



imPACT E-Newsletter – It's Not Too Late to Make an Impact

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.

Want to learn more about the issues, how to vote confidently and how to connect with elected officials? Visit the imPACT website at www.ohioimpact.org for the latest information and resources to---Get Educated. . .Get Involved. . . and Get Results!

It Is Not Too Late For You to Make An imPACT

2009 Statehouse Day: The Budget Shortfall: We're All Going to Feel the Pinch
Extended REGISTRATION DEADLINE: ***Monday, March 9, 2009, noon. Please call, fax or send your registration to us by Monday noon, and send your check by mail to arrive **NO LATER THAN** Wednesday, March 11.***

Tuesday, March 17 - Vern Riffe Center - Columbus, Ohio
9:00 A.M. (Registration Begins) - 4:00 P.M. (Reception Ends)

Don't miss your chance to attend LWV-Ohio Statehouse Day 2009! Each of us, as a LWV member, is a part of this organization because we want to affect positive change in our government. We want our government to work for us, our neighbors, our communities-to work for all Ohioans. Statehouse Day is a way to "learn the ropes" about how we can each be a force for change-and at the same time, have fun with other engaged and committed members of LWV-Ohio. Please join us!

9:00 - 9:45 A.M. Registration and continental breakfast

9:45 A.M. Welcome: Linda D. Lalley, President of LWV-Ohio

10:00 A.M. "Anatomy of a Budget Crisis:" Economist Howard Fleeter, Ph.D., of the think

tank Driscoll & Fleeter and coauthor of "On the Money," a monthly publication of The Hannah Report (LWVO lobbyists' source for legislative information), will dissect Ohio's budget crisis with his well-known wit and wisdom. There's the national recession-but what happened in Ohio in 2005 that has compounded the crisis? What's the outlook for the next biennium-and after? Finally, what are some short and long-term options to address the underlying issues? Dr. Fleeter will take a complex topic, translate it for us and set the stage for the rest of the day's activities.

11:15 A.M. "Thinking Regionally: Can We Operate Government More Efficiently?"

Chester Jourdan, Jr., Executive Director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, and former State Representative Larry Wolpert-both members of the Ohio Commission on Local Government Reform and Collaboration-will make the case for governmental efficiency through regionalism. The boundaries and functions of our political subdivisions - counties, municipalities, townships, school and library districts etc. were decided long ago in a different era with different populations and purposes. Do we need to rethink how we are structured to provide services more efficiently? Whether your response is a resounding "YES" or a resounding "NO," you don't want to be left out of this discussion.

Following a catered lunch, experts will educate participants on key issues in Ohio.

1:30 - 2:00 P.M. Four Concurrent Workshops

- **Health Care Reform:** Cathy Levine, Executive Director of the Universal Health Care Action Network-Ohio will review the current state of Ohio's health-care system and assess the movement to ensure high quality, accessible, affordable and accountable health care for all Ohioans.
- **Education Funding Reform:** Kelly Weir, Director of the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Budget and Planning, will assess Gov. Strickland's education formula and available funding. Are they realistic? Adequate? Are there winners and losers? And more!
- **Sunshine Laws and Government Transparency:** Frank Deaner, Executive Director of the Ohio Newspaper Association, will give participants a peek "behind the curtain" with an overview of the issues and advocacy opportunities surrounding our right to public information.
- **Election Reform:** LWVO elections expert and lobbyist extraordinaire Peg Rosenfield will review the significant changes in Ohio's election process over the past year (remember Golden Week and in-person absentee voting?) - and assess what's on the horizon.

2:00 - 3:00 P.M. Legislators join the concurrent workshops to share their points of view on the particular issue and answer participants' questions.

3:00 - 3:30 P.M. Call to Action: Speaker of the House Armond Budish will top off the day with a discussion of legislative priorities and economic realities.

3:30 - 4:00 P.M. Reception with Speaker Budish: We hope you can stay to meet Speaker Budish at this informal gathering at the conclusion of Statehouse Day 2009. What a way to go!

This is our big chance for getting the budget priorities straight for the people of Ohio. Let's have a big show of support on Statehouse Day, so register **NOW**.

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Click on the links to obtain [Registration](#) form on [Maps](#) .

You can also paste one of the following URLs into your web browser if your link does not connect.

Maps to Columbus

http://maps.google.com/maps?q=77+s+high+st+columbus+ohio&oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&split=0&gl=us&ei=A_WrSb24GZHYMM_nyJcD&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&resnum=1&ct=title

Directions to the Statehouse

<http://www.lwvohio.org/Statehouse%20Day/Dir%20Riffe.pdf>

And if you'd like to make your appointment to meet with your legislator, contact information is at <http://takeaction.lwv.org/lwv/dbq/officials/>

For more information, contact Mary Helen Hart, Statehouse Day coordinator, at democracy@lwvohio.org 614.469.1505 or 614.256.3225

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e-newsletter



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