LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OHIO
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LOBBY CALL

October 27, 2026

136th General Assembly
119th US Congress

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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.

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Around the Statehouse

Preparing for Lame Duck: Terms

Lame Duck Session: The period after an election but before new officials take office.
"Christmas Tree" bill: When mutliple bills are added as amendments (like ornaments on a tree) to an existing bill, therefore creating one large bill with multiple parts
2/3 Supermajority: A large majority of lawmakers needed to pass certain types of legislation.
3/5 Supermajority: The Ohio Constitution requires a 3/5 vote of each house to override a veto. Action to override a veto must commence in the bill's house of origin.
Amendment: A proposal to alter the text by substituting, adding, or deleting language.
Backroom Deal: Secret or informal agreements made by lawmakers outside public view.
Bill Rushed Through: Legislation passed quickly with little debate.
Earmark: Funds set aside for specific projects, often added to bills at the last minute.
Emergency Clause: A clause in a bill that makes it effective immediately after passage.
Fast-Track Legislation: Bills pushed through the process quickly, usually without full debate.
Floor amendment: When an amendment is added to a bill on the House or Senate floor during Session - usually done as a way of sidestepping the traditional committee process
Last-Minute Bill: A bill introduced or passed at the end of the legislative session.

HB 775 Regards state agencies' authority to adopt administrative rules

- Assigned to House General Government Committee
- Sponsors: Callander, Dovilla
- Cosponsors: Demetriou, Fischer, Fowler Arthur, John, Mathews, Ray, Thomas
- **HB 775 shifts policy detail from agencies back to the General Assembly.**

Current model

Law gives a goal + broad rule authority → **Agency fills in administrative detail** → **Program operates with rules**

HB 775 model

Delete or narrow broad authority → **Agency reviews existing rules** → **Unsupported rules stop being enforced**

- **Official analysis: Analysis As Introduced**

▪ Eliminates state agencies' general authority or duty to adopt administrative rules to implement, administer, or enforce the law overseen by the agencies.

▪ Requires each agency to identify and immediately stop enforcing all rules adopted by the agency pursuant to general rulemaking authority eliminated by the bill.

Why schools and families should care

Education programs run on administrative detail.



1. **Standards, testing, accountability, and reporting**
2. **Licensure, educator practice, credentials, and discipline**
3. **Student services, special education, and federal program procedures**
4. **Funding, provider rules, audits, and documentation**

The question is not only “what does the law say?” It is “who can make it work tomorrow morning?”

Exact affected rules would require agency-by-agency review.

HB 1029: ‘Take the Dough, We Gotta Know’ Act

- Sponsors: Rader (D), Pizzulli (R)
- Stage:Introduced
- Content: reporting and testing requirements for chartered nonpublic schools that accept vouchers (**companion bill SB 443**)

These both are bipartisan bills.

SB 443: Blessing (R), Smith (D)

HB 1024: Common Sense Initiative

Sponsors: Callender (R) Stage: Introduced

what it does:

“To make changes to the Common Sense Initiative Office and to the process by which administrative rules are adopted and reviewed.”

“The common sense initiative office is established within the legislative branch of government. The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall organize, and as it becomes necessary or advisable may reorganize, the office. The president and the speaker shall, by mutual consent, appoint a director of the office. The director shall appoint professional, technical, and clerical personnel who are necessary for the work of the office to be carried out efficiently and successfully. The director and employees are in the unclassified service and serve at the pleasure of the president and speaker.”

SB 113 K-12 diversity ban HB 155

"to prohibit diversity, equity, and inclusion in public schools." DEI / CRT / SEL

Sponsor: Brenner ®; Status: 3rd hearing in Senate Education 5/19/26 (opponent testimony)

Requires public schools to adopt and enforce a policy that prohibits all of the following:

- Any orientation or training course regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI);
- The continuation of existing or establishment of new DEI offices or departments;
- Using DEI in job descriptions;
- Contracting with consultants or third parties whose role is to promote admissions, hiring, or promotion on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; and
- Replacing any orientation, training, office, or position designated for DEI with one under a different designation that serves the same or similar purposes, or that uses the same or similar means.
- Requires each public school to establish a complaint process for alleged violations of the policy that complies with standards adopted by the Director of Education and Workforce.

