



*Lighting the fire, leading the way,  
since 1915*

#### OUR MISSION

Woman's City Club is committed to building a strong Greater Cincinnati community through educating, empowering, and engaging all citizens to participate in promoting the common good.

#### OUR VISION

We envision a just and sustainable community where all citizens are engaged as informed stakeholders in the shaping of our shared future.

#### OUR VALUES

Collaboration ■ Citizen Empowerment  
■ Lead Constructive Lives ■  
A Thriving City of the Future

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**Woman's City Club welcomes new members. Visit our website, [WomansCityClub.org](https://www.womanscityclub.org), to learn more about us and how to join.**

# THE BULLETIN

## SEPTEMBER 2023

### PROPOSED AFFORDABLE HOUSING AMENDMENT

**WHAT'S IN IT,  
WHAT IT IS MEANT  
TO ACCOMPLISH  
AND WHY THIS MATTERS**



**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 7 PM VIA ZOOM**

Registration link: TBA

#### PANEL

**Robin Wright**, campaign manager for the Affordable Housing Amendment;  
other panelists TBA

Woman's City Club, in the 2023-24 program year, will continue to educate and engage our members and the public with forums, panel discussions, and other presentations on topics of timely and pressing interest.

Our first program is on the citizen-initiated charter amendment on the November ballot that would increase the city's earnings tax by .3 percent, raising approximately \$40-\$50 million annually to provide housing for those in the community most in need. WCC endorsed the amendment when it was first proposed last winter.

The program plans to offer its audience what they need to know to make an informed decision when they vote. The panel will explain the amendment's wording in detail – its purpose, how it will work, and why providing housing for low-income individuals and families is so badly needed and important to the community. The panel will also talk about other City-sponsored programs to develop affordable housing and discuss the concerns and questions people may have about the amendment.

Learn more about this amendment at <https://www.cincyhousingforall.com/amendment>.

WCC is partnering with other civic organizations to present additional programs on candidates and issues that will be on the November ballot (see page 3 for the first three candidate forums). Please also mark these on your calendar and watch for details about our September program and the cosponsored programs in the weekly Updates.



### BACK TO SCHOOL: A FRESH START OR A RETURN TO NORMAL?

As summer ends, that familiar feeling of starting over still rings true, even so many years after I've actually been in school. I remember in grade school, hoping that THIS year would be "different" and I would be the model of efficiency, leaving bad habits behind. A new clean notebook, perfectly organized, would replace the previous one, better handwriting, reading chapters in advance, and so on.

But, eventually things would return to "normal."

Likewise, every year in Woman's City Club, we take a bit of a summer hiatus only to find ourselves scrambling as we return from vacations to rejoin, regroup and renew. But, as is the case with many teachers I know, taking the summer off is a myth. We have been busy preparing for a new season of programming, triggered by the election season and many national and, especially, statewide and local issues. To make matters worse, when we normally would have been basking in a summer idle period, we were called to the polls (in Ohio) for a special August election to vote on Issue 1. Fortunately, the "no" side of that won.

Unlike the August election where it took a moment to vote, we have many ballot items to vote on including issues on reproductive rights and marijuana at the state level and affordable housing and the sale of the railway at the local level. There are also a slew of levies for schools, the zoo and the library. And, we have campaigns for judges, Cincinnati City Council and other local councils, school boards, and more throughout the area.

As always, these contests are accompanied by much advertising, debates and forums. While we all can agree that misinformation in these campaigns is always bad and, sadly, sometimes happens anyway, we also



need to be careful to recognize the use of language as a tool and weapon. On both sides of debates, it's tempting to cast the 'other side' as unreasonable, evil, incompetent, etc. Unfortunately, this makes it easier for everyone to dig in to their positions rather than to listen and reflect.

There have been many studies recently about the use of polarizing language in social media posts, campaign materials and speeches. And, the *bad habits* are certainly going to continue to ramp up as Election Day draws closer. Let's remember as we prepare to recognize that much of the election discussion includes polarizing language that can oversimplify a complex issue. And, let's try our best to avoid lapsing into our own bad habits as we try to inform and persuade our fellow citizens. It's hard when the blood pressure rises not to fall into the trap of name calling or casting the other side as something less than human.

Fortunately, there are several opportunities to engage in productive debate through programs sponsored or co-sponsored by Woman's City Club that are detailed elsewhere in this *Bulletin*. Please try to attend and participate when you can!

