



League of Women Voters to review constitutional checks and balances

The League of Women Voters of Indiana County invites members of the public to the presentation “Constitutional Checks and Balances: The Role of the Judiciary” on Saturday, May 31, at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Indiana, 285 Twolick Drive in White Township.

Dr. Gwendolyn Torges of the political science faculty at Indiana University of Pennsylvania will speak on the

functions of the U.S. Supreme Court and other Article III federal courts in our democracy.

The luncheon of main-dish salads, breads and desserts begins at noon followed at 12:30 p.m. by the presentation and the LWVIC membership business meeting.

Anyone may attend just the presentation if they wish. The event is free.

As our federal government undergoes a radical restructuring, and constitutional traditions are challenged by actions of the executive and legislative branches, the role of the judicial branch has become a focus of national attention.

Early this year, the League of Women Voters of the United States initiated a study of the federal judiciary that was undertaken by local chapters across the nation, including the Indiana County chapter. Among other issues, the study examined judicial structure, standards of conduct, accountability, ethics and financial disclosure, independence, and mechanisms for enforcing standards.

Each chapter’s study culminated in a meeting at which the group discussed and responded to questions in the effort to reach a consensus on these issues.

In April, LWVIC reported its consensus to the national League. From that and other chapters’ reports, LWVUS will adopt a position advocating some judicial reforms, based on general principles instead of specific current issues. League advocacy is always grounded in its mission: “Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy.”

LWVIC invites all who are interested in the constitutional role of the federal judiciary and the work of the League of Women Voters to attend May 31 and hear Dr. Torges.

Pictured are, from left, LWVIC members Dr. Susan Boser and Dr. Deanne Snavelly; Dr. Gwendolyn Torges, political science faculty at Indiana University of Pennsylvania; and LWVIC members Dr. Ellen Chinn and Donna Cashdollar. (Submitted photo)

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