

Feb. 24, 2026

LOBBY CALL

136th General Assembly 119th US Congress

No party shall record, tape, otherwise capture, reproduce or broadcast any audio, video, or digital content from this session without specific consent of the League of Women Voters of Ohio.

HOUSEKEEPING

- **Be present**
- **Be respectful**
- **Assume good intent**
- **Recognize that the materials, statements, and opinions are private to the organization and should not be shared without specific consent from the League or the speaker**
 - No party shall record, tape, or otherwise capture reproduce or broadcast any audio, video or digital content from this session without specific consent from the League of Women Voters of Ohio.

Current LWVUS Action Alerts



Tell Congress Federal Immigration Enforcement Has Gone Too Far

Communities across the country have lived in terror as federal immigration enforcement agents have patrolled, surveilled, detained, disappeared, injured, and killed civilians, as well as denied people's constitutional rights by attacking and arresting peaceful protestors. Yet Congress — our elected officials — has played a pivotal role in funding and enabling this government-manufactured crisis, and they must act to stop these attacks.

We need you to stand with the League to demand that:



Reject additional funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), or immigration detention;



Investigate ICE, CBP, and the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) use of force;



Impose additional DHS guardrails and accountability measures on immigration enforcement; and



Take steps to protect the constitutional rights of civilians to peacefully protest and assemble without having their lives threatened or taken.

Speak up now.



For Leagues involved in actions concerning ICE activities:

NOW AVAILABLE: Civic Action Toolkit During ICE Activity and Related Blog:

- **With immigration enforcement activity increasing in our communities, it can create fear, confusion, and barriers to participation in civic life. Leagues can now review our [civic action toolkit](#) on the League Management Site to learn how to show up safely, lawfully, and in solidarity during ICE activity.**
- **LWVUS has a new [blog](#) post describing what's happening with ICE and how to respond, including Know Your Rights information. Please feel free to share this with your networks!**

Anti-voter bills in Congress

SAVE AMERICA Act

- passed in US House, not yet assigned committee in US Senate

Would

- require documentary proof of citizenship (DPOC) to register & reregister
- end online voter registration, voter registration by mail, and community voter registration
- require voter ID (this wouldn't really affect Ohio)
- add new photo ID requirements for absentee voting
- require states to turn over their voter registration list to DHS
- impose criminal penalties —including jail—on election workers who mistakenly register voters without proper DPOC

Anti-voter bills in Congress

MEGA Act

- in the US House
- even more broadly focused than SAVE America Act

Would

- also require DPOC for registering
- require more aggressive voter list maintenance
- restrict absentee voting further- end universal vote by mail
- Require paper ballots
- restructure parts of federal registration law
- bans ranked choice voting
- Makes having more than 4 absentee ballots at a time a federal offense

Take Action against anti-voter bills

TELL CONGRESS NO ON

- SAVE America Act
- MEGA Act

WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

- LWVUS Action [here](#)
- Go to your US House rep & Senators Moreno & Husted's website and email after choosing the 'Elections' topic: find sites [here](#)
- Congressional switchboard #: (202) 224-3121



**TELL CONGRESS
TO REJECT
THE SAVE &
MEGA ACTS!**

We don't need more barriers to voting



You can also help educate about these bills by sharing our explainers!

- SAVE America fact sheet [here](#) & SAVE Act explainer for social media [here](#) & [here](#)

One more thing...

LEAGUE IN ACTION

- Same “Tell Congress to reject the SAVE & MAGA Acts” action: lives in the app

Link [here](#)

- Help spread the facts about the SAVE Act: send the action to friends & family via text or email

Link [here](#)



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OHIO

**HELP SPREAD
THE FACTS
ABOUT
THE SAVE ACT!**

Friends don't let friends be the last to know

- And [here](#)'s our SAVE America Fact Sheet to share

SB 293 Lawsuit

Filed 2/13: LWVO, with CAIR-Northern Ohio, are the plaintiffs

- Citizenship data used in federal databases the SOS must now use in verifying voter registration is outdated: this will result in the wrongful removal of eligible voters, especially naturalized citizens, from the voter rolls.
- Voters are removed from the voter rolls too close to an election: this is a violation of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).
- Wrongfully removed voters may not be able to fix their registration in time to vote: this is a violation the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment

Read the press release and challenge [here](#)



How you can help

Call Jen immediately if you know of dues-paying members who:

- Were wrongfully flagged by the SOS/BOE in 2024 for not being a citizen
- Are very recently naturalized
- Have not provided the BMV with their proof of citizenship since becoming a citizen and/or returned to get a new ID/DL without the non-citizen demarcation

Special Note: Our initial concern is about naturalized citizens being wrongfully targeted. However, after the primary, we may broaden to include members who have a slight mismatch between Voter Registration & BMV records, which created challenges voting.



