



February, 2024

lwvccpa.org

A Message about the President

Usually there is a message from our current president, Susan Carty, in this space. Susan experienced a bad break to her femur and is currently in a rehab location so she can heal and get back home. While we are wishing her the best we also want you members to know that there will only be a short board meeting this month just to go over some upcoming events.

There will be a board meeting Saturday February 17 at 10:00 at Gramm's Kitchen in West Chester. If anyone other than board members would like to attend, please let me know so we have enough room.

In the meantime, we wish Susan a speedy recovery and a return to normal life as soon as possible.

Elaine Friedlander, Voter Editor

euterpe89@gmail.com

February Board Meeting

The February Board meeting will be Saturday February 17 at 10:00 at Gramm's Kitchen in West Chester.

All are welcome!

Stay turned for any potential last minute adjustments due to the possible inclement weather!!

Word of the Month

Consensus Decision Making: An agreement on some decision by all members of a group, rather than a majority or a selected group of representatives.

April 23, 2024 is the Primary Election

[Polls](#) are open on election day from **7 A.M. - 8 P.M.**

Last day to [register to vote](#): **April 8, 2024**

Last day to [request a mail-in or absentee ballot](#): **April 16, 2024**

November 5, 2024 is the General Election

[Polls](#) are open on election day from **7 A.M. - 8 P.M.**

Last day to [register to vote](#): **October 21, 2024**

Last day to [request a mail-in or absentee ballot](#): **October 29, 2024**



It's that time again!

2023/2024 DUES REMINDER

League of Women Voters of Chester County

Happy New Year!!!!

Hope you all had a wonderful holiday with your family. It's another new year and two important elections as always. Thank you for the generous donations that we received. We continue to accept donations to help our efforts going forward. Don't forget—League memberships and donations are great gift ideas all year. Stay safe and stay healthy

**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.

(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 mem-

Voter Services

How do you want to vote in 2024? Chester county voters will soon receive mail from the County election office. If you previously applied to vote by mail, an application to get mail-in ballots is enclosed. To vote by mail for 2024, apply for a mail-in ballot as soon as possible. The deadline to apply is 5:00 pm on the Tuesday before Election Day. There are two options to apply. To apply online visit vote.pa.gov/ApplyMailBallot or to apply on paper complete the application on the back of the notice or visit Chester County Voter Services. To vote in person just go to your polling place as usual. Visit vote.pa.gov or call 610-344-6410 to find your polling place.

The Voter Needs You !

I have been putting the Voter together for a few months now. Most of what you see is sent to me by members or is information I have picked up from trusted sites that are connected with the League. If you are on a committee, please send me a report of your activities. Or, if you happen to find information that is pertinent to our mission, send it along. Also, everyone can attend board meetings. It has been decided to discontinue the hybrid option for the time being since COVID numbers are down. You can still attend in person. Your input and energy would be greatly appreciated.

Elaine Friedlander, euterpe89@gmail.com

From Christina Cassidy at the AP

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation’s cybersecurity agency on Thursday launched a program aimed at boosting election security in the states, shoring up support for local offices and hoping to provide reassurance to voters that this year’s presidential elections will be safe and accurate.

Officials with the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency are introducing the program this week to the National Association of State Election Directors and National Association of Secretaries of State, which are meeting in the nation’s capital.

For state and local election officials, the list of [security challenges](#) keeps growing. Among them: potential [cyberattacks](#) waged by [foreign governments](#), criminal ransomware gangs attacking computer systems and the persistence of election misinformation that has led to [harassment of election officials](#) and undermined public confidence.

Just in the past few weeks, [AI-generated robocalls surfaced](#) in New Hampshire before the state’s presidential primary and a [cyberattack](#) affecting the local government in Fulton County, Georgia, has created challenges for its election office.

The prospect of hostile governments abroad attacking election systems has been a particular concern this year for the agency. Eric Goldstein, CISA’s executive assistant director for cybersecurity, described “a really difficult cybersecurity environment” that includes “extraordinary advances by nation-state adversaries China, Russia, Iran, North Korea.”

CISA was formed in the aftermath of the 2016 election, when [Russia sought to interfere](#) with a multipronged effort that included accessing and releasing campaign emails and scanning [state voter registration systems](#) for vulnerabilities. Election systems were designated as [critical infrastructure](#), alongside the nation’s banks, dams and nuclear power plants, opening them up to receiving additional support from the federal government.

The program announced this week includes 10 new hires, all of whom join the federal agency with extensive election experience. They will be based throughout the country and join other staff already in place that have been conducting cyber and physical security reviews for election offices that request them.

The agency’s director, [Jen Easterly](#), announced plans for the program at a July meeting of the state election directors in South Carolina. The new team will be entirely focused on elections, which is critical because of the complexities surrounding voting that vary by jurisdiction, said CISA Senior Advisor Cait Conley, who leads the agency’s election security efforts.

“Understanding the complexity of each state’s election operating environment and their security needs is critical to us being effective partners in helping them mitigate those needs and ensuring the infrastructure security and resilience,” Conley said.

The new advisers include the former state election director in Texas, Keith Ingram; the former chief information officer for the Ohio Secretary of State’s Office, Spencer Wood; and the former elections supervisor in Escambia County, Florida, David Stafford.

“No county is going through this alone without partners and no state is going through this alone without partners. And we’re lucky to have this relationship with CISA to help make sure that our cybersecurity infrastructure is hardened against efforts by bad faith actors to interfere with it,” said Al Schmidt, who serves as Pennsylvania’s chief elections officer.

State election officials welcomed the additional help. Some relayed to federal officials concerns about their personal safety, given the [death threats](#) and [harassment](#) they have faced since the 2020 election.

“I know what they are up against, particularly in the smaller jurisdictions. I want to be there to help them prepare for what’s ahead and support them on the good and more challenging days by linking them to our expertise and services,” said Lori Augino, another of the new election security advisers who previously served as the state election director in Washington state. “The resiliency of our election system depends on this network of support.”

Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the North Carolina State Board of Elections, said she has already spoken with the new CISA election security adviser for her region and shared some of her needs.

“For CISA to be able to be more on the front lines assisting us is really the right step forward,” Brinson Bell said.