

# WE VOTER

Volume 27, No. 8

May 2021

## ARE YOU READY FOR THE PRIMARY? THE LWVPGH WEBSITE IS!

It's hard to gather information on the small, local races and candidates in municipal and judicial primaries. The web team has been working to make our website a "one-stop shopping" destination for primary information in Allegheny County, highlighting the resources of the teams working on Candidate Forums, Vote411, and Civic Education. What's new? Starting on the homepage – [lwvpgh.org](http://lwvpgh.org).

- ✓ **Common Pleas Candidate Video Gallery:** [lwvpgh.org/common-pleas](http://lwvpgh.org/common-pleas). You can't fit 39 candidates into one Zoom candidate forum, but you can fit them all on a webpage. The Voter Services team asked all 39 candidates for the Court of Common Pleas to submit a video answering 2 questions — one about cash bail, and one about alternatives to incarceration in sentencing. **33 of the 39 participated**, providing a unique resource for voters to hear directly from the candidates in this crowded race.
- ✓ **Vote411 widget** on the homepage — When voters seek out LWV at election time, they're usually looking for Vote411.org. That's why all of the new primary pages link to this valued resource. And, on both the homepage and the Primary 101 page, a widget allows you to enter your address, and go directly to your ballot information on [vote411.org](http://vote411.org). (See more on page 4.)
- ✓ **New and updated infographics, tutorials and fliers**, including a new "rack card" with detailed information and resources to help voters participate in the 2021 Primary, available in both English and Spanish. All are available in the Voter Resource Library, with several featured on the homepage and Primary 101 page.
- ✓ **A new Primary 2021 menu** with several new and updated pages:
  - \* **Primary 101:** [lwvpgh.org/primary](http://lwvpgh.org/primary) - important dates and details, and an explanation of how Pennsylvania's closed primary system affects your ballot.
  - \* **Candidate Forums:** [lwvpgh.org/forums](http://lwvpgh.org/forums) – a calendar of upcoming forums with links to registration or viewing information, AND archived recordings of past forums, including forums covering the statewide judicial races from Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts and LWVPA.
  - \* **Ballot Questions:** [lwvpgh.org/ballot-q](http://lwvpgh.org/ballot-q) – information and analysis for all statewide, countywide and municipal ballot questions that will appear on Allegheny County ballots.
  - \* **Make a Voting Plan:** [lwvpgh.org/make\\_a\\_plan](http://lwvpgh.org/make_a_plan), and
  - \* **Mail in Voting:** [lwvpgh.org/mail-in](http://lwvpgh.org/mail-in) are both completely updated with current primary dates, County Elections Office extended hours, dropbox information, and more.



## CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



April 29, 2021 was designated as a national Day of Action for People Powered Fair Maps by LWVUS. Leagues and partner organizations all over the country came up with creative ideas to highlight the issue.

In PA, the League, along with Fair Districts PA planned rallies, voter registrations events, hikes, bike races, doggie-photo events, a selfie campaign and even a kayak crossing of the Susquehanna River to call attention to the problem of gerrymandered districts. With rain in the forecast for the Pittsburgh area on the 29<sup>th</sup>, LWVPGH and FDP-Allegheny County took to the heights of Mt. Washington on the 28<sup>th</sup> to express our support for fair, transparent maps as part of our efforts. We took individual pictures and even had a drone photo-shoot. A picture of our efforts is to the right.



While that was a fun way to remind legislators about gerrymandering, serious work is going on behind the scenes. Multiple meetings have been held with

legislators throughout PA; the reapportionment data that will drive some of the redistricting work has been received and, PA will, indeed, lose one Congressional seat in the realignment. The Legislative Reapportionment Commission composed of the 4 leaders of the state House and Senate has begun interviewing candidates for the all-important fifth seat on the Commission. They have some 40 or so applicants with a variety of backgrounds and experience. Information can be found here:

<https://www.redistricting.state.pa.us>

With the primary election just a few weeks away, Allegheny County Department of Elections has begun

mailing out ballots for those who have applied for the mail-in option. There will be no satellite locations in the County for this election and the only drop box will be located in the lobby of the County Office Building on Forbes Avenue. You can find all sort of election-related information on our website and I encourage you to take a look: [www.lwvpgh.org](http://www.lwvpgh.org). [Ed. note: See also previous page.]

