

Feb. 10, 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.

# Our General Assembly: Dismantle Ed Depart.

Republican lawmakers plan to formally pledge their support for federal dismantling of the Department of Education. Resolutions are planned in both chambers.

The language of the Ohio resolution states that education “is not a power delegated to the federal government and has historically been governed by states and local communities accountable to families.” It goes on to say that under federal involvement, academic achievement has “stagnated or declined.”

“Decades of increased federal spending and regulation have not improved outcomes for students, but have imposed burdens on states and their schools,” according to the draft resolution.

[Article](#)



Bill Phillis



**VOUCHERS  
HURT OHIO**



Dennis Willard

**Update on Voucher Lawsuit and Comments about HB 671 sponsored by Rep. Jamie Callander**

## 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*)
- DEW must certify the amount of withheld funds to the Budget and Management director, who must transfer that amount into a new “state foundation funding escrow fund”
- 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](#)

## What You Can Do

If you are in a school district that has signed on to the lawsuit, let them know you support their decision.

If your district has not, gather some friends and talk to school board members.

Educate your members and the public about the importance of this suit. Every voucher dollar is a dollar taken from public schools.

Interesting Article from Tiffin: [Click voted to cut Tiffin Schools funding after failing to send tax dollars to his church](#)

# 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.**



**\$4.2M:** Amount of funding the federal government has cut from Springfield's Clark County in the past year. That's *before* the economic gut-punch of pushing thousands of Haitian immigrants out of the labor force — as the Trump administration aims to do by stripping them of their Temporary Protected Status. This week, a federal judge blocked the move, though the administration is already preparing an appeal. In a **statement released this week**, employment researcher Molly Bryden spelled out why eliminating lawful work authorization for thousands of immigrant workers – in Springfield and across the state – will likely exacerbate the economic slowdown we're starting to observe statewide.

Policy  
Matters  
Ohio

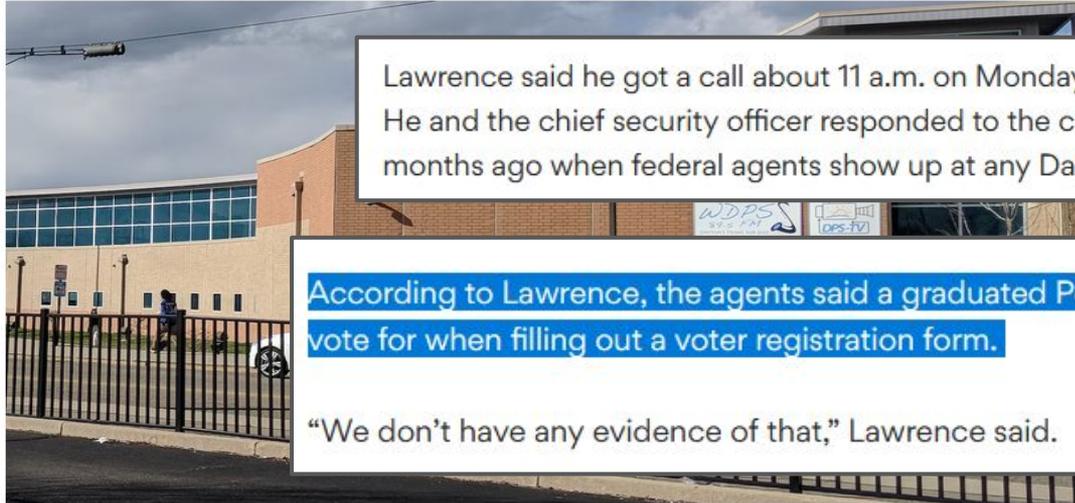
Saturday Stats  
Numeric news from Policy Matters Ohio

# DHS in a Dayton School

Dayton Daily News  
TRUSTED SINCE 1898  
Local

al Videos Best of Dayton Business Investigations Life Food Sports Obituaries Classifieds Legal Notices ePz

## Homeland Security agents visit Ponitz high school investigating alleged voter fraud



Lawrence said he got a call about 11 a.m. on Monday about three Homeland Security officers at Ponitz. He and the chief security officer responded to the call, part of a protocol the district put in place months ago when federal agents show up at any Dayton Public schools.

