



August, 2023

lwvccpa.org

A Message from the President

Today and the Issue of Truth in Elections

Certainly, we would like to believe and to experience political candidates as truthful people whose goals are communicated with honesty of purpose and with clarity. We voters would surely be more willing to support and vote for such candidates.

However, as we well know, it just “isn’t always so”! That search for truth is what leads to frequent calls to our League phone with voters wanting to know, “How can they know who is telling them the truth?”

The element and measurement of truthfulness expressed in candidates’ speeches today can be a challenge. For some voters, that challenge ultimately impacts their belief in the validity of the system as well as their willingness to act and to vote. For others, there is an easy path that leads them to follow their party recommendations without further inquiry.

The LWVCC wants to see all eligible voters freely acting upon their right to vote. We hope that all eligible voters will disregard “doubters” who prefer that all eligible voters do not vote. No one and no party have a right to manage or manipulate our voting right.

As the fall election season rapidly approaches, we want to remind you that this fall election 2023 involves School Board Candidates. Requests for forums/debates have begun. We are greatly appreciative of candidates and their willingness to extend themselves personally as well as their families. Running for an office is not easy and it is a challenge!

Stay well – be informed – enjoy the rest of your summer!

Susan Carty, President

LWVCC

Notices

Upcoming Dates:

LWVCC Board Meeting, Saturday August 19, 10:00AM East Goshen Twp. Building, 1580 Paoli Pike, West Chester, PA 19380. For the near future we will have in-person meetings only.

It's that time again!

2023 DUES REMINDER

League of Women Voters of Chester County

WE ARE ACCEPTING DUES AND DONATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024

We hope you will renew your LWVCC membership. You are welcome to email me to double check on your dues status, mgrothman@verizon.net. Thank you if you are up to date.

CONTINUE TO STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY

(so we can see you in person again at League events and meetings.)

Our new League year (2023-2024) began on July 1, 2023. You are welcome to pay your dues using PayPal or mail a check, made out to LWVCC, to PO Box 62, Exton, PA 19341. As always, your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you. We could not do what we do without members like you.

Annual Membership Dues: \$75.00. For additional household member \$37.50 each.

Student Membership FREE

If you prefer, use PayPal for dues and donation at <https://www.lwvccpa.org/join-us>

Meryle Rothman, membership chair

Criminal Justice Report

Solitary Confinement in PA Prisons Overdue for Change

Solitary confinement goes by many names including administrative segregation, disciplinary detention, and restricted housing, but it is defined as 22 hours or more per day of confinement in a small cell. As of July 31 2021, nearly 5% of the prison population, or 1,772 people, were in solitary confinement in Pennsylvania. Their confinement there can last for months, years, and even decades making the use of solitary in PA and most other US states a violation of international standards and fitting the UN's definition of torture. The most common reason for being sent to solitary is "failure to obey an order." 85% of those who fail to obey an order, 73% of those found guilty of using obscene or inappropriate language, and 60% of individuals who use mail or telephone services without permission are placed in solitary confinement. The PA Department of Corrections (DOC) often uses solitary confinement to isolate vulnerable individuals such as children under the age of 18 from the general population.

Several advocacy groups including the Human Rights Coalition and Keystone Declaration on Bloc anticipate that in the current session of the PA legislature the House Judiciary Committee will schedule a hearing on bills similar to those introduced in the 21-22 legislative session. These bills would prohibit the use of solitary confinement for more than 15 days at a time, for more than 20 days in a 60-day period, and for individuals from vulnerable populations (elderly, pregnant, juvenile, people living with mental illness or intellectual disability, and LGBTI individuals). The bills also would provide disciplinary alternatives to solitary confinement for all but the most serious infractions, introduce a step-down program to transition individuals back into the general population, and prohibit the direct release of individuals from solitary into the community.

Rainy but busy and successful. Janice Shreffler and Kathy Cook at **Uwchlan Day**, August 12. We handed out numerous registration forms, mail in ballot application forms, legislative directories, and other voting information. Also, got a new volunteer from a new league of women voters member. We had 2 rain showers which made it easier to talk with people. They were forced to stay under canopy and talk with us.



Will Chester County Have Another Warehouse!!

The Downingtown School District is negotiating with a developer to build a massive warehouse on Lionville Station Road in Uwchlan Township. This warehouse will increase traffic, disrupt our environment and take away valuable farmland. Please check the progress of this issue at <https://savelsf.com/>. The developer has specific milestones for August. If the milestones are not met the school board will have to decide if they should extend the Developer's deadlines. Please familiarize yourselves with this project.

March on Harrisburg

from Tom Buglio

March on Harrisburg is a non partisan group dedicated to improving our democracy right here in PA. They have a full slate of policy proposals aimed at reducing the corrupting influence of money in politics, and are organizing lobbying efforts to support a Gift Ban.

PA is one of the few states with almost no restrictions or requirements for PA legislators to disclose gifts received from lobbying groups. These gifts are in addition to campaign donations that lobbies regularly give to try and influence votes in the PA Assembly. Think Phillies tickets, hotel rooms, etc., like gifts that made the news recently with Supreme Court Justices Thomas and Alito. An organized effort of MOH lobbyists are reaching out to PA House members this summer to get them to co-sponsor HB484—the Gift Ban bill. This bill is bipartisan, as it has a Republican and Democratic member who co-wrote the bill. For more information and to see how you can help go to <https://www.mohpa.org/gift-ban-campaign>

Two more links with interesting information

From Diane Hatcher is a blog from lawyer Stephanie Jones who was on the January 6 congressional committee. <https://blog.stephaniejones.com/2023/08/06/fun-facts-part-1-a-trump-case-primer/?mibextid=Zxz2cZ>

From Carole Mackrell and the Environment Committee:

<https://www.penncapital-star.com/commentary/by-stalling-on-rggi-heres-what-pa-residents-are-missing-opinion/>