

The League LATEST

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The Newsletter of the Porter County League of Women Voters

Reaching Out, Registering, & Reconnecting

We have had a very busy spring! Midterm elections are May 3, so our **Vote411 committee** has been working diligently to update the website for voters. They invited 95 Porter County candidates to answer questions about their platform, and there has been a great response. I attended the **Duneland Chamber Candidate Forum** on March 31 and was able to remind candidates about the deadline to have their responses included on Vote411.org. Take a look at the site to see if candidates in your area have responded. It was very encouraging to have a few candidates approach me with positive feedback about the site.

Earlier this year we decided to dedicate our resources to reactivating our **High School Voter Registration program** this spring. Barb Domer has taken up that challenge and through much hard work and tenacity, she has reconnected with many Porter County high schools and registered many students. Barb updated LWV's high school power point presentation to include very timely, relevant information. Please see details on the project on page 2. A huge shout out to Barb for her efforts, as well as Lynda Krueger and all the volunteers who have helped make this a success!

I have been working with three **Valparaiso University** students over the last two months on a project to build awareness on campus about Vote411. I joined two of the students on April 11 in Harre Union to hand out flyers and Vote411 cards. We talked with over 45 students. Many were already registered to vote, so we made them aware of the

Above: Lynda Krueger helps a student register to vote at the Porter County Career & Technical Center. Learn more about our high school registration project on page 2.



importance of checking their registration. Since the majority were from outside Porter County and many were from out of state, we could not actually register anyone, but they were very excited about being able to register online.

It was wonderful to see 12 members at our **in-person March meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church**. We had several members attend via Zoom. This hybrid mode worked well, so we will continue it for upcoming meetings. The space is perfect for our current size, and it has room to accommodate future growth! The kitchen will be great for hosting events. We are working on a plan for an open house to encourage new members—details to come. Hope to see more of you at future meetings.

Mark your calendar—our **annual meeting** will be on Monday, June 20. This is where we talk about our plans for the coming year. We will also planning to have a mini-celebration.

As always, thanks for your commitment and participation with **Empowering Voters and Protecting Our Democracy**.

—Beckie Guffin, President

Inside This Issue

High School & College Voter Registration Drives	Page 2
Vote411 Update	Page 4
Introducing Porter County Vote Centers	Page 5
Upcoming Meetings & New Members	Page 5
Local Government Meeting Schedule	Page 5
Elected Official Contact Info	Page 6

Back to School

New Voter Registration Drive Kicked off March 14

One of the League's initiatives for 2022 is to visit local high schools, colleges, and universities to talk about elections and help students register to vote. Our last new voter registration drive in the schools was in 2018, so it feels good to engage with students again! To date, we have visited five schools (Portage High School, Porter County Career & Technical Center, Ivy Tech Community College, Boone Grove High School, Union Township High School, and Valparaiso University). We've registered over 200 students!

Many students registered using electronic devices and commented how easy it was to register. According to US Census numbers, only 53.7 percent of US citizens between the ages of 18 and 24 in the Midwest reported that they voted in the 2020 general election—and only

61.4 percent of US citizens in that age group reported that they are registered to vote.



Part of our presentation includes an interactive activity that demonstrates the levels of young voter registration and participation. We are also sharing stories as a means of encouraging voter registration and participation. Five voter registration events remaining during the month of April (Kouts Middle-High School, Valparaiso High School, Hebron High School, Vale Academy) and the final registration tally will be shared in the next newsletter. Thank you to all who volunteered for this important initiative!

—Barb Domer
High School Liaison



Above: Barb Domer shows a Porter County Career and Technical Center student how to register to vote using Vote411.org on her phone. **Below:** Lynda Krueger and Heather Gary present to seniors in government and economics classes at Portage High School.



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High School & College Voter Registration Drive Volunteers

Shawn Barnes
Barb Domer
Heather Gary
Beckie Guffin
Joyce Hicks
Lynda Krueger
Pam Rogalski
Susan Stuart
Lida Williams
Mary Beth Witcher

Interested in helping register young voters? Contact Barb Domer at domerb@comcast.net.

Top left: Valparaiso University students from Professor Caroline Ban's social work class conducted a voter education and registration drive in Harre Union on April 11. **Top right:** A VU student visits the **Below:** Lida Williams and Barb Domer present to a group of students at Boone Grove High School.

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A Voter Guide for the Primary

The Vote411 Committee contacted 95 local candidates with questions related to their platform and the office they are pursuing in the May 3 primary election. Thirty candidates responded, and the committee published their information on vote411.org on April 8.

Take a look at the candidate information posted for US Representative, US Senate, County Commissioner, County Council, State House, Township Board, Township Trustee, County Clerk, County

Auditor, County Recorder, County Sheriff, County Coroner, County Assessor, County Prosecuting Attorney, and any resolution.

Vote411 will be updated in the fall for the General Election, including additional races and candidates. Please spread the word about this valuable resource—and thanks to **Kathryn Meyer**, **Carolynn Lester**, **Clare Pokorny**, **Sue Webster**, and **Lida Williams** for their work on this important project!



Statement of Purpose

The purposes of the League of Women Voters, as stated in our bylaws, are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. We speak for voters—not a party. Being nonpartisan does not mean nonpolitical. Our work is based on issues, and issues are nonpartisan.

