

# WEIGHT **VOTER**



VOLUME 29, No. 8

MAY 2023

## **PROGRAM FOR MAY** by Barbara Grabowski

### **Curious about Electric Vehicles: Would You Like to Know More?**

There is a lot to learn! What makes an electric vehicle (EV) different from a car that uses gasoline; how much do they cost; how do I charge an EV battery; what if I live in an apartment or don't have a garage; do I have to install a special electric outlet; how can I be confident I can find a place to charge the battery if I am driving across the state; and what resources are available to individuals and local communities?

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has set a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 26% by 2025 and by 80% by 2050 (compared to 2005 levels). According to the DEP's "Electric Vehicle Roadmap" (2019), transportation makes up about 24% of greenhouse gas emissions in Pennsylvania. One step toward achieving the important goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and a key strategy in Pennsylvania's Climate Action Plan is to shift from gasoline powered vehicles to EVs.

EVs now make up a small percentage of all cars sold but by 2050 are projected to be about 50% of the market. EVs cost more to purchase but are cheaper to maintain and you need a way to recharge the battery, which means they are more likely to be owned by higher income individuals who live in urban and suburban areas and own their home. To make it easier to own and operate an EV, Pennsylvania is looking for ways to provide the infrastructure needed for EV charging stations and making EV charging accessible and affordable.

**Join us on Thursday May 25 from 7 - 8:30 pm via Zoom** to hear from representatives of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) as they bring us up to date on the projects and resources being developed to help Pennsylvanians make the transition to EVs.

Check out these resources to learn more about EVs and the steps Pennsylvania is taking to make the transition to EVs:

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Energy/OfficeofPollutionPrevention/ElectricVehicles/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.penndot.pa.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/EVs/Pages/PA-NEVI.aspx>

**Candidate Forums are coming up May 2 and 9. See Judy Clack's report and graphics on pages 4 and 5 for more details.**

**Amy Kleissas has important follow-up from the April program on mis- and disinformation.**

**Great ideas we can all use to combat this plague of false or misleading information. See page 5.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



As we approach the Primary Election in Pennsylvania, the need for information on candidates becomes more urgent and requests more frequent. Members should always refer voters to VOTE411, a League sponsored site that will have candidate-supplied statements to

help people make decisions about candidates.

Our Voter Guide, available after May 3rd, will be distributed to The New Pittsburgh Courier, the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, Chatham University, Point Park University, Robert Morris University, Community College of Allegheny County, and several other universities in the County. These Voter Guides provide timely information for voters as we approach the Primary.

We also are holding a Candidate Forum for the County Executive and an opportunity for statements from candidates for other County-wide office on **May 2nd at Point Park University's Pittsburgh Playhouse at 6 p.m.** It is an opportunity to hear from the candidates themselves, as well as to ask questions of the County Executive Candidates. As a nonpartisan organization, the League of Women Voters, along with 10 partner organizations, will provide a structured format for these candidates to put forth their platforms. This a free event, open to the public that will be [Live Streamed](#) and available later on the League's Facebook Page. Take time to visit our excellent website [lwvpgh.org](http://lwvpgh.org) to find the latest information on voting, this election, and the duties of our elected officials.

Voting in the United States is a right and a privilege. The League of Women Voters believes that every voter should be a Super Voter, voting in every election. The importance of this election cannot be underestimated. We have not elected a new County Executive in many years and the opportunity to see and hear the candidates is not to be missed in this new state of the art theater. Refreshments will be served.

Best,  
Michele Knoll, President



League member Tené Croom (right) and Ross Tedder moderated a busy candidate event at St. James AME Church. Candidates from the eastern half of the county were invited. 18 participated. Each was allotted three minutes to speak. A total of 10 League members volunteered at this Candidate Meet and Greet event.



Judy Mancini and Doug Krings served as LWVPGH timers at the "Eastside" Candidate Meet and Greet at St. James AME church on April 20. Candidates for county council, city council, city school board, and municipal district judge spoke at the event co-sponsored by the LWVPGH and many other nonpartisan organizations. Dr. Terrie Griffin, Director of DEI, is seated beside them.