According to Lawrence, the agents said a graduated Ponitz student had said they'd been told who to vote for when filling out a voter registration form.

"We don't have any evidence of that," Lawrence said.

[School officials, voting rights groups push back after DHS visits Dayton high school](#)

# DHS in a Dayton School

- When a president tries to pick his voters instead of earning their votes, that is authoritarianism, plain and simple.
- We see this same abuse of power playing out across the country every day.
- The administration does not have legal authority to control elections or change the voting process.
- Volunteers should feel empowered to talk to young people about their constitutional right to vote without intimidation.
- This moment shows the power of the youth vote (and all of us)!

[Feb. 6 OVRC press statement](#)

Bondi letter to Walz requests access to Minnesota voting and welfare records, repeal of 'sanctuary' policies

By KSTP

Updated: January 25, 2026 - 9:58 AM

Published: January 25, 2026 - 9:45 AM



# OPPOSE THE SAVE ACT

The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility  
(**SAVE**) Act is Unnecessary and Harmful

-  Requires citizenship documentation for voter registration, despite existing voter affirmations.
-  Creates significant **barriers** for eligible voters lacking easy access to documents.



**TELL YOUR SENATORS TO REJECT ANTI-VOTER POLICIES**

# Congressional Update

- **The SAVE Act & Co.:** Three federal bills to look out for
  - The SAVE Act (H.R. 22/S. 128)
  - The SAVE America Act (H.R. 7296/S. 3752)
  - The Make Elections Great Again (MEGA) Act (H.R. 7300)
- Provisions
  - Documentary Proof of Citizenship
  - Mandatory voter purges using faulty federal databases
  - National Voter ID (Save America and MEGA Acts)
  - Criminal and civil liability for election workers who register voters without sufficient DPOC
  - Eliminating Universal Mail Voting and Voter Registration
  - Prohibiting ranked choice voting (MEGA Act)

# 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 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<sup>®</sup>  
OF OHIO

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

Friends don't let friends be the last to know

## National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) Letter sent to SOS

- On January 22, 2026 the ACLU, ACLU OH, LWV OH, CLC, and CAIR OH sent a letter to Secretary of State LaRose [detailing how SB 293 violates the NVRA](#)
- The issue: systemic voter purges of suspected non-citizens during the NVRA's mandatory 90-day "quiet period"
  - Why's it matter? [4% of Ohio's registered](#) voters are naturalized citizens - approximately 320,000 voters
  - Voters subject to this removal are not notified beforehand, only after their registration has been canceled
  - Federal SAVE system is inaccurate and cannot be the basis for removal
    - [LCS's own analysis of SB 293 confirms this](#)
- This letter is a necessary step before litigation can be filed. The state has 20 days from receipt of the letter to fix identified issues.

# Letter to LaRose on SB293

## LETTER URGES CORRECTIONS TO NVRA VIOLATIONS

- Sent by ACLU, ACLU Ohio, and Campaign Legal on behalf of LWVO and CAIR Ohio
- Says SB 293 violates federal law by requiring unlawful voter purges + wrongful removals of eligible voters
- Specifically: Discriminates against naturalized citizens + violates federal law prohibiting systematic voter list maintenance during the 90 day period preceding a federal election
- SOS has 20 days to take action: should he do nothing, we are ready to pursue additional measures, including litigation

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

# Who's at Risk?

## 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.

# Messaging

## Ongoing Attacks on Voting Rights

### Core Message

In America, most of us believe voters should pick our leaders, but President Trump is stoking fear, violence, and intimidation to pick his voters and control elections before ballots are cast. Most Americans want every eligible voter to vote and every vote cast to be counted. **We will decide our future**, choose our leaders, and ensure the will of the people prevail.

