



League Leaders' Update

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**Please Send in Your New
Local League Board Lists!**

It's that time again! Please let us know who your 2012-13 local League officers are and their contact information, so we can keep everyone updated on League news and funding opportunities.

July
18,
2012

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[Click here](#) to fill in the Local League Profile Survey for 2012 with that information. Please complete this information as soon as possible so that we have the most up-to-date information regarding your local League. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Michele Martin at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org, or call the state office at (614) 469-1505.

Coming Soon - August Regional Meetings!

The state League is planning regional meetings for Saturdays in August. We will offer two tracks: 1) a morning session on **leadership training** appropriate for any League member, whether a past, present or potential future League leader; and 2) an afternoon workshop for all interested League members on **being nonpartisan in an increasingly partisan world** -- including tips to address accusations of partisanship. Following that, there will be a special session -- a training for those interested in being speakers to promote passage of the Voters First initiative.

Members can participate in as many of these sessions as they choose. More information about the specific trainings and registration information will be coming soon.

We will hold five trainings for Leagues, two in the Northeast (2 locations-West side and East side), and one each for Leagues in the Northwest, Southwest, and Central/Southeast (combined). Please notify the state League right away of any events your League has planned for weekends in August, so that we can avoid schedule conflicts, if possible.

Who is the Ohio Voter Integrity Project?

We have been hearing from local Leagues and voter advocates around the state that representatives from the Ohio Voter Integrity Project, the Ohio arm of a national movement called "True the Vote," have contacted them seeking to collaborate on improving elections.

Voting rights advocates across the country are closely watching "True the Vote," a spin-off of a Texas Tea Party group. Their focus appears to be on fueling allegations of voter fraud in order to advocate for more restrictions on voting- such as photo ID, proof of citizenship, voter challenges, registration restrictions, and so on.

One of True the Vote's well-publicized strategies this election cycle is to recruit

one million poll workers and observers in key battleground states-but there is a catch. In addition to the Secretary of State's training, True the Vote intends to privately train the poll workers and observers how to 'spot fraud' and challenge voters.

Please help us monitor the Ohio Voter Integrity Project/True the Vote's activities in Ohio by letting the state League know if your League or local partners are contacted by the Ohio Voter Integrity Project.

Voters First Campaign Update

We filed! On July 3rd, the Voters First campaign submitted more than 450,000 petition signatures to the Ohio Secretary of State, putting us one step closer to placing redistricting reform on the fall ballot. Our sincere thanks to all Leagues and members who helped make this happen!

The Secretary of State and county Boards of Elections are currently verifying the validity of the petition signatures. We expect to have the official count of valid signatures from Secretary Husted between July 20th and July 24th. If we come up short of the 5% needed in 44 counties or the 385,253 statewide, we will have ten additional days to submit more signatures.

Voters First will continue to collect petition signatures throughout the month of July, so that we will have extra signatures if needed. So please keep circulating those petitions!

LWVUS Funding Opportunity - Request for Proposals (RFP) for \$1,000 Grants to Register First-Time Voters (young voters & new citizens)

LWVEF announced a new pass-through grant opportunity to support local Leagues in their efforts to engage community college/technical/vocational school students and new citizens in 2012.

Local Leagues are encouraged to click on the link below to download a project description and application to request funding for activities in the fall of 2012. Contact Maggie Duncan (mduncan@lwv.org) if you have questions about completing your application.

<http://www.lwv.org/content/leagues-invited-apply-youthnew-citizen-registration-funding>

2012 Election Planning

The November election is a little less than four months away, yet there are already a variety of voting concerns swirling. The League and other good government groups continue to interact with the Secretary of State's Office regarding concerns such as Election Administration Plans, location and times for in-person early voting, provisional ballots, precinct consolidation and risk of wrong-precinct voting, and more. Below are updates on a few areas where LWVO is working for stronger statewide voting protections. If you spot any problems or concerns, please let us know by contacting Carrie Davis at cdavis@lwvohio.org or 614-469-1505. Thank you!

Voter Guide information packet

The Voters' Guide Information Packets for the 2012 General Election were recently sent out to all League presidents, with a request to forward them to the current Voter Service Chair. Please note the important reminders at the beginning of the packet, including a request regarding updates to district assignments.

Also, please note these important dates:

- Mid-August: Local Leagues will receive the statewide candidates' information collected by LWVOEF.
- Week of September 10: LWVO/EF will send Voters' Guide information about statewide ballot issues to local Leagues following our September 7-8 board meeting.

Included in the packet are shared candidate instructions, candidate questions, best practices for voters' guides and information on separating voter-service activities from lobbying. To access the packet, please [click here](#) - and it can also be accessed at www.lwvohio.org on the League Website under the "Member Area."

Our sincere thanks to you and your League for all that you do to help make democracy work!

