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July 2016 Special Mailing
PASS TO VOTER SERVICE CHAIR
IMMEDIATELY

TO: Local League Presidents and Voter Service Chairs
PLEASE PASS TO VOTER SERVICE CHAIR IMMEDIATELY
 FROM: League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund (LWVOEF)
 RE: **2016 General Election Voters' Guide Information Packet**

This packet contains candidate questions and assignments for local Leagues in preparation for the **November 8 2016**, General Election.

Some Leagues may not be planning to have General Election voter service activities. **Even so, it is important that you confer with all Leagues with whom you share candidates to see what they are planning and to check assigned districts. Please confer with other Leagues as soon as possible.**

Please note two changes:

- 1. All judicial races will be covered by Judicial Votes Count (www.judicialvotescount.org), and Leagues can use that text in local Guides.**
- 2. This year, LWVO is providing Vote411 for all state and federal races. Local Leagues can buy in to use Vote411 for local races.**

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What's New?

- **We can get you this information in other formats:**
If you need information in another electronic format, via fax, or hard copy by regular mail, contact the state League office at 614/469-1505, or by e-mail at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org
- **District assignments:**
Please let the state League office know immediately if your League is improperly assigned a district (see contact information above), and please let other Leagues in that district know.
- **All judicial races will be covered by Judicial Votes Count (JVC), and Leagues can obtain candidate info for local Voters' Guides from JVC.** See "Judicial Votes Count" section below for details.
- **Vote411 coverage:**
The state League is paying for Vote411 for all state and federal races (candidates and ballot issues) for all elections that take place during 2016, including the primary and the general. See "Vote411" section below for more information about what is covered by the state League's subscription and how local Leagues can obtain pricing to use Vote411 to cover local races.
- **Look for updated information about statewide candidates for the General Election:**
We will allow candidates to review and update their Primary Election answers for the General Election if the same questions are used, although we may also ask a different, more topical question. The filing deadline for the 2016 General Election is August 10, 2016 (90 days out from Election Day), so the revised questionnaire will go to winners of the Primary Election plus any third-party candidates as soon as the names have been validated (Aug. 29: deadline for write-in candidates to file). **You should expect this updated candidate information by mid-September.**

Judicial Votes Count coverage of ALL Judge Races

The state League, LWVOEF, has partnered with the Ohio Supreme Court, Ohio State Bar Association, Bliss Institute for Applied Politics at the University of Akron, Ohio Newspaper Association, and Ohio Association of Broadcasters to create "Judicial Votes Count" – a nonpartisan statewide resource for information about Ohio's courts and candidates running for judge. The project launched in Fall 2015 with coverage of municipal court races and will continue in 2016 with coverage of all judicial races. The website is hosted by the University of Akron and can be found at www.judicialvotescount.org.

- **Judicial Votes Count will be responsible for contacting ALL judicial candidates across Ohio** – including candidates for the Ohio Supreme Court, Ohio Courts of Appeals, County Common Pleas Courts, and other local courts. **Local Leagues should not contact judicial candidates to provide information for the Voters' Guide to avoid duplication and confusion.** However, local Leagues are strongly encouraged to include judicial candidates in other voter service activities such as candidate forums.
- **Local Leagues will have access to all judicial candidate information on JudicialVotesCount.org for use in local Voters' Guides.** Contact the state League office to obtain a copy of judicial candidate information for your area from Judicial Votes Count; please indicate which county or counties your League covers.

Vote411 state coverage & how-to

The state League, LWVOEF, paid \$2500 for Vote411 coverage of all state and federal races on the ballot in calendar year 2016.

- **Covered election dates:** All elections taking place in 2016, including the March 15 primary election, November 8 general election, and the special election to fill the vacant seat of former U.S. Rep. Boehner.
- **Covered state and federal races:** LWVOEF will pay for Vote411 to cover all federal races -- U.S. President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House -- as well as all state races -- Ohio House of Representatives, Ohio Senate, Ohio Supreme Court, State Board of Education, and any statewide ballot issues.
- **Local Leagues may choose to pay for Vote411 coverage for local races** (county, city, township, etc.). For local Leagues already using Vote411, the only change should be a reduction in costs due to the State League paying for coverage of state and federal races. For Leagues who have not used Vote411 previously, we hope it will be a more affordable option for local Leagues to consider with LWVOEF paying for part of it.

If your League would like to sign up for Vote411 or get a price quote, please contact Megan Brown, LWVUS's Vote411 Coordinator at mbrown@lww.org or (202) 429-1965 ext. 357.

Additional information about using Vote411 – including LWVUS's Vote411 How-To Guide, a list of scheduled training sessions on Vote411, and more – can be found on the new “2016 Voter Service” page under the Member Area of the State League website here: <http://www.lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Member-Area/2016-Voter-Service.cfm>

Shared Candidate Instructions

1. We have done our best to match Leagues with the appropriate U.S. Congressional, Ohio General Assembly and State School Board districts – but anticipate some assignments may need to be revised. **Please look at all lists starting on page 9 in order to determine if the districts for your League are correct – and which are your League's responsibility.** The underlined League shall report for other Leagues in the same district. **If your League has been assigned to collect information, but you're not planning to produce a voters' guide, please let the other Leagues know immediately so other arrangements can be made. If the assigned district(s) is not correct, also please immediately let the other Leagues know.** In both cases, we ask that you notify the state League office at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org, or at 614-469-1505.
2. Contact all Leagues in your district. Find out:
 - A. Publishing deadline for their voters' guide.
 - B. If / how costs of postage, copying, paper, etc. can be shared.
 - C. To whom the information should be mailed/emailed.
3. Get a complete and accurate list of all candidates for your district from your Board of Elections, or from the Board of Elections in the most populous county if there is more than one county in the district (as may be the case for regional offices such as U.S. House, state Senate, etc.).
4. A sample letter to send individual candidates is included (Appendix A). Listing all the Leagues using the candidate's information will broaden your base of appeal.
5. A sample questionnaire is also included (See Appendix B).

