



# The Bulletin

*The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them: Ida Wells*

March 2019

## Dates to Remember

- \* Coalition Luncheon, March 15th, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.,
- \* Board Meeting, March 14th, 6 p.m., NUMC
- \* Lunch with LWV, April 19th, Noon. Duos



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## Here we grow again!

Leaguers,

Are you ready for Election Season?

How about working with High School Kids?

Registering new citizens to vote?

Getting Vote411.org working?

How about all of the above? (Yes, **ALL** of the above is happening this Spring!)

We are busier than ever thanks to a dedicated group of volunteer. But even dedicated volunteers need help, and that's where you come in.

We need our members to be engaged and active now more than ever before! We've said if for years: Democracy is NOT a Spectator Sport. That is more true for LWV Indy today than it has been in a very long time!

As a way to meet and connect with your fellow members, I strongly encourage you to head out to our Membership Mixer on March 28th (more info inside). Let's get to know each other and encourage each other in our work to make our democracy accessible to everyone!

Yours in League,

Rhea Cain

President,

LWV Indy / [membership@lwvindy.org](mailto:membership@lwvindy.org)



## Annual Coalition Luncheon

When? **March 15th, 2018 at 11 a.m.**

Where? **North United Methodist Church (3808 N. Meridian Street)**

Cost? Free! But we do ask you bring your own table service and a bread or salad to share with the group.

For more details, please see page 2 inside.

## Annual Coalition Luncheon



League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women and Church Women United annual Collaborative luncheon with be **Friday, March 23rd from 11 am to 1 pm at North United Methodist Church, 3808 N. Meridian Street, 46208.** Members of the American Association of University Women and Church Women United will join us as we hear a presentation about Indy's Freedom School and its progress over the past two years.

*No reservations are required for the luncheon. Those attending are to bring a salad or a bread to share with others. Attendees also need to remember to bring their own place setting. Look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.*

## Volunteer THANKS!

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

Debbie Asberry

Mary Boggs

Rachel Loveman

Erin Kelley

And everyone who has worked to register voters:

THANK YOU!!

## Membership Mixer

Join us on March 28th at Hoity-Toi-Tea in Broad Ripple for a Members Mixer starting at 6 p.m.!

LWV Indy will provide some snacks--drinks are on you. Please register for a ticket as we want to ensure we have enough nibbles for folks. You can do that here (also be on the lookout for an e-mail!):

<https://lwvindymembershipmixer.eventbrite.com>

We're excited to announce that Marion County Clerk, Myla Eldridge, will be introducing us to the new voting machines in Marion County.

Hoity-Toi-Tea is located at 6283 N College Ave . Parking is located behind the building.

Hope to see you there!



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## Freedom School Update

Your generosity went a long way in making the second year of The Children's Defense Fund Freedom School a big success. In 2017 and 2018, LWV of Indianapolis members donated well over \$2,500! Adding the League's maximum matching amount of \$1,000, we contributed roughly \$4500 as an organization. Eight hundred dollars provides one full scholarship for the six week program. Your generous support paid for six children from low income families to attend Freedom School for the past two years.

You may send checks to LWV Indy (3808 N. Meridian Street, Indpls, IN 46208) noting your check is a gift for the FREEDOM SCHOOL in the memo line. You can also donate directly here:

<https://faithify.org/projects/freedom-school/>

Why is this program so important?

**70% of parents saw increased reading confidence in their children.**

**84% of scholars avoided summer learning loss.**

**90% of parents were interested in engaging in social action with their children**

Thank you for your generous support of this vital summer reading enrichment program.

Betsy Bayne, Treasurer

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## Voter Services—We Need Volunteers!

We have a busy spring schedule registering newly naturalized citizens and youth voters. Can you help? We have the following opportunities:

- Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> @ Ben Davis High School - 10:30am to 11:30am
- Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> @ Herron High School - 11am to 1:15pm
- Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> @ Central Library - 10:30am to 12:00pm
- Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> @ Pike High School at 'Eyes on Pike' Community Fair – 5:30 to 8pm
- Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> @ Central Library - 10:30am to 12:00pm
- Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> @ Central Library - 10:30am to 12:00pm

To sign up, contact [voterservice@lwvindy.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvindy.org).

