

League of Women Voters Of Wood County WV

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LWVWV www.lwvwwv.org LWVUS www.lwv.org

Voter

May 2016



Mark Your Calendar

Monday, May 23 7p.m. Membership Meeting
Parkersburg/Wood County Library
See below

National Political Conventions

Who goes? What do they do?

Who makes the rules?

Did my vote in the primary matter?

Monday, May 23, 7:00 p.m.
Summers Auditorium
Parkersburg/Wood County Library

Guest speakers:

Walt Auvil, Wood County Democratic Party
Rick Modesitt, Wood County Republican Party

With the heightened media attention this year on presidential candidates winning delegates pledged to support them and 50 states each having their own rules for how delegates are selected and what their "pledge" means, we've invited Mr. Auvil and Mr. Modesitt to help us understand how the process works in West Virginia.

If you voted in the Republican Primary Election, you faced a very long ballot with page after page of convention delegate candidates to choose from. Some named a candidate they supported, some were uncommitted. Do the ones who named a candidate have to vote that way?

If you voted in the Democratic Primary Election, you had no votes at all on convention delegates. So who decides who those delegates are and who they'll vote for at the convention?

This meeting is open to the public. If you and your friends have been asking each other questions like those above, invite them to join you at this meeting and bring their questions to people who know the system.

From LWVUS President, Elizabeth MacNamara

Take Action: Fix the Federal Election Commission

Based on our [new position on Money in Politics](#), the League has endorsed legislation by Senator Tom Udall (D- NM) that would create a new independent agency to replace the Federal Election Commission. The Federal Election Administration Act of 2016, would restructure the Federal Election Commission (FEC) as a five-member commission. The League sent [a letter](#) to the U.S. Senate in support of this bill and members of the Lobby Corps will be visiting Senate offices throughout May. League members can also [contact their members of Congress](#) to address this issue using our latest action alert.

League Opposes H.R. 4775

The League joined [a letter](#) opposing H.R. 4775, the Ozone Standards Implementation Act. Despite its name, the bill would be detrimental for air quality and public health. The legislation systematically weakens the Clean Air Act without a single improvement and delays live-saving health standards that are already years overdue.

League Opposes Balanced Budget Amendment

The League of Women Voters joined with 269 national organizations urging members of the House and Senate to oppose any balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution. [The letter](#) notes that a balanced budget constitutional amendment would damage the economy, not strengthen it.

Updating the Presidential Public Financing System is Key to Removing Big Money from Politics

[Fixing the public financing system](#) in our country is just one of the ways that the League is working to get big money out of politics. The League is taking [a multi-pronged approach](#). In addition to supporting legislation to fix the FEC (see above) and federal legislation to revamp the presidential public financing system, we are also supporting legislation to set up a new congressional public financing system and state and local Leagues across the country have had success with implementing laws in their own communities. The League also continues to push for passage of the DISCLOSE Act and ending under-the-table coordination between Super PACs and candidates.

To follow included links, put cursor on link, and Ctrl+click or go to www.lwv.org *Our Work*



More than 100,000 West Virginians voted during the Primary Election early voting period this year. When early voting started in 2002, 14,000 participated. In the 2012 presidential cycle, 57,000 voted early. We hope the numbers mean this year's voter turnout will be a lot better than in 2014 when barely more than a third of those eligible voted.



The Legislature will (at last) meet next week to deal with the shortfall in the current year's budget and the necessity for a state budget for 2016-17. We all know that WV is one of the poorest states in the US. One way to help struggling families is a state Earned Income Tax Credit, allowing lower income workers to keep more of what they earn.

From WV Citizen Action Group:

“Legislators are actively discussing our state budget in preparation for the upcoming Special Session. Will you take two minutes and ask your Senator(s) to support working families with a state Earned Income Tax Credit?”

We know our state is in a budget crisis and funding cuts and tax hikes are coming. Solutions to West Virginia's budget crisis should not come down harder on our working families, though, which is why it makes sense to partner these initiatives with a state EITC. It will level the playing field and help over 141,000 working households throughout WV stay on the job and pay for basic necessities.

Contact your Senator(s) today and ask them to ensure a state EITC is included in the final budget during the coming Special Session.”

*Thank you to those who have paid their dues.
If you haven't yet paid.....*

The League's budget year runs from April 1 to March 31. Thus dues for the coming year became payable on April 1. Dues are \$45 for one member, \$25 more for each additional member at the same address, checks payable to LWVWC. Mail to LWVWC Treasurer, 1 Fox Hill Drive, Parkersburg WV 26104.



LWV of Wood County
25 Lynnwood Dr.
Vienna WV 26105

**May 23 meeting: Will your vote count
At the national party convention?**

May 2016 Voter

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.