

LWVO League Leaders Update
October 28, 2009

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ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

****NEW** LWVO Members Respond to Action Alert on Delaying Tax Cuts**

League members responded in great numbers to our October 5, 2009 Action Alert on Delaying the Tax Cuts. We should be proud that our efforts and the efforts of others who share our views have resulted in the introduction of legislation. Our voice makes a difference so keep up the good work Leaguers.

****NEW** LWVO Issues Letter to the Editor on Ballot Issue 3**

Issue 3 had generated a significant amount of media coverage and debate as we get closer to Election Day. LWVO President Meg Flack submitted a letter to the editor to all Ohio major

newspapers reflecting the League's position on issue three. To read the letter, which was published in the Toledo Blade, [click here](#).

****NEW** Campaign Finance Case in Spotlight**

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule soon on critical campaign finance cases that could have far reaching implications. Recently Senators John McCain and Russ Feingold filed an amicus brief in support of the constitutionality of the corporate expenditure ban in campaign financing. Read more about the Senators McCain and Feingold's amicus brief from the LWVO Education Fund imPACT website by [clicking here](#).

****Reminder** Redistricting Sample Letter to the Editor Available**

The 2011 redistricting is increasingly in the news between LWVO's recent redistricting competition and the approaching census. It is also a priority issue for LWVO/EF, and one many local Leagues have or will be focusing on in their Town Hall Meetings.

Your League can capitalize on the prominence of the issue by submitting a letter to the editor of your local paper advocating for redistricting reform—and simultaneously create visibility for your League. Ann Henkener, LWVO's redistricting specialist, created a template letter you can submit after filling in your own and your League's name. You can find the template in the member's only section of the website or attached to the bottom of this update. The letter discusses why reform is needed and also references the League's redistricting competition (www.ohioredistricting.org). If you want more information on the subject, please visit the redistricting reform section on our **imPACT** website: <http://www.ohioimpact.org/>.

If your League "shares" a newspaper with another League(s), please coordinate sending the letter-to-the-editor with the other League(s). For example, you could all send it—or just those interested.

Thank you for your advocacy on this important issue! Please let us know if your paper publishes the letter (1-877-LWV-OHIO or leg@lwvohio.org).

****Reminder** LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force: Paper Available Online**

The LWVUS Health Education Task Force Recently issued a paper regarding Rural Health Care. It is a great tool for facts and figures related to health care access. Given the national policy focus on Health Care Reform, Local Leagues many find this information helpful Click [here](#) to download a copy of "Rural Health Care: Where the Needs Are Great and the Resources Are Few" by Task Force Member Doris Isolini Nelson (LWVCA).

VOTER SERVICE REMINDERS

****Reminder** From LWVUS- Leadership Fund Seminar: Moderating Stress Free Debates**

On October 6, 2009 LWVUS conducted a well received session of the Leadership Fund - Online Seminar Series, around Moderating Debates. It touched on prep work in advance of the debate, focused on assisting moderators and offered an exchange of ideas, with questions and answers for the many Leaguers participating via the web. The PowerPoint, Sample Moderator Script, and an FAQ (handling "Empty Chairs", difference between Debates and Forums, Surrogates, Format ideas and Footage use, etc.) is posted on the LWVUS website at the [Voter Service Chair Section](#) in For Members area. Special thanks to national Board members Marcia Merrins and Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti for conducting this session!

****Reminder** Ohio Judicial Election Guide available online.**

Citizens seeking information on judicial candidates can search an interactive website that is available through the Ohio Secretary of State's office by [clicking here](#) or pasting <http://www2.sos.state.oh.us/pls/jvgm/f?p=131:1:3673884016458481> into your web browser.

From this site you can search judicial races by county, type of court or candidate name. This Judicial Guide is a continuation of a joint effort between the League of Women Voters of Ohio and the Ohio Secretary of State to provide information to Ohio voters on judicial races.

****Reminder** Ballot Issue Explanations Available on Website**

On September 12, 2009, the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund adopted the November 2009 Ballot Issue Explanations for the three statewide ballot issues.

