

LWVO League Leaders Update

June 5, 2011

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ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

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ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

****NEW** Letter to the Editor Template: Election Administration Legislation URGENT**

Background:

Following up on the Action Alert sent the morning of June 2, we urge local Leagues to write a letter to the editor of their local newspaper on the election administration legislation being considered by the Ohio General Assembly. This legislation will affect the time, place and manner in which Ohioans exercise their right to vote. LWV Ohio has three major concerns with the legislation. It eliminates poll-workers' responsibility to assist voters seeking the correct precinct; it reduces options for absentee voting; and it decreases recognition of voter intent.

The Ohio House passed House Bill 194 (HB 194, Mecklenborg, R-Cincinnati/Blessing, R-Cincinnati) May 18th. A competing bill containing Secretary of State Husted's proposed changes, Senate Bill 148 (SB 148, Wagoner, R-Toledo), was passed by the Senate May 24th. It is anticipated that the Ohio House and Senate will soon (possibly next week) resolve their differences on the two bills.

To read the Action Alert, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/LWVOactionalertelections>.

How you can help:

Attached is a template letter to the editor (LTE) for presidents (or their designees) to share League thoughts on the proposed legislation with your community. As always, if there are multiple Leagues within a newspaper's circulation area, please coordinate your activity.

If your letter gets published, please email or send a copy to LWV-Ohio for our records.

LWV-Ohio sent a letter to the Ohio General Assembly this week summarizing our main concerns about the legislation. With this, in addition to the Action Alert and this LTE template, we are working to make an impact on how the election administration legislation is crafted. LWV-Ohio Election Specialist, Peg Rosenfield, participated June 2 in the Cleveland area radio show, The Sound of Ideas, to share the League's position on this legislation. Listen to the show here: <http://www.ohiochannel.org/MediaLibrary/Media.aspx?fileId=131259>.

Please join us in this important work! Thank you.

****NEW** LWV-Ohio Convention Wrap-Up**

The LWV-Ohio 59th Annual Convention at Maumee Bay State Park was a great success! Thank you to all who attended and were part of the riveting policy discussions, inspiring membership workshops, and important League business during the general sessions. New friends were made and many had the chance to connect with colleagues from across the state. Information, photos, and presentation materials from the event are posted on the LWV-Ohio website at: <http://lwwohio.org/site.cfm/In-The-News/State-Convention-2011.cfm>. Every attendee will receive an email with this link to access materials from Convention.

Thank you to LWV Bowling Green, LWV Perrysburg Area, LWV Tiffin Area and LWV Toledo/Lucas County for hosting such a wonderful State Convention! A special thanks also to the Ohio Children's Foundation, LWVEF and the Joyce Foundation for supporting the event.

Lastly, tremendous thanks to LWV Ohio Vice President Jean Koznarek for leading the Convention Committee and to the LWV-Ohio Board in co-hosting the Convention.

****NEW** Local Leagues Talk Redistricting**

On May 24, LWV Oxford hosted a redistricting workshop featuring Ann Henkener, LWV-Ohio Redistricting Specialist. This month, LWV-Ohio will be sending out information on the statewide redistricting competition that will take place over the summer.

The competition and the accompanying educational outreach will 1) educate Ohioans about the serious implications of Ohio's hyper-partisan redistricting process, 2) build consensus around specific redistricting reform measures, and 3) build a base for future reform of redistricting standards for Ohio House and Senate and congressional districts. Ohioans will be invited to draw district lines using 2010 Census data parallel to the Ohio Apportionment Board's and General Assembly's redistricting processes for a "real-world, real-time" experience. The competition will also draw increased attention to the need for reform because the public will be able to compare the objective results of the competition with the results of the partisan redistricting processes. More information and resources on redistricting can be found at: <http://www.ohioimpact.org/site.cfm/imPACT-Home/Issues/Redistricting/link.cfm>.

MEMBERSHIP

****REMINDER** Phonathon in Final Phase**

As Phonathon draws to a close as the fiscal year ends on June 30, a special thanks to all Leagues and League members who participated. We still have approximately \$10,000 to raise to meet our goal and there is still time to give! To learn more about making a contribution, please visit <http://lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Donate.cfm>. As you know, support of the State League enables us to fulfill our mission and advocate on critical state policy issues. As we make our voice heard in the face of daunting election administration changes, your gifts are more important than ever.

If you would like more information about Phonathon, please contact Phonathon Chair, Rosanne Thomas, at rosanne.thomas@gmail.com. Thank you!

ADMINISTRATION

****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

LWVO Lobby Lunches
All are welcome!
Columbus Metropolitan Library
96 S. Grant Ave., Columbus

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

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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

Interim Executive Director

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