~ Jeff Dey



## COSPONSORED CANDIDATE FORUMS

As part of WCC's fall series of election forums, WCC is cosponsoring candidate forums presented by other organizations. Together we offer these events to help voters make informed decisions at the polls on election day November 7. All events are free and open to the public.

### CINCINNATI PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE FORUM

Thursday, September 28

7 – 8 pm

This is a virtual event.

Please register at

<https://cpscandidateforum.eventbrite.com>



Cincinnati Public Schools residents can vote for up to three school board candidates in this year's election. Not sure who to vote for? Join us for this virtual candidate forum and hear directly from the people asking for your vote about important issues facing our school community and their visions for our district.

Their decisions will determine everything from how quickly students make up academic ground lost during the pandemic, to the kinds of wrap-around services available to address students' physical and emotional needs, to whether or not schools are safe and welcoming places for every student.

Here's the scoop about the election and the candidates:

CPS has seven school board members who are elected for four years on alternate cycles every two years. In this year's race, five candidates are vying for three slots on the board. Two candidates are incumbents. Eve Bolton, board member since 2008, is a retired educator. Ben Lindy, currently board president, is an educator, most recently with Teach for America. The non-incumbents are Bryan Cannon, a long-term educator now teaching at Mt. Healthy High School; Kendra Mapp, a licensed professional counselor (LPC) at a private clinic; and Paul Schiele, a retired administrator with the U.S. Postal Service.



### INFORMAL OPEN HOUSE WITH OFFICIAL CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES AND CINCINNATI VOTERS

Tuesday, October 3

6 - 7:30 pm

Price Hill Branch Library  
970 Purcell Ave., Cincinnati

This open house will offer confirmed City Council candidates and the public an opportunity to meet and interact informally with each other. Each candidate will be assigned to a location in the large meeting room where they can converse with community members who want to meet and question them about their policies and positions relating to Cincinnati City Council.

Library personnel will provide voter registration, if requested. Flyers with election voter ID requirements, dates, and times will be available to inform citizens as they make their election plans.

**No RSVPs. This event is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Cincinnati, the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Library, ACLU Ohio, and Woman's City Club.**



## COSPONSORED CANDIDATE FORUMS



### HAMILTON COUNTY JUDICIAL CANDIDATES FORUM: WHO ARE YOU TO JUDGE?

Thursday, October 5 from 6 - 7:45 pm

Cincinnati Bar Association  
225 Sixth Street #2, downtown Cincinnati  
The program is being presented in person and live streamed.  
Registration links TBA.

This nonpartisan event will not be a debate but rather an opportunity for voters to learn about the candidates' experience, judicial philosophy, and plans for the court. All candidates are running for seats on the Cincinnati Municipal Court. All but one of the races are uncontested (District 4).

This forum is presented by:

- Cincinnati Bar Association,  
Committee on the Judiciary (host)
- League of Women Voters  
Cincinnati Area
- Woman's City Club

#### 2023 JUDICIAL CANDIDATES FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT

District 1 - Janaya Trotter Bratton	District 4 - Samantha Silverstein
District 2 - Donte Johnson	District 5 - Brad Greenberg
District 3 - William Mallory	District 6 - Bernard Bouchard
District 4 - Curtis Kissinger	District 7 - Jacqueline Ginocchio



## WCC Membership

### PLEASE RENEW YOUR WOMAN'S CITY CLUB MEMBERSHIP!

If you've been a member of Woman's City Club for some time, your membership probably expires at the end of May each year. More recently, if you joined at other times of the year, your membership may expire at other times of the year. If you've received a notice to renew, please consider acting today! We're also in the process of preparing the annual Membership Directory and it's important that you renew to be included in this valuable resource.

If you do not know your membership status, please contact Donna Tukel, WCC's Communications Manager, at 513-751-0100 or email [womanscityclub@gmail.com](mailto:womanscityclub@gmail.com).

And if you haven't joined yet, please consider doing so soon.

Being a Woman's City Club member affords you an opportunity to participate with kindred spirits in a dynamic civic organization working collaboratively to make Greater Cincinnati a more just and livable community.



Woman's City Club does so much throughout the year to educate, engage and empower with a small budget and a significant part of that comes from you, **our members.**

See you soon at one of our upcoming events!

~ Jeff Dey, WCC President





## WORKING FOR AN EQUITABLE & THRIVING COMMUNITY

Civic engagement is one of the three important goals in Woman's City Club's mission statement. Since the inception of WCC, 108 years ago, the organization has been about educating and empowering the greater Cincinnati citizenry to become engaged in activities and policies that would build a stronger community for everyone.

