

June 9, 2026

LOBBY CALL

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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2026

**NATIONAL
CONVENTION**

women unite & rise

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS *of* THE UNITED STATES

Convention Website

June 25-28, 2026 Columbus, Ohio

National Convention Details

- The Convention agenda is now available to view [here](#).
- LWWUS Recommended Programs:
 - A new overarching program, Defending a Democracy Under Siege, which will include Voting Rights, Protecting Elections, Redistricting, Immigration, Individual Rights, and the Presidency.
 - Concurrence with the [LWV Washington Protecting Immigrant Rights](#) position-in-brief and retaining all LWWUS positions found in [Impact on Issues](#).
- Other League Proposed Concurrences:
 - [LWV Colorado Religions Freedom](#)
 - [LWV Port Washington-Manhasset Privatization Update](#)

Watch the weekly LWVO Updates for the LWVO Board recommendations on how to vote for program and Bylaws.

Upcoming LWVUS Webinars & Recordings

A good webinar to watch especially if this is your first convention:

- [2026 Convention Rules and Parliamentary Procedure](#)
It is the what and why of parliamentary procedure!

Upcoming and interesting:

- June 9 at 6pm ET: [Your Future Leadership: Meet the 2026–2028 LWVUS Slate of Nominees](#) (90 min planned) - **Today, so watch for video link on Convention Page.**

Absolutely necessary: (Sign up for the appropriate one)

- June 8 at 3pm ET: [2026 Convention: Debate and Voting for Virtual Delegates](#)
- [2026 Convention: Debate and Voting for In-Person Delegates](#) will take place on Tuesday, June 16 at 5pm ET

June Social Media Calendar

- Late May/Early June: Graduation Season
 - VOTE411 “Congrats, Grad!” Graphics
- Pride Month
 - Use our pride logos on your League’s social media profiles!
- 19: Juneteenth
 - Juneteenth Resources
- 21: Father’s Day
- 22: Fourth anniversary of the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization decision
- 23: 54th anniversary of Title IX

July Social Media Calendar

- [Disability Pride Month](#)
- 1: Anniversary of 26th Amendment
- The 26th Amendment lowered the voting age to 18
- 4: US Independence Day
- 19 & 20: Anniversary of Seneca Falls Convention in 1848

Power Play Book 5: June Goals

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Primary election dates are subject to change. For the most updated information, visit <https://www.vote411.org/primaries2026>.

KEY: 4 PILLARS

JUNE PRIMARY PILLARS

- Legal & Policy Advocacy
- Public Mobilization & Coalition Building
- Civic Education & Engagement
- Democracy Resilience*
- Daily Democracy Practice

Pride Month

- 2 CA, IA, MT, NJ, NM, SD Primary
- 2 DC, OK Primary
- 2 Digital Democracy: Media Literacy for Democratic Participation Today
- 9 ME, ND, NV, SC Primary
- 16 Juneteenth
- 19 MD, NY, UT Primary
- 23 CO Primary



Primary turnout, voter follow-up, and leadership development

Proposed Actions

- Organize a “Vote Together”** initiatives such as carpools, walk-to-the-polls groups, or faith-based/community voting on Sundays.
- Launch a “Family Voting Pledge”** drive to encourage collective participation. Share photos/stories.
- Plan a Primary Ballot Party!** Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to complete their ballots together.
- Conduct post-primary follow-up with voters** to thank them and invite further involvement.
- Host “Primary Debrief”** conversations to understand voter experience, barriers, and priorities.
- Recruit and train volunteers** for roles like election observers, outreach ambassadors, and event organizers for elections and future activations.
- Continue relational organizing** through friend banks and community outreach.
- Spotlight stories** of multigenerational or first-time voters in your local community to inspire others to participate.

Build the Pipeline

- Transition voters into volunteers** by offering clear next steps (e.g., next meeting or action).
- Identify and support emerging leaders** within your community. People of all ages can participate in some way!
- Actively invite participants** to help plan or participate in the August 8 activities.