Program Planning

June 25-28, 2026 Columbus, Ohio

National Convention Basics

- Convention is a biennial event that serves as LWWUS's bylaws-prescribed business meeting.
- Delegates vote on a variety of items, including the LWWUS biennial budget, the next LWWUS Board of Directors and Nominating Committee, any bylaw amendments that have been put forth, and the organization's program or focus of work for the next biennium.
- Host a variety of networking events for League members to meet and mingle in informal settings.
- Includes training opportunities in large and small settings, as well as League-led caucuses.

National Convention Deadlines

- [Registration](#) and [hotel bookings](#) are now open. The early bird rate expires **March 31** and will not be extended.
- Learn about [delegate representation](#).
- The [bylaws amendment proposal](#) deadline is **February 27** (submissions must come from a League, not individuals).
- [Program planning](#) responses are due **March 10**. League members can join the program planning Groups.io [here](#).
- [Breakout session/caucus applications](#) are due **March 31**.
- The LWVUS Board is [fundraising](#) to support scholarships to the Convention. [Applications](#) for scholarships are due **March 31**. Leagues are also encouraged to engage in their own fundraising efforts using [resources](#) provided by LWVUS.
- The [event website](#) is the primary hub for registration, proposals, and other convention information.

Program Planning 2026-2028

- Current LWVUS Positions can be found in *Impact on Issues*
- **Proposed Program Focus:** Women Defend Democracy: Democracy Under Siege: The campaign will focus on *Voting Rights, Election Protection, Redistricting, Individual Liberties, Immigration, and The Presidency.*
- **Proposed Concurrences:**
 - LWV Washington Protecting Immigrant Rights
 - LWV Colorado Religions Freedom
 - LWV Port Washington-Manhasset Privatization Update
- **Tips on Navigating the National Program** | Recording Here and Slides Here
- **Nuts and Bolts of Program Planning Meetings** | Recording Here (Passcode: Y4%GT597) and Slides Here

Power Play Book 4: March Goals

- ❑ Organize a “Vote Together” event. Coordinate carpools, walk-to-the polls groups, or faith-based voting on Sundays.
- ❑ Host a “Family Voting Pledge” drive. Encourage households to commit to voting together and share photos/stories.
- ❑ Utilize VOTE411 postcards to mail voting reminders to family members who may live in other states.

Power Play Book 4: March Goals

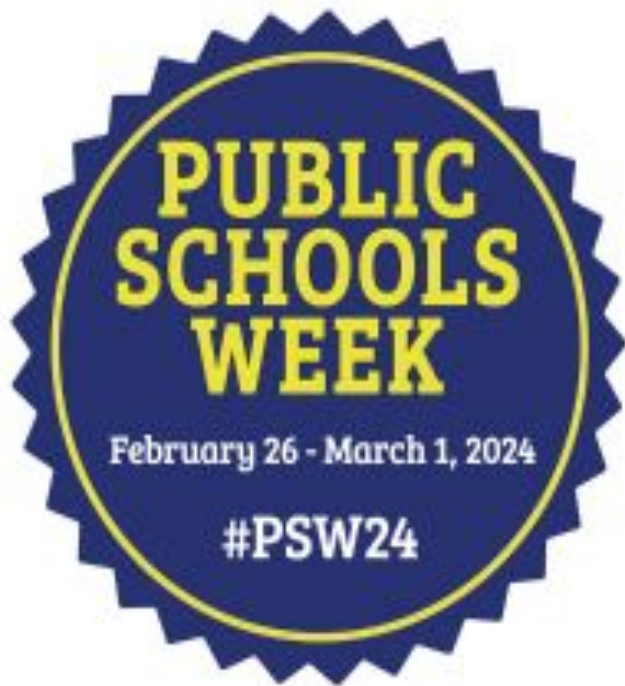
- ❑ Host a “Monthly Friend Bank,” engaging League members and partners to focus on the most important electoral aspects (e.g., register and/or check your registration, and/or learn early voting options and tips, and/or learn about the candidates and Election Day information).
- ❑ Create a “Community Polls Pack.” Distribute flyers or social graphics with digital links to VOTE411’s polling place locator, early voting dates, and accessibility resources.