Following WCC's endorsement of the Reproductive Rights Amendment for the Ohio ballot and the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Funding Amendment for the City of Cincinnati ballot, WCC members took on the work of obtaining petition signatures to get these amendments on the respective ballots. Thanks to the efforts of many supporters, both statewide and in the city, both amendments will appear on the ballot this November. WCC is working with both campaign coalitions. We will continue to post ways our members can be involved in our Friday Updates.

Additionally, WCC is holding a virtual forum this month to explain the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Funding Amendment, hearing from the campaign chair and others working in affordable housing currently to discuss how the additional funding will contribute to their work. WCC has endorsed this amendment because it provides for an annual renewal of funding available for affordable housing and most of housing developed will be for families with the lowest incomes.

### **The election takes place November 7 with early voting beginning October 11.**

You may want to catch the many candidates and issues forums sponsored by WCC and other community organizations. See pages 3-4 for forums that WCC itself is presenting or cosponsoring. WCC also expects to present a forum on the reproductive rights amendment in October. Check the Friday updates to learn how to register for any you want to attend.



### **Upcoming initiatives**

Six months ago, at a WCC forum, retired Ohio Supreme Court Justice Maureen O'Connor spoke about her interest in ending gerrymandering by the political parties, which she views as threatening democracy in Ohio. A non-partisan coalition, Citizens Not Politicians, has collected more than the necessary 1,000 signatures and submitted the proposed wording of a constitutional amendment to the Attorney General to start the process of putting it on the November 2024 ballot. The proposal is called "An amendment to replace the current politician-run redistricting process with a citizen-led commission required to create fair state legislative and congressional districts through a more open and independent system." Fair districts and Common Cause are commission members and are educating voters and rallying them to support the amendment and volunteer to get it passed. This is something we will want to get behind.

We are also expecting a lot of legislative activity around education issues and will be following that closely. Legislative interference in curriculum has been seen around the country, and the rights of LGBTQ students are under threat in many states and localities. We will be watching the Ohio legislature and posting information about steps WCC will take. Also, WCC's Social Justice Committee is monitoring bipartisan legislation to abolish the death penalty and sponsored a letter writing campaigns to Ohio legislators to support it.

*~ Jan Seymour,  
VP Civic Engagement*



# FEIST TEA CELEBRATES ITS 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SAVE THE DATE ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

Kennedy Heights Arts Center Annex  
6620 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati

Refreshments & Mingling: 1:30 pm ~ Program: 2 pm

**Hoorah! It's time to place the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Feist Tea on your calendars! Please join us as we gather for an elegant tea to honor several exceptionally feisty individuals. The goals for this year's annual event are:**

- To celebrate Woman's City Club — its civic engagement and feisty and dedicated members
- To recognize all past presidents and honorees who have served and supported WCC across the many years
- To honor feisty individuals who embody the mission, vision, and spirit of WCC and have contributed to WCC



2022 Feist Tea Honorees (L-R):  
Janet Buening, Denisha Porter, Melissa Currence

As was the case last year, we invite WCC members to nominate people to be honored at the Feist Tea. The nomination may be for a member or non-member of WCC whose significant contributions to WCC and /or Greater Cincinnati align with WCC's mission. A selection sub-committee, including Feist Tea Committee and WCC Board members, will meet at the end of October to select this year's Feist Tea honorees.

The office will email members the application form for nominations on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Members may also email their nominations to Laurie Frank, Feist Tea Chair, at [lkfrank81@gmail.com](mailto:lkfrank81@gmail.com). Should you have any questions, please contact Laurie Frank.

In keeping with our 14<sup>th</sup> annual celebration, Women's City Club hopes ALL past Feist Tea honorees will attend and be recognized.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Feist Tea is a free event, but we welcome your donation in honor of our 2023 honorees. A virtual invitation will be emailed to members and posted by mid-November. In addition, health and safety protocols/requirements for this event will be included with the event invitation.

