

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE AKRON AREA
THE AKRON VOTER
Newsletter for LWVAA Members and Supporters

April, 2019

[Click here for your 2019 LWVAA Handbook! \(link opens a PDF\)](#)

FREE PUBLIC FORUM

Wednesday • April 10, 2019 • 7-8:30pm

Money in Politics

*The impact of unchecked campaign financing
and what we can do about it*



It's been 9 years since the Supreme Court issued its **Citizens United** ruling.

While we know campaign financing has increased exponentially, what we don't know is where all the money's coming from. Dark money, money from non-profit political action committees (PACs) that do not require source disclosures, has become more prevalent in state and local office campaigns.

What can we do, if anything, to shed light and stem the flow?



MODERATOR

Bruce Winges, Retired Editor, Akron Beacon Journal

PANELISTS

Cyndra Miller Cole, Lecturer, University of Akron

William D. Rich, Emeritus Professor, University of Akron School of Law;
Chairman, Summit County Board of Elections



Catherine Turcer, Executive Director, Common Cause Ohio



**Olin Hall, Room 124
University of Akron
361 Buchtel Common
Akron, OH 44304**

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

To submit forum questions, use #MIPBliss on Twitter or email president@lwvaa.org

Cosponsored by Bliss Center for Applied Politics at the University of Akron, LWV-Akron Area, LWV-Greater Cleveland, Common Cause Ohio.



VOTE411.ORG
Click here to get
May 7 Election
info



LWVAA

Upcoming

Events

April 8, 2019

**LWVAA Book
Discussion**

10:30 a.m.

Panera Montrose
3895 Medina Road,
Akron, Ohio

Read and discuss
books in preparation
for April 10 Money in
Politics panel:
"Democracy in
Chains" and "Dark
Money"

More details below

A Message From the President

Dear Members,

Once again we're entering a busy month with our **Money in Politics** and **2019 Akron Mayoral and Council Primary Candidate** forums.

If you've had a chance to read all or parts of **Dark Money** and **Democracy in Chains**, the books we'll be discussing at 10:30am, April 8 at the Montrose Panera, 3895 Medina Rd., you'll have a sense of the impact of uncontrolled money in the political process. Nonetheless, there are arguments for no limits. We'll hear both perspectives as well as examining solutions to shine more light on campaign donors at the **Money in Politics Forum**, 7pm, April 10 at Olin Hall, Rm. 124, 361 Buchtel Common, University of Akron.

Then the following week we'll be hosting the **2019 Akron Mayoral and Council Primary Candidate Forum** at 6pm, April 16, Akron-Summit Public Library, 60 S. High St. With the voters' approval to move Akron's primary election to May we're seeing a huge increase in contested races for mayor, council at-large and ward seats. This primary election represents a significant departure from politics as usual in Akron.

We hope you'll attend both events and bring your questions.

April 10, 2019

**Money in Politics
Forum: The Impact
of Unchecked
Campaign Financing**

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Olin Hall, Room 124
University of Akron
361 Buchtel Common,
Akron, Ohio

[Email](#) for a free
parking pass

Moderator: Bruce
Winges, VP & Editor
Akron Beacon Journal

Panelists:
Cyndra Miller Cole,
Bliss Institute for
Public Policy, U. of
Akron

**William D.
Rich,** Emeritus
Professor, University
of Akron School of
Law; Chairman,
Summit County Board
of Elections

**Catherine
Turcer,** Executive
Director, Common
Cause Ohio

Co-sponsored by:
The Bliss Institute of
Applied Politics,
University of Akron; The
League of Women
Voters of the Akron
Area; The League of

As we approach the 100-year anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote, we're introducing a new sidebar to make you aware of community events related to the Centennial. Local efforts will be enhanced if the Ohio legislature enacts the proposed Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission.

If enacted the Commission will celebrate Ohio's rich history in the suffrage movement and support public programming that will encourage all Ohioans to remember that their right to vote is a sacred civic duty that should not be squandered. Please ask your state house representatives to VOTE YES on SB 30.

