



LOBBY CALL

October 13, 2026

**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.



Around the Statehouse

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



COMMUNITY POLICY UPDATE

House Bill 775

Who writes the rules after the legislature writes the law?

October 2026

Ainslee Johnson-Brown, J.D.



Quick disclaimer

This is boring. It is also important.

HB 775 is technical, long, and easy to tune out. But at more than 3,000 pages, community stakeholders are watching it as a likely lame-duck “Christmas tree” vehicle: a bill that can carry many unrelated changes at the end of session.

3,000+

pages to scan
for changes

Plain-English goal today: know what to ask before the details move too fast.

Not a legal opinion. A civics-and-impact walkthrough.

The civics underneath HB 775

Ohio agencies do not invent their own power. The General Assembly gives it to them.



The drafting issue

When the law says “do this” but does not say enough about how, agencies usually use rulemaking authority to fill in the missing operating details.

The risk

If broad authority is removed before replacement language is written, Ohioans can be left between a duty on paper and no clear power to carry it out.

The proposal in one sentence

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**

The line that drives the whole fight

Specific directions are safer. Broad delegations are the problem area.

Broad permission

“The agency may adopt rules necessary to administer this chapter.”

Casual translation: “Figure out the details.”

Specific instruction

“The agency shall adopt a rule defining these standards...”

Casual translation: “Write rules on this exact subject.”

Hard cases

Procedures a mandate needs but never names: forms, timelines, documentation, appeals, notice, and enforcement steps.

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.

What a power vacuum looks like

A program can exist on paper while authority to run it is unclear.

**Statute says:
“Do the thing.”**



**Broad authority
gets removed.**



**No one is sure
which rule survives.**

Then the public gets stuck asking:

Who gives the form?

Who processes the appeal?

Which deadline still applies?

What happens while the rule is reviewed?

Who has to notify families?

Can federal funds still be managed the same way?

The biggest risks are during the transition

Every agency may answer similar legal questions differently.

Uneven implementation

Different agencies may use different review methods.

Program gaps

A duty can remain while the authority to operate it is disputed.

Federal conflicts

State procedures may still be required by federal plans, grants, or waivers.

Delayed notice

Enforcement may stop before public-facing rule text catches up.

Mixed support

One rule may rely on several statutes, some clear and some unclear.

Litigation and delay

Interpretations may be challenged while fixes are considered.

The bill does not itself create a single central notice system or one uniform review standard.

The State Board and DEW comparison

Different mechanism, similar public-facing concern: who has authority now?

State Board of Education transition

Ohio shifted many K-12 responsibilities from the State Board and superintendent structure to a governor-appointed director at the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

Public experience:

People had to learn which body could still listen, which office could act, and where accountability moved.

HB 775 transition

The bill could reduce agency discretion by narrowing the authority agencies use to write or enforce rules, unless the General Assembly replaces broad language with clear operating directions.

Public experience:

People may have to learn which rules still apply, which procedures paused, and who can fix the gap.

The common thread: power can move faster than public understanding.

Community questions to ask now

- 01 Which existing rules would stop being enforced first?
- 02 How will families, schools, and providers be notified?
- 03 Who decides close calls, and is the standard the same across agencies?
- 04 What education programs need replacement statutory language?
- 05 How will federal requirements be protected during the review?
- 06 What temporary bridge keeps people from falling into gaps?

Central question: will broad discretion be replaced with clearer law, or with gaps the public has to navigate?

HB 1012

Special Education Cost Reimbursement

1. Not likely to go anywhere since surplus \$ used for gas tax holiday.
2. **Sponsors:** White, Abrams; **Cosponsors:** Manning, Odioso, Plummer, Young; **Introduced:** September 17
3. **Core Proposal:** Requires the state of Ohio to cover the full additional costs when a student's special education services exceed their designated special education threshold amount.
4. **Funding Pool:** Creates a \$360 million special education cost reimbursement fund to provide gap funding for school districts managing intensive special education needs.
5. **Context:** Sparked by rising special education enrollment—where students with disabilities accounted for 17.3% of Ohio preschool and school-age enrollment during the 2024–2025 school year—aiming to relieve local school districts from shouldering the financial gap.

Gas Tax Holiday: Immediate for 3 Months

Expediated; made sure they had the **super majority**; signed by Governor

Ohio's 90-day motor fuel tax holiday began on **October 4, 2026, at 12:01 a.m.** and runs through **January 2, 2027, at 11:59 p.m.**, as enacted under **House Bill 519** and signed by Governor Mike DeWine.

Key Details

- **Tax Rates Suspended:** The state motor fuel tax drops from the standard **38.5 cents per gallon for gasoline** and **47 cents per gallon for diesel** down to **\$0.0001 per gallon** (essentially zero).
- **Funding:** The temporary reduction is fully offset by a **\$725 million transfer from state reserve and surplus funds**, ensuring that local and state road maintenance and construction projects remain funded.
- **Retailer Rules:** Fuel retailers are legally required to pass the full value of the tax savings directly to consumers at the pump. Failing to do so can be treated as a deceptive trade practice and referred to the Ohio Attorney General's Office.
- **Federal Taxes:** Federal fuel taxes remain unchanged and active.



