

APRIL 15, 2004

TO: ALL MEDIA

FROM: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LIMA AREA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

League of Women Voters of the Lima Area will present an informational program entitled “**Judicial Impartiality: The Next Steps**” on **Wednesday, April 28, 7:00 pm, in the Third District Court of Appeals Courtroom, 204 North Main Street, first floor.**

In March 2003 the League of Women Voters of Ohio joined the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, the John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy, Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer of the Ohio Supreme Court, and the Ohio State Bar Association to convene a Judicial Reform Conference. Judges, attorneys, and legislators together with business, labor, and citizen groups joined a discussion concerning what can be done to assure a truly independent judiciary.

The April 28th program will include the history of judicial reform and explanations of the specific recommendations to come from the Judicial Reform Conference Workgroups. Recommendations concern **Judicial qualifications, length of terms, salary adjustments, and campaign finance reform suggestions. Senate Bill 214**, which deals with **campaign contributions disclosure regulations** and is currently in committee, will be discussed.

Matt Rolf, LWV of Ohio staff and graduate of Ohio Northern University College of Law, will lead the presentation. A local panel of attorneys will share their views on Judicial Reform. Participants include **Judge Sumner Walters**, retired Third District Court of Appeals Judge now in private practice; **Judge Michael Rumer**, retired Allen County Common Pleas Court Judge now in private practice; and **David Bowers**, Allen County Prosecutor. Because of the relevance of this subject, the Third District Court of Appeals is hosting the program.

The public is invited.

For more information see <http://www.thenextsteps.org>.

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