



September 2015 Ohio League Leader Updates

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1. Show Your Support for Yes on Issue 1!

We want to share with you some new resources to help support Issue 1: A coalition of LWV Ohio, Common Cause Ohio, and other good government advocates have formed the "Fair Districts = Fair Elections" coalition. This coalition is supporting the Issue 1 campaign by sharing a non-partisan good government perspective with Ohio voters about the problems with gerrymandering. So anytime you see the "Fair Districts = Fair Elections" logo, you know it's us!



Check out the **coalition's new website** for campaign news: www.yesforissue1.org

Help us spread the "Fair Districts = Fair Elections" and "YES on Issue 1" message!

- **Distribute our "Yes on Issue 1" postcards and bookmarks.** Thanks to generous donors, LWVO was able to design and print materials that can be used as handouts at League events and other events in your community. You can order copies from the LWVO office or download and print your own. - [Click here](#) for the postcard. [Click here](#) for the bookmark.
- **Coming soon! Order "Yes on Issue 1" yard signs, bumper stickers, and buttons.** Visit lwvohio.org to check availability.
- **Make a [donation](#) to help us spread the "Yes on Issue 1" message**
- **Join our #YesIssue1 Photo Campaign.** Print out a copy of the [logo](#), take your photo with it, and post it to your favorite social media encouraging friends/followers to check out our website www.yesforissue1.org

9. Reminder: Please send in your new Local League Board lists!

- **Add a "Yes on Issue 1" message to your email signature.** Create your own or use this sample: "Vote #YesIssue1 on Nov. 3rd! yesforissue1.org"
- **Encourage any organizations you are part of to endorse Issue 1.** We want to have a strong show of support, from local and statewide organizations, for Issue 1. Supporters can fill out an endorsement form on www.yesforissue1.org

2. Voters' Guide State Ballot Issue Summaries Now Available!

At the September state board meeting, the LWV Ohio Education Fund Board approved the LWVOEF 2015 Voters' Guide, which includes the summary and pro/con arguments on state Issues 1, 2, and 3*.

To download the Voters' Guide in WORD, [click here](#).

To download the Voters' Guide in PDF, [click here](#).

Please note that we added a new section on the cover page that we encourage you to include in your local Voters' Guides:

The summaries of the three ballot issues were prepared by the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund. The pros and cons listed for each issue are abbreviated versions of the arguments put forward by the respective issue campaigns. The title listed for each issue is the official title assigned by the Ohio Ballot Board.

*Issue 3 - Please note that the recent court ruling that ordered the Ohio Ballot Board to rewrite its Issue 3 summary does not impact our LWVOEF voters' guide summary. The state board was aware of the lawsuit when our issue summaries were drafted and kept the language neutral and objective. It is safe for local Leagues to use the voters' guide summary on Issue 3 as it is.

3. LWVO Position on Statewide Fall Ballot Issues

On September 14, 2015, the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVO) [announced](#) the following positions on state Issues 1, 2, and 3 for the November 3, 2015 ballot.

Issue 1: *Support*

LWVO's board voted earlier this year to formally endorse the Fair Districts for Ohio redistricting reform proposal that will appear as Issue 1 on the November 2015 ballot. We have been a staunch supporter of the need for redistricting reform in Ohio and have been advocating for such reform for

the last forty years. We are pleased that the Ohio General Assembly came together to approve a bipartisan measure to improve how we draw state legislative districts, and we wholeheartedly support its approval by the voters.

Issues 2 & 3:

The League of Women Voters of Ohio has a position, adopted in May 1968, on the Ohio Constitution:

"LWVO believes a constitution should be a clearly stated body of fundamental principles. It should provide for the flexible operation of government and be logically organized and internally consistent."

Based on this position, LWVO opposed the 2009 initiative to write casinos into the Ohio Constitution.

For this same reason, LWVO takes the following position on Issue 2 and Issue 3 on the November 3, 2015 Ohio ballot.

Issue 2 - Support Issue 2 because it protects the constitution as a document of general principles.

Issue 3 - Oppose Issue 3 because the constitution should be a document of general principles.

However, LWVO is **Neutral** on the aspect of Issue 3 pertaining to marijuana as we have no applicable League position.