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## LEAGUE MEETING STRUCTURE

### Board Meetings

- ✓ **Second Monday of the month..**  
Meeting: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.,  
currently by Zoom.

### Local Area Unit Meetings

- ✓ **Pittsburgh Central:** Currently not meeting. Contact Martha Raak at 412-477-7572 or [marbiker1@gmail.com](mailto:marbiker1@gmail.com)
- ✓ **North Hills:** Currently not meeting. Contact Nancy Mott at 412-779-3089 or [namott001@gmail.com](mailto:namott001@gmail.com)
- ✓ **South Hills:** Currently not meeting. Contact Maureen Mamula at 412-760-9642 or [mamula159@hotmail.com](mailto:mamula159@hotmail.com)

### Other Ongoing Meetings

- ✓ **Education Committee**  
Currently not meeting.  
[education@lwvpg.org](mailto:education@lwvpg.org)
- ✓ **Voter Service Committee**  
1st Tuesdays, 12:30 pm. by Zoom. Additional meetings occasionally added as needed. Chair is Judy Clack at 512-731-0280  
[voterservice@lwvpg.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvpg.org)
- ✓ **Advocacy Committee**  
Currently not meeting.  
Chair Michele Knoll  
412-389-1387  
[advocacy@lwvpg.org](mailto:advocacy@lwvpg.org)
- ✓ **Gun Safety Committee**  
Currently not meeting.  
Contact Nancy Naragon at 412-366-2446 or  
[development@lwvpg.org](mailto:development@lwvpg.org)
- ✓ **Non-fiction Book Club**  
3rd Friday, 10:15 am. Meeting place determined each month, see calendar. Contact Joan Cucinotta, 412-708-2335 or [joancucinotta@gmail.com](mailto:joancucinotta@gmail.com)

This column will be updated as in-person meetings become possible or changes in League programming are made.

## May-June Calendar

### May

2 Tue	Voter Service Committee, 12:30-2:30 on Zoom
2 Tue	<b>County Executive Candidate Forum</b> , 6:00-8:30, Point Park Univ.
8 Mon	Board meeting, 12:30 pm
9 Tue	<b>Northside Candidate Meet and Greet</b> . 6:00-8:00 pm, Letters Carriers, 841 California Avenue, 15212, co-sponsored with B-PEP
16 Tue	<b>Primary Election:</b> Polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.
16 Tue	LWVPA Government Policy Update, 7:00-8:00 pm. Register to watch <a href="#">here</a> . Updates are held the third Tuesday of each month.
19 Fri	Non-fiction Book Club meeting, 10:30-2, Squirrel Hill Library
25 Thu	<b>LWVPGH May Program: Curious about Electric Vehicles: Would You Like to Know More? 7-8:30 via Zoom</b>

### June

6 Tue	Voter Service Committee, 12:30-2:30 on Zoom
12 Mon	Board meeting, 12:30 pm
16 Fri	Non-fiction Book Club meeting, 10:30-2, Squirrel Hill Library
16 Fri - 18 Sun	League of Women Voters Of Pennsylvania Convention, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 23 S 2nd St., Harrisburg. More info <a href="#">here</a> .
20 Tue	LWVPA Government Policy Update, 7:00-8:00 pm. Register to watch <a href="#">here</a> . Updates are held the third Tuesday of each month.



State Senator Lindsey Williams held a Senior Resource Fair at Mt. Ararat Community Activity Center for nonprofit organizations serving seniors and their caregivers. Nancy Heastings, Judy Mancini, and Karey Kluesner (left to right) distributed LWVPGH educational materials created by many League members: *Your Government Officials: Facts for Citizens Directory*, *Voting Resources You Need* postcard, and the Primary Election Flyer co-created by the Senior Housing and Faith-Based Community Committees. Note the informative, new posters on the front of the table created by Amy Kleissas.



