



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
Equity and Justice
A Thriving City of the Future

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Woman's City Club welcomes new members. Visit our website, WomansCityClub.org, to learn more about us and how to join.

THE BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2024

PUBLIC FORUM ON THE CINCINNATI FUTURES COMMISSION REPORT: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Woman's City Club welcomes its members and the public at large to the timely forum it is hosting on the **Futures Commission Report**. Join us **Wednesday, November 13, from 6 pm to 7:30 pm** in the **Huenefeld Room at the Downtown Main Library, 800 Vine Street**. Participants will be invited to submit questions during the Q&A period.

RSVP: <https://womanscityclub.org/view-events/> Convenient parking can be found on the street or at the Garfield Garage on East 9th St.

The back story: With the City of Cincinnati facing an estimated \$487 million deficit in the General Fund by FY 2033, Mayor Aftab Pureval formed a Blue-Ribbon panel chaired by Jon Moeller, CEO of Procter & Gamble, to advise on how to address the city's long-term fiscal sustainability. The Futures Commission Report, released last spring, includes about two dozen recommendations that address tax increases, a waste collection fee, sale of public assets, economic development, and other aspects of city management.

City Manager Sheryl Long has presented a response, but so far Council has taken no action, and there is still much to discuss. WCC President Beth Sullebarger points out that "these recommendations could have a big impact on our city and its residents, and WCC believes they deserve wider civic engagement."

In consultation with Council Member Jeff Cramerding, WCC enlisted FCR experts: **Pete Metz, VP, Civic & Regional Partnerships of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber; Emily Woerner, City Solicitor; and Jerry Newfarmer, former Cincinnati City Manager and CEO of Management Partners, as panelists. Together with Becca Costello, Local Government Reporter of WVXU, as moderator**, they will delve into the issues and potential long-term consequences of the recommendations.



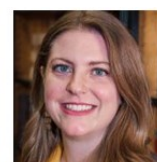
BECCA COSTELLO



PETE METZ



JERRY NEWFARMER



EMILY WOERNER

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GIVING THANKS

President's Message

Soon we will celebrate a widely beloved American holiday. In these days of revisionist history, however, we have become aware that the back story of this day is more nuanced than we knew it in the past.

A 2017 *New York Times* article entitled “Everything You Learned About Thanksgiving Is Wrong” by Maya Salam (Nov. 21, 2017) punctures myths associated with our national holiday—the date of the first Thanksgiving isn’t clear; the Pilgrims weren’t called Pilgrims at that time, they were Separatists; they didn’t come for religious freedom so much as they came to make money; they didn’t eat turkey or pie, the English written record doesn’t mention that Native Americans were invited, and the role of Squanto was complicated. He had been captured and sold into slavery in the Old World by the Pilgrims in 1614 and returned to the New World in 1619 to find his tribe decimated by disease.

What we do know for sure is that Thanksgiving was declared an official national holiday in 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln to give a collective thanks for the Civil War victories in Vicksburg, MI, and Gettysburg, PA. That means that the South and its allies were probably not in the mood to share in the celebration at the time.

Despite all this controversy, it is good to come together with friends and family to give thanks. Gratitude does wonders for the soul. If we become obsessed with all

that is wrong in the world, we may overlook our many blessings.

Woman’s City Club is grateful for its members and your support. When you receive your Annual Fund appeal letter, we hope you will respond generously so that we can continue as a vital nonpartisan civic organization that educates citizens about issues impacting us locally.

October was packed with election-related events showcasing candidates in collaboration with Women in Film, a panel of judicial candidates cosponsored with the Cincinnati Bar Association, and a presentation by the dynamic Kentucky Representative Rachel Roberts discussing “Women for Change,” together with the Charter Committee.

You won’t want to miss our powerful panel discussing the Futures Commission Report on November 13. There is nothing like a looming budget deficit to sharpen the mind! This is a chance to consider all the ways our city can respond—tax increases, waste collection fees, budget cuts, management restructuring, and sale of public assets—to name a few. Please join us!