Unite & Rise for Voting Rights

Nationwide Day of Civic Action on August 8 in honor of the anniversary of the *Voting Rights Act of 1965*

To support your planning, here are two core resources to help you get started and move from idea to execution:

- [Planning Toolkit](#) – step-by-step guidance to help you plan, organize, and carry out your event
- [Menu of Activations](#) – a quick, accessible guide to help your League choose an action that fits your capacity

Contact Genevieve Van Cleve for assistance, gvanclave@lww.org



AROUND OHIO

**General
Assembly**

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)

June 8 - 10

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

June 17

- Potential committee
- Senate Session
- Session, if needed
- House Session

Majority leaders in the GA introduced Joint Resolutions to add a constitutional amendment question on voter ID to the fall ballot

- Joint resolution introduced after an [op-ed](#) from gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy
- Joint resolutions need a 3/5th majority from each chamber to pass
- This has passed in the Senate & is now in the House
 - Watch Jen's Senate testimony from 5/29 [here](#) and 6/2 [here](#)
 - Watch LWVO Board member Michelle Wilcox's House 6/8 testimony [here](#)

PROPOSED VOTER ID AMENDMENT

Senate Substitute Resolution passed in Committee on 6/1

Differences from the original

- Adds temporary Ohio BMV documents
- Exempts voters with religious objections from needing photo-ID for in-person voting
- Removes section stating the General Assembly not required to allow voting outside of in-person Election Day

The House had their first hearing on SJR10 on Monday and will have the next on Wednesday

- No new amendments added Monday
- A few directions this could go
- Read it [here](#)

SJR10

Basic Points of Messaging

DO!

Highlight lawmakers choosing to put this on the ballot instead of focusing on other pressing needs (grocery bills, energy costs, public education, housing, etc.)

Frame this as out of touch with what working Ohioans need right now.

Call this out for the unserious stunt it is. Photo ID is already law!

DON'T!

Get sucked into arguments about voter ID

Get sucked into arguments about voter ID

Get sucked into arguments about voter ID

Substitute bill introduced for HB472

This was a non-controversial bill about helping people without permanent addresses get government ID

- Passed in the House 90-1
- Senate hearing Tuesday

New sub bill amended to include voter ID requirements for absentee ballots

- Require photo ID for absentee voting
- Would also establish secure online portal to apply for absentee ballots- complex, unfunded
- Read it [here](#)
- Read Jen's testimony [here](#)
- Share our social [here](#) & [here](#)

**MOVING:
HB 472**

CALL SENATE GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Talking points

- Stop this rushed effort to block Ohioans from voting by mail
- HB 472 will totally change absentee voting and make it impossible for many, especially voters who are elderly and disabled
- Unfunded mandate on Boards of Elections, who will have to implement untested systems and train staff

Call:

- Chair Kristina Roegner: (614) 466-4823
- Other Committee members: find them [here](#)- great if they're you're rep but call either way!

WHAT
YOU
CAN
DO

S. B. 322 Dissolve academic distress comms; require student support teams

SB 332 and HB 610

- SB 322 Sponsor: Cutrona, Smith
- HB 610 sponsors: Brent, McNally
- **SB 322 STATUS:** 1st hearing in Senate Education Committee on Tuesday 6/2/26: Sponsor testimony

Senate Bill 332 would end all academic distress commissions and transfer those powers back to local leaders and the local elected school board members. It would also require, however, that districts under state control would need to establish student support team within individual buildings.

It has been 10 years, as of February, since the Youngstown City School District was taken over by the state of Ohio. Following Youngstown, Lorain and then East Cleveland were taken over by the state.

