# League of

Women Voters

Of Wood County WV

President: Charmaine Dotson 304-428-1076, cyde62@suddenlink.net

Local *Voter:* Kathy Stoltz, 304-295-7880, ksstoltz@suddenlink.net

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

Mark Your Calendar

 **Monday, Oct. 26 Membership meeting**

See below

Monday, Nov. 9 LWVWC Board Meeting

November membership meeting date

and topic to be announced

 Monday, Dec. 7 Holiday Party

**Membership/Consensus Meeting**

**MONEY IN POLITICS**

**Monday, October 26, 7:00 p.m.**

Parkersburg City Building

Small meeting room off the 2nd floor lobby,

to the left of council chambers



 Local leagues nationwide are participating in a review of the LWVUS’s position statement on campaign financing.

(from [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)) “Our current position dates back to the 1970s and predates Supreme Court decisions that changed campaign finance law significantly. The MIP Review and Update will address a gap in our current position. It aims to get League member understanding and agreement as to the extent to which our organization believes that financing a political campaign is speech protected by the First Amendment. →

Voter October 2015

Leagues are being asked to consider through the consensus process: the rights of individuals and organizations to express their political views through the financing of political campaign activities; and how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current LWV position.”

 A variety of background information and the consensus questions are available on the LWVUS web site. To access them, either go to:

<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review>

Or do the following:

* Go to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) .
* Click on **League Management** at top right in the red bar.
* On the League Management page, move the cursor to **Our Work**
* Move the cursor down to **Money in Politics Review** and click on it.

 It is highly recommended that those who want to participate in consensus will have read at least the Two Page Summary and have reviewed the Consensus Questions. The other papers available offer background on many topics you may wish to read for additional information. Participation in consensus is limited to LWV members.

“Politics has become so expensive that it takes a lot of money even to be defeated” – [Will Rogers](http://itsamoneything.com/money/will-rogers-quote-expensive-defeat/)

**Process lesson/review:** Consensus is the process by which the LWV adopts its position statements as a basis for advocating for or against public policy decisions by public officials. LWVUS positions apply to national issues, LWVWV positions to statewide issues, and LWVWC positions to local issues. Positions are adopted by the various levels to reflect the preponderance of opinion among our members, not merely a majority vote. Sometimes when opinion is sharply divided, our answer is “no consensus.”

Page 2 October 2015 *Voter*

Board Meetings

 Note that LWVWC board meeting on Nov. 9 will be held at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Lydia Cobranchi, 1360 Market St., Parkersburg. Bring your lunch – or eat before.

 Starting in January, board meetings will be on the 2nd Mondays at 12:30 p.m. in the board room of the Parkersburg-Wood County Library.

Holiday Party

Save December 7 for our annual holiday get together for delicious treats and good conversation. Lydia Cobranchi has graciously volunteered to host in her home.



 **Spread the Word**

* West Virginians can now register to vote online. A WV driver’s license or state issued ID card is required.
* Registered voters can update their registration online to change address or party registration.
* A registration form also can be filled out online, printed, signed, and mailed or delivered to the county clerk.

California now has a law that will automatically register eligible citizens to vote when they interact with the DMV. With approximately 6.6 million eligible but unregistered citizens, according to state estimates, the measure could dramatically boost California’s registration rate, which was ranked 38th in the country in 2012. (source [www.brennancenter.org](http://www.brennancenter.org) )



LWV of Wood County

25 Lynnwood Dr.

Vienna WV 26105

October 2015 Voter

Membership Meeting Oct. 26

Membership in the LWV is open to all citizens of

voting age. 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.

**Odds and Ends…….**

**Important election dates for Spring 2016:**

* Filing period for candidates January 11 - 30.
* Registration Deadline April 19
* Early voting April 27 – May 7
* Primary Election Day May 10

**Know someone who is interested**

**in running for office?**

The Our Children Our Future Campaign and its partners are offering the WV Candidate Training Academy at several locations on various dates in November and December. (The closest is Dec. 5 in Charleston.) Topics include the stump speech, how to ask for money, what to run for and when, and campaign strategy. For more information see:

<http://www.ocofwv.org/dosomethinggreat/>

**Clean Elections**

WV was cited as one of only two states with a public financing program for election of its Supreme Court justices (NM is the other) at a recent Fair Courts Summit sponsored by the Brnnan Center for Justice, Wellstone Action, and the Piper Fund. See Julie Archer’s article in the fall edition of *Capitol Eye*, the newsletter of Citizen Action Group.

<http://wvcag.org/capital-eye-fall-2015/>

LWVWV is a member of the Clean Elections Coalition which advocated for adoption of the public financing program and continues to advocate for securing a permanent source of funding.