



VOTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anne Simmons, President • Cindy Rogers, Vice President • Ellen Chinn, Treasurer • Sue Welsh, Secretary
Donna Cashdollar • Laurie Lafontaine • Aida Shotts • Kay Smith • Kay Snyder • Dreama VanCise • Sandy Whitson

VOTE

2020 ELECTION CALENDAR

Pennsylvania Primary: Tuesday, June 2, 2020

- May 18, 2020 – Last day to register to vote
- May 26, 2020 – Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot
- June 2, 2020 – Election Day: Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
* Mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by Indiana County Board of Elections prior to 8:00 p.m.

General Election: Tuesday, November 3, 2020

- October 19, 2020 – Last day to register to vote
- October 27, 2020 – Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot
- November 3, 2020 – Election Day: Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
* Mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by Indiana County Board of Elections prior to 8:00 p.m.

VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

Voter registration applications can be obtained from the Indiana County Voter Registration Office (Telephone: 724-465-3852), or the four-page Voter Registration Application form can be downloaded from the website [VotesPA.com](https://www.votespa.com). For assistance, call the Pennsylvania Department of State at 877-868-3772.

MAIL-IN BALLOTS

Please consider using a mail-in ballot to vote in the 2020 Pennsylvania General Primary scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, 2020. The use of a mail-in ballot will allow you to continue “social distancing.” The directions on the website [VotesPA.com](https://www.votespa.com) will lead you through the process. The identification numbers on either your PA Driver's License or PennDOT ID Card are required to complete the application.

VOTING RESOURCES

VotesPA.com

- Website to complete a mail-in or absentee ballot, as well as to download a Voter Registration Application form

vote411.org

- Website to access the posting of special alerts, find your polling location, and learn more about the candidates

indianacountypa.gov

- At this website click on *Departments*, then scroll down to *Voting & Elections* to find information about voter registration, mail-in ballot applications, and Indiana County polling places

724-465-3852

- Indiana County Voter Registration Office

877-868-3772 or 877-VOTESPA

- Pennsylvania Department of State

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

1920-2020: 100 YEARS STRONG

The League of Women Voters was founded by the leaders of the women's suffrage movement. These leading suffragists were members of the National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA), the organization that led the movement to secure the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution that granted all American women the right to vote.

In February 1920, the National American Women Suffrage Association made two significant changes. First, the NAWSA changed its name and reestablished itself as the League of Women Voters. Second, the mission of advocating for the right of women to vote was amended to preparing newly enfranchised women to vote as informed and educated citizens. At that time, efforts were made to prepare 20 million women to carry out their new responsibilities as voters.

[Continued on page 2.]

COMMUNICATIONS

Email: lwvindianacounty@gmail.com

Newsletter: alisonelizabethsimmons@gmail.com

Telephone: 724-465-2824 • Website: [indiana.palwv.org](https://www.indiana.palwv.org)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PowertoCitizens/

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS • 1920–2020: 100 YEARS STRONG

For 100 years, the League of Women Voters has been a nonpartisan, activist, grassroots organization. (Membership has been open to men since the 1970s; we keep the original name to honor the women who struggled to win the right to vote.)

MISSION: *Empowering voters. Defending democracy.*

VISION: *We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.*

The League of Women Voters believes that voters should play a critical role in democracy. This mission of “Empowering voters. Defending democracy” continues to shape and inform the work of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County.

We believe:

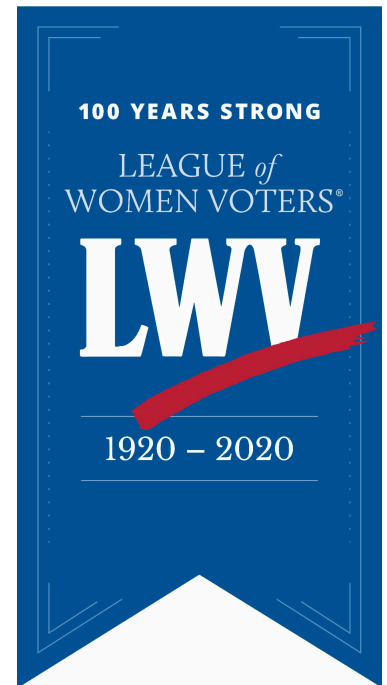
- The right to vote is a critical principle of our democracy.
- Our democracy is stronger when every eligible voter can cast a vote, and have it count.
- We should encourage every eligible voter to cast a ballot in every election to make their voices heard.
- We want our election system to be free, fair, and accessible to all eligible voters.

Let’s continue to work together to:

- Ensure that all eligible voters – particularly those from traditionally underrepresented or underserved communities, including first-time voters, non-college youth, new citizens, communities of color, the elderly, and low-income Americans – have the opportunity and the information to exercise their right to vote.

Therefore, in this surreal time of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- The League of Women Voters of Indiana County will continue to focus on the mission of the League of Women Voters, “Empowering voters. Defending democracy.”



