



February 2016

Ohio League Leader Updates

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1. Voter Service Updates

a) Vote411 online voter guide is now live - - Thank you to all the local Leagues who participated in Vote411 for preparing a voters' guide for the March 15 primary election. This year, for the first time ever, we are providing League voters' guide coverage to the entire state through Vote411. For areas of the state where there is no local League, the LWVO/EF board members and office staff gathered information on state and federal legislative races, contacted those candidates, and invited them to complete a candidate questionnaire on Vote411. We are very excited - and hope you are too - that LWV is truly a statewide provider of nonpartisan voter information this year.

Information on US Presidential candidates is also available on the Vote411 website. This information was compiled by LWVUS. The LWVO/EF board has been in touch with LWVUS to express concern about the criteria used by LWVUS to decide which candidates are fully represented on the Vote411 site. While all presidential candidates are listed on the site, they are not all represented with responses to LWV questions. The questions were sent from LWVUS to the front-runners only. We have urged them to invite all candidates to participate in the process, not just those deemed to be front-runners.

Our growing use of Vote411 to provide statewide voter service will showcase League in new parts of Ohio and we anticipate this effort will help us grow membership in these areas. LWVO/EF is underwriting the cost of VOTE411 for all state and federal races, thereby reducing the cost to individual local Leagues who will now pay only to cover their local races.

b) Judicial Candidate info available on JudicialVotesCount.org - Last fall, we announced that LWV Ohio is working in partnership with several organizations to launch Judicial Votes Count, a one-stop shop for information on judicial elections throughout Ohio.

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Judicial Votes Count has taken over responsibility for contacting all candidates running for judicial office in Ohio, from the Ohio Supreme Court to county courts. All of the judicial candidate names and races are posted on the www.judicialvotescount.org website. For the candidates who have responded and filled out the candidate questionnaire, their name becomes a hyperlink to their profile page. A name without a link indicates the candidate has not responded.

LWV Ohio has imported the Ohio Supreme Court candidate profiles into Vote411. Local Leagues are welcome to "copy and paste" information from the JVC website to print in their local voters' guides or your local Vote411 account, if you have one. We ask that local Leagues avoid also posting Supreme Court candidate info on your Vote411 account, so that we can avoid duplicate listings. We are currently working with LWVUS to remove duplicate court listings, which appear to have occurred due to multiple Leagues trying to post the same races. We hope to resolve this issue soon. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we transition to this new system and work out the kinks before the fall general election.

c) New! Voting 123 Ohio Primary Election Voter Information Card -A few local Leagues inquired about new Voting 123 materials for 2016.

A new 2016 Ohio Primary Election Voter Information Card is now available from LWV Ohio - [click here](#) to download. This new card has information specifically for the primary, including early voting days and hours. It is available to download, print, or share online.

We plan to produce a full series of new Voting 123 materials for the general election this fall. Please let us know if you have any requests for topics or questions to include in this year's materials. Pending approval of grant funding, we plan to produce large quantities of print materials to make available for free to local Leagues and partners for distribution in communities around Ohio.

2. Statehouse Day is April 26 - register today!

Join us for LWV Ohio Statehouse Day on Tuesday, April 26, 2016. Our theme this year is "What the Candidates Should Be Talking About (But Aren't)." We will be exploring some of the big issues affecting Ohio - issues that people want solved but are left waiting for government to act. [Click here](#) to register today!

When: Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm -- with registration beginning at 8:30 am.

Where: Sheraton on Capitol Square, 75 East State Street, Columbus, OH 43215

You are welcome to join us for the entire day, a half day, or just for lunch. Meetings with legislators will be scheduled throughout the day upon request.

Registration is the same price as last year - \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members, \$25 for students. Registration closes one week before the event, and a flat fee of \$50 will apply to any walk-ins who are not registered. Online registration is now open. [Click here](#) to register.

Sponsorship opportunities are available! [Click here](#) to learn more. Please contact the LWVO office at 614-469-1505 if you, your local League, another organization you belong to, or your business are interested in sponsoring this event. Due to our nonpartisan policy we cannot accept sponsorships from political parties, candidates, or campaigns.

Watch your email for future announcements about our exciting line-up of speakers.

3. Is Your League Looking for New Members and Leaders? Join the Membership & Leadership Development (MLD) Program! Applications due April 15, 2016.

WHY? Wish your League could spread the workload around more? Wish there were more trained League leaders available to step up? Wish your League could do all it wants to be a vibrant part of your community? Your League can make these wishes come true!

WHAT? The MLD Program is proven to be **successful in membership recruitment and retention, leadership development, and sparking renewed energy** in many Leagues!

We invite your League to join the Ohio Leagues already participating in the MLD program! Please [click here](#) to see an overview of the MLD program and the local League application form which outlines specific responsibilities. Following MLD training, Leagues' MLD teams receive ongoing coaching and support from their LWV Ohio coach.

TRAINING: Leagues new to the program in 2016 will send their MLD teams to a two-day training, May 20-21, in Columbus with lodging, meals and materials provided by LWVO at no cost to their League except for a registration fee of \$25 for each MLD Team member.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: We encourage you to communicate with your board as soon as possible. The 2016 application deadline for Leagues new to the MLD program is **April 15**.

FOR QUESTIONS OR FURTHER INFORMATION: Please contact Meg Flack, LWV Ohio's MLD Coordinator at megflack150@gmail.com or 614-235-5993.

4. The Membership & Leadership Development (MLD) Coaching Team Wants You! Applications due April 15. **Imagine if you joined an outstanding League team that. . .**

- Helps Leagues grow in membership and funding.
- Helps Leagues with support, ideas and guidance.
- Helps League leaders with training and mentoring before they lead.
- Helps Leagues' voice become as strong and powerful as possible!

