



League Leader Update

September 16, 2011

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Dear League Leaders:

As the leaves begin to change color and the weather is cooling down, things are heating up at the League. With election law developments, the HB 194 referendum and shining light on the partisan redistricting activity, September is proving to be a busy month. As we begin the busy election season, please don't hesitate to call on us if we can provide you with assistance.

You are receiving this email because you have been a League officer or have requested to receive the League Leader Update. If there is someone in your League who would like to be added to the distribution list please contact Michele Martin, LWVO's office manager at mmartin@lwvo.org.

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

Action Alert Issued on House Bill 319

Earlier this week, LWVO issued an Action Alert on fast-moving House Bill 319. This bill, introduced by Rep. Matt Huffman, Chair of the House State Government and Elections Committee, will establish 16 new congressional districts for the next decade. To read the Action Alert, click [click here](#).

Statewide Ballot Issue Information Released

The LWVO/EF board of directors met earlier this month to approve the language for and League stances on the three statewide ballot issues. Information for the Voters' Guides as well as stances on the three issues can be found on the LWVO/EF homepage at www.lwvohio.org.

House Bill 194 Referendum Update

As you know, the LWVO has endorsed the HB 194 referendum campaign. HB 194 includes a number of provisions that will make it more difficult for Ohioans to exercise their right to vote and will result in long lines at the polls and other problems on Election Day.

Local League members are encouraged to sign petitions and, if they choose, circulate petitions. If you or members of your League are interested in circulating a petition and don't yet have one, you can contact Mary Woods at 614-270-3319 or at whw68@aol.com. Also, please copy Nancy Brown at ngbrown@columbus.rr.com. Mary has agreed to be the contact person for League members across the state and will put you in touch with someone in your county who can provide you with petitions and instructions on how to circulate and return them.

There is very little time left to obtain the requisite signatures. The deadline for return of signatures is September 29th. If the referendum effort is successful in gathering the required signatures - just over 231,000, HB 194 will be put on hold for the 2011 and 2012 elections. That would enable voters to vote on the referendum in the 2012 general election. We hope that members of your League will be able to join in this important effort. **Please share this information with members of your League.**

Work on the Clean Air Promise Begins

The League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund (LWVOEF), in partnership with local Leagues and with support from the national League of Women Voters Education Fund, is working to change the debate over the Clean Air Act from a focus on the cost of regulation to a focus on the public health cost of bad air quality. The campaign seeks to elicit the following promise from politicians, community leaders, League members and the

general public:

"I promise to protect America's children and families from dangerous air pollution. Because toxics and pollutants such as mercury, smog, carbon, and soot, cause thousands of hospital visits, asthma attacks, and even deaths, I will support clean air policies and other protections that scientists and public health experts have recommended to the EPA to safeguard our air quality."

With grant support from the national League, LWVOEF will provide pass-through funding and coordination to participating local Leagues for activities that engage community leaders, politicians and the general public in their communities to make the promise to support clean air. Local Leagues who elect to participate have the opportunity to earn several hundred dollars.

We recognize that this is a difficult time for many Leagues to take on another project. However, the national League has made this a top priority and is determined to make 2011 the year in which we change the terms of the environmental debate. We will provide details about the Clean Air Promise Campaign next week and have scheduled the following conference calls:

- **Wednesday September 21st at 7:00 p.m.;**
or
- **Thursday, September 22nd at 11 a.m.**
- **To participate in one of the calls, use the following phone number: 218-862-1000; 742886#**

If your League is ready to sign on for this campaign or just wants to learn more, join us in one of the two conference calls. Please feel free to encourage interested members of your League to participate on one of the conference calls.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Policy Luncheon to Encourage Women in Government

The League of Women Voters of Ohio, along with nine other organizations, is co-sponsoring a luncheon program on October 13, 2011, aimed at encouraging women to run for elected office. The program is scheduled from Noon until 1:30 p.m. at the Fawcett Event Center, 2400 Olentangy River Road. The cost is \$30 per person. To make a reservation, call 614 825-0551 or e-mail actionohio@sbcglobal.net.

The program will feature a panel presentation, with Kelli Arthur Hykes, legislative analyst for Columbus City Council, Jamie Campbell, attorney, Vicky Christiansen, attorney, the Hon. Judi French, Judge, Tenth District Court of Appeals, and Liz Shirey, program coordinator for Alumni & Career Services, OSU's John Glenn School of Public Affairs.

Sponsoring organizations are ACTION OHIO Coalition For Battered Women, AAUW Ohio, The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio, League of Women Voters of Ohio, NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio, OSU Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, OSU's John Glenn School of Public Affairs, NEW Leadership Program, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Ohio and Women Have Options.

Sentencing Reform Study Begins

Last year, at the 2010 convention, Sharon Fratepietro, LWVSC, held a caucus to assess interest in developing a concurrence position on sentencing reform to propose at the League's 2012 convention. She found that many other LWV members across the country agreed that sentencing reform is needed. Sharon asked for volunteers to join her on a steering committee and Jane Colvin, LWVNYC and Amelia Clark, a League member from Georgia, agreed to help her.

The steering committee is in the initial stages of determining what the concurrence might be.

Their first step is to research the sentencing positions that have already been adopted by state or local Leagues and they are asking Leagues across the country if they have positions on adult and/or juvenile criminal justice, in general, and sentencing reform in particular i.e. supporting the modification of mandatory minimum sentences, supporting alternatives to incarceration. They will review and compare the positions in order to craft a consensus statement that incorporates the most commonly cited issues and that can be supported by many state and local leagues. If your local League has a position on sentencing reform, please forward it to JaneColvin914@aol.com and let her know if you are interested in working on developing a concurrence position.

Join Us for Monthly Conference Calls

As we begin the fall election season, LWVO/EF is developing new ways to keep you informed about what's happening at the Statehouse, resources available for local Leagues, and tools and information available to assist you in strengthening your local League.

Starting in October, LWVO/EF will host monthly conference calls on a variety of topics including voter service, legislative updates, best practices for nonprofits, and more. The first call is scheduled for October 4 at Noon. The topic will be voter service. To join the call, dial 1-218-862-1000, access code: 742886#.

Drop-in Article for Local Leagues' VOTER: Highlights from Your State League

Summertime...and League Land was hopping! Your state League kept busy -- as your voice at the Statehouse, with activities to support local Leagues and their leaders -- and much, much more! A ready-to-go article for your League's VOTER that gives your membership a snapshot of what your state League accomplished from mid-May through mid-September is available on the League website. You

can download this report by clicking here.

Opt-Out of Information Sharing

To facilitate networking and information sharing between the local Leagues, LWVO/EF is planning to provide local League presidents with the contact information of other local League presidents. If you would like to opt-out of this networking opportunity, please send an e-mail to Michele Martin, LWVO/EF's office manager, at mmartin@lwvohio.org.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 4: LWVO/EF Monthly Conference Call, This Month's Topic: Voter Service, Including an Update on the Referendum on HB 194. To join the call, dial 1-218-862-1000, access code: 742886#.

CONTACT US

League of Women Voters of Ohio
League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund
17 South High Street, Suite 650
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Toll free: 1.877.LWV.OHIO
www.lwvohio.org

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.