Upcoming LWVUS Events

- March 10 2:00 to 3:00 PM ET: [Amplifying Our Impact: Supporting Student-Led Voter Registration Drives](#)
- March 11, 2026, from 1:15 to 2:45 PM ET: [Corruption, Never Victimless: The Case for an International Anti-Corruption Court](#)
- March 18 3:30 to 4:30 PM ET: [Responding to Misinformation Online Webinar](#)
- Civic Learning Week from March 9 –13, 2026! Leagues can find daily activities, messaging resources, sample social media posts, and more in our [engagement guide on the League Management Site](#).



Around the Ohio Statehouse



Celebrate Public Schools Week Feb. 26 - March 1

Each year, district leaders, specialists, teacher educators, parents and school board members come together with the [Learning First Alliance \(LFA\)](#) to celebrate [Public Schools Week](#), a time to show the strength—and potential—of our nation’s public schools and our students’ futures.

Legislative Schedule & Expectations

8 weeks of work, Primary Break (May 5), then **8 more weeks** before **Summer Break**.



First 8 Weeks
(Work Session)



Primary Break
(May 5)



Second 8 Weeks
(Work Session)

Feb. 24-25

-  No Senate Committees
-  No Senate Session
-  House Committees
-  House Session

March 3-4

-  Senate Committees
-  Senate Session
-  House Committees
-  House Session

New Bill — [HB 671](#)

Sponsor: Jamie Callender (R)

- [Ohio bill would cut funding to school districts suing over vouchers](#)
- Requires the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) to withhold state foundation funding for any school district that joins a lawsuit against the state regarding funding (*such as the [Vouchers Hurt Ohio](#) lawsuit that half of all Ohio school districts have joined*)
- **Amended to only the amount that has been spent on being part of the suit as a result of public outcry. But this is still unacceptable!!!**
- DEW “will release withheld funds to the school district only upon the termination of the legal action or the district's withdrawal from the action.”

[Ohio GOP legislation threatens First Amendment](#)

Points for messaging

State Data: Ohio spent more on school privatization last year than public schools in many communities

For example, the state spent about twice as much on charters and vouchers in Columbus than they did on kids in Columbus City Schools -- Ohio's largest school district.

Stephen Dyer. Feb 12, 2026

Ohio lawmakers and governors have so overvalued failing Charter Schools and unconstitutional private school tuition subsidies that in some communities state taxpayers are paying more to educate students in privately run schools than local public schools¹.

There are 26 Ohio school districts where the state's sending 75 percent or more of the amount of funding to privately run schools than students in the public schools. On average, the state is sending 20 percent of the funding it sends to students in public schools to failing charter schools or to subsidize the unconstitutional private school voucher program.

[View Chart Here](#)



TIMELINE AND RESPONSE TO REPRESENTATIVE CALLENDER'S HB671.

Tuesday, Feb. 3 - Laura Hancock breaks story that Callender will introduce legislation (HB 671)

Monday, Feb. 9 - State Senator Jerry Cirino tells Karen Kasler he supports Callender.

Former Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Eric Brown, and VHO Steering Committee Chairman, tells Kasler: "...right to pursue legal action on behalf of their students."

Thursday, Feb. 12 - Vouchers Hurt Ohio holds a press conference in the Ladies' Gallery in the Ohio Statehouse featuring four speakers:

Judge Brown called the bill "outrageous" and said it was an attempt to bully and intimidate the more than 330 school districts in our coalition and it would not work.

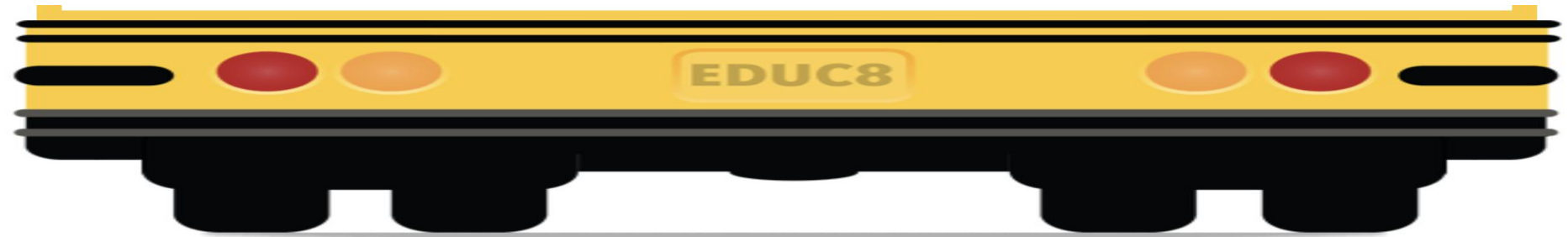
Joceyln Rhynard warned this was a slippery slope and could lead to intimidating other governmental entities

Friday, Feb. 13 - Morgan Trau, Callender told Trau he only wanted to start a conversation and that he was going to amend the bill to just withhold from suing districts the money they were spending on the lawsuit.

