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Area Bulletin

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League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE HUNTINGTON AREA

May 2024 E-mail Bulletin

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Voting is my super power!



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A Darker Side of Shale

Nyoka Baker Chapman

Now that Patrick Morrissey may be the next governor of WV, stopping WV's political pushback against the Environmental Protection Agency may be impossible.

<https://www.eenews.net/articles/west-virginia-launches-next-legal-battle-over-epa-climate-power/#:~:text=West%20Virginia%20Attorney%20General%20Patrick%20Morrissey%2C%20the%20Republican%20who%20led,plants%20and%20new%20gas%20facilities impossible>. If JB McCuskey becomes Attorney General and Jim Justice



wins a Senate Seat, there is a potential triumvirate of support for fossil fuel supremacy.

Jim Justice's veto of HB 5528 at the close of the recent legislative session sent a clear signal that solar is less welcome than previously thought in WV under his leadership.

<https://wvpublic.org/justice-vetoes-bill-to-expand-size-of-renewable-power-projects/>

https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2024_SESSIONS/RS/bills/hb5528%20intr.pdf

The veto of a bipartisan bill that would have supported expanded solar energy production on the basis of having concerns that it will interfere with WV's coal industry is short sighted indeed, clearly ignoring AEP's mission statement and declaration of an increased purchase of renewable energy. See this report made from this Clarksburg news feed regarding Justice's remarks about his decision to veto the bill.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.wboy.com/news/west-virginia/west-virginia-politics/solar-advocates-share-disappointment-in-justices-solar-utility-bill-veto/amp/>

‘However, Justice claimed he didn’t want this bill to limit coal-based energy production in the Mountain State, and that is why he vetoed House Bill 5528.’ ‘I just vetoed a bill that was known as an AEP bill. First and foremost, I would tell you that AEP is a good company, at least I think, but really and truly what I believe is that what is going on with the higherups to try and shove coal to the background, I don’t like that,’ Justice said.

The truth is that some candidates have continued to shove the truth about fossil fuels under the rug. Presentations from the 2023 Shale and Public Health Conference continue to be available and reveal the hard reality of how the lives of those who live in proximity to the fossil fuel industry continue to be impacted.

<https://www.shalepalwv.org/2023-shale-public-health-conference/>

Dr. Mary Willis provided information about the particular impact on children and the unborn, which continues to be ignored by lawmakers. Lower birth weights, preterm births and poor birth outcomes are of grave concern and do not align with WV's laws about preserving life. At the same conference, a presentation by Justin Nobel gave a definitive look at the horrific end cycle of waste disposal horrors created by natural gas fracking operations.

<https://www.desmog.com/2024/04/24/petroleum-238-fracking-big-oil-dangerous-secret-justin-noble-ohio-west-virginia-toxic-waste/>

[Beyond Fracking: Oil-and-Gas Industry's Toxic Waste Is Radioactive \(rollingstone.com\)](http://rollingstone.com)
[EPA begins sealing off what's been dubbed 'Fairmont's Chernobyl' | Local News | timeswv.com](http://timeswv.com)

A margin of difference could be made by strengthening regulations in WV fracking permits. WV currently allows fracking at a distance of only 625 feet to an occupied dwelling and the proximity allowed to various water sources is absolutely shocking. These 'restrictions' are available for review at the DEP website under **H6A Checklist** Checklist for Horizontal 6A Permit (*See at the end of WW-6A7 Well Restrictions Forms.*) Delegate Evan Hansen's **HB 4906** unfortunately remained stagnant in the House Energy and Manufacturing committee.

<https://dep.wv.gov/oil-and-gas/Horizontal-Permits/Horizontal%20Well%20Permit%20Packet/Pages/default.aspx>

That salty brine that may be found deicing our WV highways is much more than just rock salt and is likely to be coupled with fracking waste. WV is one of 13 states that made agreements to deposit these toxic chemicals on their roads to deice roads. This agreement began in 2011.

