

League of Women Voters Of Wood County WV

President: Charmaine Dotson 304-428-1076, cyde62@suddenlink.net
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LWVWV www.lwvwwv.org LWVUS www.lwv.org

Voter

January 2019



Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, January 19, 2019, 1:30 p.m. Dark Money
Documentary at **Parkersburg/Wood County Library**
Monday, Feb. 11 noon LWVWC Board Meeting
Parkersburg/Wood County Library
Monday, Feb. 25 6:30 p.m. Membership Meeting
Parkersburg/Wood County Library



The League will present the film, “DARK MONEY” at the Parkersburg/ Wood County Public Library at 1:30pm on Saturday, January 19. **The film is open to the public** at no cost. Note the change of location from what was in the November Voter.

“Dark Money”, a political thriller, examines one of the greatest present threats to American democracy: the influence of untraceable corporate money on our elections and elected officials. The film takes viewers to Montana--a front line in the fight to preserve fair elections nationwide--to follow an intrepid local journalist working to expose the real-life impact of the US Supreme Court's Citizens United decision. Through this gripping story, DARK MONEY uncovers the shocking and vital truth of how American elections are bought and sold. This Sundance award-winning documentary is directed/produced by Kimberly Reed (Prodigal Sons) and produced by Katy Chevigny (E-Team).

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate. We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy. “

A snow delay date has been set for January 26th. Members will be notified by email.

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!



WV Legislature

The session opened January 9 and ends March 9.

Our local Senators:

Donna Boley 304-357-7905, donna.boleyn@wvsenate.gov
Room 206W

Mike Azinger 304-357-7970 mike.azinger@wvsenate.gov
Room 417M

Local Delegates:

District 8: **Bill Anderson**, 304-340-3168,
bill.anderson@wvhouse.gov, Room 200E-C

District 9: **Ray Hollen** 304-340-3136,
ray.hollen@wvhouse.gov, Room 224E

District 10: **Tom Azinger**, 304-340-3137
tom.azinger@wvhouse.gov, Room 204E

Vernon Criss, 304-340-3202
vernon.criss@wvhouse.gov, Room 427M

John Kelly, 304-340-3394
john.kelly@wvhouse.gov, Room 201E

Mailing address for all is Room ____, Building 1, State Capitol Complex, Charleston WV 25305

To keep up with the legislative session, use its web site www.wvlegislature.gov. It may take a bit of exploring to use the various options available, but is worth the time. Floor sessions and some committee meetings are live streamed. Check the calendars on the Bulletin Board on the home page.

Among other sources are the LWVWV website, www.lwvwwv.org, Citizen Action Group's *Capitol Eye* at www.wvcag.org, WV Metro News www.wvmetronew.com, WV public television's Legislature Today at 6 and 11 p.m. weeknights and www.wvpublic.org. The Charleston Gazette-Mail is offering a 3-month trial for 99 cents. Others to try include WV Environmental Council, www.wvecouncil.org, and WV Center on Budget and Policy www.wvpolicy.org and the web sites of other interest groups or media outlets that you follow.

Through Monday 690 bills had been introduced and hundreds more will be. Keep in mind that only a fraction of the bills introduced ever become law. The fact that a bill has been introduced does not necessarily mean that anything will happen to it. All bills are referred to a committee, but unless the committee takes up the bill, it will never see daylight.

If you are interested in following bills on a particular topic or have a short list you want to monitor, set up a bill tracking list on the legislature's web site. Check the agenda for the committee a bill was referred to see what bills will be taken up.

WV Judicial Elections

The LWVWC board has agreed to put a vote for a new study on the agenda for the League's state convention in Morgantown on April 13. The study would aim to add a new consensus on the election of members of the judiciary in WV to our state positions.

In the May 2018 election, two justices of the Supreme Court of Appeals were elected to fill vacancies, each from a slate of ten candidates. One won with 26% of the votes and one with 36%. Both had been appointed months before to fill vacancies on the court. There is considerable feeling that this is not a good way to elect justices. When judicial elections were changed to being held on a nonpartisan basis in the Primary Election, no provision was made for a runoff if no candidate received a majority of the votes.

A bill (SB108, referred to Judiciary Committee) has already been introduced in the current legislative session that would provide a General Election run-off between the top two vote-getters from the May election if no candidate gets a majority of the votes in May. This bill has four sponsors, three Democrats and one Republican. Three of the sponsors are on the Judiciary Committee. Other bills with other proposals may be introduced later. Because the League currently does not have a position on this issue, we will not be advocating on this issue as an organization, but members are free to contact legislators as individuals to make their views known.

If the Legislature takes action on judicial elections that League convention delegates find satisfactory, they can vote not to adopt the study. If delegates are not satisfied that the problem has been addressed, they can adopt the study and League members can come to a consensus on a position for which the LWVWC would advocate.

Note that the SCofA currently consists of two justices elected previously (Justices Walker and Workman), the two elected in May 2018 (Justices Armstead and Jenkins), and one appointed after the November 2018 election (Justice Hutchinson) to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of former Justice Loughry. Three seats will be on the ballot in 2020.

The **League's state convention** will be held Saturday, April 13 in Morgantown. Any League member who is interested in attending as a delegate for our local League can contact the president. Charmaine Dotson 304-428-1076, cyde62@suddenlink.net

A new edition of the **roster of elected officials** will be prepared soon and will be available in libraries and municipal buildings.

The LWVWC's annual meeting is scheduled for March 29 at Colombo's Restaurant. Mark your calendar and check next month's Voter for more information.

From LWVUS: **League of Women Voters Supports HR1**
1/4/2019

WASHINGTON – The League of Women Voters is proud to support HR1, the first democracy reform agenda bill introduced in the House of Representatives in the 116th Congress.


Today, League of Women Voters CEO Virginia Kase released the following statement in support of this important legislation:

“This bill stands to improve American elections by making our election system more free, fair, and accessible to all eligible Americans.

“The League of Women Voters is proud to see HR1 includes restoring the Voting Rights Act, improvements to Automatic Voter Registration, public financing of elections through small donor matching funds, overturning Citizens United, ending partisan gerrymandering and more.

“The League worked behind the scenes to influence the language of this legislation, including a push to include Same Day Registration. Our organization has a rich history of working with Congress to improve registration on behalf of all voters. We are encouraged by the extraordinary and comprehensive reforms in HR1 that are good for all Americans and deserves bipartisan support.

“We encourage all elected officials to support legislation that works for the American people.”

 LWV of Wood County
25 Lynnwood Dr.
Vienna WV 26105

Documentary *Dark Money*
Sat., January 19 1:30 p.m.
Parkersburg/Wood County Library
Free and open to the public

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.