## VOTER SERVICE REPORT by Judy Clack, Voter Service Chair



The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 7 am – 8 pm. Mail-in ballots are being distributed. Our League's activities in April and May have focused on educating the public. Here are our upcoming events.

**Tues. May 2, 6:15 – 9:00 pm, Countywide Primary Election Candidate Event** at the [Pittsburgh Playhouse at Point Park University](#) (350 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15222; First Floor, behind the Warner Theatre, near the old site of the Honus Wagner Store). Come early for light refreshments.

First these **candidates will give 3-minute statements**: Common Pleas Judge, County Controller, County Treasurer, District Attorney, and County Council at Large. Then a formal **Democratic County Executive candidate forum** will be held. The event will be live streamed at [Facebook/PUMPpgh](#) with a recording available afterward on the [lwvpgh.org](#) website. Parking: On-street metered parking is available along Forbes Avenue and adjacent streets, and free after 6 pm. Cost is \$6 at public garages after 4 pm. LWVPGH is a co-sponsor with 15 other nonpartisan organizations.

**Tues. May 2, 12:30 – 2:30 pm: Voter Service Committee Meeting on Zoom.** All members are welcome. [Join by Zoom](#). Hear about actions that have been taken and that are to be conducted to educate the public about the Primary Election on Tuesday, May 16, 7 am – 8 pm. The Zoom link is also on the Member Calendar and will be included on the agenda.

**IMMEDIATE URGENT NEED: Deliver Door Hangers to Senior Housing**  
The Senior Housing Committee needs many additional volunteers

to deliver packets of door hangers to senior residence buildings and senior centers. We hope for the delivery to be completed ASAP. To sign up and choose your delivery locations, contact Linda Schneider at [linda.schneider@lwvpgh.org](mailto:linda.schneider@lwvpgh.org) or Kathy Herbst at [kathy.herbst@lwvpgh.org](mailto:kathy.herbst@lwvpgh.org). Then arrange to pick up the door hangers from Kathy Herbst. The door hangers summarize the information needed for the primary election in a large font. We received many requests from building managers, and we need lots of help delivering them.

**PUMP** **B-PEP** **LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER PITTSBURGH** **ALLEGHENY COUNTY** **YWCA**

**TUES. MAY 2ND JUST TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE MAY 16TH PRIMARY**

### NONPARTISAN COUNTYWIDE CANDIDATE EVENT

**All Candidates for Allegheny Countywide Offices Invited**

**"THE GREAT DEBATE BETWEEN DEMOCRATS RUNNING FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE"**  
Audience will be able to submit written questions.

**Preceded by formal statements by all other countywide candidates in attendance:**  
Court of Common Pleas,  
District Attorney, County Controller, County Treasurer,  
County Council Members at Large, Republican County Executive

**Tuesday, May 2, 2023 6:15 pm - 9:00 pm**

**Hosted by**  
**POINT PARK UNIVERSITY AND THE ROWLAND SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**  
**AT THE PITTSBURGH PLAYHOUSE**  
350 Forbes Avenue, First Floor, behind the Warner Theatre  
(near the old site of the Honus Wagner Store)

**With Moderators:**  
**Lisa Smith**  
Director - Community Impact, Host of "Intersections" on KDKA-TV and Pittsburgh's CW  
**Josiah Gilliam**  
Executive Director, PUMP

Free on-street parking after 6 pm/ Near bus lines/ Reduced night-time garage rates  
**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS - DRAWING FOR GIANT EAGLE GIFT CARDS!**

**LIVE STREAMING TBA**  
Recording available afterward.  
For information call 412-212-8775/412-338-2133 x10

**HOOD** **WAKE UP THE VOTE** **ncnw** **APA** **A+SCHOOLS** **NAACP** **PITTSBURGH**

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**Tues. May 9, 6:00 – 8:15 pm, Northside Candidate Meet and Greet**, at the Letters Carriers, 841 California Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15212. [Link to map here](#). This event features local (northside and westside) County Council, City Council, City Treasurer, Pittsburgh School Board, and Magisterial District Judge candidates. LWVPGH is a co-sponsor.

