

Reminder: Lecture/Discussion Series on Voting in America

The New Century Club (NCC) is opening its 2024-25 program year with a serious look at a vitally important subject. We are hosting a three-part discussion series focusing on a topic of wide current interest, **Voting in America**.

The three discussions will be held on the first three Tuesdays in September (Sept. 3, 10, and 17) and will begin at 10:00 am at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, located at 285 Twolick Drive. Ample parking is available.

Voting in America

September 3, 10:00 a.m.: Dr. Gwen Torges, IUP Political Science Department, will focus on the recent spate of **legislation** across the country that will affect citizens' opportunities to vote.

Much of this legislation has been designed to make it harder to register or vote, but there have also been a number of states that have made registration and voting easier and more convenient in the recent past. We'll get a look at the most likely effects of these bills as we move toward the general election.

September 10, 10:00 a.m.: Stanley Chepaitis, Jack Hanna, and Fair Districts Pennsylvania will give us a survey of **redistricting reform**, how it works at its best, and some of the pitfalls that have appeared.

The presenters will provide an examination of redistricting--the process of drawing the boundaries of legislative districts to reflect population changes recorded in the most recent census--and how different states have approached the issue. As many of you already know, Pennsylvania's process is heavily politicized and partisan, but other states have created different systems, usually with the goal of having districts that best reflect the population of the state.

September 17, 10:00 a.m.: Dr. Gwen Torges will present an examination of the **role of dark money in politics**.

We've all seen the increasing role of political action committees in election campaigns, as well as an increasing level of participation by "social welfare" organizations that participate in campaigns. How is this affecting the choices of voters? Is there any way to reduce the influence of money?

NCC will be requesting a **\$5 donation for the library for each meeting**. Coffee, tea, and baked goods will be available. Reservations are not required, but if you would like to register your interest, please respond by emailing series coordinator Sara Steelman at newcenturyclub15701@gmail.com