LWVPA will be having its Convention via Zoom this year on June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, so, if you've never been able to attend before because of the need to travel, here's your opportunity to learn about and interact with League members throughout Pennsylvania. Sign up if you can!

And, of course, LWVPGH will be scheduling our Annual Meeting via Zoom for some time later in June as well. Keep on the lookout for that.

And, of course, we're all looking forward to being able to return to some in-person events as more and more of us are vaccinated.

Encourage everyone you know to utilize all the League-related information to become as informed as possible and make sure to VOTE!

Maureen Grosheider

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VOTER Editor: Sue Broughton

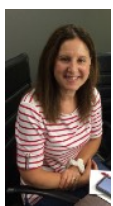
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Facebook	<a href="http://www.facebook.com">www.facebook.com</a>	Search: League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh	

## PROGRAM by Cris Beuger, Program Chair



I hope you were able to attend our April event "How to Evaluate Judicial Candidates" where Caroline Mitchell, Esq, and Heather Heidelbaugh, Esq shared insight from their experience rating candidates on the Allegheny County Bar Association's Judicial Committee. Armed with the knowledge on what to look for in a candidate, we were now able to do our own research into the 39 + candidates running for Judicial seats in Allegheny County and across the Commonwealth in order to make an educated decision on who to vote for in the Primary Election this month, May 18th!

In addition, I hope you participated in our April Day of Action "The Picture is Clear – Pennsylvanians want Fair, Transparent Redistricting!" by taking your gerrymandering "selfie" and uploading on to your social media sites. Please keep reaching out to your legislators on the importance of passing HB 22 and SB 222.

Look for updates on our monthly meeting in May in our weekly Blast. The most important date to remember this month is Tues., May 18, 2021, PA Primary Day! We all know the importance of local elections so please VOTE!



## Standing Meetings

### Board Meetings

- ✓ **Second Monday** of the month.  
Lunch at 11:30 a.m., at Einstein Bagels in the Koppers Building.  
Meeting: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the LWVGP CIC (office) conference room at 436 Seventh Ave., Suite 350

### Local Area Unit Meetings

- ✓ **Pittsburgh Central:** 2nd Friday, 1:30 p.m. at the Squirrel Hill Public Library, 5801 Forbes Ave., Pgh. PA 15217. Contact Martha Raak at 412-477-7572 or [marbiker1@gmail.com](mailto:marbiker1@gmail.com)
- ✓ **North Hills:** 3rd Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. at St Paul's Methodist Church at 1965 Ferguson Road in Hampton. Contact Nancy Mott at 412-779-3089 or [namott001@gmail.com](mailto:namott001@gmail.com)
- ✓ **South Hills:** 1st Thursday, 12:30 p.m. at the Mt. Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Pgh, PA 15228 (unless otherwise announced). Contact Maureen Mamula at 412-760-9642 or [mamula159@hotmail.com](mailto:mamula159@hotmail.com)

### Other Ongoing Meetings

- ✓ **Education Committee**  
Committee is reorganizing.  
Meeting date and chair TBD
- ✓ **Voter Service Committee**  
1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 12:30 pm.  
Contact Judy Clack at 512-731-0280 or [voterservice@lwvpgh.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvpgh.org)
- ✓ **Gun Safety Committee**  
Dates TBD. Contact Nancy Naragon at 412-366-2446 or [development@lwvpgh.org](mailto:development@lwvpgh.org)
- ✓ **Non-fiction Book Club**  
3rd Friday, 10:15 am. Contact Joan Cucinotta, 412-708-2335 or [joancucinotta@gmail.com](mailto:joancucinotta@gmail.com)

