



October 2014

Ohio League Leader Updates

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1. Election 2014

We are in the home stretch, with Election Day rapidly approaching. Thank you for all the great voter service you and your League do! Keep up the great work!

LWVO Launches Two Brand-new Voter Service Campaigns

- [#ivotebecause Campus Contest](#)



Does your League have any colleges in your community? Are you doing voter service on campus? Do you have an Ohio college student in your family? Do you want to engage more young people to vote? Then we need your help!

LWV Ohio is holding a Get Out the Vote Campus Contest. We need your help spreading the word to every Ohio college student, university, college, satellite campus, community college, and technical school in the state.

[Click here](#) for contest rules, prizes, and how to join.

Who is going to have the most active student voters in Ohio? May the best campus win! Good luck!

- ["I Want to Vote" Project Asks Ohio Voters to Weigh in on Early Voting Options](#)



There has been a lot of discussion in recent years among election officials, legislators, and other policy-makers about how much time Ohio should have for early voting. Yet, no one has ever asked the voters what they want.

In light of recent events, this debate is likely to continue, and we thought it would be interesting to get some sense of what is important

- **LWVO Statehouse Day - March 31, 2015 in downtown Columbus**
- **LWVO Convention - May 15-17, 2015 in downtown Cincinnati**

to voters. LWVO's "I Want to Vote" project asks Ohio voters when they want to be able to vote. The short questionnaire can be completed through Friday, November 7, 2014, and the results will be announced after the election. Although this will not be a scientific poll, it should give us some insight about just what is important to the voters who respond.

Ohio voters can have their say by going to <http://bit.ly/iwanttovoteohio> and are encouraged to share with their friends by posting their preference on social media using the #iwanttovote hashtag.

Please help LWVO promote the "I Want to Vote" survey by sharing it with your networks, posting on your website and social media, printing it in your newsletter, and writing letters to the editor of your community newspaper.

2. MLD Encourages You to Attract New Members at Your League Events!

Does your League have a candidates' debate, issue forum, Hot Topics lunch, a social activity - or any other event coming up? Want to reach out to non-member participants to encourage them to get involved in the League?

[Click here](#) for some simple tips (and sample language) your League can use.

3. Voting Materials Available

Thanks to a grant from the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) Project at LWVUS, LWV Ohio is able to offer updated [Voting 1-2-3 voter information cards](#) and ["I Want to Vote" Ohio buttons](#) free of charge. Contact the state League office at lwvoinfo@lwwvohio.org or 614-469-1505 to order materials for your local GOTV activities.

4. LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara to Visit Cleveland on Nov. 2-3

LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara has been visiting key states this election season, and such a tour wouldn't be complete without a visit to the Buckeye State.

Elisabeth will be visiting Cleveland on the Sunday and Monday before Election Day.

League members are invited to join us for "Cocktails and Conversation" on Sunday, November 2 at 4-7pm in Lakewood. Space is limited and RSVPs are required. [Click here for more details and to RSVP.](#)

The public is invited to hear Elisabeth speak at a light lunch on the

campus of Case Western Reserve University on Monday, November 3 at 12 noon - 1:30pm. Space is limited and RSVPs are required. [Click here for more details and to RSVP.](#)

Additional events will be announced on the state League website, www.lwvohio.org, as they are confirmed.

5. Upcoming Plans After November's Election

Yes, we're all focused on gearing up for Election Day, but there will still be plenty of League work to be done once the election is over. Here are some of the things we're working on for the rest of 2014 and into 2015.

- **Ohio Legislative Watch - Lame Duck and Beyond**

The Ohio General Assembly is scheduled to resume session the week following the election, and they have sessions scheduled during November and December. These post-election "lame duck" sessions are infamous for taking up a variety of controversial issues. Speculation around Capital Square is that they could take up bills to repeal the Common Core education standards, pass the anti-choice Heartbeat Bill, further erode gun control protections, declare some medical aspects of the death penalty process as "state secrets" shielded from public view, and more. Our volunteer lobbyists will be busy.

When the new session of the Legislature begins in 2015, their main act of business during the first half of 2015 will be to consider the Governor's proposed biennial budget. The budget must be passed by June 30, in order to take effect with the start of the new state fiscal year on July 1.

- **Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission**

LWVO lobbyists continue to monitor the work of the [Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission \(OCMC\)](#). There are quite a few League issues being considered by OCMC - including redistricting reform, legislative term limits, judicial reform, voting rights, and public education. LWVO lobbyists have presented testimony thus far on [redistricting](#), [term limits](#), and [judicial reforms](#).

Redistricting reform is expected to be the first proposed change to be voted on and sent to the legislature. Both OCMC and the legislature would have to approve a proposal by a super majority in order to place it on the ballot for voters' approval.

- **Program Planning**

The Program Planning process lets local Leagues review League positions and recommend changes. In response to requests from local Leagues, the LWVO Board plans to send out Program Planning forms early in order to give local Leagues more time to work on them.

Program Planning Packets will be sent to all local League presidents in mid-to-late November. Leagues will have all of December, January, and most of February to hold program planning meetings. Program Planning meeting reports will be due back to the state League by February 22, 2015.

- **LWVO Statehouse Day - March 31, 2015 in downtown Columbus**

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for Statehouse Day on Tuesday, March 31, 2015. Workshops and sessions will be held at the Riffe Center, and the keynote luncheon will be held in the Statehouse Atrium. Watch the LWVO website for announcements about speakers and workshops. Registration will open in January.

- **LWVO Convention - May 15-17, 2015 in downtown Cincinnati**

Join fellow League members from around the state to celebrate our League's 95th Anniversary! Convention will be held May 15-17, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Cincinnati. Watch the LWVO website for announcements about speakers and workshops. Registration will open in January.