



LWVO Spotlight On... Voter Service

Today's email is a service from LWVO and features a key issue the League is currently addressing. Sometimes the topic will be plucked from one of the five imPACT reform issues: accountability, redistricting, elections, judicial, and campaign finance. At other times, we will spotlight another concern.

If you're a true policy wonk, you can subscribe to our monthly Legislative Updates consisting of legislation that is currently tracked by our Lobby Corps and moving through the General Assembly. Another choice available to you, especially if you are interested in education, is the Education Update written by our education lobbyist, Joan Platz. For more information on education issues, sign up for Joan's weekly USEP-OHIO Education Update email by sending an email to usepohio@usepohio.com and type "subscribe education update" in the subject line.

VERIFY REGISTRATION BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

This is the last week to verify registration before the deadline. LWVO members should encourage all voters to check their registration before October 6, 2008 so that they can make any necessary changes to their registration. If they have moved, changed their name, or have not voted for a while, their information might be inaccurate. It is worth encouraging people to contact their county board of election to make certain their registration information is correct.

To check registration, citizens should contact their county board of election. To find contact information on your county board of election [click here](#). Remember, changes can only be made through October 6 so encourage people to act quickly.

VOTE EARLY

Absentee balloting began on September 30, 2008 and the LWVO is encouraging everyone to consider voting by absentee ballot to avoid long lines on Election Day. Ohio voters no longer have to provide a reason to vote by absentee ballot so the process is more accessible and convenient than ever. Election officials have put in place procedures to securely store all ballots cast early and ALL ELIGIBLE ballots will be counted on Election Day.

You can vote early by mail by requesting an absentee ballot from your county board of election and returning the completed form no later than November 4. MAKE CERTAIN YOUR RETURNED BALLOT IS POSTMARK BY NOVEMBER 4, 2008. You can also vote early in-person at the designated county location. For information on the early vote location in your county, [click here](#) to contact your county Board of election.

PROTECTING VOTERS RIGHTS PAYS OFF FOR LWVO

The League of Women Voters of Ohio was on the winning side of the lawsuit to protect voters' right to register and vote during the five-day overlap between the registration deadline and the opening of absentee voting.

LWVO signed on to a Friend of the Court Brief in support of the Ohio Secretary of State's directive that voters be allowed to register and vote during the overlap. This matter was heard before the Ohio Supreme Court and U.S Federal Court. At each level, the Courts affirmed the Secretary of State's position. LWVO President Linda D. Lalley wrote an Opinion Editorial on this issue in August stating that the overlap provided enhanced opportunities for civic engagement. Citizens across the state should take advantage of this opportunity to register and vote now.

JUDICIAL VOTER GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

LWVO focuses on imPACT initiative Judicial Reform by providing education and information to voters about Judicial Candidates. Several League members assisted in the creation of the Ohio Judicial Voter Guide, which is available on the Ohio Secretary of State's website.

You are encouraged to check out the interactive Ohio Judicial Voter Guide which is linked below. Please encourage the use of this important tool as a way to bring about Judicial Reform through educated voters. Through this interactive site, voters can look up specific information on judicial candidates for the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeals and Common Pleas courts from across the state. Simply click on the "Search Judicial Candidates Button", select the county and learn about the candidates.

Please feel free to inform members and others that the Judicial Voter Guide is accessible from the LWVO website.