*~ Laurie Frank, Chair, Feist Tea*



## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

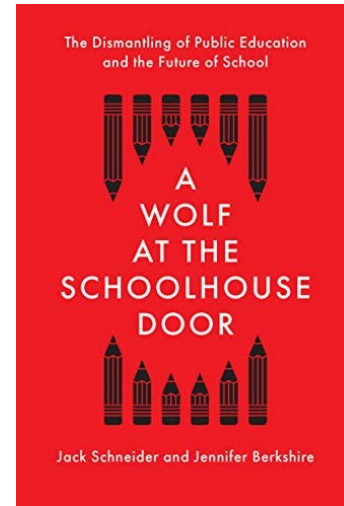
WCC Book Club

### **A Wolf at the Schoolhouse Door**

The Dismantling of Public Education  
and the Future of School  
(2023)

by  
Jack Schneider and Jennifer Berkshire

**Saturday, September 16  
10 am via Zoom**



**A trenchant analysis of how public education is being destroyed in overt and deceptive ways—  
and how to fight back.**

Across the U.S., state legislatures, often under the cover of darkness, and usually in spite of public opposition, are passing bills that channel public dollars to private schools. These voucher schemes promise to transfer billions from state treasuries to upper-income families. But that's just the start. Opponents of public schools want to dismantle the public education system entirely. Outrageous and unfounded attacks on the schools—about Critical Race Theory, "gender ideology," and "grooming"—are all part of a broader strategy to sow doubt and distrust. This is the end game.

Education historian Jack Schneider and journalist Jennifer Berkshire trace the war on public education to its origins, offering the deep backstory necessary to understand the threat presently posed to America's schools. *A Wolf at the Schoolhouse Door* offers readers a lively, accessible, yet scholarly view of a decades-long conservative cause: unmaking the system that serves over 90% of students in the U.S.

This book will give readers the back story behind such state initiatives as the Ohio General Assembly's June authorization of a universal voucher program for virtually all public school children. Children can receive a voucher to pay all or part tuition to attend a private school.

#### **About the Authors:**

Jack Schneider is an award-winning scholar and teacher whose work broadly explores the influence of history, culture, and rhetoric in education policy.

Jennifer Berkshire, a freelance journalist, writes about education and politics for national magazines.

Both authors host the education podcast *Have You Heard* and *Live in Massachusetts*

Available in multiple formats at Amazon; 288 pages in paperback; a few copies available at the library, but no audible.

**Members and their friends or others by invitation are welcome, but you must RSVP to obtain the link:**

[SarahGideonse@womancityclub.org](mailto:SarahGideonse@womancityclub.org).



## Green Your Life!

### 15 Things You Should Never Buy Again!

#### 1. STYROFOAM CUPS

*Better option:* reusable mugs

#### 2. PLASTIC WRAP & FILM

*Better option:* reusable containers

#### 3. OVERPACKAGED FOODS

*Better option:* buy in bulk

#### 4. ITEMS MADE FROM PVC PLASTIC

PVC is a known carcinogen: Avoid labels “#3” and “PVC”

#### 5. PLASTIC FORKS, SPOONS, STRAWS

*Better option:* use your own utensils if plastic utensils are not recyclable

#### 6. PAPER TOWELS

Paper Towels contain bleach.

*Alternative:* wash & reuse cloth dishtowels

#### 7. HIGH VOC PAINT

High VOC Paint is highly toxic.

*Best option:* Buy low- or non-VOC finishes

#### 8. FARM-RAISED SALMON

Toxins are present in farm raised salmon

*Better choice:* Buy wild salmon

#### 9. POULTRY FROM INDUSTRIAL FARMS

*Better:* Buy certified organic meat & eggs

*Best:* Eat less meat

#### 10. PESTICIDES & HERBICIDES

These are toxic to people and animals.

*Best option:* practice integrated pest management

#### 11. BEAUTY/BODY CARE WITH PHTHALATES & PARABENS

Choose products labelled “Campaign for Safe Cosmetics”

#### 12. BLEACHED COFFEE FILTERS

Use unbleached or reusable filters.

#### 13. TEAK & MAHOGANY

These woods are sourced from rainforests.  
Look for “Forest Stewardship Council” label  
*Best Option:* Buy used furniture, flooring

#### 14. CONVENTIONAL CLEANERS

Conventional Cleaners have hazardous ingredients. Use non-toxic cleaners or use vinegar, water and castile soap.

#### 15. FAST FASHION

Workers are exposed to toxic chemicals and bad working conditions.

*Better option:* Buy from green companies like [GreenPages.org](http://GreenPages.org)

*Best option:* Buy second hand to reduce landfill & minimize carbon footprint

~ Jeanne Nightingale







# MICHELLE DILLINGHAM

## Member Profile

“Life has been extremely busy for me as of late,” said Michelle Dillingham. Her biography makes one wonder if she was ever not extremely busy.



Two-time candidate and close finisher for Cincinnati City Council, Dillingham is on the boards of WCC and Public Education Partners. She has received multiple awards for her work.

