



VOTER

November-December 2018

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LWV- CDC's Delaware County Public Health Study Moving Forward

By Jane Brennan and Barbara Amstutz

Delaware County with a population of over 550,000 residents is the largest county in Pennsylvania and the United States without a county health department. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation ranked Delaware County 12th out of 67 Pennsylvania counties for health factors but 49th for health outcomes. This appalling data is the impetus of renewed advocacy by the League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County to support the formation of a countywide Health Department.

Delaware County Council voted last spring to solicit proposals from university public health departments to conduct a new public health assessment. The last such analysis was completed a decade ago.

Before going out to bid, the county solicited public comment on what issues should be covered in the health assessment study. In July, the LWV-CDC Working Group submitted a memo to members of County Council supporting the formation of a County Health Department that achieves the following:

- Provides basic public health services.
- Monitors, targets and identifies public health and safety issues.
- Improves the health of residents.
- Promotes public education on health issues
- Coordinates responses to public health and safety emergencies.
- Meets state and federal requirements.

Last month, nine universities were selected to submit bids by Feb. 4, 2019, to conduct a health assessment that would cover broad spectrum public health services and the financial feasibility for a county-based health department.

Under the leadership of LWV-CDC League member **Rosemarie Halt**, RPH, MPH, Senior Director of Policy for the Maternity Care Coalition, the LWV-CDC Working Group is currently conducting interviews with Public Health Officials in Montgomery, Bucks, and Chester Counties and the city of Chester to profile the structure and core functions of these neighboring health departments.

Information is being gathered in relation to priority public health concerns, challenges, delivery of services, current state policies, budgetary issuers, and various sources of funding. This information will be a component of the final testimony provided by the League as part of the winning university bidder's collection of information from the public. We will continue to keep you advised of the progress of the study, results of the study and the future of a Public Health Department in Delaware County.



Maternal health is a public health issue



President's Message

October is always one of the most intense months on the year for LWV-CDC. The 2018 Midterms is a particularly exciting election season because of three factors:

- Voter enthusiasm is at its highest level during any midterm in more than two decades. (Pew Research Center's US Politics and Policy, September 26, 2018).
- Young voters are notoriously absent at midterms, but experts say this year could be different, in part because of the political activism surrounding guns. (*They're Young and They Want Change. Now They're Ready to Vote for the First Time*, New York Times, August 25, 2018, Dan Levin)
- Pennsylvania is leading the groundswell, with registered voters 34 and younger now outnumbering those 65 and older, according to the latest statistics from the Pennsylvania State Department issued Aug 13, 2018, according to the New York Times article.

In light of this backdrop of increased enthusiasm for voting, engagement by young voters and a newly drawn U.S. 5th District, three LWV-CDC candidate forums (168th State Representative District, 26th State Senate District and the 5th U.S. Congressional District) were all exceptional successes, as evidenced by standing-room-only venues. For the first time, we worked closely with NAACP of Media, who served as a joint sponsor and integral part of the implementation of the candidate forums.

Energy, and anticipation was palatable as the candidates took the stage. Our moderators, **Mary Jo Gilsdorf, Heidi Gold and Rosalie Spelman** were excellent and assured that a high level of non-partisan, civil discourse was maintained throughout all three evenings. With the help of astute LWV-CDC screeners, audience questions were culled from a large number of submissions.

Questions addressed many critical policy areas – health care, climate change, gun control, immigration, reproductive rights, and education. Special thanks to **Marita Green** who provided outstanding leadership and coordination of the Voter Services Committee including **Jane Brennan, Joe Lesniak, Jodine Mayberry, Rose Marie Lord, Marianne Armstrong, Anne Mosakowski, Joanna Nealon, Nancy Philippi and Olivia Thorne** and many other volunteers.

Deciding whom to vote for can be challenge when it is not patently clear what we are reading is always truthful. LWV-CDC resists this trend by educating the community to make thoughtful choices and to better understand the leadership qualities and positions of each candidate. Video recordings of our three candidate forums and two held by the Radnor LWV — the 165th and 166th State Representative Districts — are available on our <http://LWV-CDC.org/> website.

Join us for two LWV-CDC programs before the close of the year. The Fall Excursion on Nov. 13, 2018, to the Constitution Center for a new exhibit on Hamilton: The Constitutional Clashes that Shaped a Nation (Page 4) and the Holiday Brunch on Dec. 1, 2018, at Springhaven Club (to hear Connie Williams, a former legislator in Pennsylvania state government who will speak on "One Woman's Leadership." Page 4. We look forward to seeing you at both events!

Barbara Amstutz

A Hectic Fall and a Lot of Hard Work Done Well

By Jodine Mayberry

Let's take a deep breath and take a look back at what the League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County has accomplished over the last two months.

In September we had two Hot Topics events — a luncheon featuring Prof. Brett Frischmann on the topic of how the internet is shaping our world and a truly eye-opening evening panel discussion on how educators and law enforcement are working to protect our children and grandchildren in our county's public and private schools.

Few could attend the school gun safety panel discussion because the weather was horrible that night. Those who did attend said it was excellent and the three panelists were perfect complements to one another. The League is trying to hold evening events to accommodate members and supporters who work during the day but we typically have a lower turnout than our luncheons, so support these evening events when you can.