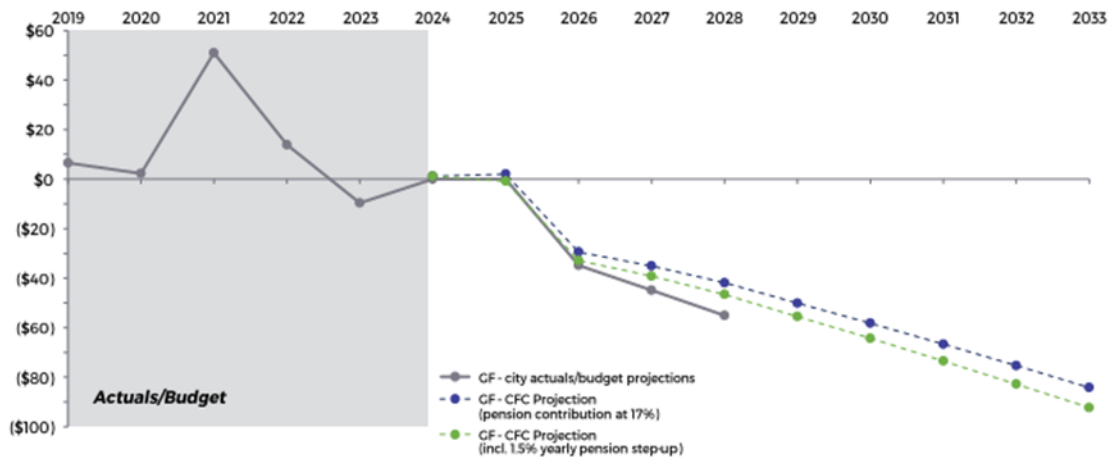
~ Beth Sullebarger
President





THE CINCINNATI FUTURES COMMISSION REPORT *(continued)*

CFC's updated 10-Year GF surplus / (deficit) projections, 2024–2033 (\$ in M)



Surplus / (Deficit) Projections (\$ in M)	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	FY33	Total
City's GF baseline	0	0	(35)	(45)	(55)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
GF - CFC Projection (pension contribution at 17%)	1	2	(29)	(35)	(42)	(50)	(58)	(67)	(75)	(84)	(438)
GF - CFC Projection (incl. 1.5% yearly pension step-up)	1	(1)	(33)	(39)	(47)	(56)	(64)	(73)	(83)	(92)	(487)

- Projections for GF expenditures grow off the FY24 approved budget; all General Fund Projections are inclusive of ARPA funding
- Personnel Vacancy Assumption (PVA) incorporated in CFC expenditure projections equates to 3.5% in baseline to offset increasing wage assumption

The recession threat may be behind us; however, looking beyond 2025, it is clear from the graph that the City needs to implement measures to ensure fiscally sustainable operations. The \$487 million-dollar question is this, “Where do we go from here?” The report’s recommendations may lead readers to ask follow-up questions.

- Some proposals will need to go before the voters, but if voters reject them, where does that leave the city? And what other recommendations may not ultimately be viable?
- How will the organizational restructuring that the report recommends, generate savings the city needs? And do estimates account for the foregone benefits of other options not taken?

- What is the best order to implement recommendations that might allow for alternatives to selling income-generating assets?

We are certain that there are burning questions citizens want to ask our panel members who are well-positioned to elaborate on the work done to date. To increase civic engagement, the Woman’s City Club (WCC), and seven co-sponsors, invite you to bring your own questions in person on **Wednesday, November 13, from 6 pm to 7:30 pm** in the **Huenefeld Room at the Downtown Main Library**. As promoted, the program is free and open to the public, but we encourage you to [register HERE](#) to guarantee a spot.

The event is cosponsored by the Charter Committee, Cincinnati Association, Hillside Trust, Sierra Club, Urban Appalachian Community Coalition, A Picture’s Worth, and League of Women Voters Cincinnati Area.



CHARTER
COMMITTEE OF GREATER CINCINNATI



~ Cheri Rekow

Correction to the WCC bulletin notice about the **Civic Engagement Survey**: the Civic Engagement Survey has been postponed until December, in order to focus on the November Forum. Thank you for your understanding.



