



September 2013 Ohio League Leader Updates

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1. LWVO Board News

The LWV Ohio board met in early September and made some decisions that may be of interest to Leaguers around the state.

a. Priority issues for 2013-2015

Earlier this year, LWV Ohio adopted a new 5-year strategic plan. The plan calls on the state board to identify 3-5 priority issues for us to focus on in our education and advocacy work for this board's two-year term.

Leagues often struggle with having many different issues and limited resources. Designating a few issues as "priorities" means that by focusing our work we can be more effective and LWVO will direct more resources to support work on them.

The LWVO Board adopted the following four issue priorities for 2013-2015:

- Election administration & voting rights
- Judicial reform
- Women's reproductive health rights
- Water (includes clean water, water usage, water issues related to fracking, Great Lakes, etc.)

All of our other issues are nonetheless valued positions, and we encourage local Leagues and League members to pursue the issues of particular concern to them. Any issue on which we have a position is open for education and advocacy by League members.

b. Annual policy review

Reminder to local League board members: this is a good time to review, discuss, and update your League's policies.

9.
LWVUS First Call
to 2014 Convention

10.
LWVUS Agriculture
Study Update

The state board had a robust discussion of our nonpartisan, conflict of interest, and diversity policies. LWVO's updated policies are available on the website [here](#).

c. Medicaid initiative petition campaign

The coalition of groups that favor Medicaid expansion are trying to turn up the pressure on state legislators, who have stalled attempts to expand Medicaid through the state budget or other legislation.

Recently, the coalition launched the "Healthy Ohioans Work" campaign. [Click here](#) to check out their website.

Healthy Ohioans Work is launching an initiated statute campaign.

LWVO supports Medicaid expansion efforts, and at the September board meeting the LWVO board voted to support the Healthy Ohioans Work campaign. That means that League members are welcome to wear their LWV buttons while circulating petitions. The state office will not be a petition center but will help share info about where to find a petition center near you.

2. October 1st All-Member Call

Our next all-member conference call will be held on Tuesday, October 1st, at 12-1pm.

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

Topic: Medicaid Expansion

Efforts to expand Medicaid have stalled in the General Assembly. Legislators removed Medicaid expansion from the Governor's budget and have blocked stand-alone bills. But we're not done yet! The large coalition of businesses and organizations that support expansion have a Plan B (a citizen initiated statute) and even a Plan C (an executive order from the Governor). Please join us to hear more about prospects for reform, the intricacies of an initiated statute campaign, and other paths that may still yet lead to Medicaid expansion.

3. Presidential Commission on Election Administration - Sept. 20th Ohio field hearing report

During the State of the Union Address earlier this year, President Obama announced that he would be forming a commission to look at election administration issues. The Presidential Commission on Election Administration (PCEA) held initial hearings on Capitol Hill and field hearings in Florida, Colorado, Pennsylvania, and lastly in Ohio.

Ohio had a good showing at the September 20th hearing in Cincinnati. Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted testified, as did county election officials, and a variety of local advocates, including LWV Ohio. [Click here](#) to read the remarks by Secretary of State Jon Husted.

[Click here](#) to read LWV Ohio's testimony and our blog post [here](#).

4. October 2nd "We Won't Go Back" Rally at the Ohio Statehouse

Do you remember all the anti-women's health provisions that were added to the state budget bill earlier this year? Additional legislation further curbing Ohio women's right to choose is expected to surface again when the legislature returns to Columbus next week.

In response, a group of women's health advocates organized a rally to welcome legislators back to Columbus and send them a message. On Wednesday, October 2nd at 11:30am, advocates will rally outside the statehouse and tell legislators "We Won't Go Back."

The state League has signed on as a cosponsor of the October 2nd "We Won't Go Back" rally. The purpose of the event is 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.

[Click here](#) to read more about the event, the list of speakers and sponsors, and information about buses around the state. (Note: This is a public

page, and you do not need to be a member of Facebook to view the event listing.)

We will be there with the LWV Ohio banner, and it would be wonderful to have a large group of League members join us! Let us know if you plan to attend.

5. Judicial Education & Reform

Thank you to everyone who attended August regional meetings and shared feedback on the judicial voter education project. Your input has been valuable in shaping plans for this fall.

Coming soon! LWVO is currently working on:

- a. A list of judicial candidate questions (what you can and cannot ask)
- b. A new voter service pamphlet "Voters Ask: What do I Need to Know to Vote for Judges?"
- c. Information about how to establish a judicial observer corps including tips on what to watch for and a reporting form.

The judicial candidate questions will be available shortly so that you will have them for local League Voter Service activities this fall.

LWV Ohio is looking for a Judicial Voter Education Intern to help with this project. Do you know an Ohio student who might be interested? Please share!

<http://bit.ly/15y55FB>

6. Great Lakes Ecosystem Update

Many Leaguers will recall that LWV Ohio recently adopted by concurrence our new position on the Great Lakes Ecosystem. The LWV Lake Michigan ILO, which undertook the concurrence campaign reports that "ALL EIGHT GREAT LAKES STATES have voted to adopt the Michigan Ecosystem Position. We can now act as a united region when responding to Great Lakes issues as they arise. This is a landmark event in the history of LWVUS, and we are eager to establish a system whereby we can implement this newly acquired leverage!"

7. MLD Tip of the Month - The 10 Commandments of Meetings

Nobody likes ineffective or inefficient meetings! Each and every participant shares responsibility for a productive meeting. As we begin a new League year, the state Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Coaching Team shares some "commandments" from LWVUS for successful meetings. [Click here](#) to read the complete list of 10 tips.

The meeting leader should:

- Ask: is a meeting the best way to achieve the goal? Are all essential participants (decision makers) going to be there? Does the meeting have a clear goal with an understood desired outcome?
- Announce the meeting and provide *all* necessary materials in advance with sufficient notice for participants to prepare. Necessary materials include a timed agenda indicating who is responsible for each agenda item and all background materials necessary for the group to make decisions.
- Start and end on time to encourage a culture of prompt, efficient meetings and to show respect for others' time.
- Facilitate the discussion and keep it on topic. This includes encouraging *everyone's* participation and not allowing small-group (e.g., committee or sub-committee) work at the meeting.

Meeting participants should:

- Be on time; be prepared (no doing "late homework" at the meeting table!); stay on topic; participate in a positive manner; and avoid side conversations.

8. Fundraising Tip of the Month

This month's fundraising advice comes courtesy of our friends at the [Foundation Center](#) and [Guidestar](#).

[Tips for Foundation Fundraising](#)

1. Get your board more involved in fundraising
2. Never apply for a grant without contacting the foundation first
3. Make specific and direct asks for money
4. Map donations to impact

5. Make your donation button shine
6. Create and tap your social network
7. Pursue in-kind donations, contributed media, and technical expertise
8. Apply for a Google grant
9. Create a winning budget
10. Understand the social capital market

[Read the entire article at GuideStar.org!](#)

9. LWVUS First Call to 2014 Convention

LWVUS just issued the First Call to Convention for the 2014 LWVUS Convention, which will be held June 6-10, 2014 in Dallas, Texas.

For more info, [click here](#) or visit the LWVUS Convention website:

<http://www.lwv.org/member-resource/convention-2014>

10. LWVUS Agriculture Study Update

As we reported last month, the LWVUS Agriculture Study Update is running behind schedule.

The new schedule -- available here:

<http://www.lwv.org/content/about-agriculture-update-and-committee> -- lets Leagues know when they can expect to receive study materials and when to hold consensus meetings.