Defending a Democracy Under Seige



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)

**ACTION
ALERT:
WHAT,
WHY,
HOW**

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](#)

- 5 – 9

Unite & Rise 8.5 October Key Dates

- October 20 Election Hero Day
- October 24 Vote Early Day

Unite & Rise 8.5 October Core Actions

- Launch high-frequency voter education campaign on how, when, and where to vote.
- Promote early voting through Vote Early Day events and outreach.
- Launch your VOTE411 candidate pressure campaign to encourage candidates who have not yet answered your questions to respond before Election Day.
- Host voter education events to demystify the voting process and help your neighbors vote with confidence

Unite & Rise 8.5 October Core Actions

- Activate trained election observers and coordinate coverage with partners.
- Elevate election officials through Election Hero Day storytelling and appreciation efforts.
- Activate rapid response plans and trusted messenger networks to address voter questions or issues, as well as mis- and disinformation.
- Continue relational organizing and monthly friend banks focused on making a voting plan and understanding early voting options



Where and How to Track Legislation

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.



Partners Who Are Legislative Resources

- **Policy Matters Ohio** <http://www.policymattersohio.org/> Policy Matters, a non-profit policy research institute, creates a more vibrant, equitable, sustainable and inclusive Ohio through research, strategic communications, coalition building and policy advocacy.
- **One Ohio Now** <http://www.oneohionow.org/> One Ohio Now is a statewide **coalition** of 100+ health and human service, labor, and advocacy partners advocating for great public services that lead to stronger communities, and the revenue to pay for those services.
- **Innovation Ohio** <http://innovationohio.org/> Innovation Ohio is a unique organization that blends progressive public policy analysis and hard-hitting research with a single-minded determination to drive this information into the hands of the media, policymakers, and our allies to help influence policy decisions and shape public opinion. Innovation Ohio pushes back on extremist statehouse policies that hurt working families and take our state in the wrong direction.

Other Sources of Research

Ohio Education Policy Institute (<https://www.oepiohio.org/>). See resources below for all topics. The organization, formerly known as the Education Tax Policy Institute (ETPI), was formed in 1997 as a resource for the education community on state tax policy. ETPI consultants conducted research and analyses to determine the deregulation legislation's impact on school districts and local governments, and the organization worked with lawmakers to improve the outcome of the legislation.

Health Policy Institute of Ohio (<https://www.healthpolicyohio.org/>). HPIO translates complex data into actionable policy insights, connects diverse perspectives to inform policy decisions and offers expertise to navigate the changing policy environment.

ACLU of Ohio (<https://www.acluohio.org>) The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio is headquartered at the Max Wohl Civil Liberties Center in Cleveland. The organization also maintains regional offices in Columbus and Cincinnati. Utilizing integrated advocacy that cuts across litigation, policy analysis and advocacy, lobbying, community organizing, and public education, the ACLU of Ohio seeks to preserve civil liberties and advance civil rights for each new generation. The ACLU of Ohio is an affiliate of the national ACLU. Founded in 1920, the national ACLU includes more than 1.5 million members in all 50 states, making it our country's foremost advocate of individual rights.

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 Capital Journal** (ohiocapitaljournal.com) is a hard-hitting, independent, nonprofit news organization dedicated to connecting Ohioans to their state government and its impact.

- Sign up for their free emails.
- Know what is happening with comment and analysis.
- Keeps you informed.
- Opinion pieces.

The Statehouse News Bureau (statenews.org) provides educational, comprehensive coverage of legislation, elections, issues and other activities surrounding the Statehouse to Ohio's public radio and television stations. To this day, the Bureau remains the only broadcast outlet dedicated to in-depth coverage of state government news and topics of statewide interest.

Subscribe for text and email alerts.
Subscribe to Scoop.



The Ohio Statehouse Scoop

The award-winning team of the Ohio Public Media Statehouse News Bureau™ presents insights and "the scoop" on the story behind the scenes of Ohio politics.

Subscribe

Sign up for legislative committee list-serves to receive email updates related to committees, including time, location, and agenda of scheduled meetings. You can contact the committee chair's office to be added to the committee email list. This will let you track bills moving through the committee process and provide information about how to submit and present testimony when appropriate. Some committees require testimony be submitted at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing, others have different deadlines and requirements; if this information is not laid out in the committee announcement, you can contact the chair's office and ask their staff.]