## MAY-JUNE CALENDAR

### May

3 Mon	8 pm, <b>Magistrate Judge Forum for 05-02-04</b> on Zoom
4 Tue	Voter Service Committee, 12:30-2:30 pm by videoconference
4 Tue	7-8:30 pm, <b>Mt. Lebanon School Board Forum</b> , on Zoom
6 Thu	6-8:15 pm, <b>Pittsburgh School Board Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 and Pittsburgh City Council Districts 2 and 4</b> , on Zoom
9 Sun	8 am, <b>WPXI-TV, Pittsburgh Mayoral Forum # 3</b> ,
10 Mon	Board meeting by Zoom, 12:30 pm
21 Fri	Non-Fiction Book Club, 10:15 am

### June

1 Tue	Voter Service Committee, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm by videoconference
12 Mon	Board meeting by Zoom, 12:30 pm
16 Fri	Non-Fiction Book Club, 10:15 am, Location TBA

## Vote411 for the Primary is live and ready for voters to use

This is the Primary for candidates to be elected in the fall that will impact your everyday life where you live. And it is a big deal in Allegheny County: 22 race categories, 1174 individual races including all the judges from Superior to Magistrates. Go online to [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org), enter your address and see your ballot, including the ballot questions. It's all there.

Making it happen requires hundreds of hours of my time (I kid you not) plus tremendous help from the Allegheny County Elections Division for source data, Maureen Grosheider, Judy Clack, Preston Shimer, Barbara Simpson, the entire Voter Service Committee who helped with candidate email addresses and questions, plus expert pro and con evaluations for the ballot questions by Paula Hopkins.

Thanks to everyone for this labor. If you didn't work on the [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) project, here is a job for you. Use it as part of your plan for voting and tell 5 or more of your friends to use it.

Annette Shimer



## VOTER SERVICE by Judy Clack, Voter Service Chair

### Court of Common Pleas

39 candidates are vying for the 9 open positions as a judge on the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. Voters can each select nine candidates. The top nine vote getters for each party will be on the ballot in November. Rather than holding candidate forums for 39 candidates, the LWVPGH Voter Service committee decided to invite all candidates to submit a 3-minute video response to our two questions about cash bail and alternatives to incarceration. 33 of the 39 candidates participated. View their responses in alpha order at [LWVPGH Common Pleas](#). The videos can also be found on our League's YouTube page:

[LWVPGH YouTube](#). Kudos to **Emily Ferri**, **Ruth Quint**, and **Preston Shimer** for all the behind-the-scenes work on this project.



### Upcoming LWVPGH Candidate Forums

**Mon. May 3**, 8 pm, **Magistrate Judge Forum for 05-02-04** covering Aspinwall, Blawnox, Fox Chapel, Indiana, O'Hara, and Sharpsburg. Co-sponsored by LWVPGH and Jen Klein's Fox Chapel Area High School AP US History Classes. Moderated by Cris Beuger, LWVPGH Vice-President. Find forum at [LWVPGH Forums](#), [LWVPGH Facebook](#), or [LWVPGH YouTube](#).

**Tues. May 4**, 7 – 8:30 pm, **Mt. Lebanon School Board Forum**, organized by Mt. Lebanon Public Library, LWVPGH, and the Denis Theatre Foundation. Moderator, Jon Delano, KDKA and Denis Theatre Foundation. Broadcast live on Zoom, available thereafter on LWVPGH Facebook and YouTube pages. Preregister to receive Zoom link and to submit a short question. [Click here to register](#).

