



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

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

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LWVO Efforts bring about improvements in election system in Ohio

League of Women Voters members can be proud of the progress that has been made in policy and practice related to Ohio Elections. Either through direct action or as an indirect result of the efforts of the LWVO and Local Leagues, Ohio appears to be better prepared for the 2008 Election.

Our efforts have improved Ohio poll worker training, improved ballot language to include definitions of the effect of "yes" and "no" votes, and supported the development of an interactive judicial candidature voter guide to name a few.

The Ohio poll worker training has been described as "excellent" by poll volunteers in terms of preparing workers to provide improved service to voters. The training provides explicit instruction on determining which ballot voters should receive, use of the voting machine, directing voters to their correct precinct and more. These improvements address many of the Election Day challenges that plagued the 2000 and 2004 elections.

On October 14, 2008, Cuyahoga County conducted a special primary election utilizing the procedures in the poll worker training which provided a "dry run" for what we can expect on November 4. According to poll workers, the training brought about great improvements.

The LWVO has also witnessed improvements in the database management of voter files. This summer, LWVO embarked on a comparison of the Ohio Secretary of State's voter database and selected county databases. When we inquired about how the Secretary of State's office addresses the discrepancies we identified between the county and state data, we were provided information on the procedures that are in place to eliminate duplicates and update information so that there were accurate matches between the county and state voter files.

While we can celebrate the progress, it is important to note that there are still areas that need improvement.

We continue to have concerns about:

- Counties' preparation for high turn-out
- Sufficient number of working and accurate voting machines
- Sufficient number of poll workers at all precincts
- Rapid and accurate processing of legitimate voter registrations
- Notification to voters of their polling locations
- Transparency of county contingency plans to address potential problems

Let's keep up our efforts to make certain that every eligible voter gets the opportunity to fully exercise their right to vote.



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