

# The League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area



LWVWV [www.LWVWV.ORG](http://www.LWVWV.ORG)  
LWVUS [www.LWV.ORG](http://www.LWV.ORG)

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**JANUARY 2019 BULLETIN**, Patricia Keller, Editor

**WV LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES MEETING** - Huntington League members and friends are invited to attend a meeting on January 21 at noon at Fratelli's Restaurant, 6007 US 60 East. We have reserved a meeting room. Attendees may order lunch from the menu. We will discuss legislative priorities, with Jennifer Wells presenting Our Children Our Future's platform, and Helen Gibbins presenting the LWVWV's platform. Julie Archer is the lobbyist for the WV League. We congratulate Jennifer for being selected to be the director of Healthy Children Healthy Families.

## **LWVWV'S 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – The League:**

- Supports maintaining West Virginia's water standards to reflect EPA's recommended human health criteria. In November the WV Legislative Rule Making and Review Committee removed proposed protections from some toxins in our waters. The WV Department of Environmental Protection had recommended these chemicals be included on WV's list to be regulated. The chemicals are on the US EPA's recommended list. The League and other organizations will work to restore these chemicals to the regulated list.
- Supports strengthening disclosure requirements for the sources of political campaign expenditures, including Dark Money. And supports establishment of an independent commission to draw up redistricting plans for representatives to the US House of Representatives and the WV Legislature. The League will work with WV Citizens for Clean Elections.
- Supports measures that encourage investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency in West Virginia's homes, businesses, and industries. Proposed legislation includes the Local Energy Efficiency Partnership (LEEP Act) and Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) for solar

development. LEEP is a program that helps businesses finance improvements in their buildings to save energy. PPA is a method to finance solar installations for businesses and tax-exempt entities.

- Supports maintaining expanded Medicaid coverage for the hundreds of thousands of West Virginians who rely on it for health care.

## **WV LEGISLATORS Representing Cabell County:**

**SENATE:** Robert Plymale (D) and Mike Woelfel (D) representing the 5<sup>th</sup> District. **HOUSE OF DELEGATES:** Sean Hornbuckle (D), John Mandt, Jr. (R), and Daniel Linville (R) representing the 16<sup>th</sup> District; Chad Lovejoy (D) and Matthew Rohrbach, MD (R) representing the 17<sup>th</sup> District; and Evan Worrell (R) representing the 18<sup>th</sup> District.

## **WV LEGISLATORS Representing Wayne County:**

**SENATE:** Robert Plymale (D) and Mike Woelfel (D) representing the 5<sup>th</sup> District; Mark Maynard (R) and Chandler Swope (R) representing the 6<sup>th</sup> District; Ron Stollings (D) and Richard Ojeda (D) representing the 7<sup>th</sup> District. **HOUSE OF DELEGATES:** Robert Thompson (D) and Ken Hicks (D) representing the 19<sup>th</sup> District.

**ASSIGNMENTS** to committees and office information will be available on the WV Legislative website, <http://wvlegislature.gov/>. The 2019 roster was not available at the time of publishing this bulletin.

**LWVUS** – Look for HR 1 in the 2019 Congress, the first bill that House Democrats plan on voting on. The bill is a comprehensive package of democracy reforms – everything from restoring the Voting Rights Act, automatic voter registration, public financing of elections (small donor matching funds), supporting the overturn of Citizens United, ending partisan gerrymandering and much more. We will be contacting you on how you can be involved in pushing for the passage of this law.

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**CLIMATE CHANGE** - Bob McCollister spoke on climate change to the League at its last meeting. New reports on climate change have shown a speeded-up increase in temperatures and the effects on people all over the world. Here are a few films that show the effects of climate change. Let us know if you wish to make additional recommendations.

- ***Chasing Coral*** (Netflix streaming) - Coral reefs around the world are vanishing at an unprecedented rate. A team of divers, photographers and scientists set out on a thrilling ocean adventure to discover why and to reveal the underwater mystery to the world
- ***Chasing Ice*** (Netflix DVD) Acclaimed environmental photographer (and former climate skeptic) James Balog captures images to help tell the story of the Earth's changing climate. He used time-lapse cameras across the brutal Arctic to capture a multi-year record of the world's changing glaciers. *Chasing Ice* delivers evidence and hope to our carbon-powered planet.
- ***The Anthropologist*** (Amazon Prime Streaming) considers the fate of the planet from the perspective of an American teenager. Over five years, she travels alongside her mother, an anthropologist, studying the impact of climate change on indigenous communities.

**19<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT MEMORIAL** - A memorial dedicated to the passage of the 19th Amendment is being planned to open on August 26, 2020. The memorial is in Occoquan Regional Park in Virginia, part of the historic prison grounds where scores of suffragists were jailed, kept in inhumane conditions and tortured for picketing the Wilson White House. Currently, the plan for the central statue is Carrie Chapman Catt, highlighting her and the League's important work in securing the passage of the 19th Amendment. With a \$1,000 donation, your name or the name of your League will be included on the donor wall at the entrance. Donations may be made to Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association (TPSMA), 5400 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the Morgantown Monongalia County League of Women Voters. The MMCLWV was recognized by Morgantown's human rights commission in conjunction with Human Rights Day. The League was chosen because it plays a critical role in keeping voters informed and engaged through community-based opportunities. "They're non-partisan and they work very hard to allow voters to make informed choices and decisions," according to Jan Derry, president of the human rights commission. Delegate Barbara Fleischauer was selected as an individual to receive the award.