



June 2015

Ohio League Leader Updates

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1. Advocacy Updates

The Ohio General Assembly is expected to recess for the summer this week. Here is a brief summary of recent legislative activity.

- **State budget (HB 64)** - As usual, the state budget is a mix of good news and bad. The House and Senate have reconciled their proposals and passed a final version. Governor Kasich must sign the budget by June 30 for it to take effect July 1. We are waiting to find out if the governor line-item vetoes any items.

- **Housing:** Thanks to the action of housing advocates, the massive cuts to the Housing Trust Fund were removed from the final budget bill.
- **Election administration:** The legislature appropriated funds to continue sending unsolicited absentee ballot applications to all registered voters in 2016, and funds were appropriated to help all 88 county Boards of Elections to purchase electronic poll books - both of which LWVO strongly supported.
- **Anti-abortion:** Yet again, the legislature tacked on further restrictions on abortion clinic operations. [Click here](#) to read the recent Cleveland Plain Dealer editorial.
- **Taxes:** The League offered testimony in the House opposing the tax shift. [Click here](#) to read the testimony. Unfortunately, the final version of the budget still includes a regressive tax structure.

- **Online voter registration (SB63):** After many years of lobbying, we are finally seeing movement. Last week the Ohio Senate overwhelmingly passed SB 63 to allow online voter registration. The House is expected to take the bill up when they return this fall.

- **Education:** The General Assembly considered a pair of bills on charter school regulation, HB 2 from the House and the Senate's SB 148 that goes farther than HB 2. Late last week the Senate passed an amended version of HB 2. The House must either concur with the Senate changes or send the bill to a conference committee to work out the differences.

- **Addressing water pollution (SB1):** The legislature started making some progress on addressing the problems that have led to algal growth in Lake Erie



with the passage of SB 1 earlier this year. However, while this was a good start, more is needed.

- **Dueling ballot issues?** Last week the House passed HJR4, which would place a ballot issue before voters this fall aimed at blocking the addition of business monopolies to the state constitution. This proposal would be in direct opposition to a marijuana legalization proposal that is expected to qualify for the fall ballot as well, which includes language expressly authorizing only ten sanctioned marijuana grow sites. If the Senate approves HJR 4 this week, it would go before voters this fall. Stay tuned.

All LWVO testimony and action alerts are available on the website at www.lwvohio.org.

2. LWV Ohio is Hiring!

LWVO is growing to provide you and your League with even better service. We are currently accepting applications for:

- Office & Program Associate
- Legislative & Public Policy Intern
- Voter Service Intern
- Communications & Marketing Intern

[Click here](#) for job descriptions and how to apply. Do you know someone with a passion for civic engagement who is looking to put their talents to work at LWVO? Please share these job descriptions with your networks and encourage good candidates to apply. The job descriptions are also on our website.

3. State Redistricting Reform on Fall Ballot

Fair Districts for Ohio is a bipartisan coalition seeking to improve the process of drawing state legislative districts in Ohio. With overwhelming support from both Republican and Democratic lawmakers, the issue will appear on the ballot this November giving Ohioans the opportunity to ensure state legislative districts are fair for everyone.

The official campaign is led by former Reps. Sykes and Huffman. You should be hearing more about the campaign as the summer progresses and we expect organizational endorsements to come in the next few months. The campaign can provide speakers for various events - just contact the campaign or the office. League members can distribute flyers explaining the ballot issue. We will be letting you know about more opportunities as they come up.

Resources

- [Click here](#) for the Fair Districts for Ohio website
- [Click here](#) to download a one-page flyer about the ballot issue to reform redistricting for Ohio's state legislature
- [Click here](#) for a timeline of LWVO redistricting reform advocacy

4. LWVUS "Structures of American Democracy" Study

At the June 2014 national convention in Dallas, League delegates approved the

recommendation for a comprehensive three-part program combining study and review of key, specific structures of American democracy. Three committees have been selected to collect and disseminate information on the three issues. As those committees go about their work, LWVUS is encouraging local Leagues to inform themselves and their communities about these essential topics.

The timeline is as follows:

- Spring 2015: Education materials posted periodically on the League Management website. Leagues are encouraged to use these materials for member and community meetings;
- Fall 2015: Study guides and consensus questions posted for the Money in Politics Review and Constitutional Amendment Study. Leagues hold consensus meetings;
- February 1, 2016: Consensus reports (electronic) from Leagues due to LWVUS, and
- April 2016 national LWV Board meeting: Consensus reports and resulting position(s), if any, approved.

Here are links to the three study committees and materials available:

- [Study of the process of amending the U.S. Constitution](#)
- [Review and update of the League position on campaign finance](#)
- [Review of the redistricting process for the U.S. Congress](#)

5. LWVUS Council Report

From LWVO Co-President Alison Ricker:

"I was very pleased to participate in this year's LWVUS Council, and to meet so many others who are also new to their positions as state League officers. Taking inspiration from our earliest leaders was central to the Council's success - [click here](#) to read the remarks and presentations from the meeting."