Monday, Feb. 16 - Vouchers Hurt Ohio issues a press release continuing to condemn Callender's proposal

The same day, Cleveland.com | The Cleveland Plain Dealer's Mary France McGowan tries to follow up on Trau's story from Friday, but now Callender is no longer talking to the press and neither is his office.

The bill has been assigned to the House Finance Committee. Callender has zero, count them, zero co-sponsors.



New Bill — [HB 643](#)

- Bipartisan
- Limit the EdChoice expansion scholarship to families with a federal adjusted gross income of \$500,000 or less ([This is still most of the families in the state.](#))

[SB 127](#) — Allows the state to close certain public schools

- **STATUS:** 3rd hearing in Senate Education Committee on 4/1/25
- **WHAT IT DOES:**
 - Allows the state to close certain public schools
 - Could force some public schools to “transfer control to private operators”
 - **Messages from Ohio Education Association (OEA):**
 - SB 127 would expand reliance on problematic standardized test scores for labeling schools as underperforming ([We have a strong position against high risk testing](#))
 - SB 127 could lead to mandatory school closures that squander prior investments in school buildings
 - **SB 127 could transfer control of schools to external operators that have no link to the community**
 - SB 127 could lead to mass job losses for school staff, which would have a major impact on local communities

TAX CREDITS FOR SCHOOL DONATIONS

PUBLIC SCHOOLS BEGIN SETTING UP SGOs



SGOs are the mechanism for private school donors to get **income tax credits** for donations to the entities for scholarships.

Public schools have also begun **setting them up**, **Cleveland.com** reports.

Hudson, Nardonias, 3-Rivers, Aurora



Read the full article at Cleveland.com:
<https://www.cleveland.com/open/2026/02/how-ohio-public-schools-are-adopting-private-schools-tax-credit-strategy.html>

POINTS ON TAX MIX

The Great Ohio Tax Shift: Who Pays More?



Property taxes generate approx. \$24 billion annually in Ohio. This is equivalent to the total revenue from Ohio's state sales and income tax combined, accounting for about **65 percent of all local tax revenue** in Ohio. Replacing property tax revenue with **income taxes** would **quadruple income tax rates.**

\$68,812: Highest-Income 1% (Over \$753,900) - Average annual reduction in state taxes since 2005 (ITEP). Enough for a new Lexus.

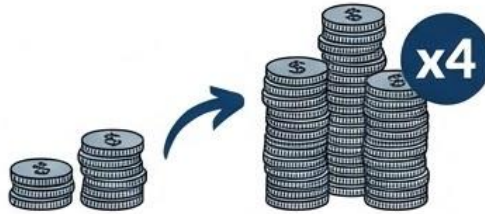
\$459: Middle-Income 20% (\$72,212 Median) - Average annual reduction in state taxes. About \$38/month, a tank of gas.

1: Lowest-Income 20% (Under \$26,000) - The **ONLY** income group paying **MORE** in state taxes today than in 2005 (avg. \$32 more). Shifting responsibility to those who can least afford it.




IMPACT OF REPLACING PROPERTY TAXES

From the Center for Community Solutions:

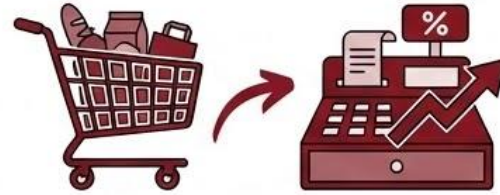
REPLACING WITH INCOME TAXES






WOULD QUADRUPLE RATES

-  Statewide rates could reach up to **15%** (Tax Foundation)
-  Local rates could reach up to **27%** in some counties
-  Would exceed top brackets in high-tax states

REPLACING WITH SALES TAXES



WOULD REQUIRE 15-18% RATE

-  Increase from Ohio's current **5.75%**
-  Would be the highest statewide sales tax in the US
-  Broadening base to include food & healthcare could mitigate rate

Tax Bills

HB 608

- Sponsors: Thomas, Glassburn
- Modify the law governing property taxes and other local taxes