On Oct. 13, we had our first ever half-day civics seminar "Making Democracy Work" with Keynote Speaker Judge Dominic Pileggi and three workshops — on the Pa. Legislature, the state judiciary and redistricting — topics that you told us in a pre-event survey you wanted to know about. More than 30 people attended even though we had lost our original venue and had to scramble to get a new one.

Our Board Member **Nancy Philippi**, who has been a one-woman crusader for civic education, pulled that seminar together with the help of a committee of League members. Call her if you want to help on future civics projects. Nancy has also gone to libraries all over the county to explain the 2018 midterm and state legislative elections and

emphasize the importance of voting.

Our voter education expert **Marita Green** worked her usual magic to pull off three standing-room only candidates' forums, attended in each case by hundreds of people, while a fourth didn't take place because a candidate pulled out.

People do not appreciate how difficult it is to negotiate the rules of these forums with each side, find venues, hire videographers, recruit moderators and run the forums. Marita had help from several League members for which she and the board are very grateful.

Finally, on Nov. 2, we had a packed room, more than 80 people, to hear pollster and political science professor **G. Terry Madonna** give his entertaining and usually spot-on prognostications about the likely outcome of this year's elections in Pennsylvania.

With all of this, the League has also been registering voters, manning tables at community days and senior citizens expos and even marching in parades. It has been a hectic couple of months. We are jumping into planning for the second half of the year and we will be holding our fall fund-raising event Nov. 13, a special tour of the National Constitution Center and the new Hamilton Exhibit and our annual holiday brunch, Dec. 1. See Page 4 about both.

The League simply could not do all of these things without the support of its members — both financially through dues and donations, and physically through good old-fashioned elbow grease — so thank you for all you do. Going forward, the board will be calling members when specific projects require volunteer help so more of you can get involved.

If you haven't paid your 2018-2019 dues, please do so and don't forget, students can join for free so if there are students in your family, encourage them to join.

Watch five debates and G. Terry Madonna's election presentation on Trump and the Mid-term Elections on our website: <http://LWV-CDC.org/>.

November-December Events

Nov. 13 (Tuesday) — National Constitution Center tour and Hamilton exhibit. Bus leaves from Swarthmore Players Club 8:45 a.m. Lunch on your own. Bus departs from Constitution Center 3 p.m. \$49 or \$95 for two.

Dec. 1 (Saturday) — LWV-CDC Holiday Brunch. Speaker Connie Williams. 9 a.m. Springhaven Club. \$25.



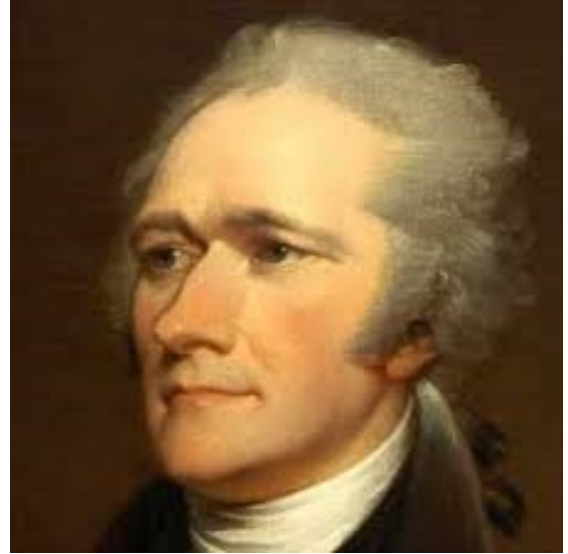
Constitution Center and Hamilton Exhibit Fall Excursion

The League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County is sponsoring a tour of the Constitution Center and its special exhibit: Hamilton: The Constitutional Clashes that Shaped a Nation.

The insiders' tour will be Nov. 13. The bus will leave from the Swarthmore Players Club parking lot, 614 Fairview Ave., Swarthmore at 8:45 a.m. Cost is \$49 per person or \$95 for two. Bring a spouse or a friend.

The Hamilton exhibit explores the constitutional debates that shaped early America and some of the personalities involved, including Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams.

Register and pay via PayPal at <http://www.LWV-CDC.org/> or make checks payable to LWV-CDC and mail to LWV-CDC, P.O. Box 131, Wallingford, Pa., 19086. Register second person at same time. Space is limited and time is running out, so call Gloria Rabinowitz at 302-521-7743 or email gloria_rabinowitz@verizon.net to reserve seats. Do it today.



Alexander Hamilton

Constance H. Williams to be Holiday Brunch Speaker



Constance H. Williams

Former Pennsylvania State Senator Constance H. (Connie) Williams will speak on "One Woman's Leadership" at the LWV-CDC's annual holiday brunch, Saturday, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. Springhaven Club. Cost is \$25.

Williams was a state senator from 2001 to 2009 and a state representative from 1997 to 2001. She is a current member and former president of the Philadelphia Art Museum Board of Trustees.

This event is open only to LWV-CDC members and their guests. Make reservations no later than Wednesday, Nov. 21. as space is limited. Mail checks and this form with your meal selection to LWV-CDC, Box 131, Wallingford, Pa. 19086.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

No. of People attending _____

Choose _____ Vegetable Frittata Eggs Benedict _____

We *still* need help!

We really need someone to manage our Facebook page. If you're interested, please call Olivia Thorne at (610) 566-5474 or email her at olivia.thorne@verizon.net.