Best, Jackie Derrow, LWVAA President

Natural Resources Subcommittee

Submitted by Arrye Rosser, LWVAA Natural
Resources Chair

The first meeting of this subcommittee took place on
March 14 and they set three goals:

- To network with other local Leagues, GAINS, the Big Live Network, and others to promote sustainability in Summit County.
- To work with underrepresented communities to better understand their needs and concerns.
- To question politicians about their environmental policy positions.

The next meeting was April 2 and the main
tasks were to decide on environmental questions for

Women Voters of
Greater Cleveland;
Common Cause Ohio

April 16, 2019

**LWVAA Candidates
Forum for May 7
Primary Election**

6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Akron-Summit County
Public Library
60 South High Street
Akron, Ohio

Public statements by
candidates followed
by Q&A

Moderated by:

Ron Ponder,
President & CEO of
PonderSystems
Media

Co-sponsored by:

The Akron Chapter,
NAACP; Alpha Kappa
Alpha Sorority,
Incorporated, Zeta Theta
Omega Chapter; and the
Akron Alumnae Chapter
of Delta Sigma Theta
Sorority, Incorporated

candidates night and increase their network.

Arrye will be repeating the March 1 river history program for CVNP volunteers on April 9 and for KSU Earth Day on April 22 and possibly at Summit Artspace on April 18. She's also doing river presentations for GAINS on May 8 and Portage Lakes Branch Library on July 16.

Watch for SignUpGenius requests for volunteer opportunities for upcoming programs. [Email](#) us if you want to get more involved with LWVAA!

Centennial Spotlight

Community events highlighting women's efforts to attain the vote

Sojourner Truth Hike

**Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
at Wesley Temple, AME Zion Church, 104 N.
Prospect St., Akron**

Actor Josy Jones will re-enact the Sojourner Truth "Ain't I a Woman?" speech from the 1851 women's rights convention held in Akron at Wesley Temple, AME Zion Church.

The group will then proceed to the Sojourner Truth Ohio Historical Marker on High St. where Historical Society President, Leianne Neff Heppner will talk about the 1851 convention.

For free tickets and more information email schs@SummitHistory.org or call 330.535.1120.



May 10-12, 2019

**LWV Ohio State
Convention**

Nationwide Hotel and
Conference Center,
100 Green Meadows
Dr, Lewis Center,
Ohio

June 6, 2019

**LWVAA Annual
Meeting**

Bravo Cucina Italiana
3265 W Market
Street, Fairlawn, Ohio
(At Summit Mall)

**LWVAA Board
Meetings**

April 4

May 2

June 6

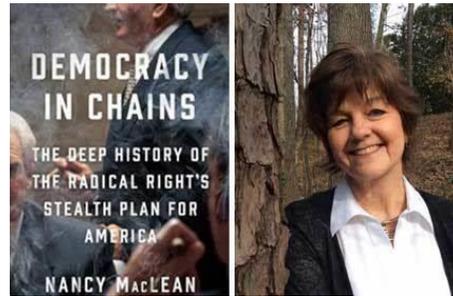
*(Annual Meeting, open to
all members, details above)*

6:30-8:00 p.m.
1250 W. Exchange
St., Akron, Ohio

Board Members only

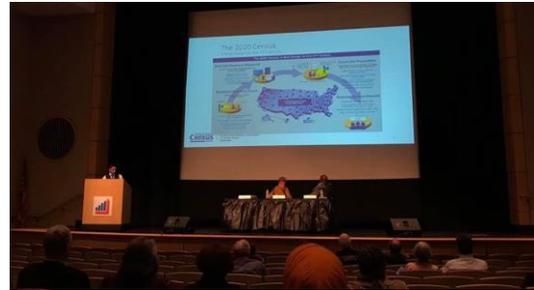
LWVAA April 8 Book Discussion

Join us on Monday, April 8 at 10:30 a.m. for our next
Book Discussion at the Montrose Panera, 3895 Medina
Road, Akron.



To prepare for the Money in Politics Forum on April 10,
I've begun reading two books that provide good
background. The first, **Democracy in Chains** by
historian Nancy MacLean, examines the "Radical Right's"
campaign to eliminate unions, suppress voting, privatize
public education and alter the constitution," bolstered by
big money.

