



League of Women Voters of Ohio

## **ACTION ALERT:**

### **Urge Ohio House to Fund Absentee Ballot Application Mailing or Scrap Prohibition on Who May Send**

Dear Friends,

We need your help to protect Ohio voters and make sure the 2016 election runs smoothly.

**Please call your Ohio House Representative - [click here to look them up](#) - with this message:**

**I urge you to make good on last year's promise to absentee voters - amend the budget to provide \$1.25 million to the Secretary of State to send absentee ballot applications to all voters. Otherwise, eliminate the restriction on election officials sending out applications using their own funds.**

#### Background:

The Secretary of State, LWVO, local election officials and voter advocates have all called on the Ohio House to include funding in the state budget, HB 64, to continue sending absentee ballot applications to all voters in 2016.

Voting habits have changed since Ohio moved to no-fault absentee voting in 2006. Now, upwards of one-third of Ohio voters cast a ballot before Election Day. In both 2012 and 2014, the Secretary of State sent absentee applications statewide.

However, last year the legislature passed a bill, SB 205, which prohibits the Secretary of State or any other government official from sending unsolicited absentee ballot applications. The only exception allowed is for the Secretary to send if the legislature appropriates funds for the mailing. SB 205 made an implied promise to appropriate funds this year so that the Secretary is allowed to send absentee applications next year. It's time for the legislature to make good on that promise.

The Secretary of State, LWVO, Ohio Association of Elections Officials, and others all testified on the state budget and urged the House to fund the mailing. There was no testimony in opposition. Yet, the latest version of the budget still does not include funds to send absentees.

**The House is expected to vote out the budget next week, and we need your help to urge them to fund the absentee ballot application mailing!**

[Click here to read the press release sent today by the Ohio Voter Coalition - "Voter Advocates Urge Legislature to Either Fund Absentee Mailing or Repeal Prohibition on Official Mailings."](#)

Thank you,  
LWVO Lobbying Team