WeRISE NEWSLETTER

Meza Wine Shop Fundraiser

48 N State St, Westerville

Meza Wine Shop is a proud supporter of WeRISE and is hosting their charcuterie board fundraiser again this year to help raise money for WeRISE's mission to transform our community through racial justice. Each package includes wine and a charcuterie box for two. Meza is donating $25 from every order to WeRISE. Keep an eye out on our social media or next newsletter for the link to place an order for pick-up or delivery!

Jeni's Fundraiser

3998 Gramercy St, Easton Town Center

If you want to enjoy flavorful ice cream on a summer day, pop into Jeni's at Easton Town Center on **June 1st between 4pm-7pm** to help support WeRISE. Bring your family and friends in with you to make it a party! WeRISE paired two delicious flavors for our guests to enjoy; try our **Rich Harmony** which is Brambleberry Crisp and Salted Peanut Butter with Chocolate Flecks!

Building Community

Westerville Queer Collective (WQC)

Food Pantry – Donate to or use the food pantry organized by WQC located inside Java Central in Uptown Westerville.

Finding Support - Visit the WQC Resource Guide or call the Trevor Project hotline +18887346197 if you need help.

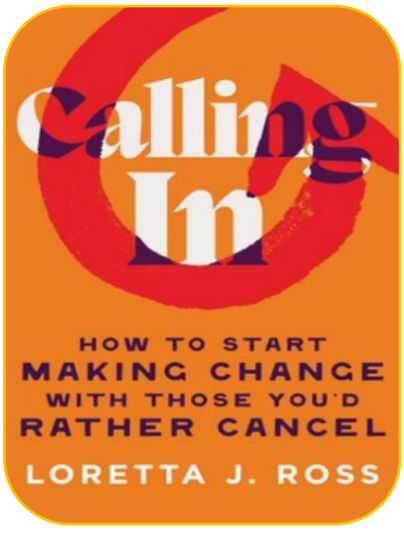
Join our Board

We have board member openings and would love to have our supporters or volunteers consider joining our team. We specifically have an opening for Treasurer and are looking for a candidate with legal experience who is passionate about transforming our community through racial justice. If you have interest in joining our board in another capacity, we would also love to hear from you! If you questions regarding becoming a board member, email us at **weriseforgw@gmail.com** or stop by our booth at Fourth Friday in May to talk to us in person!

WeREAD 2026

Meet the Author – via Zoom

WeREAD is one of our signature annual programs that encourages community discussions around racism, equity, and inclusion through shared texts. We feel facilitated discussions can bring together people with differing opinions and backgrounds to discuss important themes in the books we read each year. This year our chosen book is Loretta Ross's *Calling In: How to Start Making Change with Those You'd Rather Cancel*.



Loretta Ross will be joining our community via Zoom for a short interview about her book on **Monday April 27** at **7-8:30pm**. Registration and information about the program is available at the Westerville Library website and the WeRISE website. Although it is encouraged for you to have

read her book before then to more fully engage with the content of the interview, it is not a requirement. WeRISE is proud to say one of our WeREAD sponsors, Birdie Books, has copies of the books and you can request a free copy here or purchase copy from them directly and enjoy their newly opened café.

WeLEARN

The *Save Act*

The original U.S. Constitution did not define voting rights, and it wasn't until after the end of the American Civil War that men of all races were permitted to vote under the 15th Amendment. During this era, however, Black men were often still denied the right to vote by laws and constitutions as the state level, poll taxes, literacy tests, constitutional quizzes, and intimidation

Threatened by having to meet these same standards, voting for (often poor, uneducated) white men was preserved or otherwise guaranteed by the "grandfather clause." Women were largely excluded until the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, but Black women, particularly in the South, were still excluded by Jim Crow era tactics.

And now in 2026, there is legislation proposed that will, again, greatly hinder people's right to vote, predominately impacting already marginalized groups. The bill is called the SAVE America Act. The bill passed the House vote and will be voted on by the Senate. Although it is being widely presented to the public as a bill that will "safeguard the voting process," it will increase barriers to voting by creating new rules for voting.

If the bill passes the Senate and is signed into law by the President, voters may face the barriers below:

- The bill does not allow for a driver's license that does not indicate citizenship to be a proper voter ID and voters would need to provide documents like a passport, birth certificate, or other documents that have matching names that prove their citizenship.
- Eliminate mail-in registration and overhaul online registration to fit new requirements
- Mandate frequent voter purges at the state level
- Imprison poll workers for registering voters without proper documentation (even if they're a legal voter)
- Force states to submit voter registration data to Department of Justice (DOJ)

The main issue with requiring additional documentation to proof citizenship to vote is that there is a money barrier for a little over 21 million Americans. States are already turning over voter registration data to DOJ including Ohio. We encourage our community to deepen their knowledge and conversations with friends and family surrounding their constitutional rights.