



League Leaders' Update

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Join Us April 10th for Statehouse Day & Council

LWV Ohio is excited to welcome League members from across the state to Columbus on April 10th for our 2012 Statehouse Day and Council meeting. The day will be packed with engaging presentations on topics as diverse as redistricting, human trafficking, fracking and good government. To learn more about the schedule of the day and to register, click here: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e5iyc6aza1ae7702&llr=n8s8yteab>.

Please register by Monday, April 2nd.

Because it is an off-convention year, this year's Statehouse Day will include the Council meeting after lunch. We hope to have representation from as many Leagues as possible at the meeting, at which the FYE 2013 LWV Ohio budget will be discussed, debated, and voted upon. Because it is an off-convention year, this year's Statehouse Day will include the Council meeting after lunch. We hope to have representation from as many Leagues as possible at the meeting, at which the FYE 2013 LWV Ohio budget will be discussed, debated, and voted upon. Please see the Call to Council ([click here](#)) that includes the proposed FYE 2013 LWV Ohio

budget and the Budget Narrative.

- **Delegate Participants:** Official delegates to the 2012 Council include the LWV Ohio Board of Directors and two delegates from each local League that has met its Ohio PMP obligations through the quarter immediately preceding the State Council (March 30, 2012). **The two voting delegates from each local League include the president or her/his designee, and one other delegate.**
- **Non-Delegate Participants:** Non-delegate participants at Statehouse Day may participate in all Statehouse Day activities, including meals, workshops and meetings with legislators. We also invite and encourage everyone to attend Council - although only delegates will be able to vote during Council.
- **Advance questions:** To allow as much time as possible for the part of League we all love best, Treasurer Nena Hankins of LWV-Kent has graciously agreed to take advance questions relating to the budget. You may contact Nena at nhankins@att.net.
- **Statehouse Day / Council Registration Fee:** The registration fee for both delegate participants and non-delegate participants is \$35 (student: \$20; guest: \$40). This fee covers the costs of all meals and workshop materials.

Join Us April 3rd at 12-1pm for Our Monthly All Member Conference Call

Our guest speaker this month is Catherine Turcer, Director of Ohio Citizen's Action Money in Politics Program. She will be discussing the Influence of Money in the Primary Election.

To participate, dial 1-866-740-1260 and enter access code 4691505#. In order to anticipate the number of people on the call, we request that you RSVP to lwvinfo@lwvohio.org. It is not required, but will help us administer the call effectively.

Advocacy Updates

Redistricting - We are moving to reform redistricting in Ohio. On Monday March 19, Voters First filed over 1,700 signatures with the Secretary of State and proposed petition summary language with the Attorney General. We are currently awaiting certification of the signatures and petition language, and we should hear back from the AG this week. Then the proposed language goes to the ballot board to determine if it is one issue or more than one issue. Once approved by these entities, we will start collecting signatures to place the initiative on the ballot.

HB 194 Repeal - The Ohio legislature is considering Senate Bill 295, to repeal HB 194 so that the referendum vote this fall is not needed. In the last month LWVO offered testimony on the substitute bill, issued a press release and an action alert on SB 295. The League is concerned that SB 295 does not completely restore the law to what it was before HB 194, because SB 295 does not restore early voting the Saturday, Sunday, and Monday before Election Day. Questions have also been raised about the legality of repealing a law that is subject to a referendum.

Renewable Energy - LWVO lobbyists continue to monitor and offer testimony on a variety of renewable energy proposals in the legislature and in the Governor's proposed energy tax package.

Housing - The LWVO offered written testimony on House Bill 408, a bill that seeks to add additional seats to the public housing agency in the Cincinnati area in an attempt to block public housing expansion into certain suburbs. Despite opposition, the House Committee passed the bill.

Annual Fundraiser Update & Drop-In for Local Leagues' VOTER

In February, the state League sent all members and supporters a fundraising appeal letter asking for their support.

We are well on our way to our \$28,000 goal, having received more than \$24,000 as of March 27th. But we need your continued support to reach our goal in the home stretch! If you have not done so already, please consider including this drop-in article ([click here](#)) in your local Voter.

As a reminder, this year's annual winter fundraiser is different from

Phonathons of years past. The state League did not ask local Leagues to make calls to their members this year; rather, the LWV Ohio Board followed up with many League members across the state. Accordingly, rebates will not be given to local Leagues as in the past. Our intent was to provide more time for local Leagues to concentrate on their core activities while streamlining fundraising efforts.

**Drop-In Article for Local Leagues' VOTER:
Highlights from Your State League
January - March, 2012**

Your state League kept busy -- as your voice at the Statehouse, with activities to support local Leagues and their leaders -- and much, much more! Here's a ready-to-go article for your League's VOTER that gives your membership a snapshot of what your state League has been working on over the past few months ([click here](#)). Feel free to use just the information your members will be most interested in.

Thank You for Attending Regional Meetings!

A big thank you goes out to all the League Leaders who attended regional meetings around the state! We had meetings in Central, Northwest, Northeast, and Southeast Ohio in February and March.

More than 70 members from 21 local Leagues gathered to discuss redistricting reform, The Accountability Project, member-recruitment and retention strategies and local Leagues' innovative initiatives / activities.

We always appreciate the opportunity to connect with Local League Leaders and talk about ways we can support each other's work. Thank you!

It's not too late to apply for Accountability Project pass-thru grants!

Those who joined us at Regional Meetings heard about this exciting opportunity for Local Leagues to apply for pass-through grants to support community action.

Local Leagues who have already applied will be contacted soon. If your

Local League has not yet applied, you still have time! Find out how to apply here. ([click here](#))

Human Trafficking Consensus Deadline Extended Until May 31st

Because a number of local Leagues expressed concern about the short time for reaching consensus, the deadline for submitting consensus reports on Human Trafficking has been extended to May 31st. ([click here](#))

November 2011 Voting Survey Results

The LWVO/EF conducted a survey of League members following the November 2011 general election as a part of our follow-up to the 2009 *LWVO v. Brunner* lawsuit settlement agreement. More than 170 Ohioans in 33 counties responded. In general, responses were positive about the voting experience. Forty percent of the participants in our poll voted absentee and this process went well for them. Likewise, there were no patterns of problems reported by League members who voted at the polls. Although the number of participants meant that the number was insufficient for the results to be statistically significant, we were pleased that we did not learn of serious problems in the election process. Thanks to all the League members who participated in the survey.

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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.



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