LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEHIGH COUNTY

May/June 2026 Volume 73, Issue 6

The VOTER

Message from the Chair of the Executive Committee

Hello League Members,

Cheryl Winters-Tetreau

April was a busy month for the League. We had a number of tabling events and spent time at Muhlenberg College with member of their Women in Politics club, helping to register voters and provide literature about voting and the League.

Be sure to check out the information in this newsletter about our upcoming panel discussion about data centers. Don't forget to sign up for this event!

Our annual meeting dinner is on May 13 at Morgan's Restaurant. Please sign up today so we can have a quorum for this important meeting. Thank you!

The 2026 Government Directory was printed and copies were delivered to the Barkers for distribution.

We have been invited to participate in the America 250 celebration at the Iron Pigs stadium on July 3. We hope to have a good turnout—there is information about this event later in the newsletter.

The primary election is May 19. Please encourage everyone you know to get out and vote.

Cheryl Winters-Tetreau

Vice President, Programs and Executive Committee Chair

Barbara Connolly

What YOU Need to Know About DATA CENTERS!

This is YOUR Chance to hear from the experts!

See Page 4 for information on upcoming forum on Data Centers

Join us for our 70th Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 13 - 5:30 pm

Morgan's Restaurant

RSVP by May 8

Community Outreach Report

Primary season brings multiple opportunities for community outreach. This spring has been no different with invitations to events at a wide variety of venues. At each event information was available to attendees regarding important election dates, offices on the primary ballot, and how to find candidate and office information on www. vote411.org, the election information website sponsored by the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

Ecofest at Muhlenberg College is annually sponsored by the Muhlenberg's Office of Sustainability in celebration of Earth Day. On April 17th, Ecofest was held outdoors on the college green. The assistance of Cheryl-Winters Tetreau, Lisa Dolan, and Joanne Burtaine was greatly appreciated.

We were invited to the 3rd Annual Allentown Bilingual Disability Resource Fair at Luis Ramos Elementary School in Allentown on April 25th to provide voter registration information and primary election resources for the disabled population. Our participation was appreciated and many stopped at the table with questions, many specific to the Save Act and how its passage would affect minority and disabled voters.

We continue to have a relationship with the Women in Politics Club of Muhlenberg College. Cheryl Winters-Tetrau and I enjoyed an early afternoon in the college commons with students and club members on Monday, April 27th. It is heartening to see young women dedicated to learning more about government and democracy while at work as full-time students.

Upcoming Events

More community outreach opportunities will be added as the summer progresses . Check our upcoming events on the LWVLC website.

Saturday May 2- Lush Cosmetics - 12noon - 1:30pm Lehigh Valley Mall

Saturday, May 30 - Spring Community Outreach Day - 9am - 12noon Lehigh County Office of the Public …Defender – (next to Lehigh County Government Center)

Movies in the Park 2026 - Upper Macungie ***5:30pm activities, movie at dusk***

Friday May 8 - Lone Lane Park

Friday June 12 - Ricky Park

Friday July 10 - Breinigsville Park

Friday August 14 - Grange Park

Saturday June 20 - Juneteenth Celebration - 12 -10pm Cedar Beach, Allentown

Saturday July 4 - 4th of July Celebration - 12-10pm Cedar Beach, Allentown

Call or email to volunteer for any of the events listed or if you have questions about community outreach, or for information about tabling or election resources. Contact me with ideas or potential groups that might have an interest in our community outreach program. With your help, we can enlarge our presence and reach even more voters.

Thanks for your help!

Barbara Connolly,

Community Outreach & Voter Services

blconnolly2@gmail.com, or 610-216-9448

Voter Registration at Muhlenberg College's Ecofest.

HARRISBURG HAPPENINGS

What a difference a year can make! Encouraged by the Governor and, knowing that this is an election year; our representatives and senators are very busy holding and attending Budget hearings in Harrisburg. This is a process that according to our PA Constitution, must be completed by June 30th. Hopefully, they will work to get that done, instead of settling the budget in November like last year! This created a lot of unnecessary stress for non-profits and organizations that help our communities. Let's hope that this year is better.

They also have a few Lobby Days on their agendas, including one in which the League of Women Voters, Pennsylvania is participating. We have a few people going (could be more) from Lehigh County, and we will be visiting the vast majority of our local representatives and senators. We are pleased with the response so far!

Now onto the legislation regarding data centers.

HB 1834 - was passed and sent to the Senate this past week. This bill deals with creating regulations and guidelines for the PUC (Public Utilities Commission) to regulate "large load" data centers. It also would help set contributions to the LIHEAP - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program in our state. It passed the House and is now in the Senate, directed to the Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee. Note, Sen. Lisa Boscola is the minority chair of this Committee, and a person to whom you could share your feelings.