Tax Bills Being Watched

SB 66: Include certain levies, taxes in school millage floor calculation
The bill expands the types of levies included in the floor calculation. The effect of these changes, for school districts that impose one or more of these levies, is to increase the total millage that is compared to the 20-mill floor. If the district was previously on the floor, the new calculation may push the district above the floor, **with the result that the district will not see full revenue growth from its voted property tax levies that are affected by the tax reduction factor until the district falls back to the 20-mill floor.**

HB 355:Increase vote threshold for local taxes subject to voter approval

- Changes the requirement of just a simple majority of voters to pass local levies to at least 60%

HB 420 — Enact Taxpayers Freedom Trilogy-Act I
HB 421 — Enact Taxpayers Freedom Trilogy-Act II
HB 422 — Enact Taxpayers Freedom Trilogy-Act III

Messaging Across Tax Bills

Messaging across the tax bills:

1. The General assembly has caused the problem of overburdening tax payers. The state has provided appropriations for public schools even before (1838) the State Constitution was adopted (1851). In FY 2017 state share was 47% but due to decreases, state share moves to 32% for FY2027. Schools need to make up that difference. If the General Assembly would fully fund the Fair School Funding Formula, it would reduce property taxes. More notes and references to the OEPI report from Howard Fleeter
2. No proposed "fix" that blames schools, first responders, and/or local communities is acceptable. "Ohio GOP gave billions in taxes to the rich but refuse to admit that caused our tax crisis"
3. No governmental body, County Commissioners or County Budget Commissions, should alter levies that have been voted by the electorate.
4. A comprehensive review of all taxes are necessary. Loopholes need to be closed, especially the LLC and some of the special abatements. Ohio hands out $12 billion in annual tax breaks with little to show for many, study says • Ohio Capital Journal
5. Property tax Circuit breakers are the best way to help certain segments of the population.

S. B. 107: Brenner. Include state, district school board members on partisan ballot (Companion bill: HB 153)

Why this is a bad bill:This would politicize schools. It would also increase the cost of running for school board since Party $ would
flow into races.
These races are nonpartisan in order to focus on the real issues of the school district. Politicizing them would take the focus off the
real issues. It would also impact who runs, causing us to lose good candidates who aren't interested in political careers, but passionate about their schools. In some areas, it would give more support to some extremist candidates.

Messaging Across Education Bills

School funding/vouchers:

Our state should not be granting tax breaks to data centers when our public schools are underfunded

Public dollars for public schools: it is only fair

Middle class Ohioans should not have to pay taxes to support private school tuition for wealthy Ohioans

Private schools should have the same transparency and outcomes reporting requirements as public schools: it is only fair

Ohio’s kids are our future, they deserve the best public schools

If public schools are properly funded, we would have much lower property taxes.

Vouchers have no cap and are growing in cost.

Vouchers guarantee funding for children in private schools but public school students don’t have this guarantee.

Messaging Across Education Bills

Bill (SB 107) creating partisan school board elections:

We should be electing school board members based on their qualifications, not their party.

Partisan school boards are not in the best interest of Ohio's kids. We need to keep politics out of the schools.

There is too much partisanship already, let's focus on what is best for Ohio' students

DEI:

Different perspectives encourage innovation, it is what is best for Ohio schools and communities

Our public schools teach us to live together.

Property tax issues:

Our state should not be granting tax breaks for data centers when Ohioans are struggling to pay their property tax

Best property tax reform is Fair School Funding Plan.

Defending a Democracy Under Seige

ACTION ALERT: WHAT, WHY, HOW

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Census Bureau announced sweeping changes to how we count people on the census. The proposed rule would:

- Count only US citizens and green card holders;
- NOT count other visa holders or undocumented immigrants;
- Stop collecting race and ethnicity data

WHY THIS MATTERS

- Unconstitutional
- Inaccurate Census count = distorted redistricting & representation
- Inaccurate data = distorted funding distribution.

HOW TO TAKE ACTION

- **Individuals:** submit this action by November 2
- **Local Leagues:** guidance here (but good resources for all)

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OHIO

Unite & Rise 8.5 October Key Priorities

- Educate voters on how, when, and where to vote
- Promote early voting participation
- Elevate election officials as trusted leaders
- Fully scale election observation programs

Unite & Rise 8.5 Resources

- Playbook 6: Power Rising for Midterms fuses building power and holding power accountable, mobilizing our nationwide network to deliver record-breaking voter participation, and safeguarding our elections.
- Mid Term Election 2026 Resources
- Election Protection Toolkit
- NEW: Guidance on Addressing Voting Barriers

