

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF THE HUNTINGTON AREA

August 2024 E-mail Bulletin

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Voting is my super power!

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Women’s Equality Day

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August 26th is Women’s Equality Day, established to commemorate the 19th Amendment to the United States

Constitution that gave women the right to vote. As such, it's an apt time to reflect upon both continuity and change in the political and social history of our country.

In 2026, the United States will celebrate the 250th anniversary of its Declaration of Independence. And although its 1789 Constitution has endured, we should recognize that the provisions made for amending it have been crucial to its survival. This is reflected by changes in the status of women and others who sought the citizenship rights originally accorded by that document to only white, property-holding males. However lofty and admirable the language and principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution, at this country's inception, self-government remained the province of a narrow segment of the population.

The expansion of voting rights since the nation's founding merits celebration and awe, even though it was not a simple nor linear process. During the presidency of Andrew Jackson in the 1830s, white, non-property-owning men began to gain access to the ballot box, and after the Civil War, formerly enslaved men were accorded the right to vote by the terms of the 15th Amendment. A half century later, the long women's suffrage movement culminated with the ratification of the 19th Amendment, certified by the U.S. Secretary of State on August 26, 1920. Both popular and elite resistance to each of these broadened conceptions of citizenship meant these gains were not easily won.

In practice, after 1870, the voting rights of Black men were quickly and systematically abrogated in the states that had made up the defeated Confederacy. Those same Jim Crow laws were used to prevent Black women from accessing the ballot box between 1920 and 1964. It was not until the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that both men and women of color were able to exercise their right to participate in the government of the nation. Thus, one might even argue that the true democratic history of the United States began in the mid-1960s and not before.

The key question, then, is where do we go from here? Our votes this November will determine that course.

CELEBRATING **50** YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

*And Dedication
to Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy'*

The League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

Invites You to HONOR 50 Year Members

BETTY BARRETT
MARCIA DAOUST
ROSE RITER
JOAN WEISBERG
MARTHA WOODWARD

And Join in the RECEPTION

Saturday, August 17th at 2 pm

In the Hampton Room
of the WOODLANDS

1 Bradley Foster Dr., Huntington WV 25701



Reflections on 50 Years of Dedication & Membership (Questionnaire)



Name: **Betty Barrett**

Why did I join the League of Women Voters?

My friend Vivian Phares invited me to a meeting, a couple of years after we moved to Huntington. My daughter was a pre-schooler about 4 years old, and it was an incentive to learn the Huntington League provided child care in the church where they met. I had long been interested in politics, and knew the League's reputation for non-partisan citizen participation.

I found a congenial, friendly group of women who were talking about improving programs for residents of the area. I don't remember the subjects that day, but I was ready to learn more. I remember not long after we were working on support for passage of a school bond. With five children, education and public schools were of special interest. A study of solid waste management began, and I was a member of the committee. With a big family, we generated a lot of trash. It was a good way to learn about my relatively- new home.

What motivated me to remain a member?

I enjoyed the mental stimulation of all the activities of the League. I have held many of the positions – president, secretary, voters' service chair, various study committees, newsletter editor for the State League. I still think our activities make a difference. When I was elected to the Huntington City Council, one of our first controversies was solid waste management. What I had learned in the earlier League study was invaluable. This is only one example.

Increasing informed voting was one of the goals of the League of Women Voters in its formation after women were allowed to vote, more than 100 years ago, and remains a major goal. For a while after Cabell County changed to electronic voting, the League was given a training voting machine which we took to many public meetings, where we were also able to register many voters. One year we were asked by one of the television stations to stay in some polling places to observe the election workers in action, and report whether we thought they were acting properly. For

several years we worked with another television station on a live televised candidates' meeting. For many years we have provided written information on candidates, in collaboration with the local newspaper. We have assisted with candidates' meetings for high schools and many civic organizations.

Probably the main reason I have remained a member for so long is the kind of friendships that we develop with each other. It is a pleasure to have conversations with bright, lively, involved, interesting women (and the few men) who have been members over the years.



Name: Marcia Peterson Daoust

Why did you join the League of Women Voters?

I had no choice in the matter. I turned 18 in 1969, when my mother was the LWV Membership Chair for her St. Albans/Kanawha County Chapter. She gave me a League membership as a birthday gift. (You can imagine how a high school senior felt about that!) However, Mom persisted, paying my membership every year through about 1972-73, when I became active in the West Virginian effort to abolish strip mining. After marrying and moving to Huntington, I transitioned to

paying my own League dues and became active in LWV of the Huntington Area, focusing on the environment.

What has motivated you to remain a member?

I was raised to believe in the importance of Community and helping to make it strong. Not only my mother and father, but most of my neighbors were community volunteers, while some served in government.