HB 2150 - This bill passed the House and was directed to the Senate, Local Government Committee. This bill was written as only a guide for municipalities in writing ordinances and it clearly is not a requirement to use this exact wording. This was an effort to help municipalities create their own local ordinances. This is meant to help clarify community standards for data center development, with ordinances ultimately being written for the specific municipality.

HB 2151 - this bill also passed in the House and has been directed to the Environmental Resources & Energy Committee in the Senate. This bill deals with accountability and transparency for data centers. This bill would require data centers to give annual reports on the total water and energy use from each data center. This may face a tough battle in the Senate as some feel that this industry is being asked to do more than others. The hearings should be interesting. Stay tuned.

Finally, Governor Shapiro hired a special counsel to monitor energy affordability. Attorney, Mark Szybist, will be empowered to examine utility rate requests and take legal action if energy companies charge exorbitant rate increases. It has been noted that data centers are costing all of us higher energy costs right now. Another stay tuned.

****For more information about Data Centers, see the article on our Data Center Panel Discussion = "What YOU Need to Know about Data Centers!"

Mary Erdman, Past President

Data Center Forum Report

We have just about completed booking all of our speakers and just waiting on one or two more. But, this is our chance to learn what a data center is; why we need them and, the concerns of having them built in our municipalities!

If you order from Amazon (or anywhere else online), use your Patient Portal, or stream Netflix, HBO and/or Hulu and Disney, and are expecting a quick response on your computer or TV, that comes from a data center. Do you use Zoom, Google Office Suite, Google Docs; Microsoft Teams, etc., then you will see how data centers are needed. The real question, is how many do we need and what are the possible environmental concerns? And lastly, how will these actually affect your energy bill?

Please share this information and make your reservation to attend our Panel Discussion on Data Centers. This will be very informative.

So far we have booked: **Rep. Mike Schlossberg,** representative for the 132nd district, which has possibly two data centers to be built in his district.

As the Majority Whip, he is also aware of the specific bills being passed that concern data centers. He will tell us what the State Legislature and the Governor are doing to protect our rights and those of developers. We also have **Mr. Blake Marles,** a township solicitor for 40 years, who is now on the development side and working on data centers. He will walk us through the planning process. In addition, we have attorney and Deputy Director of the Clean Air Council from Philadelphia, **Kathryn Urbanowicz,** who will report on a research document they have completed with two other organizations on the cost and environmental concerns of data centers.

Please invite your family and neighbors for an interesting discussion about a very "hot topic' in our country, state and municipalities.

And come prepared with questions. We are not taking a stand on data centers; but we do realize they are needed. One of the goals of this panel discussion is to give the residents of our municipalities enough knowledge so they know what questions to ask at municipal meetings.

Hope to see most of our members in attendance. We would appreciate your presence that evening. Thank You.

Key info is as follows:

DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 14TH. 6:30 - 8:00 PM

LOCATION: LEHIGH VALLEY ACTIVE LIFE CENTER

1633 WEST ELM STREET

ALLENTOWN, PA. 18102

There is a parking lot and street parking. Doors open at 6:15 pm.

Mary Erdman, Past President

Here is the QR code to register:

Voter's Guide Report

The League of Women Voters Lehigh County is proud to once again partner with The Morning Call to publish the online and printed Voters Guide for the primary election to be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026. Statewide and local offices are included for both Lehigh and Northampton counties.

Because this is considered an "off year" election, the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania manages the invitations to candidates to complete their profile in the online Vote411.org system. This is a huge help to usand we are deeply grateful to Sheri Slayton and Brianna Rybka for their support.

After the invitations are emailed, several members of our club made phone calls, sent additional emails and even met with candidates to encourage their participation. This work paid off as many candidates responded. The Morning Call prints demographic information as well as each respondent's answer to one of the questions posed. Voters can visit Vote411.org for even more information as most candidates answered two to four questions, depending on the race.

This non-partisan effort provides factual, unbiased information about every candidate who chooses to participate. Even after the printed Voters Guide is published, candidates can complete their online profile to share their information with voters. Both the online and printed guides will be updated prior to the General Election in November 2026.

Julie Ambrose, Sarah Barrett, Voters' Guide editors

Membership Report

We now have our Membership Booklet complete and mailed. If you did not receive a copy, please contact me at mdunn75@hotmail.com.

Our membership count is 97 members. I am glad to announce we had 2 new members join this month- Ibolya Balog of Allentown and Billie Funk of Coopersburg.

With our new system we now have rolling membership renewal. You will receive an email from the League 6 weeks before your renewal date. The suggested membership fee is $75.

