

League of Women Voters Of Wood County WV

Voter

October 2018

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LWVWV www.lwvww.org LWVUS www.lwv.org



Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, Oct. 21 LWV Voter's Guide published
in Parkersburg News & Sentinel
Monday Oct. 22 6 p.m. Meet the Candidates for
West Virginia Legislature and
Wood County Commission
Parkersburg City Council Chambers
Tuesday, Nov. 6 **GENERAL ELECTION**
Monday, Nov. 12 12 noon LWVWC Board Meeting
Das Rookhaus, 2911 Dudley Ave. Pksbg.
Saturday, Dec. 15 1:30 p.m. Holiday party
Details later



The LWV has invited the **local candidates for the WV Legislature and for Wood County Commission** to speak and meet the public, 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. on **Monday, October 22** in Council Chambers of the Parkersburg City Building. The format will be as it was for the April event. We will not be asking questions, but will give each a few minutes to speak and then encourage candidates and audience to mingle.

This event is open to the public. Please help us spread the word. Invite your friends and post on your social media.

School Levy Renewal on Nov. 6 Ballot

The LWVWC Board of Directors has endorsed passage of the renewal of the excess levy that has supported our schools for many years. The levy provides funds for many aspects of our local school system, including salaries and benefits for employees, building maintenance and safety measures, Wood County libraries, educational supplies, and more.

The levy rates will remain the same as those currently place. If approved, the levy will continue through the 2023-2024 fiscal year and is expected to raise about \$ 18,255,587 in each fiscal year.

Say yes to the school levy renewal

Dark Money, an excellent documentary about the undue influence of undisclosed, indirect campaign contributions have on elections, is available for free viewing through October at <http://www.pbs.org/pov/darkmoney/>

ELECTION DATES TO REMEMBER

► **Tuesday, October 16** Last day to register to vote or update registration before November 6 General Election

► **Early voting** at the Judge Black Annex open Wednesday, **Oct. 24 thru Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018**
Hours are: Monday - Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm
Saturdays - 9:00am to 5:00pm

► Even if you don't subscribe to the newspaper, you may want to buy one on **Sunday, October 21** to get your copy of the League's comprehensive **Voters' Guide**. The guide will also be posted on www.lwvww.org

► **LWVWC Meet the Candidate Event October 22**

► **Community Voting Sites** will be open **Tuesday, Oct. 30 through Saturday, Nov. 3**, at the Lubeck Volunteer Fire Department, the Mineral Wells Volunteer Fire Department, the Vienna City Building, and the Williamstown City Building. The hours are the same as above. Any registered Wood County voter may vote at any of the above locations. *If voting on Election Day, however, you must go to your assigned precinct location.*

► **Tuesday, November 6 General Election Day**

Election information is available from Wood County Clerk at 304-424-1850, Voter Registration office 304-424-1860
<https://woodcountywv.com/county-offices/county-clerk>

WV Secretary of State: <https://sos.wv.gov> The Elections section of this site includes financial reports from candidates' campaigns and reports from the many PAC's registered with the state.

From LWVUS: Citizenship Question is Bad for the Census

"U.S. Commerce Secretary Willbur Ross has chosen to include a question on the U.S. Census pertaining to citizenship. Including this question on the Census will discourage participation and impact the data collected in every community across the country."

"Including a citizenship question on the Census undermines the rights of eligible voters and threatens a process vital to our democracy. We will do everything in our power to correct this issue before it's too late."

gGo to www.lwv.org to read more and to join the more than **20,500** who have already signed the LWVUS's petition to say you stand with the League in the fight against this decision.

Amendment 1 on November 6 Ballot

The League of Women Voters of West Virginia urges voters to **say NO** to Constitutional Amendment 1.

If passed, Amendment 1 would add the following language to the WV Constitution: “Nothing in this Constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or requires the funding of abortion.”

The League of Women Voters believes that women have a right to privacy in matters concerning their reproductive lives. We believe this should be a private decision that a woman makes in concert with her health care provider and whomever else she chooses to include.

If the amendment passes, the next day nothing will be different about laws currently in WV Code governing access to abortion in WV. *What will be different is the potential for changes that could occur in the future.* As long as Roe v. Wade is the law of the land, there will be limits on what the WV Legislature could do to further limit access to abortion in WV. One change many think it is likely to make is to eliminate coverage of the procedure for women on Medicaid, under which medically necessary abortions are currently paid for out of WV’s portion of Medicaid funding. What other restrictions might be approved is unknowable, but several restrictive bills that did not pass have been introduced in recent sessions.

Another big ‘if’ is what would happen if the US Supreme Court were to overturn Roe v. Wade. In that event the Legislature would have a free hand to add more barriers to access or to ban abortion entirely with or without any exceptions. An old WV law banning all abortions was put on hold by a 1973 injunction. Without Roe v. Wade, might the injunction be lifted and the law resurrected?

If this amendment passes, abortion will be the only medical procedure mentioned in the WV Constitution. There already are many references and limits to access to abortion in WV Code passed by the Legislature over the years since Roe v. Wade. Do we really want to start regulating women’s health care via the state constitution?

Amendment No. 2: Judicial Budget Oversight

Reads as follows:

Summary of Purpose: Providing that the total general revenue appropriations to the judiciary may be reduced in the budget bill, and setting forth the required procedures to be followed by the Legislature to enact any decrease in the total general revenue appropriations to the judiciary to an amount that is less than 85 percent of the amount of the total general revenue appropriations to the judiciary in the most recently enacted budget; providing that when requested by the Legislature, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals must appear and be heard and answer inquiries relative any budget bill; and conforming language relating to the introduction of the budget and matters that may be taken up during extended sessions to more recent amendments to the constitution.

► Proponents argue that in light of recent revelations about Supreme Court of Appeals spending, some degree of legislative oversight is needed. In every other state the legislative branch has some kind of control over the courts’ budget.

► Opponents argue that the state constitution exempted the courts’ budget from legislative control to assure its independence as a separate branch of state government. Legislators could use budget cuts to ‘punish’ the court for an unpopular opinion.

Note that the budget for the Supreme Court of Appeals funds all levels of WV’s courts.

The LWVWV has not taken a position on Amendment 2.

League members who choose to comment on Amendment 1 and/or 2 publicly or on social media are free to do so as individual voters, but not as speaking for the LWV.

If you currently receive a paper copy of the Voter and would prefer to receive it via email, send an email to ksstoltz@suddenlink.net with ‘email Voter’ as the subject.



LWV of Wood County
25 Lynnwood Dr.
Vienna WV 26105

Meet the Candidates Oct. 22



November 6

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.