



The League of Women Voters of Oxford reaffirms our commitment to diversity and pluralism which means that there are and shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

The Oxford Voter

October , 2017



Dates to Note

November 1, Wednesday, Public meeting on Fair Districting, Ohio Statehouse, 6 p.m.

November 6, Monday, Early Voting ends at 2 p.m.

November 7, Tuesday, Election Day 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

November 13, Monday, Brown Bag Lunch/Women's Reproductive Rights, Patterson Place, 12 Noon

December 7, Thursday, Meet and Greet Elected Officials, Oxford Community Arts Ctr, 5 to 7 p.m.



Message from

Sibyl Harris Miller, Co-President for Organization, LWVOxford

I hope all our members feel included and energized by the work we have been doing to promote our mission: *Making Democracy Work*. Ranging from our widespread leadership in the vital Fair Districts=Fair Elections Campaign petitioning effort and our packed-house Candidates' Forum, to our widely-read Voter Information Guide (VIG) and our fall Community Forum on local ballot issues, we are enhancing our profile as the lead organization in our wider community for voter education and awareness, always maintaining our non-partisan presence as a trusted voice for democracy.

Our membership is growing, our work is deepening, and our spirit is strong! Please be sure to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 7, 2017. The polling places are open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm. Review our VIG to get a more in-depth view of the positions of the many candidates running for office. I believe, in general, we do better when we elect more experienced candidates, and you can get a clearer impression of each candidate by reading through our VIG, and the responses to questions each candidate was asked. The City Council race is especially important, since it is heavily contested. Select your choices carefully.

In a few weeks you will be receiving our biennial Appeal Letter, asking you to consider a donation to your League. Your gift will enable us to continue, and amp up, our crucial work. We hope you will be generous as you consider this request. It takes heart, education, and critical thinking to make democracy work, but it also takes money, as we all know!

Also, we need members to volunteer for our various committees. Some of these positions are actually elected, so our Nominating Committee will be reaching out in the next several months to identify interested individuals for the ballot, to be voted on in the spring. Please contact me directly, if you would like to be of service in an official way. Let me add, you will find these assignments enjoyable and informative, as you collaborate with your friends in the League!

Enjoy these autumn days, and make sure you vote and urge others to do so, on Election Day, Tuesday, November 7th. Sibyl cell:513-255-2052



Want to Vote Early? YOU CAN!

before 2:00 PM on Monday, November 6, 2017.

What do you need to do to vote early?

During early voting hours, you may cast your ballot in-person at the:

**Butler County Board of Elections,
1802 Princeton Rd.,
Hamilton, OH 45011**

You will need to bring your **recognized form of identification**. Before you cast your ballot, you will be required to **submit an Absentee Ballot Application form**.

NOTE: There are forms available at the Board of Elections for you to complete before casting your ballot.

In-Person Early Voting Hours

October 16, 2017 - October 27th, 2017

Monday through Friday

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Extended Hours:

Monday, October 30, 2017 through Friday, November 3, 2017

8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 4, 2017

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 5, 2017

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Last Day to Vote Early:

Monday, November 6, 2017

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For questions about voting procedures, contact Butler County Board of Elections at www.butlercountyelections.org or call (513) 887-3700

For information about candidates or issues on the ballot, go to the League of Women website at www.vote411.org

**Meet and Greet Our Elected Local Public Officials**

Wednesday December 7, 2017 at the Oxford Community Arts Center from 5:00-7:00pm.

The League of Women Voters of Oxford is hosting this event to meet, welcome, and interact with our local officials. This is an important opportunity to let them know who we are, what we do, and to meet with them informally.

Please attend, bring a guest, spread the word!

PLEASE RSVP by email – woyhazs@miamioh.edu

**U.S. Congressional Redistricting Reform in Ohio**

By Jenny Fisher

The Ohio General Assembly has formed a working group to discuss U.S. Congressional Redistricting Reform. Their first public meeting was held the morning of Thursday, October 26th. The working group invited written and spoken testimony from members of the public. Their second public meeting will be on November 1st at 6 p.m. and will be in Room 313 of the Ohio Statehouse. Please consider attending if you are able to. Written statements can be submitted to the Chair of the committee, State Rep. Kirk Schuring, and his aides via e-mail. You are welcome to share why U.S. Congressional Redistricting needs to be reformed in Ohio, how you feel disenfranchised by the current system, and/or what you'd like the revised system to include. The e-mail addresses are:

- kirk.schuring@ohiohouse.gov
- justin.zielinski@ohiohouse.gov
- desmond.bryant@ohiosenate.gov

In an effort to work with the Ohio General Assembly, the Fair Districts Fair Elections Coalition has released a list of characteristics that should be included in any legislative proposal addressing U.S. congressional redistricting reform. The Coalition is dedicated to working with the Ohio legislature and initiated

the citizen's initiative only after years of unsuccessful lobbying on this topic. The four main points which would lead to meaningful reform are:

1. True bipartisan support must be required for a map to be enacted, with no alternative option for approval by a single party. Redistricting should be the responsibility of the bipartisan Ohio Redistricting Commission, however if it is decided that redistricting should remain under the control of the legislature then it is essential that a Congressional redistricting plan may only be adopted if it is approved by a majority of each party in both chambers.
2. No plan shall favor or disfavor a political party or candidate, and district maps should permit fair representation of voters from all parties. Districts shall not be drawn to artificially favor or disfavor a party or candidate but should instead reflect community voter preferences over recent elections.
3. Districts should keep communities whole by not splitting up counties, cities, or townships, in that order, from largest to smallest.
4. The process should be transparent and allow public input on proposed maps before a vote.