SJR 7 — Blessing

- Allow land valuation rather than improvements on land
- Was to have first hearing Jan. 27

HB 575

- Sponsors: David Thomas, Bob Peterson
- Make various changes to the law governing the property taxation of farmland
- STATUS: In House Ways & Means Committee

Tax Bills

Bill from “Trilogy” from Rep Gary Click:

- [HB 420](#) — Enact Taxpayers Freedom Trilogy-Act I: Discontinuing the Continuum
 - Would disallow — and by 2030, eliminate — property taxes levied for a continuing period of time

[HJR 6](#)

- Limit property taxes, whether voted or unvoted, to 1.25% or, for certain owner-occupied homes, 1% of real property's true value
- Sponsors: Tex Fischer, Beth Lear

[HB 355](#)

- **STATUS:** In House General Government Committee
- Require more than just a simple majority of voters to pass local levies

[SB 66](#)

- Include emergency levies, substitute levies, all inside millage, and school district income taxes in the calculation of a school district's effective millage floor.
- **STATUS:** 3rd hearing in Senate Ways & Means Committee last Spring

S. B. No. 63 Prohibit use of ranked choice voting; withhold funding for use

Sponsors: Gavarone, DeMora

Passed the Senate: May 14th , 2025 (27-5)

Committee: House General Government, 4th Hearing today (4:15PM) with Poss. Vote, Poss. Am.

Diversity Ban Bills: [SB 113](#) and [HB 155](#)

SB 113 and HB 155: Prohibit diversity, equity, and inclusion in public schools

- [WHAT IT DOES](#): “Prohibits diversity, equity, and inclusion in public schools”
- [Public toolkit to share](#)
 - Toolkit link: <https://bit.ly/ProtectDEI-Ohio>

Honesty’s amazing K-12 Civil Rights team has crafted [an open letter](#) urging legislators to oppose the two diversity ban bills ([SB 113](#) and [HB 155](#)) moving through Ohio's Statehouse. The letter can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/NoDEI-BanOH>

Individuals — Please sign the open letter and share it on your social media:

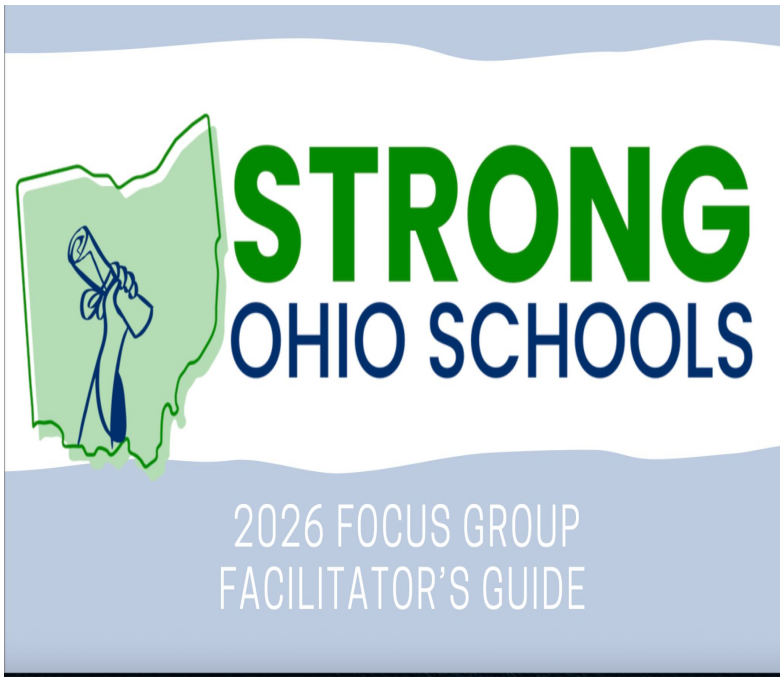
https://secure.everyaction.com/XOIkl_Mky0uSvaW4qVpi_A2

[HB 326](#) — Classic Learning Test

- **STATUS:** Passed the House on 2/18/26 ([Vote breakdown: 65-29](#)). Headed to the Senate
- Requires Ohio to select the [“Classic Learning Test”](#) as one of the nationally standardized tests that may be administered under the College and Work Ready Assessment System.
- If a state college/university in Ohio requires the SAT, ACT, or any other nationally standardized test for student admissions, they would also have to accept the “Classic Learning Test”
- [Bill analysis](#) — [Bill testimonies](#)
- **[AMENDMENT ADDED 11/13:](#)**
 - Eliminated a requirement that DEW and the Dept of Higher Ed jointly select the nationally standardized assessments schools can choose to offer.
 - Amendment also mandates that each state institution of higher education that accepts one "valid, reliable, nationally norm-referenced college entrance exam" must accept all such assessments

[”What is the Classic Learning Test, and why is it popular with conservatives?”:](#)

Resources



QUESTIONS TO GUIDE ACTION

What are the most pressing issues facing Ohio schools today?