<https://dep.wv.gov/WWE/Documents/WVDOHWVDEP%20Salt%20Brine%20Agreement.pdf>

Disposing of fracking waste in plain sight is certainly one way to get rid of it. The lethal chemistry inherent in fracking formulas (some of which are protected as intellectual property) and the residual radioactive components that result from deep horizontal drilling make each company's waste unique. Lubricants, a source of carcinogenic PFAS, are also a component of fracking fluids.

Candidates must be expected to address the ongoing problems of fossil fuel pollution and the disposal of resulting waste materials from toxic extraction methods. There will be only more troubled waters if renewable energy generation is curtailed from the future of energy production in WV.

https://www.timeswv.com/news/local_news/epa-begins-sealing-off-whats-been-dubbed-fairmonts-chernobyl/article_65242736-6ece-11ee-b30f-1fcc7256b499.html



Cabell County Excess Levy

Betty Barrett

Cabell County voters loudly declared their opposition to cutting funding to libraries and parks in the excess levy, by a vote of 64 to 36. The excess levy has been resoundingly approved since 1967. Now there is time to restructure the levy for the November election, which superintendent Saxe says he is willing to negotiate.

It is possible to bring back the previous percentage split or other arrangement. Though the Supreme Court said it was not legal to require this, it is all right for the Board of Education to approve it. There is time before the new five-year levy expires to work with the legislature to plan new excess levies for individual funding.

In any case, the League of Women Voters supports adequate funding for all three agencies, which is closer to possible with the old excess levy funding structure. It is clear we need funding for schools along with libraries and parks. West Virginia has always needed more funding to make these truly adequate, but we come closer sharing as we used to. Fortunately, we have an opportunity now to work together to provide better for schools, libraries and parks. We need to begin now.



Did You Join the LWV in 1974 or Earlier?

Many of our Huntington League members joined the LWV fifty or more years ago, some of us while living in other parts of the United States besides Huntington.

If this sounds like YOU, please contact membership chair, Marcia Daoust. (304-840-9657, gmardaoust@gmail.com) You may be eligible to be honored as a Life

Member of the LWV, which will enable you to have free lifetime membership from 2024 and into the future. So far, Helen Gibbons and 3 other of our Huntington members qualify, but we suspect many more of you do as well. A lifetime member is defined as someone who has been a member for 50 or more years. The years of membership don't need to be continuous, but they do need to total up to 50 years.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Welcome to Our Newest League Members

Buchanan, Francie Roberts

Duke, Loraine "Rainey"

Garbesi, Charlotte R.

Maynard, Joanne.

McClelland, C. J.

Oxley, Sally B.

Thackston, Laura K.

Wheeler, Jennifer Ann



Join or Renew Your Membership



The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan volunteer organization that encourages informed and active participation of

citizens in government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate, but is engaged in local, state, and national issues of importance to our communities. The League works to influence public policy through advocacy and education. Membership is open to anyone age 16 or older. Dues are free for full-time students, \$50 for an individual, and \$75 for two persons in a household. Send you check to Carolyn Bagby, 79 North Bradley Foster Drive, Huntington, WV 25701.

MEMBERSHIP FORM – LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HUNTINGTON AREA

League membership is open to all men and women aged 16 or older.

Single membership is \$50.00. Two Memberships in the same household are a total of \$75.00. Students may join for free. Please pay by cash or a check made out to the League of Women Voters of Huntington. Dues are needed one year since your last payment.

Mail dues to: LWVHA c/o Carolyn Bagby, 79 N Bradley Foster Dr, Huntington WV, 25701.

Please write “Dues” on your payment, if paying by check.

Please include this information with your payment.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone number for local League use. _____ (Optional, but increases LWVHA effectiveness.)

Amount paid: \$ _____

NOTE: When you join the local League, you also become a member of the LWV United States and LWV WV. (We share your mailing address and email with them.) We do not share your personal information with any other organization. Most communication from the Huntington League is by email.

MY AREAS OF GREATEST CONCERN:

Please indicate if you are a student. (Students are exempt from paying dues.)

I am a full-time student at _____ and qualify for free membership.

Student ID number: _____.

Note: Additional donations are always welcome. PLEASE write “**Donation**” on your check, if making a donation.

Thanks!