**Thurs. May 6**, 6 – 8:15 pm, **Pittsburgh School Board Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 and Pittsburgh City Council Districts 2 and 4**: Organized by LWVPGH, B-PEP, and VEEEM with other co-sponsors. Moderator is reporter Chandi Chapman of WTAE. Broadcast live on the LWVPGH Facebook page ([LWVPGH Facebook](#)) and available thereafter on all co-sponsors' Facebook pages. No preregistration required.

**Sun. May 9**, 8:00 am, **WPXI-TV, Pittsburgh Mayoral Forum # 3**, organized by B-PEP, with multiple co-sponsors including LWVPGH, VEEEM, Urban League of Pittsburgh, and ACLU-PA. Moderated by reporter Lisa Sylvester of WPXI.

### Past Candidate Forums

Below is a list of past candidate forums relevant to the May 18 Primary. To view them, go to this page: [LWVPGH Forums](#). Links to see each of these forums are listed. A calendar of upcoming forums and how to connect to them is included there too.

**Pittsburgh Mayoral Forum**, Thursday, April 8, organized by Pittsburgh United with LWVPGH co-sponsoring. Moderated by Khalif Ali of Common Cause.

**Mt. Lebanon/Dormont Magistrate Judge District 05-02-19**, Saturday, April 10, organized by LWVPGH with moderator Maureen Grosheider, co-president, LWVPGH.

**Pittsburgh Mayoral Forum** organized by WTAE and LWVPGH and broadcast in its entirety on April 28. Moderated by anchor Andrew Stockey of WTAE.

**Pennsylvania Supreme Court Candidate Forum, Pennsylvania Superior Court Candidate Forum, Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court Candidate Forum**, March 17, April 6, and April 19. Organized by Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts with LWVPA one of the co-sponsors.

### Outreach: Food Pantries and Senior Subsidized Housing

Outreach was made to food pantries and to senior subsidized housing buildings in the county by providing voter education materials geared to the primary election. For the food pantries, 5,000 large postcards were composed, designed, printed and hand delivered by LWVPGH members to area food pantries. The detailed, small font text of the postcard was simplified and enlarged for use in the senior subsidized housing buildings in

*Continued next page*

two different formats. First, PDFs of larger font documents were emailed to 257 building managers to post on their bulletin boards, mail rooms, and near elevators. In addition, 2,000 door hangers with a briefer version of that information were distributed to buildings where the managers were willing to put one on every door. See samples of the front of the door hanger (right) and the back of the Get Ready to Vote document (below). Leading these efforts were **Jane Butler, Judy Clack, Kathy Herbst, Ruth Quint, and Linda Schneider** with a host of other LWVPGH members preparing packets, making food pantry deliveries, and



## May 18 PA Primary Election



### What is a Closed Primary?

There are two elections every year: a closed Primary Election in the spring (May 18, 2021), and an open General Election in the fall (Nov. 2, 2021.) Pennsylvania's closed primary election only allows members of the two major political parties—Republican or Democratic—to choose their candidates for the General Election. However, all voters can vote on all ballot questions. See below. Any registered voter can vote for any candidate of any party in the General Election. There is no "independent" party in Pennsylvania, but candidates in the Libertarian, Green and other Parties can run for office in the General Election, and anyone can vote for them.



### Ballot Questions and Amendments

In the Primary, **all voters can vote on ballot questions**, amendments, and special elections. There will be five or six ballot questions on the Primary ballot: four statewide ballot questions, one county-wide ballot question, and one city-wide ballot question. Go to [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) or [lwvpg.org](http://lwvpg.org) for descriptions of each of these ballot questions.

### Changing or Choosing a Party



In order to vote for candidates in a closed primary election, you had to choose either the Democratic or Republican party when you registered to vote. However, you can choose or change your party affiliation by re-registering at [VotesPA.com](http://VotesPA.com) or requesting a paper registration form. Just check Change Party. Find resources on the reverse side.

