



October 2013 Ohio League Leader Updates

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1. Predictable Results: A Report from the League of Women Voters of Ohio Examining 2011 Gerrymandering and 2012 Election Results

The League of Women Voters of Ohio has unveiled a new report, "Predictable Results", which documents that the results of the 2012 Ohio legislative elections were completely predictable based on heavily gerrymandered districts drawn in 2011. The complete report is available at www.lwvohio.org.

The recent shutdown on Capitol Hill over the government shutdown shined increased attention to the problem of gerrymandered districts. One example is this [editorial](#) from the Akron Beacon Journal, which references our report.

2. Fracking - New Resource Available

At the LWVO Convention in May, horizontal hydraulic fracturing, aka fracking, occupied much of the discussion. Local Leagues on the eastern side of the state have already experienced a lot of fracking, since that portion of Ohio is underlain by Marcellus shale, but the rest of Ohio has mainly Utica shale that is less fracked; it is underneath and extends westward from the Marcellus. In addition, much of the state contains deep injection wells that are repositories for wastewater from various industries, often oil and gas, and are frequently used

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for fracking waste, a subject of considerable concern. Whether to launch a study and develop a LWVO position on the subject required a standing vote at the convention; the move was narrowly defeated, on the basis that existing positions at the national and state levels already provide a basis for advocating on the issue and can be used immediately.

The delegates to the Convention requested a thorough analysis of LWVO and LWVUS positions and how they have been used and can be used in respect to fracking. This analysis can be found on our website. Some of this material came from the 41 members of an interest group begun two years ago, channeled through board member Kristin Vessey and lobbyist Al Rosenfield. After an all-League conference call in April 2013, a 7-member committee charged with compiling information prepared a spread sheet of various fracking - related aspects. Thus many Leaguers have contributed to this project. It will, of course, need to be updated as more information emerges.

Read the full report here: [***Fracking: An Issue Brief for LWVO Members, October 2013 by Kristin Vessey, LWVO Board Member***](#)

3. "We Won't Go Back" Rally at the Ohio Statehouse

LWVO would like to thank all the local League members who came to Columbus on October 2nd to participate in the "We Won't Go Back" rally. It was great to see League members from across the state attending the event. Check out photos on the [LWVO Facebook page](#) and the ["We Wont Go Back" Rally page](#) on Facebook.

The purpose of the event was to bring together women's rights supporters across Ohio to protest efforts by the Ohio General Assembly to restrict access to women's reproductive health care. The rally featured Ellie Smeal, President of Feminist Majority Foundation; Terry O'Neill, President of

National Organization for Women; Stephanie Kight, President of Planned Parenthood Ohio; Kellie Copeland, President NARAL Pro-Choice; Sara Hutchinson, Catholics for Choice, Domestic Program Director; and Petee Talley, Secretary-Treasurer Ohio AFL-CIO.

4. Fundraising Tip of the Month

WHO to ask? Start with individuals. There is a myth that "big giving" comes from businesses and foundations. According to Giving USA, in 2010, individuals gave 73% of all charitable gifts in this country totaling \$211 BILLION dollars!

And if you include individuals who provided for charity after their death, individuals actually gave 83% of all gifts totaling \$234 BILLION dollars.

[Click here](#) to read more.

5. MLD Tip of the Month

Want to Customize Your League's Membership Brochure to Make It More Inviting? It is easy to customize your League's membership brochure to highlight your League's accomplishments and inspire prospective members to join. For example, check out [LWV Metro Columbus' brochure](#) that includes members' pictures and quotes.

There are two ways Leagues can personalize the [LWVUS membership brochure](#):

1. You can use the customizable PDF version of the brochure, where you can add local League information to certain fields and print out the brochures yourself.
2. There are also templates available for Leagues to create customized inserts to the pre-printed brochures available in the League shop.

Finally, there is a template of a brochure label for Leagues to add their address and contact

information.

For more information about options -- and links to the versions and templates, go to [LWVUS Membership Brochure](#).

6. November 5th All- Member Call

Our next all-member conference call will be held on Tuesday, November 5th, at 12-1pm.

Call-In Number: 866-740-1260, PIN 4691505#

Topic: Reproductive Rights in Ohio

Kellie Copeland, Executive Director of Nara Pro Choice Ohio will be our guest speaker for this call. She will talk about the state of reproductive rights in Ohio. We'll start with an overview of all the legislation that passed as part of the Budget. The discussion will also cover the consequences of the legislation, such as clinics closing or at risk of closing and efforts to protect a woman's right to choose.

7. Save the Date!

a. LWV Ohio Statehouse Day & Council Wednesday, April 9, 2014

New location! We will be using the conference center at the Sheraton on Capitol Square, across from the Statehouse. Registration will begin in January. Check the website - www.lwvohio.org -for announcements about speakers, event schedule, meeting with your legislators, and information for Council delegates. Sponsorship opportunities are available. It promises to be an exciting event, so put it on your calendar now.

b. League of Women Voters U.S. 2014 Convention June 6 - 10, 2014

Plan to join your fellow national, state and local League Leaders at next year's LWVUS Convention. You'll experience four days of

fascinating speakers and workshops on issues that are important to League and to our democracy. The conference will take place at the Omni Hotel, Dallas, Texas and the registration fee is \$335.00. Additional information will be available in November on LWVUS' website at <http://lww.org/member-resources/convention-2014> or call LWVUS at 202-429-1965.

8. LWVUS Program Planning Schedule

LWVUS expects to make Program Planning materials available beginning in January. Local Leagues may wish to schedule Program Planning meetings during the early part of 2014. We will let you know when we have more information about when responses are due to LWVUS. However, it is never too early to start thinking about Program Planning. If your League has an issue to propose for study, concurrence, or a position update, you may want to start talking to other Leagues now to generate support.

9. February 2014 Regional Meetings are Coming

LWVO will once again be hosting regional meetings across the state during the month of February. If there are any Saturdays in February that your local League already has booked for other League events, **please let the state office know** so that we can avoid schedule conflicts. You can email your preferred dates to lwvinfo@lwvohio.org. Thank you!