aim to improve service and connect people to where they need or want to go.



Transit serves the economy and improves connectivity. Yet more than 75,000 health care and manufacturing jobs don't have access to Metro service. Compared to peer

transportation cities, Metro is the most operationally efficient transit service but receives the least amount of public funding.

For several years SORTA (Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority) has projected deficits beginning in 2017. The 2017 budget was balanced with one-time adjustments that cannot be duplicated. Without new money in the presence of increasing expenses, the transit authority will need to increase fares, and/or reduce service and/or seek new sources of revenue.

Currently, local funding comes from 0.3% of the City of Cincinnati earnings tax of 2.1%, the lowest amount of local funding among peer cities. The funding source does not sustain the existing service. Following a recommendation by the Metro Futures Task Force, the SORTA Board in June voted to place a county-wide sales tax on the November 2018 ballot. The rate will be determined within the next few months.

A 2017-2021 Strategic Plan is being implemented assuming more funding. The Strategic Plan includes recommendations for bus stop amenities, service type, and frequency improvements, and to become a more regional system. Public comments on proposed service modifications to routes 1, 28 and 50 in east, west and southern service areas were taken in August and public comments to proposed fare increases will be taken in September. Any fare increase would require Cincinnati City Council approval.

SORTA is a political subdivision of Ohio that operates Metro, a fixed-route bus service. As an Ohio special district SORTA can place an issue on the ballot without County Commissioners' approval. While SORTA operates the streetcar (the Cincinnati Bell Connector) and integrates that service with its bus services, public funds used for its bus operations are separate and segregated from streetcar operating funds.

See: Reinventing Metro <http://www.go-metro.com/reinventingmetro>

~ Chris Moran, Member

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sept. 6	Board meeting, 6:00 pm
Sept. 14	Communications Committee, 6:00 p.m.
Sept. 14	Conversations with Candidates, 6:00 p.m. at the Community Action Agency
Sept. 19	General Meeting, Citizens Climate Lobby speaker, 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	Development Committee, 6:00 p.m.
Sept. 27	Program Committee, 5:00 p.m.
Sept. 27	Ballot Issues Briefing, 6:00 p.m.

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are at the League office or other rooms at the Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, 103 Wm. Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati.

SAVE THE DATE

For later events, see the [LWVCA website calendar](#).

Officers

- Elizabeth Brown, Co-President
- Pinky Kocoshis, Co-President
- Melissa Currence, VP Fund Development
- Nancy Dawley, VP Voter Service
- Elizabeth Zak, VP Program
- Maggie McNerney, Secretary
- Janice Alvarado, Treasurer

Directors

- Alberta Hemsley, Action
- Joan Gilmore, Communication
- Jeanne Nightingale, Membership
- Desirae Futel, Outreach
- Emily Thobe, Outreach
- Liz Shockey, Vote411
- Wilda (Dee) Shaffer

Lisa Williams-Nelson, Office Manager



Facebook



Twitter



YouTube



Archive



Calendar

Copyright © 2017 League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
103 William Howard Taft Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45219

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)



MAKING
DEMOCRACY WORK®

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, which encourages informed and active participation in government.

Membership is open to women and men at least 16 years old. Call (513) 281-VOTE (8683) and [join us](#).