We are committed to doing what we were founded to do—stand up for what's right and support legislation that advances voting rights.

August 27: Save the Date!



Our annual Garage Sale is our biggest fundraiser of the year! This year's sale is **Saturday, August 27**, at 258 Erie Street, Valpo.

Contact Andrea **Tobochnik** if you have donations or want to volunteer for this event. We need housewares,

furniture, toys, and other items in good condition. (We are not accepting clothing, but we will take accessories such as scarves, hats, ties, etc.) We also need volunteers to sort items, set up, staff the sale, and clean up afterwards.

Porter County Vote Centers

Porter County is now a Vote Center County! Starting with the primary election on May 3, **voters will be able to cast their ballot at any of the 44 locations around the county.** A polling place closer to work, school, or anywhere else voters may be between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Election Day makes it more convenient to participate in the electoral process—a WIN for democracy. Find the full list of Vote Center locations at www.porterco.org/172/Vote-Center-Locations.

Local Government Meeting Schedule

Porter County Council

April 19, 5:30-8:30

May 24, 5:30-8:30

June 28, 5:30-8:30

Porter County Commissioners

April 19, 10 a.m.-noon

May 17, 10 a.m.-noon

June 7, 10 a.m.-noon

Council and Commissioner meetings are at the County Administration Building, 155 Indiana Ave., Suite 205, Valpo.

Valparaiso City Council

Second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

*City Hall—Council Chambers
166 W Lincolnway
Valparaiso, IN 46383*

Portage City Council

First Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

*Woodland Park
2100 Willowcreek
Portage IN 46368*

Chesterton Town Council

Second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

*Town Hall
726 Broadway
Chesterton, IN 46304*

Porter Town Council

Second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

*Porter Town Hall
303 Franklin
Porter, IN 46304*

New Membership

Tamara Pol, Porter

Welcome!

Do you know someone who might be interested in becoming a member? Invite them to join us at the next meeting!

Upcoming Meetings

Join us on the third Monday of every month, from 7:00-8:15 p.m.

April 18

May 15

June 20

Trinity Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
201 Washington St.
Valparaiso

You can also attend via Zoom:

Mtg ID: 832 2718 8002

Passcode: lwvpc

Fundraising Corner

Support the League while you shop at Amazon—go to **smile.amazon.com**, click on Your Account, and then “Change Your Charity.” Type *League of Women Voters of Porter County* in the Search bar and select it as your charity. AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to our organization, and we’ll use it to strengthen democracy.

Porter County Elected Official Contact Information

FEDERAL

US Senate

Mike Braun

Washington: 202-224-4814
Indianapolis: 317-822-8240
www.braun.senate.gov

Todd Young

Washington: 202-224-5623
Indianapolis: 317-226-6700
www.young.senate.gov

US House of Representatives

Frank J. Mrvan

(1st Congressional District)
Washington: (202) 225-2461
Merrillville: (219) 795-1844
mrvan.house.gov

STATE

Governor

Eric Holcomb

317-232-4567
www.in.gov/gov/
Address: Office of the Governor,
Statehouse, Indianapolis, IN 46204-
2797

State Senate

District 4
(Porter County North)

Rodney Pol

800-382-9467
317-232-9404
Email: s4@iga.in.gov
www.indianasenatedemocrats.org/s4/

District 5
(Porter County South)

Ed Charbonneau

800-382-9467
Senator.Charbonneau@iga.in.gov
www.indianasenaterepublicans.com/charbonneau

State Representatives

House District 4
(Union, Center, and Washington townships and parts of Liberty and Jackson townships)

Ed Soliday

800-382-9841
www.indianahouserepublicans.com/members/leadership/ed-soliday

House District 9
(Parts of Porter County East)

Pat Boy

800-382-9842
<https://indianahousedemocrats.org/members/pat-boy>

House District 10
(Porter County North & NW)

Chuck Moseley

800-382-9842
indianahousedemocrats.org/members/chuck-moseley

House District 11
(Porter County South)

Michael Aylesworth

800-382-9841
www.indianahouserepublicans.com/members/general/michael-aylesworth/

COUNTY

Porter County Commissioners

Laura Shurr Blaney

District 1 (South)
(219) 465-3349
laura.blaney@porterco.org

Jeff Good

District 2 (Center)
(219) 465-3354
jgood@porterco.org

Jim Biggs

District 3 (North)
(219) 465-3361
jim.biggs@porterco.org

Porter County Council

District 1: **Erik Wagner**

District 2: **Jeremy Rivas** (President)

District 3: **Greg Simms**

District 4: **Mike Jessen**

At Large: **Sylvia Graham**

At Large: **Andy Bozak**

At Large: **Mike Brickner**

Email for all County Council members: council@porterco.org

More Info: www.porterco.org/1374/Your-Council-Members

LOCAL

Visit www.in.gov/core/mylocal/porter_county.html for the contact info of the following local government bodies:

Cities & Towns

Burns Harbor	Kouts
Chesterton	Portage
Dune Acres	Porter
Hebron	Valparaiso

Porter County Townships

Boone	Pleasant
Center	Portage
Jackson	Porter
Liberty	Union
Morgan	Washington
Pine	Westchester

? Which district you live in?
Find out at iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/

Information on this list is current as of January 27, 2022.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF PORTER COUNTY