



League of Women Voters  
of Brown County

January 2018



*February 3*  
*Meet Your*  
*Legislators*

*Mark your calendars and plan to  
join us*

*10am–12pm*

*County Annex Building*

*Salmon Room*

*This is your opportunity to meet  
and hear about current legisla-  
tion.*

*State Senator Eric Koch*

*And*

*Representative Chris May*

*Have your questions ready!*

*February 12*

*Brown County LWV  
board meeting.*

*10am lower level library.*

*Brown County Council,  
Boards & Commissioner  
meeting dates, times and  
location can be found at:*

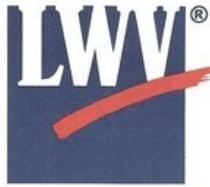
*[http://browncounty-  
in.gov](http://browncounty-<br/>in.gov)*

*Or [browncountydemo-  
crat.com](http://browncountydemo-<br/>crat.com)*

decisions  
are  
made by  
those  
who  
show up.

**In This Issue**

- Calendar
- Highlights
- HCI Update
- Enlightenment
- Earth Day News



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## December Highlights

### December 6

**Concurrence** Brown County League of Women Voters hosted membership concurrence based on the consensus results of revised county fiscal and development questions. Position statements have been amended and sent out to full membership. Members are requested to respond by January 19—Silence is deemed assent.

### December 8

**Resolution** was adopted by Board members:

#### **Old Growth Forest Preservation and Creation on State Forest Lands**

**Whereas** old-growth hardwood forest once covered most of the 23 million acres of presettlement Indiana and therefore were a significant part fo the state’s history and heritage.

**Whereas** less than 3000 acres of this virgin old growth remain today, and most of these old growth forests are small patches of less than 100 acres (from old-growth forest web page on IDNR web site).

**Whereas** the vagaries of nature, including drought, storm, fire, insects and pathogens, will inevitable destroy these last remnant old growth forest, depriving future generation of Indiana citizens the opportunity to experience the environment that shaped their forbearers.

**Whereas**, given time and opportunity, forests that have been harvested in the past will recover and can ultimately develop most or all of the characteristics of historical old growth forests.

**Be it resolved** that the Brown County League of Women Voters supports the proposal and that a portion (30%) of each state forest that historically supported forest vegetation be set aside and protected in perpetuity so as to allow the forests therein to develop into old growth.

**Be it further resolved** that the Brown County League of Women Voters applauds and supports bills proposed before the 2018 legislative session that will carry out these goals (Bassler and Koch, Old Forest Bill #275 and Stoops Loss vs Benefits Bill)



## HCI Update

*Making our community a more vibrant place to live, work and play.*

January 9-team members hit the ground with official survey launch.

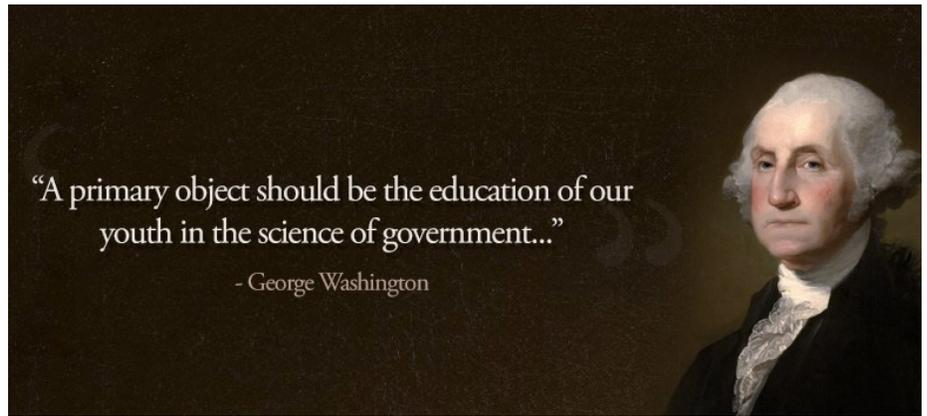
Visit [www.indianahci.org/browncounty](http://www.indianahci.org/browncounty) and complete your survey today

February 20-close survey

March 7-will hold forum at Intermediate school cafeteria. 5:30-8:30

May- make decision on building block; Economy, Leadership or Placemaking and decide capstone project.

For additional information about Brown County Hometown Collaboration Initiative please visit;



## What was the Enlightenment?

The Enlightenment is the name given to the eighteenth –century cultural, intellectual and philosophical movement that produced science, empirical inquiry and the “natural rights” and “social contract” theories of government legitimacy on which our system is based. Enlightenment thinkers include Isaac Newton, Voltaire, Montesquieu, Thomas Hobbes, Adam Smith, John Stuart Mills, John Locke and many others. The Enlightenment ushered in profound changes in the way people thought about science, education, liberty and the role of the government.

