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The Communicator: December Updates from the State League

1 message

Maria Delgado-Santana, League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania

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Reply-To: samantha.anthony@palwv.org

To: samantha.anthony@palwv.org

Fri, Dec 15, 2023 at
9:00 AM



From all of us at LWVPA, we hope you have a wonderful and safe holiday season!

Announcing LWVPA's New Executive Director

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania is pleased to formally announce the hire of Dr. Amy Widestrom as our new Executive Director. Amy will start on January 1, 2024. Maria Delgado-Santana, the President of League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania is looking forward to working with Amy, stating “Dr. Widestrom’s wealth of experience and passion for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging will enable LWVPA to expand its reach, increase membership, and engage new and young voters. Our shared vision is to support local League chapters across Pennsylvania in their efforts to increase voter education and participation among voters of all ages, racial and ethnic groups, and belief systems. I am very excited for the League and I am looking forward to working with Dr. Widestrom!”

Amy is excited about stepping into the role of Executive Director for the League: “I am thrilled for the opportunity to apply my academic expertise in action. The League of Women Voters’ mission is crucial in today’s political landscape, especially with the 2024 election fast approaching. I’m geared up, and so is the League, to champion voter protection and democratic engagement in the months and years ahead.”

Amy holds a B.A. from Oberlin College and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Syracuse University. She has also been the recipient of several awards, including the 2016 American Political Science Association’s Clarence Stone Scholar Award, a Brookings Institution Research Fellowship, and an American Political Association Congressional Fellowship in 2008-09, when she worked for the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs as the nation worked to recover from the 2008 economic crisis.

Updates from the State League

Under Amy’s leadership, the League looks forward to entering the new year with renewed energy and enthusiasm for our many important initiatives that support democracy. This calendar year, over 2 million voters accessed Vote411 across the country, with 110,000 users in PA. Thanks to all who work so hard to make Vote411 available to PA voters each election!

- LWVPA is thrilled by the federal Court’s ruling that voters who submit mail ballots in time to be counted in an election – but who mistakenly forget to handwrite a date on the return envelope or write the wrong date – must have their ballots counted. [Click here to read more.](#)
- Missed last week’s monthly policy call? Make sure to view the recording [here!](#)
- LWVPA Board Member Kathy Cook has written an article on hydrogen hubs in PA. [Click here to read.](#)

- The League is pleased by Governor Shapiro's decision to appeal the Commonwealth Court decision regarding Pennsylvania's entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). [Read our statement here.](#)
 - The League urges the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to take action on critical gun safety bills. [Read our statement here.](#)
 - Our partners at the Committee of Seventy interviewed Beth Schwanke, JD on election security and cyberspace in elections. [Click here to watch.](#)
 - Need help writing a Letter to the Editor? LWVPA Board Member Kathy Cook is here to help! Whether it's concept, editing, or ghost writing, send Kathy an email at kathy.cook@palwv.org to brush up on your LTE skills.
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2024 will be a challenging year as we expect to see continued attempts to limit access to the polls, challenge fair election results, and stifle the voices of Pennsylvania voters. [Please consider making a special year-end donation to the League today.](#) Your support will empower Pennsylvanians to make informed decisions at the ballot box and beyond!

Advocacy and Action

LWVPA is partnering with Ceasefire PA to encourage action on two important gun safety bills, and we need YOUR help! Please consider writing a letter to the editor advocating for common sense gun laws which protect and benefit all Pennsylvanians. Need help getting started? [Use Ceasefire PA's LTE Toolkit](#), with talking points, tips, examples, and more!

Partner Highlight: 2023 Shale and Public Health Conference

Our partners at the Straight Scoop on Shale project held their 11th annual Shale and Public Health Conference last month. [Click here](#) for a rundown and to watch the speaker recordings. To sign up for newsletters from the [Environmental Health Project](#), [click here](#).

Important Address Update

To ensure the League is secure, we've migrated to a new address for all payments.

Please send any future payments to:

League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania

PO Box 830096

Philadelphia, PA 19182-0096

Please send any other communications to:

League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania

922 N 3rd Street

1st Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17102

Upcoming Events

January 23, 7:00 PM - Monthly Policy Updates: Join LWVPA policy directors for monthly updates on advocacy and policy activities, including discussion and idea sharing. [Register here to attend.](#)

LWVPA in the News

[Federal Judge Rules Undated Mail-In Ballots in Pennsylvania Must Be Counted](#)

Stay Connected!

Follow The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania on social media to stay up to date with League activities!

You can find our platforms here:

Instagram - [@lwvpa](#)

Twitter - [@LWVPA](#)

Facebook - [The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania](#)

LinkedIn - [The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania](#)

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