



February 2014 Ohio League Leader Updates

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1. Join MLD Ohio and watch your League Grow!

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 do to be a vibrant part of your community? Your League *can* make these wishes come true!

"The MLD experience was a light bulb moment for us--providing focus and tools for membership development. We started asking our friends and neighbors, and inviting the community to join at our events and, surprisingly, the memberships started rolling in." -
Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director, LWV Greater Dayton Area which joined the MLD program in 2013.

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.

Leagues joining the program for 2014-2016 will send their MLD teams to a two-day training session, April 25-26 in Columbus. Lodging, meals and materials will be provided by LWVO at no cost to your League except for a registration fee of \$25 for each MLD Team member. Current MLD teams and coaches are invited to join the new teams and coaches on April 26.

After the training, participating Leagues' MLD teams will receive ongoing coaching and support from their LWV Ohio coach, assisted by a Ruth S. Shur Fellow (LWVUS National Coach).

We encourage you to communicate with your board as soon as possible. The deadline for applying for the 2014-2016 MLD program is April 1-and

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applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

For questions or further information, please contact Meg Flack, LWV Ohio's MLD Coordinator at megflack150@gmail.com or 614.235.5993.

* 2013-2015 MLD Leagues include Bowling Green, Chillicothe-Ross County, Cincinnati Area, Metro Columbus, Cuyahoga Area, Greater Dayton, Kent, Lake County, Oxford, Shaker Heights, Tallmadge and Toledo-Lucas County.

2. Statehouse Day is April 9th-Are you registered?

Plan to join other League members from around Ohio at this year's Statehouse Day and Council. This will be a dynamic, informative day filled with workshops on important public policy issues. [Click here](#) to register.

When: Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Where: Sheraton Hotel at Capitol Square, 75 E. State St., Columbus, OH 43215

Registration: Member \$40, Non-member \$45, Student \$25

Registration Deadline: *Monday, March 24*. After that date, online registration will not be available and a late fee will be charged.

All attendees will have the option of requesting a meeting with their legislator through the LWVO office.

Sponsorship opportunities are available! [Click here](#) to learn more. Please contact the LWVO office if you, your organization, or your businesses are interested in sponsoring this event.

3. Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence Advocacy Day

The Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence invites you attend "HB 31 Safe Storage of Firearms Advocacy Day" on March 11, 2014 in Columbus.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio is pleased to be a cosponsor of this event. HB 31 would require the safe storage of firearms in a person's home to prevent them from falling into the hands of children.

Please [click here](#) for details and to register.

4. Judicial Voter Education Program

In the 2012 presidential election, 40% of Ohio voters did not vote in

judicial races. When asked why, most voters said they didn't have enough information to decide how to vote. LWVO is working to change this through an aggressive Judicial Voter Education campaign.

At February Regional Meetings, League members were introduced to new resources available for Judicial Voter Education. [Click here](#) to visit the NEW Judicial Voter Information page on the state League website.

LWVO is pleased to partner with the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) and their "Informed Voters, Fair Courts" campaign. NAWJ is partnering with LWVUS and state LWVs to provide nonpartisan information about judges, courts and judicial elections.

We need your League's help to reach Ohio voters in search of information on how to vote for judges. How can your League incorporate these materials in you 2014 voter service plans? The state League will be offering pass-through grants to local Leagues to support creative ideas for local judicial voter education. Pass-through grant applications will be sent to local League presidents in mid-March.

Please visit the Ohio League website, www.lwvohio.org, to find a new "Judicial Voter Information" page under the Voter Center. We will continue to add materials to this toolkit throughout the 2014 election year, and we will publicize some of the creative tactics used by local Leagues around Ohio.

5. Agriculture Study

February Regional Meetings also featured a session on the LWVUS Agriculture Study. [Click here](#) to read the materials from the Regional Meetings.

6. LWVUS Reminders

- All local Leagues are encouraged to apply for LWVUS Convention awards. For a link to information about the awards, [click here](#).
- All local Leagues are encouraged to send delegates to the LWVUS Convention. It's fun, you learn a lot and you meet some great people. And you'll help guide LWV's course for the next two years. [Click here](#) to read more about the Convention on the LWVUS website.
- When you visit LWVUS website, you will notice that the Member area of the LWVUS website has been redesigned. It seems to be much easier to navigate. Try it, you'll like it!

7. Save the date - LWVO Convention May 15-17, 2015

It's not too early to mark your calendars now for the LWVO Convention on May 15-17, 2015 in Cincinnati. Join local Leaguers from across Ohio as we celebrate 95 years of League and look at ways to keep League vibrant for the next 95 years!

8. All Member Conference Calls

Our next all-member conference call will be held on *Tuesday, March 4, 12-1 pm.*

Topic: Join us for a discussion of the latest in election reform news - recent Ohio legislation, the effort in Congress to restore the Voting Rights Act, and the report of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration.

CALL-IN NUMBER:866-740-1260

PIN NUMBER:4691505#

Please RSVP at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org to help us plan for the numbers of attendees. Thank you.

Upcoming Topic for April All-Member Call: Water, with a focus on the Ohio River.

9. More Changes to Ohio Election Law

Ohio policymakers have been busy enacting a multitude of changes to Ohio elections. And as usual, none of these changes included funding to educate voters about these changes.

Thus, it falls to the League and other voter advocates around the state to help voters navigate all these changes.

In the coming weeks, LWVOEF will be creating new voter service materials with the updated rules. We will send an announcement when these new materials are available.

In the meantime, here are some of the changes most likely to impact Ohio voters this year:

Rule Changes in Effect for the May Primary:

1. Early Voting Days & Hours: On January 15th, Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted issued Directive 2014-01 setting uniform early voting days and hours for all counties in Ohio. They are:

- 8am to 5pm, Tuesday through Friday, from April 1 through April 4;
- 8am to 9pm on Monday, April 7, 2014 (the deadline for voter registration);
- 8am to 5pm, Tuesday through Friday, from April 8 through April 11;
- 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, from April 14 through May 2; and
- 8am to 12pm on Saturday, May 3.

Rule Changes in Effect for the November General:

1. Golden Week Eliminated: SB 238, which was passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Kasich in February eliminated the so-called "golden week" overlap between the start of early voting and the close of registration. Both early in-person and mail-in absentee voting will begin one week later, the day after registration closes.

2. Early Voting Days & Hours: On February 25th, Secretary Husted issued Directive 2014-06 setting uniform early voting days and hours for all counties in Ohio. They are:

- 8am to 5pm, Tuesday through Friday, from October 7 through October 10;
- 8am to 5pm, Tuesday through Friday, from October 14 through October 17;
- 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, from October 20 through October 24;
- 8am to 4pm on Saturday, October 25;
- 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, from October 27 through October 31;
- 8am to 4pm on Saturday, November 1.

3. Absentee Ballot Applications: SB 205, which was passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Kasich in February prohibits any government official other than the Secretary of State from sending unsolicited absentee ballot application forms. SB 205 also requires that every field on the absentee application be filled out completely or it will be rejected.

4. Absentee Ballot Envelopes: SB 205 also requires that every field on the absentee ballot envelope be filled out completely or it will be rejected.

5. Provisional Ballot Affirmation Forms: SB 216, which was passed by the legislature and is expected to be signed by the governor likewise requires that every field on a provisional ballot affirmation form be filled out

completely - including newly required information - or it will be rejected. One positive development is that, for voters who do not appear on the rolls, under SB 216 a provisional ballot affirmation form will be able to double as a voter registration form, so that provisional voters who upon review are not on the rolls will be registered.

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