### Who Is Running for Office?



2021 is a Local Election year. Running for office this year are 1/2 of Allegheny County Council and the Sheriff, 1/2 of Pittsburgh City Council and the Pittsburgh Mayor, 1/2 of the Pittsburgh School Board, 1/2 of every other School Board in the County, 1/2 of every municipal or borough council, Magistrate Judges, Statewide Supreme Court, Superior Court and Commonwealth Court Judges, and 39 candidates are running for 9 open positions on the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. Go to [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) for candidate and ballot question information.



members are collaborating with the county's eight Public Access TV stations in Bethel Park, Monroeville, Moon Township, Mt. Lebanon, Pittsburgh (PCTV), Plum Borough, and Upper St. Clair, as well as an Allegheny County Housing Authority new YouTube channel. The volunteers plan to develop announcements for video bulletin boards and short educational videos to be broadcast, as well as to provide the video content of all LWVPGH and LWVPA candidate forums. Contact chair, **Jane Butler** ([jbutler.mac@mac.com](mailto:jbutler.mac@mac.com)) if you'd like to help with this outreach.

### Upcoming Voter Service Meetings

All members are welcome to join the Voter Service Committee at any time to expand our voter education and voter registration outreach. Attend on Zoom via computer or phone. Our next two meetings are **Tuesday, May 4, 12:30 – 2:30 pm** and **Tuesday, June 1, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm**. (Note earlier time on June 1.) Email Judy Clack at [voterservice@lwvpg.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvpg.org) to receive an Agenda, supporting documents and a Zoom Invitation.

contacting hundreds of building managers.

### Colleges/ Universities and Naturalization

The College and University committee has continued its communication with all institutions in the county,

providing them with Teasers and links to relevant infographics. Led by **Cynthia Cominsky**, each member concentrates on one college or university. **Judy Diorio** leads the efforts of the Naturalization Committee. Although LWVPGH members have not been allowed to attend the very simplified naturalization ceremonies in person, we continue to provide updated materials to the new citizens being naturalized. At least 1,536 new citizens have been reached since they resumed these smaller ceremonies.

### New Project: Public Access TV

A new subcommittee has formed to reach individuals who own televisions but do not have computers or internet access. These

## Vote May 18, 2021! PA Primary Election

### To Vote by Absentee or Mail-in Ballot:



- Apply online [VotesPA.com](http://VotesPA.com), or request an application from the County Elections Office: (412) 350-4500

### To Vote In-Person:

Polls are open from 7am-8pm on MAY 18.

### Remember These Deadlines:

(If mailing, add time. Postmarks do not count!)

- May 3: Last day to register to vote.
- May 11: Last day to apply for mail-in or absentee ballot.
- May 18: Election Day. Vote in Person. Mail in or absentee ballots must be received by 8pm.



### Need More Information?

[www.VotesPA.com](http://www.VotesPA.com) - Register, apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot or find your polling place.



[www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org) - League of Women Voters' online voters' guide to YOUR ballot.

**Allegheny County Elections Office**  
412-350-4500

**League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh**  
412-261-4284



Email: [info@lwvpg.org](mailto:info@lwvpg.org). Website: [www.lwvpg.org](http://www.lwvpg.org)

## **EDUCATION ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT** by Phyllis Dreyfuss

With so much going on in Harrisburg in relation to school funding and charter school reform, I thought it would be a good time to briefly update our information for all of our members. (We are in the process of reorganizing the education committee.)

### **Funding for Children with Disabilities**

This issue concerns special education funding particularly for charter schools. The present law wastes public money and encourages an unequal system. The data indicates that charter schools enroll only half as many students with high-cost special education needs, limiting their students with disabilities to a low-cost special education. House Bill 272 has been introduced that would apply the special education formula to charter schools. Governor Wolf's proposal would move to fund special education at charter schools using the same formula for funding those students in individual districts – creating parity between school districts and charter schools by using the same special education funding formula for both kind of schools — saving multi millions of dollars in taxpayer money and ensuring that funding is spent on direct services for students. The present system is quite complicated.