Following the takeover of those three districts, the state abandoned the takeover policy so that no other district would be taken over – which suggested that the takeover policy was not achieving the desired results. Today, ten years later, Lorain and East Cleveland are both out from under state control **but Youngstown remains.**

HB 715 — Charter school reporting requirements

- **Sponsors:** Manning, Odioso
- **Status:** 2nd Hearing in House Education Committee on Monday 6/8/26
 - Opponent testimony and interested party testimony
- **The substitute bill accepted on 6/2/26: Comparison Document**
 - narrows the scope of the data that DEW can request from the Department of Taxation to only family income
 - bans the posting of data for fewer than 10 students
 - The department would also be required to publish scholarship participation data by family income level.
- Rep. Gayle Manning said the bill still seeks to provide transparency to the taxpayer by requiring DEW to report enrollment data, scholarship participation, prior school attendance and state funding received by nonpublic schools.
- **Private Schools: opponents; Honesty testified as Interested Party**

SB 443: From Dr. Collins Testimony on HB 715

[Senate Bill 443](#). This **bipartisan team of senators (Blessing, Smith)** takes the oversight of public dollars much more seriously than your bill does. SB 443 would go well beyond Sub HB 715 by requiring reporting in additional areas such as:

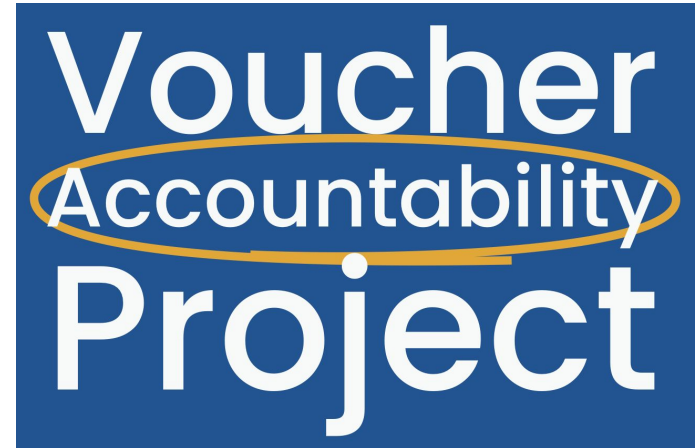
- Admissions practices, including transparency regarding the demographics of students private schools choose to accept. This should include the number of enrolled students who have disabilities, are English learners, are homeless, or leave the school without completing the year or planned course of study;
- Tuition and fees charged by the school and a five-year trend of those charges;
- Weekly attendance of enrolled voucher-receiving students;
- School offerings for students with Individualized Education Plans or 504s;
- Any religious or faith-based instruction provided by the school;
- The name of the school's accrediting body, and most recent accreditation or evaluation report; and,
- Discipline records.

Voucher Accountability

[Ohio taxpayers deserve accountability and oversight of \\$2.5 billion being sent to private schools. By David DeWitt](#)

[I went to Catholic school for 13 years. I still oppose Ohio's private school voucher program. By the Rev. Ben Huelskamp](#)

As the Ohio legislature continues to prioritize public funding for private schools, Ohioans must understand how vouchers directly harm their local communities and the 90% of Ohio students who attend public schools. The Voucher Accountability Project will educate Ohioans about the voucher scam and equip engaged individuals with resources and tools to keep public funds public.



SB 19 **Regards academic intervention, math improvement and intervention**

- **SB 19 STATUS:** Passed the Senate 11/19/25. 6th hearing in House Education 6/8/26; Possible substitute bill
- **WHAT IT DOES:**
 - Changes academic intervention services at public schools
 - **Important note:** This bill passed with unanimous support in the Senate. The new, substitute version added in the House has caused many groups to become opponents.
- **Substitute version of the bill accepted 5/12/26:** [Comparison Document](#)
- **Substitute version of the bill accepted 3/24/26:**
 - Removes requiring districts and schools to implement math improvement and monitoring plans f
 - Changes math grade level acceleration requirements, so they are based on performance in 6th grade (vs 7th)
 - Adds autism education plans to the definition of IEPs to allow students ages 18-22 to continue to receive services
- **PROBLEMS WITH THE NEWEST (SUBSTITUTE) VERSIONS OF THIS BILL:**
 - SB 19 relies on a single test on a single day to identify students for academic intervention services
 - None of the provisions of this bill would apply to students who attend private schools utilizing a taxpayer-funded voucher
 - The Ohio Education Association (OEA) is an opponent on SB 19 (they started out as Interested Party before the newest version was accepted)

Action Alert: Thank Ohio Senators for supporting SB 225

- Protects addresses of survivors: allows them to register to vote & vote safely
- [Read SB225](#)
- Go [here](#) to say thanks



New Tools

For Use at State
and Local Level

Religious Freedom Toolkit
(LWVO and Honesty)

Property Taxes and
Schools Tool (PMO)

New Toolkit!!!