Then: 1920



Now: 2019

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Membership in the League of Women Voters of Indiana County (LWVIC) is open to anyone age 16 and over. Student membership is free. This year, the process for the collection of membership dues was changed by the League of Women Voters of the United States. Beginning in 2020, membership dues are collected annually during the month of January, rather than your personal anniversary month of joining the League. Coincidentally, our membership numbers in 2020 are less than 2019. Therefore, please kindly encourage your friends and family to pay their 2020 League membership dues.

Please contact Sandy Whitson, membership chairperson, if you have any questions about membership dues or if you would like to provide a gift of membership to a friend or family member (swhitson8@comcast.net).



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please write checks to LWVIC and mail to:

Ellen Chinn, LWVIC Treasurer
156 Wine Avenue
Indiana, PA 15701

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Please consider serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County. You can serve as a board director or as an officer. Officer positions include president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Members of the LWVIC Board of Directors serve for a term of two years (e.g., July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022). Board directors may be elected every year (2020), the vice president and the treasurer are elected in even numbered years (2020), and the president and the secretary are elected in odd numbered years (2021).

The Nominating Committee of the LWVIC leads the nomination process. Suggestions for the nomination of board directors and officers may be sent to the Nominating Committee by any voting member of the LWVIC. Traditionally, the Nominating Committee prepares a report of the nominees, the report is sent to all League members one month prior to the Annual Meeting, and the board directors and officers are elected by the membership at the LWVIC Annual Meeting during the month of May.

Although the LWVIC Annual meeting will not be held in May 2020, we are moving forward with the nomination of board directors and officers. We anticipate that the LWVIC Annual Meeting will be held sometime in the fall 2020.

The members of the 2020 Nominating Committee are Beth Marshall, Ellen Ruddock, and Aida Shotts. They have graciously accepted the task of seeking nominees and preparing a report for the membership. Any voting member of the LWVIC may volunteer to serve or nominate a friend or family member to serve as a board member or officer of the LWVIC.

Please contact the members of our 2020 Nominating Committee to recommend a nominee.

- Beth Marshall: nextlife@comcast.net
- Ellen Ruddock: esruddock@comcast.net
- Aida Shotts: abshotts@gmail.com

MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Any voting member of the LWVIC is welcome to attend the meetings of the LWVIC Board of Directors. These meetings are usually held the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2020. If you plan to participate in the meeting, please send an email to Cindy Rogers (rogers944@comcast.net) to receive an email invitation to participate in the ZOOM meeting. In addition, please contact Anne Simmons (lwvindianacounty@gmail.com) if you would like to receive an agenda, meeting minutes, or a treasurer's report as well as suggest an item for inclusion on the monthly agenda.

COMMITTEES

Our League has several committees focusing on issues of importance to our communities. It is at the committee-level that League members learn, lead, and engage with other citizens to influence public policies of local, state, and national importance. You are welcome to join a committee by contacting the chair.

- Environmental Issues Committee – Chair: Vera Bonnet (verabonnet46@gmail.com)
- Child Advocacy Committee on Education – Chair: Sue Welsh (sbwelsh48@gmail.com)
- Voter Services Committee – Chair position is **open**
- Fair Districts PA – LWVIC Contact: Vicki Stelma (vstelma@hotmail.com)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2020 CENSUS

If you have not already responded, please spend a few minutes online today to complete the census at 2020census.gov. The 2020 Census will help determine how federal funds will be allocated by federal, state, and local lawmakers every year for the next ten years. The Census will also determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives. Please be COUNTED!

“NO PLASTIC PLEASE”

The Environmental Issues Committee of the LWVIC has joined the “No Plastic Please” campaign led by HUMANE ACTION Pittsburgh (noplasticplease.net). The campaign focuses on reducing single-use plastic to protect our community’s health, wildlife, and environment. Please consider limiting the use of the following items: plastic straws, bags, cups, take-out containers, bottles, stirrers, and cutlery, as well as all Styrofoam.

POSTPONEMENTS

The following events have been postponed and will be held in fall 2020:

- LWVIC Annual Dinner Meeting
- LWVIC Annual Fundraiser – Garage Sale

PEGGY CLARK ENVIRONMENTAL GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Nominations for both the individual award and the organization award have been received by the Peggy Clark award committee. The awards are traditionally presented at the LWVIC Annual Meeting. This year, the annual meeting will be held in fall 2020, rather than May 2020.

DONATIONS

Indiana County Community Action Program (ICCAP)

- The LWVIC made a donation of \$100.00 to the matching dollar-for-dollar program sponsored by the First Commonwealth Bank. Our donation and the matching funds are targeted to ICCAP.

Pinwheels for Prevention

- The LWVIC donated \$25.00 to the CARE Center of Indiana County and a pinwheel was placed in the 2020 Garden of Hope on the lawn of the Indiana County Courthouse. The pinwheel serves as a physical reminder of childhood. April is Child Abuse Prevention month.



