



The League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund imPACT e-newsletter.

The purpose of these monthly emails is to provide information to League members and our partners regarding the most pressing reform issues affecting Ohioans today.

ELECTION LAWS

Reform Plan Introduced in the Ohio General Assembly includes League Recommendations. On August 4, 2009, Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner and Reps. Dan Stewart and Tracy Heard held a [press conference](#) to reveal an election system reform bill which the sponsors hope to navigate through the Ohio General Assembly in time for implementation before the 2010 elections. Election reform advocates have been calling for many of the improvements that appear in the new legislation.

Because of the advocacy effort and issue education offered by the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund and several election reform advocates, the newly introduced bill reflects many key issues that the League has long supported as critical to improving Ohio's election system, and ensuring that eligible voters are allowed to cast a regular ballot and have their ballots counted.

The Joint Working Group of Election Advocates worked together over several months to develop specific recommendations for reform and presented a joint letter to Secretary Brunner outlining our collective reform ideas. To read a copy of the Joint Working Group Press Release, [Click here](#). To read the Secretary of State's response to the Joint Working Group of Election Advocates, [Click here](#).

Key provisions that the League recommended for consideration include:

- Limiting the reasons why voters should be required to cast provisional ballots rather than standard ballots, with the intent of reducing the number of provisional ballots cast and ensuring that eligible voters are allowed to cast regular ballots, and
- Additional Voter ID options to allow a valid photo ID or two current and valid documents with the voter's name, issued by businesses, non-profits or government organizations.

The inclusion of these provisions demonstrates the power of the League to influence the policy debate on the critical issue of voter rights and election reform. To read the full text of the Secretary of State's plan, [click here](#).

REDISTRICTING

The Census Count Will Affect Redistricting. The 2010 Census will influence Ohio's representation in the U.S. Congress as redistricting decisions are made based upon population counts. Accuracy with the census data is particularly important for Ohio as the state is expected to lose one or two congressional seats as a result of population decreases. The loss of any congressional seat will have a direct impact upon the way new districts will be drawn in 2011. While representation is a key issue, communities may experience a financial impact as support for many federal programs are based upon census data. Some communities could lose congressional representation and face reduced federal dollars for services such as education and health care. Ohio deserves its fair share of representation and resources. Public awareness of the importance of the census is paramount to increasing participation and cooperation.

Ohio imPACT is planning several Town Hall Meetings designed to help citizens make the connection between Redistricting and the Census. Some of the planned THMs will focus on the often undercounted minority and immigrant communities. Ohio imPACT and LWV Metro Columbus are already working with

the Somali and Hispanic communities on a THM in central Ohio about the importance of participation in the census. Local Leagues interested in planning a THM on this topic or other imPACT topic should contact Anne Nelson at anelson6@columbus.rr.com.

For more information on redistricting, revisit the [Ohio Redistricting Competition](#) results which were announced on June 18, 2009. The contest demonstrates that Ohio can create a process for redistricting based on objective criteria to create fair legislative districts.

For More information on the redistricting contest and plans submitted [click here](#).

Let us know what you think and how imPACT impacts you. For more information on these issues and other updates, please visit www.ohioimpact.org.

Want to learn more about the issues, how to vote confidently and how to connect with elected officials? Visit the LWVO ED imPACT website at www.ohioimpact.org for the daily updates in the news and resources to --- [Get Educated](#). . [Get Involved](#). . . and [Get Results!](#)

Keep current with headlines, press releases and links to the imPACT issues and sign up for daily notifications with the [RSS newsfeed](#).

If you no longer wish to receive e-mail from us, please click [here](#).