



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

## The League of Women Voters of Washington County, Arkansas

2019 No. 34 [www.lvwarwc.org](http://www.lvwarwc.org) P.O. Box 4, Fayetteville, AR, 72701

### [LWVWC Calendar of Events](#)

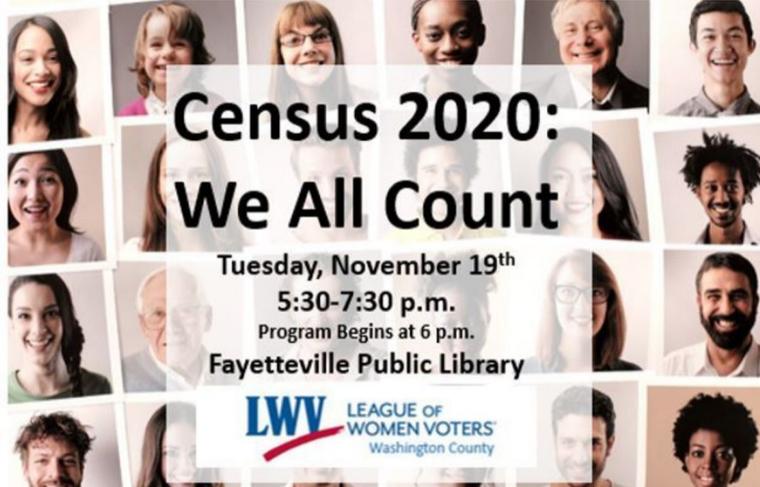
**November 16** – KUAF Presents the Purple Project: A (Re)Introduction to American Government, 2-4:00 pm, Fayetteville Public Library's Walker Community Room

**November 19** – Census 2020: We All Count, 5:30 -7:30 pm, Fayetteville Public Library's Walker Community Room

**November 20** –LWV Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, All Are Welcome, Fayetteville Public Library

### Membership Renewals

Please continue supporting the League's efforts by renewing your membership today. The League of Women Voters is the only citizen advocate organization working at the local, state and federal levels to make your voice heard and keep you informed. The information you receive as a League member will keep you "one step ahead" in making the important decisions you face as an American citizen. LWV of WC will be sending out membership renewal notices this month and next. Please be on the lookout for your's. [You can renew your membership](#) by mailing your check to: LWVWC, P.O. Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702, Attention Membership.



### [Census 2020: We All Count](#)

A complete Census is critical to our region, state and nation. The Census helps determine our political representation as well as the federal dollars our communities receive for important programs from health care to schools, roads and bridges.

Join us in Fayetteville Public Library's Walker Community Room on the evening of November 19th to discuss preparations underway for the 2020 Census in Northwest Arkansas and how everyone can help ensure that our region has a complete count. Social hour will begin at 5:30, and the program will start at 6 pm.

At the forum, we'll hear from people in our region who are working to ensure that everyone is counted next year, including those who are more likely to be missed according to the U.S. Census Bureau: young children, immigrant families, people in rural areas and those without Internet access, among others.

Speakers include:

--Mireya Reith, executive director of Arkansas United and a member of the Arkansas Counts Complete Count Committee;

--Melisa Laelan, executive director of Arkansas Coalition of Marshallese and a member of Governor Asa Hutchinson's Complete Count Committee as well as the Arkansas Counts group;

--Kathryn Birkhead, chairwoman of the Springdale Complete Count Committee.

--Laura Kellams, Northwest Arkansas director of Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families and a League of Women Voters board member, will facilitate the discussion and take questions from community members who want to learn more.

### [A \(Re\)Introduction to American Government](#)

LWV of WC's Bonnie Miller (Diversity, Voter Issues, and Communications Officer) will join Janine Parry, political science professor at the University of Arkansas, Patrick Williams, history professor at the University of Arkansas, Bonnie Miller and Mararita Solorzano, Executive Director of the Hispanic Women's Organization of Arkansas to discuss civic engagement and the roles and functions of American government at Fayetteville Public Library on November 16th, from 2:00-4:00 pm.