Candidate Questions: Statewide Candidates

LWVOEF has responsibility for collecting responses in races for statewide offices. Statewide offices for this primary election are U.S. Senator and Ohio Supreme Court Justices. The statewide candidates this year will be asked the following questions for the Primary Election Voters' Guide.

U.S. SENATOR

Questions:

- 1) Explain why you do or do not think the US Congress should address the influence of money in politics, especially in light of the US Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United*.
- 2) What should the federal government's top three priorities be in setting a sound energy policy?
- 3) What is your position on U.S. immigration policies, and how will you work to promote your position?
- 4) Explain why you do or do not believe that the federal government should ensure that every American has health coverage. How will you work to promote your position?
- 5) Explain why you do or do not support the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to enforce strong clean air and clean water standards.
- 6) What kinds of gun safety regulations, if any, should be passed into law by Congress? What will you do in Congress to promote your position?
- 7) Explain your position on the Senate's obligation to hold hearings on a President's U.S. Supreme Court nominee.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

The Supreme Court is the court of last resort in Ohio. The Supreme Court has appellate jurisdiction in cases involving questions arising under the Ohio or United States Constitutions, cases originating in the courts of appeals, and cases in which there have been conflicting opinions on the same question from two or more courts of appeals. The Supreme Court hears all cases in which the death penalty has been imposed.

Finally, the Supreme Court's appellate jurisdiction extends to review the actions of certain administrative agencies, including the Public Utilities Commission and the Board of Tax Appeals.

A person must be an attorney with at least six years' experience in the practice of law to be elected or appointed to the Supreme Court.

Questions will be sent to Ohio Supreme Court candidates by Judicial Votes Count.

Candidate Questions: Regional/County Offices - General Election

LOCAL LEAGUES WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Please refer to the enclosed sheets on pages 9-11 to determine which League is responsible for contacting the candidates.

OHIO COURT OF APPEALS

The 12 district courts of appeals in Ohio are intermediate level appellate courts whose primary function is to hear appeals from the common pleas, municipal and county courts. Each case is heard and decided by a three-judge panel. The number of judges in each district depends on a variety of factors, including the court's caseload and the size of the district. The number of judges in each district varies from four to twelve.

In addition to their appellate jurisdiction, the courts of appeals have original jurisdiction, as does the Supreme Court, to hear applications for writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, procedendo, prohibition and quo warranto. The Tenth District Court of Appeals in Franklin County also hears appeals from the Ohio Court of Claims.

Questions will be sent to Court of Appeals candidates by Judicial Votes Count.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Suggested Questions

- 1) Explain why you do or do not think the US Congress should address the influence of money in politics, especially in light of the US Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United*.
- 2) What should the federal government's top three priorities be in setting a sound energy policy?
- 3) What is your position on U.S. immigration policies, and how will you work to promote your position?
- 4) Explain why you do or do not believe that the federal government should ensure that every American has health coverage. How will you work to promote your position?
- 5) Explain why you do or do not support the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to enforce strong clean air and clean water standards.
- 6) What kinds of gun safety regulations, if any, should be passed into law by Congress? What will you do in Congress to promote your position?

OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES and OHIO SENATE

Suggested Questions

- 1) What do you see as the state's role in addressing women's reproductive health care in light of the US Supreme Court's recent decision striking down a Texas law, similar to one in Ohio, as an undue burden on women?

- 2) A law adopted in 2015 requires in-depth financial and academic reporting from schools and management organizations, stops charter schools from switching sponsors to avoid getting shut down, and prohibits poorly rated sponsors from opening new schools, among other provisions. Do you believe this legislation is sufficient? Why or why not?
- 3) When the Ohio legislature takes up the state biennial budget next year, what if any changes should be made to how funding is allocated between traditional public schools, charter schools, online schools, and state funds to nonpublic schools (including vouchers)? What accountability standards should be required of such schools that receive state funds?
- 4) Do you believe Ohio is doing enough to ensure the environmental health of Lake Erie and Ohio's waterways, including but not limited to enforcement of the Great Lakes Compact? Explain.
- 5) What changes, if any, should be made to Ohio's voting laws?
- 6) Explain your position on regulation of gun sales and ownership.
- 7) What is your position on extending the fair districting rules passed by voters in 2015 for the state legislature to the U.S. Congressional districts?

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Suggested Questions

- 1) A law adopted in 2015 requires in-depth financial and academic reporting from schools and management organizations, stops charter schools from switching sponsors to avoid getting shut down, and prohibits poorly rated sponsors from opening new schools, among other provisions. What will you do *as a school board member* to ensure that all charter schools comply with the provisions of the new law?
- 2) What can the State Board of Education do to ensure that all schools comply with Operating Standards for Ohio's Schools?
- 3) What can the State Board of Education do to ensure that all traditional public schools, charter schools, and nonpublic schools that accept state financial support (including vouchers) are accountable to the public for the tax support?
- 4) How can the State Board of Education ensure a quality education for all Ohio students regardless of whether they attend traditional public schools, charter or online schools, have vouchers for attending private schools, or are home-schooled?
- 5) What would be your priorities if elected to the State Board of Education?
- 6) Currently, Ohio's State Board of Education is made up of both elected and appointed members. The Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission is debating whether to move to an all-appointed board, return to the all-elected board Ohio used to have, or keep the current mix. What is your position?

Duties, Terms and 2016 Salaries: Statewide Offices

| <u>Office</u> | <u>No. to be elected</u> | <u>Salary</u> | <u>Term</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| U.S. Senator | 1 | \$174,000 | 6 yrs |

Responsibilities: Represents the people of Ohio and the U.S. in dealing with matters of national and international importance. The general welfare should be a prime concern.

| | | | |
|--|---|-----------|-------|
| Chief Justice, Ohio Supreme Court | 1 | \$166,350 | 6 yrs |
|--|---|-----------|-------|

Responsibilities: Presides over all cases involving questions arising under the Ohio Constitution or statutes; hears appeals from Courts of Appeals decisions. The Supreme Court's decisions are final except in cases involving the U.S Constitution, statutes, or treaties.

