



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contacts:**

Carrie Davis, League of Women Voters of Ohio, 614-469-1505

Catherine Turcer, Common Cause Ohio, (w) 614-441-9145 or (c) 614-579-5509

**Voting Advocates: Ohio Could ‘Tip the Scales’ in Presidential Primary**  
*Only Eight Days Left To Register To Vote!*

Columbus, OH -- Voting advocates said Monday that Ohioans could have a greater role than ever in selecting the nation’s next president, but first they must make sure they are registered to vote.

While many other states will hold their primary election before Ohio, their delegates will be awarded on a proportional basis. Ohio’s March 15 primary marks the first day that states can award all of their delegates to the top vote-getters, making Ohio’s delegates a huge prize for the presidential campaigns.

“Ohio is always a ‘must-win’ state in the general election, but the Buckeye State may also have an important role in the spring primary given how close the presidential primaries appear,” said Carrie Davis, executive director of League of Women Voters of Ohio.

“With no clear frontrunner in either party right now, the March 15 winner-take-all primary states could tip the scales. Ohio could play a key role as a tie-breaker,” she said. “But you can only have your say in the primary if you’re registered to vote by the Feb. 16 deadline.”

With only eight days left to register to vote in Ohio’s March 15 primary, the deadline will have come and gone by the time we learn the outcome of presidential primaries in early voting states like South Carolina and Nevada.

Voting advocates launched the Ready, Set, Vote! informational campaign designed to maximize Ohioans’ influence in selecting the nation’s next



president by encouraging them to make sure their voter registration is valid and up to date. The effort will also inform voters about their proper polling locations, early voting options, and identification requirements.

The deadline to register to vote or to update one's voter registration status for Ohio's primary election is Feb. 16. Early voting in-person and by mail starts the next day on Feb. 17. Election Day for the primary is on March 15, when polls will be open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

"Checking your registration status now is critical if you want to be sure your voice is heard in the March primary election," said Catherine Turcer, policy analyst for Common Cause Ohio. "Ohioans who haven't voted since 2008 should check to make sure their voter registration status is still valid."

Ohioans can check their voter registration status and update their information online before Feb. 16 at the Ohio Secretary of State's website: [MyOhioVote.com](http://MyOhioVote.com).

New voters can download a voter registration form at the same site to complete and mail in. Allow enough time for mailing your completed registration form, or deliver it in-person to your local Board of Elections. Instructions and addresses are also available through the Ohio Secretary of State's website [MyOhioVote.com](http://MyOhioVote.com).

The March 15 primary election will be decisive for several Statehouse districts in which the only candidates are members of the same political party.

"There are seven districts in the state legislature where candidates from only one party filed to run. So the winner of the March 15 primary in these races will likely go uncontested in the November election and step right into the Statehouse next year," Turcer said. "That's another great reason for people to vote in the spring primary."