Don't be afraid to say the scary parts out loud:

- Intimidating and scaring voters away from the polls will **CHANGE THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION**
- Politicians who can't win with their ideas and resort to threats of violence and intimidation are **AUTHORITARIANS**
- This is a **COORDINATED POWER GRAB**
- Trump & his administration are **TRYING TO DECIDE THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION** before votes have been cast





# Program Planning

**June 25-28, 2026 Columbus, Ohio**

## For Your Information

**LWV Colorado has a new position on religious freedom** that they want to see at a national level. When we first was sent the materials, LWVO Board decided we needed a concurrence study to determine if we want a state position. **That study is currently going on. Please watch to have that packet in your hands the first week of April.** You can plan concurrence meetings for April, May or June and you will be prepared if it is on the agenda at LWVUS Convention at the end of June.

## **Program Planning 2026-2028**

This is your one-stop shop for materials and resources related to the 2026-2028 Program and program planning process.

### **LWVUS Program Planning Glossary**

Glossary of terms that are unique to Program Planning, the grassroots process for choosing League program.

### **Program Planning Guidance for Virtual Meetings**

This guidance is intended for those Leagues who will be conducting their member meeting as a virtual event. This guide covers overall guidance for program, setting up pre-meetings, tips for planning...

### **Leaders Guide to LWVUS Program 2026 – 2028**

This guidance includes a timeline, background, and additional resources for League leaders on LWVUS program planning for 2026-2028.

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& rise

## Program Planning 2026-2028

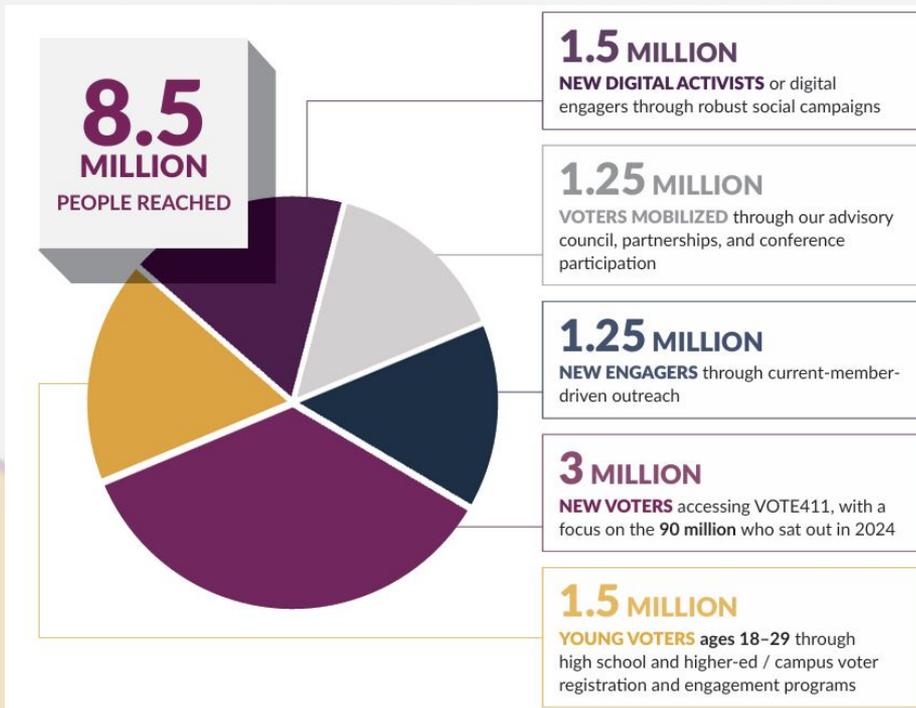
- **Current LWVUS Positions** can be found in *Impact on Issues*
- **Join the Program Planning Groups.IO discussion group** to learn more about Program Planning and Women Defend Democracy: *Democracy Under Siege*, as well as consider proposals from state and local Leagues.
- **Hold an All-Member or Board Member** meeting to reach consensus on on survey questions
- **Submit Survey By March 9, 2026:** Actual Survey | PDF Version for Reviewing (not Submitting)

