



League Leaders' Update

January 18, 2012

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Dear League Leaders:

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to an exciting 2012 with the goals of growing the League, protecting voter rights, reforming redistricting and election administration processes and *making democracy work!*

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ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

**2012 Primary Election Voters' Guide Information Packet
for Local Leagues Now Available!**

The packet was sent to League Presidents last week with a request to forward it to Voter Service Chairs. To view the packet online, [click here](#).

Local Leagues' Board of Elections Interviews and Lawsuit-Monitoring Opportunities

Board of Elections Interviews:

Thank you to the 21 local Leagues participating in interviews with representatives at their Board of Elections. This is one of the important aspects of election monitoring delineated in the 2009 settlement agreement in the League's historic lawsuit, *LWVO v. Brunner*. The interview survey forms are due by the end of January and the results will be compiled and shared. If you have any questions about the interviews, please contact Munia Mostafa at projectcoordinator@lwvohio.org.

Post-Election Audit Observations:

As part of the settlement agreement, LWV Ohio will again coordinate Leagues' observations of county election boards' post-election audits of the Primary Election results. Local Leagues will have the opportunity to receive a pass-through grant from the state League for participation. Look for more details soon!

Review of Boards' Election Administration Plans:

In partnership with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the state League will assist in the review of a sample of Election Administration Plans (EAPs) prepared by county BOEs as planning tools for the 2012 Primary election. LWV Ohio Education Fund will continue to keep members updated on election monitoring activities and their results.

Redistricting Reform Gaining Momentum

LWV Ohio and partners in redistricting reform are working together to determine next steps to push for a constitutional amendment on the November 2012 ballot to establish an independent, nonpartisan redistricting commission. For more information, visit the [Draw the Line Ohio](#) website or read the [summary of the proposal for reform](#).

Next Member Conference Call: February 7, noon to 1pm

All members are invited to join us for a conference call to discuss the **Citizens United** Supreme Court case regarding campaign finance law. This week marks the two-year anniversary of the landmark decision by the United States Supreme Court that holds that corporations have 1st amendment rights. We are already seeing the impact of this decision on the money being spent for political advertising. The conference call will provide information on the impact of **Citizens United** and possible ways to address it in the long- and short-term. **To join the call, dial the toll-free number 1-866-740-1260 and enter access code: 4691505#.**

Submit Your Resume by January 31 to be considered for Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission

The Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission, which will review Ohio's constitution and make suggestions on changes, has provided information on the process for selecting the non-legislator members of the commission. The co-chairs are House Speaker William Batchelder (R-Medina) and Rep. Vern Sykes (D-Akron). The 12 legislative members who have been named will now choose the other 20 members. **Individuals interested in serving on the commission have until January 31, 2012 to submit a letter of application and**

their resumes to the offices of Batchelder and Sykes.

While LWV Ohio is not "sponsoring" a specific individual for the commission, please let us know if you plan to apply.

Save the Date: Council Meeting and Statehouse Day 2012

Mark your calendar to be in Columbus on **April 10** for the LWV Ohio Council meeting and Statehouse Day!

Are you participating in LWVUS Program Planning?

[Click here](#) to link to the LWVUS website for more information on how you can provide feedback to LWVUS on program planning. The online response form is due March 1.

MEMBERSHIP

Join Us for Regional Meetings in February and March

LWV Ohio invites League members to join us at one of the four locations for Regional Meetings! The focus of the meetings will be:

- Pushing For Reform: Learn about the most up-to-date information on redistricting reform;
- Getting involved with The Accountability Project: Learn more including how to access state League grant funds to address a local issue in your community; and
- Connecting with League members in your region about upcoming events and ways to work together.

Register Today! -- Click on your location to RSVP:

February 18 - [Central Ohio](#)

February 25 - [Northeast](#)

February 25 - [Northwest](#)

March 3 - [Southwest](#)

Full list of Regional Meetings' dates, times and locations [here](#).

Support LWV Ohio During Our Fundraising Campaign

This year, the state League's annual winter fundraising campaign will launch in February with a letter to all League members across the state.

Development Committee Chair, Janet Kershaw (LWV Cuyahoga Area), encourages all League members to consider making a donation to LWV Ohio and/or LWVOEF at this important time... as we embark on a presidential election year full of voter protection and education activities, advocating for reform of redistricting and election administration processes, and monitoring elections and legislation that impact voting.

The state League will not ask local Leagues to make calls to their members this year; rather, the LWV Ohio Board will follow-up with League members across the state. This will provide more time for local Leagues to concentrate on their core activities while streamlining fundraising efforts. Consequently, rebates will not be given to local Leagues as they were during Phonathon fundraisers. Instead, we invite and encourage local Leagues to participate in activities through the state League that bolster your work and provide pass-through funds from the state, such as interviews of election boards and observations of BOEs' post-election audits.

LWV Ohio asks for your support of this important annual fundraiser that provides operating funds to help us achieve our goals in the areas of advocacy, education and member support.

Please consider a contribution and encourage your members to support LWV Ohio/EF with a donation this winter! Donations can be made [online](#). Please see the attached [sample VOTER article](#) for use by local Leagues. Thank you!

Reminder: Update Your Membership Roster with LWVUS

In order to ensure an accurate member count for your League, please update and check your membership roster with LWVUS. Your member count will freeze on January 31, 2012 and it determines the amount your League must pay in PMP for FY2012-13 and LWVUS Convention delegate representation in 2012. To update your League's member count, you must update your roster [online](#) - including the expiration date and status of each member record. Questions or need help? Email membership@lww.org.

ADMINISTRATION

Staff and Board Updates

It is with great regret that the LWV Ohio Board accepted the resignation of Gary Leppala (LWV Greater Dayton Area) in January. Special thanks to Gary for his service.

Sharon Harmer (LWV Greater Dayton Area) has been elected LWV Ohio 2nd Vice President, and she has taken on the role of Chair of the Advocacy Committee. Thank

you, Sharon!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 24: Lobby Lunch, Columbus: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 S. Grant Ave, Columbus, Ohio 43215 - all are welcome!

January 31: Leagues' reports of their interviews with elections boards are due to the state office.

February 7: LWVO/EF Monthly Conference Call. Topic: Citizens United. To join the call, dial the toll-free number 1-866-740-1260 and enter access code: 4691505#.

February 14 and 28: Lobby Lunch, Columbus: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 S. Grant Ave, Columbus, Ohio 43215 - all are welcome!

April 10: Statehouse Day /Council in Columbus.

May: 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 lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org.

