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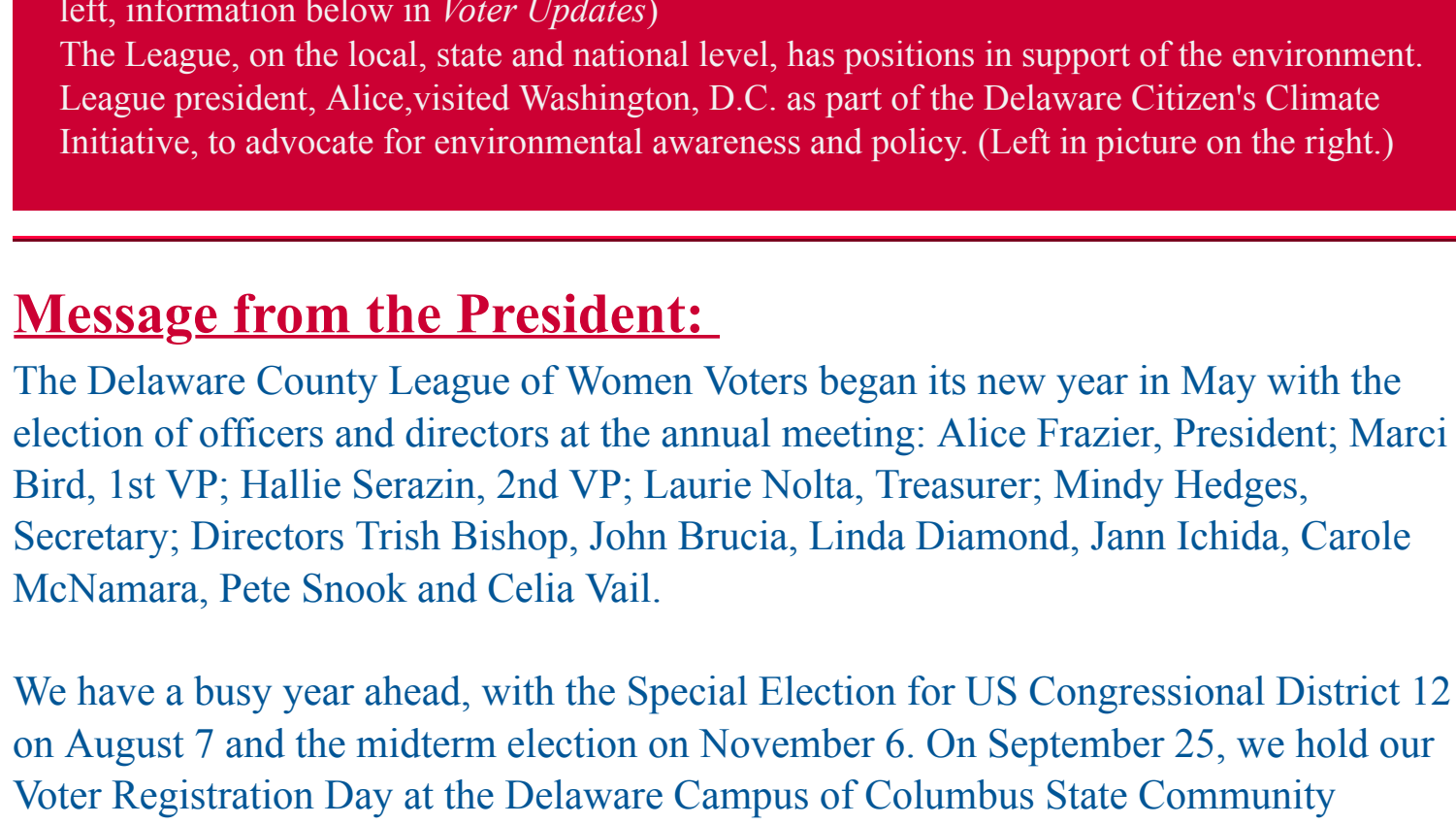


Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

The Voter July 2018

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Watch for LWV of Delaware County members out and about in the community helping people to verify their voter registrations, like Jann at a recent Farmer's Market. (Picture on left, information below in Voter Updates)
The League, on the local, state and national level, has positions in support of the environment. League president, Alice, visited Washington, D.C. as part of the Delaware Citizen's Climate Initiative, to advocate for environmental awareness and policy. (Left in picture on the right.)

