



League Leaders' Update

May 17,
2012

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- May 31, 2012 - Trafficking Consensus Deadline
- June 8-12, 2012 - LWVUS Convention
- May, 2012 - LWVO/EF Begins 12-Month Strategic Planning Process
- Mid-June, 2012 - Distribution of LWV Ohio Education Fund Voters' Guide Information Packet to Local Leagues
- Coming soon - Request for Concurrence on a Great Lakes Position
- September, 2012 - Information on state ballot issues will be distributed following the Sept. 8 state board meeting.

Redistricting Reform: Putting Voters First!

Status Report:

We have cleared all the legal hurdles - the Secretary of State approved the initial round of signatures, the Attorney General approved the summary language, and the Ballot Board approved the proposal as a single issue. The

Voters First campaign - a coalition of nonpartisan groups which includes LWVO and Common Cause Ohio - began circulating petitions on April 9th. We need to submit 386,000 valid Ohio voters' signatures by July 4th in order to place the issue on the November 2012 ballot.

How you can help:

1. Request petitions to circulate in your community. Contact the state League office at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org or 614-469-1505. Instructions will be provided and are available online at <http://www.lwvohio.org/assets/attachments/file/Petition%20Instructions.pdf>.

2. Attend one of the petition circulator trainings being held around the state. The Ohio AFL-CIO is providing Voter First petition trainings around the state. Click here - <http://www.ohaflcio.org/votersfirst.html> - to find the training nearest you.

3. Volunteer to be a petition coordinator for your county. If you want to go the extra mile to support *Voters First*, help us coordinate petitioning in your county by providing a place for volunteers to pick up and drop off petitions, and keep a log of petitions that have been signed out for circulation. Contact Ann Henkener at ahenkener@columbus.rr.com for more information.

4. Help spread the word. Print out the one-page fact sheet about *Voters First* - available at: [http://www.lwvohio.org/assets/attachments/file/Voters%20First%20Redistricting%20Reform%20Doc%201%2011%2012\(2\).pdf](http://www.lwvohio.org/assets/attachments/file/Voters%20First%20Redistricting%20Reform%20Doc%201%2011%2012(2).pdf) - and share it with your friends, neighbors, and coworkers. Attend an event, and bring a friend. Host an event.

5. Announce your League's support to local press. Local League presidents are encouraged to send a letter to the editor, op-ed, or press release to your local newspapers announcing support of *Voters First*. [Click here](#) for the sample.

6. Ask local organizations to endorse. Are you a member of a

state or local organization that has not yet endorsed *Voters First*? Please help us build support for redistricting reform by asking organizations to endorse the *Voters First* redistricting reform proposal. Please let us know what organizations you have reached out to, or suggest organizations for us to contact. [Click here](#) for endorsement form.

7. Donate. We can win this issue, but a successful campaign needs funds. Please consider making a donation to *Voters First* Ohio to support the campaign. Please note that campaign donations are not tax-deductable. You can donate to the campaign on the *Voters First* website: <http://votersfirstohio.org/>

Summer Events = Voter Engagement Opportunities

Summer is almost here! Summertime brings with it a wealth of community festivals, fairs, and parades that provide a great opportunity for voter outreach - especially voter registration & Voters First petition signature gathering.

Does your community hold a Memorial Day parade, June LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) Pride festival, 4th of July parade, weekly farmers market, or other summer events?

No one knows your community better than you! Help us keep track of voter engagement opportunities by letting LWVO know about events in your community, and if members of your Local League will be gathering petition signatures and registering voters at these events. LWVO and Voters First will use this information to identify which local events may need additional volunteers assigned. You can reach us at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org or by phone at (614) 469-1505.

Information for Ohio Delegates to LWVUS Convention

Invitation to Ohio Delegates to LWVUS Convention

Nancy Brown, Meg Flack and Carrie Davis - LWV Ohio delegates to LWVUS Convention - look forward to gathering with other Ohio

delegates under the Ohio banner during general sessions at the convention, June 8-12, in Washington, D.C. In order to maximize opportunities for the Ohio delegation to interact, we ask League presidents to let us know who your League's delegates are. **Please send the names and email addresses of your League's LWWUS delegate(s) to lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org or call us at 614-469-1505 by June 1, 2012.**

Matchmaker, Matchmaker - Make Me a Match: "Adopting" Delegates for 2012 LWWUS Convention in D.C., June 8-12

There is an informal, accepted practice that a local League that is not sending its full complement of representatives to LWWUS Convention may "adopt" a member from another Ohio League that is sending more than its full complement. Otherwise, as observers, those "extra" folks are not permitted to sit with the Ohio voting delegation or speak or debate.

The "adopted" delegate must get the local League's permission to represent it and is expected get a sense of its concerns (informed but not instructed) before Convention -- and then report back what occurred at Convention plus share useful handouts. In this way, more Leagues--and more League members--benefit from being part of Convention.