KENTUCKY POLITICIAN RACHEL ROBERTS SPEAKS ON “WOMEN FOR CHANGE”

Woman’s City Club welcomed Rachel Roberts, a representative in the Kentucky House of Representatives since 2020, to speak as part of the Charter Committee Centennial Celebration’s lecture series. A last-minute substitute for former mayor Roxanne Qualls, who suffered a bicycle accident, Ms. Roberts stepped up to deliver an inspiring lecture about her experiences as a woman for change.

She began by describing how Qualls as mayor and in Council influenced her as a young woman, as a successful politician and advocate, as well as her belief that lasting change requires collaboration and compromise.

“She certainly was the first woman in politics that many girls my age back then could see our futures reflected in.” Roberts then talked about her journey into politics, offering advice along the way.

After living in Colorado and abroad, she returned to Cincinnati, married, and with her husband started a small business. Then, concerned about the lack of good public transportation, she became an early advocate of the streetcar and involved in political campaigns. In 2018, she and her husband relocated to Kentucky, where she decided to run for public office. “I come from a family that taught me that it’s a blessing to be able to be of service, and I knew I had the capacity to do more.”

She lost the first time; then won in 2020. She spoke about experiencing Imposter Syndrome – “so how did I end up being able to raise over \$100k and win over 40% of the district as an unknown?”

“And what lesson is in there for women today wanting to make a change?”

“My answer to this is authenticity. I am the same person in every room I walk into. I find that people can tell immediately if you’re real with them even if they don’t like your policy or ideas, they value realness.”

When, after a COVID hiatus, legislators returned to work, “I fully got my feet under me, and I started getting bills passed.”

Against expectations as a Democrat, “I have passed around ten bills in five years, most as amendments or committee subs because what I do know is that, when you take yourself and your ego out of the process and you focus on the WE of good policy you can still get things done.” Roberts contends that women are particularly good at this.



She described all the challenges women face locally, nationally, and globally, to have a seat at the table. But citing the impact of the bills she has helped pass, she asks, “And how did I get all that done? By following these legislative and life principles.

- Aspire to find a way to work with everyone.
- Don’t be a jerk.
- Don’t be a show pony, be a work horse.
- Be authentic so people know you can be trusted.
- Be consistent.
- When you disagree simply say, ‘I can’t be with you on this issue. But ask me again when you have something else, because I know we agree on most things.’”

She closed with: “When we focus on our work and seek harmony, the very things Cincinnati has done since 1924, it leads to a better community. May we never forget that. And may we each here commit to supporting the women who are leading the way and bringing about the change we need.”

~ Sarah Gideonse



ELECTION EVENT: CINCINNATI BAR ASSOCIATION'S JUDICIAL CANDIDATE FORUM

The Cincinnati Bar Association (CBA), the Cincinnati Association, the League of Women Voters, and Woman's City Club collaborated to present a highly informative Judicial Candidate Forum on October 9.

The forum contained two sections. The first featured the six candidates running for the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas. Leslie Ghiz, Chris Lipps, Bernard Mundy, Steve Simon, Virginia Tallent, and Robert Winkler. Each had two minutes to present a brief bio before moderator John Williams took over the questioning. Candidates endorsed by both Democratic and Republican parties attended. (The election is non-partisan.)

The CBA rates judicial candidates in six categories: administrative diligence; communication skills; community engagement; integrity, impartiality, and objectivity; legal experience; and professionalism/temperament. Each candidate had a copy of their own rating.

Williams opened by asking candidates to answer this question: In which category do you rate the highest and in which category would you like to improve your rating?

Candidates were for the most part pleased with their overall ratings, though some were surprised by ratings in certain categories. Both Ghiz and Winkler, the veterans on the panel, commented on their lower-than-expected community engagement ratings. Each related non-judicial activities in which they had been heavily involved over the course of their careers, many of them centering on their children's events, and concluded that now that their kids are older, they will be more involved in bar-related activities.

Tallent was especially pleased with her administrative diligence score. She focuses on transparency and certainty, saying that when she sets a trial date or a ruling date, people can count on that date. The area in which she needed to improve is legal experience. "Fair enough. I am the youngest candidate."

