



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

September, 2018

You are needed!

The Voters Guide is underway! This will create VOTE411 as well as the Guide. Please let Prue Dana know if you can help with the Voter's Guide distribution. You will have to be flexible depending on the production date. We are looking at **October 1, 2, or 3**.

The Candidate Forum: The League of Women Voters of Oxford is sponsoring a Candidate Forum, **Thursday, October 4, 2018**, from 7:00 until 9:00 PM in the Commons of the Knolls of Oxford. The public is invited to meet with candidates seeking election this November. Contested races include U. S. Senator, U. S. Representative, State Representative, State School Board, and Butler County Commissioner. Voters will have the opportunity to talk with candidates and to learn where they stand on the issues.

We need table hosts, greeters, and set up people. You must be available October 4, 6 to 9 p.m.

Kids Voting: Involves putting together and delivering packets about Voting to the various schools. This will take place after the Forum, but **before October 20**.

Contact Prue to volunteer for any or all of these events. pdana@woh.rr.com

These are exciting times!



Extra Voter Registration Drives

As an organization, we are committed to voter registration. As our membership grows, we wanted to ensure that our new members were being actively pulled into our organization. We also noted that there was interest in the community for volunteering for voter registration drives. Prue Dana and Jenny Fisher provided a Voter Registration training and brainstorming session on August 12th in the Lane Library. During that session, we provided the basics to our attendees and brainstormed opportunities to hold additional voter registration drives.

Jenny Fisher is maintaining a “Master Schedule” of voter registration opportunities for the League. On the schedule are dates, events, and volunteer slots. We are committed to providing as many opportunities to volunteer as we have people willing to work them. We have also encouraged League members and community members to think outside the box and to consider how to get to members of the community who may not be active voters. As part of this effort, we did brainstorm and implement some great ideas.

- Sandi Woy-Hazelton along with new member, Alison Haskins, attended meetings with the Butler County Housing and Homeless Coalition and met with a contact from the Butler Metropolitan Housing Authority.
- Sibyl Miller and Janis Dutton provided a presentation on the importance of voting at the Hamilton YWCA in addition to staffing a voter registration booth.
- We have supported two out-of-town events and staffed booths at Fairfield’s Groovin’ on the Green concert and Middletown’s First Friday event.
- Kathie Brinkman took the lead on organizing a voter registration booth at the Darrrtown Fall Festival; although it was cancelled that morning due to rain.
- Terri Spahr-Nelson is organizing a class project around the National Voter Registration Day holiday on September 25th and her class has set a goal of registering 500 new voters!
- We are registered for the Oxford Hike-a-thon and we have the volunteer slots already filled.

Our community and local league are just bursting with ideas and enthusiasm for trying to get to new voters and to get them registered. **If you’re interested in participating in this local effort, check out the Master List or e-mail Jenny at JennyFisher156@gmail.com . October 9th is the Ohio deadline for voter registration.**

Master List for Fall 2018 Voter Registration:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/10MQUC0T2mCDsjsseMXufOI_4GPYMBf_1HUlaBbn6Di20/edit?usp=sharing



Miami University is offering two programs on Race Consciousness and the League of Women Voters urges members to attend these panel discussions as we all seek to be better informed citizens.

About the Program

Miami instructors and students are invited to participate in the revival of a historical 1981 anti-racist education initiative. Recently titled *Racial Consciousness 101*, this initiative consists of panelists surveying students about racial "myths" and then hosting panels to share with these students their own experiences and insights as students of color at Miami University.

Date and Location

Dates: September 24, 2018 and October 22, 2018

Time: 3-4:30pm

Location: Harry T. Wilks Theater, Armstrong Student Center

Sponsors

- The Black Student Action Association
- Center for American and World Cultures
- English Department
- "Miami University Special Events Fund"

Contact

Please contact **Kyle Larson** larsonkr@miamioh.edu if you have any questions and/or would like additional information.



An Invitation from Oxford Parks and Recreation

The Oxford community is invited to a Public Information Session about the new aquatic facility being built at the Oxford Community Park. This is an opportunity to learn about the design, funding and timeline of this new facility, as well as how community members can get involved. This is also an opportunity to ask any questions you may have about this exciting new addition to our community. Everyone is welcome.

Place: The Oxford Community Arts Center

Time: Thursday, October 11, from 6:30-7:30 PM

Casey D. Wooddell, CPRP, CPO

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Annie Lauri Blair's MU Journalism Capstone Invites LWVOx Participants

Toni Saldivar

Three LWVOx members, Sibyl Harris Miller, Jenny Fisher, and Toni Saldivar, were recently invited by Miami University journalism faculty, Annie Laurie Blair, to lead a class in her senior journalism capstone course, "Politics, People, and Public Transparency." Miller, Fisher and Saldivar discussed the mission of the League of Women Voters, "Make democracy work," and the importance to that mission of a fact-based, non-partisan, free and independent press.



