# League of

Women Voters

Of Wood County WV

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Local *Voter:* Kathy Stoltz, 295-7880, ksstoltz@suddenlink.net

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

Mark Your Calendar

Mon. Jan. 14 7 pm LWVWC Board Meeting

 Wood County Library

Mon. Jan. 28 7 pm Membership Meeting/

 Movie Night, Vienna Library

Mon. Feb. 25 Membership Meeting

Thurs. March 21 Annual Dinner Meeting

# Electoral Dysfunction

# *There’s Something Funny about Voting in America*

* Why does the **United** States have thousands of voting districts with different rules?
* Why do some voters have to wait in line for hours to vote?
* Why hasn’t Congress acted to require that elections including federal offices conform to some basic standards to assure voter access to the process?

Electoral Dysfunction*,* is a documentary that uses humor and wit to take an irreverent—but nonpartisan—look at voting in America. The film stars political humorist Mo Rocca, a correspondent for CBS Sunday Morning, a panelist on NPR’s hit quiz show Wait, Wait ... Don’t Tell Me!, and a former correspondent for The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.

Movie night is Monday, January 28 at 7 pm at the Vienna Library with popcorn and soda. Free to all – League members, friends, everyone!

Voter

 January 2013

Upcoming Events of Interest

**Clean Elections Forum**

 A public forum on “Clean Elections” will be held Tuesday, January 29 in Clarksburg from 6 to 8 p.m. The forum will highlight how public financing has become a part of campaign finance reform and the 2010 bill that allowed a candidate to run successfully for the WV Supreme Court of Appeals in 2012 using public financing. Sponsors are the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, WV Citizen Action Group, and North Central WV Democracy for America.

Note that the LWVWV is a member of the coalition that worked to pass the 2010 bill and continues to work for public financing in WV.

Local League member Karen Campbell is planning to attend the January 29 forum and would welcome others to go with her. Call Karen at 304-295-7419.

**Advocacy Training**

 Understand the legislative process. Get tips on speaking with elected officials. Learn about progressive organizations in West Virginia.

Free training, free food and all are welcome to attend. (Sponsored by: ACLU WV, Citizen Action Group, Direct Action Welfare Group, Fairness WV, Healthy Kids & Families Coalition, NASW WV, Planned Parenthood, WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence, WV Environmental Council, WV Nurses Association, WV Rivers Coalition and WV FREE.)

For more information or to reserve your spot, please contact aclements@acluwv.org or call (304) 345-9246.

**January 23 ~** 6-8pm Monongalia County Courthouse (Courtroom 1), 243 High St., Morgantown.

**February 5 ~ Advocacy Training in Huntington** 5:00-7:00pm Shawkey Dining Room, 2nd floor Memorial Student Center, Marshall University, Huntington

**February 6 ~ Advocacy Training in Charleston** 5:30-7:30pm Covenant House, 600 Shrewsbury St., Charleston

**WV Legislature**

 The 2013 legislative session convenes on February 13. The LWV of West Virginia has adopted the following legislative priorities:

***The LWVWV supports the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act.***

***The LWVWV supports regulation of all extractive industries to protect West Virginia’s people and environment, including land, water, and air, and supports adequate funding for enforcement.***

***The LWVWV supports measures that will encourage energy efficiency, such as energy efficiency resource standards and least cost planning.***

***The LWVWV supports extension of the Supreme Court of Appeals Public Financing Pilot Project through the 2016 General Election.***

***The LWVWV opposes the adoption of a Voter ID law in West Virginia.***

The winter state *Voter* (to be mailed about Feb. 1) will contain background information on each priority.



LWV of Wood County

25 Lynnwood Drive

Vienna WV 26105

 **Movie Night**

***Electoral Dysfunction***

**Monday, January 28**

 

January 2013 Voter

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.

**Annual Meeting**

 The LWVWC annual meeting is set for March 21 at the Parkersburg Country Club.

Details and a reservation form will be in the February Voter. Meanwhile, the nominating committee will be at work to fill the board positions up for election this year. If they call you, please say yes!

**Advocacy – Early Voting**

 Half a dozen local League members attended the January 14 meeting of the Wood County Commission, which was to hear a report from County Clerk Jamie Six on the outcome of the first election cycle offering voters community early voting sites in addition to the Judge Black Annex site.

Approximately 20% of the votes cast in the 2012 General Election were at early voting sites. There was a cost savings because fewer poll workers were needed at regular polling places on Election Day. Because turnout is lower in non-presidential election years, there may be less or no savings in those elections. Commissioners will need to consider whether to continue the community sites in all future elections or only in presidential election years.

League members encouraged continuation of the extra sites, pointing out that it may take more than one election cycle for voters to become aware of this option.