Simon was proud of his professionalism/temperament, integrity, impartiality, and objectivity, and experience

ratings; despite a high rating in professionalism, Mundy thought he has room to improve everywhere, especially in the area of administrative diligence. Lipps felt he needed to improve his community engagement.

The second question candidates were asked to respond to was: Do judges have the obligation to improve public understanding of the court and how it works?

Not surprisingly, all six answered yes, and had numerous, often overlapping, suggestions for how to go about the task.

"Get out and explain to community groups just what we do," said Ghiz. "The public doesn't see what we do behind the scenes." Simon agreed and added that it is important for judges to have relationships with community councils and the Cincinnati City Council safety committee.

"Accept speaking engagements, invite groups to the courthouse, and livestream proceedings," offered Mundy.

"Have school groups visit, from grade school to law school," said Phipps. Winkler concurred, with the caution that "sometimes groups have to be asked to leave because there are cases kids shouldn't see." (He cited an example of a grade school class visiting his courtroom when a prostitution case was being heard. Their teacher escorted them out very quickly.)

"Speak with high school government classes, offer internships and externships, and improve access to the help center," said Tallent. "Make sentencing data available to the public."

Williams asked each to talk about the three major influences in their lives. Parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, spouses, even children taught the candidates how to treat people with respect, how to remain committed, how to "put it all out there." Several answered that former clients or defendants had taught them humility.

~Continued on page 6



ELECTION EVENT: CINCINNATI BAR ASSOCIATION'S JUDICIAL CANDIDATE FORUM *(continued)*

Williams asked what each candidate would do to keep bias out of the courtroom.

Answers included: Implicit bias training for themselves, their staffs, and their juries; following sentencing factors; judging conduct, not people; giving explicit instructions to the jury; and collecting data on decisions you have made so you can “Monday morning quarterback yourself.”

A more diverse jury pool would go a long way toward ensuring equal justice under the law. Candidates’ suggestions included expanding the jury pool to draw from a source other than registered voters (such as the DMV) and making being a juror easier. One way to do this is to increase the pay.

The second part of the forum featured four candidates for the First District Court of Appeals: Candace Crouse, Rich Moore, Terry Nestor, and Marilyn Zayas. Crouse and Zayas are incumbents, Nestor has served on Common Pleas Court and is seeking a seat on the Appeals Court for the first time, and Moore is seeking his first judicial office. All are endorsed by the Democratic parties; those endorsed by Republicans chose not to participate although invited.

Williams’ questions for these candidates were the same as those for the Common Pleas candidates. All were highly rated on their professionalism and judicial temperament. Nestor commented that he runs his court the way he would like to be treated; Moore credited his good training from senior lawyers and other mentors with whom he has worked; Zayas says she never looks to see who the trial judge and attorneys are on cases she reviews.

Major influences in their lives were clients they represented as attorneys, their colleagues, and their families. Moore particularly cited his parents, who taught him there was no need to be bitter about mistreatment and instead to work to earn what he deserved. Crouse added that ballet was an influence. “I studied classical ballet for many years. The passion and discipline it required have served me well in my career.”

Some suggestions for ensuring impartiality and upholding legal ethics in their rulings included contacting the state ethics hotline when faced with a dilemma; recognizing and dealing with their own implicit biases; teaching the importance of maintaining one’s reputation; and being a rule-follower as well as a rule-setter.

As for judges’ obligation to improve public understanding of the court and how it works—a unanimous yes. “Use your position as a bully pulpit,” said Moore. “Take copies of decisions to meetings. Let the people see what you decided and why.” “There is a mystery component to our courts,” said Nestor. “We have the responsibility to lift the cloud of mystery. One way is to hold court outside the courtroom.” “I love to talk about our courts and the Ohio legal system,” said Crouse. “You might think people are not interested—but they are!”

~ Christy Backley



Court House Cincinnati, Ohio.



ANNE LATHROP

WCC Member Profile

Phenomenal – That’s the word Jeff Dey used to describe Anne Lathrop, WCC board member. “Anne was phenomenal at the annual meeting,” said Jeff Dey, WCC immediate past president. “She was a breath of fresh air with great ideas of what the club can do.” He is pleased that she is younger than many board members.