Issue 1: Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Authorize the State to Issue Bonds to Provide Compensation to Veterans of the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq Conflicts. [Read Issue 1 Explanation](#)

Issue 2: Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Create the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board [Read Issue 2 Explanation](#)

Issue 3: Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Authorize a Casino in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Toledo, Ohio [Read Issue 3 Explanation](#)

[Click Here](#) to read the ballot language and more information on the November 2009 Ballot Issues.

For more information on the November 2009 Election go to www.lwvohio.org.

MEMBERSHIP

****NEW** First Call to LWVUS Convention.**

The first call to Convention 2010 went out the week of October 18, 2009! [The 2010 National Convention will be held in Atlanta on June 11-15](#). It will be one of the exciting events in a year of

celebrating our 90th Anniversary – so please come on down to Atlanta! You can find more information on Convention activities, as well as timely updates, on the LWVUS [Convention Page](#). You can start discussing Convention and Program Planning with other League leaders by joining the Convention list. (Subscription information can be found after you login at <https://member.lwv.org/member.asp>.)

****NEW** LWVUS Offers Suggestions to Celebrate 90th Anniversary**

New 90th Anniversary Resource: “Celebration Ideas”

A new resource to help you engage your community in the League’s 90th Anniversary has been added to www.lwv.org. [This page](#) offers ideas for local and state Leagues as they plan their programs around the 90th celebration. While our anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate, it is also an opportunity to gain visibility for the organization, which starts with engaging your community. Be sure to check the [90th Anniversary section](#) for updates. This section gives you access to the League’s 90th Anniversary logo, which you can start using today and throughout the anniversary year. And, appoint your 90th anniversary committee NOW.

Don’t forget that LWVO will be celebrating the 90th Anniversary at Statehouse Day and Council on April 14, 2010.

**** Reminder** Statehouse Day/Council on April 14, 2010**

Mark your calendar! Statehouse Day 2010 and State Council will take place April 14, 2010 in Columbus. Of course, having local League leaders and advocates in town for these concurrent events is a perfect excuse to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters. So in addition to deliberating over LWVO's next fiscal year budget and briefing you on essential reform issues -- from the lawsuit settlement to redistricting and the Census -- we will invite legislators to join us for a reception complete with birthday cake.

We are working to keep the Statehouse Day registration fee low so that you can bring a full complement of local League representatives, prospective members, students, and others to Columbus for this not-to-be-missed celebration of nine decades of making democracy work. Registration information about Statehouse Day, plus the official Call to Council, will be available soon.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Statehouse Day Coordinator Scott Britton Toll Free at 1-877-LWV-Ohio.

****Reminder** From LWVUS - Updating Your Roster and Leaders in the Database**

It is important to keep the national database up to date with information about your new members and to update your League’s officers to ensure that they do not miss communications from your state League and the LWVUS. Remember that members can update their own League contact information, encouraging them to do so will take the burden off of the database administrator. If you have questions, would like to schedule a training session or need help in accessing the database, please email Betty Taira at membership@lwv.org.

**** Reminder** Program Planning: Why Doesn’t The League Do Something About That?**

From the LWVO Lobby Corps about Program Planning

Ever wonder, ***“Why doesn’t the League do something about that?”*** As you know, League positions are the foundation of League action. And grassroots program planning is essential to ensure that Leagues are able to advocate and lobby on today’s pressing issues as the members wish.

With all the changes in issues that occur over time, existing positions need to be reviewed—and sometimes revised—to remain adequate and relevant. The LWVO Lobby Corps has been discussing LWVUS’ existing positions, and will share their thoughts in future League Leaders’ Updates.

LWVUS’ program planning is your opportunity to make your voice heard – and that’s why your LWVO Lobby Corps urges your League’s participation in the process! Keep watching for more information.

ADMINISTRATION

****NEW** LWVO to host conference calls with presidents on Development and Law Suit Monitoring.**

The LWVO will host three conference call opportunities to discuss plans for Lawsuit Settlement Monitoring and LWVO Financial Development Planning.