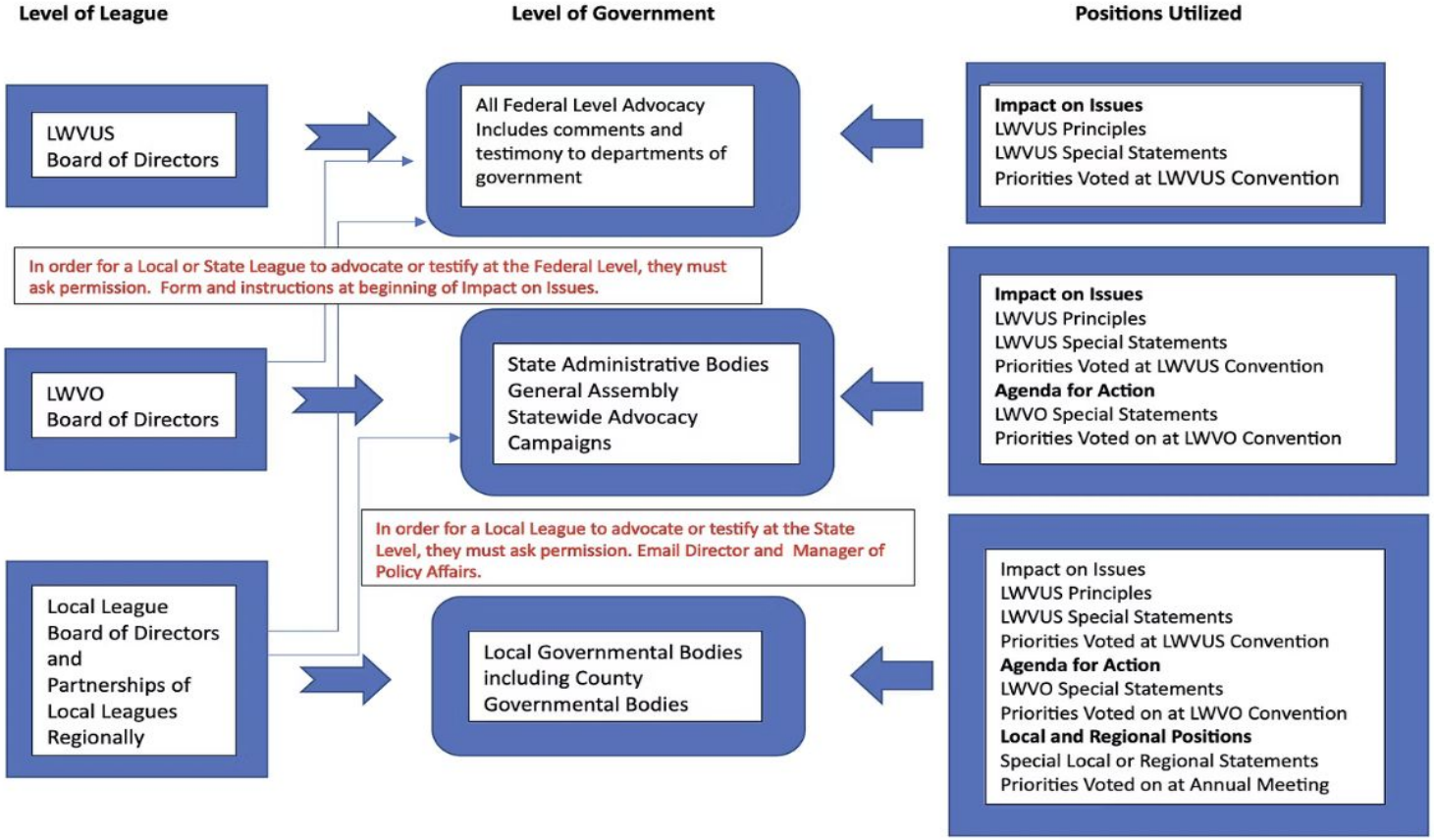
Upcoming Events

- October 28th 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM: Building Grassroots Partnership with DEI Lens through Community Engagement & Coalition Building
- October 29th 6:00 PM: Virtual GOTV Textbanking

Our 3-Tier Action Levels League Advocacy Responsibilities Using LWVUS Principles

Detailed guidance that will be reviewed over the next couple of Lobby Calls can be found in our Advocacy Guide. The Guide contains a description of the Local League's Advocacy Chair and Committee.