A native of Boston, raised in upstate New York, and psychology graduate of Reed College in Portland, Oregon, she said the University of Cincinnati (from which she earned an MSW in social work) and great jobs brought her here.

The following, in Michelle’s own words, is more information about herself:

- Edited the first-ever report “State of Affordable Housing in Hamilton County: The Crisis”
- Contributed to the growth of a non-profit social services agency from dormancy to receiving and successfully implementing four unique grants over 18 months
- Received state certification for a training program I made application for and co-created
- Mentor to undergraduate and graduate students from UC’s DAAP Program, School of Social Work and NKU’s Chase Law School

- A founding member in local initiatives that have enjoyed sustainable success (i.e., CeaseFire Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council, the City of Cincinnati’s Urban Agriculture Board).
- Recipient of the 2010 Ohio Citizen Action “Emerging Leader” Award
- Placed 10th out of 9 seats in the 2017 City Council Election. Prior to that, placed 12th for ninth seats out of 21 candidates in the 2013 Cincinnati City Council Election: an impressive showing in a highly competitive field race for a first-time candidate. I was the most endorsed candidate with over 26 major endorsements, and I received the most earned (unpaid) media among the non-incumbent candidates.
- Recipient of the 2019 National Association of Social Workers Ohio Social Worker of the Year Award
- Recipient of the 2019 National Association of Social Workers Cincinnati Region Social Worker of the Year Award
- Recipient of the City of Cincinnati 2022 Woman’s History Month and 2022 Social Work Month Resolution for decades of continuous leadership in the City of Cincinnati especially in the areas of social work, advocacy for the underserved, and community organizing.

Explaining why she joined WCC, Dillingham said, “I believe strongly in the power of civic organizations like WCC.” The activity she has most enjoyed is our forums. She has served as WCC treasurer and as a member of the Finance Committee.

~ Jo-Ann Huff Albers



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[www.WomansCityClub.org](http://www.WomansCityClub.org)

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jeff Dey, *President*  
Laurie Frank, *VP Administration*  
Jan Seymour, *VP Civic Engagement*  
Nina E. Lewis, *VP Membership*  
Janet Buening, *VP Programs*  
Sharon McCreary, *Secretary*  
Marcia Togneri, *Treasurer*  
Beth Sullebarger, *Past President*

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Sherri Adams-Davis  
Deborah Mariner Allsop  
Cathy B. Bailey  
Michelle Dillingham

Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney  
David Siders  
Aurelia Candie Simmons  
Sue Wilke  
Christa Zielke

## CALENDAR

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### WCC Book Club

Saturday, September 16, 10 am via Zoom

#### WCC September Public Forum - Affordable Housing Amendment

Wednesday, September 27, 7 pm via Zoom

#### Cincinnati Public School Board Candidate Forum

Thursday, September 28, 7-8 pm

#### Informal Open House with Official City Council Candidates and Cincinnati Voters

Tuesday, October 3, 6-7:30 pm

#### Hamilton County Judicial Candidates Forum

Thursday, October 5, 6-7:45 pm

### WCC MEETINGS *All meetings are online, via Zoom, unless otherwise noted.*

**Social Justice Action Group:** Thursday, September 12, 6:30 pm  
Contact David Siders: [dbsiders@gmail.com](mailto:dbsiders@gmail.com)

**Communications Committee**  
Tuesday, September 26, 5 pm  
Committee meets monthly on last Tuesday.  
Contact Sarah Gideonse: [SarahGideonse@womanscityclub.org](mailto:SarahGideonse@womanscityclub.org)

**Program Committee:** Wednesday, September 27, 7 pm  
Committee meets monthly on fourth Wednesday.  
Contact Janet Buening: [wccpresident2018@gmail.com](mailto:wccpresident2018@gmail.com)

**Membership Committee:** Wednesday, October 4, 5:30 pm  
Committee meets monthly on first Wednesday.  
Contact Nina Lewis: [eninalewis@gmail.com](mailto:eninalewis@gmail.com)

**For the latest schedule of WCC meetings, please check our calendar at [womanscityclub.org](http://womanscityclub.org)**



**CINCINNATI CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS:** For an updated list of City Council sessions and committee meetings, go to the City website at [cincinnati-oh.gov/council/](http://cincinnati-oh.gov/council/).

The monthly *Bulletin* keeps us connected with our membership, our network, and our community.  
Please submit all material as it is ready to Sarah Gideonse at [sarahgideonse@womanscityclub.org](mailto:sarahgideonse@womanscityclub.org).

