



The Bulletin

"If you want to taste freedom, keep going." —Harriet Tubman

November 2019

Dates to Remember

- * Membership Event, December 3rd, Indy Propylaeum, 6:30 pm
- * LWV Cookie Swap at the Millers, December 7th, 5 to 7 pm
- * No Lunch with LWV in December



A much needed breather!

Leaguers,

The Election is past us, and we can now take a moment to reflect on our hard work. Vote411.org was re-launched, candidates participated in our questionnaire, we had great responses to promoting the website through our social media channels, and *we had an op-ed published in the Star!*

NONE of this could have happened without the hands on support of our Board and our membership. We simply cannot do this work without all the components coming together and I'm incredibly grateful that there are so many of us that answer the calls to action. Our community has let us know time and again: they appreciate the work we do.

So let's take a bit of time to enjoy each other's company and come together to celebrate our hard work and our wonderful organization. I hope to see you at our Membership event on December 3rd (see page two for more details!)

Truly, I count myself lucky to know all of you! I wish all of you nothing but the best for the upcoming Holiday Season.

Yours in League,

Rhea Cain

President,

LWV Indy / rheacainlwindy@yahoo.com

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Save the Date!

Our Annual Position Review Soup lunch will be held at North United Methodist Church on **January 25th, 2020**. We will review our National positions—which can be found on the National Organization's website:

<https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues>

We will send out reminders closer to the event date.



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

Rachel Loveman

Liz Ellis

Erin Kelley

Kay Gunyon

Amy Miller

Kim Irwin

Teri Setka

And everyone who has worked to register voters:

THANK YOU!!

Join Us at the Prop!

Save the Date!

What: Member Orientation

When: Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 6:30-8pm

Where: Indianapolis Propylaeum (1410 N. Delaware St.)

Are you new to the LWV? Or an existing member who has questions about the League and how it operates? This Member Orientation gathering will be a chance to learn more about the LWV's history, structure, and activities.

We'll demystify the League's national/state/local structure; cover permissible and non-permissible nonpartisan activities; explain how LWV policy positions are decided; and highlight ways you can get more involved, from voter registration and youth activities to board service.

This is a great primer for new folks and reminder for long-time members! In fact, bring a friend who might be considering LWV membership.

Be on the look out for a registration link via e-mail the week of November 25th.

Cookie Swap at the Millers!

Tis the season...for Cookies!

Amy and Lester Miller welcome Leaguers to an Open House on Saturday December 7th, 2019 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Bring your favorite cookie to share, and be prepared to take some home, too!

Thank you Amy and Les for your hospitality!

The Millers
4440 Crooked Creek Ridge Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46228

2020 Census—Volunteers Needed!

United States[®] Census 2020

LWV Indy is looking to put together a Committee to concentrate on the 2020 United States Census.

The next census is coming in 2020. Counting an increasingly diverse and growing population is a massive undertaking. It requires years of planning and the support of thousands of people.

Ultimately, the success of the census depends on everyone's participation. The Census Bureau depends on cross-sector collaborations with organizations like ours, and individuals to get people to participate.

So what does the Census determine?

How districts get drawn! The better the count, the better the representation!

The 2020 Census is important for our community, and you can help. We will begin putting faces to names and meeting potential partners at our December 3rd event.

Sound appealing? Don't want to wait until December 3rd to learn more? Please reach out to our amazing Voter Services Team by emailing voterservice@lwvindy.org

Also visit www.census.gov/partners/2020.html to learn more!

Voter Services—Get Ready for 2020

Are you getting ready for 2020?

Trust us—we're going to need YOU!

Be on the look out for sign-ups for the 2020 Naturalization Ceremonies, various community events,, help with Vote411, and so much more!

Want to be proactive? Reach out to Rachel, Kim, & Rhea at voterservice@lwvindy.org today!



Fall Voter Registration & Education in the Community

Besides visiting schools, we have been registering voters and spreading the word about voting in our community. We continue to register newly naturalized citizens at Central Library the third Wednesday of each month. We also participated in National Voter Registration Day with events at Cleo's Bodega, Flanner House, and Marian University. Our final registration event before the voter registration deadline took place at the PreEnact Indy Event through the Harrison Center.

While our voter registrations are winding down for the year, you can always check out current opportunities. To sign up, go to signupgenius.com/findasignup and enter the email address: voterservice@lwvindy.org.

Another way the League is promoting voting is by educating our community about voter registration. We held 4 voter registration training sessions in August and September. These sessions were free and open to anyone wanting to learn more about voter registration. Many members were able to take part in these sessions. We focused on proper completion of the federal voter registration form, navigating Indiana's online voter registration portal and educating voters on what they need to know when they go to the polls.

We will offer more trainings next year and will need your help spreading the word. For more information, contact voterservice@lwvindy.org.

Donating to the League

Did you know?

