

May 26, 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.



# Program Planning

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

# National Convention Details

- The Convention agenda is now available to [here](#).
- LWVUS 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 LWVUS positions found in [Impact on Issues](#).
- **Other League Proposed Concurrences:**
  - [LWV Colorado Religions Freedom](#)
  - [LWV Port Washington-Manhasset Privatization Update](#)

# Convention Resolutions

Any League may submit a resolution. However, the submitting League must have delegate(s) participating in Convention, and the resolution should have the support of the submitting League's leadership.

A proposed resolution:

- Complies with the definition of a resolution: it expresses the will of the Convention body during the time of its convening and does not set legislative or advocacy priorities or serve as an addendum to the LWWUS program;
- Is consistent with LWWUS Bylaws, Principles, and Positions;
- Does not circumvent the program planning process;
- Addresses a single topical issue on which it may have an impact; and
- Includes no more than four whereas clauses and contains a be it resolved clause.

Resolutions must be submitted through the online form [here](#) by **June 17**.

# Upcoming LWVUS Webinars & Recordings

Below you will find the recordings for all three program planning webinars:

- [Program Planning Webinar 1: Choosing LWVUS Program 2026-2028](#)
- [Program Planning Webinar 2: Nuts and Bolts of Program Planning Meetings](#)
- [Program Planning Webinar 3: From Here to Convention](#)
- [Submitting a Resolution for the 2026 Convention](#)

Coming up:

- May 26 at 3:30pm ET: [Research in Conversation: Making Sense of Our Digital Democracy ft. Raelyn Roberson](#)
- May 27 at 4:00pm ET: [Building Staff Capacity: A Roadmap Series to Move from Volunteer-Led to Staffed Leagues](#)
- June 1 at 5pm ET: [2026 Convention Rules and Parliamentary Procedure](#)
- June 3 at 5pm ET: [2026 Convention Bylaws Q&A](#)
- June 8 at 3pm ET: [2026 Convention: Debate and Voting for Virtual Delegates](#)
- June 9 at 6pm ET: [Your Future Leadership: Meet the 2026–2028 LWVUS Slate of Nominees](#)

# 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!
- 5: World Environment Day
- 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

# 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*
	<u>Daily Democracy Practice</u>

## Pride Month

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 2 CA, IA, MT, NJ, NM, SD Primary                                       | 16 DC, OK Primary     |
| 2 Digital Democracy: Media Literacy for Democratic Participation Today | 19 Juneteenth         |
| 9 ME, ND, NV, SC Primary   | 23 MD, NY, UT Primary |
|  | 30 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.

# The Decision

*Louisiana v. Callais* makes it nearly impossible to use Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act to prove racial gerrymandering.

Alito's majority opinion closes the courthouse door to communities of color seeking protection under the VRA.



# The Decision

## OLD LAW

Courts determine whether a map has the **effect** of diluting the voting power of voters of color

Courts **examine factors** like if voters of color are geographically concentrated and if a community of color has tended to support a particular candidate or party

Courts look at a **history of discrimination** against voters of color

## NEW LAW

Courts must ask if a map **intended** to dilute the voting power of voters of color

States can claim that racial gerrymandering is simply **partisan gerrymandering**, and those maps will be legal under *Callais*

It is now **practically impossible** to prove racial gerrymandering

# National Impact



An analysis by Black Voters Matter and Fair Fight Action found that at least **19 majority-minority districts in the U.S. House of Representatives** and nearly **150 majority-minority districts in state legislatures** may be at risk.

# THE CALLAIS DECISION:

## The impact on voting rights in America's Multiracial Democracy

Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 pm



AINSLEE  
JOHNSON-BROWN



ANDREW  
WALCHUK



LISA  
GRAVES



APRIL  
ENGLAND-ALBRIGHT



The Callais Decision: The impact on voting rights in America's Multiracial Democracy - May 12, 2026



**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)

**May 26-27**

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

**June 2-3**

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

**June 9-10**

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



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF OHIO

•• Our Slogan: *It's a VOICE*  
Call/text: 614-005  
Consult: 614-005

# What's happening

- On May 19, State Senators Jane Timken (R-Jackson Township) and Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) introduced [Senate Joint Resolution 10](#) (SJR10), a proposed constitutional amendment for the fall ballot which requires voter ID.
- Also on May 19, State Representatives Adam Bird (R-New Richmond) and Heidi Workman (R-Rootstown) introduced [House Joint Resolution 9](#) (SJR9), an identical resolution.
- Currently, Ohio law requires citizens to provide identification before voting.

## Both SJR 10 & HJR 9 have already had their first committee hearings!

On May 20, Jane Timken provided [sponsor testimony](#) before the Ohio Senate General Government Committee. She emphasized “the long-term security of our elections.”

Senate President Rob McColley says that he expects an Ohio Senate floor vote on the voter ID constitutional amendment on either June 10 or June 17.



