

LWVO State House Day - March 7, 2017

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This last year advanced many positive issues in juvenile justice:

The Ohio Supreme Court ruled that mandatory bindovers are unconstitutional, eliminating mandatory bindover in Ohio. All bindovers will get an individualized hearing before they are transferred to adult court.

The Ohio Supreme Court issued a rule on shackling of youth in juvenile court that includes a presumption that youth will not be shackled.

The League signed onto a letter with Ohio Juvenile Justice Alliance dealing with truancy and school discipline that promotes the overall approach of keeping students in school and out of the court system.

HB410 (2016) passed changing Ohio's truancy laws to ensure that schools work with students before sending them to the juvenile court system and directing the State Board of Education to develop a model school discipline policy. It also prohibits a school district or school from removing a student from school solely on the basis of a student's unexcused absences, and removes "excessive truancy" from the specifications for a school district's zero tolerance policy for violent, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior.

This session the League will be, hopefully, watching legislation dealing with school discipline, including banning suspensions and expulsions for students in pre-K – 3rd grade. The League also hopes to see legislation that improves the transition in the youth's education between the home school and juvenile facilities.