



August 2015

Ohio League Leader Updates

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1. LWVO releases new redistricting report "Predictable Results II"

On August 26, LWVO held a press conference announcing a new report on Ohio gerrymandering. Read the [press release here](#). Photos, video, and news coverage are [available here](#).

The new report, "Predictable Results II: A Report from the League of Women Voters of Ohio Comparing the 2011 Gerrymandering with the 2012 and 2014 Election Results," shows that the results of the last two legislative elections were completely predictable based on how the lines were drawn to favor one party or the other. The report is [available here](#).

2. Latest News on ballot Issue 1 redistricting reform

As we approach this fall's general election, Ohioans will have the opportunity to vote for state redistricting reform (Yes! On Issue 1). Here's how you can support Issue 1:

- **Endorsements:** Has your organization endorsed Issue 1? [Click here](#) for a sample endorsement letter.
- **Speakers bureau:** Are you looking for a speaker for your upcoming event? Contact the state League office and we'll help you to find speakers who are best suited for your needs.
- **Resources:** You can read more about Issue 1 and the Fair Districts for Ohio campaign by visiting the [LWVO website here](#) or the [YES on Issue 1 website here](#).

3. Voter Service Update on State Ballot Issues

It's official; Ohioans will be voting on three ballot issues November 3, 2015.

[Click here](#) to read the Secretary of State's August 18 press release "Husted Sets Ballot Order, Ballot Board Approves Language for 2015 General Election Statewide Issues".

10. Request for help from the LWVUS Nominating Committee

The state League will issue a Voters' Guide with summaries of the three ballot issues, along with pros and cons, following our next state board meeting on September 12.

4. Judicial Votes Count website goes live on September 1!

Ohio voters report that their #1 reason for skipping judicial races on their ballot is that they don't have enough information to choose. That's a problem we aim to remedy. This fall, we are honored to join Ohio Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, the Ohio State Bar Association, the Bliss Institute for Applied Politics at the University of Akron, the Ohio Newspaper Association and Ohio Broadcasters Association in launching a statewide, nonpartisan, online judicial voter guide - called Judicial Votes Count.

The Judicial Votes Count team invited all judicial candidates statewide to complete an online candidate questionnaire. [Click here to see a sample version of the questionnaire.](#)

The new Judicial Votes Count website will go live on September 1, 2015. Beginning on September 1, we will be able to provide local League voter service chairs with a spreadsheet download of candidate responses that you may use in your local voters' guides or Vote411.

Take a [sneak peak of the new Judicial Votes Count website here.](#) We also have Judicial Votes Count postcards available as handouts for events. Contact the state League office if you would like to place an order.

5. New Ohio Voter Service Listserv!

What can we do about candidates who refuse to participate in the voter guide or candidate forums? Is there any way around the "empty chair" debate rule? Should my League switch to Vote411? Every League wrestles with voter services questions, and it's time we had a place to discuss these and other questions.

That is why we are happy to announce the new Ohio League voter service email listserv. We hope that the list will serve as a helpful forum to share questions, advice and best practices with one another.

We need your help identifying who to include on this list. There is no limit to how many people from each League can be on the list. It's up to you. Some Leagues have just one voter service person who miraculously does all voter service related work, and other Leagues have a team of people who cover everything from the voter guide or Vote411 to voter registration to candidate forums. Please email the name and preferred email address of anyone who should be added to the list to lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org.

6. September All-Member Call

Our next all-member conference call will be held on **Tuesday, September 1, 12-1 pm** (Eastern Time).

Topic: Voter Service. This month's member call will be all about voter service! What burning voter service questions does your League have? -- What do you do when incumbents refuse to participate in voter guides or debates? Are there any alternative candidate forum structures we can use to avoid the "empty chair" problem? How do we set up Vote411? - Please plan to bring your questions and share your League's creative solutions, as this will be an interactive discussion for Ohio Leagues to help one another out.

Join us Tuesday, September 1 at 12 noon for a lively discussion on a variety of voter service topics and find solutions to the hurdles that your local League is facing.