# What's in the proposal and what's not

## ARTICLE V

Section 5. (A) (1) Electors shall provide identification in order to vote, in accordance with laws passed by the general assembly. The laws shall include a requirement that an elector show the elector's photo identification when voting in person at a polling place or other voting location designated by law, except as otherwise provided in divisions (A) (2) and (3) of this section.

(C) Nothing in this section requires the general assembly to pass laws allowing electors to vote in any location or manner other than in person at a polling place on the day of an election.

# Messaging

- **This is unnecessary:** Voter ID laws are already state law
  - Note: be sure to say these together
  - Focus on the unnecessary, not on the voter ID
- **Waste of power and resources:** We'd rather see our lawmakers spending their time on legislation that Ohioans actually need
  - Here's where this issues of individuals and organizations could be highlighted: data centers, property taxes, affordability, etc.



## 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

## **We know this is frustrating!**

- Our instincts are to call out laws that make voting harder, and photo ID laws do just that
- But they are VERY POPULAR with the general public
- Amendment proponents are counting on us to make this the fight—but we will play right into their hands if do
- They are using this to change the conversation to issues more favorable to them— don't fall for it!

## **Be prepared to answer questions about whether you support voter ID laws**

- Easy answer: It's already the law in Ohio!

## **Remember the core message:**

- Putting existing state law into our Ohio Constitution is a waste of government resources. Ohio law has this covered—there is zero reason to mess with our constitution.

## Articles

- [\*Photo ID amendment likely to make ballot with Ohio GOP leaders behind it\*](#), Ohio Public Radio, May 20, 2026
- [\*Should voter ID be in Ohio's constitution? Voters likely to decide this fall\*](#), Cleveland.com, May 20, 2026
- [\*Lawmaker-proposed amendment addresses voter ID, early voting\*](#), Toledo Blade, May 20, 2026
- [\*Ohio's voter photo amendment: Are Republicans scrambling to divert voters from what makes them angry? Today in Ohio\*](#), Cleveland.com, May 21, 2026
- [\*Ohio Republicans trying to get voter photo ID on the ballot, enshrined in state constitution\*](#), Ohio Capital Journal, May 22, 2026

HB 698, the dangerous “SB 1 Compliance Supplemental Appropriation Act,”

Sub Bill introduced that removed the workforce provisions; [Document comparing the substitute bill with the previous person](#)

**What’s interesting: Senate not interested in the bill, Cirino wants no part of it, basically, Senate is trying to avoid controversy with McColley running for Lt. Governor**

**HB 698 threatens the funding of schools** that refuse to comply with the bill’s new regulations and paperwork requirements. [You can read the full bill breakdown here.](#)

In addition to its extreme overreach, HB 698 is likely unconstitutional. The Ohio Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled since [at least 1939](#) that legislatures cannot force future legislatures to do anything (they can’t “obligate” them). This bill would force future governors to include money in their proposed budgets that will only be given to Ohio’s public colleges and universities if they comply with SB 1.

**Sponsor:** Young **Committee:** House Workforce and Higher Education,

## **SB 127 — Allows the state to close certain public schools: Brenner Bill**

- **STATUS: Amended;** 5th hearing in Senate Education Committee
  -
- **WHAT IT DOES:**
  - Allows the state to close certain public schools
  - Could force some public schools to “transfer control to private operators”
- **1.) Start drafting your testimony now.** An opponent hearing will be scheduled soon.
  - Decide whether you want to testify as an OPPONENT (against the entire bill) or an INTERESTED PARTY (you have concerns about certain pieces of the bill)
  - [Testimony template](#)
- **2.) Ask Vice Chair Lou Blessing to HELP STOP SB 127:** (614) 466-8068 or [Blessing@OhioSenate.gov](mailto:Blessing@OhioSenate.gov)
- **3.) Ask Ranking Dem Catherine Ingram to HELP STOP SB 127:** (614) 466-5980 or [Ingram@OhioSenate.gov](mailto:Ingram@OhioSenate.gov)
- **SB 127 is big government overreach that threatens public education and parents’ rights**
  - Expands criteria for labeling schools as “underperforming”
  - Forces districts the state labels as “underperforming” to take drastic actions such as closing schools, transferring control to private operators, replacing staff, and more
  - Overrides collective bargaining law and local collective bargaining agreements

## **SB 113 (HB 155): Prohibit diversity, equity, and inclusion in public schools**

**SB 113 STATUS:** 3rd hearing in Senate Education was Tuesday 5/19/26; Brenner Bill

**HB 155 STATUS:** Sponsor: Beth Lear ; 2nd hearing was May 20

- [Watch opponent testimony here](#) and [here](#)

