

**LWVIC Board of  
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## **Annual Membership Program**

### **Taxation in PA: The Fair Share Tax Plan**

**Thursday, January 25, 2018**

**Potluck Dinner at 5:30 pm**

**Program 7:00-8:30 pm**

**Oak Place Community Center, 1055 Oak Street, Indiana**

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Membership Potluck and Program of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County on January 25, 2018. The program is on taxation in Pennsylvania, and the invited speaker is Pennsylvania Senator Arthur Haywood.

The LWVIC is working to educate community members about taxation in Pennsylvania. There are tax plans proposed by the Pennsylvania Legislature that will impact the overall tax burden of citizens (i.e. property, sales and service, and personal income taxes) and that will influence how we will adequately and securely fund our public schools. Therefore, the League has invited Pennsylvania Senator Arthur Haywood, a sponsor of Senate Bill No. 555: Fair Share Tax Plan, to speak about this proposed tax plan.

For additional information regarding the potluck and program, please contact the League at [lwvindi-anacounty@gmail.com](mailto:lwvindi-anacounty@gmail.com).

## **Redistricting Work Continues**

Fair Districts PA (<https://www.fairdistrictspa.com/>) is a nonpartisan, citizen-led, statewide coalition working to create a process for redistricting that is transparent, impartial, and fair and is an arm of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania.

This past summer, Indiana County formed our own Fair Districts chapter in order to educate our community on the ills of gerrymandering and the need for reform. The LWVIC has been working in conjunction with this group to get the word out about this issue and what we as citizens can do to create change.

So far, we have focused on gathering and delivering signatures on petitions urging Representative Reed and Senator White to support HB722 and SB22 respectively. In addition, several letters to the editor have been published in the local newspaper, and educational programs are being planned for the near future.

If you would like to join the effort to make our democracy work for everyone, please contact Fair Districts' local coordinator, Sid Reger at [fdpa.indiana@gmail.com](mailto:fdpa.indiana@gmail.com), and visit us on facebook. ([https://www.facebook.com/Indiana-PA-Fair-Districts-1868409793476740/?hc\\_location=ufi](https://www.facebook.com/Indiana-PA-Fair-Districts-1868409793476740/?hc_location=ufi))

## Opportunities to Get Involved in 2018

If you have been looking for an opportunity to get more involved in our community and the League, now is the time. The LWVIC is currently seeking a new chair for the Voter Services committee as well as a new treasurer.

First, Karen Ross, who has served as chair of the Voter Services committee for many years, is currently unable to continue. As the chair of this committee, Karen organized voter registration events throughout Indiana County. If you see Karen, thank her for all of her hard work.

In addition, Sandy Whitson deserves our thanks. Sandy has been serving as the treasurer for the LWVIC since its founding but is ready to pass the torch. In general, the treasurer pays the bills, manages the budget, balances the checkbook, reports monthly to the board, and prepares an annual report to LWVPA and LWVIC. Although this might sound like a big responsibility, Sandy is willing to work with anyone who is interested in taking over her role.

If you are interested in serving in either of these capacities, please contact Vicki Stelma at [lwvindianacounty@gmail.com](mailto:lwvindianacounty@gmail.com).

Don't miss this opportunity to become more involved in the League.

## Check This Out

In case you didn't know, the LWVIC, in partnership with Evergreen Conservancy and the Center for Community Growth, hosted the Sustainable Economy Summit in May 2017. After this, the Indiana County Commissioners created a Task Force "to identify strategies and initiatives for local economic development that are grounded in sustainable economic development practice, and tailored to Indiana County."

The vision of the group is to promote the following:

A sustainable economy providing cost savings through greater efficiency as well as reduced future environmental and human health related costs; and

Innovation, forward-thinking education, practical training, meaningful employment, and citizen engagement.

For more information, visit <http://sustainableindianacounty.org/>.



## Child Advocacy Committee Working Hard to Reform Education

This past year, our League received a \$1000 Investing Together for Education grant from LWVPA. Chaired by Anne Simmons, the Child Advocacy Committee on Education worked to host public forums, establish new funding advocacy partnerships in our community, and publish opinion pieces and letters to the editor in local publications.

In general, this committee functions as a study group and meets monthly to discuss education funding. The study group has investigated the best practices of financing public education for students in K-12 with a special focus on the needs of rural communities.

More recently, the committee is examining how progressive and regressive forms of taxation influence how we fund our public schools. They are also working to educate community members about taxation in Pennsylvania. There are tax plans proposed by the Pennsylvania Legislature that will impact the overall tax burden of citizens (i.e. property, sales and service, and personal income taxes) and that will influence how we adequately and securely fund our public schools.

At meetings and communications with Representative Dave Reed and Senator Don White, committee members learned more about the Property Tax Independence Act (HB/SB 76). In order to increase understanding of another proposed tax plan, the LWVIC has invited Pennsylvania Senator Arthur Haywood, a sponsor of Senate Bill No. 555: Fair Share Tax Plan, to speak at our Annual Member Potluck and Program. (See details on page 1.)

Finally, the committee gave two community presentations on taxation in December 2017 and plans to give three community presentations in January 2018:

1. Delta Kappa Gamma - Indiana University of Pennsylvania Chapter
2. American Association of University Women - Indiana County Branch
3. Indiana County Children's Advisory Commission
4. Federation of Democratic Women of Indiana County
5. ARIN IU 28 Superintendents Advisory Council

Members of the committee include the following women: Anna Goldman, Pepita Jimenez-Jacobs, Joyce Magee, Sue Welsh, Nancy Westburg, and Susan Wheatley. Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact Chair, Anne Simmons at [aesindianapa@verizon.net](mailto:aesindianapa@verizon.net).

## Grant Township Continues to Fight Fracking

If you haven't been following Grant Township's efforts to fight an injection well, check out this article from *Rolling Stone*. <https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/how-a-small-town-is-standing-up-to-fracking-w482577>

In addition, Grant is continuing their battle in court and is in need of some expert witnesses for their upcoming lawsuit and appeal. If you know of anyone in the following areas who could serve as an expert witness, please contact Judy Wanchisn, East Run Hellbenders Society, 724-254-2739, [jupaw@verizon.net](mailto:jupaw@verizon.net):

- hydrogeology;
- chemistry;
- geology;
- mechanical engineer specializing in metal corrossions/fatigue, casings, concrete (as it relates to the fitness of the existing well for use as a class II injection well);
- realty expert dealing in land values;
- epidemiology (an expert on how fracking and related issues affect the health of those who live in the community)

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

1105 Water Street  
Indiana, PA 15701

724-599-9225

lwvindianacounty@gmail.com



## 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 LWWIC's activities.

**Monday, January 15, 7:00 pm**—Board Meeting, All Members Welcome, PASEC meeting room (1005 Oak Street, 2nd Floor)

**Saturday, March 3, 10:00 am—3:00 pm**—Family Fun Fest, Indiana Mall

**Thursday, June 28, 2018—Sunday, July 1, 2018**—LWV Convention, Chicago

### 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.*