



LWVO Spotlight On... Making Democracy Work!

Dear Friend of League,

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.

Making Democracy Work!

While the reports are preliminary, it appears that voter turnout for the nation was near 65%, which is the largest turnout since Women gained the right to vote.

After 21 months of campaigning by presidential candidates, the United States of America begins a new chapter. Not only will we usher in a new administration in January 2009, but also we have proven that Americans deeply care about this nation and can engage at a high level.

Our citizens proved that they are not lazy and complacent about our democracy. Men and women all over the country who had never volunteered on political campaigns expressed their joy at making calls, knocking on doors and dropping literature for their preferred candidates and issues. People joined together to register and educate voters about voting options on their states. Families attended rallies in small towns and large cities to hear from candidates and stood in lines for hours to cast their ballots during early voting periods and on Election Day.

We can be proud and should congratulate ourselves on the increased turnout however; we should continue to strive for full participation. We can do this by continuing to educate people about registration requirements and early voting options. We can encourage people to get involved by providing information and education on key issues that affect our lives.

As League Members, we must capitalize on the energy of the election to recruit new people who have discovered that they could make a difference and are looking for an outlet. We must be diligent to focus on our imPACT issues of campaign finance reform, election reform, judicial reform, redistricting and accountability. We must continue to engage the members of our respective communities to discuss these issues and make recommendations for changes.

Ohioans and indeed Americans all win if we maintain a high level of civic engagement. We must work hard to keep the enthusiasm that we witnessed from citizens across political spectrums as we hold our newly elected officials at the federal, state and local levels accountable so that we can have a better future.

League Members, thank you for "Making Democracy Work" during this election season.