## Redistricting Update from Common Cause

The Indiana General Assembly's session has reached its midpoint -- and we've spent the first half of it **hard at work to pass redistricting reform and some important election security measures**. At the same time, we've also been pushing to defeat two bad bills that would make it harder to vote by mail and extend polling place hours.

Want to learn more? **Here's a short synopsis of some of the issues we're focused on...**

**Redistricting Reform:** SB91 (sponsored by Senator John Ruckelshaus) would create a **bipartisan citizens redistricting commission** to draw Indiana's electoral maps, then submit those maps to the Indiana General Assembly for approval. SB91 was our top legislative priority, but it unfortunately did not receive a hearing in the Senate Elections Committee.

SB105 (sponsored by Senator Greg Walker) would create a set of redistricting standards that legislators would have to follow when drawing new districts. Although this solution is not as comprehensive as we need, it is a **positive step in the right direction** -- and we strongly support it. It narrowly passed the Senate by a 26-23 vote last month and is currently awaiting a hearing in the House of Representatives Elections Committee.

**Election Reform:** HB1311 (sponsored by Rep. Tom Saunders) would shave four days off the time period that Hoosiers have to apply for an absentee ballot by mail. While we support the intent of this bill -- which is to prevent absentee ballots from being rejected due to missed deadlines -- we don't think HB1311 effectively solves the problem. However, it will certainly **make voting by mail less accessible**. In a state that consistently appears on low voter turnout lists, that's not the direction we need to go in. This bill passed on a mostly party-line vote in the House. We'll work to kill it in the Senate, and instead send this important topic to a summer study commission to devise a solution that does not penalize voters.

SB570 (sponsored by Senator Greg Walker) would require all electronic voting machines in Indiana to have a voter verifiable paper audit trail. This change is long overdue and a **welcome improvement** to the security and accuracy of our elections.

And finally, SB561 (sponsored by Senator Erin Houchin) would place limits on who could go before a judge to request that voting hours be extended on Election Day. The proposal says that only the county election board, after a unanimous vote, can petition a court to extend voting hours. We have **concerns about the constitutionality** of this language, so we'll be working to remove it in the House.

The Indiana General Assembly won't adjourn until the last week of April -- **so we've still got plenty of time to work on all of these issues**.

Thanks for everything you're doing to help us build a stronger democracy in Indiana.

Julia Vaughn, Policy Director  
and the team at Common Cause Indiana

## **News from National: LWV Urges Support for HR1**

### **League of Women Voters Statement for the Record in Support of HR1**

To: Members of the U.S. House

From: Chris Carson, President

Re: Vote YES on HR1; Vote NO on Amendments and Motion to Recommit

The League of Women Voters urges you to vote YES for final passage of HR1, the For the People Act. The League will be paying close attention to debate on this bill and the final vote on the House floor. We implore you to reject any amendments to this legislation that would weaken our democracy.

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. Key provision in HR1 that should be maintained include:

1. Break down barriers that prevent Americans from registering to vote. The Act requires states to allow same-day registration, establishes an opt-out system of automatic registration, and includes the establishment of an online voter registration for all eligible voters.
2. Restore the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and strengthen our elections by cutting back the obstructive laws that have kept eligible voters from exercising their right at the ballot box.
3. Establish independent, citizen redistricting commissions at the state level to draw congressional districts allowing voters to pick their politicians not the other way around.
4. Empower small donors by creating a public financing system to match small contributions to presidential and congressional candidates. It will also close disclosure loopholes that allow outside groups to flood elections with millions of dollars of secret money.

HR1 is an historic opportunity to put power back into the hands of the people. The League has worked tirelessly over the last few months to support and promote this legislation to all members of Congress.

Vote YES on final passage of HR1.

Vote NO on weakening amendments and the motion to recommit.