CALL-IN NUMBER: 866-740-1260

PIN NUMBER: 4691505#

The recording of the all-member call will be available on the LWVO website following the call until the end of the month. Please note that the podcast is intended for LWV members and guests (just like the calls) and, therefore, should not be shared with anyone outside the League family. Thank you.

7. National Voter Registration Day: Join 140+ Other Leagues on September 22

Time is running out to [sign up to host a voter registration drive](#) in your community on September 22nd, National Voter Registration Day! Leagues who sign up as partners by September 1 are guaranteed to receive free posters and stickers if you want them. Join hundreds of Leagues and other groups in celebrating democracy nationwide this year. Additional training opportunities and toolkits will be made available once you sign up. Contact LWVUS's Maggie (Duncan) Bush (mbush@lww.org) with questions.

8. MLD Tip of the Month: Media Outreach

Gearing Up for Fall Activities from LWVO Membership and Leadership Development Coaching Team

Fall is a busy time for League programs, Voter Service and social events; activities that can create visibility opportunities that highlight League's strengths. In MLD, we outline 3 outreach modes that enhance visibility and create opportunities for new membership. Media Outreach offers the widest broadcast potential of the three.

Media sources include: traditional media (e.g., newspapers, local news stations) and social or new media (e.g., blogs, Facebook, Twitter). While

there are differences in how we approach the different media platforms, there are a few common elements.

- The Hook - All good stories need a hook, i.e. something that draws the reader in. Your hook is what makes the story relevant right now. Tie your message into the great work that League has done and is continuing to do in your community.
- The Content - Regardless of platform, your content needs to be engaging. Good content needs very little adjusting across the platform. You can link to a news article or post on your website from Twitter and Facebook with just a short, but engaging, summary. Don't worry about reinventing the wheel!
- Visual Appeal - Include pictures and video! Avoid large blocks of text when possible.

*Happy 95th Birthday LWV! This message can be tacked onto any Media message.

*And always remember to ASK people to join League!!!!

For more media basics, [click here](#) to read more.

[Click here](#) to read August 2015 Guidance.

Be sure to also check out the 95th Anniversary Toolkit, a great hook to tie in with your local League, at <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/95th-anniversary-toolkit>

9. Brief Reminder about LWVUS Studies

Constitutional Amendment Study timeline & links:

- July 2015 - Consensus questions, study guide and educational materials posted on LWV website.
- Late summer & fall 2015 - Local Leagues hold consensus meetings.
- December 1, 2015 - Consensus reports (electronic) from Leagues due to LWVUS.
- Resource page: <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/constitutional-amendment-study>

Money in Politics Review timeline & links:

- Fall 2015 - Study guide and consensus questions posted.
- Fall & winter 2015 - Leagues hold consensus meetings.
- February 1, 2016 - Consensus reports (electronic) from Leagues due to LWVUS.
- Resource page: <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review>

Preparing for local League Consensus Meetings

- Local League boards and program committees may wish to review the "Handbook for Successful Consensus Meetings" at <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/handbook-successful-consensus-meetings>
- The PowerPoint presentation from LWVUS's July 29th webinar and LWVO's August 4th all-member call is available [here](#) . Slides 6-12 are on the CA study. Slides 13-22 are on the MIP review. Slides 23-32 outline the role of the local League board, local study committee, and the consensus process. Slide 35 provides contact info if you have questions.

10. Request for help from the LWVUS Nominating Committee

Look for the Nominating Committee's Application/ Recommendation form on lwv.org, and recommend nominees for the 2016-18 LWVUS Board and Nominating Committee. You may recommend yourself or another League member. Deadline for submitting forms is September 30, 2015. Additional information, references and a resume are due by November 15. The Nominating Committee will submit its slate to the LWVUS Board in February 2016. Elections will be held at the June 2016 Convention in Washington, DC. Be sure to make contact to seek approval from the potential nominee before you send in a name. The current Nominating Committee seeks a Board and Nominating Committee makeup that reflects the voices of the diverse populations within League. You can assist us in reaching this goal. The Nominating Committee theme is: "Embracing the future: leading the way." We are looking for members who will not only embrace the future, but will be the ones to lead us there. You are an important link in making that happen.