



# The Bulletin

*There are whole precincts of voters in this country whose united intelligence does not equal that of one representative American woman. —Carrie Chapman Catt*

January 2019

## Dates to Remember

- \* Board Meeting, NUMC, January 10th, 6 p.m.
- \* New Citizen Registration, Central Library, January 16th, 10 a.m. to Noon
- \* League Day at the State House, January 16th
- \* Women’s March, American Legion Mall, January 19th, 1 to 3 p.m.
- \* Position Review, NUMC, January 26th, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- \* Board Meeting, NUMC, February 14th, 6 p.m.
- \* Lunch with LWW, Duos Kitchen, February 15th, Noon

## Are you ready to MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK?

Happy New Year, Leaguers!

Wow—there is so much going on within the world of government right now. Between a new Congress, the government shut down, promising bills like HR-1 on the national stage and SB-91 right here at home (you can call your State Senator *any time* to let them know how you feel about Redistricting Reform: 1-800-382-9461)? We’ve got a lot to be positive about!

That doesn’t mean there still isn’t a lot to do to get ready for 2019. In the upcoming weeks/months we will need volunteers to work on Vote411.org for the primaries, to register voters, and to be living examples of Good Civic Neighbors in our communities (for more on that, you really will want to attend Position Review on the 26th!).

Here’s to an amazing 2019! I’m ready to get to work—are you?

Yours in League,

*Rhea*

## Position Review is January 26th!

*Position Review and Soup Lunch: January 26<sup>h</sup>, 2019*

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Where?

North United Methodist Church:

3808 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis 46208

\*This event replaces Lunch with LWW in January\*

*More details inside!*

### Inside this Issue:

Position Review, pg 2

Youth Voter Committee, pg 3

Library Registrations, pg 4

News from National, pgs 5-6

League Lit, pg 7

Women’s March, pg 7

Great Sites to Visit:

Www.lwvindy.org

Www.lwv.org

Www.lwvIN.org

Www.vote411.org

## **New Year? New Position Review!**

### **Start the New Year with LWV's Position Review!**

Every year LWV Indy reviews its positions--and this year we are reviewing local positions ahead of our State Convention.

Since it worked so well last year? We're asking folks review the positions before they come to the meeting so we can engage in meaningful discussion. You can find our location positions online here:

<http://lwvindy.org/local-position-statements/>

We will meet at North United Methodist Church on **January 26th** at 10 a.m. for a soup lunch and good conversation. **Erin Kelley** will be presenting her wonderful program on being **A Good Civic Neighbor** during the lunch portion of our meeting.

Remember: Position Review is a fantastic time to introduce folks to the League. Have a friend who has expressed interest? Sister? Daughter? Son? Bring them along!

We hope to see you there! Let us know you're coming by e-mailing

[membership@lwvindy.org](mailto:membership@lwvindy.org)

***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 26<sup>th</sup> !**

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

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## Youth Voter Committee – We need YOU!

Are you particularly interested in youth voters? Do you have time to help this spring? Our first “Youth Voter Committee” meeting will take place in January.

We have secured a grant from the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) to assist with funding a “Youth Voter Registration Project” in spring of 2019. We plan to register youth voters at a minimum of 5 schools but are aiming to register youth voters at 8 schools or more. The project will endeavor to mitigate widespread disparities in youth voting among African Americans, Latinos, and young people with no college experience.

### We need motivated volunteers for the following activities:

#### Preparation of youth engagement materials

- Participate in national LWV training webinars/conference calls
- Utilize materials in *Empowering the Voters of Tomorrow* (provided by LWVEF)
- Create an engaging lesson plan on voting (rights, history, trends, etc.)

#### Communication with schools

- Identify relevant high schools, colleges, vocational schools, and other organizations within Marion County
- Reach out to schools and organizations to determine interest and schedule visits
- Write thank you notes to school officials after visits

#### Participation in education and registration of students

- Present project content at schools and register youth voters
- Devise a plan for the “three contacts” rule once youth voters are registered

#### Project management

- Ensure all grant responsibilities are met through records and data
- Highlight the League’s efforts through media coverage

For more information, please contact Rachel Loveman at [rmloveman@yahoo.com](mailto:rmloveman@yahoo.com).

**Remember Vote411? She’s going to need some love in to get ready for the Primaries!**

**E-mail [voterservice@lwvindy.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvindy.org) if you want to help us get ready for the upcoming Election Season!**

### LWV Indy & IMCPL Collaboration Continues in 2019

In 2018, we registered over 700 voters in various locations throughout Marion County including naturalization ceremonies, high schools, colleges, libraries, and the Gen Con convention. We could not do this without our dedicated volunteers! Thank you!

If you'd like to help register voters, contact [voterservice@lwvindy.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvindy.org).

Here are some upcoming events:



Naturalization Ceremony @ Indianapolis Central Library – Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am

Naturalization Ceremony @ Indianapolis Central Library – Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am

Naturalization Ceremony @ Indianapolis Central Library – Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am

Naturalization Ceremony @ Indianapolis Central Library – Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am

Naturalization Ceremony @ Indianapolis Central Library – Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am



**Many thanks to our amazing volunteers!**

**THANK YOU!**

Mary Boggs

Betsy Bayne

Erin Kelley

Debbie Asberry

Rhea Cain

Janet Rash

Rachel Loveman

## News from National:



### 4 Key Elements of HR-1:

- 1) Voter Registration
- 2) Redistricting
- 3) No more Purge!
- 4) Restore the VRA

By Celina Stewart, LWV US

***“With any election, what is most important to me is that voters have a level playing field, regardless of the outcome.”***

***– LWV CEO Virginia Kase***

Throughout our nearly 100-year history, the League of Women Voters has worked to “level the playing field” of our election system by [registering new citizens to vote](#), [fighting unfair district maps in court](#), and **advocating in Congress for fair election processes**.