The Fair Districts citizen initiative has gathered the attention of the public, the media, and our state government officials. Fair District volunteers hit the streets in early summer, both here in Oxford and throughout the state. Since the petitions were officially approved, local League chapters—with the support of many other organizations—have dedicated enormous amounts of time and energy to this important reform measure. Many public members have become aware of the practice of gerrymandering and the detrimental effects this practice has on our democracy; both from local grassroots efforts and from the national media. It is in this environment that the Ohio General Assembly has decided to take up this issue of reform. Ohio citizens must continue to make their intent known. Poorly crafted reform would be detrimental to Ohio and could potentially confuse voters if it was presented before or alongside the Fair Districts ballot measure.

Until meaningful reform has been proposed, the LWV-Ohio has instructed its members to continue the collection of signatures. In order to get the amendment on the November 2018 ballot, all signatures must be submitted to the state by July 5, 2018. The state-wide effort has collected 152,000 signatures; already more than half the signatures needed. The citizen initiative must also hit a signature threshold in 44 out of 88 counties to ensure that the signatures were not collected all in one place. 14 of the counties have hit their thresholds so far. The local effort anticipates that we need at least 400 more Preble County signatures and 1000 more signatures from Butler County residents to hit the individual thresholds for these two counties.



League Brown Bag Lunch Program: November 13, 2017 at noon in Patterson Place

Topic: **Women's Reproductive Rights: Reflections** by past Executive Director of Planned Parenthood of Southwest Ohio, Susan Momeyer

We have been having one lunchtime meeting each semester in order to accommodate members and friends who do not want to go to nighttime meetings, and to increase the topics we are able to address each year.

At **noon on Monday, November 13, in Patterson Place, we will welcome Susan Momeyer** to lead us in a discussion of women's reproductive rights. Sue is in a unique position to provide a very interesting afternoon. She was a founder of Oxford's first Planned Parenthood clinic and became the manager in 1973. Five years later, she became the executive of the Butler County Affiliate, and in 1998 she became the President and CEO of the Planned Parenthood Cincinnati Region. When she retired in 2006, she oversaw 12 health clinics in Southwest Ohio, from Cincinnati to Troy, Ohio. She has seen it all, the good, the bad and the ugly as the organization tried to provide core preventative health care services for over 35,000 women, as well as to maintain one clinic which performed abortions. Cincinnati's role in the anti-abortion movement in the late 80's and 90's and again recently, meant protests and threats which Sue dealt with regularly.

In an interview with "City Beat" [Cincinnati Enquirer?] on her retirement, Sue said, "Many anti-choice activists are also those who most actively oppose contraceptive services and comprehensive sex education." She also noted that the connection is more pronounced than it used to be and chalks it up to a "rather deep contempt for women or a fear of women who have autonomy." Please join us for what promises to be a very important discussion.

Sandi Woy-Hazleton, Co-President for Program



League of Women Voters Needs Your Input on New Website

League of Women Voters of Ohio would like to know what content and features members want to see on its new website. The State League will, over the next two months, "migrate" to a new website platform, MyLO. Here is the link to a short online survey to help the LWVOhio construct a new and improved website. <https://goo.gl/zfRPob>. (OHIO VOTER Fall 2017).



Meet League of Women Voters of Oxford new member: Traci Wilson

by Toni Saldivar, LWVOx Dir. Communications/Publicity

Traci Wilson with her husband, Tim, and their two young daughters (now aged five and three) arrived in Oxford a little more than a year ago when Tim joined the faculty of the Department of Microbiology at Miami University. He teaches undergraduate and graduate students, many in his lab where he continues his research in immunology.

Traci and Tim, both with international interests, met as undergraduates at Gustavus Adolphus College. He was studying biology and biochemistry; she was a French and international management major. They made St. Louis, Missouri, their home while Tim earned a PhD in immunology at Washington University. During those years, Traci worked first as career counselor, then as a study abroad coordinator



for University of Missouri, St. Louis (UMSL), and she also earned her master's degree in political science at UMSL, with a focus on research methods.

When Tim had opportunities for post-doctoral work at Oxford University, then Cambridge University, in the U.K, Traci and Tim made England their home for seven years. Their two daughters, born there, have dual citizenship, as does Traci. Traci, too, had professional opportunities: she earned a PhD in political science at Oxford University where she researched public opinion on the European Union. Subsequently, she worked as a program manager for Vitae, the global leader in the professional development of researchers. She then moved on to Cambridge University, Development and Alumni Relations, where she was the analyst for the principal gifts team. In Ohio, Traci has opened her own consulting firm, Beyond Analytics, LLC. She says her husband calls her an "academic handywoman," because her skill set as a researcher, writer, and analyst can be applied in many fields. She helps organizations make informed decisions based on data gathering, data analysis, and data interpretation. Traci gave this example: For a USAID-funded program in Burkina Faso, she analyzed pre-and post-intervention survey data as part of the program evaluation. She is most interested in projects that aim to better people's lives.

The transition from Cambridge, England, to Oxford, Ohio, has been good one, according to Traci. "We love this community," she said for its friendliness and for its civic mindedness. She believes Oxford is an excellent place to raise her family. Through activities for mothers and their small children, Traci met LWVOx member Jenny Fisher and through Jenny learned of the League and of our support of the Fair Districts/Fair Elections petition drive to end gerrymandering in Ohio. Traci joined that effort by circulating petitions and she joined our League. She was a table host at our October 5 Candidates Forum.

Traci wants to make our democracy work for social justice and sees the League's potential to engage vigorously in that effort. Her own nature and experience, as well as her academic background, have led her to listen to many voices and to try, with the best tools possible, to understand their complexity and their needs.

Welcome, Traci Wilson!