The second, **Dark Money** by the well-respected journalist
Jane Mayer, tells the story of how the billionaire Koch
brothers are using their money and influence to re-shape
American politics. I hope you'll read parts of one or both
and join in the discussion.



2020 Census Forum Recap

Submitted by Jackie Derrow, LWVAA President

On March 19 LWVAA took a first step in educating the community about the importance of full participation in the census count. Barbara Hunsicker moderated the discussion that began with a presentation by Kent Camino, partnership specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau.

Camino spoke about the Constitutional mandate to conduct the census and its purpose, to:

- Apportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives
- Conduct redistricting at the federal, state and local levels
 - Data is used to shape the boundaries for state legislative districts, school districts and voting precincts
- Distribute \$675 billion in federal dollars
- Help communities plan for future needs.

He also spoke of the solemn oath taken by all census personnel to maintain the secrecy of census data, punishable by a \$250,000 fine and up to five years in prison. But in the current environment, will that alleviate individual concerns about privacy and potential targeting? The audience probed this issue and the outreach plans to non-English language and other low participation communities.

The Census Bureau believes, based on past experience, that the optimal way to dispel concerns and gain widespread participation is to bond with trusted community agencies via a Complete Count Committee. Forum speakers Larry Chadwick, interim president of the Akron Urban League and County Executive Ilene Shapiro are among the community leaders working to build understanding of the impact of the census. We're delighted that Liz King will represent LWVAA

on the Akron / Summit CCC.

The League is strongly behind robust participation in the census. Fair elections require fair districts based on accurate population counts and communities like our own deserve their fair allocation of federal funds.

You'll be hearing more about the census over the next 12-18 months. If you have ideas for communicating with and/or assisting with low participation rate groups, email president@lwvaa.org.

[Submit your idea or article for the May issue of the Akron Voter](#)

Observer Corps: Green City Council

Submitted by Terry Hunt, LWVAA Volunteer

Smile With a Service

Acting as Observers for LWVAA, my wife Cathy and I have been going to City Council meetings here in Green for over a year now. It's a good way to get to know our city as well as a great lesson in local Civics. We've also seen firsthand the bitterness that can divide a community when people start talking past each other instead of listening to each other—a microcosm of our nation's ills.



The Council meetings, which begin at 7 PM in Green, are less interesting than the committee meetings that begin at 5 PM. The Mayor and the entire Council are generally present for both/all the meetings, but there is a lot more detail discussed during the committee portion. Something that just occurred to me is that I've never heard a citizen/spectator ask a question during the meetings, and I wonder whether that is because it's not permitted or whether people are satisfied by the discussions. I'll have to ask some Council members about that.

People do speak at the Council meetings, however; one merely has to sign up on a sheet of paper before the meeting in order to get 3 minutes at the microphone. But that's not the same as being able to raise one's hand at the moment something doesn't make sense, or when a Council

member is out of line.

One advantage of going to the meetings is that they are a great opportunity to get petition signatures. During the Fair Districts petition drives, I removed my Observer button several times to get signatures from the Mayor, Council members, and the audience during breaks and after the meetings ended.

Everyone can learn something about his/her community by going to Council meetings, and I hope that when our service as LWVAA Observers is over, Cathy and I will still attend the meetings.

Legislative Update

Submitted by Jackie Darrow, LWVAA President

Rosanne Winter, Barbara Hunsicker and I attended LWVO's Statehouse Day on March 27. In preparation for meetings with legislators in the afternoon, we spent the morning learning about the bills LWVO is advocating as well as strategies for effective communication with leaders who hold different views.

Among those bills discussed and LWVO's request for your help in contacting legislators are the following. Use the LWV Ohio Legislative Tracker to stay informed of the status of these bills and more [here](#).

Protect and Restore Local Control of Public Education

A paramount duty of the State of Ohio is to provide for an efficient, safe and high quality school system sharing this responsibility with locally elected boards of election that are constitutionally established to provide oversight and direction to the local school district. Ten additional school districts are slated for likely state takeover in the next two years but state takeover in the current three school districts (Lorain, E. Cleveland and Youngstown) has proven to be highly disruptive, frequently leading to dismantling the public system, not strengthening it. Using test scores as the basis for state takeover is questionable given the clear correlation between income and test scores. All of the districts facing takeover have high poverty rates.

