



September 2014

Ohio League Leader Updates

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1. Empty chair debates: One League's creative answer

It's a familiar problem. The voter service chair and events chair work for months to line up candidate forums for voter service season, but one candidate refuses to attend or doesn't respond at all.

The League has rules about not holding "[empty chair debates](#)" where only one candidate is present. So what is a League to do?

One of our sister Leagues came up with a creative answer. The [LWV of Michigan](#) had an op-ed published in their local newspapers calling it "a disservice to the democratic process" to deny voters the opportunity to see candidates square off in a debate.

2. Voters Guide update

Due to some apparent genuine confusion with guides being prepared by others, some statewide candidates returned their completed questionnaires late. This one time only, LWV of Ohio is permitting late responses for such candidates that will be posted to the electronic statewide candidates Voters' Guide available at www.lwvohio.org. We recognize that some late additions may be posted after local printed guides have gone to press and we regret any inconvenience or confusion.

In addition, there are two third party candidates who are involved in litigation to attempt to be added back onto the ballot. If the appeals court rules in their favor between now and Election Day, we will endeavor to provide their information as promptly as possible.

3. Early Voting Lawsuit Updates

a. Early Voting Dates and Times Set - For Now

On September 4, 2014, the federal district court ruled in favor of our motion asking the court to block cuts to early voting for this fall's election and order Secretary of State Husted to set early in-person voting hours for Golden Week, weekday evenings, and at least two Sundays. The State asked the federal district court and the appeals court to stay that order while the State appealed, but both the district court and appeals court refused to stay the order. In response, Secretary Husted issued [Directive 2014-28 with new early voting](#)

8.

Save the dates:

- a. LWV Ohio Statehouse Day - March 2015 in Columbus, Ohio
- b. LWVO Convention - May 15-17, 2015 in Cincinnati, Ohio

9.

Election Protection
Volunteers Needed

hours.

On September 24, the 6th Circuit U.S. Appeals Court issued a decision agreeing with the district court's decision and upholding the order for expanded early voting options this fall. [Click here](#) to read the ACLU press release with a link to the appeals court decision.

Secretary Husted and Attorney General DeWine filed a motion asking the full 6th Circuit (called *en banc* review) to hear an appeal of the September 24 decision, and the State also filed a motion asking the U.S. Supreme Court for an emergency stay. However, time is quickly running out with early voting set to begin on Tuesday, September 30.

The Appeals Court and the Supreme Court may decline the State's request to hear the appeal or agree to hear it. If either court upholds the prior decision, the hours set in Directive 2014-28 should remain the same. If either court reverses, then early voting dates and times may change yet again.

We will continue to keep you posted on the lawsuit and post updates on our website, www.lwvohio.org.

b. Volunteers needed to conduct surveys of early in-person voters

We are working to conduct surveys of voters who use the early in-person voting opportunities.

We will be conducting surveys in six counties: Cuyahoga, Lucas, Summit, Montgomery, Hamilton, and Franklin.

We are looking for volunteers in any/all of these counties on:

- Friday, October 3, 2014 from 11-2;
- Monday, October 6, 2014 from 11-2 and 5-9;
- Sunday, October 26, 2014 from 1-5; and
- Sunday, November 2, 2014 from 1-5.

Training and materials will be provided in advance.

Please share with your local League members if you are in any of these areas. Volunteers should contact the LWV Ohio office at 614-469-1505 or email Carrie at cdavis@lwvohio.org to sign up.

4. Free publicity!

Now that we have your attention... LWVO is eager to help local Leagues publicize their events this election season. Please contact the state office at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org or call 614-469-1505 to share your event listings. We will post them to the events page on the LWVO website and help promote on social media.

5. Meet our fall intern, Aliah Hasan! Learn how your League can connect with young voters (and potential new members) using social media.

We are super excited to introduce our fall intern, Aliah Hasan. Aliah is a senior at the Ohio State University, majoring in Political Science. We are fortunate to have her joining us for the fall semester.

Aliah is creating a social media campaign to spread LWV's voter service. Be on the lookout for opportunities to boost your local League's presence with a younger audience by participating in sharing voter service messages via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, Snapchat, and more. We're creating a new hashtag - #ivotebecause - to encourage young people to tell their friends why they vote. We are even planning a contest to get college campuses competing for who can do the most voter engagement between now and Election Day.

Are you a social media user? Does your League have a social media account? Do your kids or grandkids use social media? Urge all of them to like and follow @lwvohio to stay current on important voter news and share it with their friends.

6. Got a question for LWVUS?

Have you ever had a question for LWVUS and not known where to go for help? There is a great deal of information available on the LWVUS website and that's a great place to begin your search. LWVUS staff members can often respond to your inquiries. And, of course, the state office and/or LWVO board members are always ready to help. But if you're still stuck, the State League is fortunate to have a strong liaison from the LWVUS Board - Karen Nicholson. Karen has graciously offered to respond to emails from Local League leaders seeking information about LWVUS policies and practices. Her email address is kjnicholson@sbcglobal.net.

7. All-member call

Tuesday, October 7, 12-1pm

Our guest speaker will be Brian Rothenberg from Progress Ohio, who will lead a discussion about charter school accountability. To join the call, dial 866-740-1260 and enter pin 4691505#.

****Please note the date change for the November call.**

For this month only, we are moving the all-member call from the first Tuesday of the month to the second Tuesday, due to Election Day.

Tuesday, November 11, 12-1pm

Our guest speaker will be Professor Daniel Tokaji, an election law professor at the Moritz Law School at the Ohio State University. Professor Tokaji will be sharing his new book, "The New Soft Money: Outside Spending in Congressional Elections".

8. Save the dates:

Please mark your calendars and plan to join fellow League members at these exciting events we have planned in 2015.

a. LWV Ohio Statehouse Day - March 2015 in Columbus, Ohio

Next year's Statehouse Day will be held in March. The exact date and location will be announced soon, and registration will begin in January. Check the website - www.lwvohio.org - for announcements about event date, location, and schedule.

b. LWVO Convention - May 15-17, 2015 in Cincinnati, Ohio

When was the last time you visited lovely Cincinnati, Ohio? This beautiful city has much to offer, and the LWV Cincinnati Area's Convention Committee is planning all sorts of fun activities around town to make your stay enjoyable.

Announcements about registration, hotel information, schedule of events, and speakers will be posted on the LWVO website and published in future newsletters. Local League presidents can expect to receive the First Call to Convention in January.

9. Election Protection Volunteers Needed

Our partners at [Election Protection](#) will be running a toll-free hotline and have poll monitors around the state again this year. Please [click here](#) for a list of volunteer opportunities.