Update - Secretary of State (SOS) Expands Absentee Application Mailing in Response to LWVO Concerns

As he promised last year, Secretary of State Husted will send an absentee ballot application for the 2012 General Election to every registered Ohio voter. Unfortunately, Husted initially proposed sending the applications in late summer, which would exclude the thousands of voters who will register in the fall.

A group of voter advocates - including LWVO - wrote to Secretary Husted urging him to provide for voters who register or update their registration after that late-summer mailing. We are happy to report that Secretary Husted responded to these concerns and issued Directive 2012-24, providing for two mailings - one on August 31st and a second in early October for voters who were not included in the first mailing.

In formulating your League's voter-registration plans, we suggest you keep these dates in mind:

- July 31st - Deadline for Boards of Elections (BOEs) to submit registration lists for 1st absentee mailing.
- Sept. 28th - Deadline for BOEs to submit registration lists for 2nd absentee mailing.
- Oct. 9th - Voter-registration deadline.

National Voter Registration Day / Week

LWVUS and other national voter advocates are sponsoring a National Voter Registration Day on September 26th. To allow the maximum scheduling flexibility around holidays and other events, LWVOEF suggests September 22-28 as Ohio Voter Registration Week. Leagues are encouraged to sign on to the National Voter Registration pledge and schedule events on days of their choosing. Learn more about National Voter Registration Day [Week] and sign on to the project at <http://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/>.

LWVOEF & Ohio Association of Election Officials Partner on "Update Your Voter Registration" Effort

The Ohio Association of Election Officials (OAEO), the statewide association of Board of Elections members, asked for our help in encouraging voters to update their voter registration. The election officials want to maximize the reach of the Secretary of State's absentee-ballot application mailing by using up-to-date lists.

On July 6th, the state League partnered with OAEO on a joint news release - "Election Officials and League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund Urge: Don't Wait, Update Your Voter Registration Today!" - read the release [here](#)

http://www.lwvohio.org/assets/attachments/file/Press%20Release%207_6_12%20Update%20Your%20Voter%20Registration%20Today.pdf.

New! Voter Education & Engagement Materials -- Stipends Available for Local League

LWVOEF is partnering with Ohio Votes-a nonpartisan organization that supports voter-engagement activities-to produce a series of voter-education handouts. All of the recent voter-suppression legislation, in Ohio and other states, has created confusion over what voting rules are in place this year. As voter advocates, it's our job to help voters overcome this confusion and successfully cast a ballot.

The new materials will include simple, clear, explanatory handouts on such topics as voter registration, voter ID, how to cast your ballot (including absentee and in-person), and tips for college students.

Thanks to a generous grant from LWVEF, the state League is able to offer a \$50 stipend to each local League that distributes these voter-education materials. Consider including these materials in your voter-registration drives, candidate forums, and other events.

Watch your email for an announcement when the handouts are available and how to apply for the stipend.

New Resource! Ohio Voice's VAN (Voter Activation Network) is a voter- information database available through LWVOEF. Please sign up for VAN training if your local League would like to use this new tool

The VAN, or the Voter Activation Network, is an interactive database of voter information and demographics. The VAN can be used to identify communities of individuals to organizations like the League focus their voter-registration and mobilization efforts. For example, if your League wants to focus voter-registration or get-out-the-vote on under-represented communities such as youth, minorities, low income, etc. - the VAN can help you generate a list of potential voters.

Ohio Voice, the Ohio chapter of State Voices, hosts the VAN and makes it available free of charge to non-profit state partners who have a signed contract, as LWVOEF has done. Local Leagues can access the VAN through the state League.

As you might imagine, using this sort of technology requires training. **Any League who wishes to use the VAN should have their Voter Service Chair,**

or his or her designee, sign up for the "Intro to VAN" training. Ohio Voice has agreed to offer a special webinar training (where you phone in for the verbal presentation and watch the visual presentation on your computer) just for League members.

If your League is interested in using the VAN, please contact the state League office at lwvinfo@lwvohio.org or 614-469-1505 to sign up and let us know your availability for the training.

Upcoming Dates & Events of Interest

- **July 20th-24th** - when we expect Secretary of State Husted to announce the number of valid signatures on Voters First petitions submitted July 3.
- **[10 days later]** - deadline to submit supplemental petitions, if needed.
- **August 7th, noon** - 1st Tuesday all-member conference call (866-740-1260 & PIN 4691505#) - topics will include updates on redistricting and August regional meetings, as well as other important updates
- **Mid-late August** - regional meetings
- **Mid-late August** - statewide candidates' information sent to local Leagues
- **Sept. 7th-8th** - LWVO/EF board meeting
- **Week of September 10th** - statewide ballot-issue information sent to local Leagues
- **October 2nd** - start of absentee and early in-person voting
- **October 9th** - voter-registration deadline

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.