Message from the President:

The Delaware County League of Women Voters began its new year in May with the election of officers and directors at the annual meeting: Alice Frazier, President, Marei Bird, 1st VP, Hallie Serazin, 2nd VP, Laurie Nolta, Treasurer, Mindy Hodges, Secretary, Directors Irish Bishop, John Brucia, Linda Diamond, Jann Ichida, Carole McNamara, Pete Snook and Celia Vail.

We have a busy year ahead, with the Special Election for US Congressional District 12 on August 7 and the midterm election on November 6. On September 25, we hold our Voter Registration Day at the Delaware Campus of Columbus State Community College from 10-2 and always welcome friendly League members to help students register.

We are switching platforms for our website and the chair of this effort welcomes anyone with experience, talent and/or interest in the area to join the committee.

Just email us at lwvdelawarecountyohio@gmail.com if you are interested in enhancing the quality of any of our committees--we'd love to have you!

Alice Frazier

Voter Updates:

US Congressional District 12 Special Elections

Did you know that there are 2 elections this fall for US Congressional District 12?

Pat Tiberi resigned from his seat this past January and there is a Special Election on August 7 to determine who will fill that seat as his replacement until January 3, 2019. Then, during the regularly scheduled midterm elections held on November 6, voters will have the opportunity to select the person to represent them for the full term from 2019-2021. Based on the results of the primary election held in May, the candidate from the Democratic Party is Danny O'Connor and the representative from the Republican Party is Troy Balderson.

We asked questions of the candidates before the primary elections for our Vote411.org voter education guides. Here is a recap of those questions and answers. (Please note that the candidates opted to answer different questions during the primary season: one answered those for the special election, the other for the general. Thus, the questions were not selected by the League to be presented here. It was a matter of self-selection by the candidates.)

Danny O'Connor

Q: What is the most pressing problem facing the federal government in the next two years? What solutions will you offer?

A: Our government has become a great debate society focused on scoring political points instead of solving the problems we face. If we cannot govern then we all lose. This is the greatest country on the face of the earth; we put a man on the moon in less than a decade and if we work together we will cure cancer. However, it is time for us to come together, find common ground and get back to the hard work of solving problems. We have wage stagnation, an immigration crisis, and problems in our healthcare system that must be solved by putting all the stakeholders in the room. I am committed to ending the partisan gridlock in Washington. In Congress, I will work with both sides to bring new economic opportunities to families and working people throughout the 12th district.

Q: What solution would you propose to address challenges in the healthcare system?

A: Health care is of paramount importance to me, especially as the son of a breast cancer survivor. I will fight to protect access to quality health care. I will fight to expand access to health care so that no family has to decide between going bankrupt and getting the care they need. We need to work together to ensure that the Affordable Care Act functions properly for everyone. I support protecting those with preexisting conditions and making sure children can stay on their parents insurance until they turn 26. If you lose your job you shouldn't lose your health insurance. With that framework, we can work together to lower cost, increase access to higher quality insurance, and hold the insurance companies accountable.

Troy Balderson

Q: Describe what you have done to work across political differences to solve problems.

A: To many, their Congressperson is out of touch and out of step with the interests in their district. For me, I have always put constituent services first so those needing help have access to me and the resources their tax dollars are funding. With such a large geographic district, I will work to have multiple district offices so constituents can easily communicate with me and my staff. I pledge to have mobile office hours so those not able to make it to a permanent location might be able to find a better way to come in to our office.

Most importantly, I pledge to uphold the office by having the highest of ethical standards, just as I have done in the state legislature in Columbus. Too many take taxpayer dollars for granted when they should be safeguarding them instead. In Congress, I pledge to be transparent, open, and honest so you always know where I stand on the issues and how and where your tax dollars are being spent.

Q: What will you do to foster trust between you as an elected official and voters you represent?

A: To get things accomplished in a democratic process, we must work with all like-minded individuals to build conservative solutions to the problems affecting families today. I believe there are many elected officials on the opposite side of the aisle that will support conservative solutions if presented with the opportunity to have their voice heard. During my time in the legislature, I have done just that. I don't believe every bill needs to be passed with just Republicans, but I never betray by bedrock conservative principles either.

Use the following links for more information on Danny O'Connor, Troy Balderson or these elections at Ballotopedia. The Columbus Dispatch held interviews with the two candidates in early July. The answers to the questions posed can be found here. (If the link takes you to a sign in page for the Dispatch, please do a web search of "Columbus Dispatch 12th District Hopefuls Discuss Issues".)

