



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CONTACT: Liz Forrest - 570-828-7030

**LWV PIKE AND PENN STATE EXTENSION TO HOLD PROGRAM ON
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT**

Milford, PA, March 26, 2019 – Recent news stories regarding the workings of Pike County Townships and Boroughs have raised awareness of just how much local power and influence reside in boards of supervisors and the various commissions that serve them. Their actions can effect not just whole communities, but individuals. Unfortunately, most taxpayers hardly know that these boards and commissions exist until there is controversy. To alleviate this lack of knowledge and to give insight to individuals on how to participate, particularly for newcomers to the county, the Pike County League of Women Voters in collaboration with Penn State Extension will be conducting a “Getting Involved in Your Local Government” workshop **Monday, May 6, 2019 from 7-9 pm at the Pike County Training Center in Lords Valley.**

Peter Wulfhorst of the Penn State Extension will make the presentation and act as moderator for a panel discussion that we hope will include current supervisors, commission members and solicitors. Wulfhorst has been in Economic and Community Development with Penn State Extension in Pike County since 1999. He has extensive experience in land use and comprehensive planning having worked prior to Penn State Extension for 12 years with the Pike County planning department. Peter also currently serves on his local planning commission and is a Board member of a local watershed organization.

In addition, Nadeen Manzoni from the Pike County Board of Elections will be available to demonstrate the county’s new voting system. With the spring primary occurring on May 21, this will be an opportunity for voters to have to see and touch it for themselves.

According to Wulfhorst, Pennsylvania has nearly 2,600 local governments including county, cities, boroughs and townships. In addition, there are 500 school districts and 1,000 municipal authorities. These local governments are run by a local governing body which is elected in odd-number years. One of the responsibilities of the local elected officials is to appoint individuals to the various boards and commissions such as planning commission, zoning hearing board, shade tree commission, recreation board and environmental advisory committee. These boards and commissions are generally policy advising groups who provide the governing body with advice on a variety of matters. The authority to have these boards and commissions and what they do comes from either “Code” of law e.g., borough code, county code, township of the 2nd class code, etc. for each unit of local government or a separate statute, like the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. Pennsylvania local government is always in need of individuals to serve on various boards and commissions at the county as well as township and borough level. Since local government can be a powerful tool for local problem solving and is an integral

part of any community-wide efforts to address issues of local concern, resident participation in local government is essential to achieve a positive impact.

This presentation is open to the public. The League encourages attendance elected officials, candidates who may be elected and will need this knowledge, and anyone else interested in learning more about municipal government.

A Reminder to Candidates: LWV Pike County publishes a free voter guide, published online and on social media, containing candidate names, campaign contact information, positions and qualifications. The candidate contact forms are available for download from the home page at www.lwvpike.org, and include information about submission. Candidates can also reach out to us to have the form emailed directly to them by contacting us at lwvpikecounty@gmail.com. League president Liz Forrest said, "The information is provided strictly by the candidate, with no editing. The only restriction is no attacks on other candidates. Voters want to know who you are, why you are running and what you plan to do. The Pike County Voter Guide is a free and easy way for local candidates to reach out to their voters." The submission deadline for the forms for the spring primary is April 30.

The League of Women Voters never endorses any political candidates or parties and is a non-partisan organization comprised of volunteers who work to help voters make informed decisions by making information available. The League of Women Voters of Pike County is part of the LWV US organization, which was founded to advocate for women's right to vote, and while the name remains in homage to its founders, male members have become an important part of LWV. For those interested in becoming members, visit our web page at <http://www.lwvpike.org>. Anyone wishing more information on activities and future meetings at the local level may send email to LWVPikeCounty@gmail.com.

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