



The League of Women Voters of Washington County

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www.lwvarwc.org

P.O. Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702

Calendar of Events

- Wednesday, **January 17**, 5:30 to 6:30 pm – Drinks & Dialogue – Juvenile justice conversation with Norma Frisby, Director of Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiatives (JDAI) and the Hon. Stacey Zimmerman, Circuit Judge Juvenile Court. Fresco Restaurant, 112 West Center Street, #100. More on page 2.
- Saturday, **January 20**, noon to 2:00 pm – Women’s March – Rally at the Fayetteville Town Center. Donations and Volunteers Needed! Go to Facebook: **Women's March 2018 Fayetteville Official** site. Contact **Olivia Trimble** or **Blanca Estevez** to help.
- Sunday, **January 21**, 5:00 to 7:00 pm – Reading and Q&A of *Bullets into Bells: Poets & Citizens Respond to Gun Violence*. St. Paul’s Episcopal Church North Parish Hall. Sponsored by MOMS DEMAND ACTION & Arkansans against Guns on Campus. More on page 3.
- Thursday, **January 25**, 5:30 to 8:00 pm – LWVWC Annual Program Topic Planning, at Joyce Hale’s home 285 W. Cleburn St. – Wine, Cheese and Soup and review of *Program for Action* for 2018-2019. More on page 2.
- Saturday, **January 27**, 10 am to 2:00 pm – Citizens First Congress Racial Equity Workshop, at the Jones Center, 922 East Emma Avenue, Springdale. Open to the public at no charge; lunch is provided. Registration is required to give the caterer a count. See page 4 to register.
- Tuesday, **February 13**, 6:00 to 8:00 – Voter Issues Committee – Meet at Joyce Hale’s home 285 W. Cleburn, Fayetteville
- Thursday, **February 8**, 6:00 pm – Education Discussion Committee, Mama Carmen's Espresso Cafe 2850 N College Ave. This group is open to members and non-members alike. See page 4.
- Thursday, **February 22**, 6:00 to 8:00 – It’s Time to Draw the Lines - Redistricting, David Couch speaker. Location to be announced. See page 5 for more information.

A Comment from the LWVWC President – Joyce Hale



Part of the mission of the LWV is to “encourage informed and active participation in government.” We promote registration drives and tabling to help achieve this mission. The 1993 National Voter Registration Act (aka Motor Voter Act) took an important first step to enhance voting opportunities. This Act has made it easier for all Americans to register to vote and maintain their registration. The Pew Charitable Trust reports that most states continue to use inaccurate, costly, and inefficient registration systems and need to move to online registration.

According to the report: Approximately 24 million—one of every eight—voter registrations in the U. S. are invalid or significantly inaccurate. Meanwhile, researchers estimate at least 51 million eligible U.S. citizens are unregistered or more than 24 percent of the eligible population.

Maricopa County, AZ—which includes Phoenix—saved more than \$1 million over five years by providing online voter registration, reducing the county’s dependence on paper and manual data entry. Printing costs were reduced 75 percent. Each online registration costs an average of 3 cents to process, compared with 83 cents per paper form.

http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/pcs_assets/2012/pewupgradingvoterregistrationpdf.pdf

Mapping Out Next Year's Programs with the Help of Wine & Cheese

The time is here again to plan what program topics will be offered for approval at our Annual Meeting in May. Join members at the home of Joyce Hale, 285 W. Cleburn St., Fayetteville on January 25, 5:30 to 8:00 for a bowl of soup to go with your wine and cheese. Sharing some wine, cheese or other food items would be appreciated.