To verify your registration go to: myvoteohio.com

Dates Regarding Special Election for District 12:

Last Day to Register or Update to Vote: Monday, July 9
Beginning of Early In-person Voting and Absentee Voting by Mail: Tuesday, July 10
Deadline to Request Absentee Ballot: Saturday, August 4 (noon)
End of Early Voting and Final Day for Postmark on Absentee Ballots: Mon., August 6
Election Day: Tuesday, August 7

LWV-Delaware Joins LWV-Ohio in Verify Your Vote Campaign

Members of the LWV-Delaware County will join members from other Leagues across the state in effort to educate voters about how to verify that they are registered to vote, that their registration is up to date, and to let them know how they can check that their vote is being cast (in the case of Delaware and Franklin Counties, they can watch the paper trail in the voting machine when they cast their votes). We will be out at the Farmer's Markets, First Fridays and other community events. We can only do so many events as we have volunteers - and we would love to have you join us, just contact Alice at: lwvdelawarecountyohio@gmail.com

Or you can just share with the folks around you the myvoteohio.com link and let them know they can check their information anytime.

Our main mission is helping people to understand the issues and to get out to vote so this is a perfect opportunity to help, even from home.

Upcoming Events:

July Hot Topics Brown Bag Lunch: Human Trafficking - Modern Day Slavery

Speaker: David Shine
Time and Date - Wednesday - July 25, 2018, 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

Mr Shine is a former charter Board member of Sisters in Shelter, a group based in Seneca County. Their mission is to educate the public about human trafficking and to support and advocate for its victims. In addition to receiving an overall picture of human trafficking a it exists today, those attending will receive materials that will list "red flags" to look for if you suspect someone might be victim.

This will be an informative meeting, you won't want to miss. Hope to see you there!

Place - County Commissioners Office - Conference Room
101 N. Sandusky St. Delaware, OH 43015
Parking - Behind office or on street

August Hot Topics Brown Bag Lunch: Ohio Fair Courts Working Group

Speaker: Camille Winbush, Ohio Voice
Details TBD but save the date!
Also, see below for report from an earlier related, meeting.

Committee Updates:

Outreach and Programming Committee:

- Hot Topics Brown Bag Lunch Series
The League of Women Voters of Delaware County held its third Hot Topics luncheon on June 27, 2018 at Willowbrook South with Larry Harris, CEO of Willowbrook as speaker. He began his remarks with appreciation for the work of the local and national League and recognition of the challenges we face given the assault on voting rights.
As former board member and board president of Sourcepoint, the senior services agency in Delaware County, Larry is aware of the many services it provides to keep senior independent in their own homes, from meals on wheels, in-home health aide and homemaking services to medical transportation, New to Medicare classes, tax preparation help, and a wide offering of fitness and social classes and gatherings at the Enrichment Center on Chestnut Rd. He and Bob Horrocks, the executive director of Sourcepoint since its inception in 1992 as the Council for Older Adults, have had the vision to work collaboratively recognizing the desirability of supporting older people in their homes as the ideal, but then offering quality residential and nursing care when it becomes necessary. He also touched on the cost of longterm care, longterm care insurance, and the demographic shifts which are driving the need for senior services.

- Verify My Vote (see above)