Anne Lathrop is a school psychologist who currently works for Cincinnati Public Schools. She has “a passion for improving academic outcomes and supporting social-emotional development for kids of all ages.”

She has been a WCC member for two years, joining after attending a National Speaker Forum at Memorial Hall. “I joined because I agreed with the WCC mission and had a friend, Anne Buening, who was already a member.” The WCC activity she enjoys most are our guest speakers.

Lathrop received her bachelor’s degree in psychology from Ohio University, her master’s in education and an education specialist degree in school psychology from University of Cincinnati.

Following college, she worked for a law firm. Prior to working at Cincinnati Public Schools, she spent time in a

variety of districts through Hamilton County Educational Services Center, including Mt. Healthy and Forest Hills.

Lathrop, a Cincinnati native, attended Ursuline Academy, and loves spending time at local parks and restaurants with her family. She also enjoys spending time with friends and doing “any type of crafting.”



She lives in Hyde Park with her husband Ben, two children—Violet, a seventh grader, and John, a sixth grader—a dog, and a bunny.

She has served as secretary of the Kenwood Swim and Tennis Club, and volunteers at her children’s school. As a new board member, she is looking forward to becoming a more active member of the Woman’s City Club.

She believes the best thing WCC can do to make a difference in Cincinnati life is “to continue to spread accurate information on local issues.”

~ Jo-Ann Huff Albers



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Our program season is in full swing with monthly forums, member Sunday Salons, and our upcoming annual events Feist Tea and National Speaker Forum. We hope to see you there and also hope that you are up to date on your membership. Not sure? Call or email the office and we will check for you. It’s easy to pay on line or feel free to send a check.

Since 2020, WCC has been using rolling membership so those members receive a dues renewal reminder around the anniversary of the date they joined. Members who joined earlier will receive a reminder in May.

We are a vibrant community organization, and being a member helps us to reach our goals and for you to be part

of them. Our activities give you the opportunity to participate with kindred spirits working collaboratively to make Greater Cincinnati a more just and livable community.

Let’s make history together for another 100 years!

Contact information for membership dues:

[Educate - Engage - Empower - Woman’s City Club of Cincinnati](#)

womanscityclub@gmail.com
513-751-0100

Woman’s City Club,
103 William Howard Taft Road
Cincinnati OH 45219



15th ANNUAL FEIST TEA

Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 1:30 pm

Kennedy Heights Arts Center Annex
6620 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati

OUR 2024 HONOREES



Valerie Daley is currently serving as Senior Program Officer, LSIC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) Greater Cincinnati. She has served on the executive committee as well as various ad-hoc committees of the Cincinnati Association, and was recently selected to participate in WE Lead, a 10-month leadership development program for women.

Daley has worked with community leadership on neighborhood plans and housing strategies in the Cincinnati area for more than 15 years. Most of her work supports existing homeowners and builds opportunities for new homeownership. She was instrumental in helping modify the City Zoning Code to legalize ADUs (accessory dwelling units). She is a frequent guest speaker at AARP Ohio's Volunteer Summits on housing affordability issues.

Nina E. Lewis, Ph.D., has worked professionally in the health care, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and social service fields. Currently, she is employed by the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services in the Office of Systems, Partnerships and Community Solutions, and is an adjunct professor of social work at the University of Cincinnati.

Lewis has served on numerous nonprofit boards and coalitions, including the Ohio Justice and Policy Center, Health Care Connections, and Hospice of Cincinnati. In 2021 she received the Statewide Lifetime Achievement Award for the Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. She is the current vice president for membership of the Woman's City Club.



Jeanette Rost, a longtime WCC member, is loyal, responsible and dedicated to the mission and goals of Woman's City Club. She has served on the board and various committees, especially finance and the annual National Speaker Forum. A lawyer, she is an excellent legal and financial steward. As a member, she is also a warm hostess. For years she hosted the National Speaker celebratory dinner at her home. She is a shining example of endurance, perseverance and loyalty to WCC.

