# League of

Women Voters

Of Wood County WV

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LWVWV [www.lwvwv.org](http://www.lwvwv.org) LWVUS [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

Mark Your Calendar

Monday. June 9 7 p.m. Membership Meeting see below

 Vienna Library

Monday, August 11 7 p.m. LWVWC Board Meeting

 Wood County Library

**Membership Meeting**

**Monday, June 9, 7:00 p.m.**

**Vienna Library**

**Library Funding in WV**

As background for our participation this fall in the LWV of WV study of public library funding in WV, we have invited the head librarians from the Parkersburg & Wood County Library and the Vienna Library to meet with our members to talk about how our local libraries are funded and how some of the proposals offered to improve library funding would affect their institutions.

From [www.lwvwv.org](http://www.lwvwv.org): “The League has undertaken a study of public library funding in West Virginia, to be completed in October.  The task is complex.  Our state has 97 public library systems, which are organized at various levels, with little uniformity. They function under a patchwork of governing and funding, from state, county and municipal taxes, and local non-tax sources.

“The courts in West Virginia have struck down laws mandating that boards of education in certain counties give some of their funding to their local libraries.  Further, the Court challenged the Legislature to come up with a statewide system of local funding of public libraries.  What this system of funding might look like is still up in the air.  During the 2013 Legislative session, two bills seeking to deal with this situation were introduced but not approved. ►

Voter

 June 2014

“The League of Women Voters hopes that in studying this issue, we can reach a position to enable us to lobby the Legislature as it develops its legislation on library funding.”

*A little local history-*

The Parkersburg & Wood County Library grew out of a one-room subscription library with 1000 volumes established in 1891. It became a Carnegie Library when the building on Green Street was built in 1905 with a grant from Andrew Carnegie, and moved to its current location in 1975 as the Parkersburg & Wood County Public Library. It includes branches in Williamstown, Waverly, and South Parkersburg.

The Vienna Public Library was established by the Vienna Woman’s Club in 1954 and reorganized under an independent Board of Trustees through the City of Vienna in 1973.

*Consensus-*

 Our local meeting to review background information and respond to the consensus questions will be in September.

 Our responses will be pooled with those from other local leagues in WV and then reviewed by the LWVWV board of directors to determine where there

are areas of agreement that will form the LWVWV’s position on library funding in WV. We then have a basis for advocating for a better system of funding WV’s public libraries.



Note that because of conflict with the Memorial Day holiday, there was no membership meeting in May and no Voter was published.

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Letters to the Editor

 and other public statements

Shortly before the Primary Election, a League member sent a letter to the editor to The Parkersburg News and Sentinel expressing her opinion as a citizen. So what could be wrong with that? When it was published, the newspaper attached a line identifying her as a League member, a fact which she had not mentioned in her letter. For some readers, this probably led them to think she was speaking for the League. We’ve learned since that the paper has added identifiers to other writers’ letters.

 League members know that a letter speaking for the League would come only from the president or someone authorized by the board and would clearly state that it came on behalf of the League, but we want everyone to feel free to voice their own opinions. *In order to avoid this confusion, we recommend that when submitting a letter to the editor, you attach a statement that you are writing as a private citizen and are not speaking on behalf of any organization to which you may belong.*

**New Position on Agriculture**

The LWVUS has recently announced a new position on agricultural policies following study by 243 local leagues across the nation. To read the statement, go to [www.lwvus.org](http://www.lwvus.org), click on “members” (upper right), then on “Our Work” then on “Agriculture Update” and scroll down to find “LWVUS Position on Federal Agriculture Policies.”



LWV of Wood County

25 Lynnwood Dr.

Vienna WV 26105

**Membership Meeting Mon., June 9**

**Library Funding in WV Study**



Membership in the LWV is open to all citizens of

voting age. To join the LWVWC, send a check

payable to LWVWC for $40 ($60 for 2 people at

one address) to the LWVWC Treasurer, 1 Fox Hill Dr.,

Parkersburg WV 26104 Write “dues” on the memo line.

**Voter Turnout**

Sad to say, only one in five eligible WV voters voted in the May primary, reflecting a small but gradual decline in participation in non-presidential year primaries, from 25% in 1994 to 19.7% this year.

In Wood County overall turnout among registered voters was 18.8%. Among registered Republicans, 26.48% voted. Among registered Democrats, 21% voted. Among those registered nonpartisan, only 2.29% voted, despite the fact that they could have voted for Board of Education and could have requested either party’s ballot.

There were quite a few uncontested races on the ballot, but it seems a shame that our board of education is elected by fewer than one in five of those who could have voted.

**Voting Rights**

 In response to the Supreme Court’s ruling gutting major provisions of the Voting Rights Act, a **bipartisan** group of US Representatives have introduced the Voting Rights Amendment Act (HR 3899). These many months later, no action has been taken. LWVUS is urging all League members to contact their member of Congress and urge the House to schedule a hearing on this measure.

 To email First District Rep. McKinley, go to

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|  | [http://mckinley.house.gov/](http://mckinley.house.gov/%20)  and click on Contact Me. On the email form you will be required to select a topic. The closest one listed would seem to be “Government Reform.”  |