



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OHIO

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February 14, 2009

There is much to celebrate! This year on February 14, The League of Women Voters will celebrate its 88th year. Here in Ohio the League has much to celebrate. The successes of LWVO's efforts to improve elections can be seen in the glorious headlines of Ohio's newspapers after the November elections. *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* (11-5-08) proclaimed the 2008 election process, "**Mostly mistake free...**" and *The Cincinnati Dispatch* (11-5-08) declared, "**Election Day Problems? Not Ohio.**" *The Akron Beacon Journal* (12-29-08) wrote, "**The League of Women Voters deserves credit for tenacity.**"

I am truly grateful for your support that has made the League's voice so effective. Through persistent restorative influence, LWVO and our tenacious members statewide continue to persuade Ohio Boards of Election and the Ohio Secretary of State to enact processes to ensure honest, fair and transparent elections.

I financially support LWVO because I've witnessed first hand that **our work truly pushes Ohio government to be more efficient.** A more efficient government is more productive and its people more prosperous, yet the road to responsive government requires determination, skill and money. We have the skill and determination, but often lack sufficient funding. That is why I am asking you to generously support **Power Pledge.**

LWVO: Providing leadership in election law reform

Despite the headlines, our work is not done. We continue to pursue our 2005 election reform lawsuit because we want to insure that every election, no matter which chief elections office oversees it, will be fair, impartial and accurate. Yes, there were no long Ohio polling place lines on the national news this year. We need to insure you will *never* stand in a line like that. And, the **Sixth Circuit Court agrees that our case has merit.** In fact, legal scholars consider the appellate court's November 23 ruling in our favor to be precedent-setting.

LWVO: Educating voters

* The LWVO Attorney General candidates debate brought out a live audience of 650 interested voters, and local community television programmers around the entire state picked it up; our Supreme Court candidate's forum, also broadcast statewide, gave voters excellent insight to the Court's candidates.

* *The LWVO Voters Guide* to statewide candidates received 48,000 hits, and 1500 hard copies were distributed. Calls to the state office for voter information rose to almost 100 per day in the lead up to Election Day. LWVO collaboration on *The Judicial Voters Guide* provided voters with one of the few sources of information on judicial candidates.

* LWVO Internet messaging on the Cleveland and Cincinnati ABC affiliates in September had an 11% rate of clicks through to our voter information, compared to an industry average of 3 to 4%. And in

the days before the election, we were up to a 17% click through rate. People trust the League of Women Voters!

***The League continues to be the only consistent provider of non-partisan voter information in the state.** Information is provided through an array of media such as the LWVO website, printed materials, office staff, debates and candidates forums.

Four critical areas of election reform will be our focus in 2009. We will advocate for a review of the election process to clarify statutes and eliminate contradictions and ambiguities, leading to a more efficient and less costly election process. We will also advocate for improvements to the statewide registration database, for provisional ballot reform, and for a non-partisan election administration. All these aspects are vital to making the election process accurate and efficient.

What you can do

Your financial support creates the foundation to support all activities and we need you! This year's Power Pledge will be used for specific basic needs our state office requires to function and communicate efficiently, including a new phone system, security cabinets and upgrades to our ten-year-old software. Just today, the office spent a significant part of the day retrieving information lost due to another computer crash. Your donation to Power Pledge will provide that strong foundation of support our state office and activist League members need throughout Ohio.

Because of our dedicated and active members, LWVO is one of the top five Leagues in the country! Many of us have given countless hours and involved our friends and family because we believe in the power of the League to promote good government in Ohio.

Please join me by giving today. Invest in the League by completing the enclosed form and please give generously!

My best regards,



Linda D. Lalley
President

P.S. Yes, times are tough, but let us give this some thought. Was it good government that got us to this place in economic history? Perhaps, if the voice of citizens had been as loud as special interests, proper government oversight (or action?) would have been forthcoming in timely fashion. **LWVO mentoring and empowering of Ohioans plays an important role in the balance that drives good government.** *We need your support today.*