



The Bulletin

Where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

January 2018

Dates to Remember

- * Board Meeting, NUMC, January 11th, 6 p.m.
- * New Citizen Registration, Central Library, January 17th, 10 a.m. to Noon
- * Position Review Lunch, NUMC, January 20th, 10 a.m.
- * Voter Registration How-To, College Branch Library, Feb. 5th, 6 p.m.
- * Board Meeting, NUMC, Feb. 8th, 6 p.m.
- * Lunch with LWV, Scottish Rite, Feb 16th, Noon.
- * Voter Registration Event, Central Library, Feb 21st, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Ring in the New Year with LWV!

Happy New Year, Leaguers!

Are you ready for 2018? With the Holidays behind us, I know I am ready to start looking forward to the year ahead.

That doesn't mean 2017 wasn't without success! Be sure to check out the article inside about our past (and upcoming) work partnering with the Indianapolis Public Library to register new U.S. Citizens. We also took the plunge to upgrade our website: be on the lookout for a new lwvindy.org launching soon! I'm very grateful we found such a wonderful community partner in KI NuMedia (part of Kheprw Institute's collaboration efforts with young entrepreneurs).

Since 2018 is an Election Year—we are counting on our members more than ever to help us keep our community engaged and informed. In this environment, our work is really important for the citizens of Indianapolis. So I truly hope to see many of you at our Position Review on January 20th—and at our Voter Registration How-To on February 5th.

Yours in League,

Rhea

Upcoming LWV Events to Check Out:

Position Review and Soup Lunch: January 20th, 2018

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (*RSVP requested by January 18th, 2018*)

Where? North United Methodist Church: 3808 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis 46208

Voter Registration "How To": Monday February 5th, 2018.

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (*RSVP requested by February 3rd, 2018*)

Where? College Branch IMCPL: 4180 N College Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46205

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New Year? New Position Review!

Start the New Year with LWV's Position Review!

Please join us Saturday January 20th at 10 a.m. to have a conversation about the ins and outs of our National Positions. This year, we are asking that members review the positions before hand so we can focus more on hearing from you and planning our 2018. Check your inboxes for more details regarding positions or e-mail Rhea at rheacainlwindy@yahoo.com if you think you've missed our e-mail. Same as in years past, the Board will provide lunch for attendees. So we know how many folks we need to feed, please send your RSVP in to us by e-mailing membership@lwvindy.org before *January 18th*. Just a reminder: membership is not required to attend Position Review. In fact, it's a great time to introduce people to the League so they can get an idea of how we operate! This year we have asked Amy Nelson of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana and convener of Hate Crimes Coalition to share information with the membership. Amy will discuss the latest issues facing her organization(s) and how we can be more involved during our lunch portion of the meeting.

One addition to our Position Review this year is we are asking those who attend to bring a canned good or other much needed item with them to donate to the Mid-North Food Pantry.

Please visit <http://www.midnorthfoodpantry.org/i-want-to-help/wish-list/> to get a list of the most needed items. LWV Indy plans on being a supporter for the Mid-North Food Pantry in 2018, especially in times when donations tend to slack off (like after the Holidays).

We hope to see lots of you on January 20th!

Voter Registration "How To" at IMCPL's College Branch

With 2018 being an Election Year, LWV Indy wants our members to have the best information available to them when they are out in our community. Are you a new member who needs to learn the ins and outs of our core mission of Voter Registration and Education? Or are you a long term member looking for a refresher? Well, this quick and fun "How To" will be just what you are looking for.

We will meet at the College Avenue IMCPL Branch on February 5th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dinner will be provided for folks who attend, so if you could RSVP to rheacainlwindy@yahoo.com no later than February 3rd—it would be a big help!



Interested in Board Service? We would LOVE to hear from you! E-mail us at membership@lwvindy.org

Need a LWV Yard Sign? Attend Position Review on January 20th or our Voter Registration How to on February 5th! Signs will be available at both of those events.

As a reminder: we ask that LWV signs not be placed next to candidate or party signs when displayed.

Update on Indiana Coalition for Independent Redistricting

In 2014, LWVIN co-founded the Indiana Coalition for Independent Redistricting with Common Cause IN. The two organizations have worked hard to recruit other civic minded organizations to support the issue of redistricting reform and the establishment of an independent commission to draw state and congressional districts. Our coalition is growing. Megan Robertson of Front Runner Strategies and lobbyist who helped Freedom Indiana win its cause for marriage equality in the state of Indiana has been recruited to as a consultant for the coalition. Her organizational skills and grass roots activism acumen is pure gift to our cause. The coalition has subdivided into working task forces and we have a Lobby Committee of six persons who will be working inside the Statehouse promoting our cause. We have developed an impressive website that will be launched by the first of the year which will afford great functionality for keeping a data base and keeping our allies informed, connected and mobilized. We are developing a communication strategy with coalition branding, a mission statement and a comprehensive strategy for communicating within the Statehouse and to our activists across the state. Our hard work is paying off. Local Leagues around the state have lead the charge for redistricting reform and their efforts have been impressive. Our coalition of grassroots activists is making a difference.