The upcoming 116th Congress could make history with the first comprehensive package of democracy reforms scheduled for 2019, HR1. Since the announcement of HR1, LWVUS has been talking to folks on the Hill and working with partner organizations to help shape the bill’s language and ensure that voting rights are strengthened by this important legislation.

The League of Women Voters is very excited at the prospect of HR1 because it aims to include elements that align with many of the League’s [long-held positions](#), like election modernization and redistricting reform. As we work with legislators to craft HR1, LWV is advocating for the prioritization of the following essential elements of the bill:

### **1. EXPAND VOTER REGISTRATION**

*We must modernize the registration process through the expansion of automatic voter registration and online voter registration.*

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## News from National—Continued

As election observers and partners in Election Protection, the League has seen first-hand the current problems with our election system that prevent participation of eligible voters in our elections: complicated registration and deadlines that vary by state and county, wrongfully purged voters, recounting processes and audits with an increased number of provisional ballots. HR1 should modernize our voter registration processes, which would go a long way in addressing these barriers.

### 2. IMPLEMENT FAIR REDISTRICTING

*It is time to end gerrymandering once and for all so that voters select their elected officials – not the other way around.*

Across the country, in legislatures, in court and on the ballot, the League has fought against efforts by politicians of both major parties to draw unfair election maps to keep power in their own hands. Gerrymandering silences the voters and residents of disputed districts, who, instead of electing officials to represent their interests, are selected by the politicians working to serve themselves. HR1 should establish clear rules around state redistricting processes so that maps can be drawn fairly.

### 3. OUTLAW VOTER PURGING

*Prohibiting illegal voter roll purging will ensure that eligible voters will not find themselves wrongfully stripped of the right to vote.*

The practice of keeping voting rolls current must not be used to disenfranchise otherwise eligible voters. As LWV has asserted again and again, no eligible voter should find themselves at a polling place on Election Day unable to vote because politicians illegally removed their name from the voter roll. This practice is undemocratic and should be outlawed once and for all in HR1.

### 4. RESTORE THE VRA

*Restoring the Voting Rights Act will strengthen our elections by cutting back the obstructive laws that have kept eligible voters from exercising their right at the ballot box.*

Since the Supreme Court's *Shelby County* decision rolled back key provisions of the Voting Rights Act in 2013, we have seen the process of voting become more challenging, especially for women and communities of color. In recent elections, voters have faced a variety of obstacles, from reduced polling places to long lines, to strict voter identification requirements, to the removal of registered voters from the rolls. The Voting Rights Act was created to ensure that every American has an equal right to vote. □ HR1 should include provisions to strengthen voting rights and protect all eligible Americans at the ballot box.

In addition to these four priorities, LWVUS is also open to working on other important election reform measures, such as ensuring election security and addressing public financing systems. It is important that we ensure the security of our elections by improving oversight and upgrading our systems, as well as getting money out of politics and putting power back into the hands of small donors.

LWVUS is proud to be an active coalition partner in ensuring that HR1 comprises bold democracy reforms and voter protections that are necessary to level the playing field for everyone. We call on all legislators, regardless of party, to support any such legislation that is indisputably by and for the people.

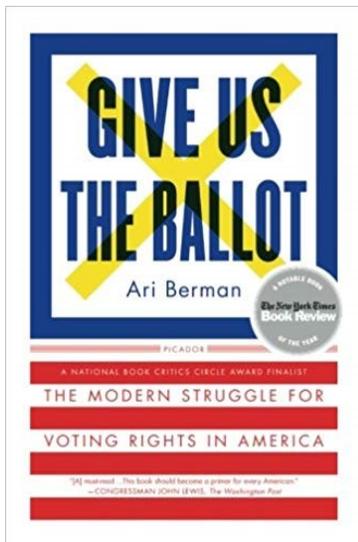
## League Lit – Join us on February 20<sup>th</sup>!

In December, we held our very first *League Lit* meeting to discuss *The Woman’s Hour* by Elaine Weiss. It was an engaging and thoughtful discussion. Thanks to all of you who participated.

Didn’t make the first meeting? No worries! Please join us for the next quarterly meeting—the more the merrier!

We will discuss *Give Us the Ballot* by Ari Berman. The meeting will be held at Books & Brews, located at 643 Massachusetts Avenue, at 6:30pm on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. If interested in attending, email [rheacainlwindy@yahoo.com](mailto:rheacainlwindy@yahoo.com).

Hope to see you there!



Give us the Ballot is available at your local library in multiple formats.

You can also get the book for your e-reader or listen through Audible.

Like having the book? Visit a local book seller like Indy Reads to pick one up!

## Join us at the Women’s March on January 19<sup>th</sup>!

This year LWV Indy will be setting up shop at the Women's March downtown to share information about Redistricting Reform and register voters.

We will be located at the American Legion Mall and are looking for folks to canvass the crowd from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sound like a good time to you (it sure does to us!)?

E-mail [voterservice@lwwindy.org](mailto:voterservice@lwwindy.org)

We are also encouraging everyone who is attending to bring a package of diapers for the diaper drive. Diapers in Sizes 4 through 6 are in the most demand. You can drop them off at our table.

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



## Last Call for 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, 2018**? Your dues are paid through August of 2019. Have questions? Feel free to e-mail us at [membership@lwvindy.org](mailto:membership@lwvindy.org)

Name:

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Address:

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

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

Kind of Member:            NEW            RENEWING