4. Guidance on Not Mixing Voter Service and Advocacy

As a reminder, League positions on Ballot Measures or Constitutional Amendments, etc., should not be included in Voters' Guides. Leagues can distribute additional supplemental facts sheets (or publications, etc.) that cover this information, but the fact sheets should: neither be part of the Voters' Guide nor distributed such that it appears as though it is a supplement of the Voters' Guide; and the fact sheets should have a different look and feel (e.g. design) so that the League's voter service activities and its advocacy activities are not easily confused.

Excerpted from "LWVUS: Voters' Guides Best Practices" (available at <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/voters'-guides-best-practices>)

The same rule applies to events. We may wear either our "voter service hat" and provide education on issues or wear our "advocacy hat" and argue for our positions, but we may not do both at the same time. If a League is hosting an educational issue forum, then we cannot speak in support or opposition, although we may invite non-League speakers to argue both sides. A League may choose to hold a "yes on Issue 1" event, but the event must be advertised in such a way to make clear that the event is presenting only one side and the event must be paid for using operating funds not education funds.

5. October All-Member Call

Our next all-member conference call will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 12-1 pm (Eastern Time).

Topic: Updates from League advocates on current legislation in the Ohio Legislature

CALL-IN NUMBER: 866-740-1260

PIN NUMBER: 4691505#

The recording of the all-member call will be available on the LWVO website following the call until the end of the month. Please note that the podcast is intended for LWV members and guests (just like the calls) and, therefore, should not be shared with anyone outside the League family. Thank you.

6. MLD Tip of the Month: Words Matter

As we reach out this election season at League events and to traditional media and social / new media, the MLD program reminds us that **words matter** - and a phrase that may be clear to League members may not be clear to others. Research has shown us that there are some key words that help **enhance our messages at events and in the media**. Here's a chart with suggestions for effective wording:

Use	Women's voting rights	Not	Woman suffrage
Use	League neither supports nor opposes candidates or parties	Not	League is non-partisan
Use	Engages in public policy issues	Not	Engages in the political process
Use	Local, state & federal government	Not	3 levels of government

Use	LWV provides information	Not	LWV informs people
Use	"Join" - as in participate with	Not	"Join" means become a local member
Use	National / state / local network of League supporters	Not	Volunteer members, donors & online activists

7. Update on the LWVUS Membership Database

LWVUS is working hard on the transition from the old membership database to the new CRM (Constituent Relationship Management) system. The National League began phasing in the new system in their offices at the end of May. They have been testing the new system to ensure it performs well before opening it for use by all state and local Leagues. In their first round of testing with a handful of Leagues, they encountered some functional errors that needed correction. They are working with their third-party vendor to correct those errors so they can roll out the database.

LWV Ohio has participated in their second round of testing of the new LWVUS online database. Participation allowed us access to our League's Roster where we can make real-time edits, while also providing LWVUS with critical feedback. Once we have gone through this experience together, LWVUS will schedule a call with the Beta tester group of Leagues to share more insights and help them continue to roll out this exciting new system nationwide.

During the database downtime, please continue to keep a record of all member and leadership changes. Keeping it all in one place will make it easier when the new database goes live.

8. Reminder: September 30 deadline for state PMP discount

As a reminder, the state League provides a 5% discount on PMP (per member payment) to any local League that pays their PMP in full by the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year, which is coming up on September 30, 2015. Thank you to the Leagues who have already paid in full (you know who you are!). If your League was planning to pay early and get the discount, please have your PMP checks postmarked by September 30.

Leagues that do not pay in full will receive quarterly invoices. Your local League Treasurer will soon receive the second PMP statement in mid-October. The membership count and PMP amount on the invoice are based on the numbers your League entered into the national database by

February 2015. Our state PMP will remain at \$25 per member as it has for the past five years and this freeze will extend to two more years.

9. Reminder: Please send in your new Local League Board lists!

If you have not yet sent in your updated lists, please let us know who your 2015-16 local League officers are and their contact information. We use these lists to provide updates on League news and funding opportunities. If you have any questions, please contact the state League office at (614) 469-1505 or email lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org.