



February, 2024

lwvccpa.org

A Message From the President

Dear Members and Support,

The time has come! Our clocks have been moved forward one hour. Spring is just around the corner.

It is also an Election Year! Not just any ordinary election year but a U.S Presidential Election Year! The ads, commercials and TV appearances have begun.

More than ever, we must encourage our Voters to act upon their right to vote. Did you know that there will be 80 national elections taking place impacting approximately 4.2 billion people across the globe? This is the largest election cycle the world will see until 2048. What impact might they have on the continuation or modification of Democracy in our world? 2024 to 2048 is a

total of 24 years! The results will be most impactful! Will we be prepared for the potential outcomes?

Has there been a time in history that is like now?

A time to look back upon and recognize the similarities as evidenced today? Are we experiencing a higher more invasive impact to our elections by global entities whose intent may be destructive to our country? Do we recognize that? We think not...and that is of great concern.

As we watch and listen to candidates speak of their beliefs and plans, we are challenged with determining truth as well as reality in the promises candidates dutifully make to us.

Clearly, this is no easy time for voters. That too is a concern for our Democracy. If our voters determine they are overwhelmed, confused or turned off so that they decide not to act on their right to vote, we will then be set up for failure.

Democracy cannot afford that. We as a nation are challenged by this coming election cycle. This time around may possibly be the most challenging time yet.

Stay well and join us in supporting voters!

Susan Carty, President, LWVCC



What's Happening in Harrisburg?

Come hear Kathy Dale from Fair Districts PA/Fix Harrisburg give us updates on what is happening - or not - in our State Capital.

This local focus is important as we will also be voting for all our State Representatives and some Senators this coming November.

Saturday, March 16

At 10:00 a.m.

Coffee, Tea and Muffins

Crosslands

William Penn Room

1660 E. Street Road (Rt. 926)

Kennett Square, PA 19348

All are welcome.

March Meeting

The March Board meeting will be Saturday March 16 at 10:00 in the Penn Room
at Crosslands.
All are welcome!

Word of the Month

FORUM: A public presentation of issues or candidates typically hosted by the League as part of Voter Education.

The LWVUS website provides info on how to conduct a forum.

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**

Criminal Justice Committee

Criminal Justice Facts

3695 # of people are serving first degree murder. 1090 # of people are serving second-degree murder.

If a person is convicted of first or second-degree murder in Pennsylvania, they will face life imprisonment without parole.

For first and second-degree murder in Pennsylvania, there is no distinction between the sentencing of an accomplice and the primary actor of the crime.

In the case of juvenile lifers in Pennsylvania, there are accomplices that are still incarcerated, and the primary actor has been released because of the Commonwealth's sentencing laws.

In Pennsylvania, the population of people serving life without parole for second-degree murder today is old, and their incarceration is expensive.

As of September 1, 2020, almost half (47.1%) of the people serving life without parole were age 50 and older, That is already double the total percentage of those age 50 and older in the total DOC population.

(Lindsay, 2021)

Sentences of life without the possibility of parole (LWOP) are virtually unheard of in the rest of the world. Even more, they violate fundamental principles of human dignity. Instead of serving the interests of justice, LWOP unnecessarily burdens systems with the heavy cost of housing, feeding and providing medical care for more than 55,000 people. This disproportionately elderly population must live in institutions not well designed to care for them." (Nellis, 2021)

Links to Voter Information in Pennsylvania

From PA post: A Newsletter by Spotlight PA

Voting Machines 2024

Politicians have promoted false claims about voting machines in recent elections — and Pennsylvania officials are bracing for more of the same around this year's contentious presidential election here.

In reality, the machines undergo several layers of testing to ensure they produce accurate results in Pennsylvania, a key battleground state.

From paper trails to pre-Election Day testing, Spotlight PA and Votebeat dug into the process to help you guard against misinformation.

Read the full report: [Elections 101: Everything you need to know about Pa.'s voting machines, how the state keeps them safe, and more.](#)

NOT PUBLIC: Commonwealth Court [has denied](#) right-wing "election integrity" investigator Heather Honey's [effort to make raw data](#) associated with ballots available to the public, the AP reports. As Spotlight PA and Votebeat previously reported, Honey's research has achieved a remarkable level of national salience among the far right, [despite being replete with errors.](#)

From WHY:

What you need to know ahead of the 2024 PA Primary election

Pennsylvania's primary election is Tuesday, April 23. Here's what you should know beforehand, from election deadlines to who's on the ballot. [Read more »](#)

Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, one another, this country and this world. Sharon Salzberg



It's that time again!

2023/2024 DUES REMINDER

League of Women Voters of Chester County

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 member \$37.50 each.