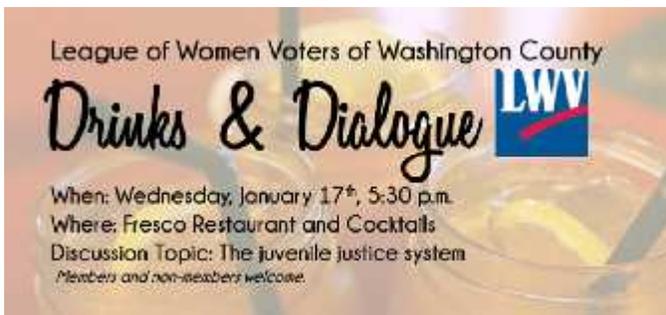
Over fifteen months since the national election, political conversations are as heated as ever. Interest is growing in building voter participation along with concerns about voter suppression. New candidates are stepping forward but the head-butting between parties shows no sign of improving. Since voting participation is at the core of the LWV's mission, we are going to concentrate on voter issues and related topics this time. The LWVWC Voter Issues

Committee has met since August discussing voter suppression, Voter ID laws, purging voter records, gerrymandering, and the need to increase voter participation and accessibility. The committee is proposing a list of topics for the full membership to consider. Member preferences will then reduce that to five items which could make good public programs for 2018-2019.

In advance of the Jan. 25 meeting, members will be emailed the list of suggestions. This will allow members unable to attend to have input like an absentee ballot. Working for a better voting system in Arkansas can be exciting and productive, but it needs everyone to speak up for change.

The only other discussion for Jan. 25 will be a chance to propose changes to our *Program for Action*. If anyone sees a need for expansion or updating our current stands, this will be discussed.

Drinks and Dialogue Begins a New Year of Conversations



Join us for an hour of informal conversation on juvenile justice with Norma Frisby, Director of Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiatives (JDAI) and the Hon. Stacey Zimmerman, Circuit Judge Juvenile Court. The LWVWC has previously taken positions on the Juvenile Detention Center but new approaches have been introduced. For a great article on what JDAI is doing, Google

the title: **Lock up last arknews.** Fresco in the Ball Plaza, 112 West Center Street #100, Fayetteville. RSVP to Sarah Gheen, 479.871.5156

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY IF YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN.

Deadline to Update National the LWV Roster January 31.

Join us as we begin plans to celebrate our 100th Anniversary!

Member News!



Congratulations to Angela Danovi for being accepted to the Clinton School's new executive masters program! The first class of this new program will begin in March. In addition to serving as secretary for the LWVWC, Davoni is part of the LWVAR Leadership Team and a water quality scientist.

Gun Safety Update

Like many serious problems, gun safety will require a long-term commitment to reduce our country's violence. While the potential for concealed carry permits concerns many people, the law provides for businesses to restrict weapons on their premises when proper signage is posted. "CARRYING A HANDGUN IS PROHIBITED" wording and defined print size are necessary to meet the legal requirements of Act 562. Signs meeting the requirements are voluntarily posted and may be obtained at the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce. The LWVWC will also have signs at our events for anyone wishing to have one.



MOMS DEMAND ACTION and Arkansas Against Guns on Campus are sponsoring a reading from *Bullets into Bells: Poets & Citizens Respond to Gun Violence*. This anthology is the first part of a three-part project. In at least one event in every state and Washington, DC, poets and activists from the book will read and speak along with local poets, activists, and audiences about the gun violence problems that face us nationally and locally. This event is a small part of a much larger project — the project of ending gun violence in this country that already comprises dozens of organizations and millions of people. The event will take place at St. Paul's Episcopal Church North Parish Hall, 224 N East Ave, Fayetteville on Sunday, January 21, 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

There is a Vacancy on the LWVWC Board



The LWVWC Board elected August, 2017 has accepted the resignation of Jennifer Neill and is looking for a member who would like to be part of the ambitious program ahead. The remaining members are (from left to right) Glenda Patterson - board member, Beth Barham – 2nd Vice President, Angela Danovi – Secretary, Joyce Hale – President, Laura Kellams – 1st Vice President, and Sarah Gheen – Board member. Susan Rausch – Treasurer was unable to attend. Please notify a board member if you would like to be part of the action.

FACT: Men have been welcomed as League of Women Voters members since 1973.