6. Membership Updates

Keep Track of Your League's Information during the Database Downtime (REMINDER) - From LWVUS

During the database downtime, please continue to keep a record of all member and leadership changes. Keeping it all in one place will make it easier when the new database goes live. As a reminder, the new system will allow Roster Managers to access the database using their email address and personal password, so no more hunting down the right credentials! [Click here](#) to enter the information for your League's Roster Manager(s).

Update Your Officers in the LWV Ohio Office

It is Annual Meeting time, and this means changes in League leadership. If your League has elected or appointed new officers, please email a copy to the Ohio League office at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org. It is vital that we know how to contact your League's leadership.

Early pay discount on Per Member Payment (PMP)

Your local League Treasurer will soon receive the first PMP statement for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2015. The membership count and PMP amount on the invoice are based on the numbers your League entered into the national database by February 2015. Our state PMP will remain at \$25 per member as it has for the past five years and this freeze will extend to two more years. If your local League pays their annual PMP in full by September 30, 2015, you will receive a 5% discount off of the amount invoiced.

7. July All-Member Conference Call

Our next all-member conference call will be held on **Tuesday, July 7, 12-1 pm.**

Topic: Legislative updates and expected ballot issues. What was in the final version of the state budget? What other bills passed before the legislature recessed for the summer? Join us for July's all-member conference call for a breakdown of what happened in the Ohio legislature. We will also discuss anticipated ballot issues for this fall.

For our August call, we hope to have members of the three LWVUS study committees (in #4 above) provide an overview of their study topics to help Leagues prepare for local study meetings. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

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.

8. MLD Tip of the Month: Easy, Little Things to Promote League Growth - from LWV Ohio's Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Coaching Team

League boards and members can do some easy, little things to promote membership and leadership growth in their League. *These simple "best practices" will help recruit new members, retain current members, develop new leaders, and engage your board and members in this organizational growth effort.* Try some (or all!) of these easy tactics:

- Wear League buttons to all your events so Leaguers are easily identified and can be approached by those who are interested in LWV.
 - Include a membership message in your e-mail electronic signature. It's easy to add and reaches everyone you e-mail without any effort. For example: The League of Women Voters helps make democracy work. Join us today!
 - You can also add a link to the "Join Us" information on your League's website in your e-mail electronic signature.
 - Add a membership message to the bottom of the official League letterhead and stationary.
 - Carry a membership brochure with you- and be prepared to ASK
-

- someone to join.
- Mingle at the next community event that you attend rather than sit with League members. Make a conscious effort to meet new people and share the value of being a member/leader in the League, as well as find out what brings them to the event.
 - Designate members to be membership ambassadors or greeters at the next League event. Their role will be to make people (new or potential members) feel welcome.
 - Have a sign-in sheet at all events and activities for interested attendees and be sure to follow up with them after the event.
 - Include a membership message on all visibility tools - podium signs, banners, flyers, brochures, invitations, etc.
 - Provide "leave behind" LWV informational brochures or post cards at locations with high target demographic or League appeal -- e.g., city or county government offices, neighborhood doctors' office, real estate offices (for new neighbors), faculty lounges at the local elementary, middle and high schools.

If your League is not already an MLD League, consider joining the LWV Ohio MLD program. [Click here](#) for information on the LWV Ohio MLD program.

9. Lake Erie Basin Committee (LEBC) Annual Meeting - July 15th

The LWV of Lake Erie Basin Committee will hold its Annual meeting on July 15, 2015 at Beach House Condominiums, 22500 Lake Road, Rocky River, OH 44116 from 10:00 am - 2:30 pm. Bring a lunch to enjoy along the Lake Erie shore (beverages will be provided). If you are planning on attending the meeting, please email Marty Sickinger at martyj@windstream.net. For more information, [click here](#).

10. LWVUS Nominations Timeline Announced

By Lee Luebbe, NC, Chair, Judy Duffy MN, Connie Ferguson MI, Alice Giles MD, and Donna Lauffer KS

Look for the Nominating Committee's Application/Recommendation form in June on lww.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. [Click](#)

[here](#) to see the LWVUS Nominating Committee brochure.

11. New Primary Elections Study Committee

A new LWVO committee to study Primary Election Systems expects to get underway this summer. The committee consists of ten members so far, from local Leagues in the Cleveland, Youngstown, Oberlin, Columbus, Dayton and Cincinnati areas. If members are interested in joining the committee, they should email Lynda Mayer from the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland Area at lbmayer57@gmail.com. Non-member academics or experts are also welcome. There will be a few in-person meetings but mostly the committee will meet by phone, in order to choose leadership, decide how to approach the data and share what they are learning. Materials should be out to local Leagues before this time next year, in preparation for information and consensus meetings early in the 2016-17 League year.