Scott Britton has been contracted as the Lawsuit Settlement Project Manager to assist in coordinating monitoring plans with Local Leagues to assure that the terms of the LWVO v Brunner Settlement agreement terms are being met. This call will be a collective opportunity to exchange information and have questions answered.

The conference call will also provide the opportunity to discuss upcoming financial development opportunities for LWVO. In a tough economy we intend to be collaborative and creative in our efforts and we NEED the input and participation of local Leagues to succeed.

There are three opportunities to join a conference call with League President Meg Flack, Development Committee Member Rosanne Thomas, Lawsuit Monitoring Project Manager Scott Britton and Executive Director Deidra Reese at listed below. You need only participate in ONE of the three calls offered.

November 16, 2009 at 7 p.m.
November 17, 2009 at 10 a.m.
November 23, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Please RSVP which call you plan to attend by going to <http://www.lwvohio.igpr.com/site.cfm/Voter-Election-Center/LWVO-Lawsuit.cfm> or via email to lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org Once you have confirmed your participation we will forward the dial-in information.

Look for more details in the near future regarding this important call.

****New** Barbara Guy of LWV Shaker Heights is Regionalism Google Group Monitor**

Barbara Guy of LWV Shaker Heights has been assigned as the Regionalism Google Group monitor. Thank you to those League members who expressed an interest in serving as the Regionalism Google Group monitor. This Google Group was established in response to directions to the Board submitted by the Cleveland Area, Shaker Heights and Cuyahoga Area League regarding sharing information on regionalism. The State League board has authorized the creation of a Google Group to facilitate the sharing of information between local Leagues on the subject. Thanks to Barbara for her willingness to serve in this capacity.

If you have information on regionalism to be shared or are interested in being a resource to Barbara, please let contact the state office at 1-877-LWVO-OHIO (1-877-598-6446).

****Update** Local League Education Funds**

A special thank you goes to League contract accountant Linda Lalley for all of her work responding to questions and verifying information regarding Local League Education Funds.

She has been invaluable in responding to questions and providing necessary information to help LLEF treasurers.

If you have not done so yet, please check your balances and contact contract Accountant Linda D. Lalley at fund@lwvohio.org or by calling the office at 1-877-LWV-OHIO (1-877-598-6446). the office to verify or address discrepancies.

****Reminder** Second Quarter Per Member Payments Due by December 31, 2009.**

Thank you to Local Leagues who have submitted their PMP payments in a timely manner. This is a friendly reminder that if you are paying your PMP in monthly installments, your next payment will be due by December 31, 2009. If you have any questions regarding your PMP balances, please contact our accountant Linda D. Lalley at fund@lwvohio.org or Toll Free at 1-877-LWVO-OHIO

****NEW** Mark your calendars now--Dates to Remember**

State LWVOEF Board Meeting

***November 13-14, 2009
January 8-9, 2010***

***Conference calls on
Lawsuit Monitoring and Development***

***November 16, 2009 7 p.m.
November 17, 2009 10 a.m.
November, 23, 2009 7 p.m.***

Statehouse Day/ Council

April 14, 2009

LWVO Lobby Lunches
11:30 am

2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month,

Anyone is Welcome to Attend

Columbus Metropolitan Library
96 S. Grant Ave., Columbus, 3rd floor

Call 877-598-6446 for more
information

If you have Local League Leaders or other League members who would like to receive the Leaders Update, please send their email information to leg@lwvohio.org

TEMPLATE: REDISTRICTING LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The League of Women Voters of **NAME** believes that legislative districts that have been gerrymandered to favor one party do not produce representatives that truly represent us. The Ohio League of Women Voters was a sponsor for a recent competition that proved that districts can be drawn that keep counties and cities together, that are compact, that are competitive and produce representatives that reflect the values of the voters of Ohio. Maps and more specific information can be found at www.Ohioredistricting.org. The voters of Ohio should demand that the Ohio Constitution be changed to require an end to gerrymandering when districts are redrawn after the 2010 census. We deserve no less.

NAME

President, League of Women Voters of **NAME**