Northwest Arkansas Racial Equity Workshop
Saturday, January 27, 2018 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
The Jones Center, Springdale

Join others to learn how to dismantle the many structural inequities that plague our society. Race Forward and the Center for Social Inclusion are some of the best in the business at this kind of work and we are lucky to have them in Arkansas. Things you will learn from this workshop:

- The history of structural racism and the inequality baked into our laws and society.
- How bias affects us all and makes it harder to come together and solve challenges.
- How tackling institutional racism and bias is NOT a zero sum game.
- How racism and other oppressions are spectrums — most decent human beings recognize and denounce the extreme end of racism manifest in the KKK and other hate groups.
- How we can talk about these issues in a diverse, inclusive setting with other social justice leaders, and how we can talk about these issues with the broader public to build a larger movement for social justice.

This event is open to the public at no cost and lunch will be provided so please register so that we might have an accurate count for catering purposes. [Register Today.](#) (Click to see form.)



PUBLIC or PRIVATE SCHOOLING: Education at a Funding Crossroad

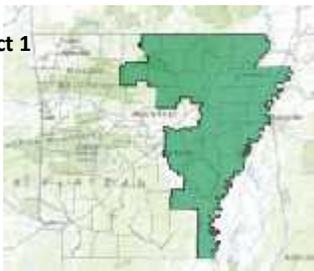
After several meetings of open discussion revolving around the many and various issues affecting public education, the LWVWC Education Committee has decided to focus on education funding.

We have serious concerns about the affect public charter schools, already running in Arkansas, may have on local public schools. And our state legislature has tried to pass legislation, with the support of the Walton Foundation, which would set up education savings accounts. These education savings accounts would allow families to set aside pre-tax monies to spend on private, religious and home schooling for their children. This would in effect funnel tax money to non-public schooling and away from already poorly funded public education.

Our national League position opposes privatizing public services. Here in Arkansas we fear that past attempts to legislate education savings accounts will in effect privatize education to the detriment of a free and open education for ALL of Arkansas' children. In an effort to promote a free and equal publication for all, our committee believes we must research how public and public charter preK – 12 schools are funded in order to combat any efforts to privatize preK-12 education. **If you have any interest in this issue or have contacts/information that would help our research, please join us on Thursday, February 8th, 6pm at Mama Carmen's Espresso Café in Fayetteville. Or you can contact member Michelle Wolchok at michellewolchok@gmail.com.**

When Politicians Choose their Voters Partisanship is a Concern

District 1



After the U. S. Census is taken every ten years, Arkansas's political districts are redrawn. Congressional districting is handled by the state agencies and governmental affairs committees of the house and senate in the General Assembly. The governor has veto power over the congressional plan. The Board of Apportionment handles legislative redistricting. This board consists of the Governor, who is chair, the Secretary of State and the Attorney General of Arkansas.



District 2

The public may offer input. The Board of Apportionment holds hearings around the state. Congressional districts are considered in committee meetings held at the state capital and open to the public. The Board has a website with maps and hearing schedules and an area for citizens to make comments. The Secretary of State's office posts the Board of Apportionment's new map on its website. But in the end, politicians draw the lines. Besides an even distribution of population, districts need to be compact, contiguous and consider minority populations.



District 3

The League of Women Voters promotes transparent and accountable redistricting processes to end hyper-partisan practices that do not benefit constituents. The League believes responsibility for fair redistricting should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government. The League works in states across the country to pass ballot initiatives to institute independent redistricting commissions.



District 4

Arkansans may have an opportunity this year to support an initiated act petition for the purpose of establishing an independent redistricting commission. A petition is being prepared by David Couch, a Little Rock attorney. It is in the early stages of seeking approval so details are not yet available. The LWVWC program for Thursday, February 22, 6:00 to 8:00 pm. will review the process of mapping political districts and hear from Couch about the petition and how it would change our present system. The location for this event will be announced soon. Save the Date!



LWVWC Advocates for Fayetteville's Energy Action Plan

Joyce Hale spoke on behalf of the League endorsing Fayetteville's ambitious Energy Action Plan. The ultimate goal is to achieve 100% community wide clean energy by 2050. For details of the plan go to: <https://fayetteville-ar.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14807>.