What are the purposes of public education?
What ideas do you have for how schools could better serve students / communities?

“Adult” Survey

bit.ly/StrongOhioSurvey



“Youth” Survey

bit.ly/sosyouthsurvey



Webpage



By Mar. 25th send responses to:
ccollins@honestyforohioeducation.org

Statehouse Day!

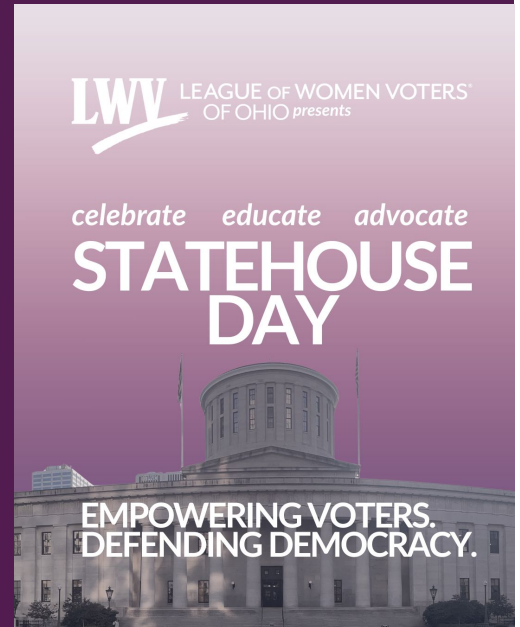
- Special celebration of the Ohio Women's Monument
- Keynote lunch with elections experts
- Meet with lawmakers on our advocacy priorities

Date: March 25

Time: 9am-2pm; some lobby visits may go as late as 5pm.

Location: The Ohio Statehouse & The Plaza Hotel on Capitol Square

- **Register [here](#)**



Other upcoming events

Defend Democracy Teach-In AKRON

- February 28 10am -2:30pm
- Register [here](#)

The Election Before the Election: Ohio Primaries & Why They Matter

- Online on March 18 @ 7pm
- Register [here](#)
- Help us promote our event through our [Mobilize link](#) & [Facebook event page](#)

Only about 1 in 5 registered voters vote in our primaries.

Find out why & why this is a big deal.



**THE ELECTION BEFORE THE ELECTION:
OHIO'S PRIMARY & WHY IT MATTERS**

This voter has a lot of power!



Wednesday, March 18, @ 8pm



We are also looking at condensing the most essential content from our Teach-Ins and making a webinar so everyone can take part, so stay tuned for that!



New Feature for Lobby Calls

Introduction to and review of resources and local League programs:



Books



Podcasts



Videos



**Local League
Programs**

Media recommendations

Ohioans Against Extremism podcast

- **OAE:** Ohioans Against Extremism is part of a growing coalition of advocacy groups battling state officials in support of voting rights, public education, and other public policy issues.

Suffs musical

- Was playing in Cleveland, will be back in Ohio in April and May: touring schedule [here](#)
- Watch it on PBS' Great Performances on May 8 if you can't see it in person: more info [here](#)

Voting as Fire Extinguisher poem by Kyle “Guante” Tran Myhra

- Part of a larger work, *To Throw a Wrench in the Blood Machine: Five (Season-Appropriate) Metaphors for Voting*, [here](#)

2026 State of the Union BINGO

- On Tuesday, **February 24, at 9pm ET**, President Trump will deliver his 2026 State of the Union (SOTU) address. Each year, LWV creates [BINGO cards](#) to make the SOTU a more engaging process. However, if games feel less relevant to you than direct action (or you want to do both), we encourage you to use this SOTU to [contact your representatives](#) about the issues currently facing our nation.



No Kings Mobilization

- LWVUS is joining No Kings as a national partner on Saturday, March 28. Leagues are welcome to lean in locally and participate in activations with partners on the ground in a nonpartisan manner. For Leagues who decide to mobilize for No Kings, please utilize our Protest Safety Guidance and Guidance for Leagues About Nonpartisanship and Partnerships.

Next Lobby Call
March 10,
7 PM

Update on Bills currently in Committee with messaging!!