Leagues wishing to participate in either side of this equation are encouraged to make arrangements with another Ohio League(s)-or contact LWW Ohio Co-President Meg Flack (mflack@columbus.rr.com) for assistance.

To confirm the number of delegates your League is entitled to, see: <http://www.lwv.org/content/delegate-representation-convention-2012-how-many-delegates-can-you-bring>.

Update on Voting Legislation

The Ohio General Assembly is expected to adjourn for summer recess by Memorial Day. However, they did not leave the capital without passing yet another elections bill.

In May, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 295 (SB 295), a bill that

would repeal last year's voter suppression bill, House Bill 194 (HB 194), with the intent to remove the HB 194 referendum from the November 2012 ballot. Governor Kasich signed SB 295 on May 15, 2012.

Many voter advocates cried foul, arguing that SB 295 does not truly reset election law to what it was before HB 194, because it does not restore the last three days of early voting on the Saturday, Sunday, and Monday before Election Day. An amendment was offered to SB 295 to restore those three days of early voting, but it was rejected on a party line vote.

Many people questioned whether the legislature can remove an issue from the ballot. The short answer is, no one knows because it has never happened before. Legislators, including the Speaker of the Ohio House, publicly acknowledged that it is unclear whether the legislature has the constitutional authority to repeal a law that is subject to referendum. It is likely that a lawsuit will be filed, and the courts will ultimately decide.

The ongoing tug-of-war over Ohio election law received national attention this month, as the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee held a field hearing in Cleveland on May 7th, to scrutinize voter suppression in Ohio. The League of Women Voters of Ohio was invited to present testimony. You can read LWVO's written testimony at: [http://www.lwvohio.org/assets/attachments/file/LWVO%20statement%20final_clean\(2\).pdf](http://www.lwvohio.org/assets/attachments/file/LWVO%20statement%20final_clean(2).pdf).

Thank You to Everyone Who Joined Us at Statehouse Day

Statehouse Day Recap

The agenda for Statehouse Day on April 10th reflected the League's focus on urgent issues facing Ohio, including election reform, redistricting, human trafficking and fracking.

Starting off with a heartrending presentation by Theresa Flores on human trafficking, we went to a more philosophical and detailed session on the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission. Those who did not attend the latter session were at a spirited presentation and discussion on voting in Ohio. There, provisional ballot and poll worker errors were discussed as well as the Dayton League's project on voter service for the

deaf.

This year, we held lunch over at the Statehouse Atrium, a beautiful venue everyone enjoyed. Dr. Barbara Palmer showed how incumbency, redistricting, and demographics affect women candidates.

After lunch, the status of the redistricting reform effort was detailed and many League members took advantage of the opportunity to pick up a petition to circulate. The final session was on fracking, and a panel considered environmental, legal and economic issues.

Written summaries of all the issues covered at Statehouse Day were available as well as a summary of the League's advocacy work during the past year. Attendees could also visit the Action Center and pick up handouts on [Human Trafficking](#), [Voting in 2012](#), the [Constitutional Modernization Commission](#), [Incumbency & Redistricting](#), and [Fracking](#). Please click on the name of the Action Sheet above to download.

2012 LWVO Council

As part of Statehouse Day, LWVO Council met and the LWVO budget for FYE 2013 was presented, discussed and approved by delegates. Note: The LWVOEF Board of Trustees approved the companion LWVOEF FYE 2013 budget at its May 5th meeting

Invitation to All Members:

Receive the League Leader Update!

Many League members have asked to be added to the League Leader Update (LLU) email list so they can be better informed about League happenings around the state. At the May 5, 2012, LWVO/EF board meeting, the state League adopted a policy of distributing the LLU to all local League board members, as well as any other League members who ask to be added. If you no longer wish to receive the LLU, please let us know at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org or call 614-469-1505. If you know someone who should be added, please pass that along to us too. And please invite your League's members to sign up to receive the monthly state League e-newsletter, again by letting us know at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org or by calling 614-469-1505. It's the best way to keep informed. Thank you!

LWVO/EF Begins Strategic Planning

LWVO/EF has begun our strategic planning process in conjunction with consultant Frank Kunstel, Ph.D., who has extensive experience working with non-profit and private enterprise organizations to help them develop strategic plans. The goal of the planning process is to ensure the state League continues to evolve in ways that enhance our ability to fulfill our shared mission as we go forward. Over the next few months, Frank will be contacting a variety of LWVO/EF constituents and partners, including a cross-section of local League presidents and members, asking for their perspectives on a number of issues. We invite you to participate in the process if Frank contacts you -- and we look forward to creating and implementing a plan that will position us to continue to be a highly credible and effective force in safeguarding democracy for the next 92 years.

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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.