**LWV Indy is strongly suggesting its members contact Senators Braun and Young to share support for the Senate hearing this bill. You may use the above as talking points.**

**Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell, has said the bill won't be heard because "he decides" on what hits the floor of the Senate.**

**Let's let Sen. McConnell know that the power is with the people! Give his office a call:**

**Phone: 202-224-2541 Fax 202-224-2499**

## Celebrating Women's History Month

### 6 Women You Didn't Know Were LWV Members:

[KAYLA VIX](#)

*This Women's History Month, we're taking a look back through our own organization's history to highlight some of our most prominent members. Each of them made great strides towards a more perfect democracy both in their League work and in their own political work. Their accomplishments inspire us to continue toward the same goal.*

#### Jeannette Rankin

Not only was Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin the first woman to hold federal office in the United States, but she was elected to Congress in 1916—before women had even achieved nationwide suffrage. As a Representative, Rankin was instrumental in the creation and passage of the 19th Amendment. She lobbied as a representative of the National American Women's Suffrage Association (NAWSA), the organization that would become the League of Women Voters. A dedicated pacifist throughout her life, Rankin never swayed from her convictions even through the harshest criticism.

#### Eleanor Roosevelt

One of the most active high-profile members of the League of Women Voters, Eleanor Roosevelt served as the League's vice president for legislative affairs in the 1920s, helping to establish the League's policy agenda. She remained politically active during her time as First Lady, a role in which she worked to empower women's participation as political leaders, supported anti-lynching campaigns, and fought for fair housing for people of color. Roosevelt touted the League as a leader in engaging women with politics, saying, "The League of Women Voters trains good citizens who have a sense of responsibility about what goes on in their locality, in their state, and in their nation."

#### Shirley Chisholm

Shirley Chisholm began her life of community activism in the 1960s by joining organizations working against discrimination in the civic space, one of which was her local Brooklyn, NYC, League of Women Voters. Chisholm would go on to become the first African American woman in Congress and the first African American woman to run for president. Despite all the discrimination--even violence--she faced throughout her public life, Chisholm characterized her work with an appreciation of her distinct voice as a woman of color. One quote of hers continues to inspire League work today: "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."



## News from LWV US

### Lady Bird Johnson

Lady Bird Johnson is most well-known for being First Lady of the United States from 1963 to 1969, a role which she redefined by actively involving herself in politics. She was the first FLOTUS to employ her own press secretary and chief of staff. Breaking from tradition, she embarked on solo campaigns for legislation like the Civil Rights Act and the Highway Beautification Act. And she was a League of Women Voters member while in the White House. Johnson and her husband addressed members at the League's national convention in Pittsburgh in 1964, where Lady Bird declared that the League's work had a major influence on "Lyndon's own determination to give women a better break in government."

### Betty Ford

Another very politically active First Lady was Betty Ford, who served in the White House from 1974 to 1977. Ford was a member of the Grand Rapids, Michigan, League, to which she faithfully sent her membership dues while in the White House. She is well-known for her activism for women's rights and for raising awareness of breast cancer after being treated for the disease herself. Ford was also a strong advocate for the Equal Rights Amendment, and in 1982, she famously said, "I don't accept the ERA vote as a loss; we simply haven't won yet." Today the League is still fighting for an Equal Rights Amendment.

### Hillary Clinton

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made a big splash in the League at a young age. At 22 years old, she gave the banquet address at the League's 50th anniversary national convention. She was awarded this high honor due to her League work in youth and community involvement and her academic projects in law and social action. As the first woman to receive her major party's nomination for president, she came as close to the highest office as any woman to date, inspiring countless young girls through her advocacy in communities and around the world.

***The League is proud to call these exceptional women fellow members and sisters in the movement. We continue to work for increased representation for women at all levels of government. We believe now, as ever, in the power of all women to create a more perfect democracy.***



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

Visit us online at [www.lwvindy.org](http://www.lwvindy.org) or on Facebook!

**Welcome New Members!**

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