

LWVO League Leaders Update

May 4, 2011

Today's Topics:

UPCOMING EVENTS

****NEW** Last Minute Convention Details!**

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

****NEW** Budget Letter Sent to House Reps Urging Balanced Approach**

****NEW** Election Bills Moving Fast**

****NEW** Elect Your Sticker Campaign Begins May 8**

****REMINDER** Please Return Your 2011 Legislative Interviews When Complete**

ADMINISTRATION

****NEW** Happy Birthday to LWVO!**

****REMINDER** Deadline to Transfer Local League Education Funds: June 30, 2011**

UPCOMING EVENTS

****NEW** Last Minute Convention Details!**

The LWVO Convention is almost here, and there is still time to register as a delegate, visitor or volunteer. On May 13-15 at Maumee Bay State Park in Oregon, Ohio, we will be electing a new LWVO Board, adopting the 2011-2012 Budget and 2011-2013 Program. Action Resolutions will be proposed and voted on giving direction to the State League regarding issues at the state level.

Schedule of Convention Workshops, Special Events and General Sessions

The full Convention schedule with workshop topics is posted at www.lwvohio.org. There are many workshops on organizational topics such as leadership and membership development, technology and financial management. On the issues side, there will be a caucus on human trafficking, and workshops on fracking, accountability, and election monitoring – just to mention a few.

Making a Difference for Children in Our Communities

We are also excited to share with you more details of the child advocacy session on Saturday afternoon, May 14, made possible by our Convention sponsor, [Ohio Children's Foundation](http://www.ohiochildrensfoundation.org). The session, which begins at 4:15pm, will feature three extraordinary Ohio child advocacy experts in an interactive session about how we can make a positive difference for children in our lives and communities. To learn more about the panel and our speakers, please go to: <http://tinyurl.com/childadvocacysession>.

Wanted: What We Do Best

We are encouraging the local Leagues to fill out the form for the “What We Do Best” booklet. This is a “brag” book that will be in all of the convention bags. **Please note that the deadline has been extended that to May 6.** Information regarding the booklet is on the Convention website.

Registration Forms and Maps

The LWVO website has all of the pertinent forms and information to register and make a hotel reservation. **Please let the LWVO office know ASAP if you intend to register.**

Please visit the LWVO website for hotel map and directions. A confirmation email will be sent to all participants on Monday, May 9 from LWVO.

See you at Convention!

LWVO Convention sponsored by:



OHIO CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION
enhancing the lives of children

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

****NEW** Budget Letter Sent to House Reps Urging Balanced Approach**

On April 27, Meg Flack, LWVO President, sent a letter to members of the Ohio House of Representatives urging a balanced approach to the state budget. It stated, “We believe Ohio can both achieve the goal of an improved economic environment in which Ohioans can find employment and earn a living wage – and the goal of ensuring that Ohio’s children and most vulnerable citizens are protected.” The letter outlines where the proposed budget threatens to undermine the supports necessary for an educated workforce and business-friendly tax environment and then goes on to suggest areas of tax expenditures that deserve serious consideration.

The letter can be found on the LWVO website at: <http://tinyurl.com/HouseBudgetLetter>.

LWVO is preparing a press release of the same nature that will be sent out as the budget bill moves from the House to the Senate.

****NEW** Election Bills Moving Fast**

Legislation has been introduced in the House and Senate to address election administration reform. LWVO is monitoring the bills and will keep you posted on their progress. The Secretary of State is testifying tomorrow on [SB 148](#) while the House is working on a substitute bill for [HB 194](#).

LWVO election-law lobbyist Peg Rosenfield testified March 22 before the House State Government and Elections Committee in opposition to HB 159. If enacted, the legislation would require voters to show government-issued photo-ID at the polls. This could disenfranchise legitimate voters and discourage them from exercising their vital right to vote, and it would cost a lot of money that Ohio does not have -- all to solve a problem that does not exist. [Click here](#) to read the LWVO testimony. [HB 159](#) passed the House but is thus far stalled in the Senate.

****NEW** Elect Your Sticker Campaign Begins May 8**

There’s nothing like the satisfaction you get from casting your ballot to support your favorite candidate or cause on Election Day. For many, the sticker you’re given to wear, announcing the fact that you voted, is a great source of pride.

Secretary of State Husted is asking Ohioans to get involved with this tradition by helping decide the look and message that will be used for Ohio’s next “I Voted Today” sticker. The Secretary of State’s office has developed six new designs and is running the “Elect Your Sticker Campaign” from May 9 through August 8.

Please visit www.electyoursticker.com to vote for the sticker you like best. And, unlike a real statewide election, this is one time you can vote early and often.

LWVO will be posting a link on our website and will have posters at Convention for distribution. If you would like a sample newsletter article, website widget or more information, please contact Michele Martin at the LWVO office at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org.

****NEW** Please Return Your 2011 Legislative Interviews When Complete**

Thank you to Local Leagues for conducting face-to-face interviews with your Ohio legislators. The Legislative Interview Packet is on the LWVO website in the Member Area section under [2011 Legislative Interview Materials](#). Once your interviews are complete, please send the reporting form to Michele Martin at the LWV-Ohio office by email to lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org or send to 17 South High Street, Ste 650, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

ADMINISTRATION

****NEW** Happy Birthday to LWVO!**

May 5, 2011 marks the 91st birthday of the League of Women Voters of Ohio! Please join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/lwvohio to share your favorite League story!

****REMINDER** Deadline to Transfer Local League Education Funds: June 30, 2011**

We are in the fourth quarter of our fiscal year and following up on earlier notes; the LWV-Ohio Education Fund will discontinue administering local League education funds (LLEFs) at the end of this fiscal year—June 30, 2011—rather than start charging fees of participating Leagues.

To continue to ensure the local Leagues' ability to easily maintain their education funds, the board has investigated and shared a number of options for transferring administration of your League's education fund to another entity with the presidents and treasurers of the local Leagues. **The LLEFs currently administered by the state Education Fund must be transferred from the LWV-Ohio Education Fund before the June 30, 2011, deadline.**

For more information about transferring your League's education fund by **June 30, 2011**, please contact Michele Martin at the LWVOEF office via email at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org or call toll free at 1-877-LWVO-OHIO (1-877-598-6446).

DATES TO REMEMBER

State Board Meeting

May 12, 2011

***LWVO Convention 2011
Maumee Bay State Park***

May 13-15, 2011

***LWVO Lobby Lunches
All are welcome!
Columbus Metropolitan Library***

***2nd and 4th Tuesday of each
month, 11:30 am – 1 p.m.
Call 877-598-6446 for more***

96 S. Grant Ave., Columbus

information.

If you have local League leaders or other League members who would like to receive the Leaders' Update, please send their email information to leg@lwvohio.org.

**League of Women Voters of Ohio
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*Encouraging informed and active participation in government.
Working to increase understanding of major public policy issues.
Influencing public policy through education and advocacy.*

Joanna Z. Helon

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