



# The Bulletin

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

Nov/Dec 2017

## Dates to Remember

- \* No Dec. Board Meeting
- \* No Dec. OR Jan. Lunch with LWV
- \* Organization Day, Nov 21
- \* Voter Registration Event, Central Library, Dec 13th, 10:00 a.m. to Noon
- \* Board Meeting, NUMC, January 11th, 6 p.m.

## Inside this Issue:

Redistricting Updates, Pgs 2-3

Volunteer Thanks, Pg 3

Organization Day, Pg 4

News from National, Pg 5

## Wrapping up a successful 2017 for LWV Indy

*Can you believe it? Another year has gone by!*

*LWV Indy has enjoyed exponential growth in our membership (over 125 members!)—and in our online following (1100+ and counting!). This is a great way to gear up for 2018—an Election Year.*

*We have also had the fortune to team with organizations like IMCPL in registering new citizens—something we hope continues in 2018, support Spirit and Place programming, and tirelessly working for Redistricting Reform with our Coalition partners.*

*Oh! And that's on top of hosting an ever dynamic monthly speaker series (Lunch with LWV)!*

*LWV Indy continues to have a lot to offer our members—here's to a successful 2017! We couldn't have accomplished half so much without each and every one of YOU.*

*Yours in League,*

*Rhea*

## Last New Citizen Registration: December 13th

One of the best things Leaguers do is help citizens register to vote.

Even better?

Registering **NEW** U.S. Citizens!

We need a few volunteers to help out on December 13th at Central Library from 10 a.m. to a little bit before Noon.

Want to help out?

E-mail Rhea at [membership@lwwindy.org](mailto:membership@lwwindy.org)





## October 26th Redistricting Forum Recap

On October 26th, Sen. John Ruckelshaus, Rep. Carey Hamilton and Rep. Ed Delaney hosted a public forum on the topic of redistricting facilitated by Jim Shella.

Julia Vaughn of Common Cause and retired Supreme Court Justice Ted Boehm, member of 2016 Summer Study Redistricting Committee gave background information on the Redistricting effort in Indiana including last session's attempt to get a bill sent to the House. Even though there is interest in the expected US Supreme Court decision regarding the Wisconsin plan, the Indiana plan is moving forward despite the outcome of the Wisconsin plan.

All legislators on the panel support the legislation. Sen. Ruckelshaus will sponsor a bill in the Senate. The approximately 150 persons in attendance gave the presentation a positive reaction. Those who asked questions wanted to know how they could help. They were encouraged to ask family and friends throughout the state to contact their legislators to create awareness of how important this issue is during the 2018 session.

LWV website was mentioned as a reliable source to get information to hold house parties in neighborhoods. Julia Vaughn suggested that a turnout on Organization Day at the Statehouse on Nov. 21st would be helpful.

In addition, citizens should be contacting leaders to stress the importance of Redistricting Reform for Indiana: President Pro Tem, Sen. David Long, Speaker of the House, Rep. Brian Bosma, Sen. Greg Walker, Chair of the Senate Elections Committee and Rep. Milo Smith, Chair of the House Elections and Apportionment Committee.

*Thanks to Board Member Mary Boggs for the summary!*



## Volunteer THANKS!

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

Mary Boggs

Kim Irwin

Janet Rash

Betsy Bayne

Sarah Halter

Debbie Asberry

Rachel Loveman

Harriet Wilkins

Karen Kay Leonard

Jane Malless



## November 21st: Organization Day at the State House!

The Indiana Coalition for Independent Redistricting is holding an **activist training session and rally** to get our advocates fired up for the big battle ahead. Help us send a message to the Indiana legislature that we will not go away until they pass redistricting reform!!

Tue, November 21, 2017  
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EST

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/statehouse-rally-tickets-39476994754?aff=ActivistEvent>



### LOCATION

Indiana Statehouse  
200 West Washington Street  
Capitol Avenue Doors  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

DEMOCRACY IS NOT  
A SPECTATOR SPORT.



This free training session includes lunch followed by a rally and press conference at the Capitol Avenue doors of the Statehouse. After the rally, supporters are encouraged to meet with their state lawmakers to ask them to support redistricting reform legislation in 2018.



**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.**

## News from National

### FEC to Strengthen Online Advertisement Regulation Thanks to League Activists

By: Jessica Jones 11/16/2017

Today, the Federal Election Commission (FEC) unanimously voted to move forward with updating and strengthening regulations for online advertisements. They are taking the first steps to update our outdated transparency rules — which still include references to telegrams and typewriters — while requiring adequate disclosure for online ads. It's a great step in our efforts to increase transparency and prevent foreign influence in our elections.

All of this happened because of the almost 13,000 League members and supporters who joined us by sending comments to the FEC during our comment campaign last week. Together, with other partner groups we were able to collect over 150,000 comments and send a strong message on the need for reform.

The most important thing we can do to preserve the integrity of our electoral process is to increase transparency and let the sunlight shine in. Transparency is the key to allowing voters to make their own decisions and guards against the inevitable corruption that comes with secret money. Fair and clean elections, determined by the votes of the American people, should be at the center of our democracy. Enhanced transparency is the most basic step toward protecting the role of voters and ensuring that they can make informed decisions.

The League will work to make sure that this rulemaking process moves forward. Stay tuned for additional information as the rulemaking process moves forward.

### LWV v. Rucho: NC's Historic Opportunity to End Gerrymandering

By: Caitlin Rulien 10/20/2017

The trial for *League of Women Voters of North Carolina v. Rucho* wrapped up this week in North Carolina. The case challenges North Carolina's 2016 congressional redistricting plan, arguing the plan violates the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. The case, heard in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina, challenges the egregious partisan gerrymander that state legislators adopted under a court-ordered redrawing of the state's congressional districts in February 2016.

America's promise is a government of, by, and for the people. This promise rests on fair elections: our most fundamental liberty is the right to freely choose who represents us.

Extreme gerrymanders take away this most basic right. Gerrymandering devalues the votes of some citizens based on their party affiliation and increases the power of others. Too many of our voters feel that the system is rigged, that their votes don't count. Unfortunately, thanks to extreme partisan gerrymandering, too many of them are right.

Politicians who put partisanship above democracy have rigged the system for their own benefit. They have manipulated voting maps to keep themselves and their party in power, never mind the will of the voters. And the voters are catching on to this connection.

The poisoned fruit of all this manipulation is rising dysfunction, mistrust, and public policies that don't reflect the will of the majority. Extreme gerrymanders reward extreme view-

points and undercut consensus. Rigged maps are pushing us further apart, when we urgently need to find common ground.

Fair elections help us resolve our differences and move forward as a country. More than ever, we need elections that communicate the people's will and that hold politicians accountable.

We are optimistic that the Court will agree in *LWV v. Rucho* that extreme gerrymanders violate our Constitution. We need a clear standard that draws a bright line between harmful extreme gerrymanders and legitimate partisanship.

The bottom line is extreme partisan gerrymandering is worse than wrong, it's dangerous to our democracy and our country. It has to stop and, in *LWV v. Rucho*, the Court has a historic opportunity to do just that.

The three-judge panel has not set a timeline for a decision. It could take weeks, months or even years for this to move forward, but in the end, we're optimistic that the court will side with us. We must put an end to partisan gerrymandering to confirm that voters, not map-drawers, choose America's elected officials.



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

Still Need to Renew! Please do!

**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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Kind of Member:      NEW                  RENEWING