**Several Honesty partners and friends submitted very similar testimony.....**Honesty For Ohio Education, Columbus Education Justice Coalition, Right to Read Ohio, Pint Sized Protesters, the Sikh Coalition, LoveBoldly, Ohio Equal Rights, Trans Allies of Ohio, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio, Abortion Forward, and several others:

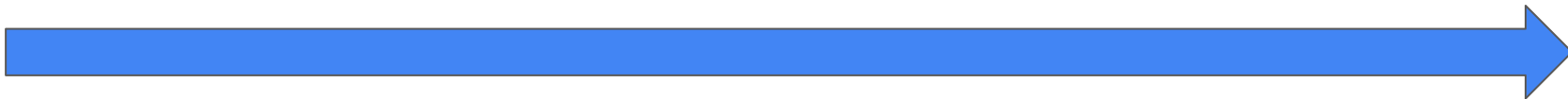
- “Given the chair’s propensity to use public testimony as an opportunity to perpetuate views that are rooted in implicit bias and systemic racism, and his resistance to considering facts and data in decision making on key issues such as [the benefits of diversity](#) for every child in our schools, we determined that a short written statement would best communicate our opposition to this hateful bill”

**SB 311:** “Regards the operation of public and chartered nonpublic schools”

- **STATUS:** 4th hearing in Senate Education Committee on Tuesday 5/12/26
- **Sponsor:** Brenner
- [Bill analysis](#)
- **OEA has switched to an opponent — [Read their testimony](#)**
- One of OEA’s main concerns: **This bill creates harmful, expensive, and unnecessary accountability mechanisms for school districts and educators**
  - The bill creates an overbroad and unfocused legal cause of action for the Ohio Attorney General to threaten civil fines of \$5,000 “per violation”
  - The bill creates a civil cause of action for so-called “sponsors,” the definition of which is unclear, to also sue for up to \$5,000 if these plaintiffs believe they are “aggrieved” (undefined by the bill), plus another \$2,500 of public money for attorney’s fees, etc.
  - **These provisions in the bill will likely contribute to creating a more litigious and costly school system by forcing the state government to sue its own political subdivisions** in order to force issues onto the court system that are already addressed at other levels, and that are not particularly well-suited for the court’s inquiry and resolution
- **This bill allows a school district superintendent to knowingly violate the law** if acting under the direction of the local school board
- **This bill further allows the state government to control the sale or retention of school district facilities**
  - Local communities make enormous investments in school district facilities. These buildings belong to school districts and local communities, where decisions about their fate should remain

# Resources

# Immigration



The Ohio Immigrant Alliance released the [first and only statewide analysis](#) of immigration detention in Ohio during the first fifteen months of the second Trump administration.

Ohio Immigrant Alliance announcement of report: [Nearly 8,000 Ohioans detained fo ICE; only 5% with violent offenses](#). 5/16/26

The Report:

[“Ohio Immigration and Customs Enforcement Activity Report \(January 2025 - March 2026\),”](#)

# Basic Points

According to “[Ohio Immigration and Customs Enforcement Activity Report \(January 2025 - March 2026\)](#),” ICE detention capacity in Ohio **soared more than 1,000 percent** during the first months of President Trump's second term. The number of ICE contracted jails in Ohio **grew from two at the end of 2024 to six by the end of 2025**. The statewide average daily detained population **rose from 117 in 2024 to roughly 656** in 2025.

All told, **7,756 people** were detained for ICE in Ohio between January 2025 and March 2026, and **91 percent were men**. **Fewer than 5 percent** of individuals arrested and detained for ICE in Ohio had been convicted of a violent offense, using National Crime Information Center classifications. **Despite claims from the federal government, immigration enforcement in Ohio has overwhelmingly targeted people without serious criminal histories.**

# New Feature for Lobby Calls

Introduction to and review of resources and local League programs:



**Books**



**Podcasts**



**Videos**



**Local League  
Programs**

# *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.
- Pre-registration is required. Please help us spread the word.

# The Case for the Constitution

A series of expert speakers, hosted by the LWV of the Greater Dayton Area, discussing important aspects of the Bill of Rights.

The Case for The Constitution:

The Rule of Law

Freedom of Speech

Separation of Church and State

**Up Next:**

**Freedom of Assembly**

# Advocacy: Public Education and the First Amendment

Derek Black (*Schoolhouse Burning*): Law Professor, Attorney, Advocate

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- **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 freespeech 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

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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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[LWV Ohio](#)

[LWV Greater Cleveland](#)

[LWV Metro Columbus](#)

[LWV Cincinnati Area](#)

[LWV Ross-Chillicothe](#)

[LWV Greater Dayton Area](#)

[LWV Oxford](#)

[LWV Bowling Green](#)

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[LWV Toledo-Lucas County](#)

[LWV Astabula](#)

[LWV Geauga](#)

[LWV Akron Area](#)

Next Lobby Call  
June 9,  
7 PM

Update on Bills currently in Committee with messaging!!