### **Fair Funding**

Pennsylvania's school funding lawsuit will go to trial in 2021. In 2014 Philadelphia and the Education Law Center PA filed a lawsuit on behalf of individuals, school districts and organizations making the complaint that the funding system in Pa violates the state Constitution. “The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth.” Pennsylvania is more reliant on local wealth to fund schools than all but six other states, with only 38 percent of funding coming from the state level. That means that areas with low income serving students with the greatest needs have less money. Too many of our districts must rely on property taxes to fund their schools — higher property values mean more money for schools because the legislation permits large differences. Actually, it promotes unequal funding between rich and poor districts. Across the Keystone State, 86% of public-school students are attending schools that are underfunded. Finally, the state is being taken to court for failure to properly fund our schools — a constitutional right — with a landmark trial slated to begin in Harrisburg this fall. Underfunded is a project of the Public Interest Law Center, with grant support from the William Penn Foundation. For more information on the fight to fund public schools in PA, visit [FundOurSchoolsPA.org](http://FundOurSchoolsPA.org). More than 50 percent of Black students and 40 percent of Latino students attend districts in the bottom 20 percent of local wealth. In Pennsylvania, local wealth shapes everything kids need: teachers, counselors, nurses, librarians, computers and STEM labs, art /music, smaller class sizes and remedial help.

### **Charter School Reform Proposed by Governor Wolf**

Governor Tom Wolf says, “It's time to fix our charter school laws.” Numerous past efforts to reform the state's 24-year-old charter school law have been made but have never reached the Governor's desk.

Reform remains the subject of heated debate among many Pennsylvania's elected officials, charter school parents and educators. Some charter schools are doing a good job, but there remains a need for greater transparency, accountability and oversight. Cyber schools, in particular, have long been benefiting by the present payment system. The reform proposal would establish a flat \$9,500 per student rate for all cyber charter schools instead of the various rates from district to district. Data for cyber schools shows very low scores in all areas and very low graduation rates. Over 60,000 students learn in one of the 14 cyber schools — the number of students has appreciably grown during this year.

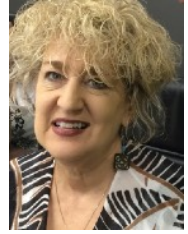
## Civics Education in Schools and Community

Amy Kleissas, Chair

### High School Outreach, March-May 2021

In March and April, 2021 we accomplished our goal of reaching high school students with voter registration and civic education, not letting the pandemic slow us down. Well, it did slow us down a bit!

We created a revised PowerPoint presentation entitled, **#Make Government Work for You**. Joanne Moore led the revision and coordinated our outreach by offering the virtual school presentation to 40 Allegheny County high schools via email. Considering the level of stress that teachers and students have been experiencing, we were very pleased by the response. While our visits were successful and our presentation was well-received, we all long for a return to in-person classroom visits. Most of our virtual lessons took place in a “hybrid” setting with a small number of students in-person and a larger group online.



Because *virtual voter registration* was especially challenging, we introduced the nonpartisan website, [TurboVote.org](https://www.turbovote.org), which is a website widely used by colleges and universities. When students register with TurboVote, they receive free text or email reminders about their voting status and about upcoming elections. While we know the number of students who participated in our interactive presentations, it has been more difficult to know how many students actually registered to vote. We remain hopeful that seeds were planted and that a majority of eligible students registered with TurboVote.

