



April 3

Candidates Forum

6:30 pm Salmon Room

County Annex Building

U.S. Congressional Dist. 9

Republican candidates have yet to confirm participation, to date we will host only Democratic candidates

April 11

Candidates Forum

6:30 pm Salmon Room

County Annex Building

Commissioner

Judge & Clerk

Have your questions ready!

April 30

Annual Brown County League of Women Voters Dinner. Time and location to be announced

April 9

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>

Or browncountydemocrat.com

decisions
are
made by
those
who
show up.

In This Issue

- Calendar
- Highlights
- HCI Update
- Bill of Rights
- Earth Day News



League of Women Voters of Brown County

March Highlights

March 12

Minutes

Brown County League of Women Voters

March 13, 2018

Minutes of February 2018 minutes approved with correction to lighting not lightening.

Treasurer report – Treasurer Jeanne Lager reports Treasury is \$3156.16. Expenses Democrat ad for \$62. Income: \$150 in dues, \$70 in contributions and friend requests.

Correspondence: Julie has submitted roster we have 44 members and 4 friends.

Current Business:

Fiscal and Development Study: Julie did appear before County Council to report on our fiscal study. She emphasized key points and stressed that planning is important. Felt she was well received. No discussion on establishment of follow up committee to keep watching ongoing basis.

Primary Candidates' Forum and Questionnaire: Shari has been working on lining up second meeting on April 3 for 9th Congressional candidate forum. Democrats seem on board - there has been trouble contacting Republican running against Trey Hollingsworth so may not be able to have republican panel. Date for that fo-

rum is April 3rd. On April 11th will host Judge Candidate, District 2 Commissioner, District 9 Congressional and County Clerk. Also may add democrat race for commissioner to the April 3rd because of schedule conflicts. Questionnaires have been sent out.

President's Day: Julie and Joanne report on President's Day with state league held on February 17. Focus was on getting out the vote and partnering with other groups – they had panel on bridging divides and finding common ground – stressed reaching out to schools Jo Ann will look into working with schools.

Annual Meeting: Clint and Heather volunteer to look into pricing at Seasons and BCI – try to keep menu to \$15. Dates targeted either April 30 or May 24. Suggestion to have Beth Mulry as speaker on County Fiscal Issues.

New Business:

Newsletter and Website: Not addressed – need to firm up dates of meetings.

Treasurer and Nominating Committee need to have reports in 30 days prior

501©(3) By laws review – Need to change some wording in by laws allow us to be under state umbrella – need to have wording for annual meeting and then send letter

to state requesting such.

Committees:

Health Dept. – Public input on Septic Ordinance is set for March 29 at 6 pm.

Note from Cathy Rountree offering to lead walk through recently cut Tulip Tree part of Yellowwood. Julie to send to membership.

HCI – Jo Ann and Tim report on forum. Had about 500 responses to survey. Broke into smaller groups to discuss. Broad band was important need to create map. Under place making center for kids and local foods were top responses.

Observer Corps: Heather reports on Council meeting where Julie spoke on 2/20 Auditors report was certified. Also reported on was 2/27 planning work session. Questions of importance Should 5 acre minimums be lowered to 1 acre and should tiny houses be allowed lower minimum square footage from 600 to 240. Decisions were tabled till 3/28 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Next Board meeting is April 09, 2018, 10 am BC Library.

Thank you Pam Raider



HCI Update

Making our community a more

vibrant place to live, work and play.

Survey responses 428

Top “placemaking” answers

- 79 people ranked “access to local foods” as the No. 1
- 76 people ranked “other” as No. 1. (The choices were local foods, parks and trails, other public spaces, downtown, and art/cultural activities.)
- 58 people ranked “parks and trails” as No. 1.
- The categories with the most total responses were “access to local foods,” “parks and trails” and “other public spaces,” in that order.

Top “economy” answers

- 110 people ranked “create an economic development plan” as the No. 1.
- 53 people ranked “other” as No. 1. (The choices listed were create an economic development plan, retain existing businesses, access to technical resources, promote local businesses and improve local business climate.)
- 44 people ranked “retain existing businesses” as No. 1.

Top “leadership” answers

- 147 people ranked “improve interpersonal skills of current leaders” as the No. 1 leadership item they would like to see improved in Brown County
- 56 people ranked “promote a culture of inclusivity” as No. 1.
- 45 people ranked “expand awareness and appreciation of diversity” as No. 1.