**Tues. May 9, 6 – 7:30 pm on Zoom, Candidate Forum for all Statewide Appellate Judicial Candidates**, sponsored by Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts and co-sponsored by both LWVPA and LWVPGH among others. Register for Zoom at [pmconline.org/events](https://pmconline.org/events). A recording will be posted on the LWVPGH website, [lwvpgh.org](https://lwvpgh.org). *(LWVPGH members volunteering for the May 9 Candidate Meet and Greet should register for this to receive a recording.)*

#### Poll Workers Needed

Interested in serving as a poll worker? You can contact the office by phone at 412-350-4500 and select option 5. Stop in at 312 County Office Building and ask to speak to someone about working, or go online and complete the [poll worker application](#).

## CIVIC EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY by Amy Kleissas



In March, our League members presented the LWVUS/Algorithmic Transparency Institute's PowerPoint on **"Building Resilience to Mis- and DisInformation."** The amount of information flooding public spaces and social media is only getting more ubiquitous. The strategies that were shared are part of the **"whole of society response"** to this plague of false or misleading information. They are repeated here.

(Did you miss this important presentation? You can view our recording [here](#) or download the slide deck with speaker's notes on the [Slide Decks](#) web page. Scroll down a lot on that page to find it)

**"What can you do as soon as TODAY to help build resilience to misinformation for yourself and contribute to your community?"** "There are two ways you can start to participate.

**First**, effectively spotting mis- and disinformation when you see it online or in your community is a skill that requires practice. Learning to do it quickly and accurately takes time and effort. The League of Women Voters has partnered with the Algorithmic Transparency Institute on a program called the [Civic Listening Corps](#) to give you the opportunity to find and report problematic content when you see it so that you can exercise these new skills and so that you can benefit broader efforts to combat misinformation across the country." See also the graphic on the next page.

*Continued next page*

"The **second way** you can participate is by signing up to join the League's effort at the **Civic Listening Corps**. Visit this [link](#) in your browser or phone and confirm your interest and you'll be invited to the next Civic Listening Corp training and get updates on listening shifts that you can sign up for."

"The Civic Listening Corps Program goes into greater detail on the common forms and tactics used to spread misinformation. This volunteer program operates on a shift-based model where you sign up to commit one or more hours to dedicate to the task of listening to the discourse in your own social media feeds or elsewhere online to find instances of problematic content that are circulating."

**Mis- and Dis-information getting you down?**

LWV has designed **TWO THINGS**, YOU can do as soon as today! You can help build resilience to misinformation for yourself *and* contribute to your community:

1. Get in-depth training to **SPOT and REPORT problematic content**, (instead of responding to it or amplifying it) from the **Civic Listening Corps**: <https://tinyurl.com/lwvciviclestening>. Created by the League of Women Voters and the Algorithmic Transparency Institute.
2. **TIPLINE**: When you spot problematic content in public spaces or on social media, report to the **TIPLINE** via Text+1 859 374 8741 **or** email: [lwv@tips.junkipedia.org](mailto:lwv@tips.junkipedia.org).

**Be part of the solution!**

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER PITTSBURGH

**E-PEP** ELECTRONIC POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

"You then flag that content, submit it to a shared repository and describe the problem you identified with it."

"Over time, by participating in this process you can help achieve multiple goals at once. For yourself, and your community, the act of finding and flagging problematic content helps you build the resilience the LWVUS/ATI partnership seeks, directly. You learn to recognize common types of messages and gain an awareness of the most recent and popular strategies used to mislead people. This makes you less susceptible yourself, and it arms you with knowledge and personal experience that you can use to communicate with others to share your resilience."

**Strategies for "Living Room Conversations"**

Here are a few tips you can carry with you into any conversation, and use especially when you engage in **challenging ones**:

- Listen with curiosity for understanding.
- Speak from your own authentic experience with humility.
- Connect to others with respect.
- "Where have you seen that in your life?"
- "Can I share an experience I've had around this?"
- "Thank you for sharing that article. Which part really made sense to you?"