I am very passionate about supporting the Constitution and preserving our United States Democracy. The League has been a good organization to enable me to fulfill my obligation to serve.



Name: **Rose Riter**

Why did you join the League of Women Voters?

Growing up in Pinch, WV I was always fascinated by the political meetings that seemed to pop up quite often. I listened and I learned. And since I was just a kid, nobody minded.

Got married. Moved to Charleston. Saw an ad for LWV so I went to a meeting and found a bunch of friendly, smart, interesting women! So, I paid my dues.

What has motivated you to remain a member?

Many years later, moved to Huntington. Of course, I joined the local LWV and met Helen Gibbins, as well as many more personalities. Got involved with many different efforts and loved the stimulation and friendship, as well as achievements.

In the future, I hope LWV will remain aware of the rapidly shifting social changes occurring and make every attempt to make sure everyone is included.



Name: **Joan Weisberg**

Joan Weisberg, who stands up for what she believes, is an inspiration to many. She is an example of the woman who believes in justice for all and who urges others to do the same. Her long membership in the League of Women Voters is a vehicle for her community activism.



Name: **Martha Woodward**

Why did you join the League of Women Voters?

I joined the League of Women Voters just like everyone else – to change the world. I lived in Texas as the world roiled with Civil Rights and Viet Nam. With the LWV I found a group of like-minded women who wanted to learn as much as we could about issues and how to make an impact for change. When I moved to West Virginia there were those same women, a fellowship who sought answers. Well, if not answers at least a path toward improving our immediate community and beyond. My father

always said that you had no right to live in a community without trying to make it better. People who practice what he preached belong to the League of Women Voters.

What has motivated you to remain a member?

I have remained a member for these many years for the same reason I joined. There is always a need for understanding political issues and for educating myself and others. Voting is a sacred right which we take far too much for granted. We can never let down our duty to protect that right. Furthermore, the fellowship I find in the League cannot be measured.

New Excess Levy Poster

Thank you Betty Barrett!

There is a NEW Excess Levy on the Ballot!



And We Are
**VOTING
YES!**



The Huntington Area League of Women Voters supports with enthusiasm the 2024 version of the Cabell County excess levy for schools, libraries, and parks. This version will provide, starting in 2025 and ending five years later, a total of approximately \$30 million annually. From that total, our public libraries will receive about \$1.8 million, and our parks will receive about \$575,000, both annually. Also included will be equalization payments of 6.1% for libraries, and 1.8% for parks, from any excess funds after the initial distributions. It will be presented to Cabell County voters at the November General Election.

We commend the many people in the community who supported the efforts of the three agencies involved to resolve the differences that resulted in failure to pass the excess levy for the first time in many years. The No Parks, No Libraries, No Levy organization formed immediately after the initial announcement of the proposed changes in the levy that had been passed by large margins since 1967 for the libraries, and 1983 for the parks. This very large group was joined by many individuals in Cabell County who gave financial help and moral support. Lawyer Marc Williams and members of his law firm gave many hours of volunteer legal hours. The directors and staff of Cabell County Public Schools, Cabell County Public Libraries, and Greater Huntington Park District provided volumes of information to voters. We commend newly appointed Superintendent of Schools Tim Hardesty for acting so quickly to follow the direction of the voters who turned down the early version so decisively, and the Board of Education members who unanimously approved returning to the original plan for the excess levy.

Now it is vital that the improved excess levy be approved by voters in the November election. We urge you to ensure that you are registered to vote by October 15, 2024, and then vote on November 5, 2024. We were reminded of the importance of each vote in the May 2024 primary election when the Wayne County ambulance levy passed by just four votes. Passage of our levy will allow us to put aside the turmoil and bad feelings, and get back to providing excellent educational and recreation services through collaboration between the three agencies which will receive needed funds.

LWV League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

GENERAL ELECTION Dates and Deadlines

<https://sos.wv.gov/elections/Pages/GoVoteWV.aspx>

January 1 - October 30, 2024 – Military and Overseas Voter Absentee Application Period - Military or Overseas Voters may request an absentee ballot. Military or Overseas Voters who applied absentee in the Primary Election will automatically receive a ballot for the General Election.

August 1, 2024 - Deadline for No Party Organization/Unaffiliated Candidates to File Nominating Petitions, Certificate of Announcements and Pay Filing Fee

August 13 - October 30, 2024 - Absentee Application Period - Eligible Absentee Voters can send an absentee ballot application to their County Clerk in person, by mail, or electronically.