What is the Bill of Rights?



When the Constitutional Convention drafted a document to replace the unworkable , Article of Confederation, that document did not include a Bill of Rights. The omission was not because there was a disagreement over the importance of those rights; it was because the new government was seen as an authority exercising only such powers as had been delegated to it, and those powers did not include censoring speech, dictating religious beliefs, and otherwise infringing fundamental liberties. Those who opposed adding written guarantees to the Constitution also worried that any effort to enumerate or list basic liberties would inevitably omit some. Nevertheless, it quickly became clear that the new Constitution would not be ratified unless proponents promised to enact a Bill of Rights spelling out specific liberties that the government could not infringe.

As passed, the first eight Amendments listed rights that the government was specifically forbidden to infringe; the Ninth and Tenth Amendments were added to address the concerns of Founders like Alexander Hamilton, who worried that any list of protected rights would inevitably leave some out. The Ninth and Tenth Amendments-sometimes called the Rights and Powers Amendments-were intended to make it clear that just because a right wasn’t enumerated did not mean people didn’t still have that right, and to affirm that powers not specifically given to the federal government were retained by the states or by the people.

The Bill of Rights initially limited only federal government action. It wasn’t until the Fourteenth Amendment was ratified, in the wake of the Civil War, that the Bill of Rights’ limits on government power were applied to state and local government actors as well. The Fourteenth Amendment prohibited states from denying their own citizens the “privileges and immunities” of American citizenship; as a result, in a series of cases interpreting the Amendment, the Supreme Court ruled that Americans are entitled to the same fundamental rights no matter which state they live in.

The Bill of Rights raises and answers an important procedural question: who decides? Who decides what prayer you say, what book you read, how many children you have? In our system, the government doesn’t get to decide these and other very personal matters-we individuals decide these things for ourselves. The Bill of Rights does not tell us what we should value or how we should live our lives; it protects our right to make those decisions for ourselves, free of the interference of the government.

The Bill of Rights not only limits what the government can do, it limits what popular majorities can vote to have the government do. In fact, the Bill of Rights is sometimes called a “libertarian brake” on the power of the majority. When people don’t understand that the Bill of Rights limits what majorities can vote to have the government do, they often misunderstand court decisions that uphold the right of individuals to hold unpopular positions or unconventional beliefs. The courts are not endorsing the choices made by those individual; rather, they are protecting the right of individuals to make their own choices. When legislators fail to appreciate the limits imposed by the Bill of Rights, they often enact unconstitutional laws that deprive citizens of their liberties. When people don’t understand the operation of the Fourteenth Amendment, they don’t understand that the Bill of Rights applies to all levels of the government, including state and local authorities.

Kennedy, Sheila Suess, author Washing, DC : Georgetown University Press, 2016

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

browncountyhci.com



Latest News

The 2018 Earth Day Indiana Festival will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2018, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Historic Military Park at White River State Park. Come to the festival for local food vendors, kid's activities, over 125 exhibitors, live music, and a 5K run/walk.

Better than driving downtown is to take IndyGo! Whether you plan to be on foot for the day or want to bring along your bike, IndyGo has you covered. If you bike and bus to Military Park we will watch your bike for free at our Pedal and Park area as you enjoy the festival or other downtown happenings. Just be sure to be back by 4pm.

Back in 2018 is the **Recycle Run 5K!** Run or walk a 5K route that is mostly along the White River! The 5K begins (at noon) and finishes at Historic Military Park at White River State Park but the majority of the course will take you upstream and then downstream along the White River. REGISTER FOR THE 5K OR A 1-MILE WALK AT RUNSIGNUP.

www.earthdayindiana.org

There are so many little things you can do to celebrate and help save the Earth, and we've got 10 super easy ideas below!

- Plant something. ...
- Ride your bike. ...
- Let your voice be heard. ...
- Attend an event. ...
- Buy reusable bags. ...
- Use a refillable water bottle. ...
- Get produce from a local farmer's market. ...
- Shop smart for clothes.
- Unsubscribe to catalogs...
- Spend time outside...

<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/10-ways-celebrate-earth-day>

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

VOTE:

Your Right. Your Responsibility.