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|-------|
| Justice, Ohio Supreme Court | 2 | \$156,150 | 6 yrs |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|-------|

Responsibilities: Hears all cases involving questions arising under the Ohio Constitution or statutes; hears appeals from Courts of Appeals decisions. The Supreme Court's decisions are final except in cases involving the U.S Constitution, statutes, or treaties.

Duties, Terms and 2016 Salaries: Regional Offices

| <u>Office</u> | <u>No. to be elected</u> | <u>Salary</u> | <u>Term</u> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| U.S. Representative | 16 (1 from each dist) | \$174,000 | 2 yrs |

Responsibilities: To represent the people of Ohio, their district, and the United States in dealing with matters of national and international importance. The general welfare should be a prime concern.

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------|-------|
| Ohio Senator | 17 (1 from each odd-numbered district) | \$67,545* | 4 yrs |
|---------------------|---|-----------|-------|

Responsibilities: To represent the people of the district and the state of Ohio in dealing with matters not allocated to the federal government. *Base salary.

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------|
| Ohio Representative | 99 (1 from each dist) | \$60,584* | 2 yrs |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------|

Responsibilities: To represent the people of the district and the State of Ohio in dealing with matters not allocated to the federal government. *Base salary.

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|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|-------|
| Judge, Ohio Court of Appeals | 1 from each of 12 districts (contact Board of Elections) | \$145,500 | 6 yrs |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|-------|

Responsibilities: The Court of Appeals is essentially a Court of Review. It hears appeals from the Common Pleas, County, and Municipal Courts.

Decisions are final except in cases involving Constitutional questions, cases of felony, cases in which it has original jurisdiction, and cases of public or great general interest.

State Board of Education 1 from each of 11 districts No salary 4 yrs
 (plus 8 appointed by the governor)

Responsibilities: The 19-member board is responsible for overseeing the Ohio Department of Education and creates policy and makes recommendations for K-12 education in Ohio.

Duties, Terms and 2016 Salaries: County Offices
Local Leagues should check salary & term information with their county Board of Election.

| <u>Office</u> | <u>No. to be elected</u> | <u>Salary</u> | <u>Term</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| County Commissioner | Check with your Board of Elections | Based on population | 4 yrs |

Responsibilities: To exercise financial control of County expenditures; to authorize public works; to purchase land and buildings; to let contracts; to plan and administer welfare. The Board of County Commissioners also appoints other officials to operate various departments.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| County Coroner | Check with your Board of Elections | Based on population | 4 yrs |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|

Responsibilities: To determine the cause of death of persons dying in a violent or suspicious manner and to issue death certificates.

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| County Engineer | Check with your Board of Elections | Based on population | 4 yrs |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|

Responsibilities: To oversee the construction, maintenance, and repair of all bridges in the county, and of county roads and other public improvements except buildings in the county.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| County Prosecutor | Check with your Board of Elections | Based on population | 4 yrs |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|

Responsibilities: To investigate and prosecute crimes committed within the county, to defend the county in court, and to give legal advice to county agencies and townships.

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| County Recorder | Check with your Board of Elections | Based on population | 4 yrs |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|

Responsibilities: To record deeds, mortgages, plats, liens, and other written instruments.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| County Sheriff | Check with your Board of Elections | Based on population | 4 yrs |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|

Responsibilities: To provide services to the courts, to oversee the county jail, and to act as chief law enforcement officer for the county.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| County Treasurer | Check with your Board of Elections | Based on population | 4 yrs |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|

Responsibilities: To collect taxes in the county and its subdivisions, disburse expenditures, and invest the county's funds.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| County Clerk of Courts | Check with your Board of Elections | Based on population | 4 yrs |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|

Responsibilities: To enter judgments and collect court costs for appellate and common pleas courts, and also to issue and transfer automobile and water craft certificates of title.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Judge, Common Pleas Court* | Check with your Board of Elections | \$121,350 | 6 yrs |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-------|

Responsibilities: To preside at trials of both civil and criminal cases; to supervise the jury commission, grand jury, and other departments of the court.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Judge, Probate Court | Check with your Board of Elections | \$121,350 | 6 yrs |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-------|

Responsibilities: To rule on cases involving disposition of wills, the administration of estates and guardianships, adoptions, questions of mental or physical disability. They are also responsible for issuing marriage licenses.

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Judge, Court of Domestic Relations | Check with your Board of Elections | \$121,350 | 6 yrs |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------|-------|

Responsibilities: To handle cases of divorce, dissolution of marriage, annulment, separation, and child custody matters.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Judge, Juvenile Court | Check with your Board of Elections | \$121,350 | 6 yrs |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-------|

Responsibilities: To rule in cases involving persons under 18 years of age. The Juvenile Court has authority in cases of delinquency, unruliness, juvenile traffic offenses, abuse, neglect, and dependency. The Juvenile Court may be part of the Court of Domestic Relations or the Probate Court.

| | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| County Court Judge (or Municipal Court Judge with countywide jurisdiction) | Check with your Board of Elections | Based on population | 6 yrs |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|

Check with your Board of Elections for local jurisdictions and responsibilities.

- Note: Not all common pleas courts are subdivided into divisions (General, Probate, Domestic Relations, and Juvenile). These descriptions are provided for those Leagues in counties that do make the distinctions. Check with your Board of Elections.

Assignments for Securing Information on Candidates for U.S. President

The national League, LWVEF, is responsible for contacting candidates for President of the United States. The state League, LWVOEF, is responsible for checking to see which Presidential candidates have qualified to appear on the ballot in this state.