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

Next Lobby Call:
Our 3-Tier Action Levels
League Advocacy Responsibilities
Using LWVUS Principles



From Honest: Strong Ohio Schools



Honesty Town Halls: School Funding and Vouchers

LEARN ABOUT Funding Ohio's Public Schools How Vouchers Impact Public School Funding

October 15, 2026 • 6:30 - 8:00 PM

South Euclid Lyndhurst Public Library
1876 South Green Road



Ana Chapman

Honesty for Ohio Education
Northeast Ohio Organizer



Dan Heintz

Vouchers Hurt Ohio
Lawsuit Steering
Committee Member



John Patterson

Former State
Representative



Please RSVP by scanning the
QR code
or visiting: bit.ly/4dCT5s3



*Honesty for Ohio Education is a
nonpartisan, statewide coalition that
champions honest education,
the affirmation of all identities, cultures,
and lived experiences, and the rights and
safety of all students, families, and
educators.*

How Vouchers Affect Your Local Public Schools

Tuesday, October 15th at 7pm

📍 South Euclid-Lyndhurst Branch Library

Join us for an informative community town hall exploring how vouchers impact public school funding in Ohio. Hear from local education advocates and community leaders as they discuss school funding, vouchers, and the future of Ohio's public schools.

REGISTER

Are Our Public Schools in Trouble? Find out Oct. 14



To help citizens understand the impact of Ohio legislation on our schools - specifically **Hudson, Nardon, Stow and Twinsburg**, LWV Hudson will host Ana Chapman, from Honesty for Ohio Education who will talk about “**Public Education in Ohio: What You Need to Know and How You Can Help.**” Ms. Chapman will address the impact of legislative decisions, funding and private school vouchers and show data on how school budgets in our area have been affected. The presentation is on October 14 at 7:00 p.m.

The presentation is on October 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hudson High School Media Center, 2500 Hudson Aurora Road, Hudson, Ohio.



Programs

Again, LWV is partnering with No Kings

This is to be a nonpartisan day of action focused on turning people power into voter power.

Again participants are expected to keep all signs nonpartisan, act lawfully, and commit to nonviolent, peaceful mobilization.

LWV: *“Throughout the history of activism, peaceful protest has been one of the most sacred forms of promoting change.”*



**No Kings:
Vote Early Rally**

Oct. 17, 2026



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

Categorical Funding
Chronic Absenteeism
DeRolph Research
Foundation Funding
(Base Cost)
Frequently Accessed
Articles
Legislation
Property Tax Levies
School Choice
School Levy Results
SDIT
State Budget
State Report Card



OHIO EDUCATION
POLICY INSTITUTE

From Democracy Forward

Research & Reports

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

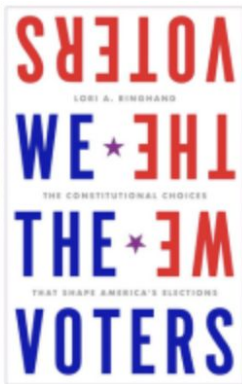
This People's Guide is our annual effort to preview the upcoming Supreme Court term and make sense of what's ahead. An informed public is essential to a functioning democracy. When we understand what's at stake, we are better positioned to protect our rights and hold those in power accountable.

The People's Guide to the U.S. Supreme Court

2026–2027 Term



[Click on image for pdf.](#)



We the Voters: The Constitutional Choices That Shape America's Elections. Ringhand explores the constitutional foundations of America's electoral system, examines how it evolved, and explains the choices that continue to shape the way Americans vote today. She offers insight into how the system can be reformed and what those changes could mean for the future of U.S. elections.

In *We the Voters*, Lori A. Ringhand brings a fresh perspective to these issues and explains how questions around these topics have always lurked just beneath the surface of our nation's most contentious fights about how our elections should work. Using a combination of constitutional text, history, and landmark Supreme Court decisions, Ringhand shows how the Constitution often serves less as rigid rule book for our elections and more as a general framework, empowering each generation of Americans to engage for themselves the important questions underlying our electoral system by interrogating what is and isn't working for them.

Lori A. Ringhand is the Josiah Meigs University of Georgia Distinguished Teaching Professor at University of Georgia Law School where she teaches courses on constitutional law and election law. She is the author or co-author of *Supreme Bias* and *Supreme Court Confirmation Hearings and Constitutional Changes*.

Resources

- **Public Education, Democracy, & the First Amendment:** recording [here](#)
- **LWVO's Education & Democracy:** webinar series on YouTube, [here](#)
- **Professor Black's article:** *Education, Orthodoxy, and the First Amendment*, [here](#)
- **Professor Black's books:** *Schoolhouse Burning: Public Education and the Assault on American Democracy*, [here](#), and *Dangerous Learning*, [here](#)

PUBLIC EDUCATION, DEMOCRACY, AND THE FIRST AMENDMENT
WHAT'S AT STAKE?

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 7-8:30 PM

DEREK BLACK
Professor of Law,
Ernest F. Holling Chair in
Constitutional Law, and Director of the
Constitutional Law Center,
University of South Carolina
School of Law
Authored
Schoolhouse Burning

SCHOOLHOUSE BURNING
When Education
And the Collapse of
American Democracy

“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.”

MODERATOR:
BRYAN WARNICK
OSU professor and chair of the
Department of Education

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF OHIO
HONESTY
FOR OHIO EDUCATION

REGISTER NOW: bit.ly/4ppKZYD | bit.ly/4ppKZYD | bit.ly/4ppKZYD

EDUCATE. EMPOWER. UPHOLD DEMOCRACY.

Important Education Program

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

October 27,
Noon