Blair's students are covering the Oxford area for the newly launched OXFORD OBSERVER, a weekly digital newspaper created collaboratively by the Miami University Department of Journalism, the Oxford Community Foundation, and Cox Media. The OBSERVER hopes to provide a limited number of print editions available in key locations, such as the Oxford Lane Library.

Here is the link to the OXFORD OBSERVER

<https://www.journal-news.com/news/local/oxford-news/LtcAeyRSIRwS1h300QljAK/>



The Politics of Public Education in Ohio



On September 12 the League of Women Voters partnered with Talawanda Community Advocacy for Public Education (T-CAPE) and the Talawanda Education Association (TEA) for an informative and well-attended panel discussion on "The Politics of Public Education in Ohio".

Dr. Kathleen Knight-Abowitz from Miami's Department of Educational Leadership introduced the program by providing background on two of the most important issues facing schools in Ohio today: accountability and privatization. Matt Lykins, Talawanda High School English teacher and TEA president moderated the panel that included Stephanie Aerni, Talawanda High School AP History teacher; Jenny George, Talawanda Middle School Special Education teacher; and Stephanie Pearson, Kramer Third grade teacher.

The featured educators explained how high-stakes standardized testing mandated by the state government has changed the environment in which they operate and the focus they must place on those tests in curriculum planning. The audience was indeed amazed by the number of tests, the cumulative number of hours devoted to testing, and amount of financial resources directed toward standardized testing within the school district. New

Superintendent, Ed Theroux, provided additional information as to how ranking and rating metrics derived from testing are used in defining district “success.” It became clear that in the Talawanda School District, attention provided to all students and concern for each student’s individual success, may actually result in a lower “grade” on some state-wide metrics, [however, the district is dedicated to providing the best instruction to students and will not jeopardize that to ‘teach to the test’ or exclude students from advanced opportunities.](#) It was also clear that the teachers felt supported by their peers and by the local administration in their endeavors to do their best in the classroom.

An open discussion on issues followed including public school funding and the diversion of resources to charter and other for-profit ventures and the unconstitutionality of Ohio’s funding formula. Additionally, audience members brought up points about student stress when high stakes tests are administered and the for-profit nature of the testing industry.

The number one take away from the evening was the need and importance for community members to become informed, to take these issues into account in the voting booth, and to remain engaged with our elected officials in regard to education policy.



**League of Women Voters of Oxford, Ohio (LWVOx)
Calendar of Events 2018-19
Important Questions to ponder as we pursue
“Making Democracy Work Locally”**

- October 3 (W) Board Meeting, 10:30am-12:15pm, Holy Trinity Board Room
Voter Registration Drive 3:00-6:00pm YWCA Hamilton
- October 4 (Th) **Candidates’ Forum,**
7:00-9:00pm, The Knolls of Oxford
- November 6 (Tu) **Election Day**
- November 7 (W) Board Meeting, 10:30am-12:15pm, Holy Trinity Board Room
- November 12 (M) **Brown Bag Lunch and Meeting:** What does the “Right to
Privacy” mean in the Context of Women’s Reproductive Health?
12:00-1:00pm, Lane Library
- December 6 (Th) **Elected Official’s Reception**
5:00-6:30pm, Oxford Community Arts Center

2019

- January 9 (W) Board Meeting, 10:30am-12:15pm, Holy Trinity Board Room
- January 23 (W) **Public Program “Why is the 2020 Census So Important?”**
7:30-9:00pm, (Location to be determined)
- February 6 (W) Board Meeting, 10:30am-12:15pm, Holy Trinity Board Room
- February 23 (Sat) **Annual Program Planning Meeting**
10:00am-12:30pm, Holy Trinity Undercroft
- February 27 (W) **Brown Bag Lunch and Meeting:**
“What is the Purpose of the Electoral College”

12:00-1:00pm, Lane Library, Oxford

March 6 (W) Board Meeting, 10:30am-12:15pm, Holy Trinity Board Room

March 27 (W) **Public Program:**
“How Local Initiatives Enhance our Environmental Well-being”
7:30-9:00pm, Holy Trinity Undercroft

April 3 (W) Board Meeting 10:30am-12:15, Holy Trinity Board Room

April 24(W) **LWVOxford Local Convention**, 7:30-9 pm,
location to be determined

