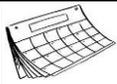


# League of Women Voters Of Wood County WV

# Voter

President: Charmaine Dotson 304-428-1076, [cyde62@suddenlink.net](mailto:cyde62@suddenlink.net)  
Local Voter: Kathy Stoltz, 304-295-7880, [ksstoltz@suddenlink.net](mailto:ksstoltz@suddenlink.net)  
LWVWV [www.lwvwwv.org](http://www.lwvwwv.org) LWVUS [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

December 2018



## Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, Dec. 15 1:30 p.m. Holiday party – see below

Wed. January 9, 2019 WV Legislature session begins

Saturday, January 19, 2019, 1:30 p.m. Dark Money  
Documentary at Vienna Library

Happy  
Holidays!

You are cordially invited to the League of Women  
Voters of Wood County's

**Annual Holiday Gathering**  
**Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.**  
at the home of Jane Burdette  
2500 Brooklyn Drive Parkersburg WV  
(off 23<sup>rd</sup> Street by the City Park)

Please bring an appetizer, your special dish, or dessert to  
share. If you'd like to bring some wine (or other adult  
beverage), we'd love to share!

*Spouses and guests are welcome.*

**RSVP: by December 10<sup>st</sup>**  
**Jane Burdette 304.485.2063 or [burdettejane@hotmail.com](mailto:burdettejane@hotmail.com)**

*For those who missed it on POV on PBS, the LWVW will  
show **Dark Money**, an excellent documentary about the undue  
influence that undisclosed, indirect campaign contributions  
have on elections, on Saturday, January 19 at 1:30 p.m. at the  
Vienna Library. This event will be open to the public, so  
please spread the word.*

**Reminder – New members who join the LWVWC now pay  
only \$25 for the first year. For new members joining after  
January 1, their first year lasts through March of 2020. Ask  
a friend to join!**

Note that there was no Voter in November since there  
were no League events and the editor took a break.

## 2018 POST-ELECTION WRAP-UP

### WV Legislature

Turnout for the 2018 midterms in WV was 47.67%,  
compared to 37.8% in 2014. There were about 20,000 more  
registered voters in WV for this election than for 2014  
midterms. WV's turnout was comparable to that for the US as  
a whole.

While the WV Legislature remains firmly in  
Republican control, in 2019 it will be different than the one  
that convened earlier this year. The majority leaders of both  
houses were defeated. The new majority leader in the Senate  
will be Tom Takubo, a physician from Kanawha County. A  
new house speaker will be elected by the delegates.

In the House, Democrats gained five seats, making  
the 2019 House 59R – 41D. Ten seats flipped from  
Republican to Democratic and five from Democratic to  
Republican. More than a third of the House will be new to the  
Legislature, among them its youngest member, a 19 year old  
Republican from Nicholas County. In six districts, the elected  
delegate was unopposed. The House will include twelve  
women, down from fifteen currently.

The WV Senate will have five new members, made  
up of 20R - 14D, currently 22R – 12D. The two seats gained  
by Democrats were those of the majority leader and the chair  
of the Government Organization Committee, the latter race  
decided by 288 votes. No seats changed from Republican to  
Democratic. There will be three women in the WV Senate.

Every vote really does count. The third seat in House  
district 50 was decided by 71 votes.

### Supreme Court of Appeals

With ten candidates for each of two seats, those  
elected were former House of Delegates Speaker Tim  
Armstead with 26% of the vote for the seat expiring in 2020  
(next highest was Joanna Tabit with 22%), and former  
Congressman Evan Jenkins with 36% of the vote for the seat  
expiring in 2024 (next highest was Denise Renee Smith with  
14%).

The governor will appoint a replacement for recently  
resigned Allen Loughry who resigned too late for that seat to  
be elected. The seat will be on the ballot in 2020, as will those  
of Justices Workman and Armstead.

### Local Outcomes

The only change among local legislators was the  
election of Tom Azinger as a House of Delegates member  
from District 10. He is currently filling the remainder of the  
late Frank Deem's term.

continued →

### Constitutional Amendments

Both passed, and the effects of each will unfold in the coming legislative session and beyond.

Amendment One likely means the end of Medicaid funding for abortion, leaving the many thousands of women covered by Medicaid with few options. Depending on any US Supreme Court action on Roe v. Wade, there likely will be efforts to place further restrictions on or to eliminate access to abortion for all WV women. The League will oppose such measures because we believe that women are entitled to privacy when making decisions about their reproductive lives.

How legislators will exercise their oversight of the Supreme Court's budget also remains to be seen. Since that budget funds all levels of the state's courts, we can hope they don't use their dismay over recent excesses at the top to negatively affect the lower courts where the vast majority of cases are resolved.

### Election Odds and Ends

- The voters of Fairmont voted to adopt an ordinance defining its non-discrimination policy to include equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Three states' voters chose to expand their Medicaid programs (Idaho, Nebraska, and Utah).
- Arkansas and Missouri opted to raise their state minimum wage.
- The city of Charleston WV will have its first female mayor.
- The US House of representatives will have 34 new female members, most of whom replaced men. This brings the total number of women in the House to 100, with a couple of races still not decided.
- Kansas rejected voter suppression champion Kris Kobach in his bid to become governor.
- Voter apathy? Not for an 83 year old man in Wisconsin who walked the final mile to the polls after his car was disabled by colliding with a deer.

### LWVWV Legislative Priorities

The LWVWV Board has adopted the following priorities for the 2019 legislative session. When the session opens, each legislator will receive a letter stating that:

The League of Women Voters of West Virginia:

- Supports maintaining West Virginia's water standards to reflect EPA recommended human health criteria.
- Supports strengthening disclosure requirements for the sources of political campaign expenditures, including Dark money.
- Supports establishment of an independent commission to draw up redistricting plans for representatives to the US House of Representatives and the WV Legislature.
- Supports measures that encourage investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency in West Virginia's homes, businesses, and industries.
- Supports maintaining expanded Medicaid coverage for the hundreds of thousands of West Virginians who rely on it for health care.

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A new edition of the roster of elected officials will be prepared in January after the legislators are sworn in and offices, phone numbers, and email addresses re available.

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If you currently receive the Voter via snail mail and would prefer to receive it via email, send a message to: [ksstoltz@suddenlink.net](mailto:ksstoltz@suddenlink.net) with 'email Voter' as the subject.



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Every registered voter in Monongalia County was sent an electronic "poll card" which has a bar code and magnetic strip. The voter presents it at the polls and the card is scanned and data integrated into the electronic poll book. It serves as their ID and speeds up the process, shortening lines. The other acceptable forms of ID are still accepted as well.

**LWV™** LWV of Wood County  
25 Lynnwood Dr.  
Vienna WV 26105



*Holiday Party Dec. 15*

**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.**