September 17, 2024 - Write-in Deadline

September 20, 2024 - County Clerks begin mailing absentee ballots to voters from whom they received applications

October 15, 2024 - Voter Registration Deadline

October 23 - November 2, 2024 - Early Voting in Person - Voter may vote an early ballot to the county courthouse, an annex or a designated community voting location during normal business hours. Early voting must be conducted between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on the last 2 Saturdays before the Primary Election.

October 29 - Noon, November 5, 2024 - Emergency Absentee Voting

Registered voters and other qualified voters in the county are authorized to vote an emergency absentee ballot in the following circumstances may be eligible to receive an emergency absentee ballot in the following circumstances:

- Voter is in the hospital on Election Day;
- Voter is a replacement poll worker appointed after the period for Early Voting;
- Voter is in a licensed health care facilities within an adjacent county or within 35 miles of the county seat (county policy required;)
- Voter is in nursing home within the county if he or she has resided there for a period of less than 30 days (county policy required); or
- Voter becomes confined, on or after the seventh day preceding an election, to a specific location within the county because of illness, injury, physical disability, or immobility due to advance age or other medical reason (county policy required).

October 30, 2024 - Deadline for Absentee Ballot Applications

November 2, 2024 - Deadline for Early Voting in Person

November 4, 2024 - Deadline for Hand-Deliver Absentee Ballot to the Clerk's Office

November 5, 2024 - ELECTION DAY

November 5, 2024 - Absentee Ballots Received Electronically from Eligible Voters Accepted - Absentee ballots submitted electronically by eligible military and overseas voters and eligible voters with physical disabilities are accepted by close of polls.

November 6, 2024 – Absentee Ballots without Postmark Accepted

November 12, 2024 – Absentee Ballots Postmarked by Election Day Accepted

For questions & assistance call 304.558.6000 toll free 866.767.8683

email: Elections@wvsos.gov

Commemorating the Passage of the 19th Amendment





Join or Renew Your Membership



The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan volunteer organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate, but is engaged in local, state, and national issues of importance to our communities. The League works to influence public policy through advocacy and education. Membership is open to anyone age 16 or older. Dues are free for full-time students, \$50 for an individual, and \$75 for two persons in a household. Send you check to Carolyn Bagby, 79 North Bradley Foster Drive, Huntington, WV 25701.

MEMBERSHIP FORM – LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HUNTINGTON AREA

League membership is open to all men and women aged 16 or older.

Single membership is \$50.00. Two Memberships in the same household are a total of \$75.00. Students may join for free. Please pay by cash or a check made out to the League of Women Voters of Huntington. Dues are needed one year since your last payment.

Mail dues to: LWVHA c/o Carolyn Bagby, 79 N Bradley Foster Dr, Huntington WV, 25701.

Please write “Dues” on your payment, if paying by check.

Please include this information with your payment.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone number for local League use. _____ (Optional, but increases LWVHA effectiveness.)

Amount paid: \$ _____

NOTE: When you join the local League, you also become a member of the LWV United States and LWV WV. (We share your mailing address and email with them.) We do not share your personal information with any other organization. Most communication from the Huntington League is by email.

MY AREAS OF GREATEST CONCERN:

Please indicate if you are a student. (Students are exempt from paying dues.)

I am a full-time student at _____ and qualify for free membership.

Student ID number: _____.

Note: Additional donations are always welcome. PLEASE write “**Donation**” on your check, if making a donation.

Thanks!

Courthouse Garden

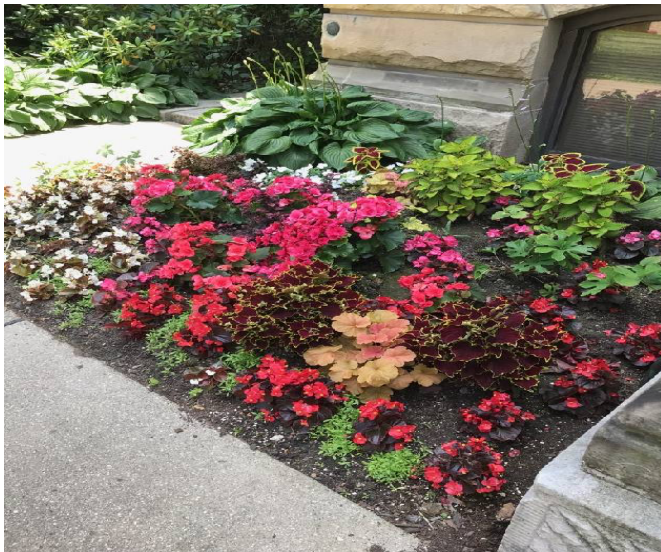
In August 2022, the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area established this garden located at the Fourth Avenue entrance of the Cabell County Courthouse to commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment. Look at how we have bloomed!



August 2022



September 2022



June 2023



June 20, 2024