You can!! **LWVO is now recruiting members to join the phenomenal Ohio coaching team for 2016-18 so that we can increase the number of Ohio Leagues involved in MLD program.** Each coach acts as a mentor, cheerleader and communicator to two local Leagues - with a total monthly time commitment of approximately eight hours per month working with their local MLD teams and the state coaches, primarily via conference calls.

"It's a lot of fun to help a local League work on their plan for new members and mentoring new leaders, and I get to celebrate with them as they grow. I'm lucky to be an MLD coach and recommend coaching to anyone who enjoys being part of a team."

- Marlene Muse, MLD Coach from LWV Cincinnati Area

New and current coaches of the MLD coaching team will receive training May 20-21 in Columbus along with their assigned League teams. Hotel and meal expenses will be covered by LWVO.

An overview of the program, the coaches' role and the application to become an MLD coach (with specific responsibilities outlined) are [available on the LWV Ohio website here](#). Applications are due by April 15.

For questions or further information, please contact Meg Flack, LWV Ohio's MLD Coordinator at megflack150@gmail.com or 614-235-5993.

5. Donate to the LWVO 2016 Annual Campaign

LWV Ohio Co-Presidents Alison Ricker and Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick invite you to join them in giving to the 2016 LWV Ohio Annual Campaign. We are truly grateful to have League members like you among our most loyal donors. The LWVO Annual Campaign, thanks to generous member donors, is the cornerstone of LWVO's ability both to continue the work we began in 1920 and to attract funding from outside donors. External

funders are eager to support an organization whose members willingly contribute to its financial health. The goal this year is \$25,000.00 and your contribution will help us do exciting and groundbreaking work.

We all know the League of Women Voters is needed as much now as it was when suffrage for women was gained a century ago. Making sure that ALL citizens can vote remains a work in progress. Your contribution is appreciated and makes a difference! All contributions received by April 1 will be listed in the Statehouse Day Program.

[Click here](#) to donate today! We greatly appreciate your support at whatever level you are able to give.

6. Apply for a pass-thru grant to join the "*Women's Voices: Training the Next Gen of Women Leaders*" project!

Thanks to a generous grant from the Women's Fund of Central Ohio, we are launching "*Women's Voices: Training the Next Gen of Women Leaders*." The *Women's Voices* Project aims to connect current women political leaders in our communities with high school girls to serve as role models and encourage youth civic engagement. The project includes an introductory assembly or event at the high school, ongoing mentoring, and tools for high school girls to become engaged voters.

LWVOEF has \$3,500 in pass-thru funds available to share with local Leagues electing to participate in the project. Leagues have the option to apply for one of two funding tiers, depending on your League's participation level. Five Tier 1 grants will be awarded in the amount of \$100. Ten Tier 2 grants will be awarded in the amount of \$300. Grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted, so Leagues are encouraged to apply early. [Click here](#) to download the application form.

7. March All-Member Conference Call

Our next all-member conference call will be held on **Tuesday, March 1, 12-1 pm.**

Topic: Vote411 primary debrief and plans for fall 2016 voter service

Please join us for an interactive discussion to talk about voter service plans for this year. We've made a lot of changes, with the move to using Vote411 and Judicial Votes Count this year. Any changes are bound to have growing pains and glitches. We want your feedback on what worked well, what didn't, and what we can improve for this fall. We will also discuss any questions about who is responsible for what races/districts under the new system.

In addition, we will talk about plans for voter education and engagement this fall, including what free materials will be available to your local League from LWVO/EF. Please bring your suggestions for what you'd like to see LWVO include and share innovative ideas you have planned locally.

CALL-IN NUMBER: 866-740-1260

PIN NUMBER: 4691505#

The recording of the all-member call will be available online in the Member Area of 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.

8. Membership: Access to the LWVUS Membership Database

We have heard from a number of local Leagues that they have not yet been able to access the new LWVUS member database. If you are one of them, please follow these instructions:

Designate one of your local League board members as the "Roster Manager" (could be membership chair, treasurer, etc) and then she/he MUST complete a number of steps:

- Begin at the [LWVUS Online Database User Guide](#) - which links to training materials and a comprehensive demonstration video.
- Once you have gone over the materials to familiarize yourself with the new database, you will be asked to take an easy six question survey.
- After you have completed the survey to acknowledge you have gone over the materials, you will be emailed a link to set up your password to access the database. You will have 24 hours to access that link. Your username will be your email address. Please note that your former login user ID and password will not work in the new system.

Questions can be emailed to RosterSupport@lww.org. If your local League hasn't notified LWVUS as to who is the Roster Manager, contact RosterSupport@lww.org. Still have questions? Contact Munia Mostafa at the LWVO office at 614-469-1505, and we'll try to help get you set up.

9. League Easy Web news

A few years ago the LWV California (LWV-CA) created "League Easy Web" (LEW), which is a template for local Leagues to easily create and manage their own website. Through a partnership with LWVUS, it was made available to local Leagues throughout the country.

LWV-CA and LWVUS announced this week that they have encountered some problems with the LEW project, and it may or may not continue beyond June 2016.

Our LWV Ohio state board is aware of the issue and put it on our March board meeting agenda to discuss. Hopefully LWVUS and LWV-CA can work something out to continue providing LEW to Leagues who rely on it. If not, then we'll begin exploring options and see if LWVO can provide some kind of help to Leagues in Ohio.

If your local League uses LEW, please let us know (email lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org) so that we know how many Ohio Leagues will be affected. Thankfully it appears LEW will continue to be available at least until June, so we have time to figure things out. Hang in there. We'll all get through this together. If we learn new details about this issue we will pass them along during the All Member call on March 1.