The Enlightenment changed the definition of liberty. The Puritans and Pilgrims who came to America defined religious liberty as “freedom to do the right thing”-freedom to worship and obey the right God in the true church, and to use the power of the government to ensure that their neighbors did too. The Founders who crafted our constitution some 150 years later were products of the Enlightenment and its dramatically different concept of liberty. Enlightenment philosophers defined liberty as personal autonomy—an individual’s freedom to make his own moral and political decisions, free of government coercion. In the Enlightenment’s libertarian construction, liberty meant freedom to “do your own thing” so long as you did not thereby harm the person or property of someone else, and so long as you recognized the equal right of others to do their “own thing.” The US Constitution is based upon the Enlightenment understanding of liberty.

The Enlightenment also gave us John Locke’s “social contract” theory of government. Locke believed that government legitimacy rested on a theorized agreement-a “social contract”-between citizens and their governments. Citizens gave the state a monopoly on the use of coercive power in return for the state’s protection of their property, and the state’s maintenance of public order and safety. This was a dramatic change from belief in the divine right of kings, a belief that had long justified monarchy. In Locke’s view-adopted by the Founders-power came from the people who authorized the government to exercise that power for specific purposes, and who could revoke that authority if the government failed to keep its part of the bargain.



## The Idea

The idea for a national day to focus on the environment came to Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a US Senator from Wisconsin, after witnessing the ravages of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, he realized

that if he could infuse that energy with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution, it would force environmental protection onto the national political agenda. Senator Nelson announced the idea for a “national teach-in on the environment” to the national media; persuaded Pete McCloskey, a conservation minded Congressman, to serve as his co-chair, and recruited Denis Hayes from Harvard as national coordinator. Hayes built a national staff of 85 to promote events across the land.

The efforts culminated in the first Earth Day celebration on April 22, 1970, in which figures from both political parties and one in every five Americans—more than 20 million people—participated. They took to the streets, gathered in parks, and convened in auditoriums to demand better protection for our natural resources. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protest against the deterioration of the environment. Legislators from forty-two states passed Earth Day resolutions to commemorate the historic day, and Congress adjourned so that 500 of its members could attend rallies, “teach-ins”, and marches dedicated to the protection of our air, water, forest, and land. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values.

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans, Democrats and Independents and crossed socio economic barriers. By the end of the year, the first Earth Day had led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts.

As 1990 approached, a group of environmental leaders asked Denis Hayes to organize another big campaign. This time Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage. Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

### Earth Day Today

In 2000, Hayes again agreed to spearhead another campaign. With 5000 environmental groups in 184 countries, Earth Day 2000 used the power of the Internet to organize activist, but also featured a drum chain that traveled from village to village in Gabon, Africa. Hundreds of thousand of people gathered on the National Mall in Washington DC for the First Amendment Rally. Earth Day 2000 sent world leaders the loud and clear message that citizens around the world wanted quick and decisive action on climate change and clean energy.

Earth Day 2010 came at a time of great challenge for the environmental community. Climate change deniers, well-funded oil lobbyist, reticent politicians, a disinterested public and a divide environmental community all contributed to the narrative. Despite these challenges, Earth Day prevailed and Earth Day Network reestablished Earth Day as a relevant, powerful focal point. Earth Day Network brought 250,000 people to the National Mall for a Climate Rally, launched the world’s largest environmental service project— A Billion Acts of Green—introduced a global tree planting initiative that has since grown into The Canopy Project, and engaged 22,000 partners in 192 countries in observing Earth Day.

Earth Day had reached into its current status as the largest secular observance in the world, celebrated by more than a billion people every year, and a day of action that changes human behavior and provokes policy changes.

[www.earthday.org/history](http://www.earthday.org/history)

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Making Democracy Work

Grassroots leadership since 1920

Educate Advocate Empower Reform

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to women and men.

The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

We cordially invite you to join us and encourage you to learn more about the League of Women Voters by attending our meetings and other events, including our Meet the Candidates, Meet Your Legislators and other community forums. Membership is not required to attend these meetings and events.

For more information, including dates, times and membership dues, please call Brown County League of Women Voters President, Julie Winn at 812-988-6225. Your dues payment includes membership in the national, state and local leagues. Visit our website at: [www.lwvbrowncounty.org](http://www.lwvbrowncounty.org)

VOTE:

Your Right. Your Responsibility.

