

In what historians and political experts have called one of the most important elections in the political history of our country, University of Dayton Special Programs and Continuing Education through its **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (UDOLLI)** will present a series of non-partisan public and political issues workshops hosted by St. Leonard Retirement Community in Centerville, during 2023 and 2024.

The rationale for the workshops is rooted in the spirit of colonial New England's town meetings, citizens coming together to talk with each other about common concerns.



### St. Leonard

8100 Clys Road | Centerville, Ohio  
Independent Living | Assisted Living  
Memory Care | Skilled Nursing  
Rehabilitation

[CHILivingCommunities.org](http://CHILivingCommunities.org)

## Public and political issues workshops.



University of Dayton

**Special Programs and Continuing Education**

# These workshops are offered as a public service to inform and engage citizens.

Free and open to the public, the issues workshops are intended to inform and engage citizens in civil discourse as we approach the election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

At the conclusion of a discussion of the changing political landscape in America at St. Leonard in the summer of 2022, Dr. Mark Smith, Director of the Center for Political Studies at Cedarville University, said “Our country is now more polarized than at any time since the Civil War.”

In a New York Times/Siena College poll in late October, 2022, seventy-one percent of all voters believe our form of government is at risk. According to an October poll from the Pearson Institute and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, about three-quarters of U.S. adults say misinformation is leading to more extreme political views and behaviors such as instances of violence based on race, religion or gender.

The workshops are supported by the Friends of the University of Dayton at St. Leonard and UDOLLI.

## Schedule of public and political issues workshops.

- January 12, 2023
- April 13, 2023
- July 13, 2023
- October 12, 2023
- January 11, 2024
- April 11, 2024
- July 11, 2024
- October 10, 2024

*All workshops will be held at 6 p.m. in The Franciscan Center at St. Leonard, 8200 Provincial Way, Centerville, Ohio.*

*While the workshops are free and open to the public, registration is required as space is limited.*

*Contact Kelly Lance at 937.432.6549 or [kelly.lance@commonspirit.org](mailto:kelly.lance@commonspirit.org) for information or to reserve your spot.*

## Ground rules for the workshops.

- Focus on the options
- All options should be considered fairly
- No one or two individuals should dominate
- Maintain an open and respectful atmosphere
- Help the moderator keep the conversation on track
- Everyone is encouraged to participate
- Listen to each other

## Potential topics to be discussed at the public and political issues workshops.

- Immigration
- The divided Supreme Court
- U.S. Economy, inflation, jobs and unemployment
- Energy Policy
- Electoral College – Voting, a state or federal issue?
- Climate change
- Democracy – autocracy, what is the issue all about?
- Foreign Relations
- Social Security and Medicare
- Education and schools
- Policing and civil unrest
- Our country is as divided as it was at the time of the Civil War?
- Party conventions and platforms
- Crime
- Constitutional Convention
- Campaign Finance

*At our first discussion on January 12, 2023, the audience was asked what topics they would like to see covered. Based on the surveys, the above list is in order of interest.*