Assignments for Securing Information on Candidates for the U.S. Senate

**Assignments for Securing Information on Candidates for the
U.S. House of Representatives**

| <u>District</u> | <u>Underlined League is Responsible</u> |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 | <u>Cincinnati Area</u> |
| 2 | <u>Chillicothe/Ross Co</u> , Cincinnati Area, Clermont Co, Portsmouth/Scioto Co |
| 3 | <u>Metro Columbus</u> |
| 4 | Lima Area, <u>Marion</u> , Oberlin Area, Tiffin Area |
| 5 | <u>Bowling Green</u> , Perrysburg Area, Toledo/Lucas Co |
| 6 | <u>Greater Youngstown</u> , Marietta/Washington Co, Portsmouth/Scioto Co |
| 7 | Canton Area, <u>Oberlin Area</u> |
| 8 | <u>Darke Co</u> , Oxford |
| 9 | Greater Cleveland , <u>Toledo/Lucas Co</u> |
| 10 | <u>Greater Dayton Area</u> |
| 11 | Akron Area, <u>Greater Cleveland</u> |
| 12 | <u>Delaware Co</u> , Metro Columbus |
| 13 | Akron Area, Greater Youngstown, <u>Kent</u> , N. Portage Co, Trumbull Co |
| 14 | Akron Area, Ashtabula Co, Geauga Co, Hudson, Lake Co, <u>Kent</u> , N. Portage Co, Tallmadge, Trumbull Co |
| 15 | <u>Athens</u> Co, Chillicothe/Ross Co, Metro Columbus |
| 16 | Canton Area, Greater Cleveland, <u>Kent</u> , Wayne Co |

**Assignments for Securing Information on Candidates for the
Ohio House of Representatives**

| <u>District</u> | <u>Underlined League is Responsible</u> | <u>District</u> | <u>Underlined League is Responsible</u> |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| | | 39-43 | <u>Greater Dayton</u> |
| 1 | <u>Wayne Co</u> | 44-47 | <u>Toledo/Lucas Co</u> |
| 2 | No League | 48-49 | <u>Canton Area</u> |
| 3 | <u>Bowling Green</u> , Perrysburg Area | 50 | No League |
| 4 | <u>Lima Area</u> | 51 | No League |
| 5 | No League | 52 | No League |
| 6-16 | <u>Greater Cleveland</u> | 53 | <u>Oxford</u> |
| 17-18 | <u>Metro Columbus</u> | 54 | No League |
| 19 | <u>Metro Columbus</u> | 55 | No League |
| 20-26 | <u>Metro Columbus</u> | 56 | <u>Oberlin Area</u> |
| 27-33 | <u>Cincinnati Area</u> | 57 | No League |
| 34-35 | <u>Akron Area</u> | 58-59 | <u>Greater Youngstown</u> |
| 36 | <u>Tallmadge</u> | 60-61 | <u>Lake Co</u> |
| 37 | <u>Hudson</u> | 62 | No League |
| 38 | No League | 63 | <u>Trumbull Co</u> |
| | | 64 | Trumbull Co, <u>Ashtabula Co</u> |

| | | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| | | 82 | No League |
| | | 83 | No League |
| | | 84 | <u>Darke Co</u> |
| 65-66 | <u>Clermont Co</u> | 85 | No League |
| 67-68 | <u>Delaware Co</u> | 86 | <u>Marion</u> |
| 69 | No League | 87 | <u>Marion</u> |
| 70 | No League | 88 | <u>Tiffin Area</u> |
| 71 | No League | 89 | No League |
| 72 | No League | 90 | <u>Portsmouth/Scioto Co</u> |
| 73 | No League | 91-92 | <u>Chillicothe/Ross Co</u> |
| 74 | No League | 93 | No League |
| 75 | <u>Kent</u> | 94 | <u>Athens Co,</u> |
| 76 | Geauga Co, <u>N. Portage Co</u> | | Marietta/Washington Co |
| 77 | No League | 95 | <u>Marietta/Washington Co</u> |
| 78 | <u>Athens Co</u> | 96 | No League |
| 79 | No League | 97 | No League |
| 80 | <u>Darke Co</u> | 98 | No League |
| 81 | No League | 99 | Ashtabula Co, <u>Geauga Co</u> |

Assignments for Securing Information on Candidates for the Ohio Senate

| <u>District</u> | <u>Underlined League is Responsible</u> | <u>District</u> | <u>Underlined League is Responsible</u> |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|--|
| 1- | No League | | |
| 2- | Bowling Green, <u>Perrysburg Area</u> | 20- | <u>Athens Co</u> |
| 4- | <u>Oxford</u> | 22- | No League |
| 6- | <u>Greater Dayton Area</u> | 24- | Greater <u>Cleveland</u> |
| 8- | <u>Cincinnati Area</u> | 26- | Marion, <u>Tiffin Area</u> |
| 10- | No League | 28- | Tallmadge, <u>Akron Area</u> |
| 12- | Darke County, <u>Lima Area</u> | 30- | <u>Athens Co,</u> Marietta/Washington Co |
| 14- | Clermont Co, <u>Portsmouth/Scioto Co</u> | 32- | <u>Ashtabula Co,</u> Trumbull Co, Geauga Co |
| 16- | <u>Metro Columbus</u> | | |
| 18- | <u>Kent,</u> N. Portage Co, Geauga Co, Lake Co | | |

Assignments for Securing Information on Candidates for State Board of Education (General Election only)

| <u>District</u> | <u>Underlined League is Responsible</u> |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 | Darke Co., Lima Area, <u>Tiffin,</u> Marion |
| 2 | <u>Bowling Green,</u> Perrysburg Area, Toledo/Lucas Cty |

| | |
|----------|---|
| 3 | Greater Dayton, <u>Oxford</u> , Darke |
| 4 | <u>Cincinnati Area</u> |
| 5 | Ashtabula Cty, Lake Cty, <u>Wayne Cty</u> , Greater Cleveland |
| 6 | Metro Columbus |
| 7 | Akron Area, Geauga Cty, Hudson, Kent, N. Portage Cty, <u>Tallmadge</u> , Trumbull Cty |
| 8 | <u>Canton Area</u> , Greater Youngstown |
| 9 | Delaware Cty, <u>Athens Cty</u> , Marietta/Washington Cty |
| 10 | Chillicothe/Ross Cty, Portsmouth/Scioto Cty, <u>Clermont Cty</u> |
| 11 | <u>Greater Cleveland</u> |
| At-Large | <u>State League</u> |