You are also able to donate extra on the website. To contribute to our Education Fund, you must write a check to LWUS and mail it to LWVLC, PO Box 3275, Allentown PA 18106.

Margie Dunn, Membership

Publications Distribution Volunteer Opportunities

Spring has sprung, and the LWVLC is blooming with copies of our publications that need to be delivered to the communities we serve.

The annual Government Directory, the listing of local, state, and federal offices contact information, is being prepared for distribution and will be available at the Annual Dinner on May 13. Three thousand copies will be sent out to businesses, schools, libraries, community centers, etc. by our League volunteers. The copies will be organized into delivery zones with nearby locations grouped together. The address of each recipient is attached to a stack of pamphlets to be delivered, and a letter explaining the Guide's purpose included.

The Voters Guide to the Spring 2026 Primary Election on May 19 will be printed by The Morning Call on May 7. Our League receives 500-700 copies to deliver to libraries, community centers, and organizations throughout Lehigh County. Voters Guides will be ready for distribution as soon as they're received & sorted;

Anyone interested in helping to deliver either or both publications should contact Donna & Charlie Barker at (610)392-0669.

Donna Barker, Publications Distribution Chair

Do You Want to Be a Part of the League Celebration of the Semiquincentennial of our Country and Make History for Our League?

If so, we have a great activity for any member who would like to participate in the July 3rd IGNITE LIBERTY at Coca Cola Park.

This is an opportunity for us to tell our League story, show attendees who were the leading suffragists, and give people information about the League in 2026!

If you attend, we will ask you to dress-up as a suffragist. That may include a long skirt, a blouse (maybe a hat) and wear a "Votes for Women" sash (which we can help provide). There are specific items that we have been asked to do which will be fun and very historical for our League.

So don't be shy! Any member can be involved and join us. You are then invited to stay for Coca Cola Parks largest drone and fireworks show!

The MC for the event is TV and the Lehigh Valley's own **Carson Kressly!**

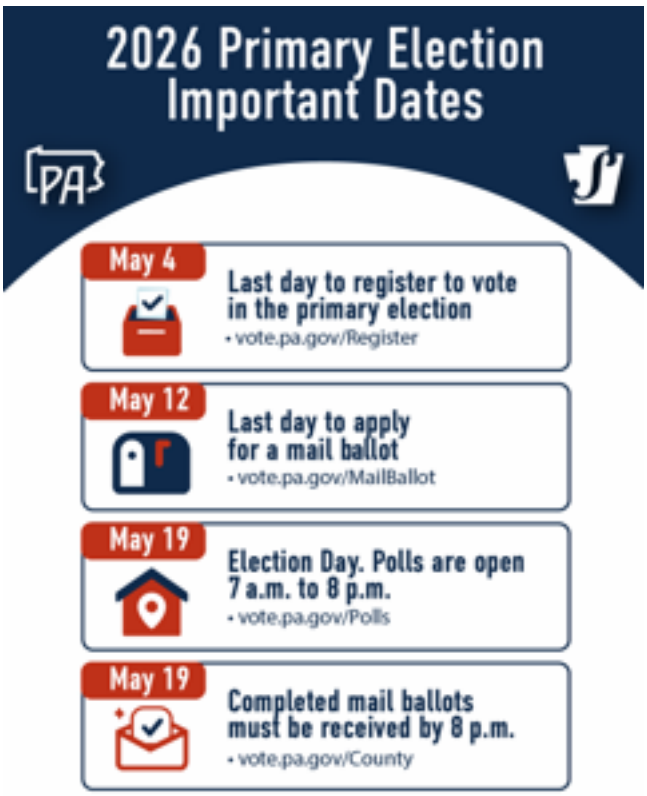
You can sign up on our website just like you do for our Hot Topic Luncheons. There will be a meeting or two to organize and present a great and fun appearance by our **League of Women Voters, Lehigh County.**

Be a part of history! We are counting on our members!

More info will follow. Sign up at: www.lwvlehighcounty.org/events/

Mary Erdman, Past President

BULLETIN BOARD



April Hot Topics Luncheon

League members participated in March 28th No King's rally

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LEHIGH COUNTY

League of Women Voters of Lehigh County
P.O. Box 3275
Allentown, PA 18106

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LEHIGH COUNTY

To Apply for Membership

Log on to lwvlehighcounty.org

Click on the tab Join/Renew Membership Online (preferred)

Or Print Membership Form

Follow instructions

Membership dues include membership in the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania (LWVPA) and a subscription to the local and state *Voter.*

League dues and contributions are not tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

Contributions to the LWV Education Fund (LWVEF) are tax-deductible.

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all citizens. Voting members must be at least 16 years old.