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN OHIO

A Non-Partisan Toolkit for Informed Conversations, Civic Engagement, and Advocacy



www.lwvohio.org



www.honestyforohioeducation.org

Democracy depends on informed voters, constitutional literacy, and respectful civic dialogue...

The Collaborators are (LWVO and Honesty for Education), join us and strengthen our voices.

Toolkit Contents

1 | Key Terms and History

Overview of the history of Religious Freedom

2 | The Ohio Constitution

Understanding religious freedom in Ohio

3 | Legislative Trends

Current legislative landscape in Ohio

4 | How To Take Action

Resources for advocacy and engagement

ACTION TOOLS & RESOURCES

- **Action Alert Tool:** Mobilize supporters quickly
- **Letters to the Editor:** Shareable templates for advocacy
- **Shareable One-Pagers & Graphics:** Visual aids for communication
- **References:** Citations and deep-dive materials

TWO CLAUSES. ONE FREEDOM.

The First Amendment creates a balance that protects religious freedom and equality for everyone.



This balance is the foundation of religious freedom in America.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM **VS.** RELIGIOUS NATIONALISM

Two very different ideas. Only one is consistent with our Constitution and democracy.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM	RELIGIOUS NATIONALISM
 <p>Protects the right of everyone to practice, change, or not practice religion.</p>	 <p>Seeks to promote one religion—or one set of religious beliefs—in government and public life.</p>
 <p>Government is neutral and respects all faiths and nonbeliefs equally.</p>	 <p>Government favors a particular religion and sidelines or discriminates against others.</p>
 <p>Rooted in the U.S. Constitution and the principle of equal rights for all.</p>	 <p>Undermines equality and threatens the First Amendment and our democratic values.</p>
 <p>Allows diverse communities to live, worship, and thrive together in peace.</p>	 <p>Creates division, resentment, and exclusion in our communities.</p>



MANY FAITH LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES OPPOSE CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM.

People of faith across traditions believe religion should inspire service—not be used to gain political power or control government.



OUR CONSTITUTION PROTECTS US ALL

The First Amendment's Establishment Clause keeps government from endorsing religion. The Free Exercise Clause protects the right of all people to practice their faith—or no faith—freely.



Learn more. Get involved. Make your voice heard. lwvohio.org

LEGISLATIVE TRENDS IN OHIO

2023–2026: Bills That Threaten Church–State Separation and Public Education



RELIGION IN SCHOOLS

- Dozens of bills would allow or require the Bible or religious texts in classrooms.
- Attempts to allow prayer, religious displays, and chaplains in public schools.

WHY IT MATTERS

Public schools should educate, not indoctrinate. These bills violate the Establishment Clause and exclude students of other faiths and no faith.



VOUCHER & SCHOOL CHOICE EXPANSION

- Continued efforts to expand vouchers and “education savings accounts.”
- Public dollars can be used for private religious schools and homeschooling.

WHY IT MATTERS

Diverts funds from public schools and uses taxpayer money to support religious instruction.



TEN COMMANDMENTS & RELIGIOUS DISPLAYS

- Bills introduced to require the Ten Commandments in classrooms and government buildings.
- Push for “In God We Trust” displays and other religious symbols.

WHY IT MATTERS

Government should not promote religion or convey a message that favors one faith over others.



RELEASE TIME & OFF-CAMPUS RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS

- Bills would require schools to allow students to leave for religious instruction during the school day.
- Schools must also provide transportation.