Assignments - County Offices: Local Leagues Sharing a County

The underlined League is requested to initiate the cooperation between Leagues within a county to collect information on the county offices, which will include common pleas judges in some counties.

| <u>County</u> | <u>Cooperating Leagues</u> |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Butler | Cincinnati Area, <u>Oxford</u> |
| Portage | Northern Portage County, <u>Kent</u> |
| Stark | <u>Canton Area</u> |
| Summit | <u>Akron Area</u> , Hudson, Tallmadge |
| Wood | Bowling Green, <u>Perrysburg Area</u> |

It is up to the discretion of the cooperating Leagues how they wish to divide the county offices. You may wish to divide the offices according to where candidates live, or it may be best for the League with the largest group of active members to do all the county offices.

Candidate Questionnaires, Word Limits & Judicial Candidates' Questions

Questionnaires to Candidates

Secure the complete and certified list of candidates, including the independent candidates in the General Election, from your county Board of Elections. Be aware that the time between securing the official list and the deadline for printing is very short. It is ideal to have the candidates' letters ready, except for typing in the names and addresses, so that little time is lost sending the letters. In the event that a candidate's certification is in doubt, it is usually best to send the letter, explaining that if the candidate is certified the information will appear in the voters' guide.

A sample letter (see Appendix A) and a sample questionnaire (see Appendix B) are included here for your guidance. As a safeguard to your League, restrictions on editing and changing copy should be clearly stated both on the questionnaire and in the cover letter.

It is highly advisable that local Leagues add a disclaimer on their candidate and survey form that inclusion in a League's voters' guide is not an endorsement, and the candidate may not imply at any time that inclusion in your League's voters' guide is an endorsement.

It is important to ensure that each candidate has received a questionnaire. This can be achieved by delivering in person and getting a written receipt, sending by certified mail with "return receipt" requested (highly recommended when possible) or by email with "return receipt." In each case, your League should keep a written record of the delivery and any communication with the candidate and her/his campaign. A follow-up phone call is imperative if the completed questionnaire has not been returned. If the candidate has not returned a completed questionnaire, it is advisable to send a second questionnaire by registered mail with return receipt requested.

Questionnaire Word Limit

Formulate candidates' questions with utmost care. Set a word limit for each section of the questionnaire and each question, or for the total questionnaire. Stick to the limit set. Be sure you explain, in the letter or questionnaire or both, just what you will consider a word. For instance: The following are counted as one word: 1989, L.L.D., the, and, a, for. Do not use abbreviations except for degrees. "OU" would be two words for "Ohio University."

If a candidate does not comply with the word limit set by your League, you can return the questionnaire to the candidate with a request that the questionnaire be edited to conform to the word limit, confer with the candidate by phone and then send the revised copy for signature, or enforce the word limit as is.

It is incumbent that the letter to the candidate and the questionnaire's instruction make it clear that answers will be cut off at the word limit, in case publication deadlines are too tight to allow for changes in the questionnaires.

The only way to ensure complete fairness and objectivity is to equally enforce strict rules.

When framing questions on issues:

- Choose issues of major interest in your community, not limited to League program.
- If an issue covers a League position, don't let it show.
- Do not allow a question to seem to favor any candidate.
- Word questions simply.
- Restrict issues to those solvable at that office's level of government.
- Explain technical language briefly and simply, e.g., "home rule."
- Consider the word limit when framing the question.
- Consider asking two questions: a general one to each candidate to spot his/her interests, and a specific one on topical issue.
- Questions for judges should not violate standard judicial ethical canons.

Note About Judicial Candidates Questions

While "Judicial Votes Count" will take the lead on sending Voters' Guide questionnaires to judicial candidates this year, we wanted to provide the following guidance on the ethical rules pertaining to asking questions of judicial candidates as Leagues may find it helpful in planning other voter service activities such as candidate forums.

Many good questions can be framed for judicial candidates, but there are certain precautions that should be taken. According to Rule 4.1(A)(7) of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct, judges shall not, in connection with cases, controversies, or issues that are likely to come before the court, make pledges, promises, or commitments that are inconsistent with the impartial performance of the adjudicative duties of judicial office.

They can be asked their views on court congestion, reorganization, or any matter affecting the administration of justice. Of course, when preparing for the publication of a voters' guide, all questions submitted to candidates must be approved by the local League's Board of Directors.

For a list of possible questions for judicial candidates, please see LWVOEF's pamphlet "Where to Find Judicial Candidate Information & Questions for Candidates" at http://www.lwvohio.org/assets/attachments/file/LWVOEF_OhJudInfo%20handout.pdf

LWV: Political but Nonpartisan

- Available at <http://www.lwv.org/content/political-yet-nonpartisan>

November 04, 2011 | by S. Peterson

Soon after the League's founding, the decision was made to take positions on issues but to neither support nor oppose any political party or candidate (appointed or elected) for public office. Today, this policy continues to ensure that the League's voice is heard above the tumult of party politics.

To ensure the credibility of the League as a nonpartisan organization, each League's board of directors is responsible for drafting and carrying out its own nonpartisan policy and for seeing that both its members and the public understand the League's nonpartisan role.

Leagues should also have a conflict of interest policy related to board members' paid employment, service on other boards (including League boards at other levels), personal lobbying, etc.

Information about developing and implementing a nonpartisan policy, the nonpartisan policy of the national League board and sample policies for local and state Leagues can be found in the Members section of the League Web site (<http://www.lwv.org/member-resources>).

