

League of Women Voters Of Wood County WV

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LWVWV www.lwvwwv.org LWVUS www.lwv.org

Voter

March 2018



Mark Your Calendar

- Tuesday, March 20 6:00 p.m. LWVWC
Annual Meeting, see below
- Monday, April 9 noon LWVWC Board Meeting
Das Rookhaus, 2911 Dudley Ave.
- Monday April 16 6 p.m. Meet the Candidates for Wood
County Board of Education
Parkersburg City Council Chambers
- Tuesday, April 17 Last day to register to vote or update
registration before May 8 Primary Election**
- Monday April 23 6 p.m. . Meet the Candidates for
West Virginia Legislature
Parkersburg City Council Chambers

LWVWC Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, March 20, 6:00 p.m.
Colombo's Restaurant**

Guest speaker will be Lindsey Kerr Piersol, Director of the Wood County Economic Development Authority. The Authority is a public entity that was created by the Wood County Commission in order to promote development within the county.

The Authority encourages the locating of new businesses and promotes the expansion of existing businesses, with the goal of maintaining economic stability in the county and providing opportunities for employment. They work in coordination with federal, state, and local agencies to promote industrial, commercial, agricultural, and recreational development.

Spouses and guests are welcome.

Plan to order from Colombo's menu, which can be viewed at <http://www.colombosrest.com/index.html>

There will be a brief business meeting following the speaker. (LWVWC members, see inserted page or email attachment for items to be voted on.)

If you plan to attend, please contact Charmaine Dotson by Friday (March 15) at cyde62@suddenlink.net or 304-428-1076 so she can notify Colombo's how many places to set. They may be able to accommodate a few late additions.



2018 WV Legislative Session

The legislative session has concluded with the passage of 260 of the 1778 bills introduced. Among those were:

SJR 12, a constitutional amendment which would spell out that the WV constitution does not guarantee the right to abortion or require funding for it. SJR 12 passed and will be on the Nov. 8 ballot. Passage by the voters would pave the way for the Legislature to outlaw use of state Medicaid funds for abortions, which already has restrictions, and to pass other restrictions.

SJR 3, a constitutional amendment that would give the Legislature oversight of the judicial branch's budget passed and will be on the Nov. 8 ballot. If passed by voters, the Legislature could make limited reductions to the court's budget request.

HB 4002 requiring creation of 100 single member districts for the House of Delegates passed. In 2020 the state will be divided into 100 individual House of Delegates districts. This affects the 3-member District 10 in Wood County.

HB 4001 passed despite much opposition. It affects eligibility requirements for SNAP benefits (food stamps), primarily requiring that able bodied recipients without dependents must work or volunteer for at least 20 hours a week.

Take action: Opponents point out that HB 4001 expands a failed pilot program that cut thousands off TANIF rolls without increasing employment and will cost the state millions in federal dollars which would be spent in local economies. Contact Governor Justice and **ask that he veto HB 4001**. Call 1-304-558-2000 or 1-888-438-2731 or email governor@wv.gov

HB 4006 eliminates the Department of Education and Arts. While most control of schools resides with the WV Board of Education, this department administers other educational and cultural programs, including Public Broadcasting, the Library Commission, and many others. The bill redirects some programs to other departments, but the fate of some is uncertain.

Take action: Opponents feel that HB 4006 creates too many uncertainties about the fate of worthwhile programs and are urging people to contact Governor Justice and **ask that he veto HB 4006**. Call 1-304-558-2000 or 1-888-438-2731 or email governor@wv.gov

(For more information about HB 4001 and HB 4006, see <https://wvcag.org/>.)

HB 4268, the Co-tenancy Modernization and Majority Protection Act, passed and was signed by the Governor. .

HB 4447 and **4629** deal with expanding broadband access in the state. Both passed.

HB 3004, which requires that a vacancy in office be filled by a person of the same party as the office-holder vacating the office at the time the vacancy occurred, passed & became law without the Governor's signature.

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The Governor has 15 days after the session ends to sign bills, except for the budget bill, for which he has 5 days. If a governor does not act on a bill within the time limits, it becomes law without his signature.

The budget bill (SB 152) that passed does not include the \$58 million that the Governor added to projected income when the pay raise for teachers and all state employees was agreed to. Cuts were made in many other areas, including \$10 million from Medicaid, which legislative leaders said can be restored later by a supplemental appropriation in the 2019 session if needed. They pointed out that Medicaid often has had excess funds at the end of the fiscal year.

Among the bills that **did not pass** were **SB 39** which would have created a Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights, **SB 54** creating an Independent Redistricting Commission, **HB 4281** prohibiting civil rights violations based on gender identity or sexual orientation, **HB 4345** implementing the medical marijuana bill that passed in 2017, **SB 270** permitting logging in state parks, and many others. Several bills pertaining to campaign financing were not taken up.

To find out how your legislators voted on a bill, go to *Bill Status* on <http://www.wvlegislature.gov/>. Make sure the boxes in the upper right show Bill, 1918, Regular Session. Then put the bill number (digits only) into the appropriate box and *Submit*. Scroll down to *Actions* and look on the line where passage is noted for the *Roll No.*

In a 2016 ranking of average teachers' salaries in the 50 states, WV ranked 48th. The two states below WV were MS (50th) and OK (49th). The states that border WV rank as follows: MD 8th, PA 10th, OH 21st, KY 26th, and VA 30th.

 LWV of Wood County
25 Lynnwood Dr.
Vienna WV 26105

Annual Dinner Meeting March 20

Meet the Candidate events

April 16 Wood County Bd. of Ed.

April 23 WV Legislature

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

Meet the Candidates

The League is planning two Meet-the-Candidate events before the May 8 Primary Election. **Tuesday, April 16 Candidates for the Wood County Board of Education** will be answering questions posed by League members and the public, 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Parkersburg City Building. There are eight candidates for three seats on the board.

On **Tuesday, April 23 the 15 candidates for the WV Legislature** have been asked to make remarks and meet the public, 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Parkersburg City Building. Because of there are so many in this group, we will not be asking questions, but will give each a few minutes to speak and then encourage candidates and audience to mingle.



The **Mid-Ohio Valley Chamber of Commerce** is joining the League in sponsoring the Legislative event.

These events are open to the public. Please help us spread the word. Invite your friends and post on your social media.

Note the earlier than-usual-times for these events. The City building now closes its doors at 8:00 p.m.

Sample ballots are posted on the County Clerk's website: <https://woodcountywv.com/county-offices/county-clerk.html>