



Chapter Meeting

April 24, 2018

MINUTES

1. We were visited by Ashley Kilbane, candidate for judge, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, who asked to address the meeting to discuss her candidacy and seek our endorsement.
2. Discussion of Issue 1: Susan Murnane, co-president of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland, discussed the statewide effort to pass legislation that would improve fairness in the drawing of legislative districts. The proposed initiative would prevent uncontrolled gerrymandering, minimize the community splits that routinely divide towns and cities into two or more districts, and would allow for public input in the drawing of maps.
3. Discussion of endorsement process:
 - A. Establishing proper jurisdiction: after some discussion, the members agreed that Greater Cleveland NOW will focus its endorsements on races for elected office primarily in Cuyahoga County, and ballot issues that are county or state-wide. Statewide elected office will be endorsed through Ohio NOW, the state-level organization.
 - B. Criteria for endorsement: endorsed candidates must align with the core values of Greater Cleveland NOW, particularly on the organization's major areas of interest: abortion and reproductive rights; ending violence against women; LGBTQIA rights; racial justice; economic justice; and constitutional equality.
 - C. Ohio House races: Because we agreed that we did not have adequate time to devise a comprehensive candidate's questionnaire to distribute, receive back, and evaluate in time for the May 8th primary election, we determined to hold off on primary endorsements in the races for the Ohio House, since many have large fields of candidates who had not previously served in office, for whom we have limited information.
 - D. General election: We agreed that the chapter will create candidate's questionnaires to be distributed for the general election.
4. List of endorsements:

Issue 1: Fair Districts Reform: YES
Issue 9: Health and Human Services Renewal: YES
Ohio Senate District 21: Sandra Williams
Ohio Senate District 23: Nickie Antonio
Ohio Senate District 25: Kenny Yuko
Ashley Kilbane for Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court term beginning Jan. 2, 2019. *While we were unwilling to endorse candidates in the other judicial races because of inadequate information about their experience, judicial temperament, or judicial philosophy, we were deeply impressed by Ms. Kilbane's commitment to improving the legal system's treatment of domestic violence survivors and their family members, and agree that implementation of a domestic violence docket, modeled after successful examples in Stark County and elsewhere, could be an important part of broader reform efforts.*

5. Chapter officer elections: **Reminder that elections of officers will be held at the June annual meeting. All positions are open; all are one-year terms. Please email Pam at greaterclevelandnow@gmail.com to find out more, or to submit your candidate's statement. Positions are described in the Chapter Bylaws and Operating Rules.**

6. Next meeting: **Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15th, at 6:30 pm.** We have not yet determined whether it will be in-person or via conference call. Watch for more information via email or through our Facebook page (NOW Cleveland).