WHY IT MATTERS

Uses school resources to support religious instruction and excludes students who do not participate.



“PARENTAL RIGHTS” LEGISLATION

- Broad bills give parents veto power over curriculum and materials.
- Used to remove books and restrict honest education about history, identity, and science.

WHY IT MATTERS

Undermines academic freedom, harms inclusive education, and can be used to advance religious or political agendas.



STAY INFORMED. SPEAK UP. VOTE.

These proposals affect our schools, our communities, and the rights of every Ohioan.

Track bills. Contact your legislators. Make your voice heard.



Learn more. Get involved. Make your voice heard. lwvohio.org

Latest on Taxes from Policy Matters Ohio

[Property tax repeal would harm students in every school district](#)

by: **Zach Schiller**, June 4, 2026

Ohio schools **depend** on the real property tax. Some 247 of the state's 606 districts **[1]** rely on the tax for at least 40% of their operating expenses. This is a key reason why the proposed property tax repeal, with no replacement revenue, is **misguided and destructive**.

See maps and numbers of the extent that property taxes are essential to public schools.

Resources

More Information
about
Data Centers

The Issue: AI Data Centers

AI data centers are facing growing public health and environmental issues, largely driven by continuous industrial noise, toxic air pollution, and high-intensity cooling systems. These facilities impact local neighborhoods in several distinct ways:

- **Low-Frequency Noise & Infrasound:** Neighbors frequently report an "invisible hum" and constant vibrations. Standard noise meters often fail to register these low-frequency sounds, which can be felt as pressure, often leading to debilitating insomnia, vertigo, headaches, nausea, and anxiety.
- **Air Pollution & Emissions:** Many centers rely on massive backup diesel generators or on-site gas turbines. Studies from institutions like the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health warn that these emissions release nitrogen oxides and fine particulate matter - linked to increased rates of asthma, cardiovascular disease, and elevated cancer risks.
- **Water & Heat:** Keeping these high-density processors cool requires massive amounts of water and energy, straining local water and power grids, further degrading the environment.

Traditional vs AI Centers

We have a lot of data centers already - what is the difference between "traditional" data centers and AI data centers and why should I care?

Summary Table

Feature	<u>AI Data Center</u>	<u>Traditional Data Center</u>
Primary Processor	GPUs / TPUs	CPUs
Rack Density	Very High (30-100+ kW)	Low to Medium (5-15 kW)
Cooling Method	Liquid Cooling	Air Cooling
Workload Type	AI Training/Inference	General Purpose IT
Networking	Extremely High-Bandwidth	Standard Ethernet
Power Consumption	Extremely High	Moderate

The EPA and Data Centers

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is actively accelerating the permitting, construction, and energy efficiency of data centers, particularly to support domestic AI infrastructure.

Key EPA initiatives and resources for data centers include:

- **Construction & Permitting Streamlining:** The EPA proposed allowing developers to begin building "non-emitting" components of data centers and power plants before formally receiving federal Clean Air Act air permits. Additionally, the EPA established a centralized [Clean Air Act Resources for Data Centers](#) hub to help developers navigate air regulatory obligations.
- **Superfund & Brownfield Redevelopment:** To ease the physical burden of land acquisition, the EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Program provides tools and guidance for building hyperscale data centers on formerly contaminated or blighted properties. You can explore these resources on the [Reuse Considerations for Data Centers on Superfund Sites](#) page.

Air Emissions & Permitting

Backup Generators: Data centers rely on large banks of diesel or natural gas generators to maintain uptime. Because these emit significant nitrogen oxides and particulate matter, they frequently trigger federal and state pre-construction and operating permit requirements.

Turbine Clarifications: The EPA updated rules clarifying that natural gas turbines used for continuous power cannot be treated as mobile "non-road engines." Facilities must obtain CAA permits before installation. [1]

Permitting Flexibility: To fast-track the development of AI facilities, the EPA provides [Clean Air Act Resources for Data Centers](#) and proposed rules to allow developers to begin construction on non-polluting support components before a formal air-emission permit is issued.