The panel will be moderated by Kyle Kellams, KUAF News Director, and is a production of KUAF and The Purple Project for Democracy, a national, and non-partisan coalition, campaign and movement, to rediscover and recommit to our democratic values and institutions.



### What is Gerrymandering?

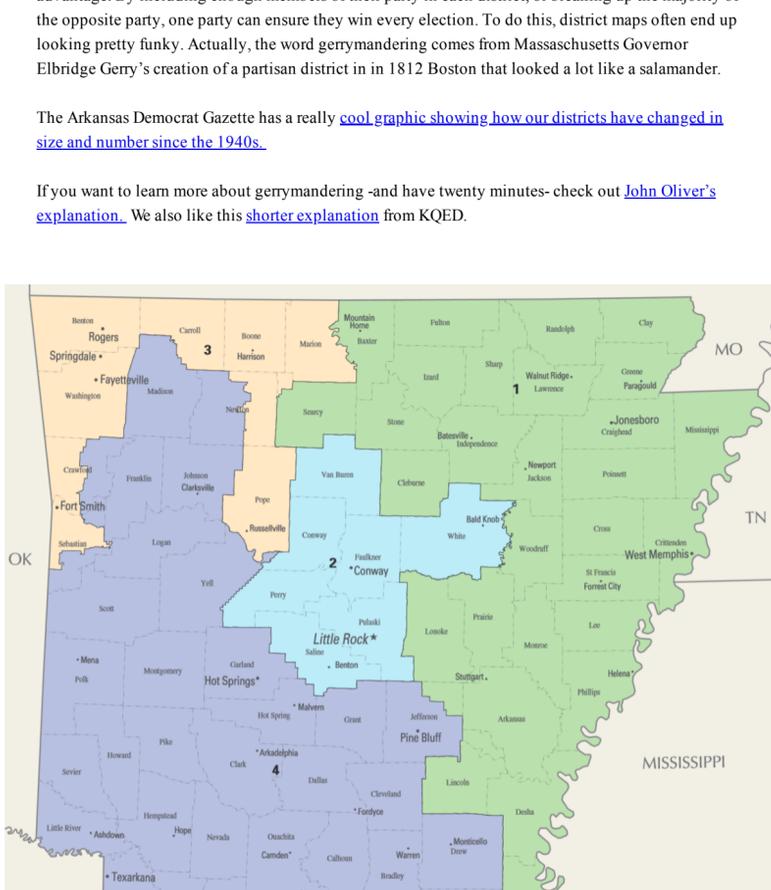
[In our last newsletter, we mentioned that the National LWV is launching a national campaign to end gerrymandering.](#) So we thought we might take a little more time to discuss what gerrymandering is.

In the US, every state elects a certain number of people to the House of Representatives. This number is based on the Census count of the state's population. Arkansas is allowed to elect four House members now, so the state has been divided into 4 congressional districts with more or less equal populations. Because populations change over time, these lines have to be withdrawn so that the districts stay equal.

Partisan gerrymandering occurs when this map-drawing process is used to give one political party an advantage. By including enough members of their party in each district, or breaking up the majority of the opposite party, one party can ensure they win every election. To do this, district maps often end up looking pretty funky. Actually, the word gerrymandering comes from Massachusetts Governor Elbridge Gerry's creation of a partisan district in 1812 Boston that looked a lot like a salamander.

The Arkansas Democrat Gazette has a really [cool graphic showing how our districts have changed in size and number since the 1940s.](#)

If you want to learn more about gerrymandering -and have twenty minutes- check out [John Oliver's explanation.](#) We also like this [shorter explanation](#) from KQED.



### Thank You

A very big thank you to Judge Comstock and Richard Boyd for presenting their perspectives on the issue of bail reform at last month's Drinks and Dialogue. We also want to thank [Crisis Brewing Company](#) for hosting us!



The [submission deadline](#) for the next newsletter is January 11.

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