## Power Play Book 4 February Goals

- ❑ Invite 1–3 power partners to host pop-ups at locations where you might reach new audiences, such as community colleges, transit hubs, faith communities, with friends and family, and sporting events.
- ❑ Utilize VOTE411 poster templates to create customizable voting resources for your community.
- ❑ Meet with local elections officials. Deepen your relationship with local elections officials to build an effective partnership and address difficult issues if they arise. Find ways to educate your community about potential issues.
- ❑ Promote “Make Your Voting Plan” checklists. Encourage members to help neighbors confirm their registration, know their polling place, and set reminders.

## Power Play Book 4

- February to April 2026: [Deepening Electoral Power](#)
- Ohio Goal: 313,176 people reached
- Local League Goal: 8,948 people reached



## Power Play Book 4 February Goals

- ❑ Hold virtual or in-person workshops. Teach communities the basics about how primaries work in their state and why they matter. This is a great opportunity to partner with local elections officials.
- ❑ Utilize existing Action Kits to host community conversations about relevant issues.
- ❑ 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).

## New LWV Actions & Resources

- **Tell Congress That Federal Immigration Enforcement Has Gone Too Far**
- **Tell your Senators to oppose the SAVE Act**
- **Civic Action Toolkit**: Showing Up Safely, Lawfully, and in Solidarity During ICE Activity
- **Questions for Local Elections Officials**: A list of questions developed to help Leagues ask specific questions that will assist them in identifying issues and problems that may exist at various points in the election process.

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# Around the Ohio Statehouse



**Expectation: work for 8 weeks, take off for Primary (May 5) and then go another 8 weeks before Summer Break**

- Senate Committees
- Senate Session

2 House Committees

Feb. 9-13

## New Bill — [HB 643](#)

- Bipartisan
- Limit the EdChoice expansion scholarship to families with a federal adjusted gross income of \$500,000 or less

## [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
    - 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

We now have a **property tax crisis** happening in Ohio that has been perpetuated by the state's continued **underfunding of public services** (not just education), increased tax cuts over time for the wealthy and big corporations, and increased burden on homeowners / tax payers. **While 4 bills that deal with inside millage have been signed by the Governor, the GA is hoping to pass some bills that now deal with outside millage.**



Loopholes and other tax breaks for big business



Tax cuts (flat tax) and breaks for the wealthy

### Excessive Tax Breaks & An Artificial Shortfall



The state intentionally **pays less** as it reduces state revenue



### More Property Tax Levies for Everyday Ohioans

(complicated by reduced state support and increasing home values)



Homeowners **pay more** for schools and services with property taxes

Shout out to Leagues conducting educational programs linking taxes and services. Very important for townships who are very limited in how they raise dollars for services.

**\$21.4B:** Revenue generated from taxes on real property in Ohio during Tax Year 2024. That's by far the most of any type of tax in the state.

**Repealing property taxes** — as some anti-tax activists advocate — **would force enormous cuts to crucial public services, including emergency response and supports for people with disabilities, seniors, and children.** Alternatively, the legislature could more than double the sales tax, pushing the average rate higher than any in the country. That's one of a few unlikely (and generally awful) alternatives to the cuts a property-tax repeal would require. **Research Director Zach Schiller outlines the consequences of the repeal campaign's poorly thought-out plan — which include an increase in energy costs.**



## **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

**2:** Number of **misguided proposals** recently rolled out by Ohio legislators in **reaction to online misinformation** about “**child care fraud**” in Ohio. **Both H.B. 649 and H.B. 647 would increase state surveillance of children and child care providers.** The bills raise serious concerns about privacy — allowing the state to collect and store videos of children and other sensitive data — and allow the state to cut funding for providers at will, without proof of wrongdoing or opportunity to respond. Child care researcher Ali Smith explains why **parents and providers have cause for concern, and legislators have good reason to reject both bills.**



