



League Leaders' Update

November 18, 2011

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ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

Dear League Leaders:

Congratulations to all League leaders and members for your tireless efforts to make democracy work during the recent election season: registering voters, hosting and moderating nonpartisan candidate and issue debates and forums, publishing Voters' Guides, etc. You and your League truly make a difference!

Our goal is to help and support local Leagues by providing timely information, sample policies and procedures, and facilitating discussion between and among Leagues and League members across the state. If we can be of assistance to you at any time, please contact us toll free at 1-877-LWV-OHIO (877-598-6446) or leg@lwvohio.org.

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Clean Air Promise Campaign Continues

If your League was unable to participate in the Clean Air Promise campaign earlier because of the many demands during election season, it is not too late to participate. In fact, we are pleased to offer **\$250** in pass-through grant funding from LWVUS to every League that is able to participate by encouraging officials, community leaders and League members to make the promise-and by soliciting stories of people with health problems attributable to air pollution. If you want to learn more, contact Munia Mostafa, our Program Coordinator: programcoordinator@lwvohio.org.

Time to Interview Your Board of Elections

As we did in 2009, the LWV Ohio Education Fund is inviting local Leagues to interview their Board of Elections to learn about how the November election went. This is a very important aspect of our monitoring of the Secretary of State's compliance with the requirements of the 2009 settlement agreement in the League's historic lawsuit: *LWVO v. Brunner*. The second purpose is to strengthen relations between local Leagues and their Board of Elections. We hope that your League will choose to participate, as did 22 Leagues in 2009. Participating Leagues will receive a small remuneration of **\$50**.

You should be receiving a toolkit with details of the program. Please let Munia Mostafa know by **December 5th** whether your League plans to participate this year at programcoordinator@lwvohio.org. If you have any questions about the program or are interested in participating, please join us in one of the **two conference calls we have scheduled**: one on **November 28th at 7 p.m.** - and at **Noon on December 1st**. **To join the call, To join the call, dial 218-862-1000 - Participant Code 742886#.**

December 6th: LWV Ohio Conference Call -

A Redistricting Update for All Members

LWVO/EF is now hosting a monthly **conference call for all League members** to help keep you informed about what is happening at the Statehouse, supply you with tools and information to assist you in strengthening your local League, and provide an opportunity for information-sharing between local Leagues. **The calls are scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month at Noon.**

The December call will be on **redistricting -- Tuesday, December 6, at 12:00 p.m. - 1 p.m.** Join Ann Henkener, LWV Ohio redistricting specialist, as she brings us up to date on all the developments on redistricting and the extraordinary work the League is doing. Please share this information with your League members, if possible- and join us for what should be an exciting and informative call. **To join the call, dial the toll-free number 1-866-740-1260 and enter access code: 4691505.**

House Bill 194 (HB 194) Referendum Update

Groups-including the state and local Leagues-seeking a referendum on HB 194, the election-law bill passed this summer, are about 10,000 signatures short of the required 231,150 verified voters' signatures-although the threshold for signatures per county has been met. Thanksgiving is the deadline to submit additional signatures, and according to the Democratic Party, an additional 150,000 signatures have already been collected.

If the required number of verified signatures is attained, HB 194 will not go into effect unless approved by the voters in the 2012 general election. This means that the 2012 election will be governed by the previous law, as was the November, 2011 election.

Visit www.fairelectionsohio.com/ for up-to-date information on the referendum.

Human Trafficking Study: Opportunity for Local League Involvement

The Committee studying Human Trafficking is encouraging local Leagues to become involved in the study by assessing the awareness of human trafficking incidents in their own communities. This can be done through contacts with local law enforcement, area coalitions ([click here](#)) and service providers. Other sources might be the Salvation Army, Children Services, and Juvenile Court. We suggest gathering the following information:

1. Number of incidences: a. Sex trafficking; b. Labor trafficking
2. How a victim of trafficking is recognized ([Click here](#) to see the check list of general indicators used by Lucas County.)
3. What services do you see are needed in your area to aid victims?
 1. What agencies do you work with?
 2. What financial resources do they use?
 3. What financial resources do they need?

The committee would appreciate hearing from local Leagues about their findings. Please send any information you have gathered to Karen Rainey, Chair, at karengr@yahoo.com by February 1st, and contact Karen if you have any questions about how to proceed.

Is Your League Concerned about Fracking?

A number of Leagues have expressed concern about fracking in Ohio and have asked the State League how they might get involved. Board member Kristin Vessey has agreed to coordinate local Leagues' efforts and share information about developments in Ohio. If your League is interested in learning more about this topic and/or undertaking local advocacy for a moratorium until more is known about the potential environmental harm, contact Kristin at kvessey@woh.rr.com.

ADMINISTRATION

Staff and Board Updates

We welcome Munia Mostafa to the LWV Ohio Education Fund as project coordinator for the Clean Air Promise campaign, a position funded by LWVUS, and as the project coordinator for the boards of elections interviews, a position funded by the Joyce Foundation. She can be reached at projectcoordinator@lwvohio.org.

Congratulations and thanks to Janet Kershaw (LWV Cuyahoga Area) who was appointed LWV Ohio 1st Vice President, and to Gail Pytel (LWV Kent) who was appointed Budget Chair for development of the FYE 2013 LWV Ohio budget at the board's November 12 meeting.

Support the League

Advocating for redistricting, election administration, educational and environmental reform-as well as the state League's work on many other critical issue-remind us how important the work of the League is. Please take a few minutes today to support the continued work of your state League. Your donation will help ensure that the mission of the League continues for generations to come. [Click here](#) to make a donation.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 29: Lobby Lunch, Columbus: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 S. Grant Ave, Columbus, Ohio 43215 - all are welcome!

December 6: LWVO/EF Monthly Conference Call on Redistricting. To join the call, dial the toll-free number 1-866-740-1260 and enter access code: 4691505.

December 13: Lobby Lunch, Columbus: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 S. Grant Ave, Columbus, Ohio 43215 - all are welcome!

January 3, 2012: LWVO/EF Monthly Conference Call

for all members.

January 6-7, 2012: LWVO/EF board meeting in Columbus.

January 15, 2012: Leagues' reports of their interviews with elections boards are due to the state office.

April 10, 2012: Statehouse Day / Council in Columbus.

May, 2012: LWVUS Privatization Study concludes (for materials, see www.lwv.org - For Members section - Projects and Programs - Privatization Study)

CONTACT US

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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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