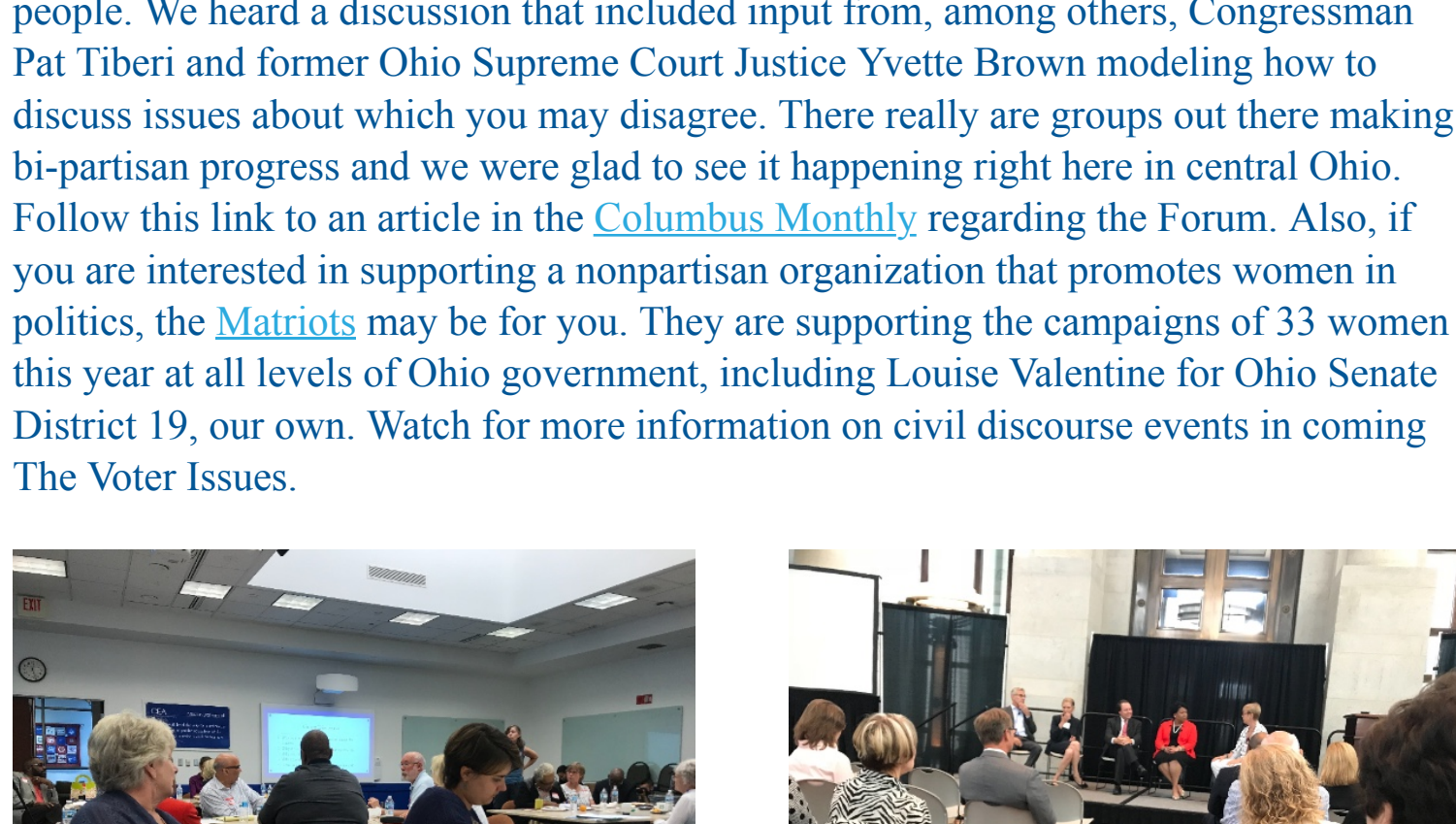
Media Communications and Community Relations Committee:

- The Committee is investigating changing website platforms, enhancing features and posts on FB, and continues to keep the newsletter posted monthly and the website online up to date.
We are continuing to investigate non-profit status for the LWV of Delaware County with Facebook which would allow us to have donations made through our page.
The committee is in need of a chair and members. Please contact the League if you are interested in helping to manage the image of the LWVDC through various media. lwvdelawarecountyohio@gmail.com

Development (Membership and Fundraising):

- The committee has revised the power point presentation on our local League and stand ready. They'd love to present at local organizations to expand both membership and community partnerships. Please reach out to the League to schedule and event.

We are keeping busy in the community and could do even more with your participation! Contact us now: lwvdelawarecountyohio@gmail.com



League VP Hallie attended the National Convention in Chicago and joined members from other Leagues to protest Family Separation policies for Immigrants.

Other Items of Interest to League Members:

Immigration: Where the League Stands

Because the topic of immigration is so controversial, it may be helpful to refresh our knowledge of what the League stands for in dealing with this issue.

The League adopted its national position on immigration in 2008. In a nutshell, that position is to: Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

Recent action under this position has included support for the DREAM Act, calling for Leaguers to contact our senators and representatives to stand with us and enact this bill. Our national League also sent a memo to the U.S. House urging the defeat of the two recent immigration bills, stating "The current practice of separating families at our borders violates our human rights and moral responsibilities. As a country of immigrants, we are made stronger by our diversity." The full statements are available at www.lwv.org.

US National Conventional

Board VP, Hallie Serazin, was able to attend the League's National Convention in Chicago in late June. Look forward to hearing her report on the National Initiatives in August's newsletter.