2020 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: VALIANT WOMEN OF THE VOTE

The Board of County Commissioners of Indiana, Pennsylvania made a Proclamation on March 11, 2020 recognizing the "Valiant Women of the Vote." Notably, the Proclamation recognized "women of every race, class, and ethnic background who have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of Indiana County and our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways." Also noted were the critical roles of women in the economic, cultural, and social spheres, as well as the establishment of charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions of Indiana County and our nation.



The Proclamation was received by representatives of women's groups in Indiana County including the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women. The Proclamation will be posted on the LWVIC website (indiana.palwv.org). You may also request a copy by email (lwvindianacounty@gmail.com).

LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS

League members participated in Legislative Interviews with PA Senator Joe Pittman on February 13, 2020 and PA Representative Jim Struzzi on February 21, 2020. The Legislative Interviews are an important part of the League's work at both the local and state level, affording us the opportunity to educate our legislators about issues, identifying the legislation we intend to support or oppose, and assisting us in building and maintaining relationships with our local legislators.

The topics discussed included the following:

1. Redistricting reform
2. Voter registration
3. Election reforms
4. Environmental protection
5. Education funding

To request a summary of the legislators' responses to the questions, please send an email to Anne Simmons (lwvindianacounty@gmail.com).

Special thanks to PA Senator Joe Pittman and PA Representative Jim Struzzi for discussing our League's priority issues for this legislative session. In addition, thank you to Aida Shotts for leading the interviews.



FAMILY FUN FEST

On February 29, 2020, League members participated in the 17th Annual Family Fun Fest sponsored by the Children's Advisory Commission of Indiana County. Our League's Child Advocacy Committee on Education (CACE) is a member of the Children's Advisory Commission.

The CACE developed activities for children and their families that focused on emotional and mental health. As the CACE researched how student safety issues are being addressed, the significance of education funding, specifically the need for additional financial resources to support students' emotional and mental health needs, became apparent.

Please contact the chair of the CACE (Sue Welsh sbwelsh48@gmail.com) if you want to join a study group that advocates for children's well-being, reflected in issues of education funding, school safety, and public health.



HISTORY: THE 1918 INFLUENZA PANDEMIC AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE



Thank you League member Cheri Widzowski for sharing the article below, published in National Geographic on April 20, 2020. This historic article describes how the influenza pandemic impacted the women's suffrage movement. These "grassroots" suffragists strategically found ways to continue the struggle to win the right to vote in spite of the bans on public gatherings in 1918.

Please visit: nationalgeographic.com/history/2020/04/pandemic-nearly-derailed-womens-suffrage-movement/, to read the article *A Pandemic Nearly Derailed the Women's Suffrage Movement*.

LWV 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: FEBRUARY 15, 2020

On February 14, 1920, the League of Women Voters was founded. This date was approximately six months before the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. At that time, the newly formed League of Women Voters changed their mission of advocating for the right of women to vote to preparing women to vote as informed and educated citizens.

The League of Women Voters of Indiana County hosted a luncheon on February 15, 2020 to celebrate the 100th Birthday of the League of Women Voters of the United States. The highlight of our celebration was a presentation about the role of Indiana County women in the suffrage movement. This historic re-enactment was created by members of the Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County. The re-enactment was educational, as well as entertaining, because of the work of researchers Greta Helsel and Elaine Maudie and the performance of re-enactors Katie Gaudreau and Eric Witmer. Special thanks to the members of the Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County for a memorable presentation.

The collage of photographs taken at the 100th Anniversary luncheon are on page 7.



RESOURCES AND INFORMATION: PENNSYLVANIANS AND COVID-19

PENNSYLVANIA PLAN

Pennsylvania Government Website: www.governor.pa.gov

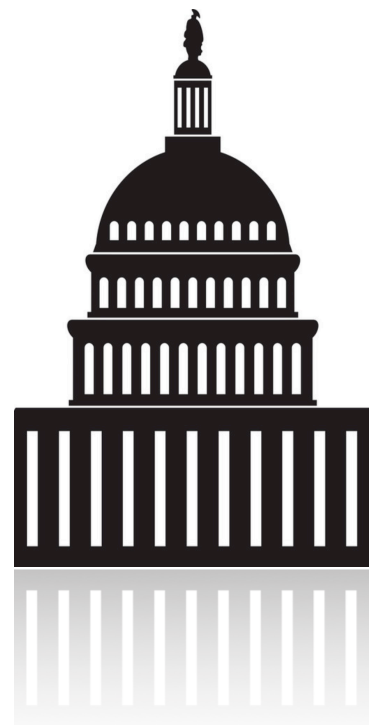
- The Plan (<https://www.governor.pa.gov/plan-for-pennsylvania/>)
 - Phase 1: Relief
 - Phase 2: Reopening
 - Phase 3: Recovery

INFORMATION ON COVID-19

Federal: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

State: Pennsylvania Department of Health
<https://www.health.pa.gov>

Local: Indiana County COVID-19 Dashboard
<https://public.tableau.com/profile/alisonesimmons/>



BEHIND THE SCENES

League members working “behind the scenes” to produce the LWVIC newsletter include Shannon Fiedler and Alison Simmons who are responsible for the format and page layout, and Sue Welsh who proofreads the content of the final copy.