LWVUS: Voters' Guides Best Practices

- February 21, 2008 | by LWV at <http://www.lwv.org/content/voters%E2%80%99-guides-best-practices>

Voters' Guides Best Practices: Table of Contents

- A. Introduction**
- B. General**
- C. Funding Your Voters' Guide**
- D. Partnering With Media Outlets**

A. Introduction

Over the years, Leagues have built up high recognition value and reservoirs of community trust by providing citizens accurate, nonpartisan services and information on elections and on governmental issues. Public respect for the League's commitment to factual, unbiased information is a source of pride for League members and one that can be drawn on repeatedly in seeking community support for League activities and recruiting new members.

Producing candidates' questionnaires or Voters' Guides requires especially careful attention and sound judgment by the entire board, in order to protect the League's nonpartisan reputation and the public's trust.

In providing voter information, Leagues often work with other organizations, including newspapers and other media that may endorse candidates or have political action committees (PACs). In deciding how to

work with such organizations, Leagues need to consider carefully how their participation might affect their nonpartisan status or the public's perception of the League's nonpartisanship. They must make sure that the ground rules are set to ensure that the activity is conducted in a strictly nonpartisan manner. It is important to *make clear that the League cannot waive its nonpartisan policy or any procedures that ensure fair treatment of candidates*. The same is true when a League cooperates with a newspaper or other media outlet to produce or distribute election information.

The following are recommended practices:

B. General

1. *Fair, balanced and nonpartisan questions* for candidates should be the responsibility of each League. A League may wish to solicit input from a partner (organization or media outlet), but the final choice and wording of questions should be the League's.
2. *Prominent display of the League logo*, contact information for the League and Web address should be standard practice and explained early on as part of the partnership. This benefits both the League and the partnership effort, as the public puts the highest level of trust in the League, and will see our logo as a trusted "seal of approval."
3. League positions on Ballot Measures or Constitutional Amendments, etc, *should not be included* in Voters' Guides. Leagues can distribute additional supplemental facts sheets (or publications, etc) that cover this information, but the fact sheets should: neither be part of the Voters' Guide nor distributed such that it appears as though it is a supplement of the Voters' Guide; and the fact sheets should have a different look and feel (e.g. design) so that the League's voter service activities and its advocacy activities are not easily confused. Leagues may choose to do pros and cons on Ballot Measures or Constitutional Amendments. However, League positions on either *should not be included* in Voters Guides.
4. League positions on issues (e.g. environmental or taxation, etc) also *should not be included* in Voters' Guides. Again, Leagues can distribute additional supplemental facts sheets (or publications, etc) that cover this information but the fact sheets should: neither be part of the Voters' Guide nor distributed such that it appears as though it is a supplement of the Voters' Guide; and the fact sheets should have a different look and feel (e.g. design) so that the League's voter service activities and its advocacy activities are not easily confused.
5. Include a *League membership "ad"* in your Voters' Guide, as long as general League funds (e.g. non tax-deductible funds) cover the specific cost of including the "ad." For example, if a Voters' Guide is 5 pages and the membership "ad" is half a page; general League funds should cover 10% of the total cost of printing and distributing the Voters' Guide. Some sample language for your ad includes: *"The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. We are trusted, nonpartisan and never endorse candidates. Join the League and be directly involved in shaping the important issues to keep our community strong, safe, fair and vibrant."*
6. If *partnering* with another entity, the League should take the lead in communicating with the candidates. This includes:
 - a. sending *correspondence to the candidates* in a traceable form (USPS delivered, signed mail receipt or email returned mail receipt)
 - b. clearly articulating the *"ground rules"* for inclusion in the League's Voters' Guide – e.g.:
 - i. space limitations are included in the letter to the candidates so candidates know any responses over xxx word/character limit will be truncated at that number;
 - ii. there will be no editing for spelling mistakes, grammar, etc so candidates can not say their answers were "changed" by the League;
 - iii. what will be printed if the candidate does not respond – "No response from candidate";
 - iv. which specific races will be included in the Voters' Guide; and,

- v. what criteria were used for determining which candidates would be included in the Voters' Guide. (The League Board should establish criteria well in advance.)
7. Voters' Guides should *not only be distributed in hard copy, but they should also be made available online*, through individual League Web sites and/or partner Web sites. LWVUS will also include every League's Voters' Guide on VOTE411.org. For inclusion on VOTE411.org submit your Voters' Guide to VoterInfo@lwv.org. Providing information online ensures that the information can reach a broader audience than print distribution alone and may be a great way to get other organizations or media to link to your Web site.
8. *All partners should be encouraged to publicize* the Voters' Guide before it is available – e.g. "Look for your LWV and xxx partner(s) Voters' Guide on xx day" (shortly before Election Day).
9. *Any disclaimers should be prominently displayed*. Examples of various disclaimers are provided below.
10. *Partner with a media outlet* to increase the distribution of your Voters' Guide. (See section: Best Practices: Partnering with Media Outlets for full discussion)

C. Funding Your Voters' Guide

1. Education Fund monies may be used to underwrite the costs of most, if not all, of your Voters' Guide. You are encouraged to use some general League funds to cover the specific cost of including a League membership "ad" in your Voters' Guide. For example if your Voters' Guide is 10 pages long and you include a half-page membership ad, then 5% of the total cost of producing your Voters' Guide (printing and distribution) should be paid for with general League funds. Be sure legal constraints on giving and receiving money for election-related activities are fully understood especially tax-deductible contributions.
2. The approach used by the LWVUS/LWVEF Board on fundraising offers some guidance to your own approach and includes the following policy: "The LWVUS/LWVEF shall not enter into any financial relationship (investment, fundraising, cause-related marketing, gift solicitation or gift acceptance) which is incompatible with the principles, priorities and mission of the LWVUS/LWVEF. Management shall exercise appropriate discretion when identifying and soliciting prospective donors and partners." This practice helps avoid conflicts of interest and retains the public trust in League activities and publications.
3. Seek neutral community underwriting or in-kind donations from businesses or community organizations – e.g. printing and design/layout. Be sure to recognize these sponsors in your Voters' Guide.
4. Earn income by selling Voters' Guides and other voter service materials in bulk quantity to business and industry, organizations, labor unions, political parties and/or individuals. If you sell to a political party make sure that the terms offered are the same for all parties and candidates.
5. Leagues are seeking ways to fund their Voters' Guides and some consider advertising and/or partnerships with other organizations. *The best practice is to avoid candidate advertisement in your Voters' Guides altogether*. Your Board *should not* accept any advertising that includes an electioneering message or any express advocacy. Some partners, such as media partners, may insist on paying for the space through advertising. In such cases, the state or local Board should use its own judgment and discretion in deciding whether to accept advertisements, including candidate advertisements.

