



Early voting starts October 8th

AAUW Youngstown Update October 2024

Our next meeting will be a panel discussion on *"The Civic Responsibility of the Engaged University"*. We will be meeting on Monday, October 7, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Youngstown State University. The program will be held in Williamson Hall, Room 3423, 221 North Hazel Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

The panel discussion will focus on engaging students and faculty in initiatives that support civic engagement, community service, volunteerism, philanthropy, and advancing the quality of life in our communities.

Panelists are Laura Dewberry, YSU, Director Center for Nonprofit Leadership; Kathie Chaffee Gaige, League of Women Voters, Chair of Voter Services; Cryshanna Jackson Leftwich, PhD, YSU, Professor, Politics and International Relations; Hazel Marie, PhD, Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering; and Amy Weaver, PhD, YSU, Sweeney Professor of Nursing.

The program is hosted by the Williamson College of Business Administration and is open to the public. Parking is available at St. Columba Cathedral off Wood Street which is across the street from Williamson Hall. If you need a closer location, please contact Melissa 330-398-1157.

AAUW Ohio Fall Conference Report:

Connecting & Communicating: Resources to Make It Happen

Rush Rogers, AAUW Ohio program chair, enlisted members from throughout the state for a panel discussion on how we communicate and connect through all levels of AAUW – from National AAUW resources (online and in person) to Ohio AAUW programs to local branches.

Discussion and information were given about recruiting new members and programs, and how events were publicized. Resources mentioned: accessible webinars at the AAUW National website aauw.org. The upcoming election was discussed, "*It's My Vote: AAUW Priorities in the 2024 Election.*"

A video by Erin Czerniak, former AAUW Ohio public policy chair and a public policy enthusiast/campaign adviser, told us what legislation AAUW is supporting from the Ohio State House.

HB7-Strong foundation Act-supports Mom and baby first 1000 days-improves outcomes for families. Has passed in the House and is in committee in the Senate.

Honesty for Ohio Education. SB1 was pushed through despite the suit as HB'33. The Board of Elections is now a government Workforce and a cabinet position

ELECTION 2024. 85000 voters were purged from the roles. Voting starts on October 8th. Last day to register or check status October 7th. You can register online or mail an application. Recommend mail in ballot a week before the election. AAUW has information on voting on websites.

Issue 1-Vote YES to create a non-political 15-member citizen open and independent process for map making. No current or past politician or lobbyist can serve. Information can be found on Citizens Not Politicians online. Politicians should not pick voters. Other positions up for election as other than President are state representatives, county judicial, Supreme Court judges. U.S. Congressional Reps and county issues.

Remember networks to encourage people to vote. Encourage voters to follow trusted organizations. What else to; do to encourage interest and get out the vote-met folks where they are and listen, use language that encourages participation, use issues relating to them such as the Affordable Care Act, health care. Relate to their struggles.

Economy most important issue for white women. The economy can be related to caregiving, government trust issues, managing perceptions of resources/ rising costs. Desire for safety and stability. Use first person and make conversation personal and demonstrate support and how candidates tie into fairness, safety, security, and hard work. Address complexity of issue. Women deserve to make their own decisions-cannot always control life happenings. Where can you get info- Ohio Voter Guide explains issues and has sample ballot, The Matriots (a non-partisan org supporting women in all aspects of Ohio political life) endorses women, Judicial Votes Count explains races and candidates, Equality Ohio Scorecard rates candidates on DEI. Red, White & Blue voting guide and information.

When women vote, they make a difference!

AAUW concerns:

- EdChoice Vouchers-taking money from public education. Diminished Ohio Public School system.
- Need to work on gender and race gaps-leadership opportunities. 9 states have banned DEI
- College affordability-average student debt in Ohio \$30000. Race is disproportionately affected.
- Pay equity and transparency
- What role would the Federal Government play? Paid leave to support work/life balance. 13 states have medical leave programs, adequate childcare programs.
- Reproductive rights. 9 states and DC have full access. What initiatives do you support
- Voting Rights: 14 states have passed regulations that restrict open and fair elections.
- Need to address misinformation-first amendment rights
- ERA 28th amendment needs to be published and affirmed.



Upcoming Coffee & Convos

- October 19, 2024: *Imagine Freedom: Transforming Pain into Political and Spiritual Power* by Rahiel Tesfamariam.
- November 18, 2024: *The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma* by Bessel van der Kolk M.D.

Clarification on Ed Choice Vouchers:

Vouchers are subsidizing education of students from wealthy families who have never attended public schools.

The schools being supported

- Are not required to serve all students regardless of race gender, socioeconomic status, or religion
- Do not have to hire licensed teachers
- Do not have to teach curriculum based on states academic standards or evaluate students and report how students are doing

- Do not have to provide services for disabled or any learning disability
- Do not have to provide meals or transportation
- Do not have to justify where tax dollars are being spent and costing taxpayers about \$1 billion dollars this year

Ohio legislators approved giving grants and money providing millions of dollars to religious schools to renovate buildings, build classrooms, implore playgrounds and more. Matt Huffman has said this is necessary to increase the capacity so private schools can absorb more voucher students.

Clarification of Issue 1-Why VOTE YES

The truth: Issue 1 will

- Create a 15-member Citizens Commission made up of Republicans, independents and Democrats who represent the different geographic areas and demographics of Ohio
- Ban current or former politicians, party officials and lobbyists from sitting on the commission
- Require fair and impartial districts by making it unconstitutional to draw maps that favor any one party or politician
- Require the commission to operate under an open and independent process
- Restore power to citizens, not politicians

Politicians are using every trick in the book including misleading ballot language to preserve manipulated voting districts to ensure their reelection and preserve their power.

Ohio is one of the most gerrymandered states in the United States and we are voting using maps declared unconstitutional 7 times.

Safeguard our right to a representative government.

Presentation by Dr. Barbara Brothers: *“How Ohio went from Improving education to destroying it.”*

1990s there was a marked difference between testing and high stakes testing. Teachers were not being trusted.

Charter (often called Community Schools) schools are part of the public education system funded by the State. (Their teachers are public school teachers. Schools are subject to audit. They do differ from other public schools in that they can and do hire for-profit management companies.

Changed Charter to “Chartered private schools, non-charter private and homeschooling are not funded by the Fair School Funding Plan schools.

Fair School Funding Plan funds all public schools in the system; addresses both objections of the Ohio Supreme Court ruling in 1997 that Ohio method's funding public education was unconstitutional: too much reliance on property taxes and no formula for amount,

2) Costs to educate a child while considering the concentration of economically disadvantaged students, 3. Financial considerations for the local community (amount the amount the community can fund education).

Community schools are overseen by the state.

Charter private schools, non-charter public schools, and home schooling are not funded by the Fair School Funding Plan.

In 2010 Ohio schools were ranked 5th -now they rank 33rd.

The 2021 Cup Patterson bill was voted on but put in the Capital Budget plan (vote on every 2 years).

McGraw-Hill was taken over by a private equity firm which markets the Science of Reading. Curriculum Governor O'Neil has mandated that it be used in all public schools in Ohio.

Check out [Honesty for Ohio Education](#) and [Vouchershurtohio.org](#).

This is enough information for now!

Jorine
President