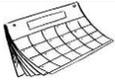


League of Women Voters Of Wood County WV

President: Charmaine Dotson 304-428-1076, cdye62@suddenlink.net
Local Voter: Kathy Stoltz, 304-295-7880, ksstoltz@suddenlink.net
LWVWV www.lwvwwv.org LWVUS www.lwv.org

Voter

September 2017



Mark Your Calendar

Monday, Sept 25 7 p.m. Membership Meeting with
Mark Rhodes, Wood County Clerk
See below

Saturday, Oct. 7 Road Bond Election – Vote!
See next column

Monday, Oct. 9 12:30 p.m. LWVWC Board meeting
South Parkersburg Library meeting room
All members are welcome to attend board meetings

Monday Oct. 23 7 p.m. Membership meeting
See page 2

Membership meeting (open to the public)

Monday, September 25, 7:00 p.m.

Parkersburg City Building,
2nd floor, large conference room

Am I (still) registered to vote?

- You may have read about tens of thousands of voter registrations statewide being cancelled in WV this year. How does that happen?*
- When do registrations become inactive?
- Are people voting twice?

Wood County Clerk (and LWV member) Mark Rhodes will meet with us on September 25 to answer our questions about voter registration and elections, and will also be available to accept new registrations or update current ones.

Mark is a member of the federal Election Integrity Commission tasked with looking into allegations of election fraud, so we hope to hear something about its work to date. (see note in right column)

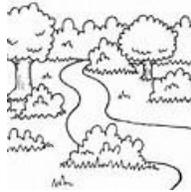
*See page 2



August marked the 97th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, guaranteeing women nationwide the right to vote. State laws differed widely and women were voting and running for office in some states for decades before 1920, often in the newer states in the West.

Road Bond Election October 7

Titled “Roads to Prosperity,” the ballot question is whether to authorize issuance of \$1.6 billion in bonds “To provide for the improvement and construction of safe roads in the state by the issuance of bonds not to exceed \$1.6 billion in the aggregate to be paid for from the State Road Fund and the collection of annual state taxes as provided by the Legislature by general law.”



The bonds would be sold in increments, \$800 million in 2017, \$400 million in 2018, \$200 million in 2019, \$200 million in 2020, and any remaining unsold by July 1, 2021.

The 2017 Legislature adopted increases in the gasoline tax and on fees at DMV to raise the revenue to service the bonds and are already in effect.

- The **last day to register** to vote or update a registration before this election is Monday, September 18.
- **Early voting** will be held Sept. 22 through Oct. 4 only at the Wood County Court House Annex in Parkersburg during regular hours weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Saturdays.
- For information about registration, absentee voting, etc. online, see the Elections section of the Secretary of State’s website. www.sos.wv.gov.
- Any voter who is told they are not on the rolls at the polling place can ask for a provisional ballot. These are evaluated and counted at the canvass if found to be valid.
- Because it is a single item election, voting will be on **paper ballots**, a cost saving over programming the various electronic systems used around the state.

The LWVUS is on record opposing the **Election Integrity Commission**, basically because its leaders have seemed determined to find voting fraud whether it exists in more than a tiny number of instances or not and use this as an excuse to enact election laws that discourage voting. Since the commission does now exist, we are fortunate to have a representative on it who will represent a fact-based point of view.

Yes, there’s a lot of election focus in this Voter, but the Primary Election is “only” about eight months away and candidates are already announcing their intentions.

Voter Registrations Purged

Amid news reports were some confusing uses of terminology concerning the “cleanup” or “purge” of voter registration rolls undertaken in WV this year. In WV Code, purge refers to the periodic mandated cleanup of voter registration rolls when the registrations of ineligible persons are cancelled.

There are various in-state and multi-state data bases that are used to identify registrants who are not eligible to be on a state’s rolls.

Active voters are those whose registrations are up-to-date and who have voted in any election within the last four years (two presidential elections). Inactive voters are those whose registration information may be up-to-date, but election officials have reason to believe may no longer be eligible.

These voters will receive a mailed notice asking that they confirm or update their information and return the notice. If the person does not respond or the postal service returns the notice because the person is not at that address, they are considered inactive. Their information is still in the registration system, but to be considered active again, they will have to update their information or confirm that it is correct which they can do by going to the polls to vote. If a person does not respond to the notice or otherwise update their information, and does not vote in any election for the following period of two federal elections, the registration is cancelled.

During a purge, registrations of people who are confirmed through the various data bases to be ineligible are cancelled. This would include deceased people whose names are still on the rolls, felons who have not completed their sentences, people found to be registered and voting in another jurisdiction, etc.

Anyone with a question about their own registration can check it online. www.sos.wv.gov. Look for “Am I registered to Vote?” in the Elections section or contact the local county clerk’s office. 304-424-1860

(I hope this doesn’t add to confusion. I have sorted it out as well as I can and will count on Mark Rhodes to clear up any questions on 9/25. Any errors here are mine. KS)

 LWV of Wood County
25 Lynnwood Dr.
Vienna WV 26105

Sept. 25 Meeting with the Wood County Clerk

October 7 Road Bond Election

Membership in the LWV is open to all.
To join the LWVWC, send a check payable to LWVWC for \$45 (plus \$25 for each additional member at the same address) to the LWVWC Treasurer,
1 Fox Hill Dr., Parkersburg WV 26104
Write “dues” on the memo line.

Special Dues Rate for New Members Bring a friend to the 9/25 meeting

Thanks to a grant from the state League, dues for **new members only** are \$25 for their first year of membership.

If you’ve already paid your 2017-18 dues, THANK YOU

October 23 Meeting – the ACA and WV Add to your calendar

With a still uncertain future for the Affordable Care Act, we’ve invited Lisa Diehl, Northern Regional Coordinator for West Virginians for Affordable Health Care, to speak about what it means to WV’s bottom line. What will it cost WV if expanded Medicaid and/or other provisions of the ACA go away?

The numbers since the Cleanup, January - July

Only a few counties saw sizable drops in the number of registered voters. Note that a change in the post-purge number of registrations is the net change. The number cancelled may have been partly offset by new registrations. Also keep in mind that because ineligible people are on the rolls does not mean that they are voting. More and better data bases that are now available for comparison should make it possible to maintain more accurate records going forward.

- Registration numbers from the start of 2017 through July 31 show that the number of registered voters increased in two WV counties.
- In 13 counties, the decrease was less than 1%.
- In six counties the number dropped by more than 10%.
- In Wood County the number of registered voters decreased by 7/10ths of 1%.
- Statewide, the number dropped by about 4%.

County by county registration numbers for 2016-17 are online at www.sos.wv.gov. Look for Voter Registration Totals on Elections page.