ASK IN BOTH HOUSES: VOTE YES on HB 124 to restore local control to schools currently under state control, and VOTE YES on HB 154 to halt the Distress Commission Process.

Protect Women's Right to Choose

Prohibiting abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected is unconstitutional and it would effectively prevent patients from getting the care they need from their doctors. This proposed bill does not make exceptions for rape, incest or severe mental illness – all conditions that should evoke compassion, not a one-size-fits-all imperative. Finally, Ohio would be saddled with the costs of defending the bill in courts. Instead the state should focus on reducing unintended pregnancies through increased access to medical care, emergency contraception and comprehensive sex education.

ASK IN BOTH HOUSES: VOTE NO on SB 23 and HB 68

Protect Free Speech

By liberally expanding definitions of “criminal trespass,” “criminal mischief,” “critical infrastructure facility,” and “economic harm,” SB33 could result in criminal charges and fines for workers peacefully striking at their workplace even if no criminal trespass or property damage occurs. Even acts like advertising events by posting flyers on telephone poles could be considered unlawful. The bill could also be used to penalize whistleblowers trying to keep their communities safe from harm if they believe that a disaster could occur. Acts of vandalism, trespassing and terrorism are already adequately covered and prosecuted under existing law making this bill unnecessary.

ASK IN BOTH HOUSES: VOTE NO on SB 33

Slow Down Efforts to Reduce Poll Workers

SB 22 would permit boards of elections to reduce the minimum number of poll workers from four to two in multi-precinct polling locations that utilize electronic poll books. We are concerned that this change will result in long lines or otherwise negatively impact voters while acknowledging the goal of using technology to increase efficiencies and the difficulty in recruiting poll workers. Instead of reducing the number of workers, we believe the legislature needs to better incentivize service.

ASK HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: PAUSE SB 22 and improve poll worker incentives.

LWVO State Convention

State Convention is a wonderful time to come together in League, participate in dynamic workshops, share ideas and successes, plan for our League's future, catch up with old friends and make new ones.

When: May 10 - 12, 2019

Where: Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center, 100 Green Meadows Drive, Lewis Center Ohio 43035

Voting Delegates: The Convention shall be composed of Voting Delegates, Visitors and Guests. Voting Delegates include:

- The members of the LWVO Board of Directors.
- The President {or designated alternate} from each Local League.
- One delegate from each Local League for each 50 voting members, or fraction thereof, based on the records in the state office on January 31, 2019. All other League members may attend the Convention as Visitors.

Please watch your emails for information about registration, agenda, proposed budget, and bylaws.

Do you have suggestions for speakers and or topics you would like to see at Statehouse Day or Convention? Please [email](#) them to LWVO.

PRIMARY ELECTION FORUM
Meet the Candidates for
**Akron Mayor,
City Council At-large
& Ward Council**
for the 2019 Primary Election on May 7th

When: Tuesday, April 16, 2019

Time: 6:00 - 8:30 PM

**Where: Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 South High Street, Akron, OH 44308**

**A Non-Partisan Informational Event,
Free & Open to the Public**

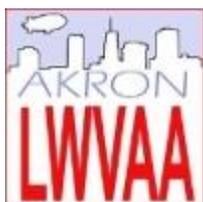
This will be your opportunity to ask questions of the City of Akron mayoral and council-at-large candidates. The question and answer session will be moderated by Ron Ponder, President, CEO of PonderSystems Media. Afterwards you'll be able to meet and talk with individual Ward candidates running in the contested Primary Election races.

Sponsored by:

The League of Women Voters of the Akron Area;

Co-Sponsored by:

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Zeta Theta Omega Chapter;
The Akron Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated; &
The Akron Chapter, NAACP



[Join us today](#) to support democracy, nonpartisan political action, and voter rights in your community.

Stay up-to-date with LWV Ohio

[Website](#)

[The Ohio Voter](#)

Stay up-to-date with LWVUS

[Website](#)

[The National Voter](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Instagram](#)



[YouTube](#)



[Email](#)



[Website](#)

Copyright © 2019 *League of Women Voters of the Akron Area*, All rights reserved.