- **March 22 – Urban Pathways:** Presented to 59 seniors; 35 registrations.
- **March 29, 30 – McKeesport HS:** Presented to 57 seniors; 29 registrations
- **April 15 – Shaler:** Presented to 300 Juniors (a small number of students were eligible)
- **April 19 – Chartiers Valley:** Presented to 59 students; due to a COVID outbreak, instruction switched to all online and the teacher was not able to facilitate voter registration.
- **April 23 – Plum Borough:** Presented to 39 students; 8 registrations
- **May 14 – Possible return to Plum Borough (5 Classroom Sessions with seniors)**
- **Totals: Presented to 514 students resulting in approximately 72 new voters**

### Tutorials, Infographics, and Website updates:

- Four **tutorials** (Voter Registration, Why Vote, Municipal Elections, Mail-in Voting) can be accessed at [lwvpgh.org/tutorials](https://lwvpgh.org/tutorials) and in the Voter Resource Library.
- A **LWVPGH YouTube “Videos” panel** has been added to the Voter Resource Library.
- In the Voter Resource Library, three **graphics** have been added to help users preview content: **AC** for Allegheny County; **PA Keystone** for PA elections, voting and government; and **US Flag** for Civics IQ infographics suitable for any voter. See [lwvpgh.org/resource\\_library](https://lwvpgh.org/resource_library)
- **Primary 2021 Menu Tab and Homepage.** Ruth Quint has been busy adding important election information to the website. Just completed is the new, comprehensive ballot question page at [lwvpgh.org/ballot-q](https://lwvpgh.org/ballot-q) and the **Primary 101 page**. On the “**Common Pleas Candidate Gallery**” page, users can access video links for the 33 candidates who have submitted their videos (out of 39 total candidates).
- **Spanish Language page:** A small committee led by Eileen Olmsted is working on adding more translated infographics and documents to this page. The Google Translate feature seems reliable for Spanish translation.

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### Facts for Citizens poster with QR code:

100 printed posters will be distributed by volunteers to locations with bulletin boards like libraries (if they take them) Panera restaurants, Boys and Girls clubs, YWCA, Churches, Community Centers, etc. Greg Garbinsky has offered to coordinate delivery. Cynthia Cominsky has also asked the College/University team to connect with their contacts at various campuses about the posters. The “QR” code allows individuals to use their smartphones to directly connect to the digital “Facts for Citizens 2021.”

**Printed Materials – Ready-Set-VOTE Bags:** Funded by a grant from The Pittsburgh Foundation, materials for **1500 bags** were ordered and bags were assembled. Per their requests, 500 bags were delivered to VEEEM (Maryn Formley) and 500 bags delivered to B-PEP (Lorraine Cross) for distribution in the community. Another 300 bags were delivered to the Senior Housing Committee for distribution at various centers.

### BOOK CLUB REPORT by Joan Cucinotta

Reflective of our rich curiosity, our book choice did not settle on one title. We are, as always, free to follow our own lights on selections:

- *People, Power, and Profit* by J. Stiglitz (300 pages, 9 library copies, one e-book)
- *Arguing with Zombies* by P. Krugman (411 pages, 10 library copies, one e-book, one audio)
- *We Should Have Seen It Coming* by Gerald Seib (249 pages, 5 copies)
- *Breaking Hate* by Christian Picciolini (219 pages, 5 copies, one CD)
- *A Fighting Chance* by Elizabeth Warren (279 pages, a zillion copies, 3 CD, one mp3)

Our next meeting is May 21.



Kathy Herbst led the food pantry education project for the primary election. Ruth Quint designed the card for each family's food box, Judy Clack edited the text, and Kathy Herbst organized a packing bee of 5,000 “Get Ready to Vote” cards. These volunteers counted out the packets and then delivered them to all county food pantries: Judy Mancini, Kathy Herbst, Ellie Siegal, Linda Schneider, Jan Harrison, Lora Medwid. Not pictured Joyce Beard, Judy Clack and Rosemary Prostko.

**Trying to Choose a Judge?**

Hmmm... Janelle's a nice name, ...but I love Joe's font!

**Vote Joe for Judge**

**JANELLE for JUDGE**

**Need More than a Yard Sign?**

Visit our *Common Pleas Candidate Video Gallery* to hear directly from the candidates at [www.lwvpgh.org/common-pleas](http://www.lwvpgh.org/common-pleas)