Our focus for the 2018 General Assembly will be to support SB159, co-authored by two state Senate Republicans, John Ruckelshaus, of Indianapolis, and Mike Bohacek, of Michiana Shores. This bill builds on the recommendations that resulted from the 2016 Interim Study Committee on Independent Redistricting and the House Bill 1014 that died last year without receiving a vote in committee. The strategy is to insist that the Republican Caucus support this issue and ensure that SB159 receives a hearing and a vote. The Senate Election Committee has NOT scheduled this bill for hearing yet, so we may need to put pressure on the Senate Election Committee by packing their committee meeting 'waiting' for SB159 to be scheduled.

On January 3, 2018, the first day of session, scores of coalition partners 'welcomed' the legislators to work with coffee, donuts and redistricting talking points. Our own Mary Boggs showed up from our league along with other Leaguers from around the state. As usual, LWV is one the ground as activists and informed citizens working to make democracy work!

Stay tuned for more information and please consider supporting this effort if we need people to pack the committee meetings or show up for an impromptu rally!

In League,
Debbie Asberry
redistricting@lwvindy.org



LWV Indy & IMCPL Collaboration Continues in 2018

In August of 2017, LWV Indy volunteers began a monthly trek to Central Library downtown in order to register new U.S. Citizens after their Naturalization Ceremony. These events take roughly two hours out of the day and are unbelievably fun and satisfying to help with!

We are proud to report that between August and December of 2017 LWV Indy registered **163 new citizens to vote!** We are even more thrilled that everyone has been so happy with the set-up at Central Library that 12 dates have been finalized to Naturalize new citizens in 2018:

- Wednesday, January 17th
- Wednesday, February 21st
- Wednesday, March 21st
- Wednesday, April 18th
- Wednesday, May 16th
- Tuesday, June 19th

- Tuesday, July 17th
- Wednesday, August 15th
- Wednesday, September 19th
- Wednesday, October 17th
- Wednesday, November 14th
- Wednesday, December 12th

All events will need to have volunteers there to set up by 10:00 a.m. and will be wrapped up by Noon. All materials will be on site ready and organized for the day. Want to volunteer? Fantastic! E-mail voterservice@lwvindy.org and let us know what date(s) work for you.

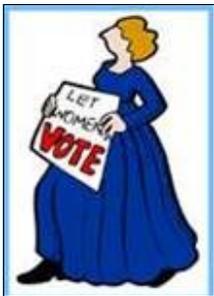
Want to help out but not sure what you need to know? No worries! We've got you covered. Sign up for our Voter Registration "How To" on February 5th!

Follow LWV Indy on Facebook!

We are hoping to engage more of our members on Facebook. Please take a moment to Like and Follow us online. We look forward to hearing from you! This is a great tool to share news and upcoming events with potential League members.



DEMOCRACY IS NOT
A SPECTATOR SPORT.



Volunteer THANKS!

A big THANK YOU to all our many dedicated volunteers who have made our work possible:

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Mary Boggs | Betsy Bayne | Erin Kelley |
| Sarah Halter | Lyn Hoyer | Debbie Asberry |
| Janet Rash | Rachel Loveman | Mary Huebner |

News from National:**The League fully supports this bill and urges all members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to support this important legislation.**

Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Representative Robert Brady (D-PA) introduced the Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2017 on June 14, 2017. The League is proud to support legislation that enhances access for eligible voters in our elections and works to modernize our electoral system. This bill will improve the accuracy of voter records, cut down on costs, modernize outdated registration systems while supporting implementation in states across the country.

The League is a leader in voter registration efforts across the country. Expanding voter registration has been a principal goal of the League since its founding in the wake of the passage in 1920 of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. We are proud to see Congress embracing new technology that expands access to the ballot while still taking the necessary safeguards to secure personal information.

Please contact Senators Joe Donnelly (202) 224-4814 and Todd Young (202) 224-5623. Need to reach your U.S. Representative? Call the US Capital Switchboard: (202) 224-3121.

League of Women Voters of
Indianapolis
3808 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Did you forget to renew your LWV membership?

Renew today!

Dues are \$50 a year for individuals, \$75 for households, and \$25 for students and AmeriCorps members. Make checks payable to the LWV of Indianapolis and send to 3808 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208. IF you joined AFTER JANUARY 31ST, 2017? Your dues are paid through August of 2018. Have questions? Feel free to e-mail us at membership@lwvindy.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Kind of Member: NEW RENEWING