Who Owns the Action & Creates the Strategy



Three-Tier Action Levels

Level 1: Gold Level

A Legislative Priority
LWVO takes lead and testifies; action alerts issued in timely bases
Local League expected to support this action with messaging, LTEs, etc.
LWVO creates messaging and asks individuals to actively lobby

Level 2: Silver Level

LWVO has a position
Issue deemed important, but not our voted priority
LWVO creates messaging and asks members to individually lobby

Level 3: Bronze Level

League has a position
Issue is important to a regional group of Leagues or a local League
Strstegy determined with the LWVO Advocacy Committee and limited to the particular concern

Legislative Priorities with Action at State Level

Determining Level 1 Issues:

- Input of local Leagues and ALUs during pre-convention planning process
- State Board review and recommendations
- Convention: chance to revisit non-recommended priorities
- Debate and Vote on priorities on Convention floor.
- Result: LWVO takes leadership on action using League name

Level 2 Issues:

- Position at state or National level of League
- Of determined importance
- Leadership on action taken by a ally or coalition
- Message conforming to League position shared with members
- Members speak as individuals

Level 3 Issues:

- Position at State of National level of League
- Important at regional or local level
- Action taken with permission of State Board/Advocacy Committee

Advisories

Please Understand Before You Speak on Any Position or Principle

- Local Leagues may *never* take action in opposition to a state or national League position. If your League disagrees with a position statement, you should remain silent.
- Leagues may contact their own representatives at the state and national levels, and leadership in the legislature, regarding local issues.
- Generally, the president or her designee speaks for the League. The rest of us speak as constituents supporting this particular League position on this particular legislation.
- Local Leagues should send copies of all communication with state officials to the state League; copies of communications with federal officials should be sent to the national office.
- Always notify the state League and the national League concerning contacts with the respective officials.

League Principles

The League believes:

- In representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States;
- That democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public records accessible;
- That every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education which provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination;
- That efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government;

League Principles

The League believes:

- That responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy, and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems; and
- That cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems, and that the development of an international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

From These Principles:

Whatever the issue, the League believes that government policy, programs, and performance must meet these criteria:

- competent personnel with clear responsibilities,
- coordination among agencies and levels of government,
- adequate financing,
- effective enforcement and
- well-defined channels for citizen input and review.

The Ohio Legislature (https://www.legislature.ohio.gov) is the official website of the General Assembly with all session and committee schedules. Such schedules allows you to link to agendas and bills. If you create your own free account, you can track committees and bills of interest to you. When there is action in your areas of interest, you will receive an email.

- Official site
- Contains governing documents of General Assembly
- Always updated
- Can create own account with your own preferences to receive updates
- Keep track of all meetings
- Find all testimony

The Ohio Channel live streams legislative sessions and many committee meetings at http://ohiochannel.org/. Recordings are also available to watch on demand.

Watch any governmental meetings.
Can watch all committee meetings of the General Assembly.
All videos are archived.

LWVO Legislative Tracker

Honesty Legislative Tracker

Programs

From PMO: Revenue Roundtable

Know a fellow tax policy fan? Send them this registration link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/yhtU_y1uRxuQOyAqHcs75A

Policy Matters Ohio Revenue Roundtable – Session Eight
Wednesday, October 28, from 1:00–2:00 PM

This month, we're taking a closer look at one of the spookiest stories in tax policy: the specter of tax flight. Discussions about raising (or cutting) taxes are often haunted by claims that people will pack up and leave — but the evidence tells a different story.
Join us as we separate fact from fiction and dig into the research on why people move, what really influences those decisions, and the role tax policy does, and does not, play. No tricks, just data, evidence, and discussion.

From LWV Colorado on Data Centers

LWVCO data center webinars:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMWeywmHzn8 Part 1 Introduction

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oRoHbrct5A Part 2
Impactful issues and mitigation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mc491wnOVaM Part 3
Impact on health

Election Protection

Last Poll Monitor Training!

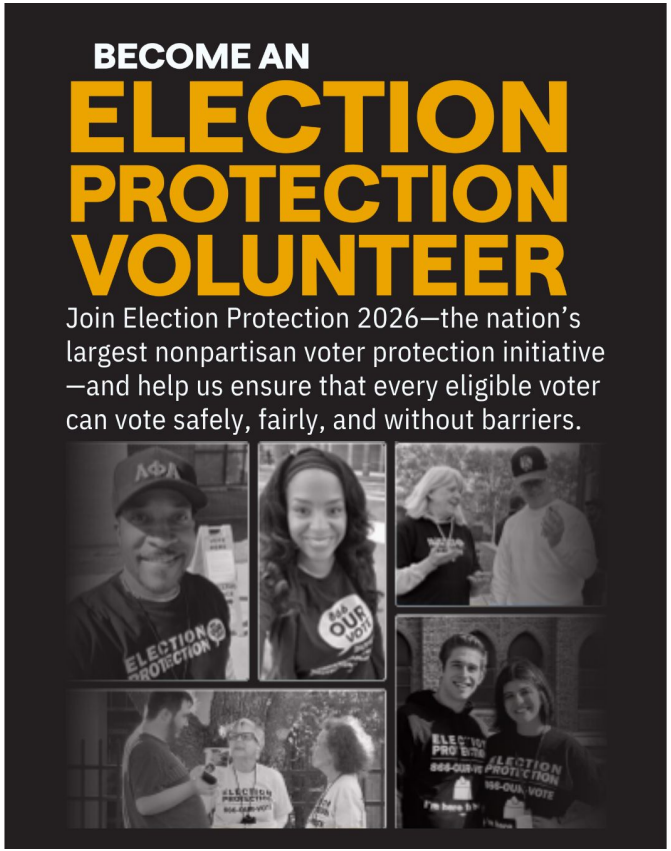
- Thursday, October 29, at noon
- Register here

