



Ohio League Leader Update - December 2015

Happy Holidays from The League of Women Voters of Ohio

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1. Happy Holidays!

During this time of year when we pause to give thanks and enjoy time with family, we are thankful for all of you, our League family! Thank you for your membership in the League and for all you do to make our communities a better place to call home.

2. 2016 Primary Election Calendar & Voter Service Planning

The 2016 election season is already upon us. To help local Leagues plan for 2016 voter service activities, the state League shares this election timeline and other important updates.

2016 Primary Election Calendar

- Dec. 16, 2015 - Partisan candidates file declaration of candidacy petitions
- Dec. 28, 2015 - Boards of Elections certify candidate petitions
- Jan. 4, 2016 - Write-in candidates must file declaration of intent
- Feb. 16, 2016 - Voter registration deadline for the primary
- Feb. 17, 2016 - Start of absentee and in-person early voting for the primary
- March 15, 2016 - Primary Election Day

NEW! League Voter Service Plans

Voters' Guide Packet - The LWVO state board will finalize and approve questions for candidates and local League district assignments at the Jan. 23, 2016, board meeting. The VG Packet will be sent to local League presidents and voter service chairs immediately after the board meeting.

Vote411 state coverage - LWVO is spending \$2500 to provide Vote411 coverage of all state and federal races on the ballot in calendar year 2016.

- **Covered election dates:** All elections taking place in 2016, including the March 15 primary election, November 8 general election, and the special election to fill the vacant seat of former U.S. Rep. Boehner.
- **Covered state and federal races:** LWVO will pay for Vote411 to cover all federal races -- U.S. President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House -- as well as all state races -- Ohio House of Representatives, Ohio Senate, Ohio Supreme Court, State Board of Education, and any statewide ballot issues.
- **Local Leagues may choose to add Vote411 coverage for**

local races (county, city, township, etc.). For local Leagues already using Vote411, the only change should be a reduction in costs due to the State League paying for coverage of state and federal races. For Leagues who have not used Vote411 previously, we hope it will be a more affordable option for local Leagues to consider, given LWVO's payment for federal and state races.

If your League would like to sign up for Vote411 or get a price quote, please contact Megan Brown, LWVUS Vote411 Coordinator at mbrown@lww.org or (202) 429-1965 ext. 357.

Additional information about using Vote411 - including the LWVUS Vote411 How-To Guide, a list of scheduled training sessions on Vote411, and more - can be found on the new "2016 Voter Service" page under the Member Area of the State League website here: <http://www.lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Member-Area/2016-Voter-Service.cfm>

Judicial Votes Count coverage of ALL Judge Races - "Judicial Votes Count" is a partnership of LWV Ohio, the Ohio Supreme Court, Ohio State Bar Association, Bliss Institute for Applied Politics at the University of Akron, Ohio Newspaper Association, and Ohio Association of Broadcasters. Judicial Votes Count, a nonpartisan statewide resource for information about Ohio's courts and candidates running for judge, launched in Fall 2015 with coverage of municipal court races and will continue in 2016 with coverage of all judicial races. The website is hosted by the University of Akron at www.judicialvotescount.org.

- Judicial Votes Count will be responsible for contacting ALL judicial candidates across Ohio - including candidates for the Ohio Supreme Court, Ohio Courts of Appeals, County Common Pleas Courts, and other local courts. Local Leagues should not contact judicial candidates to provide information for the Voters' Guide to avoid duplication and confusion. However, local

Leagues are strongly encouraged to include judicial candidates in other voter service activities such as candidate forums.

- Local Leagues will have access to all judicial candidate information on JudicialVotesCount.org for use in local Voters' Guides. Contact the state League office to obtain a copy of judicial candidate information for your area from Judicial Votes Count; please indicate which county or counties your League covers.

3. LWV Metro Columbus documentary now on YouTube - check it out!

"A Light Undimmed: Stories from the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus" is now viewable on the LWVMC YouTube channel! [Click here to watch.](#)

With the League celebrating its 95th anniversary this year, LWVMC raised funds and created a documentary of some of the Metro Columbus League's most dynamic women and their influence on our community.

The 1960s and 1970s were pivotal in Central Ohio and the nation. During this time, women volunteers from the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus (LWVMC) helped to effect social and political change through their advocacy of voting rights and redistricting, juvenile justice, and the desegregation of the Columbus City Schools. As a result of their League activism, many of these women volunteers acquired the experience and leadership skills to launch careers in government, politics, non-profit administration, philanthropy, and the private sector. Their stories are documented in "A Light Undimmed: Stories from the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus." This 24- minute documentary not only illustrates what is possible when activists come together for a cause, it demonstrates how being an engaged citizen can shape our

community for the better.

4. 2016 Pass-thru grant opportunity - "Women's Voices: Preparing the Next Gen of Women Leaders"

Great news! The Women's Fund of Central Ohio selected LWV Ohio as one of their 2016 grant partners for our "Women's Voices: Preparing the Next Gen of Women Leaders" mentoring program (see <http://www.womensfundcentralohio.org/grants/>). The program will pair women public policy professionals with high school students interested in exploring careers in public policy, government and politics.

Thanks to the Women's Fund's generosity, we will be able to offer pass-thru grants to local Leagues next year for hosting local programs. Applications will be available in January.

Thank you to the many local League presidents who helped us shape this project proposal. What a great way to carry on the legacy of 95 years of LWV by training the next generation of women leaders!

As always, thank you for all you do for League! Best wishes for a lovely holiday season to you and your loved ones.

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