Energy Efficiency & Water

- ENERGY STAR: While there are no legally binding federal energy standards for private data centers, the EPA offers ENERGY STAR for Data Centers certification based on baseline power usage and hardware efficiency.
-
- Water Usage: With evaporative cooling consuming millions of gallons of water, wastewater discharges (like blowdown) are monitored locally and nationally through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). State-specific general permits for data center discharges are handled by regional EPA branches and state environmental agencies.



Clean Air Act Resources for Data Centers

President Trump’s Executive Order 14179, “Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence (AI),” boldly calls for America to retain dominance in technological innovation through the creation of the 2025 “America’s AI Action Plan.”

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under the leadership of Administrator Lee Zeldin, is committed to executing President Trump’s directive through Administrator Zeldin’s “Powering the Great American Comeback” initiative, two pillars of which specify work to make the United States the AI capital of the world and promote cooperative federalism with local communities, Tribal and state partners.

Cutting overly burdensome red tape will help power AI Infrastructure development nationally. Additionally, by streamlining reviews under the Clean Air Act (CAA), innovators and infrastructure developers can move more confidently and quickly.

EPA and Data Center Water Issues

Data centers face intense scrutiny over their massive water consumption (up to 5 million gallons daily for large facilities) and the discharge of cooling wastewater. The EPA is actively expanding its Water Reuse Action Plan to help the industry conserve freshwater, while environmental groups criticize this as a distraction from the sheer volume of water being consumed.

Key water issues and EPA involvement include:

- **Massive Consumption:** All data centers rely heavily on evaporative cooling, consuming millions of gallons daily. In arid regions, this can deplete local municipal supplies and lower regional water tables
- **Wastewater & Chemical Runoff:** Discharging cooling water containing chemical additives—such as anti-corrosives, anti-mold agents, and potential forever chemicals (PFAS)—into local rivers and streams
- **State-Level Permitting Battles: State EPAs, such as in Ohio, have drafted controversial permits allowing data centers to release treated wastewater directly into local waterways to accommodate economic growth.** Environmentalists, local residents argue these permits do not adequately monitor or limit contaminants.
- **Federal Guidance:** The EPA is drafting voluntary wastewater treatment standards for states to use for data center discharges. Additionally, encouraging developers to look into Superfund and brownfield sites **that already have municipal water infrastructure**, provided the sites do not pose pollution liabilities.



ALLIANCE *for the*
GREAT LAKES

BLOG

Data Center Playbook

Understand the impact of data center development in your community,
protect water

March 10, 2026

This playbook does not take a position on whether any specific proposed data center is “good” or “bad” for a community. The goal is to ensure that, if data centers move forward, they operate in ways that maximize public benefits while minimizing harm to water resources, community well-being, and ecosystems.



LWVCSRA Environmental Justice Task Force

Data Center Cooling Systems

Not all cooling systems use water the same way.



1. Air Cooling

Uses chilled air to cool servers.
Usually less on-site water, but often more electricity.



2. Evaporative Cooling

Uses water to remove heat. Some water may be recirculated, but some is lost as vapor.



3. Cooling Towers / Chilled Water

Recirculates and treats water, but some may still evaporate or be discharged.



4. Closed-Loop Liquid Cooling

Reuses fluid in a mostly sealed system and can greatly reduce ongoing water demand.



The public needs to know which cooling system a facility plans to use.



LWVCSRA Environmental Justice Task Force



Closed-Loop Liquid Cooling

Reuses water or coolant in a mostly sealed loop, often close to the equipment.



Pros



Lower ongoing water demand



Good for high-heat AI servers



Removes heat efficiently near equipment



Cons



May require a large initial fill



More technically complex



Public still needs clarity on maintenance, leaks, and backup plans




Bottom line: Promising on water, but not impact-free.





Evaporative Cooling

Uses water evaporation to remove heat from servers and equipment.