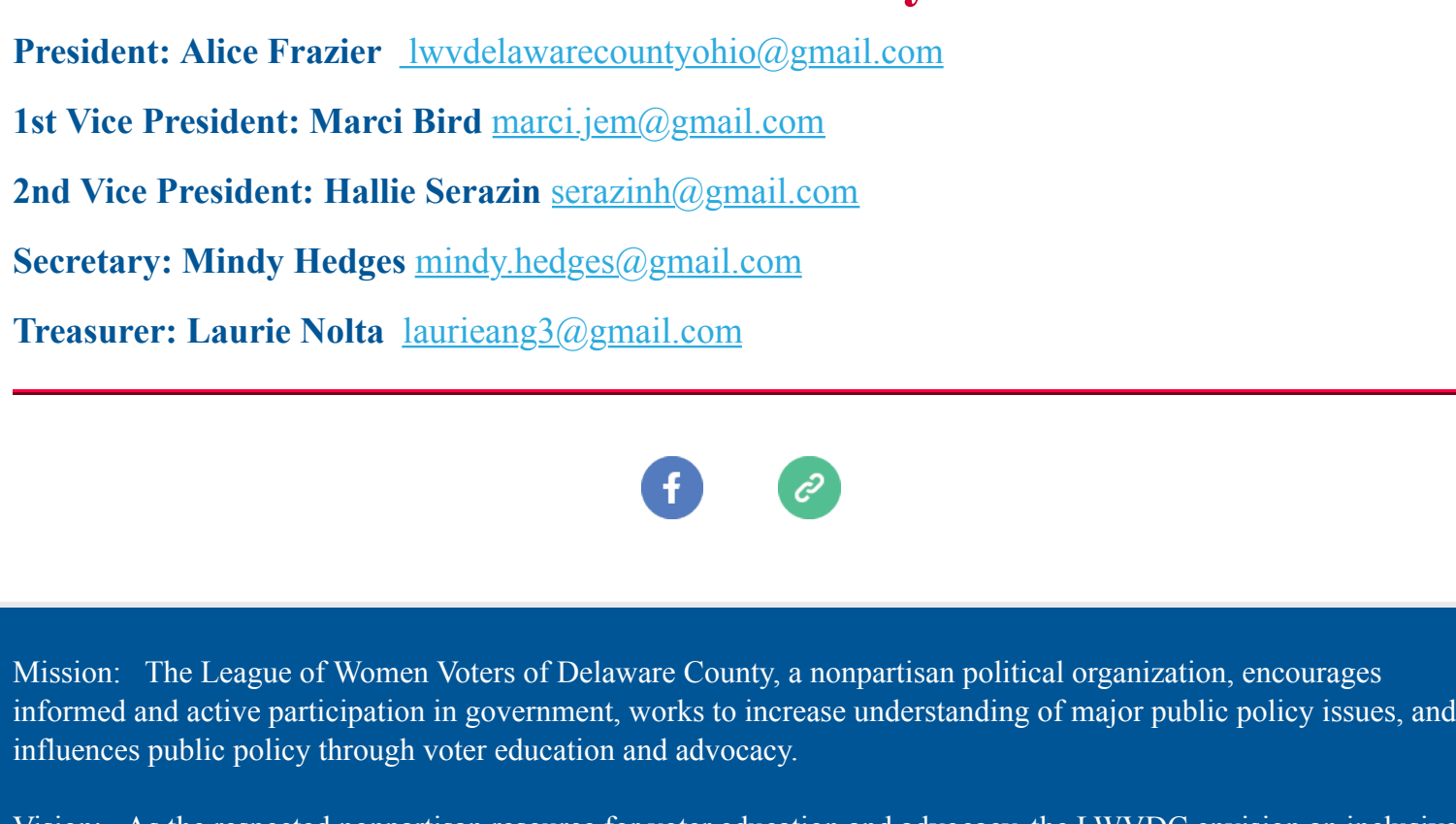
Ohio Fair Courts Working Group

League members attended the first open session of the Ohio Fair Courts Working Group in order to participate a discussion about the critical role the courts and our elected judges play in issues deemed critical to the League (Voter Suppression and Participation, the Environment, Money in Politics, etc.)

