



League Leaders' Update

Happy Labor Day! Welcome to our new and returning League officers. This is certain to be an exciting time to be in League, as we approach this fall's general election and Ohioans have the opportunity to vote for independent redistricting reform (Yes! On Issue 2).

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Voters' Guide - Statewide candidates guide now available; Statewide ballot issues coming soon

The LWV Ohio Education Fund 2012 Voters' Guide containing information about the candidates for the two statewide races this year - the U.S. Senate and Supreme Court of Ohio - is now available in pdf format at http://www.lwvohio.org/assets/attachments/file/General%20Election%202012%20Voters%20Guide_candidates.pdf or www.lwvohio.org for inclusion in your local Voters' Guide.

Voter service chairs who would like a copy in Word that can be cut and pasted into your local Voters' Guide should contact the state League office at 614-469-1505 or lwvinfo@lwvohio.org.

Statewide Ballot Issues: The LWV Ohio Education Fund's overview and pros/cons for Issue 1, regarding whether to hold an Ohio Constitutional Convention, and Issue 2, a proposed constitutional amendment on redistricting reform, and LWV Ohio's stances on the ballot issues will be sent to you the week of Sept. 10th.

Voters First updates

1) Ballot Board Adopts Misleading Summary; Voters First Files Suit

On Wednesday, August 15, the Ohio Ballot Board approved the language for the summary of the Voters First amendment. See <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/upload/ballotboard/2012/2-language.pdf> This is the summary that will appear on the ballot this November. Unfortunately, the language does not adequately or accurately explain the proposed amendment to the voters.

Voters First filed a lawsuit in the Ohio Supreme Court that challenges the misleading ballot language for Issue 2, saying it will "mislead, deceive, or defraud the voters."

- In particular, the language of the summary does not explain the proposed standards for drawing the lines, and does not mention the requirement that the Commission come up with districts that are competitive and reflect Ohio's political balance.
- Rather than mention the specific criteria for districts, the summary merely states that the amendment would "change the standards and requirements in the Constitution for drawing legislative and congressional districts."
- It makes no mention of the Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission, the official name of the bi-partisan panel that would give citizens the chance to draw legislative and congressional district boundaries and end the practice of allowing politicians to draw their own districts.

2) Top Legal Scholars Defend Redistricting Reform

Opponents of Voters First redistricting reform are hard at work trying to mislead voters about Issue 2. Recent criticisms have been aimed at the role of appeals court judges in screening applicants for the Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission.

This week, a group of Ohio's top legal scholars issued a public letter defending Issue 2 as legally sound redistricting reform. Read the letter and accompanying press release here: <http://votersfirstohio.com/top-legal-scholars-defend-redistricting-reform/>

3) Voters First Speaker Training Available

Voters First offers speaker training for supporters interested in speaking to local community groups about "Yes on Issue 2." Contact Ian Nickey [ian@melamedcommunications.com] to schedule or sign up for a training near you.

Pass-through grants available for voter-service activities

1) Voting 1-2-3

Do I need to update my voter registration? Does Ohio require voters to have a photo ID? Can I still vote early? What do college students need to know in order to vote?

LWVO Education Fund, with support from LWVEF and OhioVotes, has produced a new series

of handouts called "Voting 1-2-3" that answers these questions about voting in 2012:

- 1) Voting 1-2-3: Ohio Voter Registration
- 2) Voting 1-2-3: Voter ID
- 3) Voting 1-2-3: 3 Ways to Cast Your Ballot
- 4) Voting 1-2-3: For College Students

All four pieces are available in English and Spanish.

Electronic copies may be downloaded from the website (here:

http://www.lwvohio.org/base.cfm?page_id=2135&smp_mode=0) for free to allow easy sharing and printing by individuals and organizations.

Print copies are available from the state League office. Up to twenty (20) copies of each handout will be provided free of charge. Larger orders will be provided at a cost of 22-cents per copy plus shipping and handling. Call the state League office at 614-469-1505 or email lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org for more information or to place an order.

\$50 stipends available - The state League is able to offer each local League a \$50 stipend in exchange for including the Voting 1-2-3 materials in your League's existing voter-service plans. Click [here](#) to download the application form.

2) Engaging student voters at community colleges, technical schools & satellite campuses: pass-thru grants available soon

Coming soon! LWVO Education Fund has secured funding to assist Leagues around the state in doing targeted voter registration, education, and get-out-the-vote activities on the campuses of Ohio's many community colleges, technical colleges, and satellite campuses. Watch your email for an announcement - grant applications will be available in early September.

Education advocacy report - Invitation to Host Public Meetings About Ohio's School Funding System *from Joan Platz, LWVO Education Specialist*

The Coalition for Public Education (CPE), a statewide organization to promote public education and public schools, is sponsoring a series of forums on Ohio's system of funding schools over the next few months. The purpose of the non-partisan forums is to increase financial and public support for traditional public schools by creating a network of well-informed citizens who are willing to contact legislators and policy-makers and advocate for public schools and a fair and adequate school funding system in the next state budget.

The CPE is inviting its members, including LWVO and its local Leagues,, to host forums in their communities. The CPE will provide all materials, speakers, and facilitators. Hosts will help organize the meeting; publicize the meeting; and provide follow-up information to participants.

If your local League is interested in hosting a forum or finding out more information about the forums, please contact the League office at 614-469-1505 or lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org.

Information about the location of the forums will be announced once more details have been set.

Upcoming Events: LWWUS President Elisabeth MacNamara to visit Ohio

LWWUS president Elisabeth MacNamara will be visiting Ohio in September. She is scheduled to attend these two events, and interested League members from around the state are welcome to attend.

Thursday, September 13th - Columbus

What: LWW of Metro Columbus is hosting a dinner and discussion on civil discourse
When: Thursday, September 13th, 5:30-8:30pm
Where: Clintonville Women's Club, 3951 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43214
For more info or to RSVP, call the Metro League at 614-837-1089

Saturday, September 15th - Dayton

What: Brunch with Elisabeth MacNamara
When: Saturday, September 15th, 11:00am-12:30pm
Where: J Alexanders Restaurant, 7970 Washington Village Dr., Dayton, OH 45459
For more info or to RSVP, call the state League at 614-469-1505

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.