We are a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. That means your membership dues, and any contributions to the LWV of Indianapolis, are tax deductible!

We value our members and thank you for any extra funding that comes our way.



Making an Impact with Youth Voters in Marion County

We are committed to empowering youth voters in Marion County. This fall, we delivered presentations to 23 government classes and conducted 11 lunchtime voter registrations. Our efforts translated into 204 youth voter registrations and well over 1,000 interactions with soon-to-be youth voters, encouraging them to make their voices heard through voting and civic participation. (*Denotes classroom presentations.)

International School of Indiana*
Lawrence Central High School*
Lawrence North High School
Marian University
McKenzie Center for Innovation & Technology
North Central High School
Pike High School*
Pike Preparatory Academy High School
Simon Youth Academy*

Was *your* school on the list? If it was, reach out and let them know you applaud their promotion of civic participation and education. If not, would you like us to visit them in the spring? Let them know!

Our spring youth voter drive will begin in January. Contact Rachel Loveman at rmloveman@yahoo.com for more information.

There is no way we could do this without the support of our members. We extend enormous gratitude to the 13 members who donated their time. We'd also like to thank those of you who contributed financially. Funding goes toward copies of forms and informational material and giveaways like pins, pens, and everyone's favorite- candy!

Looking for the Perfect Gift?

Look no further than a membership with LWV Indy! It's the perfect idea for that special someone in your life who "has everything".

Interested in giving the gift of membership? E-mail Rhea Cain at membership@lwvindy.org today!



Amazon SMILE

Want an easy way to support LWV Indy? Find us on Amazon Smile! You can search for us by name: League of Women Voters of Indianapolis.

Happy Shopping!



#1 holiday hack:
When you buy your gifts
at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

amazonsmile

The graphic features a teal background. On the left, there are two hanging ornaments: one with blue and white stripes and another with a white snowflake pattern. The text is in white and black, with the Amazon Smile logo at the bottom.

News from National

At Long Last, Voting Rights Act Restoration to Get a Vote on House Floor

11/14/2019

It's been over 6 years since the U.S. Supreme Court, in their decision of *Shelby County v. Holder*, gutted a key provision of the Voting Rights Act (VRA). The decision by the court invalidated parts of the VRA that were designed to protect voters from racial discrimination at the polls. The court did away with the process known as "preclearance" which required jurisdictions with a history of discrimination across the country to obtain approval from the U.S. Department of Justice when implementing new laws related to voting and elections.

Since 2013, more than 16 states passed bills that made it more difficult for African Americans and other communities of color to access the ballot box. These obstacles including restrictive voter identification laws and cuts to polling places led to an increase in voting rights challenges. Organizations like the League have persuasively argued for why upholding the protections within the VRA is key to ensuring access to the voting booth.

Passage of the VRA was one of the most important legislative actions of the 20th Century. It was a direct response to the discriminatory tactics, like literacy tests, intimidation, threats, and violence used to prevent people of color from registering and voting. The preclearance section of the VRA was the necessary enforcement for the 15th Amendment's guarantee that no citizen would be denied the right to vote because of the color of their skin.

Legislation that responds to the *Shelby* decision will now come to the floor of the U.S. House. H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA), has broad support from civil rights and voting rights groups across the country. It reacts to the new forms of discriminatory laws passed since the *Shelby* decision that make it harder for many communities to vote. Throughout 2019, Congress has held hearings in states around the country that gathered evidence about voter suppression. The House Judiciary Committee also held seven hearings collecting evidence from expert witnesses about the barriers to voter participation that remain for people of color and language-minority voters in Native American, African-American, LatinX, and Asian American communities. The League's CEO, Virginia Kase, also testified in front of the House Administration's subcommittee on Elections chaired by Congresswoman Marcia Fudge.

For over 50 years, protecting voters from discrimination at the ballot box has been a bipartisan activity. Passage of the original VRA (and subsequent reauthorizations in 1970, 1975, 1982, 1992, and 2006) was not only accomplished with bipartisan support in Congress but was led by stalwart members of the Republican caucus who were committed to doing right by voters. In fact, every reauthorization of the legislation was signed into law by a Republican President, who refused the notion that voting is a partisan issue.

The VRAA is needed to ensure that preclearance can go back into effect so that all eligible Americans are able to vote on Election Day. It is an unfortunate fact that discrimination in voting against racial, ethnic, and language minorities continues in America. **This should be unacceptable in the greatest democracy in the world.**

Take action today. [Tell your Representative to vote YES on H.R. 4.](#)

The League of Women Voters will be closely watching the final floor vote on the Voting Rights Advancement Act. We will continue to work to advance this legislation in the Senate.

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

Visit us online at www.lwvindy.org or on Facebook!

Don't Miss Out!

Did you forget to renew your membership? We understand—life is busy! But we would hate to lose you before the busy work of 2020!

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. Please include both members names for a Household Membership.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____