Retired from lawyering at the McKesson Medical Device Company, she took care of her grandchildren while her daughter worked. Anyone who has done that knows what an enjoyable and exhausting experience it is.

JOIN US...CELEBRATE...AND HAVE A GOOD TIME

This annual elegant and fun tea gives us a chance to celebrate Woman's City Club and its feisty and dedicated members for their civic engagement. Join in recognizing all past presidents and honorees who have served and supported WCC across the many years and honoring the contributions of the lively, determined, and courageous individuals who embody the mission of WCC.

PLEASE NOTE

Although Feist Tea is a free event, we welcome your donation in honor of our 2024 honorees.



SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE TIPS FOR THE AUTUMN SEASON

- **Leave the Leaves:** Raking leaves is an unnecessary chore. Leave them on the lawn or mulch them around trees. Dead leaves are a part of the natural cycle of plants and soil.
- **Stay warm without turning up the thermostat.** Put on an extra sweater, thick socks and a warm blanket.
- **Eliminate drafts by doors and windows.** Use thermal curtains, door draft stoppers, and window film.
- **Buy your sweaters from sustainable sources.** Outerknown produces a collection made of natural fibers such as wool and cashmere. It works with global partners who pay decent wages. *People Tree* is a pioneer in the fair trade and eco-friendly fashion movement.
- **Declutter your home.** Recycle or upcycle whenever possible. Donate old clothes, tools, and cookware, or sell them on platforms like *Vinted*.
- **Inflate your car tires.** Cooler temperature lowers tire pressure and fuel-efficiency.
- **Move your plants indoors** not only to protect them from the cold, but indoor plants improve indoor air quality especially when in the winter we don't open the windows.
- **Feel cozy with eco-friendly candles** that are non-toxic all-natural non-scented products made of beeswax or soy, not paraffin wax, which when burned releases toxic benzene and toluene – known carcinogens.
- **Make going back to school greener.** Buy recycled school supplies. Each year 11,600 cedar trees are cut down to create 2 billion pencils in the US alone. Consider buying refurbished electrical devices, phones, computers, tablets from *Blackmarket*. (Offers a student discount.) Source: SDG Monitor



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Beth Sullebarger, <i>President</i>	Anne Buening, <i>VP Programs</i>
Laurie Frank, <i>VP Administration</i>	Sharon McCreary, <i>Secretary</i>
Cheri Rekow, <i>VP Civic Engagement</i>	Marcia Togneri, <i>Treasurer</i>
Nina E. Lewis, <i>VP Membership</i>	Jeff Dey, <i>Past President</i>

BOARD MEMBERS

Deborah Mariner Allsop	Anne Lathrop
Christy Backley	Jan Seymour
Cathy B. Bailey	Sue Wilke

CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

CINCINNATI FUTURES COMMISSION REPORT: Where do we go from here?

Wednesday, November 13, from 6 pm to 7:30 pm. See page 1 for more information

WCC BOOK CLUB

Saturday, November 9, 10 am via Zoom.

FEIST TEA

Sunday, December 8, 1:30 pm. See page 8 for details.

WCC MEETINGS

All meetings are online, via Zoom, unless otherwise noted.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 26, 5 pm
 Committee meets monthly on the last Tuesday.
 Contact Jeff Dey: wccpresident2022@gmail.com

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 20, 7 pm
 Committee usually meets monthly on third Wednesday.
 Contact Marcia Togneri: mtogneri839@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 20, 5:30 pm
 Committee meets monthly on first Wednesday.
 Contact Nina Lewis: eninalewis@gmail.com

NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM COMMITTEE

Monday, November 11, 4:30 pm via Zoom
 Contact Beth Sullebarger: wccpresident2020@gmail.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 27, 5:30 pm
 Committee usually meets monthly on fourth Wednesday
 Contact Anne Buening: arbuening@yahoo.ie

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION GROUP

TBA
 Contact David Siders: dbsiders@gmail.com



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/.

The monthly *Bulletin* keeps us connected with our membership, our network, and our community.
 Please submit all materials as they are ready to Jeff Dey at wccpresident2022@gmail.com

