



The League of Women Voters of Washington County

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www.lwvarwc.org

P.O. Box 4, Fayetteville, AR 72702

LWVWC Calendar of Events

- **Monday, April 23**, VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR PRIMARY ELECTION
- **Tuesday, May 1, 5:30 to 7:00 pm** – Voter Registration and Training Seminar, Fayetteville Activity and Wellness Center 945 S. College Ave, Fayetteville (Details below)
- **Saturday, May 5, 12 to 8:00 pm** – Cinco de Mayo – Jones Center, Springdale, Free event; open to the public. (See page 2)
- **Tuesday, May 7 to 21**, Early voting primary election
- **Thursday, May 17, 5:30 – 8:00 pm** – LWVWC Annual Meeting – The Lodge, Butterfield Trail Village, 1923 E. Joyce Blvd., Fayetteville, Guest Speaker – Lisa Corrigan, Members are asked to share a pot luck item. (More on page 3)
- **Tuesday, May 22**, Primary Election

A Comment from the LWVWC President – Joyce Hale



When members join or renew their membership with the League, they are asked to indicate from a list of options how they would like to volunteer. Help with voter registration is often selected. Now a growing interest in this election year brings requests to provide registration throughout the area. Registration is not a difficult task but training those to properly receive applications is important. People coming from other states may be use to different laws. Even in the same

state the laws change. Making sure that the application is complete and accurate takes oversight.

To make sure that our tabling volunteers are well informed and ready for questions, we have a Voter Registration Training Seminar scheduled. If you would like to support the effort of getting voters ready for this fall, I hope you will attend this seminar and enjoy meeting the public while providing an important service.

Washington County Clerk Becky Lewallen will present a training that is free and open to anyone. She will make a presentation and will have several handouts. There will be plenty of time for Q&A. Light refreshments will be served. **Tuesday, May 1, 5:30-7:00 pm Fayetteville Senior Activity and Wellness Center 945 S. College Ave. (near Walker Park).** Please join us for this useful training so that you will feel fully prepared to participate in future registration events.





VOTER REGISTRATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Cinco de Mayo festival in Springdale on May 5th is a fun and colorful, annual event attended by thousands. If you are interested in helping at the voter registration table, contact Fei Rubinelli directly at rfei2002@yahoo.com.

Proceeds from this event go to the Hispanic Women’s Organization of Arkansas. Come and see the presentation of scholarships to be awarded to this year’s students. Ceremony will begin at 6:00 pm.

HWOA Scholarship Recipients 2013



What’s Happened to the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Petition Effort?

It is with disappointment that progress to change how political district lines are drawn in Arkansas has become stalled. Attorney General’s approval of the title and some of the content’s wording have been rejected twice. Approval is required before statewide advertising can be submitted and signatures collected. That deadline is June 6. 85,000 signatures must be collected before July 6.

If this effort is unsuccessful, there will be an even a greater need for the public to be aware of the reapportionment process and serve as watchdogs. The familiar tendency to create maps favoring the incumbents of the ruling party is standard practice for both parties. Nationwide attention and court rulings against partisanship have alerted voters to this form of voter suppression.

LWVWC Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner



The gathering for the LWVWC Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 17 will be a good occasion for former members to come and welcome all the new members who have joined this year. The traditional pot luck dinner will begin at 5:30 with time to socialize before the program at 6:30.

Dr. Lisa Corrigan, associate professor of communication, director of the gender studies program, and affiliate faculty in African and African American studies and in Latin American studies at the University of Arkansas, will speak on minority suppression and impacts on their political power.

With the LWVWC's new leadership and expanded programs the business meeting following the program will provide direction to the 2018-2019 program year. If you are a member, your input is important to move our activities toward as we prepare for the 2020 100th anniversary celebration.



Invitations to Speak Spread Voter Information

Other organizations interested in voter issues are asking the LWVWC to provide programs on voter suppression and redistricting. Joyce Hale has met with groups in Benton and Washington County and will soon visit the Sebastian County Democratic Women on the topic, *The State of Arkansas's Democracy*. If you are in an organization that would be interested in a program, please notify Joyce Hale at joycehale43@gmail.com

INTERESTING FACT: In 2009 – LWV Education Fund became an official partner of the U.S. Census. LWVEF staff worked closely with national partners (such as civil rights and Latino groups), and provided information and support to state and local Leagues in their efforts to minimize an undercount.

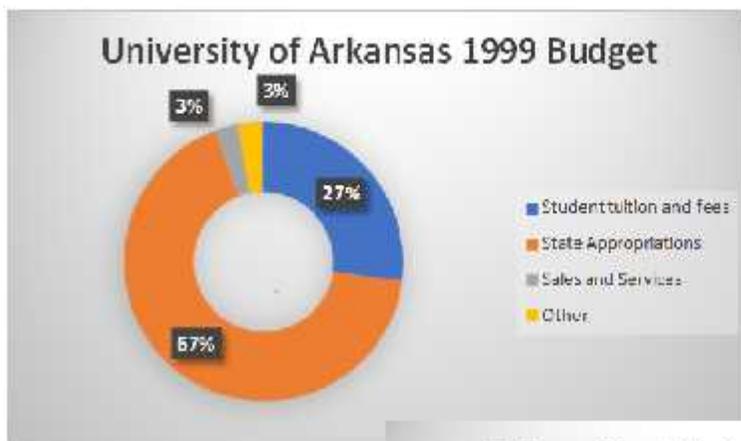
The 2020 Census will need a watch dog and advocate to help protect its integrity!

Drinks & Dialogue Discusses Disturbing Debt Data



LWVWC Secretary, Angela Danovi, presented information on the current student loan situation that is creating an impossible obligation for the students while creating a debt bubble similar to the housing crisis in banking. As a student experiencing the brunt of the problem, Angela shared these recent statistics from reports on U.S. government student loans:

- \$1.31 trillion in total U.S. student loan debt
- 4.2 million Americans with student loan debt (close to 1 in 5 adult Americans)
- Student loan delinquency rate of 11.2%
- Average monthly student loan payment (for borrower aged 20 to 30 years): \$351
- Median monthly student loan payment (for borrower aged 20 to 30 years): \$203



Contributing to the problem is the University of Arkansas's budget change increasing the contributions from student tuition and fees from 27% to 64% while state appropriations dropped from 67% to 28%. This is almost a complete reversal of revenue sources.