Texting Voters

- Now until we're finished!
- Reach out to Elisabeth: ewarner@lwvohio.org

Share the 866-OUR-VOTE hotline

- Tell your friends & family
- Share in your social media: Facebook & Instagram



Resources

Pro Publica

ProPublica is a nonprofit newsroom with a singular mission: to produce investigative journalism that sparks real-world change. Unlike many media outlets, we have no owner to appease, no business interests to protect, and no government funding to lose. ProPublica is 100% independent, and our only obligation is to the truth.

Events Newsletter

Explore upcoming events
Watch past events on YouTube anytime.

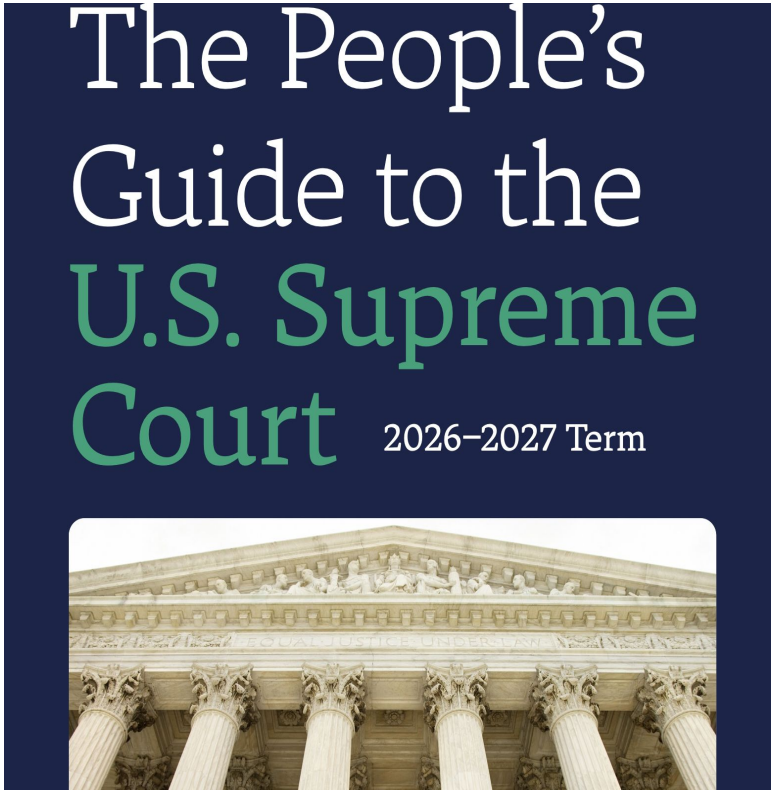
Interesting Research on Starting a Private School for the purpose of qualifying for vouchers

From Democracy Forward

Research & Reports

The People's Guide to the 2026–2027 Supreme Court Term

This People's Guide is our annual effort to preview the upcoming Supreme Court term and make sense of what's ahead. An informed public is essential to a functioning democracy. When we understand what's at stake, we are better positioned to protect our rights and hold those in power accountable.



Click on image for pdf.

Data Centers: New Discussion Group in January

- While data centers are essential to the new technology, how they are built and the impact they have on a community can have community input, transparency, good environmental guidelines, an understanding of how they can improve over time, accountability, improve the tax base, etc.
- LWV has many good government and natural resource positions that can be applied. Leagues can have a voice locally and regionally.
- **Peggy Berry has offered to start a discussion group for Leagues** facing AI data centers in order to understand the issue of data centers and what guidelines should be promoted if they are developed. **This group will start in January.**
- **We can start a resource library, plan educational programs and offer guidance to local Leagues. There are Leagues across the country who have some materials, questions, etc. to offer also.**
- **If interested, you can start emailing your interested contact person to advocacy@lwvohio.org. Please give us your League, the person's name and contact information.**

Next Lobby Call

November 10, 7 PM

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