✓ Pros


 Often more energy efficient


 Effective for large heat loads

 Common, proven technology

✗ Cons

 Consumes water as some evaporates

 Can strain local water supplies in drought or extreme heat

 Often requires chemical treatment and some discharge


 **Bottom line: Saves energy, but uses more water.**





Air Cooling

Uses chilled air and HVAC-style systems to move heat away from servers.


✓ Pros


 Lower on-site water use


 Familiar, widely understood technology

 Avoids water loss through evaporation

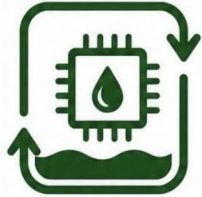
✗ Cons

 Often uses more electricity

 Can strain the power grid during hot weather

 May be less effective for dense AI server loads

 **Bottom line: Less water, but often more energy.**



Closed-Loop Liquid Cooling

Reuses water or coolant in a mostly sealed loop, often close to the equipment.



Pros



Lower ongoing water demand



Good for high-heat AI servers



Removes heat efficiently near equipment



Cons



May require a large initial fill



More technically complex



Public still needs clarity on maintenance, leaks, and backup plans



Bottom line: Promising on water, but not impact-free.



Cooling Towers / Chilled Water

Circulates chilled water to absorb and move heat; may include cooling towers.



Pros



Water can be cooled, treated, and reused



Handles large facilities and heat loads well



Flexible system design



Cons



Water impact can vary and be hard to understand



If cooling towers are used, some water may evaporate



May produce wastewater or blowdown that must be discharged



Bottom line: Can be efficient, but the details matter.

Recent Articles

[Big tech defends data centers before Ohio lawmakers](#)

By Nick Evans

Big tech got the chance to make its case for data centers Thursday before Ohio lawmakers. The so-called hyperscalers — companies responsible for facilities with thousands of servers and footprints measured in football fields — insist they're good neighbors and a vital part of Ohio's economy.

[Data center opponents give Ohio lawmakers an earful.](#) By Nick Evans

[What's the matter with data centers?](#) By Rob Moore

[Ohio officials ignore scientific facts to allow our public air, land, and water to be abused.](#) By Randi Pokladnik

New Feature for Lobby Calls

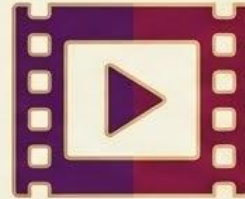
Introduction to and review of resources and local League programs:



Books



Podcasts



Videos

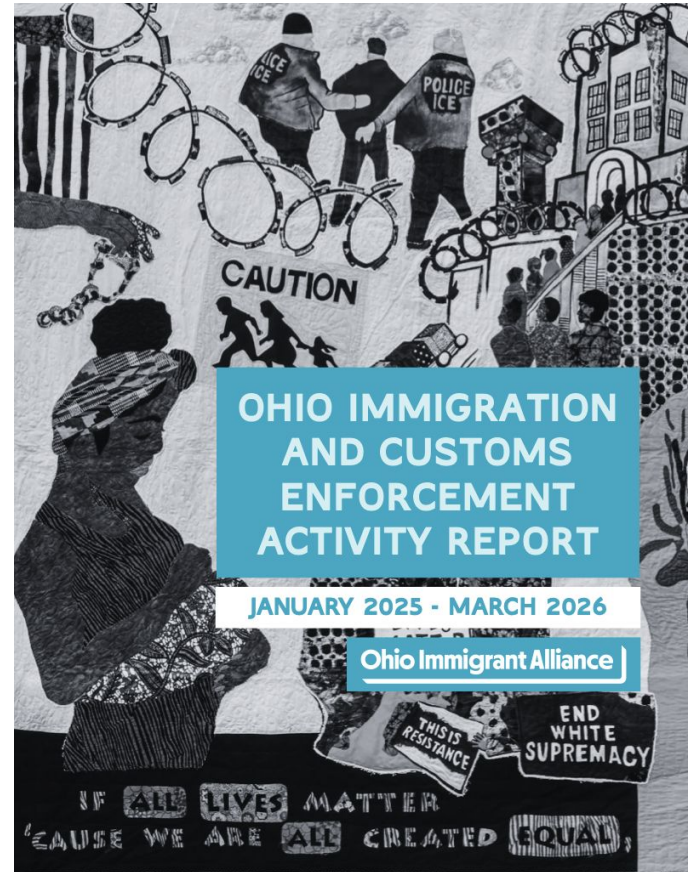


**Local League
Programs**

Immigration

From Tim Viezer: [Ohio Immigration Report](#)

