



Ohio League Leader Update-October 2012

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Election Day is almost here! Here are updates on....

- **Legal Challenges**
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Planning for the League year *after* Election Day: A list of upcoming activities that you will want to put on your League calendar. While we need to celebrate all our accomplishments over the last year, we know your Leagues are already at work planning for 2013 - and we know it is easier for Leagues to plan when they know state activity dates in advance. This issue includes some advance information on 2013 events to help Leagues plan their calendars.

Leagues have been hard at work in 2012 - circulating petitions to put redistricting reform on the ballot, registering voters, creating and distributing Voters' Guides, and much, much more. Thank you for all your hard work!

Election Day is almost here!

As we approach the home stretch, we wanted to provide a few brief updates.

- **Legal Challenges: Update**

1) [Obama for America v. Husted \(last 3 days of early in-person voting\)](#) - The federal court and appeals court both ruled that, if counties will be open for early in-person voting by military

voters, then they must also allow early in-person voting by non-military voters. Secretary of State Husted and Attorney General DeWine asked the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the lower court's ruling, but the Supreme Court declined.

Secretary Husted issued a directive establishing the following early in-person voting hours:

Saturday, November 3 - 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 4 - 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Monday, November 5 - 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

2) SEIU v. Husted (wrong precinct provisional ballots) - The federal court and appeals court ruled that if a voter casts a ballot in the correct polling place but the wrong precinct, and it is due to poll-worker error, then the ballot must be counted for issues and candidates that also appear on the correct precinct ballot. The State League joined in an amicus (friend of the court) brief supporting this position.

- **2-Year College Voter Outreach Project**

Secretary Husted's directive expanding voting in response to the appeals court decision means that there is now voting the weekend before the election. It is important that voters learn about this option. LWVOEF is expanding our 2-Year College Outreach Project to include a NEW postcard piece with information on revised early voting hours (including the Saturday, Sunday, and Monday before Election Day), voting hours on Election Day, and the 866-OUR-VOTE hotline for questions.

Do you have a local community college, technical college, or satellite campus in your area? Are you interested in pass-through grant funds for distributing the updated voter education pieces on the campus(es)?

If you would like to distribute postcards on a campus near you, please contact Carrie Davis at cdavis@lwvohio.org or 614-469-1505.

- **Election Protection Volunteer Opportunities (866-OUR-VOTE hotline)**

Are you interested in volunteering with Election Protection? Do you know someone - League member or not - who is looking for a way to protect Ohioans' right to vote? The nonpartisan Election Protection Coalition was formed to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political

process.

Sign up to help with Election Protection! They are looking for two kinds of volunteers:

1) Volunteers are needed to staff Ohio call centers during the 2 weeks leading up to Election Day.

2) Volunteers are needed to cover a shift(s) monitoring a polling place on Election Day.

If you know of people looking for a way to help out on Election Day, please encourage them to sign up. Volunteers can sign up for shifts; it doesn't have to be all day.

You can find out more about the volunteer opportunities and also sign up at <http://volunteer.866ourvote.org>.

- **Yes on Issue 2: Redistricting Reform**

Opportunities to continue your support of Issue 2, redistricting reform, include:

[Host or attend house parties on Sunday, October 28th, to make calls in support of Issue 2](#)

Can you participate in an Issue 2 phone bank - or host a "potluck phone bank" at your home or other location? We would like to set up potluck phone banks all over the state on October 28th (Sunday). Phone banks have been an essential part of our outreach and with just a small amount of time left, we still need to contact a lot of people. Please email Ian Nickey at inickey@votersfirstohio.com if you can help as a caller on the phone bank or as a host.

[Get your Yes on Issue 2 yard sign](#)

Do you have your Issue 2 yard sign yet? If not, either email Ian Nickey at the address in the paragraph above or click here:

<https://donate.votersfirstohio.com/page/contribute/yardsign>

[LWVO releases Ohio Redistricting Reform History timeline](#)

On Oct. 17, LWVO issued *Three Generations of League of Women Voters of Ohio Presidents Urge: Don't Believe the False Promises. If Voters Want Reform, We Must Vote YES on Issue 2*. This press release and timeline of Ohio Redistricting Reform History documents 40 years of attempts to reform the hyper-partisan way politicians have used to gerrymander congressional and legislative districts:

[10/17/12 Press Release: Three Generations of League of](#)

[Women Voters of Ohio Presidents Urge: Don't Believe the False Promises. If Voters Want Reform, We Must Vote YES on Issue 2.](#)

[Ohio Redistricting Reform History Timeline](#)

- **Leagues' Advocacy for Issue 2**

Our sincere thanks to Leagues and members across the state who have been lobbying in true grassroots fashion for Issue 2. Many Leagues and League members have had letters to the editor published. For space reasons we cannot list them all but here are a few.

- ["Issue 2 will let Ohio voters pick representatives" - Oct. 7 Cleveland Plain Dealer](#)
- ["Issue 2 would end partisan redistricting" - Oct. 16 Bowling Green Sentinel Tribune](#)
- [Letter to the editor - Oct. 22 Crain's Cleveland Business](#)
- ["Fairness demands support for Issue 2" - Oct. 11 Columbus Dispatch](#)
- ["Issue 2 gives redistricting power to the people" - Oct. 13 Cincinnati Herald](#)
- [Letter to the editor - Oct. 23 Akron Beacon Journal](#)

If your League has had a letter to the editor published, please let us know by sending a link to the published letter to lwvinfo@lwvohio.org.

Planning for the League year *after* Election Day:

As we all look past November 6th on our calendars, here are some dates to keep in mind for the rest of the 2012-2013 League year. Please contact the state League office (lwvinfo@lwvohio.org or 614-469-1505) if you have questions.

- **Board of Elections Audits:** We will again be asking Leagues to observe the boards of elections' audits, which will be conducted in late Nov.-early Dec. More information will be sent to you soon.
- **LWVO Program Planning:** This is an opportunity for Leagues to have input into the 2013-2015 state program. Program-planning packets will be sent to you in mid-November, to be returned by Feb.18, 2013.
- **Legislative Interviews:** Biennial League interviews of

their legislators provide valuable information for our advocacy efforts and help build relationships with legislators. Packets will be sent out in December and are due Mar.15, 2013.

- **Great Lakes Concurrence:** These materials were sent to presidents on Sept. 26, 2012, and are due back to LWVO by Feb.18, 2013.
- **Board of Elections Interviews:** We will again be providing pass-through funds for Leagues to interview their board of elections to help us understand whether there is need for improvement in election administration. (spring 2013)
- **Regional meetings (Feb.-Mar. 2013):** These meetings will give local Leagues an opportunity to review the State League's strategic planning process and provide feedback. Please let us know if you have anything planned for Saturdays in February or March so we can do our best to pick dates that works for most Leagues.
- **State House Day 2013:** We anticipate setting a date between mid-March and mid- April. We will let you know the exact date after our November Board meeting.
- **LWVO Convention (May 4-5),** at the Cleveland Doubletree-Lakeside (downtown).

Again, our sincere thanks for all you and your Leagues are doing to make democracy work!!
