



## League of Women Voters of Ohio

# LWVO Files Lawsuit To Restore Early Voting

Today, the League of Women Voters of Ohio, together with the Ohio NAACP, Bethel AME Church, and ACLU of Ohio announced [the filing of an important lawsuit to protect Ohioans' voting rights](#).

The lawsuit seeks to overturn recent actions by the Ohio General Assembly and Ohio Secretary of State to cut early voting days and hours. Evidence shows that early voting - specifically the early voting time periods that were cut - are heavily used by African American voters. The lawsuit alleges that these cuts to early voting days and hours violate the Voting Rights Act and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution because they disproportionately harm minority voters.

We want you, as our members, to understand that **we did not take the decision to sue lightly**.

For the last several years, **LWVO has worked hard to protect early voting**. We testified against legislation that sought to cut early voting, such as [House Bill 194 in 2011](#) and [Senate Bill 238 in 2013](#). Many of our members circulated petitions to put [HB 194 to a referendum](#) - and we succeeded - leading the legislature to repeal HB 194 before it took effect. Unfortunately, many of the provisions of HB 194 have resurfaced in recent legislation and actions by the Secretary of State, notwithstanding our efforts **to find reasonable compromises that would preserve some evenings and weekends**. **Sadly, our requests to the Legislature and Secretary of State fell on deaf ears, which is why we had to take the extraordinary measure of going to court.**

We also want you to know that, while we wait for the court to rule on this issue, we will not be idle. Our voter service efforts around the State will help Ohio voters navigate all the changes they will face in this fall's election. [Click here](#) to read the summary of changes in effect this year. LWVOEF will be rolling out a new wave of voter education tools for use in our communities.

**You can help LWVO/EF protect voting rights and empower voters by making a [donation](#) to support this important work.**

Yours in League,

Nancy G. Brown  
LWVO/EF President