

# VOTER

League of Women  
Voters of Indiana  
County, Pennsylvania



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

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## Voter Registration Drives Scheduled

*Contributed by Karen Ross, Chair of Voter Services Committee*

In this hotly contested primary season, it is important for all of our members to be informed about the upcoming election, and it is important for everyone to vote; please encourage all of your acquaintances to register and to vote.

The Pennsylvania primary is on Tuesday, April 26. To vote in this primary, a citizen must register by March 28. A registered voter who wishes to change her or his party affiliation or update his or her address must also do this by March 28.

Pennsylvania has recently added on-line voter services. To register, change party affiliation, update an address, or request an absentee ballot, go to [votespa.com](http://votespa.com). An unregistered voter who does not have a valid Pennsylvania driver's license will need to print out the application and either mail it in or deliver it to the Indiana County Courthouse.

**In addition, in March, the LWVIC has scheduled two voter registration drives:**

Wednesday, March 16, 10:30 am—12:30 pm at Wyotech Blairsville

Wednesday, March 23, 11:00 am—4:00 pm at the University Square Atrium (outside the Commonplace Coffeehouse)

**If you can volunteer to help or you have suggestions for other voter registration venues, please call or email me at 724-422-7474 or [ross.bert1@gmail.com](mailto:ross.bert1@gmail.com).**

It would be great if we could do several more drives before the November election. Remember, as John F. Kennedy noted, "The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of us all."



### Important Dates to Remember:

MARCH 28 – Last day to register, change party affiliation, or change address

APRIL 19 – Last day to apply for an absentee ballot

APRIL 26 – Primary Election

## Membership Meeting on Redistricting Held

On January 25 the LWVIC held its annual membership meeting. Dr. Gwen Torges of the IUP Political Science Department spoke about redistricting which is one of the League's priority federal as well as state issues.

Check out what Jessica Jones (of the LWVUS) has to say about redistricting (as well as other priority federal issues) at <http://lwv.org/blog/outlining-league%E2%80%99s-priority-federal-issues-2016>.

And take a look at the Pennsylvania Voter articles (<http://www.palwv.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/LWV-Winter-News-Final.pdf>) by Lora Lavin and Pat Longley, on pages 8 and 9, for even more information about this important and fundamental voting issue.



*League members and prospective members relax at the potluck which preceded the educational presentation on redistricting.*

## High School Video Contest Accepting Entries

The League of Women Voters of Philadelphia is sponsoring the second annual LWVPA High School Video Contest which opened on January 15 and ends March 1. This year's theme is "Your Voice—Your Vote—Be Heard!" Students are asked to consider how laws and governmental budgets impact the issues that concern them and how voting and engagement in the democratic process can be a way to express priorities and bring about change.

Students can work alone or in teams, and any student between 13 and 19 who are currently enrolled in high school or an equivalent academic program in PA is eligible. Winners will be announced in early April, and the top prize is \$1000.

Details are available at [www.palwv.org/videocontest/](http://www.palwv.org/videocontest/).

## For Your Information—Upcoming Events

**Legislative breakfasts** with our state representative and senator are now being scheduled. This year's questions concern reforms regarding redistricting, voter access, judicial selection, and money in politics. Keep your eyes open for an email announcing the dates.

**Save the Date** for the LWVIC Annual Meeting—Tuesday, May 17. Time and place to be announced.

## Program Planning Happening Now

Every two years, the LWVUS engages in program planning. This process is a valuable League tool for identifying issues for focus and for insuring that League resources, human and financial, from our grassroots volunteers to our professional staff, are engaged where they have the most impact.

The program planning process is one of the important ways through which the League focuses its grassroots work to align each part of the organization with the others and with the League's mission.

Program planning will culminate with adoption of a program of education and action at LWVUS Convention 2016 in Washington, DC in June. The input of League boards will help shape the proposed program of study and action that will be submitted to convention delegates for debate and adoption.

**At our February 15 board meeting, we will offer input for the League's program for the 2016-2018 biennium.** In order to do this, our members should review League positions on International Relations, Natural Resources, Representative Government, and Social Policy. (Positions can be found at <http://lww.org/content/impact-issues>.) Any comments or concerns will be addressed at the board meeting and passed along to the LWVUS by March 1. **Everyone who is interested in contributing to the conversation about the League's direction for the next two years is encouraged to attend the board meeting at 7 pm** in the PASEC 2nd floor meeting room at 1005 Oak Street.

### Now Accepting Nominations for Environmental Leadership Award

The League of Women Voters of Indiana County is currently accepting nominations for the fifth annual Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Awards.

The award recognizes grassroots citizens, groups or businesses who show exemplary leadership and active participation in policy issues that involve protecting or preserving our environment.

Candidates for the award should demonstrate grassroots leadership in the following areas:

- Preservation and/or protection of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment
- Grassroots activism to preserve or protect our precious natural resources

Nominations can be submitted by citizens or groups, or individuals can self-nominate. Contact Vicki Stelma, president of the LWVIC at 724-599-9225 or by email at [lwwindianacounty@gmail.com](mailto:lwwindianacounty@gmail.com) for more information or an application.

Deadline for submissions is early April.

A newsletter of the  
League of Women Voters  
of Indiana County,  
Pennsylvania

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## CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

Know someone who may be interested in membership? Let President Vicki Stelma know at 724-599-9225, and she will send a brochure & short letter describing LWVIC's activities.

**Monday, February 15** —Board Meeting, All Members Welcome, PASEC meeting room (1005 Oak Street, 2nd Floor)

**Monday, March 28**—Last Day to Register to Vote

**Saturday, April 2**—Family Fun Fest, Indiana Mall

**Tuesday, April 26**—Primary Election Day

**Tuesday, May 17**—LWVIC Annual Meeting (**SAVE THE DATE**), Time and Location to be announced

**Thursday, June 16—Sunday, June 19**—LWVUS Convention, Washington, DC

### Our Mission Statement

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*