

June, 2023

lwvccpa.org

A Message from the President

“Do it now! There may be a law against it tomorrow.”

Dear Members and Supporters,

Well, hold on there! Don't we follow and apply “the rule of law” to all? Or does our past and present history tell us otherwise?

Here, James Madison is quoted from the Federalist Paper No. 51 (1788) “If men were angels, no government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.

Another memorable quote from our own Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1860) “To make laws that man can not and will not obey, serves to bring all law into contempt. It is very important in a republic that the people should respect the laws, for if we throw them to the winds, what becomes of civil government?”

Let's keep those quotes in mind when we listen to our speaker at the upcoming Annual Dinner, June 22,2023. I am so looking forward to seeing you and hope that you will sign up to attend if you have not done so already. What a great opportunity to see each other and of course to sample the delicious desserts offered by our venue!

Susan Carty, President

LWVCC

Notices

Upcoming Dates:

LWVCC Board Meeting, Saturday June 17, 10:00AM East Goshen Twp. Building, 1580 Paoli Pike, West Chester, PA 19380. For the near future we will have in-person meetings only.

LWVCC annual meeting, evening June 22,

COME ONE! COME ALL!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHESTER COUNTY



Annual Meeting



June 22, 2023

Registration at 5:30 p.m. Buffet Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Celeste Trusty, Speaker

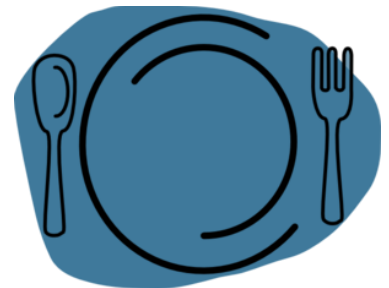
PA State Director, Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM)

\$35.00 plus cash Bar

Hilton Garden Inn

720 East Eagleview Blvd.

Exton, PA 19341



Send check to LWVCC; P.O. Box 62; Exton, PA 19341

OR by visiting PayPal on our <https://lwvccpa.org/annual-meeting-dinner/>

Mass Incarceration Does Not Stop at the Prison Walls

1.9 million people are behind bars in the United States, but that number does not capture the true reach in the criminal justice system in our country. The overuse of probation and parole, with mass incarceration, has almost doubled the number of people to 5.5 million in the system of mass punishment and correctional control.

An estimated 3.7 million adults are under community control (sometimes called community corrections), nearly twice the number of people who are incarcerated in jails and prisons.

Probation and parole are often talked about as a more “lenient” approach than incarceration, but these programs are designed to extend the reach of mass punishment beyond the prison walls. We need to question whether they strengthen our communities or simply serve as a revolving door to prison.

Probation and parole are important ways that can reduce the number of people in prison and jails. However, too often people fail by forcing them to comply with vague and wide-ranging rules and fees. Failure to comply can result in returning to prison or jail. These “failures” are so common that less than half (44%) of people who “exited” parole or probation did so after successfully completing their supervision terms, many of the rest were reincarcerated for “technical violations” such as missing a check-in or nonpayment of fees – things that are not crimes.

More specifically Pennsylvania has an incarceration rate of 659 per 100,000 people (including prisons, jails, immigration retention, and juvenile facilities). It locks up a higher percentage of its people than almost every democracy in the world. State prisons have 37,000, local jails 29,000, 5,500 in federal prisons, and 1,600 youth. Imprisonment rates vary across Pennsylvania but every part of the state has residents locked up: Pennsylvania has 659/100,000. Iceland and Norway have the lowest rates per 100,000 : Norway is 54 and Iceland is 33 per 100,000. 244,000 of Pennsylvania residents are in PA’s criminal legal system: 94,000 in probation, 77,500 parole, 29 local jails and prisons as noted earlier.

Kay Sharp, Criminal Justice Committee

(Source: Prison Policy Initiative Updates, May 2023)

League Members Have Busy Day at Turk's Head Event

The booth manned by Janice Shreffler, Shirley Warren and Carol Catanese at the recent Turk's Head Music Festival in Everhart Park in West Chester was busy all day, according to Janice. "We registered 23 voters! There were also over 20 folks who had questions about the "Fix Harrisburg for Fair Districts" issue," she said. "This event was th most interactive response from voters that we have had recently, and I think the League needs to be involved in more events and community functions," she added.

It is a great time to get involved with lots of community events coming up in the next few months. Contact any of the LWVCC board members or visit the LWVCC website lwwcc.org for information about upcoming volunteer opportunities. This outreach is what the League is well known for, and has the information available to provide to voters.

Cathy Palmquist



Budget 2023-2024

This year's budget committee met on May 22nd to set the budget for 2023-2024. We will be voting on it during our annual meeting June 22nd.

Our PMP costs are based on the number of paying members we have at the end of January. \$32 goes to our national LWV and \$20 goes to the state LWV. Many of our members use PayPal on our website. Since they charge a fee, we use \$73.50 a median dues payment. For household second members and 5 half members. Please remember our fiscal year is July to June.

Our income is based on what we have from our membership fees. We hope contributions to the League continue to grow and support our efforts. Many members make an extra contribution when they renew their membership in June/July. Contributions are important because our expenses continue to go up every year. We receive donations to cover the cost of our Legislative Directory and our bookmarks. We are very grateful for these! Every year we join Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" and make \$5 for each ticket sold. For this one day, October 18th shoppers get an extra 25% off most purchases. You will notice our operating costs are going up but in the last three years we have not had the public relations and meeting costs we were used to. Hopefully, we will be getting out more! We are supporting two people attending the state LWV Convention in Harrisburg. A National LWV Convention will be held next June 2024.

Our printed materials have been updated and reprinted. We also purchased a Half Page ad in the Chester County Press last fall. We will be doing this for the fall election this year too. We are developing working relationships with other groups as well. Our board has been discussing the possibility of holding information programs for public. After all this is what we do!

We are so grateful for all our members who volunteer to serve on a committee, register voters, help with an event, or work at a debate. Thank you!

Budget Committee: Pamele Gray, Carole Mackrell, Valerie Thomas



Join us for an upcoming virtual event!

Tuesday, June 13, at 11am: Business for America, a partner organization, is hosting a webinar for business leaders to explain how to encourage civic engagement. Their promo for the event calls attention to [data released](#) by the United States Education Department showing that eighth-grader test scores in U.S. history and civics fell to the lowest levels on record last year.

As BFA notes: “This limited education about our democratic system makes people more vulnerable to misinformation and...distrust in the electoral process, which are destructive to our country’s social cohesion and economic competitiveness.”

Join speakers: Jim Gerlach, Former PA Congressman, CEO [Greater Reading Chamber Alliance](#), Angelique Hinton, Executive Director, [PA Youth Vote](#), and Arielle Jennings, Chief Partnerships & Sites Officer, [Generation Citizen](#).

[Register: Elevating Civic Literacy in PA for a Bright Economic Future](#)

Thank you for your own engagement in strengthening Pennsylvania’s democracy.

Carol Kuniholm

Fair Districts PA Chair