If your Board is considering allowing advertising in your Voters' Guide, consider the following.

- a. **Types of advertisements:** What is your League willing to accept—e.g. products or services only advertisements (shampoo, cookies, automobiles, realtors, banks, etc.) and not willing to accept –e.g. candidate advertisements (Vote for Wonder Woman on November 1st, etc.) or political/issue advertisements (political parties or advocacy groups, etc.)
- b. **Placement of advertisements:** Although LWVUS/EF advises against the inclusion of candidate ads in your Voters' Guides, if they are acceptable to your Board, minimize the

chance that the advertising could be perceived as favoring one candidate or party over another. Consider:

- i. All advertisements must be confined to a specific section of the Voters' Guide such as the inside panel of the last page only or a single page elsewhere in the Voters' Guide;
 - ii. Candidate advertisements may only appear on pages associated with that candidate;
 - iii. Support from any candidate or political party/organization may only be acknowledged through a listing of supporters on the inside of the back page; or;
 - iv. Other criteria your Board develops.
- c. **Advertisement specifications:** Are different sized advertisements allowed at different prices, are color and/or black and white ads allowed at different prices, etc.? Might some of these differences result in an appearance of a League preference for one candidate or party more than another?
- d. **Promotion of availability of advertising space:** Will the League (and/or partner) actively solicit support from corporations? Will the League alert all candidates of this opportunity in their communications about participating in the Voters' Guide? Will the League decide on a case-by-case approach as potential advertisers approach the League? (This case-by-case approach should only apply to product and service advertisements.) Will another approach be approved by the state/local Board?
- e. **Acceptance of Advertisements:** Will advertisements be accepted on a first come first serve basis, or if candidate/political advertising is allowed will they be accepted only on an equal basis (e.g. Leagues cannot run ads for candidates for only one party), etc.
- f. **General Principles:**
- i. Leagues that accept advertising *should insert the word "advertising" above or below any advertisement.*
 - ii. Fees associated with advertising are *not tax-deductible.*
 - iii. Leagues should either *display information* in the Voters' Guide regarding the process the league used to promote and accept advertising, and/or direct readers to place on your Web site where they may learn more about your process.
 - iv. Leagues should also prominently *display a disclaimer* such as "Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, service mark, manufacturer, candidate, issue, or otherwise, does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation or favoring by the LWV of XX."
6. If a League has raised more than enough funds to cover the costs of their Voters' Guide, the *remaining tax-deductible funds* may be used for other Education Fund activities.

D. Partnering With Media Outlets

1. *Appeal to their self-interest* to publish voter information as a service to their readers/listeners. Media outlets want the public to use their resources, to see them as "serving the community" and the League adds tangible, trusted recognition to their own name and this effort through affiliating and collaborating together on Voters' Guides (or other voter service activities).
2. *Make sure you have a written contract:*
 - a. Signed by your League President and the media partner(s).
 - b. Clearly articulates the "ground rules" (noted above); that the League will provide ready-to-print materials and credibility; the rules regarding publishing LWV material in its entirety (e.g. the partner may make no changes to the text); specifies dates of publication; distribution of the Voters' Guide both in print and online; includes any costs that LWV might incur; states that League nonpartisanship and mission statements, and includes any disclaimers specifies how contributions/sponsors will be acknowledged, including in-kind support (if necessary); states how and what type of advertisements may be included; specifies that no endorsements may be included; specifies that the League name, logo and

- contact information will be included; and reaches an agreement on space limitations and candidate races to be covered.
- c. Clearly delineates the League’s role/responsibilities vs. the partner’s role/responsibilities.
 - d. Including any publicity the partner(s) will undertake (e.g. "Look for your LWV and xxx paper, xxx TV Voter's Guide on xx day (shortly before Election Day).
3. Although *the contract will state which races will be covered* in the joint Voters’ Guide, the League might decide to cover more races and include them on the League Web site.
 4. Leagues should be aware that *many media outlets endorse candidates and accept candidate and political advertising*, and although the League can and should require that no candidate endorsements appear within the Voters’ Guides, the League has no control over what is included in the rest of the media partners’ online or print materials.
 5. *If partnering with a newspaper:*
 - a. Ideally, the newspaper would cover the costs of printing the Voters’ Guide as a special insert in their newspaper.
 - b. Leagues are encouraged to try to get extra copies of the insert printed for distribution through libraries and schools, community organizations and reaching out to diverse audiences.
 - c. Some Leagues have contributed to the cost of printing the Voters’ Guide in a newspaper but Leagues are not encouraged to offer to do so at the outset of the discussions. However, Leagues should be prepared to respond to this request if it arises. As part of your negotiations, it is helpful to quantify your League’s contribution to the total “cost of undertaking a Voters’ Guide.” According to the reputable nonprofit association, Independent Sector, the estimated value of volunteer time in 2006 was \$18.77 per hour. If there is a fee in the end, this fee should be included in the contract as well.

LWVUS: Defining “Advocacy” vs. “Lobbying”

- Available at: <http://www.lwv.org/content/defining-advocacy-vs-lobbying>

It is common for Leagues to support their advocacy activities with only non-charitable contributions. However, this is unnecessary. Leagues may, and are encouraged, to use charitable contributions to support their non-lobbying advocacy activities. Advocacy encompasses pleading for or against causes, as well as supporting or recommending positions.

LWVUS policy recommends against using charitable funds for any lobbying even though it is legal within strictly defined limits. Therefore, it is important to understand the difference between the broad concept of advocacy and lobbying, which is a specific advocacy technique. While lobbying can be part of an advocacy strategy, advocacy does not necessarily include lobbying.