"Learning from one another is how we move forward in a positive, more compassionate world."

Adapted from: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2023/04/17/national-week-conversation-how-fight-toxic-polarization/11858802002/>

**Be part of the solution**

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER PITTSBURGH

**E-PEP** ELECTRONIC POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

"At the same time, you will benefit the broader community of organizations working together to combat mis- and disinformation by sharing what you see locally with others all across the country to establish a foundation of situational awareness that can support communications and inoculation messaging."

"By comprehensively identifying and documenting the problems we encounter, we identify and take action based on the patterns that are identified. Bad actors can be exposed and the social media platforms that enable them to amplify falsehoods can be held accountable."

"Participating in the Civic Listening Corps gives you the opportunity to participate in realizing the vision of a **"whole of**

**society response**" to combating mis- and disinformation." Finally, the second graphic offers you some tips to handle those inevitable conversations with friends and relatives where mis- and disinformation comes up.

## BOOK CLUB REPORT by Joan Cucinotta

### NEXT MEETING

For our next meeting the group decided to a break from our non-fiction reading and cleanse our mental palates with *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks (author of many noteworthy books including *March* which won a Pulitzer). We will meet in the Squirrel Hill library at 10:30 A.M. on Friday, May 19th.

### Review of *How to Stand Up to a Dictator: The Fight for Our Future* by Maria Ressa

Tucker Carlson might learn something from reading this month's book selection, *How to Stand Up to a Dictator: The Fight for Our Future* by Maria Ressa. Posing as a journalist, Carlson only spread political lies on his pseudo-news program which greased his way to fame and fortune for years. By contrast, Ressa anchors her practice of journalism in facts and transparency, and this book is the account. From reporting on the corruption in the Aquino administration to revealing the insidious threats posed by social media to the wanton murderous campaigns under Duterte, Ressa never flinched in her reporting and consequently suffered ever escalating harassment, subpoenas, arrests, threats, and jail time.

If anything, her book shows her to be the canary in the coal mine sounding the alarm regarding major global threats from detecting radical Islamic networks to revealing Zuckerberg's complicity in amplifying misinformation to the widespread use of "troll armies" to manipulate elections.

This book demonstrates the pivotal role that good journalism plays in safeguarding democracy. Ressa touches on this important theme several times and takes pains to tease apart the difference between being a journalist and an activist. As a memoir, this book recounts her numerous confrontations with powerful entities whether the bullies in her grade school playground harassing her as a foreigner or the murderous Duterte solidifying power through terror and violence. Each time she navigates by sticking to facts, the truth, and her steadfast belief in the power of truth telling.

This book is a blow-by-blow account of why she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2021 (jointly with Russian journalist Dmitry Murtov) for "efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace." Her book is a narrative of her life as a reporter "on the front lines" in the fight to maintain democracy.



Dr. Terrie Griffin, third from left and LWVPGH Director of DEI, spoke on behalf of the League at the Black Political Empowerment Project's (B-PEP's) unveiling of their primary election bus signs, "Be Vocal, Vote Local." Terrie emphasized the League's candidate voters' guide at [vote411.org](http://vote411.org). Others spoke about what their organizations are doing to encourage the public to participate in the Primary Election on May 16.





Smiles of satisfaction at the end of the April 20 Candidate Meet and Greet at St. James AME Church are (left to right) Elaine Harris-Fulton, Wake up the Vote; Lorraine Cross, B-PEP and LWVPGH; Doug Krings, LWVPGH; Michele Knoll, LWVPGH; Judy Clack, LWVPGH; Yvonne Rainey, John Lewis Transformative Justice Coalition and Pittsburgh Higher Ground Ministry; Deidre Lesesne, VEEEM; and Judy Mancini, LWVPGH.

LWVGP Officers / Executive Committee		Local Area Meeting Chairs	
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V.P.2 Voter Service	Judy Clack	South Hills 412-760-9642	Maureen Mamula
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Staff			
Community Information Center	Manager: Michelle Grant	Marcellus Shale Grant	Manager: Heather Harr
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