## Education Bills Still on the Table (Passed One Chamber)

HB486: Charlie Kirk American Heritage Act which would allow the teaching of positive impacts of Christianity on history

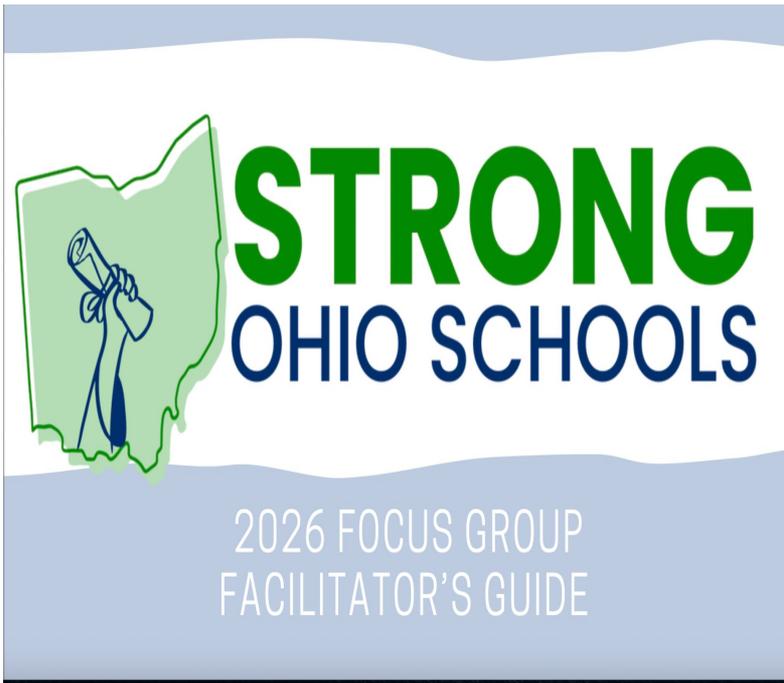
HB485: Baby Olivia Act

SB34: could allow display of 10 Commandments in the classroom

SB156: Success Sequence

SB19: public school student scoring below proficient in state assessment of math or English language arts would be provided free intervention services that are evidenced-based

# 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?

By Mar. 25th send responses to:  
[ccollins@honestyforohioeducation.org](mailto:ccollins@honestyforohioeducation.org)

“Adult” Survey

[bit.ly/StrongOhioSurvey](https://bit.ly/StrongOhioSurvey)



“Youth” Survey

[bit.ly/sosyouthsurvey](https://bit.ly/sosyouthsurvey)



Webpage



These LWWUS national partners may have local chapters that your league can partner with:

- National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) ([Locator](#))
- American Association of University Women (AAUW) ([Locator](#))
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated ([Locator](#) | [Toolkit](#))
- Lambda Theta Alpha (LTA) Latin Sorority Inc. ([Locator](#))
- Girl Scouts USA ([Resources](#))
- American Library Association ([Locator](#))
- The School Superintendents Association (AASA) ([Resources](#))

## Partnership Resources:

- [The Community Tool Box](#)
- [The Nonprofit Risk Management Center](#)
- [Everyday Democracy](#)

## Other Toolkits and Talking Points:

- [Election Preparation Toolkit](#)
- [Election Observation Toolkit](#)
- [Observing Your Government In Action](#)
- [Talking Points: Combating Anti-Voter State Legislature Bills](#)
- [Talking Points: Advancing Pro-Voter Reforms](#)

# Statehouse Day!

Save the date:

March 25

More info  
coming soon



# 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.

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF OHIO presents

**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!



Next Lobby Call

# February 24,

# NOON

Update on Bills currently in Committee with messaging!!