Lobbying is defined as an attempt to influence specific legislation, including both legislation that has already been introduced in a legislative body and specific legislative proposals that the League may oppose or support. There are two types of lobbying: direct lobbying and grassroots lobbying.

To constitute direct lobbying, a communication must either:

- 1) be directed to a legislator, their staff or other governmental employee who may participate in the formulation of legislation,
 - a. AND refer to
 - b. AND express a view on specific legislation;

OR

- 2) Be directed to the general public,
 - a. AND refer to
 - b. AND express a view on a specific referenda or other ballot measure.

To constitute grassroots lobbying a communication must be:

- 1) Directed to the general public,
 - a. AND refer to
 - b. AND express a view on specific legislation,
 - c. AND include a statement that directs readers to contact their legislators or include the contact information for a legislator or employee of a legislative body.

Most other activities promoting League positions that do not fall within the strict definitions of lobbying noted above are general advocacy and may be funded by charitable contributions. One important caveat is Leagues are advised to keep clear lines between voters' service activities and advocacy activities. For example, Leagues that have taken a position on a ballot measure should not include that position in their Voters' Guide.

Disclosure of League Contribution to Support or Oppose a Ballot Issue

Disclaimer

Any sign, newspaper advertisement, literature, and so forth that a local League puts out in support of or in opposition to a question or issue that is on the ballot should include the name of the local League and contact information for that League.

If a local League spends operating (501 c 4) money to support or oppose a local ballot question or issue in accordance with a League position, the local League must file a contribution disclosure form. Please contact your local Board of Elections for detailed information about this requirement and the timing for completing the necessary form.

Appendix A:

Sample Letter to Candidate

(on local League stationery)

Date _____

Dear _____:

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization with a deep concern for informed voter participation in government. In line with this policy, we will make available to the voters of _____ a voter guide on candidates and issues for the _____ election, 20__.

Each candidate is requested to complete the enclosed questionnaire. (Please keep a copy for your files.) Please return it to the League of Women Voters of _____ at the address given above. In order that all candidates may be treated alike, please use the questionnaire form, taking careful note of the word limitations, and return it no later than _____. You may download an electronic version of the questionnaire at [Web site] or request an electronic version by e-mailing [e-mail address]. E-mailing your responses to this address, in addition to mailing your signed copy, will save the League a great deal of time and would be much appreciated.

Inasmuch as the League will not alter, edit, correct, or evaluate any candidate's reply, each candidate is solely responsible for the text they submit, including the truth of his/her statements. The League cannot use any campaign material. Your answers are accepted only with the understanding that the published material will not be used in any way that may be deemed to be an endorsement by the League of Women Voters of your candidacy or views.

The League of Women Voters was formed in 1920. It is a national, nonpartisan organization dedicated to encouraging active and informed participation of citizens in government. The League does not endorse, oppose, or evaluate any candidate or party. By submitting your candidate questionnaire, you and your campaign organization, agree not to imply at anytime, either verbally, in advertising or in writing, the League's endorsement of your candidacy.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Voter Service Chair
(phone #)

Enclosures
(self-addressed envelope)

Appendix B:
Sample Candidate Questionnaire

League of Women Voters of _____
2016 Voters' Guide Questionnaire

NOTE: This response CANNOT be published unless YOU have signed it in the space provided at the end of the questionnaire. By submitting your candidate questionnaire, you and your campaign organization agree not to imply at anytime, either verbally, in advertising or in writing, the League's endorsement of your candidacy.

OFFICE: PARTY:
(fill in only if applicable to your election)
NAME: AGE:
ADDRESS:
EMAIL ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER(S): (will not be printed in voter guide)

Biographical Information

Answers in the following are limited to 50 words FOR THE THREE SECTIONS COMBINED.

OCCUPATION:

EDUCATION:

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE:

Total word limitation of 50 words for the above three sections. DO NOT USE ABBREVIATIONS except for degrees: B.A., Ph.D., M.D., etc. Otherwise, OU would be two words for Ohio University; "the," "a," "is" are counted as one word each.

Question for Voters' Guide

The answer to the question may not exceed **150 words**. THE WORD LIMIT MUST BE OBSERVED. Words over the limit will be cut off in published information.

[Insert question]

[Note: Leagues may want to provide an e-mail address where responses can be sent to avoid retyping and checking, but obtaining a signed hard copy is highly recommended.] To verify your attempts to communicate and verify the receipt of all responses, **it is recommended that Local Leagues keep copies of all correspondence from candidates, including emails.**

Released for distribution for 2016 Election.

Candidate's Signature _____ Date _____

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| THIS QUESTIONNAIRE MUST BE RETURNED |
| NO LATER THAN: |
| TO: |
| |

Appendix C: 2018 Ohio Senate Districts

2018 Primary/General Elections

District 1 – No League

District 3 – Metro Columbus

District 5 – Darke County, Greater Dayton Area

District 7 – Cincinnati Area

District 9 – Cincinnati Area

District 11 – Toledo/Lucas Co

District 13 – Oberlin Area

District 15 – Metro Columbus

District 17 – Chillicothe/Ross Co

District 19 – Delaware Co, Metro Columbus

District 21 – Greater Cleveland

District 23 – Greater Cleveland

District 25 – Greater Cleveland

District 27 – Hudson, Wayne Cty

District 29 – Canton Area

District 31 – No League

District 33 – Greater Youngstown

APPENDIX D: 2018 State Board of Education Districts

District 2: Bowling Green, Oberlin Area, Perrysburg Area, Toledo/Lucas Co,

District 3: Greater Dayton Area, Oxford

District 4: Cincinnati Area

District 7: Akron Area, Ashtabula Co, Geauga Co, Lake Co, Kent, N. Portage Co, Tallmadge,
Trumbull Co

District 8: Athens Co, Canton Area, Greater Youngstown, Marietta/Washington Co