We attended a lunchtime panel with former Judge Ron Adrine, of Cleveland Municipal Court, who championed bail reform in Cuyahoga County, and Judge Cindi Morehart, who presides over a special mental health docket in Franklin County Municipal Court. We also discussed the direct link between people power at the community level and the impartiality of our courts with members of various coalition partners. Watch for more opportunities to participate or contact the Fair Courts working group directly. ohiofaircourts@gmail.com

Elevating Community, Collaboration and Civility

League members concerned about the erosion in politics and about politics in the community attended a meeting in late June sponsored by the Columbus Partnership and the Midlands. Both of these organizations are interested in nonpartisan promotion of dialogue and partnerships to further the success of the greater Columbus region and its people. We heard a discussion that included input from, among others, Congressman Pat Tiberi and former Ohio Supreme Court Justice Yvette Brown modeling how to discuss issues about which you may disagree. There really are groups out there making bi-partisan progress and we were glad to see it happening right here in central Ohio. Follow this link to an article in the Columbus Monthly regarding the Forum. Also, if you are interested in supporting a nonpartisan organization that promotes women in politics, the Midlands may be for you. They are supporting the campaigns of 33 women this year at all levels of Ohio government, including Louise Valentine for Ohio Senate District 19, our own. Watch for more information on civil discourse events in coming The Voter Issues.



League members attended an Ohio Fair Courts Working Group meeting in order to further our missions of protecting voter rights and defending democracy. Also, in an effort to learn about and promote more civil interaction and dialogue, members attended the meeting, Elevating Community, Collaboration and Civility. More information above.

Statehouse Update:

Unfinished Business: League-supported Bills in Limbo
Ohio's legislature has adjourned for the summer and likely until after the November election, leaving several League-supported bills still in committees. The inaction also affects bills League opposes, which could make for a hectic lame duck session (after the November election) as legislators scramble to push through their pet proposals before the session dies. These include actions on gun control, energy and the environment, education and reproductive rights.

On a positive note, one of the human trafficking bills that the League testified on was passed and sent to the governor. Senate Bill 4 expands the list of criminal offenses that may be expunged from the records of victims of human trafficking who committed crimes as the result of being trafficked. LWV Ohio supported the bill as a means of facilitating victim rehabilitation and providing the opportunity to reshape lives. House Bill 461, which would allow 16- and 17-year old victims of human trafficking to be legally considered as minors, is still in committee; League submitted testimony in favor of the bill in May.

Other good news is that funding was approved for the purchase of new voting machines before the 2020 election; Delaware County Board of Elections is expected to receive \$ 2 million.

There was some recognition of the problems raised by the funding of e-schools, notably ECOT, with the passage of Senate Bill 216. This bill sets up a legislative committee to study and report on a competency-based payment structure for e-schools and the categories of expenses for which an operator must provide a detailed accounting under current law. The committee must report its findings by November 15, 2018.

(Please note that there has been movement since this article was written in terms of the Senate and the Payday Lending Bill. The Senate committee is scheduled to meet 7/9 and possibly 7/10am to consider and finalize amendments before a full session of the Senate on 7/11. If the Senate passes the bill, it will then go back to the House for concurrence or go to a conference committee. The next scheduled session for the House is an "if needed" session on September 19.)

Interested in becoming a member?

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to men and women of all ages.

Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

- Through participation in League projects, you will:
contribute valuable service to the community
gain knowledge and experience through the study and discussion of timely and important topics
discover new interests, develop new skills and learn about crucial issues in your community
make professional contacts and develop lasting friendships as you meet others in League who share your interests

Cost for memberships are: \$65.00 single member, \$100.00 two members same in the same household, \$33.00 student membership \$33.00. Some \$23.00 scholarships are available please inquire.

Visit our website to learn more about us and how you can join.

2018-2019 LWV- Delaware County Board Officers

President: Alice Frazier lwvdelawarecountyohio@gmail.com

1st Vice President: Marei Bird marci_bird@gmail.com

2nd Vice President: Hallie Serazin serazin@gmail.com

Secretary: Mindy Hodges mindyhodges@gmail.com

Treasurer: Laurie Nolta laurie@lwo.com

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Our mailing address is: 4177 Chapman Rd., Delaware, OH 43015

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Mission: The League of Women Voters of Delaware County, 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 voter education and advocacy.

Vision: As the respected nonpartisan resource for voter education and advocacy, the LWVDC envision an inclusive community of informed citizens participating in civic affairs and the electoral process.

Care Values: The League of Women Voters of Delaware County will:
Promote objective, nonpartisan, unbiased comprehensive voter information on federal, state and local community issues and candidates.
Engage with other Delaware County organizations to achieve successful programs on one or more key community issues each year.
Increase participation of a diverse community in voter education and other and outreach programming.
Strive to maintain our status as the respected nonpartisan resource for voter education and advocacy in the county.