This report provides the only statewide, person-level and facility-level analysis of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention activity in Ohio during the first fifteen months of President Donald Trump's second term. Drawing on administrative datasets obtained through the Deportation Data Project and publicly available jail roster records, the Ohio Immigrant Alliance analyzed detention activity across six ICE-contracted facilities in Ohio between January 1, 2025 and March 10, 2026, with additional analysis going back to 2016.



Key Findings

Ohio's ICE detention capacity expanded by more than 1,000 percent during the first fifteen months of President Trump's second term, growing from two contracted facilities at the end of 2024 to six by early 2026. The statewide average daily detained population rose from 117 in 2024 to roughly 656 in 2025.

- **7,756 unique individuals were detained for ICE in Ohio between January 2025 and March 2026.**

Fewer than 5 percent of arrested individuals had a violent offense as their Most Serious Criminal Conviction, illustrating that immigration enforcement in Ohio has overwhelmingly targeted people without serious criminal backgrounds.

- Three out of four detained individuals (75.5 percent) were held in two or more facilities during a single detention episode. The single most common pathway moved 535 people from Butler County Jail in Hamilton, Ohio to the Alexandria Staging Facility in Louisiana transfer that severs contact with Ohio-based family members and legal counsel.

- A coordinated December 2025 enforcement operation in the Columbus area produced 238 arrests in six days, more than eleven times Columbus's normal weekly arrest volume. Nearly 95 percent of those arrested had no "Most Serious Conviction" (MSC) onrecord.

- **The estimated direct detention cost for resolved cases in this dataset is approximately \$35.2 million, with \$21 million attributable to Ohio facilities and \$14.2 million to out-of-state detention.** ICE paid Ohio's six facilities more than \$13.2 million in 2025, with an additional \$500,000 in transportation fees.

The US Constitutional Crisis Webinar

Tuesday, June 23 from 7-8:30 PM, via Zoom

The Leagues of Metro Columbus and Dayton are presenting a webinar on *The US Constitutional Crisis*.

- Based on 3 comprehensive webinars from the League of Wisconsin.
- Our abbreviated presentation looks at the Balance of Power between the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches.
- Plus, learn how LWVUS's **Unite & Rise 8.5** program can help us address the Constitutional Crisis.
 - Register [here](#)
- Pre-registration is required. Please help us spread the word.

Public Education, Democracy and the First Amendment : A Conversation with Derek Black

- **Save the Date: Wednesday, September 16, 7-8:30 PM**
 - **Derek Black**, Professor of Law, Ernest F. Hollings Chair in Constitutional Law, and Director of the Constitutional Law Center, University of South Carolina School of Law. Authored *Schoolhouse Burning* for public education
 - **Moderator: Bryan Warnick**, OSU professor and chair of the Department of Education, who has written about free speech and schools.
 - From Black's article: Once conceived as the means to sustain American democracy, public schools are now entwined with the forces tearing it down. This Article is the first to analyze current education trends as a form of what international scholars term democratic erosion.
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Background Articles for September Program

Jan Resseger's Blog Post: a summary

[Public Schools Form Democratic Citizens](#)

Derek Black's Journal Article: *George Washington Law Review*

[Education, orthodoxy and the First Amendment](#)

- **The Concept:** The article identifies recent education trends in the U.S. as a form of "democratic erosion," a phenomenon characterized by the weakening of democratic norms, institutions, and individual liberties.
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League YouTube Channels

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Next Lobby Call

TBD

Update on Bills currently in Committee with messaging!!